

WATERLOO ROAD

SERIES 11A

Episode #1103

Master Script
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EPISODE #1103 - CHARACTER INDEX

STAFF

KIM CAMPBELL
LINDON KING
JOE CASEY
DONTÉ CHARLES
VALERIE CHAMBERS
NEIL GUTHRIE
AMY SPRATT
CORAL WALKER
NICKY WALTERS
WENDY WHITWELL

SENIORS

SAMIA CHOUDHRY
DANNY LEWIS
KELLY JO RAFFERTY
KAI SHARIF
PRESTON WALTERS
CAZ WILLIAMS

JUNIORS

SHOLA AKU
IZZY CHARLES
DWAYNE JACKSON
NORULLAH SAYYID
TONYA WALTERS

GUESTS

DEBS RAFFERTY
BARBARA RAFFERTY
MAC
SALMA SHARIF
LANDLORD
SHOPKEEPER
TOMMY CHARLES

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EXT EMBANKMENT
EXT MAIN ENTRANCE
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EXT MAIN ENTRANCE
EXT VISITOR'S ENTRANCE
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1

EXT. NICKY'S FLAT/SALON. PRE SCHOOL. 06:32 - DAY.

1

It's very early morning as a LANDLORD and two BAILIFFs approach the salon.

CUT TO:

2

OMITTED

2

3

OMITTED

3

4

INT. NICKY'S FLAT. PRESTON'S BEDROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 06:32 - DAY.

4

PRESTON'S room is neat and tidy with his designer clothes neatly folded, his trainers lined-up and his various sporting trophies and medals proudly displayed.

He is awake early and on his foldaway exercise bike, headphones on and pedalling hard. He has already worked up a sweat.

CUT TO:

5

INT. NICKY'S FLAT. LIVING ROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 06:34 - DAY.

5

A weary looking NICKY, still in her dressing gown, sits on the sofa and reaches for a hairdressing magazine. However, secreted amongst its pages are a load of final demands and red bills. She looks at them in despair.

She freezes when there is a loud knock at the door.

Another knock and Nicky is on her feet, not sure what to do.

One more knock and this time someone shouts through the door.

LANDLORD (O.S.)
Mrs Walters? I know you're in
there.

Nicky silently curses. She hears Tonya's feet padding down the stairs and panics...

NICKY
Tonya! Don't...

But she is too late as TONYA opens the door. The Landlord along with two burly Bailiffs walk in.

LANDLORD
Morning, Mrs Walters. I think you
know why I'm here.

NICKY
Nice one, Tonya. Why don't you
offer 'em a cup of tea whilst
you're at it?

TONYA
(confused)
What?

NICKY
(to Landlord)
I was going to come down to the
office...

LANDLORD
Sorry, love. Too little, too late.
You've had the eviction notice...

TONYA
We're being evicted?

NICKY
Tonya, go get dressed.

A horrified Tonya goes out.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Can't we work something out?

LANDLORD

I don't think so. It's not just me
you owe, is it? That's what these
lads are here for. They'll be
taking goods to the value of your
arrears, and I'll be changing the
locks. Been a bit plastic
fantastic, have we?

Nicky is furious.

CUT TO:

6

OMITTED

6

7

INT. NICKY'S FLAT. PRESTON'S BEDROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 06:43 - DAY.

7

An oblivious Preston is still on his exercise bike. One of the Bailiffs comes in and picks up Preston's laptop. Preston rips out his headphones as...

PRESTON

Who the hell are you? Get off!

He tries to take the laptop back but Bailiff 2 shrugs him off and starts pulling open drawers. He frowns as he reveals a drawer full of food including boxes of cereal, tins of fish, baby rusks, jars of peanut butter and canned energy drinks.

Preston slams the drawer shut.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

There's nothing you want in there.

The Bailiff raises his eyebrows and leaves with the foldaway bike and laptop, passing Nicky as she comes in.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

What's going on?

NICKY

I've messed up, alright? I thought we had more time, but they want us out.

PRESTON

What? Now?

NICKY

Pack what you can.

As she goes, Preston is left looking worried. He furtively reopens the food drawer and quickly fills a red sports bag with the contents.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. NICKY'S FLAT/SALON. PRE SCHOOL. 07:20 - DAY.

8

Nicky, Preston and Tonya stand on the pavement with their stuffed bags, including some supermarket bags for life. They watch as a LOCKSMITH uses an electric screwdriver to change the locks.

The Landlord puts up a 'Salon To Let' sign in the window of the mothballed salon.

NICKY

That place wasn't worth what he's charging. He's done us a favour.

TONYA

Really? What are we supposed to do with all this stuff? Where are we going to go?

NICKY

Tonya...

TONYA

Mum, where are we sleeping tonight?

NICKY

I don't know, alright? Maybe if you gave me five minutes to think instead of going on at me.

TONYA

I wasn't going on. I was just asking...

Preston can see they are drawing stares from passers-by.

PRESTON

Hey, let's not do this out here.

TONYA

Well, it's not like we've anywhere else to go.

NICKY/PRESTON

TONYA!

She clams up.

NICKY

Come on, we'll find somewhere to stash our bags at school.

TONYA

What? No. Please.

NICKY

If I don't go to work, I don't get paid.

PRESTON

Yeah, but how are you going to work and look for somewhere for us to stay?

NICKY

I'll manage. By the end of the day I'll have sorted something out. Come on. Get your stuff.

Preston reluctantly complies. As they gather up their belongings, we see that Nicky is only putting a brave face on things.

CUT TO:

9

EXT. SHOPPING PRECINCT. PRE SCHOOL. 08:05 - DAY.

9

A stressed DONTE walks an annoyed IZZY and TOMMY through the precinct.

DONTE
I've said I'm sorry.

IZZY
I just don't know how you could forget. I told you we were going back today. My shirt's not even properly ironed.

DONTE
Just keep your blazer on. Right, what do you want from the bakery? I need to pick up a package while we're out too.

IZZY
Nothing from there. And we haven't got time.

DONTE
It's you that said you couldn't go to school without a proper breakfast.

IZZY
I meant cornflakes or something.

DONTE
Yeah, well we don't have any.

IZZY
Or the milk to go on them.

DONTE
I'll do some shopping on my way home. So, what do you want?
(to Tommy)
What about a sausage roll?

Tommy seems enthused by the idea but...

IZZY
I'll get something at school. You did remember to put some dinner money on my card. Didn't you?

He didn't.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Oh God, Dad. You need to do it on the website. Remember?

DONTE

(sharp)

Alright, Izzy! Give it a rest, will you. I have got other things to think about, you know. Like the inquest hanging over me? I could do without you having a go every chance you get.

Izzy looks wounded.

IZZY

I'll walk myself to school!

A hurt Izzy storms off ahead. Donte instantly regrets snapping at her.

DONTE

(calling after her)

Izzy...

But she's gone. Donte looks down at Tommy.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Come on. How about that sausage roll?

CUT TO:

10

EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 08:07 - DAY.

10

Kids are beginning to arrive. As they come into the playground they greet each other and catch up on the gossip. Some kids are kicking a ball around.

CUT TO:

11

INT. STAFF ROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 08:10 - DAY.

11

The morning meeting in full swing. KIM speaks to the staff - including LINDON, JOE, NEIL, AMY, CORAL and VALERIE.

KIM

Unfortunately, the Behavioural Unit is already proving to be popular. We've a permanent new...

CORAL

Inmate.

KIM

...addition this week. Dean Weever.

A ripple of amusement and raised eyebrows goes through the staff room.

NEIL

Quelle surprise, as the French would say. Didn't he already make his debut in there a few weeks back?

JOE

If we're going to fill the place to capacity, then that classroom is going to need a bit of TLC.

LINDON

It's a behavioural unit, not Butlins.

JOE

Have you tried teaching in there? Half the lightbulbs have gone and it's freezing. Wherever you sit, you're in a draft.

LINDON

A good incentive not to be sent there.

KIM

I'm sorry Joe, we're still a caretaker down since Geoff retired and Rolf is off sick. So if you can all just bear with us for now.

This gets some groans.

KIM (CONT'D)

Okay, last thing. All being well, Izzy Charles will be back in school from today. I'm sure we all want her to feel welcome. I'm looking for someone to be her point of contact, her staff support.

AMY

I'm happy to do that.

KIM

Thanks, Amy.

AMY

No problem. Happy to help.

KIM

Okay, that's it for this morning. Thank you everybody.

As the meeting breaks up, Coral sidles over.

CORAL

That was good of you.

AMY

I want to get more involved in the pastoral side of teaching.

CORAL

As long as you're doing it for the right reasons.

AMY

What do you mean?

CORAL

Just as long as it's because you want to help Izzy - not just to make yourself feel better about what happened to her mum.

Amy's face falls as Coral walks away.

Neil has trapped an NS TEACHER beside the coffee machine as he bangs on. Lindon listens in as he checks his pigeon hole.

NEIL

I mean, what's wrong with cricket or footy? Or a bloody good cross country run? Basketball? It's just netball for poseurs.

Lindon rolls his eyes and is about to head off but...

NEIL (CONT'D)

It's certainly not worth Preston
Walters ruining his education over.

LINDON

What was that?

The NS Teacher takes the opportunity to escape.

NEIL

Well, ever since you made him
captain, Walters' grades have been
falling away and his homework's
been late more often than not.

LINDON

This is the first I'm hearing about
it.

NEIL

Well, now you know, he needs to
spend a bit more time hitting the
books instead of the gym.

Neil heads off, leaving Lindon concerned.

Valerie washes up the coffee cups whilst Joe has the tea
towel ready to dry up. They are deep in conversation.

JOE

Got the call from social services
last night. Jamilah was supposed to
be here to help me tell him, but
she's been called out to an
emergency at another school. So,
it's down to me.

VALERIE

How do you think he'll take it?

JOE

I really don't know.

VALERIE

Would it help to have someone else
there?

Joe smiles at her gratefully.

JOE

Thanks, Val. Oh God, poor Danny.

CUT TO:

12

INT. HOSTEL DORM. PRE SCHOOL. 08:15 - DAY.

12

KAI is in his uniform, quickly shoving his stuff in his school bag as DANNY comes back from the bathroom with his towel over his shoulder. He starts putting on his school tie as...

KAI

Is the bathroom clear?

DANNY

Yeah, but make sure nobody sees you. I don't want to get chucked out of here because you can't drag yourself away from the mirror.

KAI

Harsh, but fair.

Kai smiles but then yawns.

KAI (CONT'D)

I'm knackered. I barely slept again. What do you think that bloke was screaming about?

DANNY

I don't want to know.

Kai nods and they both look a bit haunted.

KAI

I never thought I'd look forward to going to school. Come on, we better get going.

DANNY

Yeah.

He hesitates before...

DANNY (CONT'D)

You know, if you wanted to go home...

KAI

I've told you, I can't.

DANNY

But if there were a way. I wouldn't...

KAI

Nah, mate. I'm not leaving you in this place on your own anyway. End of.

Danny is happy to hear this. Kai looks conflicted as...

MAC

Well, look at you two. In your little uniforms.

They turn as MAC (20s, terrifying) saunters in.

MAC (CONT'D)

You look like a right pair of tossers.

KAI

I mean, it's not couture but...

MAC

I hated school. They threw me out for hitting one of my teachers in the end. He was asking for it.

DANNY

I don't doubt it. Sorry, we've got to...

Danny and Kai try to leave but Mac is blocking the way.

MAC

Didn't they tell you that you're not allowed overnight visitors? You'll be out on your ear if they find out.

DANNY

Yeah, but only if someone says something.

MAC

True.

He looks Danny up and down.

MAC (CONT'D)

Nice shoes. What size are you?

Danny and Kai exchange a look.

CUT TO:

13

OMITTED

13

14

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE. REGISTRATION. 08:35 - DAY.

14

The bell goes as the last few stragglers are heading inside. Izzy hangs back, keeping a low profile and waiting for the playground to empty.

She notices Kai and a furious looking Danny arriving and frowns when she sees that Danny is wearing flip-flops instead of his school shoes.

Izzy is about to go inside when she sees a taxi pull into the car park. Nicky, Tonya and Preston get out and unload their many bags.

Izzy watches with interest before heading inside.

The taxi drives off, leaving Preston and Nicky loading up with bags. Tonya does not help.

TONYA

I'm not going into school looking like a bag lady.

NICKY

Oh for God's sake!

PRESTON

Give me your stuff. I'll sort it.

Tonya drops her bags as...

TONYA

And after that?

NICKY

What?

TONYA

Where am I supposed to go at home time?

Nicky has no answer to that.

PRESTON

Just go to your lesson, Tonya.

Tonya stomps off. Nicky shouts after her.

NICKY

And keep this to yourself. We don't need the whole school knowing our business.

Nicky and Preston head to the lower school entrance with their stuff.

CUT TO:

15

OMITTED

15

16

INT. MAIN ENTRANCE/SECURITY. REGISTRATION. 08:37 - DAY.

16

As Izzy goes through security, she is annoyed to find Amy waiting for her.

AMY

Hello, Izzy. Glad to be back? How are you doing?

IZZY

Fine.

AMY

That's great, but I hope you know it's okay if you're not fine. That's what I'm here for.

IZZY

What do you mean?

AMY

Well, Miss Campbell has asked me to give you a bit of extra support for the next few weeks. Just until you get back into the swing of things. In the meantime, you can come to me with any problems or if you just want a chat. How does that sound?

It's the last thing Izzy wants to hear.

IZZY

Great.

AMY

So, why don't we start with a check-in at break time? See how you're feeling after your first lesson? Look forward to it. Shall I walk you to registration?

IZZY

It's alright, Miss. I know where I'm going.

Izzy gives her a weak smile and heads off. Amy watches her go with concern.

CUT TO:

17

OMITTED

17

17 A **INT. FOYER. REGISTRATION. 08:41 - DAY.**

17 A

Kim is walking down the foyer when she catches Nicky and Preston heading to the kitchens with their bags.

KIM
Mrs Walters? What's all this?

Nicky has to think fast.

NICKY
This? Oh, we've been having a bit of a clear out. It's stuff for the charity shop.

Kim looks at Preston who gives her a winning smile.

KIM
Okay, next question. What's it all doing in my school?

NICKY
Don't worry, it'll be gone by tonight. I'm dropping it off on my way home.

Kim suspiciously eyes some of the stuff poking out the bags - it doesn't look like charity donations.

KIM
That's very generous of you.

NICKY
(pointed)
Got to do your bit, haven't you? There's always someone worse off than you. However bad things are.

KIM
Very true.

Kim is not at all convinced by all this. Still...

KIM (CONT'D)
Put it somewhere safe.
(to Preston)
And then you need to get to class.

PRESTON
Yes, Miss.

Kim heads off. Nicky waits until she is out of earshot...

NICKY
Nosy cow.

Preston rolls his eyes.

PRESTON

Maybe we should have taken the day
off.

Preston looks worried as they head for the kitchen.

CUT TO:

18

EXT. SHOPPING PRECINCT. PERIOD ONE. 09:10 - DAY.

18

Donte's heading home after dropping Tommy off. He is carrying the parcel he's picked up.

As he sadly spots a young couple passing, he looks down at the label on the parcel for a clue as to what it might be. To no avail, he opens it and pulls something out the packaging.

It is a pink light up sign that reads 'Chlo's Bar'. Donte becomes emotional at the sight of it.

CUT TO:

19

INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD ONE. 09:11 - DAY.

19

Nicky and Preston have stashed their stuff behind some sacks of potatoes.

NICKY

It'll be alright there.

She holds her hand out for the red sports bag that Preston filled with his food stash. He keeps hold of it as...

PRESTON

I need this one. Basketball kit.

NICKY

Thanks for being a help, love.
Unlike your sister.

PRESTON

She's got a point though. If we haven't found somewhere to go by tonight...

NICKY

I'm on it.

PRESTON

Yeah, I know but... Look, why don't I go into town, hit some letting agencies. See what we can afford.

NICKY

I can already tell you that. Bugger all.

PRESTON

Mum...

NICKY

First thing they'll ask for is a reference from our previous landlord. What do you think that's going to say? And even if they don't want a reference they'll definitely want the first month's rent and a deposit. Well, we haven't got that either.

PRESTON

So, what are we going to do?

NICKY

I'm going to call in some favours.
You're going to go your lesson.

Before he can protest...

NICKY (CONT'D)

Because if you don't, people will start asking questions. People like Kim Campbell. This is my problem and I don't need anyone sticking their oar in. Okay?

PRESTON

Don't worry, I don't want anyone knowing either.

He heads off looking burdened. The minute she is alone, Nicky sags and lets her anxiety flood in for a few moments, but not for long. She dashes a rogue tear away from her eye and stands up straight - ready for the next round.

CUT TO:

20

INT. FOYER / MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:14 - DAY.

20

A worried Preston comes into the foyer heading towards the lockers with the red bag. He spots SAMIA carrying a cardboard file. Preston plasters on his breezy smile as she approaches...

PRESTON

Oi! Why aren't you in class, young lady?

SAMIA

(of the file)

Playing postman for Guthrie.

She smiles and they steal a quick kiss.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Where were you this morning? I was worried.

PRESTON

Forgot to set my alarm. I slept in.

SAMIA

Duh, idiot.

PRESTON

I know.

SAMIA

See you at break?

PRESTON

Yeah.

He gives her another quick peck and she heads off. His face falls the moment she is out of sight. He looks at the bag in his hand but then shoves it in his locker and heads off.

CUT TO:

21

OMITTED

21

22

INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. YEAR 9. PERIOD TWO. 10:24 - DAY. 22

The YR9 pupils are working in small groups. They all have big sheets of paper and markers in front of them. Tonya, Izzy, DWAYNE, SHOLA and NORULLAH are working together. Amy is teaching.

AMY

So, you're thinking about the best staging for the play. Think about how you want to engage with your audience. Remember, theatre doesn't have to happen in a theatre.

The groups start talking intently.

DWAYNE

I don't know what she means by that.

TONYA

Are we supposed to put a play on in a supermarket?

They exchange a look.

DWAYNE

Put it down.

They look at him.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

It's drama, there aren't any wrong answers, are there?

Shola writes on the paper as Amy approaches.

AMY

You guys need any help? Izzy? You okay? I'm here if you need me.

Amy smiles and moves on. Izzy is aware of her teammates looking at her with sympathy, except for Tonya, who is amused...

TONYA

Aren't you Miss Spratt's special soldier?

SHOLA

Tonya! Don't you think that's a bit...?

TONYA

What?

Shola gives her a sharp look. The penny drops and Tonya turns to Izzy.

TONYA (CONT'D)
Didn't mean to upset you.

IZZY
You didn't.
(to Shola)
And I can speak for myself, thanks.

Shola bristles a bit at this.

IZZY (CONT'D)
Can we get on with this? Or she'll
come back over.

SHOLA
Put car park down.

Shola obliges. Izzy looks at Tonya with interest before...

IZZY
What was going on in the school car
park this morning? The taxi and the
bags and that?

TONYA
Didn't think anybody had seen us.

Everyone is interested now.

TONYA (CONT'D)
If you must know, we got evicted
this morning.

Wide eyes all around. Tonya is rather enjoying the attention.

CUT TO:

23

INT. SCIENCE LAB. YEAR 12. PERIOD TWO. 11:09 - DAY.

23

Preston is at the back of the class. The other YR12s - including Kai and Danny - are quietly working as Lindon works at his desk.

However, Preston is scrolling through a letting agent's website looking for flats. We see the prices floating past - £1250 pcm, £950 pcm, £2500 pcm - the speed Preston is scrolling suggests that they are all too expensive.

Lindon looks up from his desk and sees that Preston is on his phone. He frowns, but then the bell goes.

LINDON

Okay, next lesson we'll go through some past exam papers and talk about revision.

There is a mild groan from the class.

LINDON (CONT'D)

The exams will be here before you know it. You'll be thanking me in the summer. Off you go.

The lesson ends and everyone packs up. Preston doesn't move, too engrossed in his search.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Preston? Are you with us?

Preston looks up to see everyone is leaving. He starts to pack up. Lindon frowns, concerned for him. He stops him as he goes to leave.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Listen, I wasn't joking about the exams. They're just around the corner.

PRESTON

I know. I'm going to get sorted.

LINDON

Good. Because you've a lot on your plate. School work, training and you've got a girlfriend.

He nods at the phone which is still in Preston's hand.

PRESTON

Yeah. You're right.

LINDON

Get your priorities straight.

PRESTON

I'll do that.

He makes to leave.

LINDON

See you at lunchtime?

PRESTON

Will you?

LINDON

Basketball practise.

PRESTON

Of course.

LINDON

I'm putting you through your paces today.

PRESTON

Glad to hear it, Sir.

Preston looks stressed as he walks away.

CUT TO:

24

EXT. PLAYGROUND. BREAK. 11:12 - DAY.

24

The usual break time activities are underway. A gang of girls scream theatrically as a gang of lads rush them.

Samia is waiting for Preston. She looks at her phone and then furiously texts something.

CUT TO:

25

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:13 - DAY.

25

Preston's phone beeps, but he ignores it as he gets his red bag from his locker and heads off.

Izzy makes her way down the corridor. Amy comes after her...

AMY

Izzy?

Izzy deliberately ignores her and moves at the double. Amy frowns but lets her go.

CUT TO:

26

INT. MODERN LANGUAGES CLASSROOM. BREAK. 11:14 - DAY.

26

Danny comes in to find Joe and Valerie there.

DANNY

You wanted to see me?

He is surprised to see Valerie. She spots his flip flops.

VALERIE

Where are your shoes, Danny?

DANNY

It's a long story.

JOE

What size are you?

DANNY

Nine.

Joe opens his desk drawer and pulls out a pair of battered trainers.

JOE

Here. I was going to start jogging home from work.

VALERIE

Well, now you've got a good excuse not to.

Danny puts them on as Joe looks on.

JOE

So, we need to tell you something. Miss Omar has been in touch with your mum.

Danny looks up.

JOE (CONT'D)

She's in Birmingham.

DANNY

Birmingham?

JOE

Danny, this is going to be really difficult for you to hear.

Joe hesitates, not wanting to deliver the blow. Valerie puts them both out of their misery.

VALERIE

Your mum would prefer not to have any contact with you at the moment.

Danny puts a brave face on it.

DANNY

Right.

JOE

I'm sorry.

DANNY

Is she still with him? Vinny?

Joe doesn't have to answer.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Should have known she'd choose him.

JOE

I need you to know, this is not about you. It's not because you've done anything wrong. It's all about her problems and where she is in her life.

VALERIE

That's right.

Danny is on his feet, he doesn't want to hear any more.

DANNY

Thanks. For the shoes.

He goes. Valerie and Joe exchange a desperate look.

JOE

Do you ever feel like you're doing more harm than good?

VALERIE

Only every other day.

CUT TO:

27

INT. BOY'S TOILETS. BREAK. 11:16 - DAY.

27

Preston comes into the loos with his red bag. He locks himself in a cubicle and sits with the bag on his lap. He takes a moment to himself and is about to unzip it when he hears someone come in and lock themselves into the next cubicle.

It is an upset Danny. He too is hiding and fighting to keep himself together, taking deep breaths. Unwelcome tears slip down his face and he swipes at them angrily with his sleeve. He takes out his phone and calls 'MUM'. It goes straight to voicemail.

VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

The caller is unavailable. Please
leave a message.

The beep goes.

DANNY

Mum...

But Danny can't think of anything to say. He kills the call and buries his head in his hands and cries.

In his cubicle, Preston silently curses before quietly slipping back out with his bag.

CUT TO:

27 A **EXT. VISITOR'S ENTRANCE. BREAK. 11:24 - DAY.**

27 A

Donte arrives at school and hesitates before heading inside.

CUT TO:

28

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:25 - DAY.

28

The bell rings for the end of break as a frustrated Preston is stashing his red bag in his locker when KELLY JO makes him jump.

KELLY JO
What are you doing?

PRESTON
What? Nothing.

He slams the locker shut.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
What do you want?

KELLY JO
Is it true you've been turfed out
of your flat?

Preston looks around to see if anyone heard, before pulling Kelly Jo aside for a bit more privacy.

PRESTON
Who did you hear that off?

KELLY JO
Some year nines were talking about
it in the bog. It's all over
school.

He silently curses.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)
So, it's true?

PRESTON
Yeah, but we didn't want everyone
knowing.

KELLY JO
Oh my God, does that mean you're
homeless now?

PRESTON
No. I'm going to sort it.

KELLY JO
Good.

He heads off trying to keep his annoyance and stress under control. Kelly Jo shouts after him.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

I was proper worried. I was going to ring my mum and tell her to blow up my air bed for you.

Preston turns and gives her a glare. Kelly Jo realises what she has done.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. Sorry.

She mimes zipping her mouth shut. As Preston walks away he has an idea. He starts running up the corridor.

However, as he heads towards the lower school entrance, he crosses paths with an annoyed Samia.

SAMIA

Oh, there you are. Don't you ever look at your phone?

Confused and distracted, he pulls out his phone to see he has several texts from Samia.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

You know I hate waiting around.

PRESTON

Sorry. I've got to go.

He tries to leave but...

SAMIA

Preston! Don't just walk away from me.

PRESTON

For God's sake, Samia. Can you just not? Just for today? I'm sorry you had to spend 20 minutes without me but some of us have got actual problems. Alright?

He leaves her shocked and hurt.

CUT TO:

29

OMITTED

29

30

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD THREE. 11:31 - DAY.

30

WENDY is surprised when a sheepish Donte comes in.

WENDY

Mr Charles? How can I help you?

DONTE

I'm supposed to put some money on a card or a website or something. But I can't work out how to do it.

WENDY

It's quite simple really.

DONTE

For someone with half a brain, you mean?

WENDY

No, that's not what I meant.

DONTE

I mean if I can't even... You see, Chlo used to sort stuff like this out. But what's the point of me? If I can't sort my kid's dinner money?

He sits down and buries his head in his hands. Kim comes in as...

WENDY

Hey, no need for that. You're not the only one. I have at least one parent a day who can't make sense of it.

KIM

Everything okay here?

Wendy shakes her head at Kim.

KIM (CONT'D)

Why don't you come through to my office, Mr Charles.

He nods and goes through. Kim and Wendy exchange a concerned look.

WENDY

I'll put the kettle on.

CUT TO:

31

OMITTED

31

32

OMITTED

32 *

33

OMITTED

33 *

34

OMITTED

34 *

35

INT. RAFFERTY HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. PERIOD THREE. 12:03 - DAY.

35

Preston's been let in by Debs and comes in to find his grandma, BARBARA, watching TV. Debs follows behind him.

BARBARA

Alright, sweetheart. What are you doing here?

DEBS

Yeah, shouldn't you be at school?

PRESTON

Free period. I've come to ask a favour, Nan.

DEBS

Shocker.

BARBARA

(ignoring her)

Well, you know you only have to ask.

DEBS

Not so fast, Mum.

She turns to Preston with a challenging look on her face.

DEBS (CONT'D)

This favour you're after, is it for you? Or is it for our Nicky? Because if it's for her, the answer is no.

CUT TO:

36

INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD THREE. 12:11 - DAY.

36

Nicky is on her phone, leaning against a wheelie bin waiting to go out. There are two NS CANTEEN WORKERS hard at work in the kitchen.

NICKY

What do you mean, no? It's just a few nights, Bernie.

Coral comes in and tries to get her attention. She is annoyed when Nicky holds up her hand for her to wait.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Yeah, the kids as well. I can't leave them on the streets, can I?

CORAL

Hello?

NICKY

(to Coral)

Just a minute.

(back to her call)

Yeah, I know it'll be a squeeze...
Oh well, thanks for nothing. I'll remind you of that when you ring me at five o'clock on Friday after getting your roots done.

She ends the call and turns to a cheesed off Coral.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Yes?

CORAL

Ice.

NICKY

What about it?

She starts dialling another number on her phone.

CORAL

Have you got any? I've got a kid with a twisted ankle.

NICKY

Sorry, I'm on my break.

CORAL

Fine, I'll get it myself.

NICKY

Kitchen staff only in the walk-in.

Her call is answered. She heads outside as...

NICKY (CONT'D)

Teresa? It's Nicky. You alright,
love? Listen, remember when your
car broke down and I picked you up
from town with all your Christmas
shopping and you said if I ever
needed anything...

Coral looks to the other Canteen Workers but they are hard at
it.

CORAL

For God's sake.

Coral goes to the walk-in freezer, pulls open the heavy door
and goes inside. She leaves the freezer door stood open.

CUT TO:

37

INT. FREEZER. PERIOD THREE. 12:13 - DAY.

37

Coral looks for the ice.

CUT TO:

38

INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD THREE. 12:14 - DAY.

38

Nicky comes back in as...

NICKY

Yeah, well, next time you can get
the flaming bus.

She punctuates her point by kicking the freezer door shut
with some force.

CUT TO:

39

INT. FREEZER. PERIOD THREE. 12:14 - DAY.

39

Coral turns...

CORAL

What are you playing at?

CUT TO:

40

INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD THREE. 12:14 - DAY.

40

Nicky realises she has shut Coral in the freezer as she hears a hammering on the door...

NICKY

Hey, I told you not to go in there.
Health and...

However, when she goes to open the door the handle breaks off in her hand.

NICKY (CONT'D)

...safety.

Nicky looks at it in horror.

CUT TO:

41 INT. RAFFERTY HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. PERIOD THREE. 12:15 - DAY⁴¹

Preston has made his case to Barbara and Debs.

PRESTON

Look, I get that you and my mum
don't always get on.

DEBS

It's not me. I've always been
alright with our Nicky.

Barbara lets out a snort.

BARBARA

Fought like cat and dog since they
were kids.

DEBS

And why's that? Because she thinks
she's something special. A cut
above the rest. And where's it got
her? I warned her that getting that
salon would end in tears.

PRESTON

It's not just her though, is it?
There's me and our Tonya. We're
going to end up on the streets.

Debs thaws a bit at this.

DEBS

And I'm sorry to hear that, but
that's not my fault.

PRESTON

Please Auntie Debs. I don't know
where else to go.

She can see his desperation.

DEBS

The last time I saw your mother,
she said some nasty things about
me.

Preston looks to Barbara.

BARBARA

She took it a bit too far.

DEBS

She called me a sour faced cow!

PRESTON

She shouldn't have said that.

He looks at her hopefully, sensing a chink in her armour.

DEBS

So, if you were going to come
here...

She sees the happy, relieved reaction from Preston.

DEBS (CONT'D)

I'd need an apology from her.
Otherwise, you'll have to find
somewhere else to go.

Preston's relief is short lived and the tension comes
crashing back into his body.

CUT TO:

41A INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD THREE. 12:17 - DAY. 41A *

Donte is trying to recover by wiping his eyes as Kim closes the door. *

 DONTÉ *

 Listen, I'm sorry. About what I *

 said at the funeral... *

 KIM *

 It's fine. *

 DONTÉ *

 No, it's not. *

She accepts this. *

 DONTÉ (CONT'D) *

 I haven't done or said anything *

 right since... Since she went. *

 KIM *

 I'm sure that's not true. *

 DONTÉ *

 I'd completely forgotten that Izzy *

 was coming back to school today. *

 That's a bit bloody basic, isn't *

 it? *

 KIM *

 But understandable. And we were *

 here for her. *

Donte is getting upset again as... *

 DONTÉ *

 How am I supposed to replace their *

 mum when I'm not even a half decent *

 dad? *

Kim sits beside him as he shakes his head. *

 KIM *

 Listen I know it seems impossible *

 now. But that's grief, and tomorrow *

 or maybe the next day or next week *

 it will all feel just a little less *

 impossible. I promise. *

 DONTÉ *

 How? How can you promise that? *

 KIM *

 Because I've been there. *

Donte stares at her.

*

KIM (CONT'D)
(matter of fact)
I lost my son.

*

*

*

DONTE
I didn't know...

*

*

She holds up a hand to let him off the hook. She doesn't want to talk about it.

*

*

KIM
I hope you know that you're not on your own in this. Neither is Izzy. Despite everything, you are both still part of this school community. And whatever else happens, I want you to know that whilst she is here, Izzy will be looked after and heard. And we won't let her go without lunch either.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

He actually smiles at that.

*

DONTE
Shouldn't be up to you, though. I need to get my act together. Thanks.

*

*

*

*

He goes, leaving Kim worried.

*

CUT TO:

*

42

OMITTED

42 *

43

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR / FOYER. PERIOD THREE. 12:20 43
- DAY.

*

A rejected Donte heads away from Wendy's area, down the head's corridor. He meets Nicky coming the other way.

*

*

NICKY

Are you any good with doors?

DONTE

I'm sorry?

NICKY

Doors, DIY, that sort of thing.

DONTE

Well, I've worked as a handy man...

NICKY

Brilliant! Come with me.

Donte follows her.

CUT TO:

44

INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD THREE. 12:26 - DAY.

44

Nicky watches nervously as Donte examines the broken handle. The NS Canteen Workers are looking on, Nicky turns to them.

NICKY

Can you go and open up the other canteen while I sort this?

They leave.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Miss Walker? Hang in there. Help is on the way.

CORAL (O.S.)

The fire brigade?

NICKY

No! Better than that. This is...
Erm...

She realises she has no idea.

DONTE

Donte Charles. I'm Izzy's dad.

CUT TO:

45

INT. FREEZER. PERIOD THREE. 12:27 - DAY.

45

Coral is a bit shaken to hear this.

CORAL

No offence, Mr Charles, but I'd
rather you called the professionals
in.

NICKY

He is a professional. Aren't you?

CUT TO:

46

INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD THREE. 12:27 - DAY.

46

Donte turns to Nicky.

DONTE

(quietly)

Not really. Maybe she's right. I've no idea how long this is going to take me and the fire brigade will have all the right equipment.

NICKY

And how am I going to explain a fire engine on the playground?

DONTE

If it was an accident...

NICKY

Please, I can't lose this job.

He can see she is sincerely desperate.

DONTE

Alright, but I'm going to need some tools. Where's the caretaker?

NICKY

One's off sick, and the other one just retired. But their office is down the main corridor.

DONTE

I'll find it.

He dashes out.

NICKY

Did you hear that? Help is on the way.

CORAL (O.S.)

I heard. And you don't need to worry about your job.

Nicky is relieved.

CORAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

As far as I'm concerned, you've already lost it.

CUT TO:

47

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD THREE. 12:29 - DAY.

47

Donte is looking for the caretaker's office when he meets Amy. Things are awkward between them.

AMY

Mr Charles? Can I help you?

DONTE

Caretaker's office? It's an emergency. Someone's trapped in the freezer.

AMY

(alarmed)

I'll show you.

The bell rings for lunch as they head off.

CUT TO:

48

INT. SCHOOL GYM. LUNCH. 12:33 - DAY.

48

Lindon oversees the Basketball Team as they warm up by making dribbling passes to each other. Kai and Danny pass to each other.

KAI

So, are you going to tell me what Casey said to you?

DANNY

Nothing to tell.

Before Kai can question further, Lindon blows his whistle.

LINDON

Save the chat for the playground, please. I've got the rest of this week to knock you into shape for our next game and let me tell you, there's not a second to waste. Starting positions.

As they fall into place on the court, a breathless Preston arrives.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Nice of you to join us.

PRESTON

Sorry, sir.

As he passes Lindon to take his place on the court...

LINDON

This is exactly what I was talking about this morning.

PRESTON

I know but I had something I had to...

LINDON

Not interested in excuses. You're team captain. You're supposed to set an example. But if it's too big a responsibility...

PRESTON

No! It's not. I promise.

LINDON

Prove it.

A stressed Preston goes out on to the court.

CUT TO:

49

INT. KITCHENS. LUNCH. 12:35 - DAY.

49

Donte and Amy arrive back with the tools to find Nicky going through her voicemails.

DONTE

How's she doing?

NICKY

She's gone a bit quiet. But that might be because she's giving me the silent treatment.

Amy bangs on the door.

AMY

Miss Walker? Are you okay? You need to keep talking to us. How are you doing?

CUT TO:

50

INT. FREEZER. LUNCH. 12:35 - DAY.

50

Coral rolls her eyes as she sits on a box of frozen chips.

CORAL
(to herself)
How do you bloody well think I'm
doing?

AMY (O.S.)
What was that?

CORAL
I said get me out of here!

CUT TO:

51

INT. KITCHENS. LUNCH. 12:36 - DAY.

51

Amy is worried whilst Donte works at dismantling the lock.
Nicky paces. As Donte works...

DONTE

Listen, Miss Spratt. What I said on
the day of the funeral...

AMY

..was perfectly understandable
considering the circumstances.

DONTE

No, I owe you an apology.

AMY

Okay. Apology accepted.

They smile at each other for a moment before he picks up a
drill.

DONTE

Miss Walker? It's about to get
noisy. Ready?

He inserts it into the lock and drills.

CUT TO:

52

INT. RED CANTEEN. LUNCH. 12:36 - DAY.

52

The canteen is full of kids in uproar as they wait to be fed. Kelly Jo, loving the chaos, starts a chant...

KELLY JO
Food! Food! Food!

Kim comes in as the chant gets louder, punctuated by table banging and stamping.

She notes a miserable looking GIRL limping into the canteen with the help of two FRIENDS before...

KIM
That's enough of that! I said knock it off!

Everyone goes quiet - except Kelly Jo.

KELLY JO
Food! Food! Food...

She falls silent when she catches the look on Kim's face.

KIM
Now, can someone tell me what is going on?

She turns to the hobbling girl.

CUT TO:

53

INT. KITCHENS. LUNCH. 12:37 - DAY.

53

There is a clunk as Donte manages to dismantle the door mechanism. He takes a screwdriver and forces the lock open. However, when he pulls at the door...

DONTE
It won't budge.

NICKY
Yeah, it sticks sometimes. You have to use this.

She tosses a catering size metal fish slice to Donte which he deftly catches and uses it to lever open the door. Coral bursts out.

CORAL
Thank you, Mr Charles.

She is a bit disquieted by his presence.

DONTE
Are you okay?

CORAL
I think so...

Suddenly, Amy engulfs her in a sheet of foil.

CORAL (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

AMY
I'm trapping your body heat in, Coral. We have to get your core temperature back up.

CORAL
I'm not a bloody baked potato.

They all turn as...

KIM
Does someone want to tell me why the canteen shutters are still down?
(to Coral)
And why one of your pupils is outside hobbling about on a swollen ankle?

Coral points at Nicky.

CORAL

Well, I was getting ice for that ankle when Mrs Walters decided to shut me in a freezer.

NICKY

That's not... I told you not to go in there.

CORAL

So, you thought you'd teach me a lesson?

NICKY

The handle came off!

CORAL

And if you believe that, you'll believe anything.

DONTE

The door is knackered, but I reckon I can fix it. At least until you can get someone out to it.

NICKY

See?!

KIM

Okay, okay. Let's calm this down.

CORAL

Sorry, but I could have frozen to death.

NICKY

In ten minutes?

Coral flashes her a filthy look.

KIM

(To Donte)

Thank you. I know you didn't come to rescue teachers.

DONTE

It was nice to feel useful.

KIM

Amy. Why don't you take Miss Walker to the staff room for warm drink?

As Amy and Coral go out, Kim turns to Nicky.

KIM (CONT'D)

Let's get the canteen open before we have another riot on our hands.

*
*
*
*

*
*

A chastened Nicky nods and makes to head off but...

KIM (CONT'D)

And when you've finished with
lunch, come and see me in my
office.

Nicky's heart sinks.

CUT TO:

54

INT. SCHOOL GYM. LUNCH. 12:59 - DAY.

54

The basketball game continues, where things are getting physical and sweaty out on the court with both Danny and Preston working out their respective frustrations.

Danny hip checks Preston to get the ball. Preston responds by slapping it out of his hands and scoring.

LINDON

Nice. Keep up the pace.

Kai collects the ball and passes it deftly to Danny but Preston clatters him from behind. Danny is instantly on his feet.

DANNY

Have you got a problem with me?

PRESTON

It's you that's got the problem.

DANNY

What makes you say that?

PRESTON

Well, you can't stay on your feet.
Maybe it's your shoes.

Danny is still wearing Joe's trainers. Before Danny can respond...

LINDON

Preston! What are you doing? Head
in the game.

Preston goes back to playing. Kai comes over to Danny.

KAI

Everything alright?

DANNY

He needs to get over himself.

KAI

And you need to check yourself.
You're already on your last
warning, remember?

He nods over to Lindon who meets their gaze.

LINDON

What are you waiting for? A hand-
written invitation? Get back in
there!

Danny gets back into the game. This time it is Danny who gets the ball from Preston and scores.

KAI

Oh! That's gotta hurt!

Preston is about to step up to Kai when Lindon blows the whistle to end the game.

LINDON

Alright, that's enough. Hit the showers.

Everyone heads out but Lindon stops Preston.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Preston? What the hell is going on with you?

PRESTON

For the last time, nothing!

He clocks the look on Lindon's face and immediately moderates his tone.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, sir. I didn't mean that..

LINDON

I should hope not. That aggression is okay on the court but off it...

PRESTON

I know. I just get a bit wound up.

LINDON

Because you let yourself get wound up. And it's a weakness. You need to get your emotions under control. Do you hear me?

PRESTON

Yes, sir. I know how to do that.

LINDON

Go cool off in the shower.

PRESTON

I thought I'd do a few laps. Make up for being late.

LINDON

That's more like it.

Lindon goes, thinking he's given a good pep talk, but Preston looks even more stressed as he starts jogging around the gym.

CUT TO:

55

OMITTED

55

56

OMITTED

56 *

56 A **INT. SCHOOL GYM. LUNCH. 13:05 - DAY.**

56 A *

Preston is really pushing himself as he runs his laps. He is breathing hard and sweating and there is a grim look of determination on his face. Finally, he stumbles and collapses to the floor, utterly spent.

CUT TO:

56 B **INT. GYM SHOWER/CHANGING AREA. LUNCH. 13:08 - DAY.**

56 B

The changing room is emptying out as Preston comes in from the gym. Danny is fastening his shoes as Kai fastens his shirt and sprays deodorant under his arms.

KAI
Ooh, can you smell that? Smells like... victory.

Danny allows himself a smile at this. Some of the other lads are laughing. Kai sees that Preston isn't amused, so he sprays him.

KAI (CONT'D)
Here you go.

PRESTON
What the hell are you doing?

KAI
Just thought you might like to smell like a winner.

He gives him another spritz and Preston smacks the can from his hand.

PRESTON
Do that again and I'll shove it up your arse.

KAI
Can't you take a joke?

PRESTON
You are a joke.

KAI
Look, you're clearly having a crap day so I'll let that go...

PRESTON
What's that supposed to mean?

Kai and Danny exchange an awkward look.

DANNY
We know you got chucked out of your place.

It's as if all the air goes out of the room for Preston.

PRESTON
No. That's not...

KAI

Mate, everyone knows.

Suddenly Preston is full of rage and humiliation that he needs to vent. He turns on Kai.

PRESTON

And I suppose you had a good laugh about it? Didn't you?

Kai shakes his head in disgust.

KAI

You need to get over yourself.

PRESTON

What? You reckon you need to bring me down a peg or two? Why? Is it the only way you can get on my level?

KAI

What are you on about?

PRESTON

Well, you couldn't handle it. Right? Everyone watching you. Just waiting for you to screw-up.

None of them notice Lindon coming in. Preston is shouting right in Kai's face as...

PRESTON (CONT'D)

You've no idea. You pathetic little...

He takes a threatening step towards Kai.

LINDON

That's enough!

Preston realises he's made a terrible mistake.

CUT TO:

57

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. LUNCH. 13:13 - DAY.

57

Kim stares at Preston whilst Lindon looks disappointed.

KIM

I can't believe I have to say this,
but we do not verbally abuse people
in this school. Even if we are
having a tough time at home.

Preston reacts to that sharply.

KIM (CONT'D)

If that had escalated beyond a bit
of shouting, we'd be having a far
more serious conversation right
now. A conversation that would
involve your mum. And I get the
feeling that's the last thing she
needs right now.

Preston hangs his head at this, hiding his upset.

KIM (CONT'D)

You need to get your temper under
control. And if you can't...

PRESTON

I can.

LINDON

Didn't look like it to me.

PRESTON

I have... coping mechanisms.

Lindon and Kim exchange a surprised look.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

It won't happen again. I promise.

He is sincere.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

I'll apologise to Kai. I'll make it
right.

KIM

See that you do. Go to your lesson.

He goes out. Kim looks to Lindon.

KIM (CONT'D)

Just a blip?

LINDON

Yeah. He's a good lad. I've a lot of time for him.

KIM

Not like you to play favourites.

LINDON

Maybe I see a bit of myself in him.

KIM

Really? And what is it about the heart throb of the sixth form and captain of the basketball team that reminds you of yourself, Lindon?

She looks at him with a straight face.

LINDON

You're right. It's like looking in the mirror.

He goes, leaving her to smile to herself.

CUT TO:

58

EXT. EMBANKMENT. LUNCH. 13:14 - DAY.

58

Tonya is eating her lunch on the embankment behind the car park. She looks up to see Izzy.

TONYA

No! This is my spot.

IZZY

I don't see your name on it.

She plonks herself down.

TONYA

You don't get to do whatever you like just because your mum died, you know.

There is a moment of shocked silence, but then Izzy cracks out laughing.

IZZY

Oh my God! You're awful.

TONYA

So everyone keeps telling me.

IZZY

But thank you.

TONYA

For what?

IZZY

For saying she died. Not that she passed on or that I lost her. I hate that. Makes her sound like a...

TONYA

Sock?

Izzy looks shocked.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Sorry! Sometimes stuff like that just pops into my head.

IZZY

And out of your mouth.

They laugh.

IZZY (CONT'D)

That's the first time I've laughed in ages.

Izzy suddenly looks sad again, guilty to have forgotten her grief.

TONYA

Here, do you fancy going somewhere more fun?

IZZY

There's only ten minutes of dinner time left.

TONYA

Yeah, but we've got history with Guthrie next. Not like we'll be missing anything important.

IZZY

I don't know. I've never bunked off before.

TONYA

I do it all the time.
(loaded)
No-one ever misses me.

Izzy is still not sure.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Come on! Look, if we get caught, you just look a bit sad and remind them that you lost your mum.

Izzy pretends to be shocked, but she still gets up. They head off together.

CUT TO:

59

EXT. BENCH AREA. LUNCH. 13:15 - DAY.

59

Kai and Danny sit together.

KAI

Come on. What did he say? Was it something to do with your mum?

Danny looks at Kai. He is about to tell him when...

KAI (CONT'D)

What the hell is he doing here?

Danny turns to see Mac coming at them.

MAC

Alright lads? So, which one of you has the big gob?

He looks at them expectantly.

DANNY

I don't know what you're on about.

MAC

Been thrown out the hostel, haven't I? They told me it was for thieving.

KAI

That's nothing to do with us.

MAC

Don't you lie to me.

Danny's anger flashes at this.

DANNY

We didn't say anything! Alright? You've probably stolen something off everyone in that hostel.

Suddenly Mac has him by the throat. Danny is terrified.

MAC

Who do you think you're talking to? A couple of nights in a hostel and you think you're it?

Valerie sees the trouble and gets on her walkie-talkie as she heads over.

VALERIE

Immediate assistance required in the playground.

(to Mac)

(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I don't know why you are on school property but you need to leave.

MAC

In a minute.

VALERIE

I won't tell you again...

Mac lets Danny go, but gets in Valerie's face.

MAC

You won't tell me anything, darling. Outside the school gates, you're just like anyone else. That's what you teachers always forget.

Valerie stands her ground. Mac is amused.

MAC (CONT'D)

Always hated teachers. Talking to me like I were stupid or something.

VALERIE

Well, things have changed since you were last at school. For a start, we have CCTV.

She points to one and he instinctively looks up.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Ooh, that'll be a good shot. Tell me, are you a familiar face to the police?

Mac hesitates but storms off. Valerie takes a deep breath.

CUT TO:

59A

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PERIOD FOUR. 13:40 - DAY.

59A

Joe and Valerie speak with Danny and Kai.

JOE

Sorry, you're both living at
Sardinia House?

Danny and Kai nod. Joe and Valerie look at each other.

JOE (CONT'D)

(to Kai)

Because your parents threw you out?

KAI

They're always on me, Sir. You
know? About my lifestyle choices?

Valerie frowns at this, suspicious.

KAI (CONT'D)

But it's okay. Me and Danny can
keep an eye out for each other.

DANNY

It wasn't my fault that Mac came
here. He's not right in the head...

JOE

You're not in trouble. We're just
trying to work out the best way to
keep you safe.

VALERIE

Why don't you come back after
class. We'll see what we can come
up with.

Danny and Kai leave.

JOE

I better let Jamilah know we've
another homeless pupil.

VALERIE

Hold your horses. I think we should
hear the other side of Kai's story
first.

Joe is intrigued.

CUT TO:

60

INT. KITCHENS. LUNCH. 13:18 - DAY.

60

Preston comes in to find an anxious Nicky cleaning with one hand but still scrolling through her contacts on her phone.

PRESTON

Mum?

She plasters on a smile for his benefit.

NICKY

Alright, love? How's your day going? Better than mine, I hope.

PRESTON

Have you found us anywhere to stay?

Nicky decides not to lie to him.

NICKY

Not yet. And not for the want of trying. Tried to call in a few favours. Turns out a friend in need is an endangered species. Called the council about getting on the housing list but it sounds like you'll have kids of your own before they find us somewhere.

Her smile melts as...

NICKY (CONT'D)

And Miss Campbell wants to see me later and I don't think it's to tell me I'm employee of the month.

She is close to tears now.

PRESTON

Don't, Mum. It's going to be okay. I think I've found us somewhere.

NICKY

Oh, you little smasher. Where?

Preston hesitates - he has a good idea how this news is going to go down.

PRESTON

I went to see Auntie Debs. And I know what you're going to say...

NICKY

Over my dead body.

PRESTON

Mum!

NICKY

How could you? She was the last person I wanted to know! And I bet she was over the moon to hear I screwed everything up. Wasn't she?

He can't deny it.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Yeah. And she said she'd put us up? What's the catch?

PRESTON

She wants you to apologise. For what you said to her last time...

NICKY

Forget it.

PRESTON

Mum...

NICKY

I'd rather sleep on the streets.

She goes back to her cleaning, turning her back on him to hide her emotions. Preston flounders for a moment but knows there's no point in arguing. Preston looks more stressed than ever.

CUT TO:

60 A **INT. FOYER / MAIN CORRIDOR. LUNCH. 13:23 - DAY.**

60 A

As the lunch bell goes, Preston comes out and makes his way past the crowd of kids rushing to class. He feels exposed and scrutinised.

He becomes aware of people whispering and casting looks his way. He sees Kelly Jo talking to a gang of girls, who all giggle as he goes past. He gets his head down and pushes roughly past some YR7 kids, desperate to escape the stares.

CUT TO:

61

OMITTED

61

62

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL). YEAR 12. PERIOD FOUR.
13:25 - DAY.

62

Coral is ready to teach the YR12s but with her coat still on and a cup of hot coffee in her hands. A visibly worked up Preston comes in and takes a seat, but he's paranoid as he observes Kai and Caz whispering. As they both look up at him, Preston's increasingly on edge.

CORAL

Let's make a start. The key themes
of The Great Gatsby...

As everyone gets their books out, Preston is feeling hot and loosens his collar. He is struggling to stay still.

CORAL (CONT'D)

So, initial thoughts? What do you
think Fitzgerald was trying to tell
us? What was his central message?

Caz's hand goes up.

CAZ

Just because it looks like you've
got everything, it doesn't make you
happy.

Preston is really struggling now. Sweat stands out on his forehead and he is breathing hard. People around him are starting to notice and whisper - adding to his distress.

CORAL

Interesting. Can you expand on
that?

The classroom descends into chatter and debate. The noise triggers Preston who stands suddenly, tipping over his chair. All eyes are on him as...

CORAL (CONT'D)

Preston? Sit down.

PRESTON

No... I can't be in here... Sorry.

He bolts from the room, much to the amusement and curiosity of his classmates. Coral goes after him.

CUT TO:

63

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR. 13:51 - DAY.

63

Lindon is heading up the corridor when Preston barrels past him and Coral comes out after him.

CORAL

Preston Walters, get back here.

LINDON

I've got this. Go back to your class.

Lindon goes after Preston as Coral goes back into her classroom.

CORAL

Back to your desks! It's a classroom not a circus!

CUT TO:

64

INT. CLASSROOM. PERIOD FOUR. 13:52 - DAY.

64

Preston crashes into an empty classroom and collapses to the floor. He tears at his tie and collar, gasping for breath. He is in the midst of his first panic attack. Lindon comes in.

PRESTON

Sir, I think I'm dying.

LINDON

It's okay. Have you got an inhaler?

Preston shakes his head.

LINDON (CONT'D)

An epi-pen? Have you got allergies?

He shakes his head.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Then let's take some deep breaths.
In through your nose out through
your mouth. That's it.

Preston's a bit calmer, so...

LINDON (CONT'D)

I'm going to go get your mum.

PRESTON

No! Please.

His breathing gets ragged again.

LINDON

Okay, okay. Just keep breathing.

He sits beside Preston.

CUT TO:

65

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD FOUR. 13:53 - DAY.

65

Kim looks up as a defensive Nicky comes in.

NICKY

Okay, I'm here. Can we make this quick. I've got a lot on my plate.

KIM

That's what I wanted to talk to you about...

NICKY

Yeah, I get it. I've given you the excuse you needed to sack me, but if you were half the headteacher you reckon to be, you'd hear my side of it.

KIM

Okay. That's fair.

She looks at Nicky expectantly.

NICKY

Right. Well, I told her not to go in that freezer, but she didn't listen. So, I didn't even know she was in there when I shut the door. And it's not my fault that everything in that kitchen is falling to bits.

And anyway, you don't pay me enough to be cook, bottle-washer and fridge repair woman. You don't pay me enough keep a bloody roof over mine and the kid's head! Why do you think all my stuff's in bags?

Kim reacts to this but before she can interject...

NICKY (CONT'D)

I'm doing my best, Miss Campbell. But if that's not good enough for you, it might be better for us to call it quits. To be honest, getting sacked is the least of my worries today.

KIM

Mrs Walters...

Kim is interrupted by a knock at the door.

KIM (CONT'D)

Not now, Wendy...

But Wendy comes in.

WENDY

I'm sorry, but two girls have gone
AWOL and one of them is Tonya
Walters.

Nicky looks skyward as...

NICKY

Oh, you're having a laugh!

CUT TO:

66

EXT / INT. PET SHOP. PERIOD FOUR. 13:54 - DAY.

66

Tonya and Izzy walk down the street. Izzy looks a bit nervous.

IZZY

Where are we going? I've not got any money for shopping or anything.

TONYA

Costs nothing to look.

They stop outside a pet shop.

IZZY

Mum hated this place.

TONYA

Why? Didn't she like animals?

IZZY

She loved them, but she reckoned this place was a disgrace. They don't look after the pets right.

Tonya makes a decision.

TONYA

Come on.

Tonya goes in. Izzy follows.

The shop is full of aquarium and vivarium. The creepy SHOPKEEPER eyes Izzy and Tonya as they look around.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Ugh. It stinks in here.

They regard a tank of white mice.

IZZY

Look at all these.

TONYA

(of the Shopkeeper)

You know what he does with them?

IZZY

What?

She nods to another tank containing a large snake - the sign above his tank reads "Ronaldo".

IZZY (CONT'D)

Do you think so?

TONYA

Looks pretty well fed to me.

Tonya gets a determined look on her face.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Open your bag.

IZZY

Why?

TONYA

Just do it.

She does and Tonya reaches into the tank. Izzy grins as Tonya gleefully fills her bag with rescued mice until the shopkeeper shout after them to stop...

Tonya and Izzy explode out of the shop with the Shopkeeper in hot pursuit.

CUT TO:

67

OMITTED

67

68

OMITTED

68

69

EXT. SIDE STREET. SHOPPING CENTRE. PERIOD FOUR. 14:00 - DAY.

69

Tonya and Izzy run around the corner and look for a hiding place.

TONYA

Here!

She pulls Izzy behind a large wheelie bin. Seconds later, the shopkeeper comes around the corner. They keep quiet and watch as he looks for them but then gives up. They giggle when the coast is clear.

CUT TO:

70

INT. HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:30 - DAY.

70

Nicky sits with her head in her hands. She looks up as Kim comes back in.

KIM

The girls were seen leaving the school grounds together.

NICKY

So, Tonya's not in the back of some bloke's van? That's something I suppose.

Nicky is relieved. Kim hesitates before sitting down with Nicky.

KIM

I don't want to pile it on, but I think you should know that I had Preston in my office this afternoon.

NICKY

Preston?

KIM

He'd been verbally abusive to another pupil.

NICKY

Well, it looks like you'll be able to get rid of us all in one go then. That's a good day's work for you.

Kim lets that slide.

KIM

I've no intention of sacking you. Or excluding Tonya and Preston. I just want to know what I can do to help.

Nicky hesitates before letting pride get in her way again.

NICKY

Nothing. I can manage.

KIM

I'm not sure that's true.

NICKY

I always have before.

KIM

I know, I've seen how hard you work. How strong you are. How you always come out fighting. And if there were any justice in this world, that should have been enough to keep you afloat. But the way things are at the moment, it's just not. And that's not your fault.

Nicky gets emotional when she hears this.

KIM (CONT'D)

And I get how hard it is to admit that not everything is in your control. Believe me. I have to deal with that everyday in this place. And I've had to realise that I can't do it all. And there's no shame in that, Mrs Walters. There's no shame in asking for a bit of help.

Kim gets up.

KIM (CONT'D)

I'll go and find out if there's any news.

Kim goes out leaving Nicky emotional and thoughtful.

CUT TO:

71

INT. CLASSROOM. PERIOD FIVE. 14:31 - DAY.

71

Preston is calm now as he and Lindon breathe together.

LINDON

Nice and slow. That's it. So, I think you've had a panic attack.

PRESTON

No! It felt like...

LINDON

Like you were dying? Yeah, that's what it feels like. It's caused by your brain releasing hormones like adrenaline.

PRESTON

Are you sure?

LINDON

I'm not a doctor, but I know the signs. It's pretty common.

PRESTON

Yeah?

LINDON

You know, I really should talk to your mum.

PRESTON

You can't.

LINDON

Why not?

PRESTON

Have you met her?

Lindon suppresses a smile at this.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

She'll turn it into something it's not. And it's just a one-off.

LINDON

I didn't say that.

PRESTON

But it is. I know it is. I can usually cope. I have things that I do that help when I get stressed.

LINDON

What do you mean? Breathing
exercises? Mindfulness?

PRESTON

Something like that. But today...I
couldn't find the time I needed.
Please don't tell my mum. You'll
just make things harder for me.

Lindon is pretty torn.

LINDON

Okay, but I want you to make an
appointment with your doctor, tell
them what happened. And if you ever
feel like that again... Talk to me.

PRESTON

I will.

CUT TO:

72

EXT. PARK. PERIOD FIVE. 14:32 - DAY.

72

Tonya and Izzy laugh as they release the mice into the grass.

IZZY

Off you go! Be free!

TONYA

Watch out for cats!

They laugh, but as they turn to leave, they see a POLICE OFFICER on his bike is waiting to speak with them.

CUT TO:

73

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

73

Nicky sits with a cup of tea. Wendy is on the phone as Donte rushes past and into Kim's office.

WENDY (O.S.)

Thank you for that. I'll let them know.

Wendy pops her head into the office.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Mr Charles...

DONTE

You were supposed to be keeping an eye on her. And she just walks out of school? And now nobody has any idea where the hell she is?

WENDY

She's in the back of a police car, on her way back to school. That was the station on the phone.

Donte slumps with relief.

NICKY

And Tonya?

WENDY

Her as well.

DONTE

Who's Tonya?

NICKY

My little idiot. This will have been all her idea.

She gives Donte an apologetic smile and offers him her tea.

NICKY (CONT'D)

Here, you look like you need this more than me. Four sugars.

He sits down beside her looking worn out. Wendy goes back to her work but is listening in as...

NICKY (CONT'D)

It's okay. Breathe. She's safe.

DONTE

This time. And no thanks to me.

NICKY

Don't be daft. You can't watch them
24/7. Especially when it's just
you.

DONTE

What are you supposed to do then?

NICKY

Knock a bit sense into them and
hope they make good decisions?

DONTE

No, it's not enough. I need to sort
something out. Sort myself out. I
need her to know I'm always there
for her.

NICKY

Well, don't expect her to thank you
for it.

CUT TO:

74

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:35 - DAY.

74

Joe is with Valerie and SALMA who is in her coat and nurses' scrubs with her hospital ID around her neck. There is a knock on the door and Kai and Danny come in. Kai is surprised to see Salma.

KAI

Salma?

SALMA

Well, I've just heard quite the tragic story from your teachers. About your terrible abusive parents and your miserable home life.

KAI

I didn't say abusive.

A guilty Kai looks to Danny.

KAI (CONT'D)

They don't approve of me. Dad can't even say the word 'gay'. And Mum's always telling me to tone it down. I'm not allowed to be my true self.

SALMA

That's because your true self is bloody annoying! Have you any idea what it's like living with you at full volume?

He rolls his eyes at this.

KAI

See? They suppress me.

SALMA

They're not even at home! They've gone away for a family funeral. I was keeping an eye on him but I work shifts.

(to Kai)

And you end up in a homeless shelter? Mum's going to be mortified when she finds out.

KAI

Then maybe don't tell her.

SALMA

You must be joking. The minute she gets off the plane, mate.

KAI
Oh my God! You are proper loving
this.

Valerie can see the upset on Danny's face.

VALERIE
That's enough, Kai.

Kai turns to Danny.

KAI
Danny...

DANNY
(to Kai)
What is all this to you? Some sort
of joke?

KAI
No. I was being your mate. Keeping
you company.

DANNY
And when your mum and dad got home,
what then?

KAI
I'm sorry, Danny. I didn't think.

Danny can't look at him.

SALMA
Come on, before you do any more
damage.

KAI
(to Danny)
I'm really sorry.

Kai leaves with Salma. Danny stays silent as Joe and Valerie
look powerless.

VALERIE
(worrying)
We'll make some calls, Danny. We'll
try and find you somewhere else to
go.

Val isn't convinced by her own words while the look on Joe's
face tells Danny everything he needs to know.

DANNY
Don't worry. I can handle myself.

Danny slopes out.

JOE

We can't make those kind of
promises. There's nowhere else for
him to go.

VALERIE

What was I supposed to say? I can't
forget what I've seen and heard
Joe.

Joe agrees, but feels totally helpless. Val is conflicted.

CUT TO:

75

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:38 - DAY.

75

Kim talks to Tonya and Izzy as Nicky and Donte look on.

KIM

I'm very glad you two are getting on. I think you both probably need a good friend at the moment.

Tonya and Izzy exchange a look.

KIM (CONT'D)

But in the future keep it on school grounds. No more adventures. Or you'll be BFFs in the BU. Understand?

TONYA/IZZY

Yes, Miss Campbell.

KIM

For the rest of the term you need to get your school journals signed at the start and finish of every lesson. And then bring them to Mrs Whitwell to be checked at the end of each day.

They both groan at that. Kim is unmoved.

KIM (CONT'D)

Off you go.

The girls troop out. Nicky pauses as...

NICKY

(to Kim)

Thank you. What you said earlier... No shame in asking.

KIM

That's right.

They go. Donte hangs back.

DONTE

Is it true you're looking for a new caretaker?

KIM

Why? Do you know someone?

DONTE

Me.

KIM
(taken aback)
Oh, right.

DONTE
I can fix pretty much anything if I
put my mind to it. Like freezer
doors.

KIM
You should know that it's not all
rescuing teachers from the deep
freeze. It's also sorting faulty
toilets and waxing floors.

DONTE
I don't care. I need to get my life
sorted, Miss Campbell. For my kids.
For Chlo.

KIM
(impressed)
Then the job's yours.

Donte is grateful and happy.

CUT TO:

76

OMITTED

76 *

76A INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:43 - DAY. 76A *

The place is deserted. Danny's sorting the contents of his locker, including bits of dirty laundry from a bin liner, spread over the seats. Val comes in and watches for a moment. *

VAL *

Danny? *

DANNY *

Having a sort out, Miss. Don't like leaving stuff in my room, so I keep it here in my locker. Getting off now. *

VAL *

You can't live like that. *

DANNY *

I manage okay. *

VAL *

(a decision forming) *

It just doesn't seem right. Not when I've got two bedrooms doing nothing. No. This is stupid. Grab your stuff. You're coming home with me. *

DANNY *

(hesitant) *

Miss, is that a bit weird. *

VAL *

Like sorting out your laundry in the common room isn't? *

Danny doesn't move. *

DANNY *

Are you allowed to do this? *

VAL *

Probably not. Come on. *

CUT TO: *

77

OMITTED

77

78

EXT. RAFFERTY HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:06 - DAY.

78

Nicky arrives at the gate closely followed by Tonya and Preston who are lugging their stuff. Kelly Jo comes bounding out.

KELLY JO

Hiya! This is going to be mint. Do you want a hand with those?

She doesn't wait for an answer before grabbing some of their bags. She tries to take Preston's red bag.

PRESTON

It's alright. I've got this one.

She picks up a different one instead.

KELLY JO

Come on, me and you are sharing.

Tonya gives her mum a plaintive look before following Kelly Jo inside. Debs comes out.

DEBS

Alright?

Debs looks at Nicky expectantly.

NICKY

It's very decent of you to help us out, Debs. Thank you.

DEBS

Sounds like you had nowhere else to go.

NICKY

We won't be staying long.

DEBS

You won't be staying at all if I don't get my apology.

Nicky silently bristles.

DEBS (CONT'D)
(exasperated)
It won't hurt you to swallow your
pride for once in your life, Nicky.
Might actually do you some good.

PRESTON
Please, mum.

She can see how stressed he is as he looks pleadingly at her.
She takes a deep breath before.

NICKY
I'm sorry.

Debs looks at her. She needs more...

NICKY (CONT'D)
For what I said, last time I was
here. I was out of order. Mind you,
you said some things too...

Debs makes a show of considering. Preston is on tenterhooks
until...

DEBS
I'll put the kettle on.

She goes inside. Nicky turns to Preston, resentful.

NICKY
Happy now?

PRESTON
It's for the best, Mum.

An unhappy Nicky trudges inside. Preston watches her go,
before...

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Actually, I'm going to meet Sami
now Mum. Will you be okay?

Nicky gives him a small smile, and Preston heads off,
clutching his red bag.

CUT TO:

79

EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:27 - DAY.

79

Val is driving from the staff overflow car park when she sees Danny leaving for the hostel. She pulls up beside him.

VALERIE

Danny?

He comes over.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

Listen, you can't go back there.
You can stop with me, just for a
little while. And only if you
promise not to leave wet towels on
the bathroom floor.

DANNY

(stunned)

I promise.

VALERIE

Then you better get in. We'll go
get your stuff.

Danny doesn't need to be told twice.

CUT TO:

80

OMITTED

80

81

EXT. PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:38 - DAY.

81

Preston is halfway through eating the contents of the red bag; opening packets and systematically eating. It's automatic, he's not even tasting the food - just filling himself up.

He finishes his binge and puts his empty wrappers neatly in the bin before heading behind a bush. Checking he is not being observed, he puts his fingers down his throat and bends over to throw up.

CUT TO:

82

OMITTED

82

83

OMITTED

83

84

EXT. PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:57 - DAY.

84

Samia is waiting near the swings. She looks at her watch and is about to leave when Preston comes running around the corner. He is back to his old self: confident and charming, chewing gum.

PRESTON

Sorry.

SAMIA

Second time today you've kept me waiting.

PRESTON

Yeah. About earlier...

SAMIA

I heard about you being evicted. Why didn't you just tell me what was going on?

PRESTON

Because I didn't want you to be worried.

SAMIA

I'm your girlfriend. I'm supposed to worry about you.

Preston gives her a kiss.

PRESTON

Well, you don't have to. It's all sorted now.

SAMIA

Yeah?

PRESTON

Everything's under control.

And it actually seems like he believes it.

END OF EPISODE