

WATERLOO ROAD

SERIES 11A

Episode #1106

Master Script
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EPISODE #1106 - CHARACTER INDEX

STAFF

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

SENIORS

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

JUNIORS

TONYA WALTERS

GUESTS

HANNAH KING
MARIE LEWIS
JAKE WEST
ERICA THORN
JAMIE BEDFORD
REECE MEGSON
RYAN CAPPER
STEVE WEEVER (NS)

EPISODE #1106 - LOCATION INDEX

SCHOOL

EXT BEHAVIOURAL UNIT
EXT MAIN ENTRANCE
EXT PLAYGROUND
EXT SCHOOL GATES
EXT STAFF CAR PARK
EXT VISITOR'S CAR PARK

INT ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA
INT BOY'S TOILETS
INT BU MAIN SPACE
INT BU RECEPTION
INT DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO
INT ENTRANCE CORRIDOR
INT FOYER
INT HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR
INT HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE
INT LIBRARY/IT SUITE
INT MAIN CORRIDOR
INT MODERN LANGUAGES CLASSROOM
INT SCIENCE LAB
INT SCIENCE/GYM CORRIDOR
INT SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM
INT STAFF ROOM

ON LOCATION

EXT CARPARK
EXT KAI'S GARDEN
EXT KAI'S HOUSE
EXT KAI'S STREET

INT GYM SHOWER/CHANGING ROOMS (BOYS)
INT KAI'S HOUSE
INT MARIE'S CAR
INT SCHOOL GYM

EPISODE #1106 - SCENE INDEX

- 1.EXT. SCHOOL GATES. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA.
- 2.INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA.
- 3.INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, LINDON, NS STUDENTS.
- 4.EXT. BEHAVIOURAL UNIT. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, KELLY JO, JAKE, NS LADS.
- 5.INT. BU RECEPTION / MAIN SPACE. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, DEAN, KELLY JO.
- 6.INT. BU RECEPTION. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, KELLY JO, DEAN.
- 7.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. KIM, LINDON, JOE, WENDY.
- 7A.INT. STAFF ROOM. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. NEIL, AMY.
- 8.EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, PRESTON, TONYA, NS PUPILS.
- 9.INT. BU MAIN SPACE. PERIOD ONE - DAY. KELLY JO, NEIL, DEAN, NS PUPILS.
- 10.INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD ONE - DAY. DANNY, VALERIE, NS PUPILS.
- 11.INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. PERIOD TWO - DAY. SAMIA, CAZ.
- 12.INT. SCIENCE LAB (LINDON). PERIOD TWO - DAY. PRESTON, JAKE, DANNY, KAI, LINDON, NS PUPILS.
- 13.INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK - DAY. NS PUPILS, TONYA, STEVE, SAMIA.
- 14.INT. BOY'S TOILETS. BREAK - DAY. SAMIA, TONYA, STEVE.
- 15.INT. STAFF ROOM. BREAK - DAY. KIM, LINDON.
- 16.INT. FOYER. BREAK - DAY. SAMIA, CAZ, MILLIE.
- 17.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR / ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. BREAK - DAY. KIM, WENDY, HANNAH, SAMIA.
- 18.INT. SCIENCE LAB (LINDON). PERIOD THREE - DAY. NS PUPILS, VALERIE LINDON, SAMIA.
19. OMITTED
- 20.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD THREE - DAY. HANNAH, KIM.
- 21.EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. PERIOD THREE - DAY. LINDON, JAMIE, ERICA.
22. EXT CARPARK / INT MARIE'S CAR. LUNCH - DAY. DANNY, MARIE.
- 23.EXT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH - DAY. SAMIA, PRESTON, JAKE, NS BASKETBALL PLAYERS.
- 24.INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. LUNCH - DAY. DOLCE, WENDY, JOE, KIM, HANNAH, NS DELIVERY WOMAN.
- 25.EXT. BEHAVIOURAL UNIT. LUNCH - DAY. SAMIA, KELLY JO, DEAN, NS PUPILS.
- 26.INT. MARIE'S CAR / EXT CARPARK. LUNCH - DAY. DANNY, MARIE.
- 27.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. LUNCH - DAY. DOLCE, KIM, JOE.
- 28.INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. LUNCH - DAY. SAMIA, CAZ, MILLIE, TONYA, NS CHEER SQUAD.
- 29.INT. BU MAIN SPACE. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. KELLY JO, DEAN.
30. OMITTED
- 31.INT. SCHOOL GYM. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. LINDON, JAMIE, ERICA, NS BASKETBALL TEAM, KAI, DANNY, PRESTON, JAKE, HANNAH.
- 32.INT. MODERN LANGUAGES CLASSROOM. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. SAMIA, NOEL, NS STUDENTS, NS TEACHER.
- 33.INT. SCIENCE/GYM CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DANNY, VALERIE.
- 34.INT. GYM SHOWER/CHANGING ROOMS (BOYS). PERIOD FOUR - DAY. SAMIA, NOEL, NS BOYS.
- 35.INT. SCHOOL GYM. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. SAMIA, LINDON, PRESTON, BASKETBALL TEAM, NS STUDENTS AND STAFF.
- 36.INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. SAMIA, CAZ, TONYA, MILLIE, NS CHEER SQUAD
- 37.INT. SCHOOL GYM. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. ERICA, JAMIE, KIM, LINDON, DANNY, PRESTON, KAI, JAKE, SAMIA, CAZ, MILLIE, TONYA, VALERIE, NS CHEER SQUAD, NS BASKETBALL TEAM, NS STUDENTS, NS STAFF.
- 37A.INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. NS PUPILS, NS TEACHERS.

38. INT. SCIENCE/GYM CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. LINDON, ERICA, JAMIE.

39. OMITTED

39A. INT. SCHOOL FOYER. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. NS PUPILS, NS TEACHERS.

39B. INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, PRESTON, KIM, BASKETBALL TEAM.

39C. INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. KIM, SAMIA.

40. INT. FOYER. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON, SAMIA, NS PUPILS.

41. INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. DONTE, NICKY, LINDON.

42. INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON, KAI.

43. EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, TONYA, NICKY, KELLY JO.

44. INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. LINDON, KIM, WENDY.

45. INT. KAI'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON, KAI, DANNY.

46. EXT. KAI'S STREET. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. - SAMIA, KELLY JO.

47. EXT. KAI'S HOUSE. BACK GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. KAI, PRESTON.

48. INT. KAI'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, KELLY JO, DEAN, DANNY, REECE, RYAN.

49. EXT. KAI'S HOUSE. BACK GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON, SAMIA.

50. EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. ERICA, LINDON.

51. EXT. KAI'S STREET. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. DANNY, KAI, REECE, RYAN.

1

EXT. SCHOOL GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 07:30 - DAY.

1

TIME LAPSE SEQUENCE.

It's early. There's barely anyone around. SAMIA strides up to school with purpose.

CUT TO:

2

INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:31 - DAY.

2

Samia enters the library. No-one is about. Phew. She sits at a table, puts in her headphones. Opens her laptop and a text book and gets to work. She types like there's fire in her fingers. Time passes.

CUT TO:

3

INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:20 - DAY.

3

Samia is in the zone now. Other NS STUDENTS come and go but they're just a blur.

LINDON enters. END OF TIME LAPSE. He looks over her shoulder and reads her work for a second. He's impressed. Samia notices him and takes out her headphones.

LINDON
Science Prize essay?

SAMIA
(nods)
Are you still okay to read it, if I send it over?

LINDON
We've got the basketball game but I'm sure we'll find time.

SAMIA
Thanks Sir.

LINDON
Hope the cheer routine is coming together with the girls? We need to start the game with a bang.

SAMIA
Yeah, Kelly Jo's helping me finish it before -

Samia looks at her watch, and panics.

SAMIA (CONT'D)
In five minutes, sorry Sir, gotta run.
Catch you later yeah?

Samia shoves her laptop in her bag and rushes off.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. BEHAVIOURAL UNIT. PRE SCHOOL. 08:22 - DAY.

4

Stood by the door, Samia texts Kelly Jo:

'Hey hun, where you at?'

JAKE and a group of NS lads loiter in the car park. One tries to wolf whistle. It's an epic fail. Samia laughs.

She hears a giggle inside the BU, and heads in...

CUT TO:

5

INT. BU RECEPTION / MAIN SPACE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:23 - DAY. 5

Samia looks around the BU reception. She hears the muffled giggles again. What's going on?

SAMIA
Froghead? Kels?

No reply. She opens the door into the BU main space...

Samia steps in and instantly sees DEAN and KELLY JO against the wall, kissing. Samia's jaw drops and eyes widen. Kelly Jo turns to see her, equally horrified at being caught.

SAMIA (CONT'D)
Woah... okay... err..

Hands up, she reverses, then turns and walks out, a look on her face that tells us what she's thinking...

CUT TO:

6

INT. BU RECEPTION. PRE SCHOOL. 08:24 - DAY.

6

Samia heads for the door. Kelly Jo hurries after her.

KELLY JO

It's not what it looks like. I- me and
him- we're -

SAMIA

Whatever. You do you.

KELLY JO

Oh come on Sams, he's not that bad.

Samia stops and turns to Kelly Jo.

SAMIA

Look, if you want my opinion, I think
you can do better.

KELLY JO

What?

SAMIA

Come on Kels, Dean Weever?

KELLY JO

Yeah Dean Weever. And what?

SAMIA

Everyone knows he's a straight up
weasel. Okay, I know it's not been
easy for you with all your ADHD stuff
and that but come on - get some
standards.

Dean enters from the main BU room to hear the tail end of
this.

KELLY JO

Oh yeah, cos Preston's so perfect?

SAMIA

Compared to *that*.

DEAN

You think you're the best bang in school don't you? Ha. You're not on my list. No way.

Samia looks at Dean with judgey eyes, then at Kelly Jo.

SAMIA

Kels, be real, this is not what you want.

KELLY JO

Oh my God, why's everyone always telling me what to think?
I know you think you've got it all worked out and my life's just a mess but -

SAMIA

I don't think that.

KELLY JO

You do. You always do. The way you go on at me, the way you judge everything - just get out, get out.

SAMIA

Alright I will. You wanna look desperate go ahead, see if I care.

Shaken and shocked, Samia storms off.

CUT TO:

7

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:26 - DAY.

7

KIM is perched on the side of the desk. Lindon has pulled up a chair and is talking her through the basketball formations.

LINDON

From that position, you can get a clear shot and bounce it off the backboard.

Kim raises a flirtatious eyebrow, amused. JOE enters with a stack of papers. Kim readjusts, acting serious.

JOE

Sorry I'm late, I got caught up with -

Joe clocks that they're not at the table.

JOE (CONT'D)

Oooh, a casual meeting, alright -

Joe sits in the corner of the sofa and realises the arm is creaky/unsteady.

JOE (CONT'D)

Woah, what's gone on here?

KIM

(flushes)

I think it's been like that for a while...

JOE

Really? Pretty shoddy workmanship..

Kim can barely look at Lindon who struggles to keep a smile off his face.

KIM

It's just general wear and tear. Shall we crack on? We've got a lot to discuss. The basketball. Do you want to start us off Lindon?

LINDON

(taking the hint)

Sixth form boys basketball. Period five. Jamie Bedford, the scout from the Manchester Basketball Foundation is coming.

KIM

(to Joe)

Yes. He and Erica are due to discuss a council sports grant, could be around 10k.

LINDON

So it's all out to impress.

KIM

We have Donte's meeting as well, so how about we divide and conquer? Lindon, you sort the game, Joe and I can handle Donte.

LINDON

You don't want me across that too?

KIM

I think we can handle it, thanks...
(increasingly uncomfortable)
So I think that's everything.

JOE

Okay. Short and sweet.

Everyone stands.

JOE (CONT'D)

I'm liking the casual vibes. Seems different. Go team!

Joe skips out. Lindon hangs back and smiles at Kim.

LINDON

(smiles)

General wear and tear eh?

KIM

(smiles)

You're not that good...

Kim and Lindon share a playful look, then WENDY pops her head in and they instantly compose themselves.

KIM (CONT'D)

I think that is everything Mr King.
Have a good day.

LINDON

I'm sure I will, Ms Campbell.

Lindon sweeps behind Wendy, smiles at Kim and leaves.

CUT TO:

7A

INT. STAFF ROOM. PRE SCHOOL. 08:28 - DAY.

7A

NEIL is eyeing up a tray of biscuits when AMY rushes in flustered.

AMY

Have I missed the morning meeting?

NEIL

'fraid so.

Neil moves to head off but Amy keeps talking.

AMY

...bus was late again. And then I have all this extra marking and planning to do covering for Coral. It was the last thing I needed -

NEIL

(in)

Consider yourself lucky you've not been lumped with covering the BU rabble.

AMY

Come on, they're not that bad, they've just got complex stuff going on that they don't know how to handle. I'm sure you can relate.

NEIL

What's that supposed to mean?

AMY

Nothing. I - I heard about some of the kids turning up at your house. And, you know, everything else.

NEIL

(bristling)

That's not anyone's concern.

AMY

(clumsily)

I understand why you said what you did about your wife. It can't have been easy. If you ever want to talk

-

NEIL

I'm fine. She left. Nothing more to be said.

AMY

It's still grief you know. And it
won't help to bury it.

Neil gives her a look and she realises what she's said.

AMY (CONT'D)

No pun intended. Look, maybe now
it's out in the open, you've an
opportunity to properly process it.

Amy looks at the clock. Panics. She scoops a handful of biscuits and heads out. Neil ponders on what she's said. She might not be as ditzy as he thought.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 08:30 - DAY.

8

Samia is with PRESTON as he walks up to school.

SAMIA

I don't want to fall out with her.
Especially not over him.

PRESTON

I'm sure she'll come round.

SAMIA

Why can't she see that he's using her?
She should want better for herself.
She should be with someone who's - I
dunno, someone like you but not you,
obviously.

PRESTON

Not everyone can be as lucky as us.

Samia smiles up at him. Then TONYA barges through them, in a massive mood. Samia looks outraged as she turns to see who it is, before realising it's Tonya.

TONYA

(grumpily)

Sorry.

Tonya marches off. Samia looks concerned.

SAMIA

(to Preston)

What's up with Tonya? Should I go
after her?

PRESTON

Don't bother. Hormone central at my
house between her and Kelly Jo. Can't
cope with the aggro, not with my big
game today. You excited?

SAMIA

Of course. My bae, captain of the A
team. Can't wait.

Samia plasters on a smile for him.

PRESTON

That's more like it. Don't be worrying
about Kelly Jo.

School bell goes. NS pupils walk up to school.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Catch you later yeah?

Preston heads off. Samia's smile fades, still gutted over her fall out with Kelly Jo.

CUT TO:

9

INT. BU MAIN SPACE. PERIOD ONE. 09:25 - DAY.

9

Still raging, Kelly Jo struggles to concentrate. A paper note flies into her booth. She opens it: 'Hey, u ok? Dx'. She scrunches it up.

At the front, NEIL is supervising. Dean leans back on his chair and 'Psssts' to Kelly Jo.

DEAN

You're not still upset about the Sami thing are you?

KELLY JO

(turning to him)

Oh sorry I'm not dead chuffed she saw us - whatever.

DEAN

It's nothin' she hasn't done.

KELLY JO

Yeah well, she weren't meant to know about us yet.

DEAN

Why not? I think you're fit, you think I'm... well - we have a laugh don't we?

KELLY JO

Just leave it Dean, yeah?

Kelly Jo goes back to her work, still upset. Dean's not having this. He's gotta up his game. He gets up and starts rummaging in a box of science stuff by the store cupboard.

NEIL

Weever, what are you doing? Back in your seat.

DEAN

Oh my days Sir, you'll never guess what I've found, come look.

Other NS pupils and Kelly Jo are now looking, intrigued. Neil walks over to Dean.

As soon as Neil gets close, Dean whips a fake skull out of the box with a paper towel round its head like a bonnet.

DEAN (CONT'D)
It's Mrs Guthrie. 'Oh Mr G, I miss
you, kiss me Mr G, I love you.'

NEIL
Give that here.

DEAN
Not my fault you lied about your Mrs
popping her clogs.

Dean throws the fake skull at Neil who catches it instinctively
but puts it down. Neil grabs a chair from the middle table.

NEIL
Right, sit here. In silence. I can
still give detentions in here you
know.

Dean sits in the chair but looks over to Kelly Jo. He sees a
hint of a smile. Mission accomplished.

CUT TO:

10

INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD ONE. 09:32 - DAY.

10

DANNY practises guitar, VALERIE teaches him.

VALERIE
Back to D7. Then G.

Danny moves his hand.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
No, G! That's - well that's not
anything.

DANNY
It's D8.

VALERIE
Yeah, alright!

Valerie goes to speak to another NS pupil. Danny's phone lights up. Message Request from Marie Lewis.
'Hey, you around?'

Danny stares at his phone. Valerie catches him.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
Oi, not in class.

She clocks Danny's concern and goes to him.

VALERIE (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

DANNY
It's my Mum. Think she wants to talk,
but, I dunno...

Valerie takes this in. She's concerned but wants to support him.

VALERIE
What don't you know?

DANNY
(conflicted)
What she wants, and whether there's
something else going on? I do miss her
though... I know that sounds stupid
after everything she's done.

VALERIE
(trying not to sound too
disapproving)
(MORE)

VALERIE (CONT'D)

I guess she's still your mum, even if
she hasn't always made the right
choices at times.

DANNY

Most of the time.

VALERIE

Still, if you want to go see her you
should. Just don't go in with too many
expectations eh?

Danny nods and smiles. Grateful that Valerie's got his back.

CUT TO:

11

INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. PERIOD TWO. 10:34 - DAY.

11

Samia is trying to work on her essay, but she can't keep her mind off the row with Kelly Jo. CAZ comes over.

CAZ

Hey Sami, we still on for cheer practise at lunch? You finished the routine?

Samia turns to Caz, angry tears in her eyes.

SAMIA

Sorry, I was meant to do it before school but Kelly Jo let me down.

CAZ

(concerned)

Hey don't worry, we'll come up with something.

SAMIA

She ditched me to do bits with Dean Weever.

CAZ

Kelly Jo and Dean Weever? How long has that been going on?

SAMIA

I don't know, I didn't stop to ask. We're supposed to be best friends and she never even told me.

CAZ

I bet she wanted to.

SAMIA

She told me I was judgey.

Caz doesn't say a word.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

What? What's that look about?

CAZ

Nothing. I'm sure you and Kelly Jo will sort things out. See you at lunch yeah?

Caz makes a swift exit. Samia thinks on Caz's reaction.

CUT TO:

12

INT. SCIENCE LAB (LINDON). PERIOD TWO. 10:36 - DAY.

12

Preston and Jake are at the back of class. Danny and KAI are at the next desk, textbooks out.

DANNY

Can't wait until the game later. A team for the win!

KAI

Yas boi. So I'm thinking of inviting everyone to mine later for a Partayyy. What'd you reck?

DANNY

What about your parents?

KAI

Eurgh, they're in the lakes all weekend 'reconnecting'. I can't even. And my sister's at her boyfriend's, so let's get turnt up. BYOB!

Danny looks at him blankly.

KAI (CONT'D)

Bring your own booze. God Danny were you born on another planet?

DANNY

I wish. So, my mum messaged...

KAI

Oh? Bit rando. What's Mamma Lewis got to say for herself?

Danny gets out an old iPhone that Kai's given him with stickers on, and hides it under the textbooks.

DANNY

Cheers by the way, the battery's not great but it's better than that old thing I had.

Danny is about to show Kai the message but Lindon looks up.

LINDON

Lewis. Phone away or I'll confiscate-

Just then, his own phone rings. Jake and NS pupils burst out laughing. Lindon looks at his phone: Jamie Bedford. He gets up.

LINDON (CONT'D)
Carry on to question four.

JAKE
Eh? No way sir, you can't be taking calls, that's double standards that.

PRESTON
Pipe down Jake.

JAKE
Why're you chiming up Prezz?

LINDON
Boys, quiet! I'll be back in a minute.

Lindon answers the phone as he heads for the door.

LINDON (CONT'D)
Jamie, hi...still good for later?

As Lindon leaves the classroom, Danny gets his phone back out.

CUT TO:

13

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

13

All is quiet. Then the bell goes. Instant chaos. NS pupils everywhere.

Samia is at her locker, where she clocks a group of NS boys looking over before quietly sharing a laugh.

She's distracted when a furious looking Tonya chases STEVE WEEVER down the corridor. He thinks he has evaded her by darting into the boy's toilets but Tonya darts in after him - much to Samia's surprise. What has got Tonya so upset?

CUT TO:

14

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

14

Concerned, Samia enters. Hears a scream. Opens a cubicle door to see Tonya about to flush Steve Weever's head down the toilet.

SAMIA

TONYA!! What are you doing?

Samia rags Steve from Tonya and straightens him out.

TONYA

You don't know what he said about me.

Steve wriggles free and runs off saying...

STEVE

She's off her head that one!

Samia glares at Tonya.

TONYA

He called us a stoned ginger hamster.

SAMIA

He's Dean Weever's cousin, what do you expect? They're all scratters.

TONYA

He said I'm a 'one' on the list.

SAMIA

List? What list?

TONYA

Hot or Not. It's the group chat where the lads rate our looks.

SAMIA

Sorry what?

TONYA

You know, rate us, out of ten. Say if they'd get with us or not.

SAMIA

You can do better than a Weever.

TONYA

No, I know but - it's not that, it's - none of the boys like me.

Tonya's tough exterior fades now and we see a crack of vulnerability - she's genuinely hurt.

SAMIA

Oh come on, that can't be true.

TONYA

You and Izzy, you're all - you know but I'm - I'm just an ugly, freckly potato.

SAMIA

Woah woah woah, listen to me girl. You are beautiful. Boys like the Weavers, they're wasters, all of them.

Samia turns Tonya to the mirror.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Don't let it get to you. Just smile and brush it off yeah?

Tonya manages a smile and heads out. Samia watches her leave, contemplating what she's just been told.

CUT TO:

15

INT. STAFF ROOM. BREAK. 11:14 - DAY.

15

Kim makes a coffee. Lindon bursts in, excited and peacocking.

KIM

Someone's in good spirits.

LINDON

Someone had a call with Mr Bedford,
from the foundation.

KIM

And?

LINDON

Am I or am I not brilliant?

Kim gives him a flat look but there's a twinkle in her eye.

KIM

Go on.

LINDON

In addition to the council grant,
there's potentially a couple of
scholarships available for the lads.
Top level coaching, showcase games
with semi-pros, you name it.

KIM

That's incredible.

Lindon grins as he gets out a second coffee mug.

LINDON

It's huge. I've been badgering Jamie
for so long. The boys are talented. If
I'd had something like this when I was
their age - well I wouldn't be a
deputy that's for sure.

KIM

Oh really?

LINDON

You'd be queueing at the Arena to
watch me shoot hoops.

KIM

Rather be catching the latest
exhibition at the gallery.

LINDON

Fancy a drink tonight? Celebrate our
big win.

KIM

Bit presumptuous.

LINDON

I prefer confident. Come on, you, me,
few cocktails?

KIM

I'd love to but - I have the meeting
with Erica -

LINDON

It'd be later on anyway, got a stack
of progress tests to mark and input.
Be nice to unwind.

Kim debates this as she finishes making her coffee.

KIM

Go on then, as long as you don't spend
the whole night talking basketball.

Kim smiles and leaves. Lindon is pleased with himself.

CUT TO:

16

INT. FOYER. BREAK. 11:16 - DAY.

16

Samia is sitting alone on the benches. She checks her phone. No messages from Kelly Jo. She types a message: 'Hey' Then she thinks for a second and deletes it. Caz and MILLIE clock that she's alone and head over.

CAZ

Still not talking to Kelly Jo?

SAMIA

Not until she apologises. No.

Caz and Millie share an awkward look.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Have you heard about this list thing the year 9 lads have started, rating all the girls?

CAZ

Hot or not? Yeah. Been going for ages. It's vile isn't it? And it's not just year nines.

SAMIA

What do you mean?

CAZ

There's loads of them in it. Apparently the older lads are brutal. They called May Barker a munter and now she's looking into fillers.

SAMIA

That's savage.

CAZ

I don't even want to know what they've said about me.

SAMIA

Tonya almost flushed Steve Weever earlier. Wouldn't surprise me if one of that lot started it.

CAZ

Could be anyone.

SAMIA

Yeah but this has Dean Weever scum written all over it.

(thinking)

(MORE)

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Oh my days, thinking about it...he
legit said I'm not 'on his list'.

CAZ

I guess it is very Weever.

SAMIA

He's making Kels look such a mug.

Samia stands up and heads off with purpose.

CUT TO:

17

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR / ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. BREAK. 17
11:24 - DAY.

Kim heads down the corridor towards Wendy.

KIM
Ah Wendy, is Donte here yet?

WENDY
Not quite. But we do have a visitor.

Smiling, Wendy directs Kim to see HANNAH KING, who is sat on one of the chairs, clearly very upset.

WENDY (CONT'D)
Mrs King. She's looking for Mr King.

KIM
Oh, right. Well, he's gone to his class. I can call him if it's urgent?

Hannah gets all flustered, she's about to cry.

HANNAH
No, no, don't, I erm -

KIM
Are you okay? Has something happened?

HANNAH
I just need to speak to him.

KIM
Why don't you come into my office for a minute? Wendy, let me know when Donte arrives.

Hannah nods and heads towards Kim's office. Kim follows her in. This is the last thing she needs right now.

Just as Kim goes into the office, Samia comes in.

SAMIA
I need to speak to Ms Campbell.

WENDY
She's a little tied up at the moment.

The bell goes to signify end of break.

WENDY (CONT'D)
Why don't you pop back at lunch?

Samia sighs and heads off to lesson.

CUT TO:

18

INT. SCIENCE LAB (LINDON). PERIOD THREE. 11:29 - DAY.

18

NS pupils file into class. Lindon is handing over his lesson plan to Valerie.

LINDON

So it's these questions, then this sheet for homework. Due in Monday. Thanks for this Valerie.

VALERIE

No problem, you tell that Mr Bedford to look out for Danny won't you?

LINDON

You know I don't do favourites.

Lindon smiles and is about to head out when Samia enters.

SAMIA

Mr King, can I have a word?

LINDON

Ah Samia, your essay, I've got it, but might need to put it on pause. The basketball game. Did Preston tell you? We're hoping to bag some scholarships.

SAMIA

Oh okay, I actually wanted to talk about something else.

Lindon checks his watch and nods as he ushers her aside.

LINDON

Right, what is it?

SAMIA

It's Dean Weever, sir. He's started this group chat, rating all the girls on their looks. It's bad sir, really bad.

Lindon pauses, he's genuinely shocked.

LINDON

Sounds it. Can you show me?

SAMIA

I'm not in the chat, it's just what some of the girls have told us.

LINDON

Ah right. I could do with knowing a bit more than playground rumours. Look I've got to run to a meeting now, but as soon I get a minute, I'll look into it.

Lindon rushes off, leaving Samia stewing.

CUT TO:

19

OMITTED

19 *

20

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD THREE. 12:02 - DAY.

20

Hannah is sitting on the wonky sofa, hugging a cup of tea. Kim cringes as she listens to her.

HANNAH

I'm sorry, I know you're busy. He won't return my calls. I thought maybe if we talked then he'd - oh I don't know.

KIM

It's fine.

HANNAH

I keep telling myself it's a rough patch. That we'll fight it. But he ignores all the hard stuff and hopes it'll go away.

KIM

Divorce isn't easy on anyone.

HANNAH

Divorce? We're not- What's he said?

KIM

(thrown)

Nothing. I just thought-

HANNAH

I know he wasn't sure it was working out with us seeing each other again, but he certainly hadn't bothered telling me he actually wanted a divorce.

KIM

Perhaps you should discuss this with him.

HANNAH

Textbook Lindon. I'm at home hoping we still had a chance, and he's spreading it all round the staffroom without even talking to me. He never used to be so cold you know. I don't understand what happened.

Kim awkwardly pats Hannah's shoulder. She knows full well what happened. On that very sofa.

CUT TO:

21

EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. PERIOD THREE. 12:04 - DAY.

21

Lindon has met JAMIE in the car park as ERICA arrives.

LINDON

Erica, thanks so much for coming in early. Jamie, this is Erica from the LEA, I mentioned her the other day?

Erica and Jamie shake hands.

JAMIE

Great to finally meet you, Erica.

ERICA

Nice to meet you and it's great to hear the foundation is doing something positive for the school.

LINDON

This council grant will have such an impact on the pupils. They've got the ability, they deserve the resources.

As Jamie apologetically takes a call...

ERICA

That's the thing about you Lindon, you care about the students. And when you think something needs doing, you get it done.

Lindon is flattered.

CUT TO:

22

EXT. CARPARK / INT. MARIE'S CAR. LUNCH. 12:35 - DAY.

22 *

A car drives through the carpark and parks up. We see the driver*
is MARIE, who sits and waits nervously. *

Go to: an equally nervous Danny walks through the carpark and *
approaches the parked up car. As he looks through the window, *
Marie smiles and beckons him to get in. Danny does so. *

DANNY

Hi Mum. *

MARIE

Oh son, look at you. You're so- oh I *
don't know - you look well. *

There's a moment of awkwardness as Danny doesn't know what to *
say. *

MARIE (CONT'D) *

Here. Got you your favourite butty. *

She hands him a sandwich, which Danny lets sit on his lap. *

MARIE (CONT'D)

I missed you so much.

DANNY

Missed you too.

A pause between them. *

DANNY (CONT'D)

So, are you back for a few days or
longer?

MARIE

I don't know yet. Few things to work
out.

DANNY

Right, yeah, course.

Another pause.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Are you on your own? You and Vinny, is that done with now?

MARIE

Never mind me, I want to hear all about you. Tell me everything. How's school?

DANNY

School's good. Joined the basketball team. Getting my grades up. Learning guitar.

MARIE

No way! Look out Bob Dylan.

DANNY

Who?

MARIE

Before your time. My Danny boy, learning guitar! What's it like staying with a teacher? What's she like?

DANNY

Val? She's great actually. And her house is decent. Quiet, you know.

*

Marie is a little hurt by this but puts on a brave face.

MARIE

That's nice.

Danny clocks that she's upset and backtracks a little.

DANNY

It's alright. Not a forever thing.

Danny smiles at her. Hope in his eyes.

CUT TO:

23

EXT. PLAYGROUND. LUNCH. 12:40 - DAY.

23

Samia marches towards Preston, who is about to head to practise.

SAMIA
Preston, wait up.

PRESTON
Shouldn't you be at Cheer practise?

SAMIA
I can't even think about that right now.

PRESTON
Why? What's up?

SAMIA
Dean Weever. And his creepy Hot or Not list.

PRESTON
Oh.

SAMIA
Did you know about it?

PRESTON
Nah. Not really. Heard some stuff.
Nothing to get paranoid about though.

SAMIA
Honestly, it's sickening. And Kelly Jo's defending him. She has no idea.
Help me prove it to her.

PRESTON
Babe, I've gotta train. There's bigger things in life than Dean Weever. I need this scholarship.

SAMIA
But what about Tonya?

PRESTON
What's up with her now?

SAMIA
She was rated a one. She's crushed.

PRESTON
(burying his unease)
She's tough, she can take a bit of
banter.

SAMIA
This isn't banter though is it.

PRESTON
Babe you're overthinking. Yeah, Dean's
a meng, and maybe he did start the
list. But it's not your problem.

Jake and other NS B'ball lads appear and call over.

JAKE
Yo, Prezzer, ready to be annihilated?

Preston's face drops. He looks at Samia's pleading eyes.

PRESTON
I gotta go babe. Focus on your routine
yeah? Gotta wow the crowd before the
game. Don't let me down.

Preston pecks her on the cheek then heads off to join Jake
and NS lads who slap each others back and jeer. Samia reels,
she needs to do something.

CUT TO:

24

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. LUNCH. 12:42 - DAY.

24

Donte sits anxiously checking his watch. Wendy looks through the window to see Kim awkwardly comforting crying Hannah.

WENDY

Sorry - I'm sure she'll be with you
any minute now. Tarte tartin while you
wait? I grew my own plums.

DONTE

No thanks.

An NS DELIVERY WOMAN enters with a huge hamper and a bouquet of flowers. Joe comes through from his office.

JOE

Got an admirer Wendy?

WENDY

More than one but I wasn't
expecting flowers.

DELIVERY WOMAN

For a Miss Coral Walker.

Wendy and Joe look awkwardly at Donte.

WENDY

These were meant to go to her house...

Donte watches in disbelief as the NS Delivery Woman shrugs, puts the flowers and hamper on Wendy's desk, then exits.

DONTE

Someone's being spoilt.

Wendy and Joe don't know what to say. Thankfully Kim's door opens and Hannah comes out followed by Kim.

KIM

Ah Donte, good. Do you and Joe want to
wait in my office, I'll be through in
a second.

Joe shows Donte into the office.

KIM (CONT'D)

(to Hannah)

You're welcome to wait for Lindon if you like but he could be a while.

HANNAH

I'll stick around if that's alright? Thanks for your honesty Kim, I appreciate someone telling me the truth.

As Hannah squeezes Kim's arm before heading out, Wendy looks at Kim - what is that all about?

KIM

Don't ask.

Kim looks to the flowers and wonders what they are all about.

WENDY

Don't ask.

Kim accepts this, takes a deep breath and heads into her office to face another difficult conversation.

CUT TO:

25

EXT. BEHAVIOURAL UNIT. LUNCH. 12:45 - DAY.

25

Samia strides over to the BU. Kelly Jo, Dean and other NS pupils are hanging around. Samia heads straight for Dean.

SAMIA

This Hot or Not List thing. You started it didn't you?

DEAN

Back off Samia what's your problem?

SAMIA

You. Talking dirty about everyone.

KELLY JO

What are you on about?

SAMIA

That rat you call a boyfriend made a group chat scoring all the girls.

KELLY JO

What? Dean, is this true?

DEAN

Me? Wouldn't dare. If I said anything like that about a woman, my mam'd headbutt me. She's five foot nothin' but she's a Rottweiler.

SAMIA

How dya know what's being said then if you're not in it?

DEAN

I seen screenshots. Everyone has, but I ain't got anything to do with it.

SAMIA

Liar! I know it's you. I know it.

KELLY JO

Prove it then. Show us the messages.

SAMIA

I can't. I don't have them. But I know what's he's been saying. You gotta believe me.

Kelly Jo is fuming now. She goes at Samia. A crowd of NS pupils gather.

KELLY JO

You just can't bear it can you? That something's finally going alright for me.

SAMIA

That's not what this is. I'm telling you to steer clear of him because he's filth.

KELLY JO

You're trying to break us up 'cause you're miserable and you want everyone else to be miserable too.

SAMIA

I'm not. I care about you. He's mugging you off.

KELLY JO

If you really cared, you'd actually listen to us. Dean says he didn't do it.

SAMIA

Are you seriously taking his side? What the hell Kels? Why would you believe anything that comes out his mouth? You can't be this stupid.

That cut deep. Kelly Jo snaps. The rage is coming.

DEAN

Don't talk to her like that.

SAMIA

Shut it ratface.

Kelly Jo squares up to Samia.

KELLY JO

Call me stupid again, go on. Call me stupid and see what happens.

Dean tries to get between them.

DEAN

Kelly Jo, leave it yeah? Let's go inside.

KELLY JO

Nah Dean. I wanna hear her say it. Come on Samia, if you're so smart, if you're so right all the time. Say it.
(MORE)

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

Say I'm stupid. Say I'm thick and I
belong here. Say it.

Kelly Jo is right in Samia's face. It's tense. Is she gonna hit
her? Everyone stares. Samia just stands there, doesn't say
anything. Kelly Jo scoffs.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

Thought so. Come on Dean. I can't cope
with this.

Kelly Jo starts walking away, Dean following her.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

Some best mate you are.

Samia is crushed as she watches Kelly Jo walk inside the BU.

CUT TO:

26

INT. MARIE'S CAR / EXT. CARPARK. LUNCH. 12:52 - DAY.

26 *

Danny finishes eating his sandwich. *

MARIE

I'm so proud of you. Bet the girls are queuing up for this handsome face. Are you erm- working at all?

Danny is about to reply but Marie gets a call on her tatty burner phone. She laughs nervously and rejects the call.

MARIE (CONT'D)

PPI! They're non-stop.

An awkward pause. Marie inspects him, differently this time.

MARIE (CONT'D)

That's a nice jacket.

DANNY

Yeh. Val gave us it.

*

MARIE

And you've got a new phone. Proper kitted out aren't you? Your teacher give you that as well?

DANNY

Nah. It was Kai's. It's old but it's alright.

MARIE

Got a lot of people looking out for you haven't you? It's nice.

DANNY

I wish you'd told me, mum. About Birmingham. You didn't even say goodbye.

MARIE

We were evicted love, and the people round there they weren't happy with Vinny and me - I had to go, son. To keep you safe. That's all I want, to keep you safe.

DANNY

Doesn't always feel like it.

MARIE

Look at you, you're doing great. On
your own. Never needed me see. And the
school, they're supporting you,
throwing everything at you.

Danny starts thinking this is weird now.

DANNY

What do you mean?

MARIE

Oh I dunno, I guess music lessons
aren't cheap? How you affording it?

DANNY

Val sorted it... what's this about? *

MARIE

No nothing I was just asking.

DANNY

Yeah but you being here. Why?

MARIE

I wanted to see my boy is all.

Marie fiddles with her burner phone and nervously smiles.

DANNY

Are you still with Vinny? Please don't
say you're still with him.

MARIE

Darling I-

DANNY

Did he tell you to come here? Is this
about the money?

MARIE

No, I - look, a grand is a lot of
money. It weren't yours to take Danny -
he wants it back, he-

There's pure fear in her eyes now. She's a wreck. Danny
stiffens. It all makes sense now.

MARIE (CONT'D)

I - we're skint. Just give it back and
he'll stop, he'll leave-

DANNY

How was I supposed to survive? It's
gone, mum.

MARIE

Maybe you can borrow from someone?
What about this Val? *

DANNY

Don't you dare say her name. You and
your boyfriend need to leave her
alone, you get me? You know, I
actually thought you'd come back to
see me. Why do I always fall for it?

Danny opens the car door. *

MARIE

Danny, wait-

Too late. Tears sting Danny's eyes as he gets out of the car and
slopes off. He's done the right thing but it hurts. *

CUT TO:

27

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. LUNCH. 12:55 - DAY.

27

Donte sits at the table opposite stern-faced Kim and Joe.

KIM

I'm not going to labour on what happened. I think we all know your behaviour last week was unacceptable.

JOE

We understand you've been through a lot, and for that reason we'd like to look at supporting you in moving forward from everything.

KIM

We have a proposal.

Joe slides a leaflet across the table. Donte picks it up and reads. Anger Management - 12 week course.

DONTE

Is this a joke?

KIM

Not if you want to keep your job.

DONTE

You want me to sit and listen to hippy lectures about self-control, but she ran Chlo over and gets a fancy hamper and a pat on the back?

KIM

What happened to Chlo was a tragic accident Donte, and not Coral's fault. Good English teachers aren't easy to come by, I can't afford to lose her.

DONTE

I ain't doing no anger management.

KIM

It's non-negotiable.

DONTE

Fine then, forget it. Why would I wanna be in a place that cares more for killers than it does for people they've known for the last twenty years?

Donte stands, looking directly at Kim, then walks out. Kim is left exasperated.

CUT TO:

28

INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. LUNCH. 13:10 - DAY.

28

Samia, Caz, Millie, Tonya and NS CHEER SQUAD are practising the dance routine. Samia is tired and apologetic.

CAZ

So, we start once the audience are in. We do our bit, then we sit at the side and watch the game.

*

The girls nod as they get into position. Caz looks at Samia to lead, but Samia doesn't so she counts everyone in.

CAZ (CONT'D)

Okay so, hands on hips. Then five, six, seven, arms up.

They all strike a pose.

TONYA

Is the hair swish on six or seven?

CAZ

I thought it was six, what did you think Sami?

Samia is distracted. Her heart's not in it.

SAMIA

I can't stop thinking about this stupid list. We need to do something. And Dean's turned Kels against me.

*

CAZ

Samia come on. You've been friends forever, you're gonna sort it out.

TONYA

Yeah you will. Right now we should sort this routine - don't wanna give the lads something else to laugh about.

*

Samia looks at Tonya and the girls. She can't let them down.

SAMIA

Hair swish on six.

CUT TO:

*

29

INT. BU MAIN SPACE. PERIOD FOUR. 13:27 - DAY.

29

Kelly Jo and Dean are settling down for lessons. Kelly Jo looks exhausted by it all.

DEAN

Here, saved you me last chuddy.

A small smile from Kelly Jo as she takes it.

KELLY JO

You're deffo not involved in this list thing then?

DEAN

I told you, I wouldn't dare. Don't even like half those lads.

KELLY JO

Right okay fine, whatever.

Kelly Jo goes to her booth, not entirely convinced. Dean sneaks his phone out of his pocket and texts Noel:

'Mate, you gotta prove this list thing weren't me.'

CUT TO:

30

OMITTED

30

31

INT. SCHOOL GYM. PERIOD FOUR. 13:48 - DAY.

31

Lindon is showing Jamie around. The basketball lads are warming up. Erica is in the background, taking a call.

LINDON

Absolutely, they're so dedicated. I'd love to get some new equipment so we can step things up a gear.

Kai collars Danny as they stretch.

KAI

Well? How'd it go with mama Lewis?

DANNY

Don't ask.

Lindon blows his whistle.

LINDON

Boys, circle up, this is Jamie Bedford from the Manchester Basketball Foundation.

Preston and Jake rush over, the other lads follow.

JAKE

Afternoon Mr Bedford, I'm Jake West, Captain -

PRESTON

Of the reserves. I'm Preston, I'm leading the A team.

Lindon would intervene but he sees Hannah enter. She glares at him from across the room, Lindon panics, then smiles at Jamie and Erica.

LINDON

I'll be right back. Lads, why don't you tell Jamie about our training process.

Lindon reluctantly jogs over to speak to Hannah.

LINDON (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

HANNAH

We need to talk.

LINDON

What about?

HANNAH

Oh I don't know, maybe the divorce
that you forgot to tell me about?

LINDON

What? Who-

Lindon looks pulls Hannah further to one side, out of earshot.

HANNAH

Don't worry, Ms Campbell filled me in.
What was the plan Lindon, get the kids
to pass me the papers?

LINDON

Of course not. I'd never want that.

HANNAH

Then what do you want? Because you
asked me to put my career on hold so
we could have a family, but now you've
walked out on us.

LINDON

That's not fair. I haven't walked out
on the kids. I see them as much as I
can.

HANNAH

It's not the same as a bedtime story
every night.

LINDON

The dust hasn't settled yet. We need
to get into a new routine. Can we do
this another time? I'll call you
tonight, I promise.

HANNAH

Don't bother.

Shattered and numb Hannah walks out. Lindon is mortified as he turns back to Erica and Jamie. How is he gonna come back from this?

CUT TO:

32

INT. MODERN LANGUAGES CLASSROOM. PERIOD FOUR. 13:58 - DAY. 32

Samia is totally uninterested in the NS TEACHER's lesson. Noel is sat on the next desk and whispers to Samia.

NOEL

It weren't Dean, you know. What started the Hot or Not thing.

SAMIA

Bore off Noel, you're not honestly defending him?

NOEL

Swear down. I can prove it.

SAMIA

Why? Did you start it?

NOEL

Me? Nah, no way. I've got little sisters man.

SAMIA

Who was it then?

NOEL

Don't know, but we can find out.

Noel puts his hand up.

NOEL (CONT'D)

Sir, we need to speak to Ms Campbell before the basketball, school council stuff.

*

The NS Teacher looks suspicious but gives their approval.
Samia and Noel leave.

*

*

CUT TO:

*

*

33

INT. SCIENCE/GYM CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR. 14:10 - DAY.

33

Danny is filling up his water bottle when Valerie walks past.

VALERIE

Hey, how'd it go? Did you get to talk to her?

DANNY

Sorta.

VALERIE

And?

DANNY

She's not changed. I was stupid to think she could.

VALERIE

Sometimes these things don't work out. You mustn't stop caring or trying.

DANNY

What's the point though?

VALERIE

You did what you thought was right by giving her a chance. But whatever she said or did, that's on her. You're only responsible for your actions. The best thing to do right now is focus on the people who love and care for you.

Danny looks at her, vulnerable and grateful.

CUT TO:

34

INT. GYM SHOWER/CHANGING ROOMS (BOYS). PERIOD FOUR. 14:15 34
DAY.

Having snuck in, Samia and Noel look around the changing rooms for evidence. Samia grabs one of the coats on the pegs and raids the pockets: Gum, a rubber band ball, tissue fluff. Unhelpful.

Noel rummages through a bag, just a stinky towel. Then he starts picking the lock at one of the lockers.

SAMIA
Weever teach you that did he?

NOEL
It's always dodge this one.

They rummage through the locker. BINGO. A phone! Samia grabs it. The screen wakes up to show a photo of a cocker spaniel with thug life glasses and a 'phat dooby' photoshopped on.

SAMIA
Enter passcode. Erm - 1,2,3,4?

Noel shrugs. Samia tries it. Passcode rejected.

SAMIA (CONT'D)
Nope, erm, all zeros?

Samia tries it. Rejected again.

SAMIA (CONT'D)
One attempt left.

NOEL
Give it here.

Samia passes Noel the phone. Noel looks at the phone, thinks for a second then has a brainwave and types in a code.

NOEL (CONT'D)
Yes! We're in.

Samia looks baffled.

NOEL (CONT'D)
Spaniel innit, Leyton's the only lad
with a spaniel and his birthday's the
day after my mum's.

SAMIA
Why do you even know that?

Noel ignores her and passes the phone back to Samia who scrolls through a list of numbers in the group chat.

NOEL

Click the top for admin.

Samia does so and the colour drains from her face as she sees the name that pops up: Preston Walters.

NOEL (CONT'D)

See what did I tell you? Nowt to do with me or Dean is it?!

Ignoring Noel, Samia looks for something to make sense of why Preston is involved in the group. As she scrolls through the recent messages, they appear on screen as she reads them:

- Yeah fit but psycho.

- Layla Ghafoor, don't bother. Never puts out.

Samia keeps scrolling until she sees a number she recognises and stops.

- Third base with SC. That girl is thirsty for a bit of the P.

Samia feels the ground disappear from beneath her, as Noel hears voices outside. Noel grabs the phone and shoves it back in the dodgy locker.

NOEL (CONT'D)

Hide.

Samia rushes into a toilet cubicle as some NS lads enter saying 'Did you see Mr King's bird though?' 'Oh yeah, proper fit.' The lads pass the toilet cubicle.

NOEL (CONT'D)

Wouldn't go in there lads. Someone's curled out a beast.

The lads laugh, grab some stuff out of their lockers before heading back out. Hearing they've gone, Samia opens the cubicle door and comes out feeling like a different person than the one who went in.

NOEL (CONT'D)

So? See what you needed to?

Samia gives the briefest hint of a nod and keeps walking.

NOEL (CONT'D)

(shouts after her)

Oh yeah cheers Noel, soz I ever
thought you and your mate were a
couple of sexist pigs! Welcome
Sami, happy to do your dirty work
any time.

Samia barely hears him as she keeps walking: there is only
one person she needs to speak to.

CUT TO:

35

INT. SCHOOL GYM. PERIOD FIVE. 14:33 - DAY.

35

The gym hall is now busy with year 11, 12 and 13 students and a few teachers. Still in a state of shock, Samia enters and spots Preston warming up on the basketball court. She makes a beeline for him.

SAMIA

You lied to me.

PRESTON

What you on about?

SAMIA

You said you didn't know anything about this group!

Preston is suddenly uneasy.

PRESTON

Look babe, I'm warming up, can we-

SAMIA

(erupting)

I've seen it Preston! I know it was you who started the whole thing.

Alarmed, Preston looks around - worried everyone will hear.

PRESTON

It's not what you think....

It's too late - Lindon has heard the raised voices and comes over before Preston can say anymore.

LINDON

I don't know what is going on, but this is not the time for some tiff.

SAMIA

It's not a tiff. It's about this list...

LINDON

Right Samia, I said I would look into it but can it wait until after the game?

SAMIA

I don't care about the stupid game!

PRESTON

Samia please, you know how
important this is for me.

As Preston eyes her pleadingly, he quickly leads her away
from Lindon.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

(Aside)

I'm sorry babe, I am.

SAMIA

That doesn't cut it.

*

PRESTON

*

I messed up but I promise I'll
explain everything later. I just
need to play this game...Plus I
want to see you shake your pom-
poms.

He smiles in an attempt to make a joke, but Samia's not
laughing.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Please babe, just wait until after
the game. For me.

Lindon beckons Preston over for a team huddle, Samia gives a
small nod.

Preston heads off relieved. Samia walks back out, unsure how
she just got talked out of doing anything about it.

CUT TO:

36

INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD FIVE. 14:38 - DAY.

36

Samia walks into the drama studio, the weight of what she's just read and heard spinning through her mind. The cheer squad are getting ready. Smiling, giggling.

Time slows. We're in Samia's POV. She's rooted to the spot, watching them. Scraping their hair back into cutesy high ponytails. Rolling their skirts up to mini-skirts. Tying their tops at the waist like crop tops. Their playful laughter warps and gets louder until it's unbearable. Time snaps back to normal as Caz approaches.

CAZ

You're not ready.

SAMIA

I can't do this. I can't just go out there and smile, knowing what they're saying about us.

CAZ

Yes you can. We're not doing this for them, we're doing it for us.

SAMIA

Are we?

CAZ

Well I definitely am.

SAMIA

Preston reckons he can dig me out in his little chat and I'll just 'shake my pom-poms' and cheer him on like everything's fine.

TONYA

What? Preston's in that group?

SAMIA

He started it.

CAZ

I thought you said it was Weever?

SAMIA

I was wrong.

TONYA

No. He wouldn't- he-

SAMIA
I'm sorry Ton, I didn't think he
would either.

TONYA
Course he did. He thinks he can
talk his way out of anything.

CAZ
They all do.

SAMIA
Yeah well I'm not having it
anymore.

The girls are energised and ready to hear Samia's plan.

CUT TO:

37

INT. SCHOOL GYM. PERIOD FIVE. 14:55 - DAY.

37

Busy gym. Kim comes in and locks eyes with Lindon, unspoken tension between them. She spots Erica and Jamie and makes a point of moving over to them instead.

KIM

Erica, hi. And you must be Mr Bedford? I'm Kim Campbell, Head. Thanks for coming.

JAMIE

Great to be here. I can already see you've got some great lads. Lindon's really put them through their paces.

Lindon blows his whistle and the Basketball players gather round* as Lindon turns to address the crowd.

LINDON

Thanks everyone for joining us this afternoon. We're honoured to have some very special guests in.

He smiles at Erica and Jamie.

LINDON (CONT'D)

This is a friendly demo between our A team and the Reserves.

Preston squares up face to face with Jake.

LINDON (CONT'D)

At Waterloo Road, we strive for excellence. To be the best.

As he speaks, we move to intense close-ups of the basketball players. Psyched. Nostrils flaring.

LINDON (CONT'D)

Every one of these lads is focussed, committed, and disciplined. They have what it takes to go far in this sport.

Suddenly from nowhere - we hear a loud guttural roar. Almost a war cry.

BANG. The gym doors fly open. The Cheer Squad charge in. Full of feminine fury. Sports tops now untied and oversized. They storm the court - screaming and jeering.

The crowd go wild, but Lindon's uneasy and Preston's face falls.

In the centre of the court, the feral Cheer Squad stand proudly in their V formation. No pom-poms. Just rage. They start a hakka chant/routine.

CHEER SQUAD

You rate us,
You slate us,
So we're here to say,
It's not okay.
No, it's not okay.

As they continue to chant, some other NS GIRLS shove a3 sized cards at the boys with their own ratings on them: 'Just about a 2' 'Only a 4', etc.

CHEER SQUAD (CONT'D)

Don't look,
Don't touch,
Unless we say!

SAMIA

Did you hear us?!

CHEER SQUAD

We don't think it's okay.
Don't look,
Don't touch,
Unless we say!

The cheer squad hiss at the boys then turn to Samia who is stood centre court and addresses everyone.

SAMIA

I know today is a big day for a lot of you. And it has been for me too. Today I had my eyes opened.

(MORE)

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Today I learnt that some of the boys here think that scoring their female classmates - and even their teachers - on a Hot or Not list is just 'a bit of banter'. But it isn't.

(looking pointedly at Lindon)

We asked for help, more than once, but we were shoved to the side. We want to be heard and we want this to stop. Now.

The crowd cheers as Kim turns to an uncomfortable Lindon and realises from the look on his face that he must have known about this. Deciding to deal with him later, Kim marches to the centre of the court to talk to Samia and the girls away from everyone else.

KIM

Alright. That's enough.

(to the cheer squad)

I'm not sure what's happened exactly but let's go to my office and you can fill me in.

SAMIA

So it can be brushed it under the carpet?

KIM

No, no one is trying to cover this up...

SAMIA

(with a look to Preston)

You'd be surprised Miss...

KIM

...but these are serious allegations, and there is a way to go about things. Why didn't you come to me in the first place?

SAMIA

I tried Miss but you were busy, and Mr King kept saying he'd sort it.

LINDON

And I am going to deal with it - after the game.

SAMIA

(astounded)

You can't still be going ahead?

The basketball boys come over. Preston hangs back away from Samia, fuming.

JAKE

This is a big thing for us, why you trying to ruin it Samia?

TONYA

You're the ones in the wrong here.

This prompts both sides to start arguing their cases loudly and passionately. Danny and Kai look uncomfortable. In the midst of the chaos, Samia stalks off.

KIM

I think everybody needs to calm down.

Kim tries to reason with both the boys and girls when an alarm starts blaring out. Kim looks around to see where it is coming from and spots Samia standing by the fire alarm on the wall. Kim realises Samia is the one who has set it off.

CUT TO:

37 A

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 15.00 - DAY.

37 A

As the fire alarm continues to blare out, pupils pile into the main corridor, heading for the fire assembly points.

CUT TO:

38

EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FIVE. 15:05 - DAY.

38

The fire alarm can still be heard in the distance as pupils flood into the playground and assemble at their designated evacuation points.

Lindon walks Erica and Jamie out towards the car park, trying to make things right.

LINDON

I'm sorry, this is not what you came for but if you stick around, we'll get back to the game as soon as we can.

JAMIE

I can't mate, got somewhere to be.

LINDON

I know this looks bad, but it's nothing to do with their basketball and you've seen their potential.

ERICA

And I can assure you this sort of thing won't be happening again.

JAMIE

Alright. Next time you've got a decent fixture on, let me know and I'll see if I can come down.

Lindon's relieved as Jamie walks off.

In another part of the playground a group of the basketball players have gathered when the fire alarm finally stops. Kim emerges from the teacher's entrance and makes a beeline for them.

KIM

Right everyone, back to your classes please. Except the basketball lads. You need to come to my office immediately.

JAKE

Why are we getting it? Samia's the one who pulled the alarm!

KIM

I will deal with her later but right now I want to know all about this 'list'.

They are forced to follow her in.

KIM (CONT'D)
I hear you were kind enough to
include your teacher's in it. How
flattering.

CUT TO:

39

OMITTED

39

39A

INT. SCHOOL FOYER. PERIOD FIVE. 15.10 - DAY.

39A

Pupils stream back up the stairs and towards the main corridor as they head back to their classrooms. The corridors are rife with loud, chaotic gossip after the afternoon's events.

CUT TO:

39B INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:30 - DAY. 39B

Still in her cheerleading gear, a nervous Samia sits waiting to see Kim. The door opens and the dejected basketball team files out. Preston sees Samia and glares at her, but before he can say anything Kim pops her head out.

KIM
I'll see you now please Samia.

CUT TO:

39C

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:31 - DAY. 39C

Kim leads Samia into the room and takes a seat behind her desk.

KIM

So I've spoken to the boys involved. What they wrote was appalling and I've made it clear there is no room for that kind of attitude in this school.

SAMIA

Except it's everywhere apparently.

KIM

They've all been suspended for a week and if they do anything like this again they will be expelled.

SAMIA

Well that's a start at least.

KIM

But Samia, you should have come to me instead of taking matters into your own hands.

*

SAMIA

Made people realise what had been going on though, didn't it?

KIM

Yes, but now I have to discipline you too.

SAMIA

What?! You're kidding right?

KIM

You know setting off the alarm means an automatic spell in isolation.

SAMIA

So I get in trouble because I refuse to keep quiet about the way the boys in this school behave?

KIM

No one is trying to silence you
Samia.

SAMIA

It feels like that's all everyone
is trying to do.

KIM

No. I love that you stand up for
what you believe in. But you can't
start a riot every time you're
outraged, or else you're the one
who'll get labelled a trouble
maker.

SAMIA

Maybe it's the labels that are
wrong.

Kim struggles with this.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

You don't *have* to punish me.

KIM

You've left me no choice.

Samia feels utterly wronged.

CUT TO:

40

INT. FOYER. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:40 - DAY.

40

The hustle and bustle of NS pupils heading home for the day. Preston pushes through crowds to Samia.

PRESTON

My scholarship's screwed and I'm excluded. Happy now?

SAMIA

I got put in isolation.

PRESTON

Yeh well, not surprised after what you did.

SAMIA

It's all my fault is it? I made you talk dirty about us all, did I? Grow a pair, Preston.

PRESTON

I told you, I didn't mean any of it.

SAMIA

Then why say it?

Preston struggles to explain - he has no idea why he did it.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

I don't get it Preston. You placed a number on our bodies. On *my* body, face - why?

PRESTON

I was just - I dunno - you didn't have to turn everyone against me. You know Tonya won't even talk to me?

SAMIA

Can you blame her?

PRESTON

You're not even sorry?

SAMIA

No, I'm not. You've made me look a mug Preston. Going about saying all that stuff about me.

Her vulnerability and hurt starts to show.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

I don't know how you can - *I trusted you. Cheered you on. Gave you my everything. And you just -*

PRESTON

You've lost it-

She snaps.

SAMIA

Stop talking over me!

Preston is taken aback. Samia takes a deep breath and tries to compose herself.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

You, me, this, it's fake. It's a lie. And you know what, I - I can't do it anymore, I'm done.

An audible gasp from the NS pupils.

PRESTON

What?

SAMIA

If you can talk about me like that then make me feel like it's my fault, I don't even know who you are. We're done.

Samia turns and walks away, holding back tears with the bravest of faces, won't let him see that she's hurt.

CUT TO:

41

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:45 - DAY.

41

Donte has gathered his tools and is now leaving. He passes Nicky who is desperately trying to call Preston.

NICKY

Pick up you little- I swear to God
when I get my hands on you -

It goes to voicemail, she calls again. Donte approaches.

DONTE

Are you alright?

NICKY

Do I look alright? My little toad of a
son won't answer his phone.

Donte nods, not wanting to pry. Nicky clocks his tool bag.

NICKY (CONT'D)

You had your meeting then? Take it
they let you off.

*
*

DONTE

Not exactly. They said I can stick
around, but only if I go to anger
management.

NICKY

That's alright then isn't it?

DONTE

Are you kidding? It's insulting.

NICKY

You did smash up a teacher's car,
Donte. Don't you think that suggests
you've got a few things you need to
deal with?

DONTE

Haven't I dealt with enough?

NICKY

I didn't mean it like that. Just
saying, could be worth a try. If it
means keeping your job.

Lindon is walking past just at that moment and overhears. He looks at Donte, surprised, then walks off.

DONTE

Thanks for the advice, but I'm alright
as I am. Don't need none of that.

Donte skulks off, not wanting to be lectured any more. Nicky rolls her eyes and tries calling Preston again.

CUT TO:

42

INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:47 - DAY. 42

Preston and Kai grab their coats. Preston's phone rings. It's Nicky. He rejects the call.

PRESTON
Party still on?

KAI
Sure that's a good idea? You won't end up offending or sexually harassing anyone again will you?

PRESTON
I wasn't - look if you don't want me there, I won't bother.

KAI
Don't be such a melt, that's not what I said. I still don't get why you'd start a group like that.

PRESTON
It was just meant to be basketball chat...

KAI
(dubious)
If it was a basketball chat how come I didn't make the cut? Or Danny?

PRESTON
No it's....it was just a few of us to start with. Then some of the other lads joined too and I dunno - it got out of hand.

Preston's phone rings again. Nicky again.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Can we just get out of here?
Please?

Kai leads the way as Preston puts his phone in Aeroplane mode.

CUT TO:

43

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:50 - DAY.

43

Samia walks out, on edge after dumping Preston. Tonya joins her and clocks that Samia is struggling to smile.

TONYA

You alright?

SAMIA

Yeh, I'm sorry Ton, - me and Preston, we're done.

TONYA

I'd be raging if you didn't chuck him. Don't ditch me as well though will you?

SAMIA

Never.

TONYA

You spoke to our Kels yet?

Samia shakes her head with sadness.

TONYA (CONT'D)

You should.

SAMIA

I know... Hey you were badass out there today.

TONYA

So were you.

Nicky heads over to join them.

SAMIA

Defo worth a few days in isolation.

NICKY

Have you seen Preston? Miss Campbell tells me he's been suspended.

SAMIA

Yeah well, that's on him.

NICKY

Oh come on Samia, don't be like that.

SAMIA

Like what?

NICKY

Don't get me wrong, I'm raging he
let those boys talk about you and
Tonya like that...

TONYA

Too right.

NICKY

...but you could've just told him
to rein it in a bit, you didn't
need to cause all that drama.

SAMIA

I didn't cause anything. He's the
one that got himself in this mess.

NICKY

I know but-

SAMIA

But nothing. He's seventeen, he
doesn't need anyone making excuses
for him.

Offended by the way Samia is talking to her, Nicky heads off.
Tonya follows her mum but smiles back at Samia and makes a
heart shape with her hands.

Samia sees Kelly Jo walking towards the gates. She calls out.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Kels!

But Kelly Jo doesn't even look over. She puts her head down and
walks away. Samia is gutted.

CUT TO:

44

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:00 - DAY.

44

Lindon knocks, tail between legs.

LINDON

I - look I'm sorry, I didn't know the severity of Samia's allegations.

KIM

Would you have done anything if you had known?

LINDON

What did you want me to do? Call the game off?

KIM

Yes. Hold the boys accountable. But calling things off isn't really your style is it?

LINDON

What? Oh Hannah.

KIM

Yes. Hannah.

LINDON

Look I can explain.

KIM

Pretty sure she's the one that's owed an explanation, not me.

LINDON

Think you've already done that for me.

KIM

Woah. You told me you were getting a divorce. Didn't realise you'd not discussed it with her yet.

LINDON

I was going to - I'm just - I wanted to tread carefully.

KIM

You call last week treading carefully?

LINDON

Well - no but - She knows it's over.
It doesn't have to be a problem for
us.

KIM

How can it not? Do you really think I
want to be caught in the middle of
what is clearly a very messy marriage
breakup? Last week, us, it's a
mistake. Whatever it is, we can't do
it anymore. I wish that - but -

A knock. Wendy pokes her head in. Kim returns to no-nonsense
boss bitch.

WENDY

Sorry, but I've got Erica waiting.

KIM

No, Wendy it's fine. We're finished
here. Thanks.

Lindon bristles at the word 'finished'. Wendy smiles awkwardly
then lets Erica in. Lindon looks at Kim in disbelief, as she
greets thunder-faced Erica with a wide smile.

KIM (CONT'D)

Erica, sorry for the hold up, come in.

Ego in tatters, Lindon leaves, nodding at Erica as he passes.

CUT TO:

45

INT. KAI'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:20 - DAY. 45

Preston, Kai and Danny are drowning their sorrows. Preston scrolls Samia's 'insta': recent photo of her and the girls. #squadgoals #girlgang.

PRESTON
She's so up herself.

DANNY
You're one to talk.

PRESTON
The Samia I knew would never throw her bae under the bus like that.

DANNY
You don't know how lucky you are do you? To have someone in your life who cares so much about you.

PRESTON
She outed us to everyone. Murdered my chance at a scholarship.

DANNY
Cause you badmouthed her.

PRESTON
You're so desperate for a piece of her.

DANNY
She's not a quarter pounder, Preston.

PRESTON
Might as well be the way you drool over her.

Preston squares up to Danny. Danny looks to Kai, he doesn't want a fight.

DANNY
Steady on big man.

Preston lurches to Danny but he's stopped by Kai.

KAI
Alright Preston, let's get you some
fresh air.

Kai drags Preston to the back garden.

CUT TO:

46

EXT. KAI'S STREET. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:23 - DAY.

46

Samia leans on a wall waiting, checking her phone. Kelly Jo arrives. They're both dressed in casual party clobber and funky trainers. They see each other and stop. Silence.

SAMIA

Hey.

KELLY JO

Hey.

SAMIA

Thanks for meeting us.

KELLY JO

Shouldn't you be doing your essay?

SAMIA

I should but- I couldn't concentrate.
I wanted to -

KELLY JO

I heard about you and Preston. That
why you slid into my DMs?

SAMIA

No, not at all. I wanted to speak to
you - I was gonna text you earlier -

KELLY JO

You didn't.

SAMIA

I know but I - I didn't mean- I am -

KELLY JO

Go on. Say it.

SAMIA

I'm sorry.

KELLY JO

Right. And?

Samia is a bit taken aback. Kelly Jo isn't budging yet.

SAMIA

I was wrong. I just thought -

KELLY JO

That you knew what's best for me? You might if you actually listened to me, but sometimes it's like you've made your mind up about something before I've even spoke.

SAMIA

I know. Clearly, I don't even know what's best for myself. I'm sorry, Kels, I screwed up. I thought Dean was - I was sure - but I - well couldn't be more wrong could I? Now we all know who the real ratface mess is!

KELLY JO

Oh come on, Mr King's not that bad.

Samia looks at Kelly Jo who smiles now. She rushes to Kelly Jo and grabs her in the tightest hug.

SAMIA

Look, Dean's still a weasel but he's an honest weasel.

KELLY JO

He proper cracks me up.

SAMIA

I never had that with Preston.

KELLY JO

It's weird, you know I don't think I'd cope in the BU without him.

SAMIA

(smiles)

Kels and Weever sitting in a tree, never in a million years thought I'd see the day.

KELLY JO

Never thought I'd see you pop the fire alarm. Could have waited 'til I had maths though.

They smile at each other, but just then REECE and RYAN arrive.

RYAN

Don't suppose you know a guy called Danny Lewis? Is he around?

SAMIA
Could be in there.

Samia points to a house further down the road.

REECE
Do us a favour love, if you see him
let him know we're here to see him?

They head off down the street.

KELLY JO
You gonna let him get away with
that? Calling you 'love'. Sure you
don't wanna pom-pom him to death?

SAMIA
Alright! I think I'm done with
protest cheers for now. I'm not his
'love' though and he knows it!

Kelly Jo is impressed by this new Samia.

CUT TO:

47

EXT. KAI'S HOUSE. BACK GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:24 - DAY. 47

Kai and Preston are sat on the wall outside.

KAI

Right you chilled out now? Why don't you have summat to eat? Sober up. I can get you some chips.

PRESTON

Nah, I'll only throw them up later.

KAI

Okaaaay...

A moment of silence between them.

KAI (CONT'D)

I don't wana go on about it again, but all that stuff in the chat...You don't have to put on a front you know.

PRESTON

It's just banter, innit.

KAI

Banter?

PRESTON

What all the lads do.

KAI

Not all lads. You're not usually like that.

PRESTON

It's not what everyone thinks.

KAI

I think you play up to fit in, but there's more to you than that.

PRESTON

(suddenly more honest)

I should have said something about the messages before it got out of hand. I hated seeing what they were saying about Tonya.

KAI

Why didn't you then?

PRESTON

Guess I didn't want to stand out.

KAI

If you try too hard not to stand out
babe, you just end up fading away. So
drop the act.

Preston looks deeply into Kai's eyes. Kai is trying to work out
just how drunk Preston is.

PRESTON

You see me, don't you?

Preston puts his hand on Kai's cheek and leans in. Kai closes
his eyes as their lips touch. He's taken aback but goes with
it for a moment before he pulls away.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Sorry...you didn't like it?

KAI

Ha, no it's not that. But you're drunk
and this - Is this really what you
want?

PRESTON

Maybe.

Kai looks at Preston, but he's not sure what to think.

KAI

I need a drink.

Kai heads into the house, leaving Preston alone.

CUT TO:

48

INT. KAI'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:30 - DAY.

48

Music plays. Samia is stood with Kelly Jo. Dean passes Kelly Jo a drink.

DEAN

You both look proper peng tonight -
oh, am I allowed to say that?

SAMIA

Not exactly ideal but I'll let you off.

KELLY JO

He's a work in progress.

Kelly Jo pinches Dean's bum. Danny approaches Samia.

DANNY

Hey Sami, I heard about you and Preston. You doing OK?

SAMIA

I will be now he's in the past. Thanks Danny.

Samia smiles, there's almost something between them but then -

SAMIA (CONT'D)

Oh by the way. There were two lads looking for you outside.

Panic crosses Danny's face. He goes to the window. Samia heads out to the back garden.

CUT TO:

49

EXT. KAI'S HOUSE. BACK GARDEN. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:34 - DAY. 49

Preston is alone. Samia appears. Long awkward silence, then-

SAMIA

I keep waiting for you to apologise
but I don't think you're gonna, are
you?

PRESTON

Yeah, I'm sorry for - erm -

SAMIA

Lying, shouting, patronising me in
front of everyone?

PRESTON

Yeah that.

SAMIA

It's forgiven. Well not quite, but it
made me think. What's my essay about?

PRESTON

Eh?

Preston looks blankly at her.

SAMIA

Exactly. I know what a held ball is, a
hook shot, I don't even play
basketball. But you don't even hear
me. You never have.

PRESTON

I didn't know this science stuff was
so important to you.

SAMIA

Neither did I. I've been so invested
in this idea of our magic future that
I've not stopped to think what that
actually looks like for me. I don't
know what I want for my life, but it's
not this. You don't want me either.

This lands heavy with Preston, who's head is still whirring
after the kiss with Kai.

PRESTON
I'm sorry Samia.

SAMIA
It's okay. I'm okay. We had fun, and
I'm sorry if I ruined your chances
with the scout.

PRESTON
It's alright, he's coming back
again another time.

SAMIA
(shakes her head in
amusement)
Right, course he is. Well I hope it
works out. I want the best for
you...But I want the best for me
too.

Preston nods at her and slopes inside. Samia's phone pings.
A text from Kelly Jo: '**U ok hun? Where you at?**'.
Samia replies: '**I'm off home, essay to do. Love ya!**'

Samia takes a deep breath in, then lets out a huge sigh of
relief. She opens her eyes, looks up to the sky. Sees all the
possibilities for her bright future.

CUT TO:

50

EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:45 - DAY.

50

Erica is leaving her meeting with Kim just as Lindon is leaving for the day.

LINDON

Erica, I can only apologise for what you saw today.

ERICA

Truly disappointing. I'm not surprised the girl's took umbrage. You're lucky that coach has agreed to come back.

LINDON

It shouldn't have happened.

ERICA

For all your talk of discipline I expected you to have a better grip on your team.

LINDON

I'm not entirely to blame here.

ERICA

Then who is? Because it appears that disruptive behaviour and blatant disrespect is not only allowed to thrive, it's almost encouraged.

LINDON

It wouldn't be. Not if I had my say.

ERICA

I'm suppose to believe that after today? When will the pupils learn that actions have consequences?

LINDON

Not exactly easy when it's one rule for them and another rule for the staff. No consequences when caretakers smash up cars.

ERICA

Pardon?

LINDON

Oh, I thought you knew.

ERICA

No. And I'm now wondering what else
I'm left in the dark about at this
school.

Lindon is conflicted as he weighs up how to respond.

LINDON

Actually...have you got a minute?

As Erica looks intrigued, what is Lindon going to say?

CUT TO:

51

EXT. KAI'S STREET. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:47 - DAY.

51

Danny is coming out of the house to see REECE and RYAN, followed by a concerned Kai.

KAI

Woahhh Danny, party's only just started...where you go-

Kai sees Reece and Ryan and realises what's going on.

DANNY

(to Reece and Ryan)
You're not welcome here, get gone.

RYAN

Vinny tried to play nice by sending your mum.

REECE

We're not leaving 'til we've got Vinny's cash.

Kai looks at Danny, clocking that's what the 'talk' must've been about.

KAI

He hasn't got it lads, so you might as well move along.

RYAN

Who's your little pet Lewis?

Reece reveals a baseball bat that he had behind his back. Kai's eyes widen and he hangs back, but Danny steps forward.

DANNY

Leave him out of it.

REECE

Don't worry, not him we're after.

Reece rushes to Danny, baseball bat in the air. But Danny rugby tackles him to the ground. Reece drops the bat. Danny crawls to grab it, but Ryan is right on him.

Ryan yanks Danny up by his jacket. Danny flails as he gets to his feet when - BANG - Ryan elbows him in the jaw. Kai rushes to Danny, but Danny holds out an arm to get him to stay back.

Danny looks at Ryan. Rage in his eyes. He grabs him and nuts him right in the middle of the forehead. Ryan staggers back and stumbles to the floor.

But before Danny can catch his breath, Reece appears behind him. Time slows. Danny turns. Reece's fist is raised. Danny's eyes focus on the punch that's heading right for his face. But then - shock in Reece's eyes. Reece crumples to the floor, and we see Kai holding the baseball bat.

Time returns to normal. Ryan and Reece are on the ground. Danny and Kai stood above them.

DANNY

Run back to Vinny and tell him I don't owe him anything.

Ryan and Reece look like they might try to stand for Round Two, but Danny pulls out his knife. Everyone freezes.

KAI

Danny! No!

But Danny inches closer to them, a feral look in his eyes.

DANNY

Don't ever come near me, my mates, or this house again. Understand?

Terrified, Ryan and Reece scramble to their feet and scurry to their car. Danny watches them drive off. Kai stares Danny.

KAI

Why have you got a knife?

DANNY

I - I needed to know I could protect myself -

Kai holds out his hand and looks sternly to Danny.

KAI

Get caught with it, you're looking at 6 months minimum for possession. I'll get rid of it for good this time.

DANNY

But I -

KAI

I'm serious - what if they had a knife too? I can't be worrying about you getting shanked by your own blade. If you won't hand it over, we're done, I'm out.

Danny sees that Kai genuinely cares. He looks at the knife then puts it in Kai's open palm.

KAI (CONT'D)

Right, we're all cool.

(sees Danny's face)

It's done mate. There's no way they'll be coming back again anytime soon.

Danny gives a small smile in agreement, but there's a fear in his eyes that tells us he knows this is far from over.

END OF EPISODE