

WATERLOO ROAD

SERIES 11A

Episode #1105

Master Script
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EPISODE #1105 - CHARACTER INDEX

STAFF

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

SENIORS

SAMIA CHAUDHRY
DANNY LEWIS
MILLIE ADEBAYO
NOEL MC MANUS
KAI SHARIF
KELLY JO RAFFERTY
PRESTON WALTERS
DEAN WEEVER
CAZ WILLIAMS

JUNIORS

SHOLA AKU
IZZY CHARLES
DWAYNE JACKSON
ZAYNE JACKSON
VERITY KING
NORULLAH SAYYID
TONYA WALTERS

GUESTS

CORONER
REFUGEE COUNCIL CASEWORKER V.O
MALE VOICE (O/S)

EPISODE #1105 - LOCATION INDEX**SCHOOL**

EXT BEHAVIOURAL UNIT
 EXT BIN STORE
 EXT CAR PARK GATES
 EXT PLAYGROUND
 EXT MAIN ENTRANCE/SECURITY
 EXT NETBALL COURT
 EXT SIXTH FORM ENRANCE
 EXT STAFF ENTRANCE
 EXT STAFF CAR PARK
 EXT TOWER BLOCK AREA
 EXT VISITOR'S CAR PARK
 EXT VISITOR'S ENTRANCE

INT ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA
 INT ASSEMBLY HALL
 INT DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE
 INT ENGLISH CLASSROOM (AMY)
 INT ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL)
 INT ENTRANCE CORRIDOR
 INT FOYER
 INT GYM CHANGING ROOM
 INT GYM CORRIDOR
 INT HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR
 INT HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE
 INT HISTORY/HUMANITIES CLASSROOM
 INT LIBRARY/IT SUITE
 INT MAIN CORRIDOR
 INT MAIN ENTRANCE/SECURITY
 INT MAIN STAIRWELL
 INT SCIENCE CORRIDOR
 INT SPORTS HALL CORRIDOR
 INT STAFF ROOM
 INT STAFF TOILETS
 INT UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR

ON LOCATION

EXT CHARLES' HOUSE
 EXT NEIL'S HOUSE
 EXT STREET LOCATION / CORAL'S CAR

INT CHARLES' HOUSE
 INT CORAL'S HOUSE
 INT DONTE'S CAR
 INT CORONER'S COURT
 INT KIM'S HOUSE
 INT NEIL'S HOUSE

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- 1 INT. CORAL'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 05:59 - DAY.
- 2 INT. CORAL'S HOUSE. BATHROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 06.00 - DAY. CORAL
- 3 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. 06:35 - day. NEIL, NS POSTMAN
- 4 EXT/INT. STREET LOCATION / CORAL'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 06:35 - DAY. CORAL
- 5 EXT/INT STAFF CAR PARK / NEIL'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 07:41 - DAY. NEIL
- 6 EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 07:49 - DAY. KIM, LINDON
- 7 EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE/SECURITY. PRE SCHOOL. 07:50 - DAY. DONTE, NEIL, CORAL
- 8 INT. STAFF ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:52 - DAY. KIM, LINDON, CORAL
- 9 INT. MAIN ENTRANCE / SECURITY / ENTRANCE CORRIDOR. PRE SCHOOL.
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- 10 INT. FOYER. PRE SCHOOL. 08:20- DAY. KIM, NEIL, TONYA, SHOLA, DANNY, SAMIA
- 11 INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (AMY). PRE SCHOOL. 08:22 - DAY. CORAL, AMY, IZZY
- 12 SCENE OMITTED
- 13 INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:34 - DAY. KIM, LINDON, NEIL
- 14 EXT/INT. BEHAVIOURAL UNIT. TOILETS / BACK OF BU. PRE SCHOOL.
08:39 - DAY. KELLY JO, DEAN, NOEL
- 15 INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:15 - DAY. DONTÉ, AMY
- 16 INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL). YEAR SEVEN. PERIOD ONE. 09:16 - DAY. CORAL, NS STUDENTS
- 17 INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:16 - DAY. DONTÉ, CORAL, AMY
- 18 INT. GYM CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:10 - DAY. NS STUDENTS
- 19 SCENE OMITTED
- 20 EXT. PLAYGROUND. BREAK. 11:16 - DAY. KIM, CORAL, SAMIA, PRESTON, KAI, CAZ, NOEL, SHOLA
- 21 INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:20- DAY. IZZY, TONYA, DWAYNE
- 22 SCENE OMITTED
- 23 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:24 - DAY. TONYA, DWAYNE, ZAYNE
- 24 INT. SCIENCE LAB. PERIOD THREE. 11:26 - DAY. DONTÉ, LINDON
- 25 INT. HISTORY/HUAMNITIES CLASSROOM. PERIOD THREE. YEAR NINE.
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- 26 INT. STAFF ROOM. LUNCH TIME. 12:35 - DAY. NEIL, CORAL, NS STAFF MEMBERS
- 27 INT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH TIME. 12:41 - DAY. NEIL, CORAL, PRESTON, NOEL, SHOLA, TONYA, DWAYNE, NORULLAH
- 28 SCENE OMITTED
- 29 INT. STAFF TOILETS. LUNCH TIME. 12:44 - DAY. CORAL
- 30 INT. FOYER. LUNCH TIME. 12:47 - DAY. NEIL, CORAL
- 31 EXT. SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE. LUNCH TIME. 12:51 - DAY. SAMIA, PRESTON, NOEL, SHOLA
- 32 INT/EXT CORAL'S CAR/ VISITOR'S CAR PARK. LUNCH TIME. 12:54 - DAY. CORAL
- 33 INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. LUNCH TIME. 13:01 - DAY. LINDON, HANNAH
- 34 EXT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH TIME. 13:09 - DAY. KIM, SHOLA, NS CANDIDATES
- 35 SCENE OMITTED
- 36 EXT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 14:40 - DAY. NEIL, NORULLAH
- 37 EXT. TOWER BLOCK AREA. PERIOD FIVE. 14:42 - DAY. NEIL, NORULLAH
- 38 INT. FOYER. PERIOD FIVE. 14:43 - DAY. NEIL
- 39 EXT. VISITOR'S ENTRANCE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:44 - DAY. NEIL, NORULLAH
- 40 INT. MANFORD HOUSE CORONER'S COURT. PERIOD FIVE. 15:05 - DAY. CORAL

DONTE, CORONER, NS PATHOLOGIST, NS FRIEND, NS WITNESSES AND OTHERS
41 EXT. STEPS OUTSIDE MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 15:09 - DAY. NEIL, NORULLAH
42 INT. MANFORD HOUSE CORONER'S COURT. PERIOD FIVE. 15:15 - DAY. DONTE, CORAL, CORONER
43 EXT. MANFORD HOUSE CORONER'S COURT. PERIOD FIVE. 15:23 - DAY. DONTE, CORAL
44 INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE. 15:27 - DAY. JOE, NEIL, NORULLAH
45 SCENE OMITTED
46 EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:41 - DAY. KIM, CORAL, DANNY, SAMIA, PRESTON, KAI, DEAN, NOEL, CAZ, KELLY JO, DWAYNE, TONYA, NS CANDIDATES
47 EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:45 - DAY. TONYA, DWAYNE, NORULLAH
48 EXT. NETBALL COURT. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:50 - DAY. CORAL, IZZY, MILLIE, NS PLAYERS
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50 INT. NEIL'S HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:14 - DAY. TONYA, DWAYNE
51 INT. GYM CHANGING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:21 - DAY. KIM, CORAL
52 INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:22 - DAY. KIM, IZZY, NS PLAYERS
53 INT/EXT. DONTÉ'S CAR / CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:24 - DAY. DONTE
54 INT. GYM CHANGING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. 16:25 - DAY. CORAL
55 INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:26 - DAY. IZZY
56 EXT. GYM CHANGING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:27 - DAY. KIM, CORAL
57 INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:29 - DAY. IZZY
58 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:31 - EVENING. DWAYNE, TONYA, VERITY, ZAYNE
59 EXT. SPORTS HALL CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:35 - DAY. IZZY, MILLIE
60 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. 16:36 - EVENING. TONYA, DWAYNE, VERITY, ZAYNE
61 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY AFTER SCHOOL. 16:38 - EVENING. DONTÉ
62 INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:38 - EVENING. IZZY
63 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:39 - EVENING. TONYA, DWAYNE
64 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:40 - EVENING. DONTÉ
65 EXT NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:41 - EVENING. DONTÉ, NEIL, TONYA, DWAYNE, VERITY, ZAYNE
66 INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:45 - EVENING. KIM, JOE, CORAL WENDY
67 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY AFTER SCHOOL. 16:51 - EVENING. DONTÉ, IZZY V.O
68 EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:53 - EVENING.
 NOEL, SHOLA
69 INT. NEIL'S HOUSE. HALLWAY/ LIVING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 17.02 - EVENING. NEIL, NORULLAH
70 EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:03 - EVENING. NEIL, NORULLAH
71 EXT. VISITOR'S ENTRANCE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:14 - EVENING. DONTÉ, AMY, IZZY
72 INT HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:14 - EVENING. KIM, DONTÉ, LINDON, CORAL, WENDY
73 EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:16 - EVENING. DONTÉ, AMY, IZZY,
74 INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:17 - EVENING. LINDON
75 INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:18 - EVENING. CORAL, WENDY
76 EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:20 - EVENING. KIM, LINDON, DONTÉ, WENDY, IZZY
77 INT. NEIL'S HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:23 - EVENING. NEIL, NORULLAH
78 INT. CORAL'S HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:56 - EVENING. CORAL, MALE VOICE (O/S)

79 INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:59 - EVENING. DONTE, IZZY
80 INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 18:34 - EVENING. KIM, LINDON
81 EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 18:36 - EVENING.

1

INT. CORAL'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 05:59 - DAY.

1

An alarm clock turns from 5:59 to 6.00 and goes off. The bed next to it is perfectly made... or unslept in. We hear water running.

2

INT. CORAL'S HOUSE. BATHROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 06:00 - DAY.

2

CORAL is in front of the mirror, staring at the space between her and her reflection. The water runs in the shower. The alarm still sounds from next door. None of it seems to register.

3

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. PRE SCHOOL. 06:35 - DAY.

3

A car alarm sounds. NEIL has tripped it as he unlocks his modest-looking saloon. He squeezes his fob key repeatedly to turn it off, but no dice.

NEIL

C'mon!

He looks up to see - A POSTMAN coming towards him, offering him his mail. Neil takes it from him and nods his thanks, until he sees that it is an official-looking envelope. His expression tightens as he stares at it. Still the alarm shrieks -

4 EXT/INT. STREET LOCATION / CORAL'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 07:20 - 4
DAY.

Preoccupied Coral makes a turn and cuts across another car.
The driver blares their horn angrily -

Making her jump and cry out. It's like voltage being run
through her.

She glances in her rear view mirror, working to control her
breathing --

5 EXT/INT. STAFF CAR PARK / NEIL'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 07:41 - 5 DAY.

Neil's car makes all manner of rattling, unhealthy noises as he pulls it into a parking space.

He switches the engine off and glances at the letter on the passenger seat.

Unopened as yet. Whatever it is, it scares him.

6

EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 07:49 - DAY.

6

KIM heads towards the staff entrance and sees LINDON coming towards her, coffee in hand. A slightly awkward moment (after that 'accidental' kiss) and then -

LINDON

Alright?

KIM

Shouldn't I be?

Didn't mean to sound quite so defensive.

LINDON

(little smile)

No... just... asking.

KIM

Fine. You?

LINDON

Yeah... great.

A look held between them for just that second or so before we pull to...

7

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE/SECURITY. PRE SCHOOL. 07:50 - DAY.

7

...Neil heading towards the main entrance, the envelope in his hand, considering it. Here comes DONTE.

DONTE

Hey -

He's right at his shoulder. Neil shoves the letter into his jacket. Coral is behind them, in hearing distance.

NEIL

Alright?

DONTE

Inquest day.

NEIL

Oh, of course.

Coral hurries to catch them up.

CORAL

Inquest's today? I thought it was Thursday.

DONTE

No, today.

She nods, casually enough. But this is clearly a problem for some reason as she moves off.

Neil is a little stuck for something to add.

NEIL

All ready for it then?

DONTE

Don't know if ready's the word, mate. Just want some answers.

NEIL

Expect you will.

DONTE

Catch myself thinking that once it's over, what happened won't be as...

(thinks for how to put it)

Everywhere as it has been. If that makes sense.

Neil remembers he needs to sound like he knows a bit about this.

NEIL

Need to take it one thing at a time.

He might hope this will be enough to make Donte feel better and to spare himself any more guilt. But, looking around to make sure no one's listening -

DONTE

I was reading this thing where it said when you lose someone you love, you have to start again. That if you carry on trying to live the life you had, you'll never stop feeling...

(he stops for a second, getting emotional)

But I don't want to do that. It's really hard, isn't it?

This is killing Neil. He stumbles a bit.

NEIL

Well, I... no, it's not easy...

He shrugs, hoping this will cover it. Donte gives a sad smile and pats him on the shoulder in chummy solidarity.

DONTE

Helps knowing there's someone who's been there.

Neil blanches inwardly. Pull to...

8

EXT. STAFF ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:52- DAY.

8

Kim and Lindon are about to go in the staff entrance as a perturbed Coral hurries up.

CORAL

Kim. Chlo Charles' inquest. It's today.

KIM

I know -

CORAL

I got the days mixed up. Arranged a supply for Thursday.

LINDON

(to Coral)

You're going?

KIM

I was going to. But after the funeral...

CORAL

I should still go. The school needs to be represented.

There's an edginess to her; like she could do without any challenge or complication.

KIM

I'll get Wendy to call the agency, see what they can do.

Coral is left with a strained expression, working hard to stay in control of things.

9

INT. MAIN ENTRANCE/SECURITY / ENTRANCE CORRIDOR. PRE SCHOOL⁹
08:02 - DAY.

NS STUDENTS head off from lockers. Pick up on AMY and KELLY JO heading along -

KELLY JO

How long before they know I've got ADHD for sure? Like a couple of weeks?

AMY

Longer than that. A few months for you to be assessed, once you're referred. And that might be a few weeks, yet.

Which earns her a 'Kelly Jo' look. Amy sounds an encouraging note.

KELLY JO

Be a full-on head case by then, man...

As she heads off towards the BU, we pick up on -

NORULLAH, standing by the lockers, keeping a distance between himself and any other students. He's on the phone, talking in Pashto.

NORULLAH

Where is my brother?

A voice at the other end, a REFUGEE COUNCIL CASEWORKER.

CASEWORKER

(also in Pashto, on phone)
You must be patient, Norullah. We will call you when we have news.

Norullah ends the call and works back tears with some grit and resolve. He doesn't want anyone to see him like this.

He takes a moment and then heads off along the corridor.

10

INT. FOYER / MAIN STAIRWELL. PRE SCHOOL. 08:20 - DAY.

10

Signs are up announcing 'School Council Election Day. Years 7 - 11. Polls open Lesson Four, Assembly Hall'.

Other than this, most of the posters being white-tacked to as much available wall space as possible have one thing in common:

SHOLA's face and 'VOTE SHOLA' in large, striking font.

They're everywhere, including going up the stairwell, which is where we find her, putting more up.

NS STUDENTS move past, finding it hilarious. Pick up on Samia and Danny -

SAMIA

Good luck and everything.

He runs his hands through his hair, looking nervous.

DANNY

English Lit's the one I've been
bricking it about.

SAMIA

You'll kill it.

He appreciates the back up. Move to see TONYA approach Shola.

TONYA

Where's everyone else meant to put
theirs?

SHOLA

You got some to put up? You even
running?

Neil appears behind, mid phone conversation. Briefcase and letter in his other hand.

TONYA

Might be. What's it to you?

She turns and walks into Neil, sending the letter flying. It goes past Tonya, who grabs it.

Neil doesn't see she has it at first. He casts a look around on the floor before he sees Tonya having a good nose-pokey gander at it. Neil snatches it back.

NEIL

Oi!

Kim appears from out of the Head Teacher's Corridor now. In the background we see her on the phone (to a supply agency).

KIM

(into phone)

KS3 and Four English Sub. Soon as they can get here.

NEIL

Why don't you look where you're going?! Reckon people would vote for you?

TONYA

(defiant)

Yeah.

NEIL

(loaded)

Okaaaay.

He heads up the stairs shaking his head and resuming his call. Tonya stares after him as he does, dismayed by that.

NEIL (CONT'D)

(on phone)

I'm leaving right after work, Dad.
Take me about an hour if the car lasts out.

Kim can't quite believe what she's heard. She clocks the look on Tonya's face - but needs to get back to her call.

11

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (AMY). PRE SCHOOL. 08:22 - DAY.

11

Izzy has brought some homework in for Amy, who puts it on her desk.

AMY

You didn't have to hand this in now. Could've had until the weekend.

IZZY

I wanted to.

A beat. Amy takes a moment, realising that schoolwork is an escape for Izzy right now.

AMY

Can't wait to read it.

(then)

How're you feeling about today?

Izzy starts to say something... but can't quite get going with it at first. Then -

IZZY

I'm sort of hoping that when the inquest's over, everyone will stop talking about what happened. But then that makes me feel bad.

AMY

Why?

IZZY

Feel guilty doing stuff I like. Going shopping, going out with my mates, even just watching telly.

The door opens and in comes Coral, agitated and on it. Clearly looking for something.

AMY

Coral?

Coral looks at her, almost surprised to see her there.

CORAL

Those 'A Taste of Honey' texts I asked you for? Where are they?

AMY

I left them in your classroom yesterday afternoon. Remember?

Coral looks at her blankly for a second, before leaving.

AMY (CONT'D)
D'you really think your mum would
ever want you to not enjoy
shopping?

Which draws a smile and a shake of the head.

AMY (CONT'D)
You've got nothing to feel guilty
about, Izzy. Ever.

12

OMITTED

12

13

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:34 - DAY.

13

Neil with Kim. Lindon is here too, to Neil's chagrin. We join them a little way in.

KIM

I can't quite believe I heard you say that to Tonya.

NEIL

As if she'd ever run for school council. She's no Angela Rayner, is she?

KIM

She's a thirteen year old who's been through three years of a pandemic, disrupted learning and an endless procession of supply teachers-

LINDON

Who we need to encourage in whatever way we can to engage.

This is turning into a bit of a humiliation for Neil. He bites his tongue. A beat as Kim weighs something up.

KIM

You're a good classroom teacher, Neil. But we're not just judged on how we teach our subjects.

NEIL

Maybe we should be. We're not social workers.

KIM

We often need to be. And you know that.

Neil is about to shake his head, but manages to stop himself.

NEIL

I just don't see why can't we accept that we'll all have our own way of doing the job?

He sees the look he's getting from Kim --

NEIL (CONT'D)

Fine. I'll find her and say sorry.

Neil nods and heads out, biting his lip.

14

EXT/INT. BEHAVIOURAL UNIT. TOILETS /BACK OF BU. PRE SCHOOL 14
08:39 - DAY.

Noel has wondered over to the open window used for comms with Dean. Dean sticks his head out.

DEAN

What d'you want to get elected for,
you melt?

NOEL

Student power. It's real!

DEAN

It's for straight-goers. And who's
going to vote for you?

Now Kelly Jo appears in the window behind Dean, big grin on.

KELLY JO

I would. Long as there's something
in it for us. What're you going to
do?

NOEL

What d'you want?

KELLY JO

Want to get out of here.

NOEL

Okay.

Dean and Kelly Jo still dubious. They glance at each other
and back at beaming Noel.

DEAN

Start school at eleven?

NOEL

Can make it happen.

KELLY JO

Free dinners for everyone?

DEAN

And we get to come out and have our
dinners with everyone else?

NOEL

I'll tell 'em. They have to listen.

KELLY JO

Yeah, 'cos it's against our human
rights to be locked up to eat.

NOEL
Deffo. It's got to be.

And we leave them to their mish-mash of daftness...

15

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR / OUTSIDE CORAL'S CLASSROOM. PERIOD ONE¹⁵
09:15 - DAY.

Donte heads towards the workshop as Amy comes out of the staffroom. They meet up outside Coral's classroom.

AMY

Good luck today.

DONTE

Yeah, ta.

AMY

Saw Izzy before. Had a bit of a chat.

DONTE

Yeah?

Pull to...

16

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL). YEAR SEVEN. PERIOD ONE.

16

09:16 - DAY.

Coral is at her desk as her Year 7 class of NS STUDENTS - all crack on with an assignment. Taking her POV we see Donte and Amy talking outside.

She's fixated on them. The casual chat, the smiles. Then Amy turns towards her - incidentally. From Coral's POV, her gaze lingers for just a second or two.

And then the sound of a laugh. Amplified in Coral's head. Like Donte and Amy are laughing about HER.

17

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:17 - DAY.

17

Donte and Amy -

AMY

She's going to be alright, you know. Such a great kid. Real credit to you.

DONTE

(moved)

All her own work.

Coral comes out into the corridor.

CORAL

What's going on?

They look at her, a bit nonplussed.

AMY

Just telling Donte good luck for today.

Donte moves off with a last -

DONTE

(to Amy)

Ta.

Coral watches him go. Then -

CORAL

Bit friendly, aren't you?

Amy replies. We take Coral's POV as things blur slightly and Amy's words get obscured.

CORAL (CONT'D)

What did you say?

AMY

(trying her best to be friendly)

Heard you're going to the inquest.
Think it's a good idea. It'll probably help you, as well.

CORAL

Help me? How?

AMY

Well, you were there -

CORAL

Why don't you shut up?

Amy's dismay chokes off any response.

CORAL (CONT'D)

You don't care about what might
help me anymore than I would if it
was you.

AMY

That's not true -

CORAL

If I was as desperate to be liked
as you, I'd have packed it in years
ago. This job's going to spit you
out.

She heads back into her class, leaving Amy reeling.

18

INT. GYM CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:10 - DAY.

18

Bell for break goes. NS STUDENTS pile out into the corridor.

19

OMITTED

19

20

EXT. PLAYGROUND. BREAK. 11:16 - DAY.

20

A number of upturned 'fruit crate' boxes have been set out for candidates to stand on and give their speeches. Other students gather around to listen. We pick out PRESTON, CAZ and KAI.

Coral keeps an eye on things as Kim moves towards her.

KIM

Managed to call in a favour and
arrange KS three and four cover.

CORAL

(nods)

Thanks.

A quick smile, but as Kim moves off, it's wiped. Coral swallows and draws in breath. We're in on Samia, giving her pitch for school council.

SAMIA

I'll do everything I can to make
sure your voices are heard. Whether
it's about canteen menus-
Or violence and abuse prevention.
It's your school and you should
have a say in how it's run.

Some applause and a few 'Go Samia's'. She smiles at Preston, kind of inviting his approval. He smiles back.

Noel now takes to a crate.

NOEL

Right so, swear down, I'll do all that stuff you heard Samia talking about, 'cept better, probably.

Laughter and eyes rolled all over. Samia shakes her head.

SAMIA

Give us one of your ideas, Noel.

NOEL

(out of nowhere)

Chill down Fridays.

This gets some approval, so he goes with it.

NOEL (CONT'D)

Yeah. Play some bangers at dinner.

A few more nods and murmurs.

NOEL (CONT'D)

Get some decks in. Dred Noel and the Drum and Bass apocalypse!

SHOLA

Don't know how you can show your face in this election. After what you did at the protest? You don't care about any issues.

NOEL

I'm all about issues, me. Like, how about this... eating your dinner with other people should be a right, yeah. Like for whoever's in the BU. So liberate them, man.

SHOLA

So what're you going to do about
Black Lives Matter week of action?
MeToo at school?

NOEL

Alright, Greta Thuleburg. What it
is, right... vote for Noel and
there'll be absolute scenes. Well
good.

He raises his arms in victory and gets a huge cheer.

21

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:20 - DAY.

21

Tonya with Dwayne and Izzy, taken by what she thinks she saw in Neil's letter.

TONYA

Letter was about his wife. Said something about 'contesting'. What's that?

IZZY

It's like... if you argue over stuff you own.

TONYA

So, like her money? That's why he didn't want me to see it.

DWAYNE

It is sort of private.

IZZY

And it's sad that she died.

Which gives Tonya pause, hearing this from Izzy.

IZZY (CONT'D)

He buried her ashes under an apple tree in his garden. That's what my dad said.

TONYA

(struck)

What??

IZZY

Buried her ashes -

TONYA

Oh my God, Iz! He told my mum she was buried in the north, somewhere.

DWAYNE

We're in the north.

TONYA

No, somewhere else north. With her family and that. Newcastle! That was it. 'Cept she's not, if she's under his apple tree.

DWAYNE

Maybe he made a mistake.

TONYA

That's not a mistake. That's a lie.

(then...)

What if he's hiding something?

Dwayne is finding this all pretty funny.

DWAYNE

You're just angry cos he said no
one would ever vote for you.

IZZY

Does sound a bit mad, Ton.

But Tonya is putting all sorts together in her head already.

22

OMITTED

22

23

INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:24 - DAY.

23

Dwayne is on his way up the stairs as Tonya comes rushing up to him, having been googling on her phone.

TONYA

Checked out Guthrie's wife, yeah?
(indicates phone)
Couldn't find anything about a
Sarah Guthrie dying. Like, there's
nothing... But that's not it. He's
also got this thing about men
who've killed their wives.

She shows him her phone.

DWAYNE

'History of Strangeways Prison'?

TONYA

It's like this talk he gives to
some creepy group.

DWAYNE

(reading)

The Manchester Historical Society,
you mean?

(laughing)

You think Guthrie killed his wife?

Zayne and Verity pass and come up the stairs to join.

ZAYNE

(of the phone)

What're you laughing at? Let's see.

VERITY

What is it?

DWAYNE

Don't worry about it.

TONYA
(undeterred)
Something's going on with him. I'm
serious!

This has Zayne and Verity's attention, now.

24

INT. SCIENCE LAB. PERIOD THREE. 11:26 - DAY.

24

Donte is up a ladder, checking out a faulty ceiling light. Lindon moves past. Donte glances down --

DONTE

How did date night with the missus go? Absence make anything grow fonder?

LINDON

No, not really.

He pulls up. Donte left feeling a little awkward.

DONTE

Sorry. Shouldn't be poking my nose in.

LINDON

It's okay. Denying things isn't going to help either of us. Case of getting whatever comes next right for the kids.

Which Donte knows all too much about. But he gets where Lindon is coming from here.

DONTE

Guess there's no point pushing on with it, if it isn't right. Life's too short.

Lindon can't help but be struck by the way that speaks of Donte's own situation. He nods. And moves off.

25

INT. HISTORY/HUMANITIES CLASSROOM. YEAR NINE. PERIOD THREE 25
11:28 - DAY.

Tonya sits across from Dwayne at the back of the class. Izzy is just behind.

Neil has written things like 'Henry VIII', 'English Reformation' 'Ex-communication' up on the board.

NEIL

Henry was driven by an obsession with having a son and heir to secure his legacy. But he was also a man who found it hard to control his emotions.

Tonya studies him carefully. Like she's looking for signs.

Norullah sits over to one side, not absorbing any of this. He has his phone out of his pocket.

NEIL (CONT'D)

He wanted to divorce Catherine because he'd fallen in love with Anne Boleyn. Then he had her head cut off because he thought she'd been unfaithful.

This gets Tonya's attention. Neil talking about wife killers. She looks at Dwayne, who doesn't get it at first.

NEIL (CONT'D)

He'd later have a marriage of convenience to Anne of Cleves annulled because he'd become infatuated with Katherine Howard - wife number five - who he then had executed for committing adultery.

But now he does. He laughs quietly and shakes his head as Tonya widens her eyes at him.

Neil spots Norullah on his phone.

NEIL (CONT'D)

You can't have your phone out in class.

Norullah looks at him. Dwayne pipes up.

DWAYNE

He doesn't understand what's going on, sir. Isn't he meant to have a translator?

NEIL

Yes, thanks for your contribution,
Dwayne.

(hand out for the phone)
Here, you'd better give it to -

But Norullah pulls it away.

NORULLAH

No!

Reaction about the class - 'Woooooo!!' Neil doesn't want a scene.

NEIL

Okay, but put it away. In your pocket.

As Norullah makes to, Neil sees what he was looking at. A video of the riot at the gates several weeks back. As he looks at it, he hears Coral crying out angrily on it.

Norullah switches it off.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Who filmed that? You?

He remembers Norullah might not understand so mimes it out. Norullah nods.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Anyway. Away.

The bell goes. Movement to the door.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Don't forget your projects on the dissolution of the monasteries are due at the end of the week.

26

INT. STAFF ROOM. LUNCH TIME. 12:35 - DAY.

26

In on Coral, looking around the staff room at the other NS STAFF MEMBERS, talking, moving about etc. Her POV and then reversing to see her eyes darting around. Wary, anxious.

Sounds are muffled. Almost like she's underwater. But now one voice nearby cuts through a bit.

Still can't work out who or what until Coral turns to see Neil there.

NEIL

You okay?

She looks at him a little blankly for a moment or two before gathering.

CORAL

Yes. I'm going to the inquest in a bit. Have to make sure I'm covered for the election count later.

Neil nods over towards Valerie, who's talking to some other staff.

NEIL

Valerie said she'd do it, didn't she?

Coral looks at him - like she'd forgotten.

CORAL

Oh. Yes.

NEIL

One of my year nine's had some video of the riot before. Norullah, the Afghan lad.

This spikes through Coral.

NEIL (CONT'D)

(not sure...)

Was wondering if police could perhaps do with seeing it...?

CORAL

Why? What was on it?

NEIL

Lot of shouting and people running around. Think I saw your car.

He's got his sandwiches out and doesn't clock the look of horror on Coral's face.

Valerie is talking to another NS STAFF MEMBER. She laughs suddenly and loudly now, making Coral snap her head that way.

NEIL (CONT'D)
You alright?

Coral nods and heads out.

27

EXT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH TIME. 12:41 - DAY.

27

Shola is giving her speech, with all the passion we'd expect.

SHOLA

Some things matter. Like when we all stood up and said we didn't want the school to be named after a slave trader.

Noel looks on, quite taken with Shola's intensity. Couldn't be more different to his approach.

SHOLA (CONT'D)

(glance at Kim)

Except we didn't do it the way we should've. The school council's the way to change things.

Applause breaks out. Pick up on Tonya and Dwayne. Tonya is reeling off the 'evidence' that Neil's done something to his wife...

TONYA

Either she's buried in Newcastle or she's in his garden. Can't be in both.

DWAYNE

I swear, you are off the deep end.

TONYA

And that letter. He's hiding something.

We leave them and pick up on Coral who moves through the crowd, looking for Norullah. She spots him and heads over. She holds her hand out for his phone.

CORAL

Give me that please, Norullah.

He clearly has no intention. Shoves it in his pocket.

CORAL (CONT'D)

You've been using it in class. It's confiscated.

All manner of threatening body language and intonation is getting the point across.

Norullah glances around to see other students looking, which makes him feel even worse - exposed, vulnerable. Among them is Preston.

CORAL (CONT'D)

Give it to me!

Norullah miserably hands her the phone. She glances at it.

CORAL (CONT'D)

The code.

He looks at her, bewildered. Neil comes in from the foyer and sees this. It looks all wrong.

CORAL (CONT'D)

Unlock it!

PRESTON

Miss? What're you doing?

CORAL

Do you want to stay out of this?

(to Norullah)

I won't ask you again. Unlock!

Norullah punches in his code, fighting back tears.

PRESTON

You can't make him do that!

But Coral's not even listening. She grabs the phone and moves off. Preston tries to console Norullah. Now here comes Neil, staring after her.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

She's well out of order. Took his phone and made him unlock it.

NEIL

(of Norullah)

Keep an eye on him for a minute.

And he heads off after Coral.

28

OMITTED

28

29

INT. STAFF TOILETS. LUNCH TIME. 12:44 - DAY.

29

Coral looks at the footage on Norullah's phone. Her hands shake as she holds it. She works to steady herself.

It's all very shaky and indistinct. Hard to make too much out.

But Coral does see her car. And she does hear herself shouting out angrily.

And now, in her POV for a moment, things blur out a little.

She closes her eyes as her ears pick out the sound of a running tap. It's like she's disappearing down a tunnel.

Things tilt as she slumps to one side and presses her head against the cubicle. She gathers herself and looks at the phone.

She winds it back again just to check.

And then --- thinks about it --- and hits delete.

And now she wants to be sick. She puts her hand to her mouth to try and stop herself. But it's no use. She turns and bends over the toilet.

30

INT. FOYER. LUNCH TIME. 12:47 - DAY.

30

Neil is waiting in the Foyer and sees Coral come out of the loos. She heads towards him, handing him the phone.

NEIL

What was all that about?

CORAL

Like you said, there could've been something important on it for the inquest-

NEIL

You could've asked the lad, not barked at him, Coral. And he didn't have to unlock it for you.

CORAL

I wanted to be able to explain in case there was anything.

NEIL

Like what?

CORAL

I turned and shouted at another driver. It looks bad.

NEIL

I shout at people all the time when I'm driving. The roads are full of berks.

A moment where it looks like Coral is about to tell him something. It hangs there a beat.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Are you okay? Seem very wound up.

CORAL

I'm fine.

(beat)

But I haven't checked with Valerie yet about the election count.

Which puzzles Neil.

NEIL

She told me she's doing it. It's fine.

CORAL

(really distracted)

Right. Good.

And off she goes.

31

EXT. SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE. LUNCH TIME. 12:51 - DAY.

31

Samia catches up to Preston as he heads for the Sixth Form Entrance.

SAMIA

Up for doing something later? Can come by mine if you want?

PRESTON

Got an essay to finish for Guthrie.

SAMIA

(covering disappointment)
Call me if you finish it early?

PRESTON

Sure.

And he heads in, crossing with Danny. They cursorily acknowledge each other.

SAMIA

How did it go?

DANNY

Made it to the end. Answered all the questions.

SAMIA

Told you. If you need help with catch-up stuff, any time? Only if you want to. Offer's there?

It's earnest but also just a little flirty. He smiles.

DANNY

Nice one, ta.

Meanwhile Noel has sauntered across to Shola.

NOEL

Nothing wrong with having a bit of a laugh.

She looks at him. This is clearly not the point. But Noel's got a case to make.

NOEL (CONT'D)

If you can get people laughing, you'll get them thinking about what you're trying to tell them, know what I mean?

SHOLA

You're saying I'm too serious?

Noel thinks of all sorts of ways to answer this for a moment,
before settling on -

NOEL

Yeah.

SHOLA

I don't know any jokes.

It's like she worries this is a failing.

NOEL

Okay, not everyone's boss at
comedy. But...

(thinks)

What I'm saying is if you want to
get elected, people have to like
you.

(beat)

You don't have to be any good.

SHOLA

But I want to be good!

Noel leans in and shares his secret.

NOEL

One mouth two ears, yeah? Means
listening's your secret weapon.

Simple as. Shola rolls her eyes but a sense that maybe this
has made her think just a little...?

32

INT/EXT. CORAL'S CAR / VISITOR'S CAR PARK. LUNCH TIME.
12:54 - DAY.

32

Coral sits in her car.

She turns the ignition and starts it. But then -

Turns it off again.

Her hand is shaking. She takes a moment, closes her eyes to steel herself and starts the engine again...

33

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. LUNCH TIME. 13:01 - DAY.

33

Lindon on his phone, mid call.

LINDON

Hannah listen to me, it's not
working. I'm sorry...

34

EXT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH TIME. 13:09 - DAY.

34

The hustings are drawing to a close.

The candidates, including Shola, Noel and Samia are gathered. Kim addresses them.

KIM

Thank you all for your hard work
and enthusiasm.

She nods towards the other students gathered.

KIM (CONT'D)

Anything else to add while your
electorate's here?

Shola steps forward to a quiet groan.

KIM (CONT'D)

Shola.

SHOLA

I know what I believe. But... I
know that everyone has their own
ideas, things that matter to them.
About like, canteen menus. They're
important, too. And I won't just
talk all the time.

She's in two minds to quote Noel at anyone but does, a little
self-consciously.

SHOLA (CONT'D)

One mouth, two ears.

KIM

Anyone else?

There isn't, so she turns to everyone gathered.

KIM (CONT'D)

You've heard what your candidates
have to say. Now it's time to vote.
Results will be announced at the
end of the school day.

Noel comes over to Shola.

NOEL

Let you have that one.

35

OMITTED

35

36

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 14:40 - DAY.

36

Movement between the afternoon classes. Norullah is by himself, walking close in to the wall as Neil approaches him, brandishing the phone.

NEIL

Norullah. You can have it back

after school, okay?

(gestures etc)

After school. At the end.

But Norullah's not happy.

NORULLAH

No. Now.

NEIL

Not allowed. After.

NORULLAH

No! Give. Please.

NEIL

After -

Too much for Norullah. He reaches out, grabs the phone out of Neil's hand and legs it out of the Staff Entrance.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Oi!

He gives chase in to -

37

EXT. TOWER BLOCK AREA. PERIOD FIVE. 14:42 - DAY.

37

Norullah runs in the direction of the BU. Neil calls out after him.

NEIL

Hey!

But Norullah's not for stopping. Neil is caught for a moment. What to do? He glances at his watch, thinks for a minute -

NEIL (CONT'D)

Great...

And runs back inside.

38

INT. FOYER. PERIOD FIVE. 14:43 - DAY.

38

Neil legs it through the foyer and towards the visitors entrance. And then out -

39

EXT. VISITOR'S ENTRANCE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:44 - DAY.

39

A breathless Neil comes out of the Visitor's Entrance and sees Norullah heading towards the main gates.

Norullah pulls up, turns around and is set to leg it away.

NEIL

Hey, wait. Stop. Stay there.

Aware he's dealing with an upset and angry kid who doesn't speak English, Neil's body language is conciliatory. Arms out before him, moving slowly.

NEIL (CONT'D)

It's okay.

NORULLAH

(in Pashto)

I'm not staying here!

NEIL

You can't leave.

NORULLAH

(in Pashto)

I don't like it.

Neil eases the tone. Uses plenty of gestures.

NEIL

Don't run. I haven't got the legs
to come after you.

Norullah is caught between running and listening. Neil points to a bench --

NEIL (CONT'D)

We'll stay here, okay? Sit down.

Talk. You and me. Talk?

Neil sits. An awkward pause, and Norullah does the same. But looking no less hurt or offended. He clutches his phone tightly.

NEIL (CONT'D)

It's okay. I won't take it.

Norullah slips the phone into his pocket.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Where are you from in Afghanistan?
Your town? What is its name?

Nothing.

NEIL (CONT'D)
Your town. Your family town. Home.

NORULLAH
Kunduz.

NEIL
Kunduz. In the north, yes? A lot of
mountains.
(even more gestures)
Mountains.

Norullah nods again.

NEIL (CONT'D)
You speak Pashto?

Neil thinks, digs in his pocket and pulls out a packet of mints.

NEIL (CONT'D)
You want a mint?

40

INT. MANFORD HOUSE CORONER'S COURT. PERIOD FIVE. 15:05 - 40 DAY.

Coral sits at the back of the room. Donte sits up front with an NS FRIEND. It's small enough in here for Donte to glance sideways and see her. She returns an awkward and strained little nod.

Any number of NS WITNESSES AND OTHERS in here.

A NS PATHOLOGIST takes a seat, having just finished giving a statement.

Donte focuses now on the CORONER, in on every word.

CORONER

We've heard the main findings of the medical, police and pathologist's reports - and the relevant sections of written witness statements admitted as evidence.

Coral's strained gaze flits between the Coroner and Donte.

The Coroner takes a moment before continuing -

CORONER (CONT'D)

We will take a short break and when we return, I will move on to my conclusion.

And with that they stand. Everyone else does the same.

Coral looks over at Donte as the Coroner leaves the room, sees him blow out his cheeks, bracing himself.

She sits, steadyng her breathing to keep calm.

41

EXT. STEPS OUTSIDE MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 15:09 - DAY 41

Neil and Norullah sit on the bench.

NEIL

Father and mother in Kunduz?

Norullah nods.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Brothers? Sisters?

NORULLAH

Sister stay in Kunduz. My brother
and me, we travel.

NEIL

He is here? In Manchester?

Norullah shakes his head.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Where?

Norullah looks at him. Shrugs.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Your father and mother. They will
be very happy that you are at
school. Happy, you know?

He continues, speaking self-consciously slowly and with a
bunch of hand gestures.

NEIL (CONT'D)

You are here now. A good place. You
will make friends. Your life will
be good.

A pause. And then, out of nowhere -

NORULLAH

I was with my brother in the
refugee camp. In Greece.

Neil is struck by the sudden fluency.

NORULLAH (CONT'D)

He went to find a friend who might
help us. I don't see him again.

Takes Neil a while to say anything. A lot to unpack.

NEIL

Right I didn't think you ...
Didn't know you could speak
English.

NORULLAH

(quietly)

No one can find my brother. They
have looked for him. Maybe he is
dead.

NEIL

Course he's not! He'll be out there
somewhere, looking for you.

Neil putting a real upbeat tone behind all this.

NEIL (CONT'D)

There'll be some way we can find
out where he is. We'll speak to Mr
Casey and see what we can do.

Enough for Norullah to look at him, with a little faith and
hope, maybe?

NORULLAH

It's possible to help me?

Neil nods. Norullah's spirits seem lifted. A small spark of
hope?

42

INT. MANFORD HOUSE CORONER'S COURT. PERIOD FIVE. 15:15 - 42
DAY.

The Coroner speaks to a hushed room. All eyes on them, apart from Coral who has to keep looking at Donte as well.

CORONER

The death of a young mother is a tragedy and it's natural that we should look for conclusive answers to the many questions her family have. In line with what is reasonable in law, I have kept this uppermost in my mind.

A pause and then -

CORONER (CONT'D)

However - taking together the background disturbances which contributed to the road traffic collision, inconclusive evidence from the post-mortem examination and the possibility that the subarachnoid haemorrhage was due to a pre-existing aneurysm - I cannot find the appropriate standard of proof of a causal link between the collision, the bleed on the brain and death. Therefore, I am going to return an open conclusion in this case.

Donte looks on, the words sinking in. A bewildered expression spreads. He looks about the room as though to check everyone heard the same thing.

DONTE

What?

Coral closes her eyes in some kind of relief. But it's scant and she still has to clutch her arms tightly to stop herself from shaking.

CORONER

I hope this brings some closure and comfort to you. The usher will now talk you through the process of attaining the death certificate.

43

EXT. MANFORD HOUSE CORONER'S COURT. PERIOD FIVE. 15:23 - 43
DAY.

Coral sees Donte walking away. She has to work up the steel to approach him and not betray any of the turmoil inside her.

CORAL

Donte...

He turns to her. He's at a total loss - but starting to rage the more it sinks in.

DONTE

Open conclusion? What does that even mean? That doesn't tell us anything.

CORAL

I'm sorry. I know you were hoping for more of an answer -

DONTE

They're saying it's random! Could've happened any time. How does that work?

CORAL

If they're not completely sure, they have no choice.

DONTE

It's just box ticking. What am I meant to tell the kids? Mum died, sorry about that. Just one of them things.

CORAL

I'm sure it'll be... the main thing is... it's over... and -

DONTE

Nah, it's not. Not over till I get some answers. It's a joke, man. A sick joke.

And off he goes, leaving Coral completely overwhelmed by guilt.

44

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE. 15:27 - DAY.

44

Neil has brought Norullah in to Joe.

JOE

Red Cross are looking for his brother as far as I know. I'll have to check the welfare notes.

Joe heads for his computer.

JOE (CONT'D)

Didn't realise you could speak English this well before, Norullah.
(to Neil)
Not sure how the Senco assessment missed it.

NORULLAH

My father made me learn. And I listen to the BBC World Service. But since I am here, I don't use it.

NEIL

Why not?

NORULLAH

If I don't speak, then I am left alone.

NEIL

You don't want to be alone, son. Sounds like you've had enough of that.

Neil glances at Norullah's bag, now.

NEIL (CONT'D)

United, eh? Can tell you're not from around here.

Which earns a little eye roll from Joe.

NORULLAH

Best team in the world.

NEIL

They're not even the best team in Manchester.

JOE

So here we are. Registered at a refugee camp in Greece last summer. Red Cross are trying to trace him.

NORULLAH
You will help?

NEIL
Yes. Whatever we can do.

The bell sounds for the end of the day. Joe nods at Norullah.

JOE
Go on.

With a last hopeful glance at Neil -

NORULLAH
Thank you, Mr Guthrie.

Norullah heads out. Joe's impressed.

JOE
That's quite a breakthrough. Well done.

45

OMITTED

45

46

EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:41 - DAY.

46

Coral glances around at the excitement and buzz building ahead of the election results. She looks glazed and detached from it all.

Kim comes over to her, enquiring.

KIM

What happened?

CORAL

Open conclusion. No evidence to suggest any single thing was responsible.

Kim absorbs and nods before heading for where Shola, Noel, Samia and the other NS CANDIDATES are lined up, waiting.

KIM

So, the votes have been counted and re-counted by the returning officer-

She nods thanks to Valerie.

KIM (CONT'D)

And we have our results.

A 'woooo' of excitement.

KIM (CONT'D)

In year order working upwards, our school councillors for twenty twenty two, twenty three are - year seven Waris Khalid, year eight Gemma Bowen, year nine... Shola Aku.

Shola closes her eyes in relief.

KIM (CONT'D)

Year ten Bethany Simmons and year eleven...

Kim can't help a slight dramatic pause. Samia is on edge.

KIM (CONT'D)

Noel McManus.

A huge cheers goes up. Samia's face falls.

Noel punches the air as Dean and Kelly Jo (allowed in) fall about the place laughing.

NOEL
Geeerrrrriiiiiinnnnnn!!!!

KIM
Congratulations to you all.

The winning candidates remain together while the others including Samia move off. Samia is instantly commiserated by Caz, Kai and Danny.

Danny then reaches in to give Samia a hug. It lasts longer than it should. Late, Preston arrives and catches the end of the Danny and Samia's hug. He frowns clocking onto their obvious chemistry.

Preston stomps on over and puts his arm around Samia being supportive but to Danny - Preston put him in his place.

KIM (CONT'D)
Each of you needs to submit a proposal document by the end of the week with your ideas for school council charter.

NOEL
Document, miss?

KIM
(only too aware of his fallen expression)
With power comes responsibility, Noel. True for Spiderman and true for you.

He's dismayed. Meanwhile, Neil moves over to Coral and starts a conversation, unaware that he's being carefully scrutinised by Tonya.

NEIL
Probably not what Donte wanted to hear. But at least it's over.

Coral can't bear to have the conversation and starts to move off.

CORAL
I have to get to netball practice.

She heads off.

47

EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:45 - DAY.

47

The flow out. We join Tonya and Dwayne.

TONYA

There's got to be something about
Guthrie, right?

Norullah is nearby. He's listening.

DWAYNE

You are seriously obsessed...

TONYA

I can feel it.

DWAYNE

Yeah, sure. He killed his wife.
Makes sense.

Norullah can't believe he's heard that.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Which do you think he did? Bury her
in the garden or cremate her in
Newcastle?

The piss-take is really starting to irk Tonya. So now, an idea. A challenge.

TONYA

We should go round there and check
his garden out -

NORULLAH

Why do you say stupid things like
this?

They turn to look at him.

NORULLAH (CONT'D)

Mr Guthrie would not kill his wife.

TONYA

How comes you speak English all of
a sudden?

NORULLAH

He is kind.

TONYA

You want to do one, now?
(off Norullah's uncertain
look)
That means go away.

Norullah steps back a little. But he's still close enough to overhear the rest of the exchanges.

DWAYNE

No way you've got the bottle.

TONYA

I heard him on the phone telling
his dad he was coming to see him,
right after school. Said it'd take
an hour to get there.

Bravado more than anything else. And she has a handy get out.

TONYA (CONT'D)

But I don't know where he lives.

DWAYNE

Drake Lane. Went by there couple of
days ago. Number eleven.

Norullah clocks this. Meanwhile, Tonya is wrong footed.
Dwayne grins at her. A challenge.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Bottling it?

Tonya is cornered. On the spot, with Dwayne grinning at her.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

You know where he lives, you know
he'll be out.

TONYA

You coming? Or are you a bottler?

DWAYNE

See you there.

Tonya moves off.

48

EXT. NETBALL COURT. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:50 - DAY.

48

Netball practice. NS PLAYERS have split into groups of three. Two attackers against one defender. Coral is running drills, going through the motions, getting through it.

CORAL

In your threes, the feeder starts with the ball. Defenders get close in and stop your attackers. Go.

She blows her whistle and watches the drills. She can't stop looking at Izzy, who is doing her best but has clearly not got her mind on things. She drops the ball.

CORAL (CONT'D)

Okay and again.

MILLIE runs the drill pretty well. As Coral glances over at Izzy again.

Millie gets into a shoving match with one of the other NS PLAYERS. So she picks up the ball and hurls it at her.

The player ducks. And the ball flies at Coral, smacking her hard in the side of the face.

A few gasps, followed by laughing and giggling as the ball bounces away and Coral rubs her face.

MILLIE

Sorry, miss.

Coral scoops up the ball and stares at it. As though the ball itself meant that personally. The lid she's been trying to keep on all day (and longer) starts to come off.

The giggling sounds like mocking laughter to her.

At first it just looks like she's in shock because of the hit.

IZZY

Are you okay, miss?

CORAL

No, I'm not... I'm not a machine.

And now she starts to cry. Glances exchanged every which way. Coral drops the ball and heads out, picking up pace to a run.

MILLIE

Miss?

49

OMITTED

49

50

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:14 - DAY.

50

Tonya's face peers over the top of a side gate. She reaches over and unbolts it. Seconds later it opens and she comes through, with Dwayne following.

They creep down the side of the house.

DWAYNE

What are we looking for?

And in to the garden. A modestly tidy lawn, shed, low maintenance flower beds and a couple of trees..... And a number of large Gothic wooden sculptures. They stare at them.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

TONYA

He's even more of a weirdo than I thought.

Not far from it are a spades and a chainsaw. Dwayne picks it up. They look at each other. Tonya gasps, seeing something.

TONYA (CONT'D)

I read about these people who found bodies in their garden, under where grass and flowers and stuff wouldn't grow. Over there.

Part of the lawn, near the flowerbeds is shorn of grass. Tonya points at it.

TONYA (CONT'D)

And it's near a tree.

Dwayne puts the chainsaw down and picks up the spade, hands it to Tonya. She looks at it.

DWAYNE

What're you going to use to dig?
Your hands?

She takes it from him and glances to the tree as Dwayne looks in the shed and grabs a knackered-looking shovel.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

(goading?)
Unless you want to leave it?

Tonya would take a get-out excuse now, but has face to save.

TONYA

No.... 'cos she could be there.

DWAYNE

Let's do it, then.

51

INT. GYM CHANGING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:21 - DAY.

51

Coral sits slumped up against a wall, shaking and sobbing. Kim crouches down by her, reaches out and puts her hand on her shoulder...

KIM

Coral? What on earth is it?

But Coral is practically hyperventilating. All she can manage is a sobbing moan. Kim's utterly dismayed by the sight of it.

KIM (CONT'D)

What's happened?

But before Coral can say anything, the changing room door opens and Izzy sticks her head around it.

Kim is over to her.

KIM (CONT'D)

Can you give me a minute, Izzy?

She ushers her out into -

52

INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:22 - DAY.

52

The corridor, where the entire netball squad is lined up, ear-wigging.

KIM

Practice is over for the day.

IZZY

We need our stuff. I need my phone.

Kim doesn't want them all trooping in and seeing the state of Coral.

KIM

Wait in the gym for now, please.

General protesting.

KIM (CONT'D)

I'll let you know when you can come in. Now go!

They all shuffle off as Kim goes inside. Izzy slumps down against the wall, prepared to wait it out.

53

INT/EXT. DONTE'S CAR / CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:24 53
- DAY.

Donte pulls up outside his house. Turns the engine off and is about to get out when he pulls his phone out and texts Neil -

'Hey mate. You at home?'

He sends it. Thinks, and starts the engine again.

54

INT. GYM CHANGING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:25 - DAY.

54

Coral has managed to gather herself enough to talk. But it still comes out as a wail.

CORAL

I killed Chlo Charles. It was me.

55

INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:26 - DAY.

55

Loud enough for Izzy to hear loud and clear. She gets to her feet and comes to the door, pressing her ear up.

56

INT. GYM CHANGING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:27 - DAY.

56

Kim tries to make sense of that.

CORAL

I took my foot off the brake.
Someone was beeping their horn and
I turned around and I wasn't
looking and the car went forward.

It's almost childlike. Vulnerable and helpless.

KIM

It's okay, it's okay...

CORAL

I could hardly breathe. The riot
and the noise and... it was like my
worst nightmare. And they wouldn't
stop bloody beeping.

She takes a second to try and gather -

CORAL (CONT'D)

Didn't think I could face it. I
nearly stayed at home that morning.
But I forced myself to get in the
car.

KIM

Couldn't face what?

CORAL

Everything. Coming back for another
term. Being head of department,
teaching, three I's, assessments,
management reviews, everything
coming from every direction...
knowing that no matter what I do,
it'll never be enough. You said to
'do better' and I'm trying.

A big hit for Kim who now feels her part in this very keenly.

KIM

I know you are. You're a brilliant
teacher.

CORAL

Wish I wasn't one. Wish I was
anything else. I hate everything
about it.

Which is hard for Kim to hear.

CORAL (CONT'D)

And now I've killed someone.

KIM

Okay... so... however it feels now,
whatever's happened, there's
nothing we can't sort and get
through. D'you understand? We'll
work through it together.

She pulls Coral into a hug. They stay like that, with Coral
sobbing and shaking and Kim holding her.

57

INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:29 - DAY.

57

Outside, a shocked, bewildered and tearful Izzy runs off.

58

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:31 - DAY.

58

Tonya and Dwayne have made the barest of headway with their digging. And now -

There's a noise down the side of the house. Something clatters. Someone coming!

DWAYNE

Guthrie!

They're caught, nowhere to go as the gate opens and -- two figures come in to view. Zayne... and Verity.

VERITY

Hi.

TONYA

(incredulous)

Who told them?

Dwayne can't believe it.

DWAYNE

Bro! What're you doing?

ZAYNE

(of Verity)

She made me tell her.

VERITY

If you're worried that I'll say anything to my dad... I mean, come on. You think I tell him stuff? I want to help.

Tonya looks daggers at big mouth Dwayne. Then -

TONYA

No way. Get out.

DWAYNE

They're here now.

TONYA

King's her dad. Are you mad?

(to Verity, with a shove)

Go.

ZAYNE

You're only making noise arguing about it.

DWAYNE

He's right. Chill!

Tonya shoots Verity a last pissed-off look before backing off.

VERITY

Oh my God.

TONYA

What?

VERITY

I saw this thing where a body was buried in a garden, and where there was no grass it meant-

DWAYNE

Yeah, we know.

59

INT. SPORTS HALL CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:35 - DAY.

59

The netball squad are waiting impatiently to be let into the changing rooms. A fair few of them have their phones anyway.

Including Millie. Izzy comes in and up to her.

IZZY
(still in tears)
Can I use your phone?

MILLIE
You alright?

Izzy nods - and Millie unlocks her phone and gives it to her.

60

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:36 - EVENING. 60

While Dwayne, Tonya and Zayne tentatively dig by the tree,
Verity has her nose pressed up against a window.

VERITY

There are like, lots of photos and
paintings of old buildings.
Can't see any pictures of his wife.

She turns to the others, enjoying the thrill of all this.

VERITY (CONT'D)

Maybe it's too difficult for a
guilty conscience!

TONYA

If you're not going to help us dig,
why are you even here?

As Tonya gives her massive evils...

61

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:37 -
EVENING.

61

Donte gets out of his car. As he does, a call comes in on his phone. It's a number he clearly doesn't recognise and he could do without a spam call right now. He declines it.

62

INT. GYM CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:38 - EVENING.

62

Izzy begins to leave a tearful message for Donte.

IZZY

Dad, it's me...

We don't hear anything more for now.

63

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:39 - EVENING. 63

Dwayne and Tonya dig. Now Tonya's spade hits something solid. Shocks the life out of her. She peers down in the gloom... then reaches down to pick up -

A bone! She screams out loud, dropping it.

64

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:40 -
EVENING.

64

Out front, Donte is at the door. He hears the scream coming from the back garden.

65

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:41 - EVENING. 65

Verity, Dwayne and Zayne are over to Tonya who shows them the bone.

TONYA

See! A bone!!! Told you.

She looks at them all.

TONYA (CONT'D)

He killed his wife! He's a
murderer.

It's not the biggest, but it's a bone.

DWAYNE

Oh my God, bro!!

Donte comes through the gate and sees them all.

DONTE

What's going on?

They spin round, given a start.

TONYA

Mr Guthrie killed his wife and
buried her. We've just found her!

Tonya proffers the bone.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Look!

Donte comes forward and looks at it.

TONYA (CONT'D)

There'll be more.

(to Donte)

Are you calling the police?

He peers at the bone. But maybe there's something about it?

DONTE

Okay, no idea what you're on about
but this isn't right. Out of here,
now. All of you.

TONYA

Look at it!

Now a voice from the kitchen doorway -

NEIL

What the hell do you think you're
all doing?

Voltage through all of them as they spin to see him standing
there, staring at them.

DONTE

Neil. I came by and found them. Was
just telling them to get out.

NEIL

I heard.

Tonya is gripped and emboldened and carried away.

TONYA

We found your wife's bones! You
buried her here! Did you kill her?

DONTE

Tonya, that's enough.

Tonya can't believe that Donte is denying the undeniable.

TONYA

Look at it! He said he had her
cremated, then he said she was
buried. And now we've found her-

Neil's had enough. He strides forward, making Tonya back off
with a yelp, like she thinks he's going to attack her.

He picks up the bone and waves it at her.

NEIL

It's a ham hock, you little
pinhead. Next door's dog comes
through a hole in that fence and
buries his bones.

Silence.

DONTE

You're all going to say sorry and
then you're going to do one. Mr
Guthrie's wife died. Have some
respect!

DWAYNE

Sorry, sir.

As they all shuffle towards the gate, Neil looks on. He's
struggling over what to say or even whether to say it. But
there's an inevitability about it. There'll be so much talk
about this. So now -

NEIL

I didn't kill her. She's not dead.
She left me. She lives in Newcastle
with my daughters.

They stare at him, dumbfounded.

NEIL (CONT'D)

So now you know. Now get out.

Donte nods the others to disappear. They scurry through the gate. Donte goes to Neil.

DONTE

I don't get it.

NEIL

She left me for my best mate at my last job. It was humiliating.
Easier for me to say she was dead.
Less painful. I said it once and then I couldn't unsay it.

Donte can only stare at him. Is this a wind-up?

NEIL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry if...

Hesitates for a second -

NEIL (CONT'D)

If it means we won't be friends.
Because I was glad we'd got to know each other a bit, with the meetings and everything.

Donte absorbs this, but with disgust still writ large across him.

DONTE

You don't lie to friends. Not like that. I came by 'cos I thought you'd be the one person who'd understand how I'm feeling. Coroner gave us an open verdict on Chlo. No answers, no moving on, no end in sight for me or Iz or Tommy.

(beat)

Didn't think I could feel any worse. But I do. So thanks.

And he goes, leaving Neil feeling wretched.

66

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:45 - EVENING. 66

Coral cuts a desolate figure as she sits in Kim's office. Kim and Joe talk quietly, glancing through the open doorway.

JOE

I told Mike everything Coral told you.

KIM

And about deleting the video on the phone?

JOE

It wasn't admissible. The inquest is over and the verdict's been delivered. Whatever happened and whatever Coral's memory of it is, it wasn't her fault.

KIM

Thanks, Joe.

He moves off, leaving Kim staring through the door at Coral. She closes her eyes for just a moment, heaping it all on herself.

Wendy now appears with a tray with two mugs of tea and a plate of choccy biscuits on it.

KIM (CONT'D)

I could hug you.

WENDY

There are problems that can't be solved by tea and chocolate biscuits. But I'm yet to see one.

And off she heads to Coral.

67

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:51 - EVENING.

67

Donte is about to get into his car - his head still messed up after Neil's admission. He takes his phone out of his pocket and sees he has a voicemail. He hits to play it.

And seconds later we hear Izzy's voice -

IZZY
(on phone)
Dad. It's me. I... Miss Walker
just...
(in tears)
She said she... about mum...

She starts crying hard. Donte's heart-struck as he hears it.

IZZY (CONT'D)
She just... please come and get
me... please.

Donte gets in to the car and guns it away.

68

EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:53 - EVENING.

68

Shola heads towards the walkway when she sees Noel catching up to her.

SHOLA

Congratulations.

He's not exactly overjoyed.

NOEL

Not sure, man.

SHOLA

Thought you were well up for it?
Going to do all the things Samia
was, except better?

NOEL

All that stuff we've got to do now.
Policy document? And giving up
dinner times and staying late...

It's a catalogue of outrages.

NOEL (CONT'D)

All I said was we should play some
bangers at dinner on Fridays.

SHOLA

So tell them you don't want to do
it.

NOEL

I'd feel like a right div.

Shola turns this over as they walk on.

SHOLA

I can help you if you want.

NOEL

Write my document for us?

SHOLA

Don't think so. But I'll be
working on mine in the library at
dinner tomorrow. If you want to
meet up or something, I can help.

Shola is expecting him to say no. But here Noel is, clearly thinking about it...

69

INT. NEIL'S HOUSE. HALLWAY / LIVING ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL.

69

17:02 - DAY.

Neil pours himself a drink. The 'letter' from first thing that morning sits on the table. We can now see that it's a Relocation Order form. Neil grabs it as he slumps in to a chair. Then the doorbell goes.

NEIL

Can't they leave me alone?

He's to his feet - and to the door. Opens it to -

Norullah - Man Utd bag and all.

70

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:03 - EVENING.

70

Neil looks at him, trying to work out what he could be here for.

NEIL

Norullah.

NORULLAH

I heard some people talking today and that you live on this road.

NEIL

Right...

NORULLAH

They were saying stupid things. About your wife. I told them they were wrong.

Neil is so moved he doesn't know what to say for a bit. Then -

NEIL

You shouldn't be here. Best be getting back home.

Norullah takes an envelope out of his bag and from it slips out some photos.

NORULLAH

This is my brother. And my sister. And here are my parents. And this is my town, Kunduz. I thought you might like to see.

He shows them to Neil, who takes them and looks at them.

71

EXT. VISITOR'S ENTRANCE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:08 - EVENING. 71

Donte pulls up, seeing Izzy sitting by the gates with Amy.

He gets out of the car and is over to her.

DONTE

Iz? What's happened?

AMY

It's okay. She's fine, but -

DONTE

Tell us. Something about Coral?

IZZY

She said it was her fault. She
caused the accident.

Donte absorbs -- and heads off towards the Visitor's
Entrance, with Amy calling after him, worried about what's
going to happen.

AMY

Donte!

72

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:14 - EVENING. 72

Kim sits with Coral, who stares ahead, eyes glazed, spent. The mugs of tea and plate of biscuits have been emptied.

KIM

Chlo died because a lot of different things came together in a way that no one could ever have predicted. Or prevented. It's tragic and devastating, but it's not your fault.

Coral nods.

KIM (CONT'D)

The important thing, Coral, is you get all of the help and support you need to carry on being the brilliant teacher you are. We're here for you.

Lindon looks on from near the doorway. He hears someone running in now and hears Wendy -

WENDY

Donte -

Lindon turns to be confronted by him, as he claps eyes on Coral.

DONTE

What did you tell Izzy?

LINDON

Let's step out here for a minute.

DONTE

No! Want you to tell us what's going on.

The sight of him and his fury sparks another Coral collapse.

CORAL

I'm sorry!

Which is all the confirmation Donte needs of her 100% guilt.

DONTE

(raging disgust)

So it's true? You killed her?

CORAL

No -

KIM

Donte -

She looks to Lindon to guide Donte out. But Donte's not going anywhere.

DONTE

You've been teaching Izzy! Walking past me every day, saying hi, when you knew you'd caused the crash -

LINDON

Outside mate, c'mon.

But Donte shakes him off.

DONTE

No. Want to hear her tell me.

CORAL

I just lost control -

KIM

(to Coral)

It's okay.

Lindon tries to manoeuvre Donte again.

LINDON

Can't do this now -

DONTE

Get off me!

But Lindon manages to at least get him to step back to the doorway.

LINDON

Best thing is to go home.

WENDY

We'll look at it all tomorrow.

DONTE

Don't tell me what the best thing is. Your wife wasn't killed.

(hollers past him towards Coral)

Killed!!

He turns and heads off, still raging.

73

EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:16 - EVENING.

73

Donte charges out of the Visitor's Entrance. He sees Izzy and Amy coming towards him. Then he sees Coral's car - and lastly, he spots some scaffolding poles piled up.

He goes over and grabs one up. A couple of feet long.

And he rushes to Coral's car with it and brings it down hard across the bonnet. And then the windscreen, the mirrors, the roof, the doors.

Amy looks on, stunned and speechless.

IZZY

Dad! What're you doing?

With each heave and hit punctuated by a grunt, a yell, a shout, Donte smashes the crap out of the car.

74

INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:17 - EVENING.

74

Lindon walks into his office and sees Donte through the window, laying into Coral's car.

75

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:18 - EVENING. 75

Kim and Wendy are trying to steady Coral again.

WENDY

You're not by yourself, tonight?

CORAL

I'll be okay. I've got support.

But now Lindon sticks his head in.

LINDON

(urgent)

Kim!

76

EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:20 - EVENING.

76

Donte has smashed the windscreen and the windows of Coral's car right out and is setting about the doors as Lindon and Kim rush out, with Wendy following.

KIM

Donte! Stop!

But he doesn't. Lindon looks for a way to move in without getting hit himself.

KIM (CONT'D)

It wasn't Coral's fault!

Donte turns to her.

DONTE

So who's was it? Wasn't anyone's is what I'm being told.

LINDON

Put it down, mate. Enough.

Donte sees Coral staring through the window at him. He meets her eye for a moment. The gaze is broken by Izzy.

IZZY

Dad! We're going home.

She takes the pole from him and drops it on the ground. Then takes him by the hand. Taking charge.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Come on.

DONTE

It's not right. I want answers. We deserve them.

He lets Izzy lead him off towards the gates, past Amy.

Lindon can only stare at the wreck of Coral's car as Kim turns to look at Coral through the window.

What now??

WENDY

I'll take her home.

77

EXT. NEIL'S HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:23 - EVENING.

77

Neil and Norullah sit on a bench in his front garden.

Neil has a page opened up on his laptop. We don't have to see it.

NEIL

So this fella here. He's the local MP. Member of Parliament. Politician.

NORULLAH

And he can help find my brother?

NEIL

We can send him an email and explain what's happened.

Norullah nods, looking cheered by this. Then -

NORULLAH

I must ask you a question.

NEIL

What?

NORULLAH

You did not kill your wife?

Neil looks at him, sees he's being serious.

NEIL

No I chuffing well didn't!

NORULLAH

I just want to check.

Neil shakes his head.

NEIL

My wife is moving to New Zealand, with her new husband.

NORULLAH

That is far away.

NEIL

Couldn't be any further. She's taking my daughters, y'see. I got a letter today from someone called a mediator. Been asking me for my permission cos we had joint custody. Means I still got to see them.

NORULLAH

You will not see them anymore?

Neil finds himself suddenly choking up. He takes a moment and composes himself. Then -

NEIL

I was contesting it for a bit.
But... it's what they all want. I'm
not going to try and stop them.

NORULLAH

You have brothers and sisters?

NEIL

A brother. Like you.

NORULLAH

He lives near here?

NEIL

Not as far as New Zealand.

(beat)

It's important to stay in touch
when you can. Family's important.

(brighter)

So let's see what we can do to find
this brother of yours, eh?

NORULLAH

He likes Manchester United too.

NEIL

Nobody's perfect. Right, let's make
a start. How do you spell his name?

NORULLAH

Nazir. N-A-Z-I-R

And we leave the two of them composing the email.

78

INT. CORAL'S HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:56 - EVENING.

78

Coral has let herself in. She chokes back more tears and looks like she's about to break down.

A noise is heard from upstairs.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Coral!

Coral dries her eyes and heads upstairs.

79

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:59 - EVENING.

79

Donte and Izzy come in. Donte is spent. He slumps against the wall.

DONTE

I'm sorry, Iz.

Izzy seems galvanized. The weight of uncertainty over how she should feel has lifted...

IZZY

You've got nothing to be sorry about. And you were right to be angry. No one knows what it's like, so they can't tell us how to feel.

He looks at her, couldn't be prouder.

DONTE

Come here.

Pulls her into a tight hug.

DONTE (CONT'D)

We're not letting this go.

80

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 18:34 - EVENING. 80

Kim sees Lindon drop his staff-scheduling spreadsheet on Wendy's desk.

KIM
You should go.

LINDON
In a while. Got some scheduling to sort first. Time you got off, though?

KIM
Maybe. I can mess things up and let everyone down from home as well as I can here.

A beat and she sees how he's looking at her. It's enough to start her crumbling. She bursts into tears. He's startled by it. He's up and over to her.

LINDON
Hey...

KIM
Coral got herself into that state and I didn't pick it up.

LINDON
Because she didn't want you to.

KIM
That's not the point.

LINDON
We're stretched to breaking. You more than anyone. You can't be on everything.

KIM
I pushed her too hard. Made a huge problem worse -

LINDON
No. It isn't your fault.

KIM
And nothing's working like it's meant to. The school is falling apart and I don't know what to do about it.

His hands are on her shoulders, now. Fixing her with a look.

LINDON

Again, no. Without you, it'd fall apart. You're keeping it together.

Kim would gently scoff at that.

LINDON (CONT'D)

You have no idea how brilliant you are. And how much I... keep thinking about... what happened. And... us.

A beat or two and the charge detonates.

They're suddenly kissing, cupping each other's face. It goes on for a moment or five before they pull away and look at each other -

KIM

Hannah-

LINDON

It's over. We're getting divorced.

They kiss again - and move towards the sofa with breath deepening and the first pieces of clothing being clutched and pulled at. On to the sofa they go --

81

EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 18:36 - EVENING.

81

Through the window of the office we see the blind being pulled down.

END OF EPISODE