

# **WATERLOO ROAD**

## **SERIES 11A**

Episode #1107

Master Script  
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## **EPISODE #1107 - CHARACTER INDEX**

### **STAFF**

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

### **SENIORS**

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

### **JUNIORS**

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

### **GUEST**

ERICA  
VINNY MCCULLEN  
PC KHAN

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

INT ADMIN/WENDY'S  
AREA  
INT ASSEMBLY HALL  
INT BOY'S TOILETS  
INT BU MAIN SPACE  
INT CARETAKER'S  
WORKSHOP  
INT CLASSROOM  
(ANY)  
INT DRAMA/MUSIC  
STUDIO  
INT ENTRANCE  
CORRIDOR  
INT ENGLISH  
CLASSROOM (AMY)  
INT ENGLISH  
CLASSROOM (CORAL)  
INT FIRST FLOOR  
CORRIDOR  
INT FOYER  
INT HEAD TEACHER'S  
OFFICE  
INT KITCHENS  
INT LIBRARY/IT SUITE  
INT MAIN CORRIDOR  
INT MAIN  
ENTRANCE/SECURITY  
INT MAIN STAIRWELL  
INT MODERN LANGUAGES  
CLASSROOM  
INT SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM  
INT STAFF ROOM

### **ON LOCATION**

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EXT PRECINCT

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- 2.INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. KIM, WENDY, DANNY, VAL, ANGEL.
- 3.EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. DONTÉ, IZZY, CORAL.
- 4.EXT. SCHOOL GATES. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON, TONYA.
- 5.EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA, CAZ, MILLIE, DANNY, KAI, SAMIA, PRESTON, NS GIRLS.
- 6.EXT. STAFF ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL - DAY. AMY, KELLY JO.
- 7.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. REGISTRATION - DAY. KIM, JOE, LINDON, WENDY, ANGEL.
- 8.INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE - DAY. PRESTON, SAMIA, NS BASKETBALL TEAM.
- 9.INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (AMY). PERIOD ONE - DAY. AMY, CORAL, NS PUPILS.
- 10.INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD TWO - DAY. KAI, PRESTON.
- 11.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD TWO - DAY. WENDY, KIM.
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- 13.INT. STAFF ROOM. BREAK - DAY. NEIL, DONTÉ.
- 14.INT. BU MAIN SPACE. PERIOD THREE - DAY. LINDON, DEAN, KELLY JO, NS BU KIDS.
- 15.EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. PERIOD THREE - DAY. PRESTON, DONTÉ.
- 16.INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD THREE - DAY. KIM, CORAL.
- 17.INT. CARETAKER'S WORKSHOP. LUNCH - DAY. DONTÉ, PRESTON.
- 18.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. LUNCH - DAY. VAL, ZAYNE, DANNY, SAMIA, KAI, NS PUPILS.
- 19.OMITTED.
- 20.INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. JOE, DWAYNE, IZZY, TONYA, NS PUPILS.
- 21.EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. IZZY, TONYA, DONTÉ, PRESTON, JOE.
- 22.OMITTED
- 22A.INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. KIM, ERICA.
- 23.INT. BACKSTAGE. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DANNY, KELLY JO, SAMIA, KAI, VAL, NS STUDENTS.
- 24.OMITTED.
- 25.OMITTED.
- 26.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. KIM, ERICA, LINDON, VERITY, JAMILAH, NEIL, BU CLASS.
- 27 INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. PRESTON, KAI.
- 28.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. VAL, DANNY, VINNY, NOEL, DEAN.
- 29.EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. PRESTON.
- 30.INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. KIM, ERICA.
- 31.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DWAYNE, MILLIE, KAI, VAL, SAMIA, BU CLASS.
- 32.OMITTED
- 33.EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DANNY, VINNY.
- 34.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DEAN, DANNY, VINNY.
- 35.INT. MAIN CORRIDOR / FOYER. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DANNY, VINNY.
- 36.INT. FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DANNY.
- 37.INT. MAIN STAIRWELL. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. VINNY.

38.INT. FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. VINNY, DANNY.

39.INT. MAIN STAIRWELL. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. VINNY, DANNY, VAL.

40.INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. KIM, ERICA, WENDY.

41.EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. DONTE, CORAL.

42.INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. PRESTON, NICKY, NS CANTEEN STAFF.

43.INT. MAIN STAIRWELL / FOYER. PERIOD FOUR - DAY. VINNY, VAL, JOE, KIM, WENDY, NS PARAMEDICS, NS PUPIL, NS STAFF.

44.OMITTED.

44A.INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. KIM, DANNY, JAMILAH, VAL, JOE, PC KHAN, NS OFFICER, ANGEL.

45.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. LONDON, NEIL, SAMIA, KELLY JO, VERITY, ZAYNE, MILLIE, CAZ, WENDY, KAI, NOEL, DEAN.

46.OMITTED.

46A.INT. ENTRANCE CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. KIM, ERICA.

46B.INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. PC KHAN, DANNY, VAL, JOE, JAMILAH.

46C.INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. KIM, ERICA, VAL.

46D.EXT. VISITORS' CAR PARK. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. PRESTON.

47.INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. KIM, DANNY, VAL, PC KHAN, JOE, JAMILAH, SAMIA, NS POLICE OFFICER.

48.INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. SAMIA, JOE, LONDON, NEIL, VERITY, ZAYNE, MILLIE, CAZ, WENDY, KAI, NOEL, DEAN.

48A.INT. DEPUTY HEAD'S OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. LONDON, ERICA.

48B.INT. ADMIN/WEDNY'S AREA. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. KIM, VAL, JOE, LONDON, NEIL, ERICA.

49.OMITTED.

50.OMITTED.

51.OMITTED.

52.OMITTED.

53.OMITTED.

54.OMITTED.

55.OMITTED.

56.INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. AMY, TONYA, SHOLA, DWAYNE, NS TEACHER, NS PUPILS.

57.INT. FOYER. PERIOD FIVE - DAY. KIM, VAL, LONDON, JOE, SAMIA, KAI, CAZ, MILLIE, VERITY, DEAN, KELLY JO, NOEL, SHOLA, KELLY JO, DWAYNE, TONYA, AMY, NEIL, ZAYNE, VERITY, DONTE, VAL, NS PUPILS, PC KHAN, NS OFFICER.

58.OMITTED.

59.OMITTED

60.INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL'S). AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. CORAL, DONTE.

61.INT. BOY'S TOILETS. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON.

62.EXT. SCHOOL GATES. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. KAI.

62A.EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. DONTE, IZZY, AMY, TEACHER.

63.EXT. BENCH AREA. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. ERICA, LONDON.

64.INT HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. KIM.

64A.EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. PRESTON.

65.EXT. PRECINCT. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. SAMIA.

66.OMITTED.

67.OMITTED.

68.INT. POLICE STATION. CELL. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. DANNY.

69.EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY.

KIM, WENDY.

70. INT. CLASSROOM. AFTER SCHOOL - DAY. VAL.

1 **EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 07:25 - DAY.** 1

Early morning, empty playground... until an anxious DANNY  
marches at speed, heading purposefully for the main entrance.

VAL comes after him, having to jog to keep up.

VAL  
Danny. I do *not* run, on *principle*.

CUT TO:

2

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PRE SCHOOL. 07:27 - DAY.

2

KIM hasn't yet taken off her coat and is checking paperwork as Danny strides in, followed seconds later by Val.

DANNY  
Are they in, Miss?

KIM  
Have you not been home?

VAL  
Alexa, wake up the *entire* house at  
none o'clock...

DANNY  
Miss, my resit results. If I've  
failed I just want to go before  
anyone else gets in. No goodbyes.

Kim already knows that's what it's about. She holds up an envelope. She's a little nervous herself as she hands it to Danny. He hesitates. Passes it to Val.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
(anxious)  
Will you?

Val takes the envelope. Hesitates. Passes it to Kim.

KIM  
Seriously?

Kim takes a moment, then opens the envelope.

DANNY  
And don't do that thing where you  
pull a sad face like it's crap then  
do a big smile and say it's a pass.

KIM  
Would I?

Kim pulls out the results slip and reads quietly... then looks up at Danny; she pulls a sad face.

Danny nods, heart breaking, but it's only what he expected.

DANNY  
Thanks for giving me the chance.

As Kim passes the slip to Val, Danny turns and heads for the exit. Just as he gets there -

VAL  
A six and a seven!



Danny turns and stares at Val and Kim's gleeful expressions.

KIM  
A *six!* And a *seven!*

DANNY  
(indignant)  
I said not to do that!

Kim doesn't care, whooping.

KIM  
DANNY LEWIS YOU LITTLE STAR!

Kim and Val are so delighted they do a victory dance.

DANNY  
Miss. Miss. You do know you're  
embarrassing yourselves.

WENDY appears with ANGEL, pulling on her lead as she runs up to her owner joyously.

WENDY  
*I'm meant to be walking you!*

Danny makes a fuss of Angel and can't keep the big, broad grin off his face.

CUT TO:

3

**EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 08:13 - DAY.**

3

A wound-up DONTE walks in with IZZY.

IZZY

Yes I've got my kit, I told you three times.

DONTE

I told you to watch the way you're speaking.

IZZY

'Watch your temper', says the man who smashed up a car with a hammer.

DONTE

Drop it eh, Izzy.

IZZY

When did you say the anger management's starting? And can you get an earlier appointment?

Donte's not listening. He's seen the taxi by the entrance, and getting out of it, the reason for his mood: Coral.

DONTE

There she is...Pity she couldn't get a capable driver to bring her in at start of term, eh.

IZZY

Dad...

Coral sees Donte and Izzy looking at her. Self-conscious, she goes inside as quickly as she can.

DONTE

(to Izzy)

What?

IZZY

All the effort you put into being angry. Imagine what you could do if it went into something worthwhile.

Izzy stalks off towards school, leaving Donte to ponder that.

CUT TO:

4

**EXT. SCHOOL GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 08:14 - DAY.**

4

PRESTON and TONYA walk in. Preston's anxious and apprehensive (and carrying his red bag).

PRESTON

I just don't get the point of  
coming back in for one day of term.  
You could've brought home the work  
I've missed.

TONYA

Not a chance mate.

PRESTON

Me and the other lads are just  
going to get hassled.

TONYA

'Duh, maybe I shouldn't have been  
such a misogynist creep.'

PRESTON

Tonya!

TONYA

And if you think there's going to  
be a queue to replace Sami, think  
again. You're so cancelled.

Preston's downbeat, dreading what's waiting for him.

CUT TO:

5

**EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 08:15 - DAY.**

5

Danny's just told his news to a jubilant KAI.

KAI

A-ma-zing! I always thought you'd  
blow it!

Danny shoots him a grin, 'yeah right'.

KAI (CONT'D)

I'm actually in awe, bro. You got  
better grades than me.

DANNY

Wouldn't have happened without you.

KAI

No need to thank me, apart from an  
ASOS voucher *that* big. Nah - I'm  
just made up you've put all the  
rubbish behind you.

Danny looks less certain about that. Kai can tell and  
silently urges Danny to tell him.

DANNY

Vinny's boys could come back.

KAI

Bet they won't.

Danny nods, but he's still not sure.

KAI (CONT'D)

It's been a week. You're in the  
clear. You're playing in the end of  
term concert! Good times ahead!

And Kai grins wickedly as he calls to a passing SAMIA.

KAI (CONT'D)

SAMI! GUESS WHO WE'RE NOT GETTING  
RID OF?

SAMIA

You passed? YESSSSS!  
(reining herself in a bit;  
(MORE)

SAMIA (CONT'D)

tongue in cheek)

I mean, only in case we ever need  
someone to show Preston up on the  
basketball court.

DANNY

(laughing)

Yeah, I know my place.

KAI

(as casual as possible)

Is the ex still due back today?

SAMIA

You're asking the wrong person.

DANNY

You doing alright, yeah?

SAMI

Ever heard people say it's harder  
being the one who finishes it?

(beat; with a grin)

Those people are *lying*! I'm doing  
great!

DANNY

(smiling, teasing)

You always were too deep for him.

SAMIA whacks him playfully, starting a playfight.

SAMIA

Funny. You're funny!

Across the playground, an uneasy Preston watches Samia and  
Danny together, their easy going physicality, their fun and  
laughter.

Kai sees him looking, and fires a discreet, small wave.

That just makes Preston self-conscious, and he looks away,  
pushing on in to school.

Kai has no doubt that he's just been blanked.

CUT TO:

6

**EXT. STAFF ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 08:17 - DAY.**

6

AMY walks to the doors as KELLY JO intercepts.

KELLY JO  
Miss, you've got to read this.

Kelly Jo presses an exercise book into Amy's hands.

AMY  
Erm - I'm running late, Kelly Jo -

KELLY JO  
I need to know if it's any good.

AMY  
(nonplussed)  
If it's homework you should really  
ask your own...  
(tails off as she reads)  
Frog, froghead, dickhead, slag  
Drip drip drip from a leaky tap  
She should cover her face with a  
twenty pee Bag  
For Life, drip-drip and it's  
getting damp -  
(breaking off)  
A poem? Did you write this?

KELLY JO  
I was thinking about the boys and  
their stupid list, and it was  
making me mad and I just had to get  
it out my head somehow. I didn't  
know it was a poem!

AMY  
(flicks over several  
pages)  
Quite a long poem...

KELLY JO  
You know me, once I get started I  
can't stop! It's, like, as you go  
on it's just drips but then by the  
end the water's over me head.

Amy looks up at her, moved by this.

AMY  
(reading on, genuine)  
It's good. Really good.

KELLY JO  
Honest? Good enough to read out in  
the concert?

Amy looks up again in surprise.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

Mr King said the BU kids could go  
watch, seeing as it's end of term.  
But what's the point of writing  
stuff down if no one gets to hear  
it?

AMY

I'll talk to Miss Chambers. I'm  
sure she can fit you onto the bill.

Kelly Jo whoops with delight.

KELLY JO

Yes! I could be, like, the Poet  
L'Oreal of the school!

AMY

Laureate...

KELLY JO

What?

AMY

Never mind.

Kelly Jo heads off with a spring in her step.

CUT TO:

7

INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. REGISTRATION. 08:35 - DAY.

7

Kim pets Angel as JOE and LINDON come in.

KIM

Yes, Danny is a clever boy isn't he? Yes he is! Oh yes he is!

JOE

You must be chuffed to bits.

KIM

(with a glance at Lindon)  
And when you think how many people had doubted him.

Lindon's irked; he knows she means him.

KIM (CONT'D)

He's playing in the end of term concerts today as well. Who'd have thought. Some parents are coming in too don't forget.

Wendy comes in.

WENDY

Erica for you.  
(to Angel)  
Come on, wouldn't want you barking at the nice LEA lady would we?  
Let's go to that little room in the library you like.

Wendy takes Angel out.

JOE

Thought she didn't like that dog?

KIM

(to phone)  
Erica? I hope you've seen the resit results? Seventy-five per cent pass rate. Some amazing individual achievements, you remember Danny Lewis obviously -

ERICA

(VO)

I was actually calling to ask if we could push our ten A.M. back.

KIM

We've got a big concert happening - there's a few sittings if you wanted to catch one of them?

(MORE)



KIM (CONT'D)

Or else I can ask Wendy to book in  
a slot early next term -

ERICA

(VO)

It really needs to be today.  
Some issues have come to light.

KIM

What issues?

ERICA

(VO)

Can we say around lunch? I take it  
my car'll be safe from a hammering?

She hangs up. Kim's in shock as she processes her words. And  
Lindon... Lindon wants the ground to open up.

KIM

(confused)

Does she know about Donte?

JOE

Someone's grassed.

Kim clocks Lindon's awkwardness.

KIM

(massive disappointment)

Lindon...

Lindon knows there's no point denying.

KIM (CONT'D)

(blood boiling)

Give us a minute please, Joe.

Joe fires a scathing look at Lindon as he goes out.

KIM (CONT'D)

So when exactly did you stick the  
knife in?

LINDON

It wasn't a planned thing, I -

KIM

Oh right, just a *spur of the moment*  
power grab?

LINDON

I didn't realise she hadn't been  
told. Then she wanted to know what  
*else* she hadn't been told -

KIM

So you spilled your guts?

LINDON

It's a professional matter, nothing  
but -

KIM

Oh, professional. See me, I'd call  
a massive betrayal by someone I'd  
slept with *pretty personal*.

LINDON

The problem with you, you make  
*everything* personal. This wasn't  
personal - this was about what's  
best for the school.

KIM

It's about what's best for you. It  
always is.

Lindon has the decency to look embarrassed. Kim's furious -  
this hurts; professionally and personally.

CUT TO:

8

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:00 - DAY.

8

The bell goes for period one. Preston, with red bag, walks down the corridor, on edge, feeling that all eyes are on him. He's relieved when he sees some of his basketball team mates.

PRESTON

Boys. Good week off? You heard I finally got the fun sponge off my back? Result or what?

The lads look uncomfortable; they've seen, a moment before Preston, that Samia is at her locker, and has heard it all.

SAMIA

The way I remember it, the fun sponge dumped you.

PRESTON

(trying to ride it out)  
See, never could take a joke.

The lads move away, sheepish, none backing Preston up.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Boys -

SAMIA

Still not learned your lesson then?

PRESTON

My name's dirt cos of you.

SAMIA

You did that yourself.

They're raising their voices now and people around are beginning to pay attention.

PRESTON

Says the one throwing herself at Danny Lewis.

SAMIA

What? Danny's a *mate*.

PRESTON

It's just sad.

SAMIA

Well luckily, I don't care what you or anyone else thinks of me. Pity you can't say the same.

Samia walks away, Preston getting a few jeers and 'wooo's' from the onlookers as he absorbs her closing shot.

CUT TO:

9

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (AMY). PERIOD ONE. 09:30 - DAY.

9

Amy's teaching year 7 as Coral taps on the door. Amy can't quite hide her dismay as she sees her, even though she quickly covers as she comes to the door.

AMY

Coral...Lovely to see you back!

CORAL

Sorry to interrupt. I've been getting my classroom straight -

AMY

Is it about the smell? I did spill a milky coffee in there while I was covering you, I tried to get it out but if it's lingered -

CORAL

No, it's not that -

AMY

I might have left the top off one of your glue sticks -

CORAL

I found these in my desk, that new play at the Royal Exchange. Forgot I'd booked them, and I can't go now, so I wondered if you - ?

Coral offers her a pair of tickets. Amy's surprised, and almost wondering what's the catch.

AMY

Er... I'd love to. But are you sure you can't -

CORAL

I really can't. Besides, I wanted to... Make amends for... Anything I may have done.

AMY

(awkward)

Don't worry, I get it.

Coral half nods, but there's something sad about her smile as she turns away and heads back to her own classroom.

AMY (CONT'D)  
(studying tickets)  
'Restricted view'.

She shrugs, whatever, goes back to class.

CUT TO:

10

INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD TWO. 10:17 - DAY.

10

Kai's doing coursework as Preston enters. He realises he has to choose between deliberately sitting next to Kai or deliberately not doing so. Tentatively, he sits about a space away. Both of them keep their eyes forward.

PRESTON  
(re the coursework)  
PE? What have I missed?

KAI  
EAPI. We have to evaluate another  
player's performance.

Preston nods, getting out his textbook.

KAI (CONT'D)  
I could only give you a seven at  
best for technique, but then again  
it was just a drunken mistake, so.

Preston's conscious of the other people around.

KAI (CONT'D)  
Don't worry, I know. 'Never  
happened'.

Preston moves closer, so he's next to Kai. He takes a moment to find the courage to reply. Sami's words from the locker scene are ringing in his ears.

PRESTON  
It wasn't... a mistake.

KAI  
It's been a week and I'm still  
waiting for a reply to my text.

PRESTON  
I'm just... trying to get my head  
round things is all.  
(beat)  
Maybe we could talk about it...  
after school?

Kai considers - part of him really wants to... but:

KAI  
I heard about the total burn Sami  
gave you at the lockers. And now  
you're running back to me?

Preston looks dismayed.

KAI (CONT'D)  
I'm first team. Not the sub.

Kai focuses on his work, leaving Preston reeling from another rejection.

CUT TO:



11      INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD TWO. 10:26 - DAY.      11

Wendy drops a pile of folders in front of a seething Kim.

WENDY

All the stats you can eat, plus the  
pupil work we pulled out for  
teacher assessment.

KIM

Excellent. Whatever arguments Erica  
comes out with, I intend to  
destroy.

Wendy eyes Kim, who picks up the folders with intent: she  
means business.

CUT TO:

12 **OMITTED**

12

13

**INT. STAFF ROOM. BREAK. 11:15 - DAY.**

13

NEIL is making tea as Donte comes to fill his flask. The two give each other awkward side-eye. Donte finds the communal teabag box empty. Neil looks, considers for a moment. Then, very tentatively, like he's offering up his life savings, holds out a tin labelled MR GUTHRIE'S DO NOT TOUCH.

NEIL  
Loose leaf?

Donte looks at the tub, then at Neil, incredulous.

NEIL (CONT'D)  
Peace offering.

DONTE  
As long as it's wet.

Donte takes the tea. He piles a few spoonfuls straight into his flask.

NEIL  
You have to infuse it, preferably  
twice or -  
(sees the challenging look  
on Donte's face)  
It'll be fine.

Donte nods, filling the flask with hot water.

NEIL (CONT'D)  
Sorry again for... you know... the  
misunderstanding.

Donte looks at him sceptically, 'misunderstanding'?

NEIL (CONT'D)  
(sheepish)  
By which I mean... blatant lie...

DONTE  
Who hasn't pretended that their  
wife was dead, and lied to an  
entire grief counselling group,  
just cos they're embarrassed...

NEIL  
(embarrassed)  
Yeah, OK -

DONTE  
I mean we've all been there -

NEIL  
(nouty)  
OK.

DONTE  
I shouldn't have kicked off. Been  
doing that a lot lately.

NEIL  
It's a sensitive subject for you.

DONTE  
Our Iz says I should put my energy  
into something positive.

NEIL  
I've renewed an old interest in  
drawing maps of fantasy worlds that  
I make up in my own head -

He sees the look Donte's giving him.

NEIL (CONT'D)  
Or something else.

Thoughtful Donte pours tea and swigs it down, but finds  
himself with a mouth full of grit and quietly spits it back  
into the cup.

CUT TO:

14

**OMITTED**

14

15

**EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. PERIOD THREE. 11:48 - DAY.**

15

Preston's found a quiet spot near a large mobile bin and Coral's car, and is about to binge on biscuits from his red bag. Suddenly he sees Donte coming and is quick to stuff the packet back in his bag just in time.

DONTE

This is out of bounds, you know.

PRESTON

Just going.

Donte has the sense that something isn't quite right.

DONTE

(calling him back)

Preston. You alright?

PRESTON

Why wouldn't I be?

DONTE

No reason, happy people are always hanging out at bins on their tod.

PRESTON

(conceding)

No-one's had the 'welcome back' banner out, if you get me.

DONTE

Oh I do, mate. I'm still waiting for mine an' all. The list, yeah?

Preston shrugs: yeah.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Embarrassing. Unkind. Rude. Dumb.

(beat)

But. So was I, most days at school. Point is you screw up, you don't do it again.

PRESTON

Not sure everyone's that forgiving.

DONTE

Well. I can be. Especially when I need help. Bring that bin over, eh? Need help clearing this before it's towed.

Preston's frustrated, just wanting to be left alone, but does as he's asked. Donte is sweeping up bits of glass and debris from under the car and throwing it into the bin.

PRESTON

Can't believe they're making you  
sort it, when it's the car that...

Preston notices something else in the bin.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Oh, that's priceless...

Preston pulls the Thought Tree (from Amy & Fred's workshop)  
out of the bin.

DONTE

What is it?

PRESTON

The Thought Tree. That drama guy  
brought it in. Think it was meant  
to help you express yourself. Kelly  
Jo heaved it out the window,  
remember?

DONTE

What were you *supposed* to do with  
it?

PRESTON

Write things on it. Hopes...  
wishes... I dunno.

DONTE

What, and the tree makes them come  
true?

PRESTON

It was drama - the tree probably  
makes them into an interpretative  
dance.

Donte examines the tree thoughtfully, an idea taking shape.

DONTE

Want to help with a real project?

PRESTON

I - I was just going to -

DONTE

Go and hang about by yourself? Come  
on, it'll do you good.

Preston allows himself to be distracted from thoughts of  
bingeing and finds himself agreeing.

CUT TO:

16 INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD THREE. 12:00 - DAY. 16

Kim finishes making some furious notes as Coral takes a seat.

KIM

Sorry, didn't pick the easiest day  
for your back to work review.

CORAL

Is there ever an easy day?

KIM

Hopefully we can make it as  
painless as possible for you to  
start back. I was thinking, take  
some A-level responsibilities off  
you for next term, just while you  
get your head back into -

CORAL

Can I stop you, Kim? I don't think  
I'll be back next term.

KIM

If you need some more time, then -

CORAL

I don't think I'll be back at all.

KIM

I've told Donte he has to find a  
way to work with you.

CORAL

But I've got to find a way to work  
with him. And whether he says it or  
not, I know what he's thinking.  
Izzy too, how is it fair on her?

KIM

We can timetable around that.

CORAL

You can't timetable around grief.  
I've already started clearing my  
classroom. I'll make sure all my  
handover notes are finished this  
afternoon.

KIM

I can't afford to lose you. Donte's  
lucky to still have a job.



CORAL

I don't *want* him out of a job -  
he's been through enough cos of me.  
So I'll go.

A gutted Kim can see Coral has made up her mind.

CUT TO:

17

**INT. CARETAKER'S WORKSHOP. LUNCH. 12:31 - DAY.**

17

The lunch bell goes as Donte and Preston carry pieces of Coral's car in.

PRESTON

You sure this is alright?

DONTE

The cars being scrapped, not like they'll notice if a few bits are missing. Right. You take *this*

(a file)

and get the rough edges off that.

(a car part)

And after that we get to hammer stuff, and if that don't make you feel better nothing will.

Donte looks for other bits he can use around the workshop.

PRESTON

What are we making?

DONTE

You'll see.

Preston hesitantly gets down to work.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Your mum told me off, you know. Thinks I'm letting myself down.

PRESTON

I know that speech by heart.

DONTE

It's different. With me she's seeing I'm more of an idiot than she thought. You, she knows you're not an idiot. She doesn't like you being something you're not to impress people who *are* idiots.

PRESTON

Maybe I'm not who my mum thinks I am.

DONTE

I think she just wants you to be yourself, mate.

Preston thinks about that.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Your mum's not daft you know. She's really helped me lately. Might give you a rough ride sometimes but she's always there for you, eh?

PRESTON

You're not softening me up to tell me, like, you and mum, are you, cos - ew.

Donte gives him a disdainful look and passes him a hammer.

DONTE

Here. Hit something, will y'?

Preston grins as Donte begins to hammer a sheet of metal, and Preston joins in.

CUT TO:

18

**INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. LUNCH. 12:34 - DAY.**

18

The hall is set up for the concert; Val's directing pupils, amongst them Zayne.

VAL

A running order on every seat please. You'll need to do this before the next year group comes in for their showing, too.

ZAYNE

Miss, are you *sure* there's no time for my jokes? What did one butt-cheek say to the other - (*BUTT-CHEEK*)

VAL

Next time, Zayne.

Zayne huffs as he goes to distribute the running orders.

He passes Danny in the empty audience seats rehearsing his guitar piece: something unexpectedly classical (TBC). It's a challenge and he stumbles in parts but he's totally focused.

He doesn't notice when Samia comes up to watch, enjoying seeing him so into it, so talented.

He eventually glances up and sees her smiling at him. He stops playing immediately, with an embarrassed smile.

DANNY

It's bad, right?

Kai comes up to join them.

SAMIA

No way, it's brilliant.

KAI

Sounds almost as awesome as it would with me on vocals.

SAMIA

As if he's gonna let you steal the show!

KAI

You're stage manager, what do you know about art.

DANNY

I'm so gonna mess up.

SAMIA

You won't. If you can do grades  
like that in a term you can do  
anything. You got this.

Samia heads off backstage. Danny watches her go, then  
realises Kai is looking at him with a knowing smile.

DANNY

What?

KAI

I know. 'Just friends'.

DANNY

Yeah, and?

KAI

You two don't belong in the friend  
zone. Everyone in the friend zone's  
looking at you going 'those two can  
get lost, bet they can't keep their  
hands off each other.'

DANNY

Mate, she's only just broken up  
with Preston. Don't see you moving  
in on *him*.

Kai hesitates over whether to tell him about their kiss when  
Danny's phone buzzes. Danny looks at the caller ID and cuts  
it off.

KAI

Who's that?

DANNY

(pensive)

Did you get rid of the knife yet?

KAI

Danny...

DANNY

What d'you do with it?

KAI

(embarrassed to admit)

It's in my locker.

DANNY

For real?

KAI

I don't know what to do with it. I took it to the canal, I was about to sling it and someone came along and then I thought what if there's cameras, and then I was going to put it in the bin and I thought a binman could hurt himself on that and... I dunno...

DANNY

It's fine, I'll have it back. I know where to put it.

KAI

No way.

DANNY

I don't want you getting found with it do I?

KAI

That's not why you're asking.

They look at each other - Danny frustrated, Kai resolute.  
Who's going to win out?

CUT TO:

19 **OMITTED**

19

20

**INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR. 13:20 - DAY.**

20

As the end of lunch bell goes, Joe's on duty in the corridor hurrying pupils along.

JOE

Hurry up to your classrooms please.

He sees DWAYNE chatting with Izzy.

JOE (CONT'D)

Straight to where you need to be,  
please Dwayne - and you Izzy.

Embarrassed Dwayne eye rolls before heading off. As Izzy heads to follow him, Tonya runs to catch her up.

TONYA

Iz! You gotta come!

IZZY

But I've got to get to lesson -

TONYA

It's your dad and our Preston!

Joe notices as Izzy breaks away with Tonya and run down the corridor - others following their lead.

JOE

Hey!

\*

Joe follows after them.

\*

CUT TO:



21

**EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FOUR. 13:23 - DAY.**

21

Izzy sneaks out with Tonya.

IZZY

Where are we going though -

She stops short as she sees it: a tall, spiky structure welded together from parts of Coral's car. Donte and Preston are securing it in position. Other staff members and pupils have gathered to watch in confusion/amusement. Izzy stares at it in bafflement: *what is **that**?*

Donte and Preston stand back, pleased. Joe comes out.

\*

JOE

Donte - just - what?

TONYA

Is that... Miss Walker's car?

\*

DONTE

Parts of it. In memory of Chlo. A Wishing Tree. I want people to write things on it: good thoughts or wishes for the school - like Chlo's animal therapy idea, or new computers, or whatever - and I want to raise funds for them. A focus for improving life at Waterloo Road. All in Chlo's name.

\*

\*

\*

Donte throws an arm around Preston's shoulder.

DONTE (CONT'D)

Couldn't have done it without this one here.

Preston smiles, pleased with himself.

DONTE (CONT'D)

How's that for effort, eh Iz?

Izzy can't help but melt at that, tearing up. 'Oh dad.'

IZZY

You're mad, you.

But it's said with affection as she hugs Donte.

JOE

Right, everyone - please head back inside.

Izzy runs in with Tonya. The other onlookers disperse.

\*

JOE (CONT'D)

Donte - how stable is it? Do you  
want me to lie awake at night  
having health and safety panics?

PRESTON

Come on, Sir. It's awesome.

JOE

Go on, in you go.

Preston heads off.

JOE (CONT'D)

(to Donte)

No one can say your heart's not in  
the right place. I love what it  
stands for.

DONTE

So as a permanent thing? To raise  
funds? It's a yes?

JOE

It's not a no... But... You'd have  
to register it as a proper charity.  
Find trustees. Write a governing  
document. Then all the admin  
involved in running it.

DONTE

Eh? I can't even log on to my  
online banking, never mind that!

\*

JOE

I didn't mean to... [upset you]  
... it's obviously made by someone  
who loves Chlo very much.

\*

\*

\*

\*

DONTE

Sorry, I shouldn't have snapped...  
I just wish I didn't feel so angry  
all the time.

\*

\*

\*

\*

He close his eyes, maybe for the wish, maybe to force back  
tears.

\*

JOE

You've got your wishing tree now,  
Donte. Why don't you put it to use?

Donte looks at him.

JOE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Cheesy I know.

Joe leaves Donte alone, who looks at the tree reflectively.

CUT TO:

22

**OMITTED**

22

22A

**INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD FOUR. 13:38 - DAY.**

22A

Kim comes out of her office to a waiting, impatient ERICA -  
but Kim isn't going to let her get a word in:

KIM

Erica. Sorry to keep you waiting.  
I just have to open the first end  
of term concert. I'm sure you'd  
like to sit in.

She gestures at the door - after you. Erica swallows down her objections, and reluctantly does as she says.

CUT TO:

23

**INT. BACKSTAGE ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR. 13:40 - DAY.**

23

Danny waits nervously in the wings while Samia organises performers. Kai's nearby, amidst kids doing their make-up, styling his hair as if it's him going on stage. Danny is visibly anxious.

KAI

Anyone fallen ill yet so I can take their place and save the show at the last minute?

SAMIA

(ignoring him; to Danny)  
So what you doing tonight, you must be celebrating?

KAI

You could always take him out.

DANNY

Bro -

KAI

Two friends, going for a friendly pizza, as friends, in a friendly way.

SAMIA

(indicating Kai's hairbrush)  
Do you want to throw that hairbrush at him or shall I?

Val calls over, from where she's helping a year seven kid, guitar strings all over the place.

VAL

Danny? Have you seen the spare strings?

Danny goes over to help, leaving Samia with Kai.

SAMIA

Why aren't you *in* the show?

KAI

They told me it's either basketball or singing. Did they learn *nothing* from High School Musical?

SAMIA

So we'll *all* go for pizza, yeah?

KAI

How do you know I haven't got a better offer?

SAMIA

Spill, then.

KAI

(hesitant)

It's something and nothing... This guy, he's... got a complicated life...

SAMIA

Who hasn't?

KAI

I need someone who can give full attention to *my* complicated life.

SAMIA

That I can believe... Maybe you're the one making it complicated?

(calls out)

Verity. You should be ready.

Kelly Jo runs in, super-excited.

KELLY JO

Guess what! I'm in the show!

Samia is delighted and they hug.

KELLY JO (CONT'D)

What sounds better, twenty pee bag, or sweaty kit bag?

As they go off, Kai is left wondering - is Samia right?

CUT TO:



24 **OMITTED**

24

25

**OMITTED**

25

26

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR. 13:43 - DAY.

26

The lights dim and Kim takes to the stage to applause.

KIM

Waterloo Road are you ready to party?!

Whoops and cheers. Erica watches, impatient. Lindon enters with his BU class and he stands with Erica, giving her a self-conscious nod.

KIM (CONT'D)

Tough, because you're not on holiday yet!

Some laughter, some groans.

KIM (CONT'D)

Seriously, today is a reward for making it through a tough term. Especially after such a difficult start. You've come so far since. Already I've seen a change in your willingness to learn, your respect for yourselves and others, and your self-belief. Our *fantastic* GCSE resit results have proved that!

It's a thinly-veiled message to Erica - both she and Lindon know it.

KIM (CONT'D)

And this is just the beginning. I intend to build on this first few months to prove that every single one of you has it in you to *shine*.

The audience whoops, stamps and applauds for that.

KIM (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, I'm only here to introduce the first performer. A class act - just like her dad - it's Verity King!

Lindon picks up the dig, but forces a smile for his daughter as the audience applaud her and music kicks in.

VERITY comes on to something upbeat and starts dancing, while everyone in the audience gets to their feet and claps. Amongst them, a reluctant and spectacularly out of rhythm Neil.

On leaving the stage, Kim goes straight to Erica.

KIM (CONT'D)  
I'll see you now.

Before following her out, Erica smiles at Lindon, Which makes Lindon feel like even more of a louse.

CUT TO:

27

**INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. PERIOD FOUR. 13:45 - DAY.**

27

Preston's pretending to do revision, putting in earbuds. He doesn't notice Kai come in until he's right in front of him.

KAI

Guessed you might not want to be  
front row for the Danny show.

Preston takes out his earbuds, waiting.

KAI (CONT'D)

(more muted than usual)

I need to be there, but... If you  
still want to meet after school...  
I'd be up for that.

Preston is surprised - not just by the offer but by how glad he is about it.

PRESTON

Yeah. Yeah I do.

They stand there a moment, both uncharacteristically bashful.

KAI

So... I'll see you at the gates  
then.

Kai turns to go, then thinks of something:

KAI (CONT'D)

Don't mess me about, OK?

Kai turns and heads out - with a massive grin - and we see how happy Preston is about it too.

CUT TO:

28

**INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR. 13:50 - DAY.**

28

Val checks Danny is ready.

VAL

You're next Danny. Break a leg.

Danny takes another peek out at the audience, but his smile vanishes as he recognises a face amongst the parents (VINNY). Danny pulls back out of sight, like he's had a physical jolt.

In the audience, Noel flicks rolled-up balls of paper at audience members.

As Dean looks around to see who else is here, he spots the same guy with confusion. He turns back to Noel.

DEAN

Swear that's Vinny McCullen.

On a fearful Danny - what's he going to do?

CUT TO:

29

**EXT. VISITOR'S CAR PARK. PERIOD FOUR. 13:52 - DAY**

29

Preston returns to the bin. Buoyed by the prospect of meeting Kai, he decisively empties the contents of his red bag into it, shaking out his food.

CUT TO:

30

INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD FOUR. 13:53 - DAY.

30

Kim and Erica have come to talk, music from the concert audible.

KIM

Hopefully you can still hear the concert from here. I'm sure you'd like to know how brilliant my pupils are.

ERICA

So we've received reports of certain incidents -

KIM

From where?

ERICA

We've received reports. And we have concerns about your approach here -

KIM

I can see why. Exclusions down seventy per cent. Attendance up. Resit results way above expectations. You must worry I'm making other schools look bad.

ERICA

But problem behaviour persists -

KIM

Isolated incidents, yes -

ERICA

*Multiple, violent incidents. A member of staff destroying a colleague's car. A pupil smashing up the drama studio -*

Kim notes that she's 'heard' about that too.

ERICA (CONT'D)

If I hadn't been here for the basketball fiasco I'd have had to find out second hand about that as well, I suppose?

KIM

Or you could focus on success. Any minute now, you'll hear Danny Lewis on that stage. The boy you told me didn't belong.

(MORE)



KIM (CONT'D)

Channelling his energy and his time into something *positive*. Resits, six in English, seven in maths. If I can get that from him in a few months, imagine what I can do in a year.

ERICA

My concern was his disruptive effect on other pupils.

KIM

All he needed was a level playing field. A chance to break free of the negative influences in his life. Waterloo Road has given him that. And so many others. Forgive me, Erica, but I thought that was *exactly* what I was put here to do?

CUT TO:

31

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR. 13:55. - DAY.

31

MILLIE finishes her performance. As she leaves the stage to applause, a smiling Kai slips in at the back.

Val takes her place at the mic.

VAL

Thank you, Millie! Brilliant! Next  
up - a rising star making his  
onstage debut... Danny Lewis  
everybody!

Applause. Val looks round for her performer but Samia is in the wings, gesturing hopelessly - *no Danny!*

VAL (CONT'D)

We might have a small technical  
hitch - we'll just have some music  
while we sort it or God help you  
all, *I'll* have to sing...

Music plays as Val runs to Samia.

VAL (CONT'D)

Where is he?

Kai frowns - what's going on?

CUT TO:

32 **OMITTED**

32

33

**EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FOUR. 13:57 - DAY.**

33

Danny sprints blindly across the playground, glancing back again - to see Vinny appear in the doorway. Danny keeps running, heading for the staff entrance.

CUT TO:

34

**INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FOUR. 13:57 - DAY.**

34

Dean glances out the window, sees Danny running across the playground. Then Vinny. Then pretends he hasn't seen a thing.

CUT TO:

35

**INT. MAIN CORRIDOR / FOYER. PERIOD FOUR. 13:58 - DAY.**

35

As Danny hurtles down the main corridor, he looks back to make sure he's not being followed. Clear. But as he looks forward, he runs straight into VINNY entering through the lower school entrance. Danny reels.

VINNY

I got your 'message'.

It's all Danny can do to stay on his feet.

VINNY (CONT'D)

I want my money. Now.

Danny scrambles away to the foyer and up the stairs.

CUT TO:

36      INT. FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR. 13:59 - DAY.      36

Danny skids to a halt.

CUT TO:

37      INT. MAIN STAIRWELL. PERIOD FOUR. 14:00 - DAY.

37

Vinny races up the stairs -

CUT TO:



38

**INT. FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR. PERIOD FOUR. 14:01 - DAY.**

38

- and Vinny enters the corridor, passes the lockers -

Only for Danny to duck out from an empty classroom and dart back to the stairs. But Vinny sees and grabs him.

DANNY

Vinny wait -

VINNY

My money. We'll go to your new  
mum's now and get it. Move.

Danny tries to break free but the bigger, stronger Vinny pulls him back along the corridor.

CUT TO:

39

**INT. MAIN STAIRWELL. PERIOD FOUR. 14:02 - DAY.**

39

Vinny forcibly marches Danny to the stairs, Danny resisting all the way.

DANNY  
GET OFF!

VINNY  
Shut up you robbing little -

DANNY  
GET OFF!

Danny almost breaks free but Vinny throws him back against the wall, hitting him several times. Danny headbutts Vinny, dazing him, and tries to escape -

But Vinny recovers, catches him, smacks him with his forearm in the face, drags him, dazed, back towards the stairs.

VINNY  
Move or you're dead.

Vinny almost has him on the stairs, but Danny grabs the bannister, desperately trying to hold on.

VINNY (CONT'D)  
Move!

When Danny continues to struggle, Vinny changes tack, pushing him against the bannister, holding onto him by his blazer.

VINNY (CONT'D)  
One way or another, you're going down the stairs.

DANNY  
Vinny -

Vinny pushes him harder, so Danny's leaning back over the bannister.

VINNY  
Are you gonna get my money?

DANNY  
Another time -

VINNY  
No, now.

DANNY  
Not from her, I can't do that -

VINNY

*Last chance.*

Vinny holds him right over, Danny feeling the empty space yawning below him, one more push and he'll be over -

And then Vinny grunts in pain and slides to his knees, realising that he's bleeding from the abdomen... and that Danny's holding his knife.

Danny stares in shock as he realises what he's done.

Val appears at the bottom of the stairs looking up -

VAL

Danny? What are you doing,  
everyone's waiting -

Danny looks down at Val, who looks back in shock as she registers what she is seeing.

CUT TO:

40

INT. DRAMA/MUSIC STUDIO. PERIOD FOUR. 14:11 - DAY.

40

Kim and Erica's confrontational meeting continues.

ERICA

Behaviour is still out of control  
and the only real initiative in  
tackling it has been from the B.U. -

KIM

My initiative - no matter *who* wants  
to take the credit.

ERICA

This was always going to be a  
challenge, but I wonder now if we  
were unfair to you, asking you to  
cope with this place in your first  
management role.

Kim scoffs.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I'm aware you had huge aspirations  
but I'm not convinced you've won  
the respect of the children or your  
colleagues.

KIM

I believe in restorative practice.  
You knew that when you hired me  
because I talked about it in my  
interview. Why act surprised when I  
actually deliver it?

ERICA

We're seeing the same violent  
behaviour we had on day one.

KIM

Which happened because this school  
made kids feel like they didn't  
matter, like no one was listening.  
I want them to believe that they've  
got a voice and they don't have to  
shout or break things to be heard.

ERICA

And can you say honestly say it's  
working?

KIM

It won't change overnight! Problem behaviour doesn't start in school, it starts at home, in social conditions, in policy - we're the sharp end. It takes time to break that chain but we're doing it.

Erica listens without arguing back this time.

KIM (CONT'D)

At the start of term I made a behaviour contract with the pupils. Lots of Heads do that but not all remember to keep their side of the bargain: listen, learn and adapt. That's what I've tried to do, and I think it *is* working, Erica. I think our pupils are realising that there are ways to meet their needs without violence.

Erica looks like she's weighing that up, reconsidering, but then the door flies open and Wendy appears.

WENDY

(way more agitated than  
she's trying to appear)  
Sorry. Can I borrow you?

CUT TO:

41

**EXT. PLAYGROUND. PERIOD FOUR. 14:15 - DAY.**

41

Donte's looking at Chlo's Tree forlornly. After a moment, he senses that he's being watched and turns to see Coral, staring gobsmacked at what was once her car.

CORAL

(deadpan)

It's probably not going to get  
through its MOT is it.

Donte turns back to the Tree, no smile, no time for her.

CORAL (CONT'D)

Just so you know, I've told Kim I  
won't be returning.

DONTE

(wrongfooted)

I said I'd find a way to live with  
it.

CORAL

Have you?

They both know the answer is no.

CORAL (CONT'D)

Well me neither.

(beat)

For what it's worth, I've given  
years to this. If I'm not Miss  
Walker, I'm nobody.

Donte's surprised by the depth of her feelings. As Coral walks back into school, is he feeling a pang of remorse?

CUT TO:

42

**INT. KITCHENS. PERIOD FOUR. 14:17 - DAY**

42

Preston comes in and finds Nicky with her phone to her ear, while his phone buzzes. He holds the phone up as if to say 'OK I'm here.'

NICKY

There you are! I went looking for you - where have you been?

Preston would rather not tell her what he was doing.

PRESTON

I've got all that work to catch up on, remember? What's going on?

NICKY

A fight's got out of hand or something. Didn't you notice I called five times? Honestly, you, lately... I don't know what planet you're on.

Preston lets that hang in the air... steeling himself he makes a decision to say something...

PRESTON

Mum, there's something I should have told you...

Preston's wrongfooted, as Nicky cuts in:

NICKY

You'd better not have got yourself in trouble again. I don't know how much more of it I can take, Preston.

PRESTON

No it's not...I mean, kind of...

NICKY

It's one thing after another with you and Tonya. I don't get a minute to myself. You're the oldest, I keep looking for you to take some responsibility but I'm not seeing it - I'm just seeing selfishness. Come on then, what have you done now?

Preston just looks at her, heart sinking deep. All his insecurities and pressures returning.

PRESTON

It's OK, mum, I don't want you stressing.

NICKY

No, come on, let's have it -

PRESTON

Mum. It's just - I do this thing... sometimes...

(chickening out)

...say stupid stuff. I said something stupid to Sami and I wanted you to hear it from me.

NICKY

(vexed)

Preston -

PRESTON

I'm sorry. I know you're having a bad time mum. I'll try harder for you. I will.

Nicky sighs heavily, wound up with him, with herself, with everything. Preston puts his arms round her.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

I'll be better.

But as he hugs her, his face is desolate - he can't tell her the truth, and he doesn't believe what he just said.

CUT TO:



43

**INT. MAIN STAIRWELL / FOYER. PERIOD FOUR. 14:25 - DAY.**

43

PARAMEDICS treat a now unconscious Vinny; Val and Joe look on. Kim hurries to the scene with Wendy. In the background, parents and kids are leaving the hall.

WENDY  
What's happening?

VAL  
They say he's alive but critical.

JOE  
I've given instructions to send parents home with their kids. I've told the rest to stay in the hall or classrooms. Police should be here any minute.

KIM  
(to Val)  
What exactly did you see?

VAL  
(devastated)  
Danny...standing over him.

Kim's so, so heartbroken to hear it.

KIM  
Where did he go?

VAL  
It doesn't necessarily mean anything...

KIM  
Where did he go, Val?

VAL  
He ran.

Kim has a good idea where. She turns to go and finds herself looking at Erica, who's followed her here.

ERICA  
If only someone could have seen this coming.

Kim doesn't have a reply. She hurries on to search for Danny.

CUT TO:

44

**OMITTED**

44

44A

INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:30 - DAY.

44A

Kim cautiously lets herself in and sees Danny petting Angel.

KIM

I thought you'd be here.

DANNY

No point running.

KIM

That's it? That's all you've got to say?

(frustration getting the better of her)

What happened Danny? Did you have a knife?

DANNY

I - I'm sorry.

KIM

All the faith I put in you Danny, I deserve to know the truth.

Danny looks up; it's dawning on him how it affects her.

KIM (CONT'D)

I've just been telling the powers-that-be what a model student you are and you -

DANNY

(upset, forceful)

He came after me.

Kim gets a grip on herself and sits down opposite him, on Danny's level.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You done all you could to change where I was going, Miss. But you can't change what I come from.

Danny's blinking back tears, and now Kim starts too.

Danny sees movement in the doorway. As he clocks the sight of TWO PCs through the window, Jamilah, Val and Joe come in.

JAMILAH

The police are here, Danny. They  
need to talk to you.

Danny tenses. Kim fights the urge to comfort him.

KIM

I'll be right outside. I'll get  
Miss Whitwell to look after Angel.

Danny gives her a grateful nod as Kim heads out taking Angel  
with her.

CUT TO:

45

**INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE. 14:32 - DAY.**

45

It's just pupils and Lindon and Neil now. Samia and Kai are in the main body of the hall rather than the wings, with Kelly Jo. Dean, Noel, Verity, Zayne, Caz and Millie are here too.

LINDON  
Away from the doors.

Lindon tries to move pupils back so they can't rubberneck.

CAZ  
There's something going on out there. Paramedics.

VERITY  
My dad's got his serious face on.

KELLY JO  
How can you tell?

SAMIA  
Has anyone seen Danny?

KAI  
It was just stage fright, right?

But Kai's starting to doubt that - and Samia too.

KELLY JO  
Why did they have to stop it right before I was due to go on? It's some kind of joke.

A shout from Noel, peering into the foyer with Zayne.

NOEL  
There's a body going out!

ZAYNE  
Looks well dead!

SAMIA  
What?

LINDON  
Middle of the hall, now!

The lads do as instructed, reluctantly.

LINDON (CONT'D)  
Everyone QUIET. Sit down and do not move.

Everyone does so.

DEAN

It's got to be Danny. Vinny must have done him!

KAI

Don't talk stupid.

SAMIA

What? Who's Vinny?

DEAN

Everyone's heard of Vinny McCullen. Bad news.

NOEL

Why do you think guitar boy did one?

Kai whispers to Samia.

KAI

Vinny's Danny's sort of step-dad. He took some money from him and now he wants it back.

Samia stares at Kai, with a sinking feeling.

SAMIA

Someone do us a favour and distract the teachers.

Kelly Jo moves into the middle of the hall, and steps on a chair.

KELLY JO

Frog, froghead, dickhead, slag  
Drip drip drip from a leaky tap -

LINDON

Kelly Jo, get down.

KELLY JO

She should cover her face with a  
twenty pee Bag  
For Life, drip-drip and it's  
getting damp -

LINDON

Kelly Jo. Now!

KELLY JO

You saying I dress like a smelly  
tramp?  
So what, it's one drip, but now  
it's filling the tank -

LINDON

Do you want this to be the last  
privilege you ever get?

KELLY JO

It's up to my waist and I can't  
figure that  
I mean so what, they only called me  
a skank  
Laugh it off Kelly Jo, can you not  
take the bantz  
Or what? Don't they see that I'm  
sinking fast -

LINDON

Down, NOW!

As Kelly Jo reluctantly gets down, everyone boos and hisses,  
wanting to hear the end.

And in the chaos, Samia sneaks out of the hall.

CUT TO:

46

**OMITTED**

46



46A

**INT. ENTRANCE CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 14.34 - DAY.**

46A

A worried Kim looks through the window of the library, where Danny is being questioned by the police. Erica joins her.

ERICA

Miss Campbell? Can we find a place  
to talk?

KIM

Not now. I need to be here.

ERICA

(gentler)

Kim. Danny has people with him.  
There's nothing else you can do.

Kim is backed into a corner. It breaks her heart as she prizes herself away from the door and heads towards the sixth form common room with Erica.

CUT TO:

46B

**INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:35 - DAY.**

46B

PC KHAN questions Danny, concerned Val, Joe and Jamilah close by.

PC KHAN

I've got a stab wound and I've got you at the scene, Danny. I'll ask you again - where's the weapon?

Danny doesn't answer.

PC KHAN (CONT'D)

Did you use a knife?

Nothing from Danny.

PC KHAN (CONT'D)

Did you bring it into school?

Nothing.

PC KHAN (CONT'D)

I'm giving you a chance to explain yourself here, Danny. You don't seem to realise. You could be looking at attempted murder.

Danny can't hide his fear at that.

VAL

Look, is this entirely necessary?

JAMILAH

Danny - just tell him what happened. I'm sure it can't have been your fault.

DANNY

Like anyone's gonna believe that.

PC KHAN

So. Where's the knife?

Danny doesn't answer. Val and Jamilah look at each other, concerned.

CUT TO:

46C

INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. PERIOD FIVE. 14.38 - DAY.

46C

Kim once again faces Erica.

ERICA

I'm sure I don't need to tell  
you... the seriousness of an  
incident like this...

KIM

(bitter, upset)  
I get it, thank you.

Kim's silent; so angry, so frustrated.

KIM (CONT'D)

I took a risk on Danny. It's now  
cost me my career, and you know  
what? I'd do the same every time.  
At least I tried. What would you  
and your cronies have done?  
Nothing.

Erica has the decency to look a little shamefaced. An upset  
Val comes in. She picks up on the tension.

VAL

They're really grilling him in  
there, Kim. I can barely listen to  
it.

KIM

You've done everything you could  
for him, Val.

VAL

(as much to Erica as Kim)  
And so did you. Danny wouldn't have  
had a chance if it wasn't for you.  
These kids see that you believe in  
them and they're starting to  
believe in themselves. You're a  
great Head.

As Kim lets this land with Erica, she hasn't the heart to  
tell Val it's already too late.

KIM

(to Val)  
I'll follow you back in now, find  
out what's happening.

Val heads back out. Kim turns back to Erica.

KIM (CONT'D)

For what it's worth, I'd recommend  
Joe Casey as my successor. Though I  
don't suppose my opinion counts for  
much. The selection process  
obviously started a long time ago.

CUT TO:

46D

**EXT. VISITORS' CAR PARK. PERIOD FIVE. 14:40 - DAY.**

46D

An upset Preston is back at the bin. He is fighting his demons as he tries not to go back in the bin. But before he can help it, he gives in and scrambles for the food he threw away earlier. He can only reach a couple of items, and, desperate, he climbs into the bin to get the rest. It's grim and disgusting as he fishes out the biscuits and random food items from the waste. It's even worse when he eats them, desperate for something to make him feel better.

CUT TO:

47

**INT. LIBRARY/IT SUITE. PERIOD FIVE. 14:41 - DAY.**

47

Kim is now with Danny, Val and PC Khan. Joe and Jamilah hover by the door.

PC KHAN  
You know you're under arrest Danny.  
We'll need to take you down to the  
station.

Danny looks to Kim, who tries to look reassuring.

KIM  
It'll be alright.

VAL  
I'll follow you down.

As the NS Police Officer starts to guide Danny away, his panic rises as the gravity of the situation dawns.

DANNY  
I want to see Angel before -

PC KHAN  
We need to go.

DANNY  
I just need a minute with her.

Danny struggles against the NS Police Officer.

KIM  
Danny...

DANNY  
No, I want to see my dog - I need  
to -

JAMILAH  
Can we all calm down please -

Danny struggles to break free from the NS police officer.

DANNY  
No, not before I say goodbye -

Danny is really struggling now and the police end up forcing him to the ground - which Samia witnesses as she arrives at the door.

SAMIA  
What are you *doing*? You're hurting  
him! Get *off* him!

KIM  
Back to the hall, now!

SAMIA

*Danny.*

A harassed but sympathetic Joe ushers her back out of the door.

JOE

Go on Samia.

Upset Samia throws a passing look to Kim as she is forced to head out. Kim is equally wounded as she watches PC Khan try to calm a distressed Danny, still being held on the floor.

KIM

Is this absolutely necessary?

PC Khan and the NS officer guide a distressed Danny to his feet.

PC KHAN

You need to cooperate, Danny.

KIM

At least let him say see Angel  
while he calms down?

As PC Khan considers conceding, Danny looks gratefully to Kim.

CUT TO:

48

**INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE. 14:46 - DAY.**

48

Kelly Jo is sitting sulkily, alone, in reluctant silence over by Lindon and Neil. An enraged Samia stomps in.

KAI

What's happening?

SAMIA

The police had Danny on the floor.

KAI

(perturbed)

Why?

SAMIA

He just wanted to see his dog and they were all over him.

Verity and Caz are nearby and start to pay attention.

KAI

What about Vinny? What's happened to him?

SAMIA

Who cares? Some thug comes in and the police treat *Danny* like he's the criminal? It's not right!

Kai has a bad feeling that he knows what's really happened.

SAMIA (CONT'D)

All they're gonna see is a kid who's always been in trouble, who was sleeping rough in school, mixed up with gangs. They don't want to see the real Danny.

CAZ

We've got to stop it. It could be any one of us, this.

Neil comes over.

NEIL

Mr King told you to be quiet.

VERITY

I stopped having to listen to what 'Mr King' said when he moved out of our house.

SAMIA

Why should we be quiet when Danny Lewis is getting beat up by police?



NEIL  
(disbelieving)  
Where have you got that from? And  
can we not turn the police into the  
villains please?

KELLY JO  
Sir you're a fascist.

NEIL  
I'm a believer in law and order,  
starting with sit down and shut up!

SAMIA  
Not 'til we know that Danny's OK.

CAZ  
Free Danny!

VERITY  
Free Danny!

Which turns into a chant: FREE DANNY! FREE DANNY! - picked up  
by others sitting nearby... and then loads of the kids are  
chanting: *FREE DANNY! FREE DANNY! FREE DANNY!*

NEIL  
(ineffectual)  
That's enough. Enough!

Suddenly Lindon's there, voice cutting over the chanting.

LINDON  
SILENCE.

Some stop, but others, including Samia, Kelly Jo, Caz,  
Millie, Zayne and Verity keep chanting.

LINDON (CONT'D)  
(focusing on those kids)  
I SAID SILENCE.

Reluctantly, the pupils abandon the chant.

LINDON (CONT'D)  
I will not hear one more word.

VERITY  
Yeah but -

LINDON  
Including you, Verity.

Verity shoots him a stubborn, aggrieved look.

LINDON (CONT'D)

The first person to break that rule  
will begin next term in detention  
every single night. Do I make  
myself clear?

The pupils stay resentfully silent. Lindon notices Erica  
watching from the door and goes over.

ERICA

Do you have a minute?

Lindon nods and they go out.

NEIL

I will have no more defiance.

And that hangs in the air for a few moments. Samia is  
brimming with anger, which now boils over as she jumps to her  
feet and stands on a chair.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Sit down.

Samia stays put.

NEIL (CONT'D)

You heard Mr King - one word and  
it's repeat detention.

But Samia doesn't speak. Instead she holds up her phone, with  
the torch switched on. Caz catches on and does likewise. Then  
Kelly Jo, then Zayne, then Millie, then Verity, then others.  
Dean and Noel, always up for trouble, join in too.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Sit down! *Sit down!*

CUT TO:

48A

INT. DEPUTY HEAD'S OFFICE. PERIOD FIVE. 15:00 - DAY.

48A

Lindon and Erica talk.

ERICA

Thank you Lindon. You quashed any disorder before it began.

LINDON

(subdued)

It's just what has to be done.

ERICA

Absolutely. This school needs a lot less carrot and a lot more stick. I'm afraid we haven't seen that in the current management.

LINDON

Kim has done some good work -

ERICA

Between you and me, Kim has decided it would be in Waterloo Road's best interests if she moved on.

Lindon knows full well what that really means, and why.

ERICA (CONT'D)

You mustn't feel bad. It's a mark of your commitment to the pupils.

Lindon starts to protest -

ERICA (CONT'D)

It goes without saying that the role of acting head is yours.

Lindon goes quiet, taking that in.

ERICA (CONT'D)

There are processes to follow, but it should stand you in good stead for the permanent role. You've already demonstrated that you've got the authority and command that these children need.

Lindon is torn - his aspirations coming up against his guilt...

ERICA (CONT'D)

So - can I take that as a yes?

Lindon's torn.

CUT TO:

48B

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

48B

Kim heads out of her office to speak with Val and Joe, who are waiting in Wendy's area.

KIM

He's calmed down a bit now.

JOE

Well that's some good news at least.

VAL

I'll jump in with Jamilah and follow him to the station.

As Lindon opens the door from his office, we see Erica hanging back. Neil comes rushing in.

NEIL

The pupils - you need to come and sort them out.

KIM

What's going on?

NEIL

They're trying to take matters into their own hands again.

From the doorway to the deputy's office, Erica looks to Lindon.

ERICA

You best go and deal with it. I'll wait here.

Kim clocks this pointed instruction.

CUT TO:

49

**OMITTED**

49

50

**OMITTED**

50

51 **OMITTED**

51



52

**OMITTED**

52

53

**OMITTED**

53

54

**OMITTED**

54

55

**OMITTED**

55

56

**INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD FIVE. 15:08 - CONTINUOUS.**

56

The year 9s, including Tonya, Shola and Dwayne, come out of their English classroom looking at their phones as they ping with news from the hall.

DWAYNE

It's all kicking off!

As the chatter and anticipation builds in the corridor, Amy's right behind.

AMY

What on earth are you doing? Back  
in class!

But even as she says it, another class is emptying out, to the bemusement of their teacher. The kids pile down the corridor towards the foyer.

CUT TO:

57

INT. FOYER. PERIOD FIVE. 15:10 - DAY.

57

Kim, Val, Neil and Joe follow Lindon from the Head Teacher's corridor and take in the scene in the foyer with some consternation.

They're not looking at a riot. Instead, the pupils stand silently, arms linked or sat on the floor, blocking the exit. Some have their phones held up, torches lit. Samia is at the front, a clear ringleader, flanked by Kai, Kelly Jo, Caz, Millie and Verity and Zayne, Dean and Noel.

In come the year 9s too, Shola, Dwayne, Tonya and more, followed by a perplexed Amy.

LINDON  
Get back in the hall.

Nothing.

LINDON (CONT'D)  
(to Shola, Verity & co)  
Get back in there NOW.

Nothing.

LINDON (CONT'D)  
(at the whole group)  
All of you - you heard what I said  
about detentions.

NEIL  
(embarrassed for Lindon)  
I think he actually said *one word*  
and they'd get detentions...

Val shoots him a look.

NEIL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
Just sayin'...

Lindon raises his voice, beginning to lose his cool in the face of this peaceful defiance.

LINDON  
OK, you've made your point. Let me  
be very clear, anyone - ANYONE -  
who is still here in five seconds,  
will be in extended detention.  
Five. Four. Three -

VERITY

(quietly)

What - you're gonna put us *all* in detention?

LINDON

Two - one -

VERITY

Like, if everyone's a problem kid, maybe it's not the kids who have the problem?

Enraged by the defiance from his own daughter, Lindon grabs her phone and throws it down, smashing it...

VERITY (CONT'D)

Are you stupid, you bought that!

The teachers, watching, know Lindon's blown it.

JOE

Great. The only bit of vandalism we've seen today.

LINDON

Three - two - one.

No one moves. Lindon looks lost in the face of the silent group. No idea what to do next.

Kim knows it's up to her.

KIM

(commanding attention)

Thank you. Thank you for confirming what I said earlier: you all have it in you to shine.

Lindon looks at her, incredulous at her approach.

KIM (CONT'D)

You're angry, but you've expressed that calmly, and peacefully, and I am proud of you for that. Believe me, I share your anger. I'm angry that the scales are weighted so much against so many of us.

Donte comes along, drawn by the crowd.

KIM (CONT'D)

Sometimes that anger boils over, I know it does.

(MORE)

KIM (CONT'D)

Maybe you've come to school with no breakfast, or no shoes, or you've no home to go back to, or you're spending the whole day worrying cos you're not safe when you leave here.

Samia and Kai react; they know she's thinking of Danny.

KIM (CONT'D)

There are traps that will not let you climb out, and the harder you try the deeper they pull you down.

Danny, with Jamilah behind, is brought along the Head Teacher's corridor by the police but they stop when they see the crowd blocking their way. Danny sees the assembled pupils, showing solidarity and refusing to let him out.

KIM (CONT'D)

You have a right to be angry about that...But you do not have the right to take out your anger as violence.

Donte registers that one, pensively.

KIM (CONT'D)

When you do that, you lose the argument.

Lindon takes that in, thinking of his own behaviour.

KIM (CONT'D)

That's why I can't defend what's happened here today.

Kai's filling in the blanks, panic rising. Samia's on it too - wavering - 'violence'?

KIM (CONT'D)

I'm asking you, now, to not lose this argument. Be angry. But step aside.

(lump in throat)

Let him go.

The pupils hesitate, then part to let the police and Danny through (Val and Jamilah go with them). As Danny passes, he makes eye contact with a tearful, angry Samia and an upset, guilt-stricken Kai. He tries to do so with Kim, but she keeps her eyes down.

Lindon is humbled - Kim's sensitive handling of the situation showing up the blunt clumsiness of his own.



Samia looks troubled as she turns to Kai.

SAMIA  
(quietly)  
What did she mean, violence?

KAI  
(bitterly upset)  
A knife. Danny had a knife.

Samia stares at him in shock.

The police car drives away, Danny looking out at the school.

JOE  
Alright, everyone. Show's over.  
Back inside please.

The pupils begin to disperse and Kim looks on - wondering if this will be the last time she addresses them.

Kim spots Donte and goes over to him.

DONTE  
Nice speech, Miss C.

KIM  
Here's another one. This school is about to lose a good English teacher. For one reason, really: to make you feel better. But I don't think it will. Do you?

Donte doesn't answer; but deep down he knows she's right.

KIM (CONT'D)  
I can't talk her round; I reckon only one person can do that now. I won't tell you what to do, Donte. But I will say this: What Would Chlo Do?

She leaves Donte with that question... One that Donte already knows the answer to.

CUT TO:

58

**OMITTED**

58

59

**OMITTED**

59

60 INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM (CORAL'S). AFTER SCHOOL. 15:36 - DAY. 60

Coral finishes packing up, looking over years of work, displays etc. The door opens and she turns to see Donte.

DONTE  
I've found a way.

CORAL  
Sorry - ?

DONTE  
I need someone to run a charity, in Chlo's name. Someone who can cope with a load of form-filling and letter-writing and all the other boring stuff. Someone like you.

Coral stares at him, taken aback.

DONTE (CONT'D)  
I'm not doing you a favour, OK?  
It's not for you. It's for Chlo.

Donte goes out before he gives in to tears. Instead it's Coral who loses it, as her own tears come.

CUT TO:

61

**INT. BOY'S TOILETS. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:37 - DAY.**

61

We hear a toilet flushing and Preston comes out of it, having been sick. He tries to clean himself up as best he can.

A text comes through from Kai: **Still at gates. Could really use a friend to talk to.**

Preston looks up at the mirror and catches the sight of himself, sludgy bin slops and sick covering his shirt and trousers. Awash with guilt and shame, how can he go now?

CUT TO:

62

**EXT. SCHOOL GATES. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:42 - DAY.**

62

At the gates, Kai's still in turmoil after the day's events. As he checks his phone again, it's clear Preston isn't coming. Needing a friend more than ever, Kai slopes off disappointed.

CUT TO:

62A      EXT. PLAYGROUND / MAIN ENTRANCE. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:43 - DAY62A      \*

Amy approaches the wishing tree where a TEACHER is looking at  
the wishes already placed on it by students.      \*

AMY      \*

What's this?      \*

TEACHER      \*

Donte made it. The Wishing Tree -      \*

isn't it great?      \*

AMY      \*

I love it! I wonder if it was my      \*

drama group that inspired it?      \*

Before the teacher can respond, Amy clocks Donte and Izzy      \*

racing out of school - Donte doesn't win but pretends to,      \*

punching the air and ignoring Izzy's protests. They look like

a happy family for the first time in ages and Donte's all

smiles as they leave, joking around.

We pull back to see Amy watching him fondly... maybe more  
than fondly.

CUT TO:

63

**EXT. BENCH AREA. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:45 - DAY.**

63

Erica is on her phone as Lindon walks up.

ERICA

(to phone)

We'll need a press statement tonight. Yeah...

(sees Lindon)

I'll call you back. Thanks.

(to Lindon)

It'd be good to get a definite decision before we break up.

LINDON

Yeah. Sorry. I can't accept the job.

This pains Lindon. Every. Single. Word.

ERICA

We can negotiate on salary...

LINDON

On reflection, I feel that I lack... certain qualities that this place needs.

ERICA

I wouldn't have asked you if I didn't think you were the right candidate.

LINDON

You've got the ideal candidate. You saw what happened out there. You saw the support Kim's got. I don't know how to inspire that.

ERICA

It was *you that* convinced me she was unsuitable.

LINDON

I was having a bad day. Believe it or not it happens round here.

ERICA

But why? Why Kim Campbell?

Lindon considers a moment before answering.

LINDON

She makes everything personal.

CUT TO:



64

**INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:50 - DAY**

64

Kim's numb as she fills a box with her belongings, framed photo of Dexter on top. She finds Danny's results slip - she never gave it back. She re-reads the results sadly.

KIM

A six and a seven.

She puts the slip into the box with the photo.

CUT TO:

64A

**EXT. PLAYGROUND. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:53 - DAY**

64A

Preston stands at the Wishing Tree alone, gutted to have let both himself and Kai down. There are already some wishes attached: I WISH WE HAD A POOL, I WISH WE HAD MORE COMPUTERS, I WISH THAT DINNER LADY COULD COOK.

He takes a card from the bucket, writes a wish of his own and hooks it onto the tree. He walks away, leaving us to read the note: 'I WISH I WAS SOMEONE ELSE.'

CUT TO:

65

**EXT. PRECINCT. AFTER SCHOOL. 15:54 - DAY.**

65

Alone, Samia leaves a voicemail for Danny.

SAMIA

Hey. I don't know when you'll be able to hear this, but... There's stories going round about what happened. If I could turn back time I'd shake you before the show 'til you gave me whatever you were carrying... You're an idiot, Danny... But I know you must have been desperate. Scared. You must be now. So... this is just to say... I owe you a pizza. Two friends. As friends. In a friendly way.

She ends the call before she starts crying.

CUT TO:

66

**OMITTED**

66

67

**OMITTED**

67

68

**INT. POLICE STATION. CELL. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:00 - DAY.**

68

Danny sits on his bed, as the door is closed and locked.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 17:58 - 69 DAY.

Kim places her lanyard on the security desk and walks out of the main entrance towards her car. Wendy comes hurrying over.

WENDY

Kim!

Kim waits for her to catch up.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Erica's been on the phone. It sounded pretty urgent. I think she might want to talk about staying on.

KIM

(muted)

Does she.

WENDY

But that's great, isn't it?

KIM

I don't know Wendy. Maybe I'm not the kind of Head this place needs.

WENDY

Rubbish. You're brilliant with the kids.

KIM

I wasn't sure I was cut out for this, but I thought I could do things differently. Look what's happened. I just don't think I can do it anymore.

Kim looks back at the school before walking away.

CUT TO:

\*

70	<p><b><u>INT. CLASSROOM. AFTER SCHOOL. 18.15 - DAY.</u></b></p> <p>Val comes into the classroom and shuts the door behind her. She looks on edge as she checks nobody is passing the window before retrieving the knife from its hiding place. As she slips into her handbag, it's clear she feels conflicted over what she's just done.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>END OF EPISODE</u></b></p>	<p>70</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>
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