

BROKEN

Screenplay by

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Based on the original novel by

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Shooting Script

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1

A TINY BABY

1

lies in an INCUBATOR.

A MAN seen only from behind, sits, head bowed, in a chair beside the incubator. In the background, a WOMAN stands by the door, half turned away from us, half out of focus, head also bowed.

THE WOMAN quietly steps out of the room.

THE MAN continues to watch the BABY.

CLOSE ON THE BABY'S FACE

the sound of its artificial breathing loud.

FADE TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD: BROKEN

2

EXT. STREET - DAY

2

Pulling SKUNK, 11 now, as she makes her way home from the local shop carrying a sliced pan and a carton of milk.

She makes her way down several STREETS, crosses a ROAD.

ON A FOOTBRIDGE

she is approached by two 10 year olds on scooters, the BARLOW BROTHERS, who slalom in and out of each other before passing on either side of her. She continues on.

BENEATH THE BRIDGE

the BARLOW BROTHERS come gliding down the RAMP, then come to a stop. They look up to watch -

SKUNK

who is a little over halfway across now.

HENRY BARLOW

nods to his brother, HARRY. HARRY swings a plastic bag filled with a dark substance around in circles, faster and faster, before letting it fly.

It sails up toward SKUNK, then misses her by inches, continuing its trajectory toward -

THE ROAD

on the other side of the BRIDGE, on which it lands and explodes, splashing what looks like shit everywhere.

THE BARLOW BROTHERS

watch SKUNK disappear; then -

HARRY

Lucky.

they turn and glide away.

SKUNK

continues on, completely oblivious to what's just happened.

3 OMITTED 3

4 OMITTED 4

5 OMITTED 5

6 EXT. DRUMMOND CLOSE 6

A cluster of houses arranged in a circle. Outside one of these, RICK BUCKLEY washes his dad's car.

VOICE

Hi, Rick.

He looks up to see SKUNK standing there.

RICK

Hi, Skunk.

SKUNK

That looks good.

RICK

Uh-huh. You have to do the water, then the suds and then the water again, like, rinse it.

SKUNK

Is it hard?

RICK

It's really hard. But I like when something's clean. You see it dirty, then, you wash it, then it's clean. And then it's done.

SKUNK

Cool.

(as RICK resumes washing)

See you later, yeah?

RICK
See you later, Skunk.

As SKUNK crosses the close to her own house, she calls -

SKUNK
Hi, Mr Oswald.

to BOB OSWALD, 40s, who responds, vaguely -

BOB
Hello, darling.

as he passes her, heading toward RICK. We follow SKUNK as she continues on. She stops, hearing a shout, and turns to see -

RICK

falling to the ground, BOB then kicking and punching him viciously, over and over and over. When, eventually, he stops, BOB turns and heads back to his own house, in the front garden of which there is a large TRAMPOLINE, and where his three DAUGHTERS, who we'll meet properly later, ranging in age from 12 to 17, wait for him. He enters. They follow. The door slams shut.

7

MOMENTS LATER

7

SKUNK stands over RICK. He is cut, bruised, bleeding.

SKUNK
Are you okay, Rick?

RICK'S POV: SKUNK standing over him.

SKUNK (CONT'D)
Can I help?

Framed in the sunlight, she looks angelic. RICK reaches out a hand. After a hesitation, SKUNK goes to take it, then:

MRS BUCKLEY
Oh, my God, Oh, my God.

MRS BUCKLEY, comes running up. She bumps SKUNK out of the way, calls back toward the house:

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
Dave?! Dave!
(then, to SKUNK)
Go home, Skunk. Go back into your house. Oh, God ...

SKUNK
It was Mr Oswald.

MRS BUCKLEY
 (down on her knees; to
 RICK)
 ... Oh, God. Oh, God, oh, my
 baby.
 (calling back toward the
 house)
 Dave!!

LATER

Two POLICEMEN stand at the BUCKLEYS' front door. It's opened by MR BUCKLEY who ushers them in. The door closes. We see this from -

8 INT. JED'S BEDROOM 8
 where SKUNK and JED (13; her brother), stand watching THROUGH THE WINDOW.

9 OUTSIDE THE BUCKLEYS' 9
 RICK, his face damaged from the beating, is led by both POLICEMEN toward the police car. MRS BUCKLEY follows, frantic, MR BUCKLEY trying to calm her.

SKUNK and JED.

continues to watch as

RICK

is put into the back seat and the police-car pulls away. MRS BUCKLEY cries in MR BUCKLEY's arms.

JED
 I don't get it. Why is Rick the one they arrest?

SKUNK
 I don't know.

10 INT. OSWALD'S HOUSE - SASKIA'S BEDROOM - THE NIGHT BEFORE 10
 SUSAN OSWALD (14) rifles through her big sister's underwear drawer, discovering, in the corner, about three pounds in change. She takes half, pockets it, then, rifling some more, stops. She reaches in, then holds up

A LOOSE CONDOM

in its foil wrapper. After a moment, we hear:

SASKIA (O.S.)
 (calling)
 Susan?

SUSAN
 Yeah?

SASKIA (CONT'D; O.S.)
 Are you in my room?

SUSAN stuffs the condom in her pocket.

SUSAN
 No.

11 OMITTED 11

12 INT. SUSAN'S BEDROOM 12

SUSAN, lying on her bed, removes the condom from its wrapper. She smells it. Ugh. Unrolls it. Holds it up. Stares at it with distaste. PAUSE. She gets up off the bed and exits frame. We PUSH IN on the foil wrapper which she has forgotten.

CUT TO:

THE TOILET

The condom drops in. The toilet flushes.

13 INT. HALLWAY - THE FOLLOWING DAY 13

SUSAN, entering from outside, is intercepted by BOB, who is coming down the stairs.

BOB
 Susan ...

She stops. He holds up the condom wrapper.

BOB (CONT'D)
 ... What the fuck is this?

14 INT. SITTING ROOM 14

Susan's sisters, SASKIA (17) and SUNRISE (12) are dancing along to a dance instructional DVD on their large plasma-screen TV.

They look up as SUSAN storms in, pursued by BOB.

BOB
 ... Who've you been having sex
 with?!

SUSAN
 I haven't. I didn't even know
 what it was!

BOB
 Bullshit! Where did you get it?!

SUSAN
 I stole it.

BOB
 Bullshit! Stole it from who?

SUSAN
 I ...

BOB
 Jesus ...!

SUSAN glances at SASKIA, who gives her a forbidding look.

BOB (CONT'D)
 ... I taught you all. I mean,
 didn't I teach you?

SUNRISE
 What?

BOB
 About keeping your fucking legs
 shut!
 (to SUSAN)
 Give me his name.

SUSAN
 Daddy ...

BOB
 GIVE ME HIS FUCKING NAME!!!
 (no answer)
 Fair enough.

He picks up the plasma screen and holds it above his head.

SUSAN
 DAD ...!!!

SASKIA
 DAD ...!!!

SUNRISE
 (to SUSAN)
 WILL YOU GIVE HIM HIS FUCKING
 NAME, YOU STUPID FUCKING TWAT!!!

HOLD on SUSAN.

CUT TO:

RICK

standing by his father's car with his bucket and cloth,
gazing at -

SUSAN (O.S.)
The hell are you looking at?

15 OMITTED 15

16 SUSAN 16

who is bouncing up and down on the trampoline. As RICK
snaps out of his reverie -

SUSAN (CONT'D)
... Dirty fucking perve!

she leaps down and goes into her house. RICK stands there,
perplexed.

17 INT. SITTING ROOM - RESUME 17

Back to SUSAN and BOB, who is now in shock.

BOB
Rick Buckley?!
(SILENCE; then)
He forced himself on you, didn't
he!

SUSAN
No, we ...

BOB
Jesus Christ ...!
(takes her in his arms)
... The animal!

SUSAN
Dad ...

BOB's eyes stray to the window. Seeing RICK:

BOB
... The dirty retarded fucking
animal!

18 EXT. DRUMMOND CLOSE - EARLIER THAT MORNING 18
 PULLING BOB as he heads across the close.

SKUNK (O.S.)
 Hi, Mr Oswald.

He looks, sees her -

BOB
 Hello, darling.

continues on toward RICK and punches him hard in the face.

19 EXT. OSWALD'S HOUSE - DAY 19
 BOB opens his front door to two POLICEMEN.

POLICEMAN 1
 Mr Oswald?

BOB
 I want to report a rape.

20 INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY 20
 SUSAN OSWALD lies on an examination table in a hospital gown. The female police-surgeon, DOCTOR MORTIMER probes between her legs.

DOCTOR MORTIMER
 Just another minute ...
 (SILENCE; then)
 All right.
 (straightens up; taking
 off her gloves)
 You can put your clothes back on.

21 LATER 21
 POLICEMAN 1 & 2 and BOB have now joined SUSAN and DOCTOR MORTIMER. BOB is angry.

DOCTOR
 Mr Oswald ...

BOB
 This fucking ... rapist needs to
 be put behind bars ...

DOCTOR MORTIMER
 Mr Oswald ...

BOB
 ... Christ!

DOCTOR MORTIMER
 ... Your daughter has not been
 raped.

BOB
 What the fuck are you talking
 about?!

DOCTOR MORTIMER
 ... Your daughter's a virgin, Mr
 Oswald.

(BEAT)
 She has never had intercourse.

BOB
 Well, of course she has; she ...

SUSAN
 Dad ...

BOB
 ... she ...

SUSAN
 Dad, she's right!

Everyone turns to look at SUSAN. She's crying.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
 It never happened, I ...

BOB
 Susan ...

SUSAN
 ... I only said we did it because
 you wouldn't believe what I told
 you, and because I didn't want
 ...

BOB
 (tenderly)
 Susan ...

SUSAN
 ... I didn't want you to smash up
 the telly!

BOB
 ... Susan ...

He gets down on one knee in front of her, hands on her
 elbows.

BOB (CONT'D)
 ... you don't have to be afraid,
 you hear me?

POLICEMAN 2
Mr Oswald ...

BOB
Shut up.
(to SUSAN)
... Of them, of him ... You don't
have to be afraid.

22 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 22

POLICEMAN 1 and 2 wait as RICK gets dressed. After a moment:

POLICEMAN 1
Do you want to press charges, Mr
Buckley?
(off RICK's look)
Against Mr Oswald.

RICK
I wanna go home.

POLICEMAN 1
(to POLICEMAN 2)
His mum and dad outside?

22A OMITTED 22A

23 INT. MR BUCKLEY'S CAR - MOVING 23

Moments later. C.U: RICK in the back seat.

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
They should all be put in a home

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)
They should.

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
... And him in jail. You okay,
Darling?

This to RICK, who doesn't respond.

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D; O.S)
Bloody animals.

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)
Still ...
(BEAT)
At least it resolved itself
pretty quickly. Eh ...?

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
That's true enough.

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)
 ... At least there's that.

HOLD on RICK.

FADE TO BLACK:

24 INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - HALLWAY - MORNING 24

Following Skunk's father, ARCHIE, 50, into -
 THE LIVING ROOM

where SKUNK sits at the table eating her breakfast. ARCHIE
 is searching for something.

ARCHIE
 Where the hell did I ...?

SKUNK
 Microwave, dad.

ARCHIE
 (grabs a folder off the
 top of the microwave)
 You tested your levels yet?

SKUNK
 Uh-huh.

ARCHIE
 We in the zone?

SKUNK
 Mm-hm.

ARCHIE
 Good girl. See you later, Kasia.

This to their Polish au-pair, who is making herself a cup
 of coffee. As he goes:

KASIA
 It's Tuesday, Archie.

ARCHIE
Shit! Can I pay you tonight?
 (she sighs; as he goes)
 I won't forget. I promise.

We follow him as he hurries back into -

THE HALLWAY

where he meets a not yet awake JED who is on his way to the kitchen.

ARCHIE
Who's the early riser today?

JED
What time is it?

ARCHIE
Ten past eight.

JED
You're joking! I thought it was,
like, eleven or something.

JED turns back. ARCHIE blocks his way.

ARCHIE
What are you doing?

JED
Going back up.

ARCHIE
No, you're not. Go in and get
your breakfast.

JED sighs, turns back again and we follow him into -

THE KITCHEN

where SKUNK is calling:

SKUNK
Bye, dad!

ARCHIE (O.S.)
Bye, love.

We hear the front door closing. JED sits down at the table, glances at KASIA who now has her back to the room, reaches out to a cigarette packet lying there, steals one, pockets it just as KASIA turns to put his breakfast down.

JED
Scrambled egg?

KASIA
Uh-huh.

JED
Don't we have cereal?

KASIA
(looks at him)
We have scrambled egg.

JED sighs, starts eating. KASIA opens her cigarette packet. Stops. Looks slightly confused.

SKUNK

What?

KASIA

Nothing.

He puts one in her mouth; then, grabbing her lighter, collecting her coffee:

KASIA (CONT'D)

I'll be out the back.

She goes. SKUNK gives JED a disapproving look.

24A EXT. ALLEY - DAY

24A

SKUNK walks, JED pushes along on his SKATEBOARD.

SKUNK

... Just saying.

JED

What?

SKUNK

Just saying, cancer and all.

JED

What about it?

SKUNK

You'll catch it.

JED

Well ... you make your choices, don't you.

SKUNK

What?!

JED

You make your choices.

SKUNK

What does that mean?

JED

Well ...

(BEAT)

... It means you make your choices, doesn't it.

He skates faster. SKUNK runs to keep up.

25 EXT. SCRAPYARD - DAY

25

A weeded over area behind DRUMMOND CLOSE. A series of shots show rusted old trucks lying about, cars, a speedboat, and finally, A CARAVAN, outside of which JED sits in an old armchair, an unlit cigarette in his mouth. SKUNK is inside. During the following, she will appear in the doorway every so often and throw something out.

SKUNK

It's gonna be great ...

JED

Uh-huh.

SKUNK

... I mean, isn't it? Clean it up. Fix it up ...

(BEAT)

A secret room ...

JED strikes a match, but it blows out.

JED

Come on!

He takes out another match.

SKUNK

... Well, not a room. A camp ...

This time, he succeeds in getting the cigarette lit.

JED

More like it!

SKUNK

... a base ...

JED exhales smoke, looks at the tip of his cigarette.

JED

A lair.

SKUNK

What?

JED

Nothing.

SKUNK

Exactly. A lair.
(taking her phone out)
Take my picture.

JED

What?

SKUNK
Take my picture in front of it.

JED
Christ!

He gets up, takes her phone. SKUNK poses. He takes her picture.

26 OMITTED 26

26B OMITTED 26B

27 INT. CUNNINGHAM KITCHEN - EVENING 27

SKUNK, JED AND KASIA, all at the table, wait for ARCHIE, who has just arrived in and is taking off his coat, to join them dinner. SKUNK has her feet up on the table.

ARCHIE
... we're all performing to target, so what does he do? Lays off two accounts clerks and now we have to do our own bloody invoicing ... Do I look like an accountant?

KASIA
No.
(to SKUNK)
Legs.

ARCHIE
"No." Exactly ...

ARCHIE sits as SKUNK takes her feet down.

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
... I'm a bloody solicitor. I mean, what's the point in doing good work if you're gonna be screwed for it, you know?

SKUNK
How come Mr Oswald doesn't work?

ARCHIE
I dunno, love. Probably too busy fiddling benefits.

SKUNK
Why don't you do that?

ARCHIE
 'Cos I prefer to contribute to
 society, 'stead of leeching off
 it. Doesn't even have a mortgage
 to pay ...

SKUNK
 Why not?

ARCHIE
 Because of where his house is.

SKUNK
 What do you mean?

ARCHIE
 (to KASIA)
 You tell her, will you?
 (to himself)
 Get some bloody food in my mouth.

As ARCHIE eats:

KASIA
 They have to rent that house out
 cheap, Skunk.

SKUNK
 Why?

JED
 Because only a idiot would buy a
 place that near a scrapyard.

SKUNK
We're near it.

Exactly. KATYA Exactly. JED

ARCHIE
 (looks up; BEAT)
 "Exactly" what?

28 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

28

A NEEDLE

pricks SKUNK's finger, drawing blood.

HER FINGER

presses down on a TEST STRIP, leaving a blood-deposit.

THE TEST STRIP

is put into the meter on a MACHINE, which gives a numerical reading.

SKUNK

sits in bed, writing this number into a log-book. She closes it, stares into space a moment. Looks over to see ARCHIE standing in her doorway.

ARCHIE

Hi, Darling.
(coming in)
How are your levels?

SKUNK

Good.

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

And how was your day?

No answer. He sits down on her bed. Waits.

SKUNK

He really hit him hard, dad.

ARCHIE

So I heard.
(PAUSE)
Do you want to talk about it?

SKUNK

No.

ARCHIE

Do you want me to stay with you
til you're asleep?

SKUNK

That's okay.

ARCHIE

All right.
(SILENCE)
Well. Goodnight, love.

SKUNK

'Night, dad.

He kisses her, goes. HOLD on SKUNK.

29 OMITTED

29

29B EXT. SCRAPYARD - DAY

29B

Establishing.

30

INT. CARAVAN

30

SKUNK has cleaned it out and has a cute little living area set up. She and JED sit on built in chairs. After a moment:

JED

You know what'd make it better? A telly ...

SKUNK

Right.

JED

... a blu-ray player ...

SKUNK

Yeah, well you can't have everything, Jed.

JED

No, I'm just saying.

SKUNK

I got you the ashtray, didn't I?

Which is on the arm of his chair.

JED

That's what I'm saying, Skunk. It's brilliant.

She looks around; then, proudly:

SKUNK

It's the best ... ever.

JED lights a cigarette. Takes a pull, exhales. Then:

JED

Be great if we never had to go back, wouldn't it?

SKUNK

What? To school?

JED

Yeah.

SKUNK

I dunno. I'm kind of looking forward to going it, actually.

JED

Why? Oh, of course ...
(nods to himself)
... first year!

SKUNK

What?

31 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

31

SKUNK is trying to brush her teeth. JED stands behind her.

JED

... the older kids get hold of
the first year kids and flush
their heads down the toilet.

SKUNK

I heard about that!

JED

... which is only the start.

SKUNK

And what do the teachers do?

JED

They allow it, Skunk. It's
tradition.

SKUNK

(BEAT)

I don't wanna go.

JED

You got no choice. It's just
something you've got to get used
to, Skunk. Besides ...

The doorbell rings. They listen. We hear footsteps in the
downstairs hallway, then the front door opening, then:

ARCHIE (O.S.)

Dave!

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)

Hello, Archie.

SKUNK and JED look at each other, then whisper
simultaneously:

SKUNK

Mr Buckley?

JED

Mr Buckley?

32 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

32

ARCHIE and MR BUCKLEY sit in armchairs. Each has a glass of
whiskey in front of him.

ARCHIE

Have you called Dr Carter?

MR BUCKLEY

Yes. But he says he can't act in any way unless he becomes an actual physical threat to us.

ARCHIE

And what about Rick seeing someone else?

MR BUCKLEY

Well, see, this is what I'm saying. He won't come out of his bedroom, Archie. Doris sits outside his door all day, trying to talk to him. Nothing! "Go away. I'm fine." That's it; that's all you bloody get!

(takes a drink of whiskey. PAUSE; then)

I'm really sorry to just drop in on you like this, Archie, out of the blue, it's ...

ARCHIE

Hey ...

MR BUCKLEY

... I just thought, "Archie! He's a solicitor ..."

ARCHIE

Right. So, what, do you want to make this a legal thing, Dave?

MR BUCKLEY

No, no, no. Are you joking? I'm just saying, I thought you'd be a good listener ...

ARCHIE

Ah.

MR BUCKLEY

... Which you are. No, no. Bloody legal action? Forget it. I want nothing more to do with that bastard.

ARCHIE

Oswald.

MR BUCKLEY

Yes.

ARCHIE

Why not?

MR BUCKLEY
 'Cos I'm scared of him, Archie.
 Why else ...?

33 INT. HALLWAY 33

SKUNK, on the stairs, listens through the slightly open doorway.

MR BUCKLEY (O.S; CONT'D)
 ... I'm just really bloody scared
 of him.

MRS BUCKLEY (V.O.)
 Rick ...?

34 INT. RICK'S BEDROOM - DAY 34

RICK sits on the edge of his bed, staring at the wall. From outside the door, MRS BUCKLEY continues:

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S; CONT'D)
 ... Do you remember that time we
 were up at the lakes and you went
 under the water ...?

35 INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING 35

MRS BUCKLEY, wearing a dressing gown and looking a little strung-out, sits on a chair outside RICK's bedroom.

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
 ... Five years old and your
 father ran so fast across those
 stones to get you, and then he
got you ...
 (BEAT)
 ... He saved you.
 (BEAT)
 And we had to go to the A & E,
 you remember? Not for you, you
 were fine, but for him, because
 he'd cut his feet up running over
 the stones.
 (PAUSE)
 And, then ...

The doorbell rings.

36 INT. BUCKLEY'S HALLWAY 36

MRS BUCKLEY opens the door, revealing SKUNK.

SKUNK
Hi, Mrs Buckley. Is Rick in?

MRS BUCKLEY
Why?

SKUNK
I dunno. I thought he might like
to play or something?

MRS BUCKLEY
He's ill. He can't see you,
Skunk.

SKUNK
Okay. Well ...

MRS BUCKLEY
Bye-bye now, love.

She closes the door. BEAT. SKUNK walks away.

37 INT. RICK'S BEDROOM

37

RICK stands at the window, watching SKUNK head back to her house. From outside the door, we hear:

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
That was Skunk, Rick ...
(PAUSE)
... She wanted to see how you
were ...
(PAUSE)
... Isn't that nice?

RICK continues to watch SKUNK's departure.

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S; CONT'D)
... Anyway, then we bought you a
matchbox tank for being so brave
and you tried to give it to your
dad, you remember? So good, you
were ...! So generous ...! I
mean, what five year old in the
world would do that ...?!

38 INT. OSWALDS' HOUSE

38

Pulling BOB down the HALLWAY to the front door, which he opens revealing -

ARCHIE.

BOB
Hello, Archie.

ARCHIE

Bob.

BOB

What can I do for you?

ARCHIE

I was wondering if we could have a chat.

BOB

A chat?

ARCHIE

Yeah.

BOB

Absolutely.

He folds his arms and waits.

ARCHIE

Well ...

(sighs; BEAT)

... I'm aware that things have been tough for you since Barbara passed away; for you, for the girls, and, I suppose I just wanted to say, what, with all that's been happening lately, that if, you know, you ever need to talk ...

BOB

Talk?!

ARCHIE

... about ... Yeah, about ...

BOB

Fuck off, Archie, will you?

ARCHIE

All right. All right. Well, to ask you, then, if you could ask your girls to give the Buckleys a break.

(BEAT)

They're having a pretty hard time of it at the moment.

BOB

Are they?

ARCHIE

Yes.

BOB
That's really awful!
(PAUSE)
When's the last time you cried,
Archie?

ARCHIE
Cried?

BOB
Yeah.

ARCHIE
I don't know. Why?

BOB
Cos the next time you will is the
next time you criticise my girls
in a ...

ARCHIE
Bob ...

BOB
Hang on. ... in any fucking way
whatsoever. All right? They're
out of bounds. And if Buckley
can't even take a little friendly
fucking ribbing, then he's a more
pathetic prick than I thought.
Now, I'm having my dinner, so if
you don't mind fucking off, mate?
Thanks.

He slams the door. HOLD on ARCHIE.

39 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

39

Once again, we see -

THE NEEDLE

pricking SKUNK's finger, drawing blood.

HER FINGER

pressing down on the TEST STRIP, leaving a blood-deposit.

THE TEST STRIP

being put into the meter. The numerical reading.

SKUNK

in bed, writing this number into a log-book. As she does -

Kasia

pops her head into the room -

KASIA
Close your curtains, Skunk.

and is gone. SKUNK closes the log-book, goes to the curtains, but, before she can close them, she sees, across the square -

RICK

standing in his window again, looking directly at her.

SKUNK

raises her hand, smiles.

RICK

backs away from his window and disappears out of sight.

FADE TO BLACK:

Sound of a DOORBELL RINGING, then KASIA'S VOICE calling:

KASIA'S VOICE
It's Mi-ike!

40

INT. HALLWAY

40

KASIA opens the front door and MIKE KIERNAN (30s) enters.

MIKE
Hi.

KASIA
Hi.

They look at each other a moment, then kiss tentatively.

MIKE
I'm sorry.

SKUNK (O.S.)
Gross.

SKUNK and JED are standing down the hall.

MIKE
Hey, guys.

JED
What did you bring us?

41 INT. KITCHEN

41

There are sweets, crisps and drinks on the table, around which sit SKUNK, JED, KASIA and MIKE, playing a board game. KASIA has surreptitiously moved her piece forward.

MIKE

(to KASIA)

No, no. Put it back. Put it back.
D'you see what she's doing?!

JED

Kasia!

KASIA

(guilty)

What?!

JED

We saw you.

MIKE

Come on. Put it back and go
again, please.

She sighs. Obeys.

MIKE (CONT'D)

That's it. There are rules for a
reason, isn't that right, Jed?

JED

If you say so.

SKUNK

Mike? When you're a teacher, will
you still, like, bring us treats
and stuff?

MIKE

No. That'll all have to end,
Skunk.

SKUNK

Really?

MIKE

Yeah, I mean, the relationship
between student and teacher, by
nature ...

JED

But, you won't be our teacher.

MIKE

You never know...

KASIA

Mike.

JED

Mm.

SKUNK

"By nature" is what?

MIKE

... is adversarial.

SKUNK

What does that mean?

MIKE

It means that it'll be my job to see you as, I suppose, the enemy, someone worthy only of my distrust ...

SKUNK

Uh-huh.

MIKE

... my contempt ...

JED

He's full of shit.

KASIA

Mike?

MIKE

I'm not.

(continuing; to SKUNK)

... And you'll begin to see me that way as well.
Who's go is it?

KASIA

Yours.

SKUNK

I won't ever see you that way,
Mike.

JED

(picking up the dice)

That's because you're in love
with him.

SKUNK

(blushing)

No, I'm not.

KASIA
 In my experience, Jed, the person
 who brings up the subject of love
 is, more often than not, the
 person who's in love.

MIKE
 Really?

SKUNK
 Exactly! Who're you in love with,
 Jed?

JED
 (also blushing)
 Shut up.

KASIA
 You're blushing, Jed.

JED
 Shut up! Are you two in love?

KASIA
 Me and Mike? Of course.

JED
 Then, why aren't you married
 yet ...?

He throws the dice, begins moving his piece; half to
 himself:

JED (CONT'D)
 ... That's the question.

42 OMITTED

42

43 EXT. STREET - DAY

43

SKUNK walks, JED skateboards.

JED
 ... Also, sometimes, as they
 pass, the older kids'll punch
 you ...

SKUNK
 What?!

JED
 ... in the stomach. Or spit on
 you.

SKUNK
 Why would they spit on me ...?!

A boy ploughs through them on a bicycle. This is DILLON (13), a skinny urchin type. In trying to avoid them, he loses control and falls.

JED
Shit! You all right, mate?

DILLON
Look at what you made me do ...

JED
Me?!

DILLON
... Idiot!

JED
Listen: It's not our fault you can't ride your bike.

DILLON
(getting up)
It's not my bike.

SKUNK
Whose it is?

DILLON
I dunno. I nicked it from the outside the one-stop, didn't I? Check this out, you ready?

He cycles in circles a moment, then tries to pop a wheelie. The front wheel rises about an inch off the ground. SKUNK laughs. JED shakes his head.

JED
That's a travesty.

DILLON
Hang on, hang on. All right, you ready?

He tries again, this time doing a good, high one, which last several seconds. But, when the wheel touches down, the handlebars twist and he is flung over them.

JED and SKUNK run over to help. As they do -

VOICE
Hey ...!

a BURLY MAN comes running down the street.

BURLY MAN (CONT'D)
... Thieving little bastards, I'll kill you!

JED

Run.

He runs, picking up his skateboard as he passes it.

BURLY MAN

I'll kill you!

SKUNK

Come on.

She helps DILLON up. They run.

BURLY MAN

I'll bloody kill you ...!

When he arrives at his bike, he comes to a stop. Then -

BURLY MAN (CONT'D)

... Twats!

SPLAT! He is hit on the shoulder by a plastic bag full of SHIT which, on impact, splashes all over him. He stops, stunned.

The BARLOW BROTHERS, who we met at the beginning, glide past on their scooters behind him, laughing.

He touches his face -

BURLY MAN

What the fuck ...?!

looks at the shit on his fingers.

BURLY MAN

Uuuuuugh, what the fuck ...?!

44 EXT. HIDDEN PATHWAY

44

Just off the street. SKUNK, JED and DILLON come running down it. As they come to a stop, breathless, scared, exhilarated:

JED

Shit. That was like, proper danger, wasn't it ...?

SKUNK

Yeah.

JED

... Like real adrenaline shit!

Having regained his breath, he takes out a cigarette, puts it in his mouth.

DILLON
Oh, mate ...!

JED
 What?

DILLON
 Cigarettes are a death warrant.

JED
 Well ... You make your choices,
 don't you.

JED lights up. DILLON looks at him. Then, nodding sagely:

DILLON
 I suppose you do.

SKUNK
 We have X-box.

DILLON
 Yeah? What games you got?

45 EXT. ALLEY

45

SKUNK, JED and DILLON walk.

JED
 So, who do you live with, then?

DILLON
 My Auntie.

SKUNK
 Where's your dad?

DILLON
 He's dead.

SKUNK
 Dead?!

DILLON
 He was killed in a fire along
 with my mum ...

SKUNK
 Oh, no.

DILLON
 ... and my sister. I don't give a
 shit. I was only five or six at
 the time ...

JED
 Wow!

45B EXT. DRUMMOND CLOSE

45B

As the three emerge from the ALLEY:

SKUNK
Our mum ran away with an
 accountant from Manchester.

DILLON
 Yeah? So, are you a lesbian?

SKUNK
 No!

DILLON
 You look like a lesbian.

SKUNK
 What does a lesbian look like?

DILLON
 (shrugs)
 Kind of ugly.

Before SKUNK can react, all three stop, seeing -

TWO POLICE CARS

outside the BUCKLEY house. Two POLICEMEN confer with an
 upset MRS BUCKLEY. Several NEIGHBOURS also stand about,
 watching.

SKUNK, JED AND DILLON

pass on the other side of the close, watching as another
 two POLICEMEN come out of Buckley's house with RICK between
 them, hands cuffed behind his back.

SUNRISE AND SASKIA OSWALD

bounce on their trampoline, calling:

SASKIA
 Get the straightjacket!

SUNRISE
 Lock him up!

SASKIA
 Put him in a padded fucking cell,
 the psycho.

SUNRISE
 Cut his knob off!

SASKIA
 Feed it to him!

SUNRISE
 His donkey's fucking knob! EE-ORR
 ...! EE-ORR ...!

They laugh. SUSAN, who stands in front of the trampoline, only smiles distractedly.

THE POLICEMEN

put RICK into the back of the car.

SKUNK, JED AND DILLON

are now outside the CUNNINGHAM house, still watching as an AMBULANCE arrives and pulls up outside the BUCKLEY's. The police car pulls away. Inside -

RICK

watches SKUNK as they pass.

SKUNK

misses him because her attention has now been taken by -

MR BUCKLEY

who has just come out of his house, supported by a POLICEMAN, his arm in a makeshift sling, blood all over his shirt.

JED
 Oh, my God!

DILLON
 It's nothing.

JED
 What?

DILLON
 It's non-life threatening.

SKUNK
 Look at the blood!

VOICE
 Inside, come on.

SKUNK and JED turn to see KASIA at their front door.

JED
 Is Rick gone mental?

KASIA
 Shut up and get inside. This kind
 of thing isn't for ...
 (MORE)

KASIA (cont'd)
 (to DILLON)
 Where are you going?

JED
 He's coming in to play X-Box.

KASIA
 No, he's not.
 (to DILLON)
 Bye-bye now, sonny. Off you go
 back to your halting-site.

DILLON
 I'm no pikey!

JED
 That's racist, Kasia.
 (to DILLON)
 Sorry, mate. She's Polish.

JED follows KASIA inside. SKUNK remains. After a moment:

SKUNK
 Bye.

DILLON
 You don't look like a lesbian.

SKUNK
 No? So, why'd you say I did?

DILLON
 I don't know.

SKUNK
 'Cos I'm ugly?

DILLON
 You're not. You're really pretty.

SKUNK
 Am I?

DILLON
 (PAUSE; then)
 Nah, you're ugly. See ya!

He goes. She watches him a moment, then:

KASIA(O.S.)
Skunk!!!

She turns, goes inside.

ARCHIE (V.O.)
 So, what happened?

46 INT. CUNNINGHAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

46

ARCHIE sits with MR BUCKLEY, who has his arm in a sling. Again, they have whiskeys in front of them. After a moment:

MR BUCKLEY

Well, Doris and I, we'd been, um

...

(sighs, then)

... Well, we'd been fighting ...

ARCHIE

Uh-huh.

MR BUCKLEY

... I mean, really fighting. I was so bloody angry with her ...

47 INT. BUCKLEY'S KITCHEN - DAY

47

MR and MRS BUCKLEY, who is still in her dressing-gown.

MRS BUCKLEY

Dave ...!!!

MR BUCKLEY

... don't know whether you're coming or going, look at you! When did you last have a shower ...?!

MRS BUCKLEY

My son is sick!

MR BUCKLEY

... And sitting outside his bedroom door all day's gonna help? It's that kind of babying has him ...

MRS BUCKLEY

"Babying?!"

MR BUCKLEY

... has him the way he is! That's right. If you left him alone for a minute, Doris ...

MRS BUCKLEY

No!

MR BUCKLEY

... just gave him a break, then ...!

MRS BUCKLEY
He needs to know I'm here for
him, Dave!!!

SILENCE. Then, shoving past her:

MR BUCKLEY
I'll show you what he needs!

MRS BUCKLEY
Dave, please ...

47B INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING

47B

MR BUCKLEY comes up the last few stairs and arrives at RICK's door. He throws his shoulder against it.

MR BUCKLEY
Open the door, Rick!

MRS BUCKLEY
Dave!

MR BUCKLEY
(shoulders it again)
Open the door, Rick!

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
Stop it, Dave!

MR BUCKLEY
(shoulders it again)
I'm coming in, Rick!

One more time and the door breaks inward, MR BUCKLEY's momentum carrying him into the room toward RICK who stabs him through the arm with the KITCHEN KNIFE before retreating, dropping it, horrified at what he's just done. HOLD.

48 INT. BUCKLEY HALLWAY

48

MR BUCKLEY sits on the stairs, his arm being tended to by a MEDIC. A POLICEMAN hovers.

POLICEMAN 1
Do you want to press charges, Mr Buckley?

MR BUCKLEY
Now, why the hell would I want to press charges ...?!

49 INT. POLICE CAR - MOVING - DAY 49
C.U RICK: sitting in the back.

MR BUCKLEY (V.O; CONT'D)
... He's my bloody son!

50 INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - LIVING ROOM 50
RESUME ARCHIE and MR BUCKLEY, who continues:

MR BUCKLEY
... I asked the doctor they had,
how long they could keep him, and
he said indefinitely?

ARCHIE
Right.

MR BUCKLEY
Is that true?

ARCHIE
If someone is sectioned, then
yes, I'm afraid they have the
right to hold him until as long
as they see fit.

MR BUCKLEY
I see.

ARCHIE
I'm sorry, Dave.

51 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 51
SKUNK looks out her window at -

MR BUCKLEY

as he makes his way back to his house. He gets to the front
door and goes in.

SKUNK looks up to -

RICK'S BEDROOM WINDOW

It's dark. Empty.

FADE TO BLACK:

SKUNK, JED, KASIA and MIKE sit around the table making paper airplanes of different colours and types from a paper airplane-making book. There are quite a few already made on the table.

SKUNK

But, what's it like?

MIKE

I don't know, Skunk.

SKUNK

Is it like "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest?"

JED

"Mmm! Juicy Fruit!"

MIKE

You saw that?

JED

Me and Skunk one night Kasia fell asleep on the couch.

MIKE

Was she drinking?

(to KASIA)

I'm joking.

SKUNK

They cut a part of his brain out.

MIKE

Who?

SKUNK

McMurphy.

JED

"Mmm! Juicy Fruit!"

KASIA

Jed!

MIKE

That's not gonna happen to Rick.

SKUNK

Are you sure?

MIKE

Yeah.

SKUNK

How do you know?

MIKE

'Cos it's not. That kind of thing
isn't done anymore.
Now, come on, are we ready to see
if these things fly or what?

DISSOLVE TO:

52B EXT. BACK GARDEN

52B

Paper airplane after paper airplane flies through the air.
Various shots of MIKE, SKUNK, JED, KASIA throwing more.
SKUNK throws the occasional surreptitious admiring glance
at MIKE. An idyllic feel is sustained throughout until,
again, we -

DISSOLVE TO:

53 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

53

She's asleep. We hear muted shouting. She wakes.

54 OMITTED

54

55 INT. HALLWAY

55

As MIKE come out of the kitchen, followed by KASIA:

MIKE

Yeah, well, I'm fucking sick of
it, too.

KASIA

Of what?

MIKE

Of it all. The pushing ...

KASIA

Oh, fuck off!

MIKE

... the fucking obsessing! I am
fucking off, and good fucking
luck in the future finding
someone willing to, to capitulate
to your ...

KASIA

Someone who isn't a child?

MIKE

That's right. ... to your
psychotic fucking demands, 'cos
it isn't gonna be me.

(grabbing his jacket; to
himself)

No way.

(putting it on; to
himself)

No fucking way, Jose.

KASIA

So, that's it ...?!

MIKE

That's right.

KASIA

... You're gone?! Jesus, well,
have a good fucking life ...
asshole!

MIKE

(opening the front door)
You have a good life ...

KASIA

Fuck you.

MIKE

... You crazy fucking bitch, you!

He goes, slamming the door behind him. KASIA bursts into
tears. She looks up to see SKUNK and JED on the stairs.

JED

Have you and Mike split up?

KASIA

(BEAT)
Go to bed.

She goes back into the kitchen. Slams the door. HOLD on
SKUNK and JED.

56	OMITTED	56
57	OMITTED	57
58	INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT	58

ARCHIE and KASIA sit across from one another, a half-
finished bottle of wine on the table. KASIA is crying.

KASIA

... Asshole.

(BEAT)

I mean, why the hell are you with a person unless you plan to stay with that person, you know?

ARCHIE

Mm.

KASIA

Asshole!

(BEAT)

Fucking Coward! And the things he said, you know what he called me, Archie?

ARCHIE

What?

KASIA

A crazy fucking bitch!

BEAT. ARCHIE nods solemnly. BEAT.

KASIA

Fuck you!

ARCHIE

(smiling)

Sorry.

KASIA smiles in spite of herself. Then, after a moment:

KASIA

Just so ...

(sighs)

... worn out with it, Archie, you know?

ARCHIE

Mm.

They sit there in SILENCE. Then:

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

You could sue him.

KASIA

Oh, yeah? For what?

ARCHIE

I dunno. Dereliction of pre-marital duty?

KASIA

Very funny. What about just for being a dick? A ...

ARCHIE
Yeah, we could get him for that.

KASIA
... a lazy, a selfish dick,
because that's the problem,
Archie. He values his freedom far
too much, his comforts.

ARCHIE
Most men do, Kasia.

KASIA
(BEAT)
Mm.

ARCHIE
We need that push, you know?

KASIA
I've been pushing for four years,
though, Archie. I'm sick of
waiting for him. I'm thirty-six
years old, you know? Thirty six
and counting and I can't wait any
more ...

ARCHIE
All right.

KASIA
I can't. I just can't.

She stares down at the table. ARCHIE watches her.

59 EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - DAY

59

DILLON stands at the front door, which opens ON THE CUT,
revealing SKUNK.

SKUNK
What are you doing here?

DILLON
Thought I'd knock around.

SKUNK
Jed's out.

DILLON nods. HOLD.

60 EXT. APPROACHING THE SCRAPYARD

60

SKUNK and DILLON, who is carrying a packet of NIK-NAKS.

SKUNK
I think she wanted him to get
married ...

DILLON
Right.

SKUNK
... Or buy a house ... Or have a
baby, maybe ...
(PAUSE)
I would've married him.

DILLON
Yeah?
(seeing the scrapyard
proper)
Oh, wow!

SKUNK
Come over here.

As she leads him through the derelict cars, boats, etc.

DILLON
Oh, wow!

60B OMITTED

60B

60C INT. CARAVAN

60C

SKUNK and DILLON enter.

DILLON
Oh, this is really cool. It's
like ...

SKUNK
Sit down.

DILLON
... like a secret hideout or
something.
(sitting down in an
armchair)
You're a really cool girl!

SKUNK
Thanks.

DILLON
... For a lesbian.

SKUNK rolls her eyebrows, sits in the other chair. DILLON
opens his packet of NIK-NAKS.

DILLON (CONT'D)
You wanna Nik-Nak?

SKUNK
No thanks.

DILLON
Must be a pain, not being able to
eat what you like.
(she shrugs)
You wanna be my girlfriend?

SKUNK
(BEAT; then)
Okay.

DILLON
Can I give you a kiss?

She looks at him. LONG PAUSE; then:

SKUNK
Maybe later.

DILLON
Okay. Only later my mouth's gonna
be all Nik-Nakky.

SKUNK
(BEAT)
All right. But not a splasher.

DILLON
What?

SKUNK
Not swirly tongues.

DILLON
Okay.

They both stand, kiss for a moment; then:

DILLON (CONT'D)
Okay.

They both sit back down. DILLON starts eating. They smile
shyly at one another.

61 INT. CUNNINGHAM KITCHEN - NIGHT

61

ARCHIE sits in his suit at the kitchen table, again having
a late dinner. KASIA puts protective covers on schoolbooks.
SKUNK and JED, in their pyjamas, wrestle on the floor.
After a moment:

KASIA
All right, guys. Bed. Come on.

JED
We're doing our books!

KASIA
Is that what you call it?
(BEAT)
Go on. I'll do the rest of them.

SKUNK
Da-ad ...

ARCHIE
Do as you're told. Come on. Big
day tomorrow.

SKUNK and JED get up, go to ARCHIE, kiss him goodnight.

SKUNK
Goodnight, dad.

JED
'Night, dad.

ARCHIE
'Night, guys.

Then, as they go:

KASIA
Hey ... Where's mine?

They turn without stopping and both raise their middle
finger, smiling:

SKUNK
Goodnight, Katya.

JED
Goodnight, Katya.

KASIA
Oh, very good. Very funny ...
(calling after them)
And don't forget teeth!

KASIA and ARCHIE continue their work a moment, then KASIA
stops. BEAT.

KASIA
You want a drink?

SKUNK brushes her teeth. JED stands in the doorway.

JED
 ... and if you wear shoes, they
 trip you up. And if you wear
trainers, they stomp on 'em -
 Bang! - And if your hair is long,
 what they do is grab it from
 behind ...

SKUNK
 All right ...

JED
 ... and ...

SKUNK
 ... stop!

JED
 You need to know about this,
 Skunk. The better prepared you
 are, the better you'll do.

SKUNK looks at herself in the mirror. She is worried.

JED (CONT'D; O.S)
 So, they grab you by the hair ...

63 OMITTED

63

64 INT. KITCHEN

64

ARCHIE and KASIA sit at the table, drunk, a three-quarters
 empty bottle of gin between them. After a moment:

KASIA
 What about Rachel?

ARCHIE
 What about her?

KASIA
 If she walked in now, would you
 take her back?

ARCHIE
 You're joking aren't you?

KASIA
 Not even for the kids?

ARCHIE
 Why, so they could live in fear
 of her leaving again whenever the
 inclination took her? They
 wouldn't even recognise her.
 (MORE)

ARCHIE (cont'd)

(BEAT)

No thank you.

She nods, looking into his eyes. After a moment:

KASIA

Poor Archie.

ARCHIE

(a smile)

Poor Kasia.

PAUSE. KASIA breaks eye-contact, finishes her glass of wine; then, getting up:

KASIA

I'm gonna go to bed.

ARCHIE

All right.

HOLD on ARCHIE, staring into space, as KASIA rinses her glass at the sink, etc. Then, standing over him:

KASIA

Goodnight.

He looks up at her. BEAT.

ARCHIE

Goodnight.

She leans down and kisses him passionately on the mouth, then whispers:

KASIA

Follow me up if you want.

She goes. HOLD on ARCHIE.

65 INT. BATHROOM

65

ARCHIE brushes his teeth, rinses, looks at himself in the mirror.

66 INT. LANDING HALLWAY

66

ARCHIE tiptoes towards KASIA's room. As he passes SKUNK's door:

SKUNK (O.S.)

Dad ...?

He freezes. Waits. After a moment:

SKUNK (O.S.)

Dad ...!

67 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM

67

ARCHIE steps into the doorway, stops.

ARCHIE

Why aren't you in bed?

SKUNK is sitting on the floor, her back against the wall. She has her duvet pulled up to her chin.

SKUNK

Jed said I'm gonna get my head flushed down the toilet ...

ARCHIE

By who?

SKUNK

In school.

ARCHIE

And do you believe him?

SKUNK

... And punched in the stomach. Yes, I believe him. He said it's tradition, dad.

ARCHIE

He's pulling your leg, love. Seriously. I was told the very same things when I was your age.

SKUNK

Really?

ARCHIE

That's the tradition.

SKUNK

What is?

ARCHIE

Putting the fear of God into first-years.

(BEAT)

I promise you nothing's going to happen, Skunk.

(crosses his heart)

See that?

SKUNK

(nods; PAUSE)

Jed's an idiot.

ARCHIE
 (smiles; then)
 Come on. You getting into bed or
 what?

As SKUNK goes to her bed, ARCHIE looks toward KASIA's room:
 she is standing in the doorway in her underwear.

SKUNK (O.S.)
 Dad ...?

ARCHIE
 Yeah?

SKUNK (O.S.)
 ... Will you lie down beside me
 til I go asleep?

BEAT. KASIA smiles regretfully, slowly closes her door.

SKUNK (O.S; CONT'D)
 Dad ...?

68 OMITTED 68

69 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR 69

Pulling SKUNK as she walks through the crowds, the screams,
 the roughhousing, etc. She is very nervous.

70 INT. CLASSROOM 70

Kids file in, SKUNK among them. She stops when she sees -

SKUNK
 My God! Hi Mike!

MIKE, sitting behind his desk, looks up.

MIKE
 It's Mr Kiernan in school,
 Skunk ...

SKUNK
 Oh ...

MIKE
 ... Not Mike.

SKUNK
 Oh, right. Well, in that case,
 you can call me Miss Cunningham.

A smile between them. SKUNK takes her seat. MIKE stands up,
 addresses the class:

MIKE
Okay, then ...!

71 INT. CLASSROOM - LATER 71

The class is now filing out. As SKUNK passes:

MIKE
Miss Cunningham ...

SKUNK
Yes, Mr Kiernan?

MIKE
... How's Kasia?

SKUNK
Kasia's fine.

MIKE
(nods; then)
Say Hi from me, would you?

72 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING 72

SKUNK, JED and KASIA are eating their dinner.

SKUNK
... Do you have a message back?

KASIA
I do.

SKUNK
What is it?

73 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 73

The class are filing in again. SKUNK stands with MIKE at his desk. He has a shocked look on his face.

MIKE
Excuse me?!

SKUNK
(giggles)
That's what she said.

74 INT. CHANGING ROOM 74

SKUNK, having just dressed after P.E, plays with her mobile phone while her friend, FIONA TORBY, fixes her hair at the mirror.

FIONA
How many'd you get?

SKUNK
A hundred.

FIONA
Shit.

SKUNK
And a long one: "I must not use
inappropriate language in ..."

FIONA
Why can't he just say "swear"?

SKUNK
... in class. Exactly!

SKUNK is suddenly shouldered hard. Her phone falls out of
her hand and is picked up by SUNRISE OSWALD.

SKUNK
Why the hell'd you do that?!

SUNRISE
Shut up. Gimme some money.

FIONA
What?!

SUNRISE
Some money.

SKUNK
Why?!

SUNRISE
'Cos I want some and 'cos, if you
don't, my sister's gonna ... You
know my sister, Saskia ...?

SKUNK
Yeah.

SUNRISE
... She's gonna kick the fucking
shit out of you. That's why.

SKUNK
(considers this a
moment; then)
How much?

SUNRISE
All you got. "How fucking much"!

SKUNK sighs, then she and FIONA both hand over some coins which SUNRISE pockets.

SUNRISE (CONT'D)

Now, every week from next week on, I want two pounds from each of you.

SKUNK/FIONA

What?!

SUNRISE

That's right. This is what it costs to stay off the list.

FIONA

What list?

SUNRISE

"What list"?!

(PAUSE; then)

The list of fucking death, bitch.

(then, handing phone back)

Here's your shit fucking loser's out-of-date fucking mobile.

She exits. SKUNK pushes buttons on her phone.

SKUNK

It's broken!

FIONA

What?

SKUNK

The cow ...!

As their P.E teacher enters:

SKUNK (CONT'D)

... The absolute fucking ugly, spiteful fucking ...

SKUNK stops, seeing her. BEAT; then:

P.E TEACHER

Go on.

75 OMITTED

75

76 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

76

SKUNK sits at the kitchen table doing her lines. ARCHIE leans over her, looks down at what she's writing. Then:

ARCHIE
How many'd you get?

SKUNK
Two hundred.

ARCHIE
Must've been one of the bad ones.

SKUNK
(turns to him)
Can I get a mobile phone?

ARCHIE
You have one.

SKUNK
It broke. Can I get a new one?

ARCHIE
No.

SKUNK
Why not?

ARCHIE
'Cos you should've taken better
care of the old one.

77 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

77

ARCHIE, KASIA and JED watch the news. SKUNK plays with ARCHIE's hair, speaks like an Enid Blyton character.

SKUNK
It'd make me so happy ...

ARCHIE
Sshh!

SKUNK
... I'd just be the happiest
child ...

ARCHIE
I'm trying to ...
(pulling his head away)
Jesus!

78 INT. LANDING HALLWAY - MORNING

78

SKUNK knocks on the bathroom door.

SKUNK
Dad ...?

79 INT. BATHROOM 79

ARCHIE sits on the toilet, reading the paper.

ARCHIE
Go away, Skunk!

79B INT. KITCHEN - EVENING 79B

ARCHIE eats his dinner. SKUNK lies on the couch. Sullen:

SKUNK
It's just not fair.

ARCHIE
I don't care.

SKUNK
About me.

ARCHIE
What?

SKUNK
You don't care about me.

ARCHIE
Give me a break, Skunk, will you?

SKUNK
(BEAT)
Well, you don't.
(LONG PAUSE; then, under
her breath)
You wish I was dead.

ARCHIE
What?

SKUNK
Nothing.

80 INT. HALLWAY - MORNING 80

ARCHIE is putting his coat on to go to work. SKUNK is shadowing him.

SKUNK
Pleeeeeease, dad?

ARCHIE
Stop now.

SKUNK
Pleeeeeease?

ARCHIE
EMILY !!!!!

SKUNK is shocked into silence. PAUSE.

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
 Now, I don't want to hear it
 again! Do you understand?!
 (PAUSE; louder)
 Do you understand!

She nods, lip aquiver. He leaves the house. The door
 closes. PAUSE. Then, from the KITCHEN:

JED (O.S.)
 (doing NELSON from The
 Simpsons)
 Haw-Haw!

81 EXT. SCRAPYARD - NIGHT

81

DILLON and SKUNK sit in the front of an old truck. SKUNK is
 eating M&Ms. After a moment:

DILLON
 What time is it?

SKUNK
 Ten past ten. Do you think he's
 learned his lesson yet?

DILLON
 Who's this?

SUSAN OSWALD runs through the SCRAPYARD, pursued by an
 OLDER BOY, who catches her around the waist, swings her
 around, puts her down.

DILLON
 Slut.

SKUNK
 What? No, she's not.

DILLON shrugs. SKUNK continues to eat her M&M's.

SUSAN unzips the OLDER BOY and begins giving him a blowjob.

DILLON (O.S.)
 Told you ...

CLOSE ON SKUNK

frozen, an M&M halfway to her open mouth.

DILLON (O.S; CONT'D)
 ... You call it fellatio.

She now looks down at the M&M she's holding.

DILLON (O.S; CONT'D)
Skunk ...?

SKUNK
I have to go home.

82 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

82

The front door opens and SKUNK enters, closing it quietly behind her.

SKUNK
Hello?

83 INT. KITCHEN

83

SKUNK enters, almost bumping into KASIA.

KASIA
Where were you?
(SKUNK shrugs)
Why didn't you call?

SKUNK
I don't have a phone.

KASIA suddenly grabs her by the arm and slaps her arse several times - hard.

KASIA
How dare you ...!! How dare you
do what you just did, you little
brat!!

SKUNK is in tears. KASIA dials her mobile, waits, then:

KASIA
Yeah, she's here. She's fine.

84 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

84

ARCHIE sits in an armchair, staring at the TV. SKUNK stands contritely in front of him. After several moments:

SKUNK
I'm sorry, dad.

SILENCE. ARCHIE gets up, leaves the room. HOLD on SKUNK.

85 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

85

HER FINGER

is pressed down on the TEST STRIP, leaving blood-deposit.

THE TEST STRIP

is put into the meter on the MACHINE which gives the numerical reading.

SKUNK

looks at it. Frowns. HOLD.

86

INT. KITCHEN

86

ARCHIE sits reading the newspaper. SKUNK enters. He looks up.

SKUNK

My levels are off.

87

INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM

87

SKUNK is now in her pyjamas. She sits on the edge of the bed. ARCHIE prepares an insulin injection.

ARCHIE

You can never forget how important this is ...

SKUNK

I know.

ARCHIE

... Routine. I know it's hard, but

SKUNK

Say, "It's okay," dad.

ARCHIE

What?

SKUNK

I said I was sorry, now you have to say, "It's okay."

ARCHIE

(PAUSE)

It's okay.

BEAT. He hugs her tightly. Then:

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

You know how much I worry about you ...?

SKUNK

Yes.

ARCHIE

... you and Jed, and how much I love you?

SKUNK

What would you do if I died, dad?

ARCHIE

(BEAT)

I can't even answer that.

SKUNK

Would you cry?

ARCHIE

Uh-huh.

SKUNK

A lot?

ARCHIE

I don't think I would ever stop, love.

After a LONG PAUSE:

SKUNK

Tell me about the night I was born.

ARCHIE

Oh, come on ...! The night?

SKUNK

The dream.

ARCHIE

Again?! I don't even understand why you like it, Skunk.

SKUNK

I do.

ARCHIE

(shakes his head; then)
All right. It was about this woman ...

SKUNK

Uh-huh.

ARCHIE

... and it was different times in her life.

SKUNK
Different moments.

ARCHIE
Yeah.

SKUNK
Like what?

ARCHIE
I can't remember! You know I
can't!

SKUNK giggles. ARCHIE continues:

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
I know that some of them were
sad ...

SKUNK
Okay.

ARCHIE
... but that most of them were
happy.

SKUNK
And the woman was me.

ARCHIE
The woman was you.

SKUNK
And the dream was my future.

ARCHIE
Well, I don't know, but that's
what it felt like, yeah.

SKUNK
And what did I look like?

ARCHIE
Stunning.

SKUNK
And then you woke.

ARCHIE
I woke and I was crying and
laughing all at once.

SKUNK
And mum was there.

ARCHIE
She's the one who woke me.

SKUNK
And what did she say?

ARCHIE
She said, "Archie ...
(BEAT)
... She's here."

SKUNK
Meaning me.

ARCHIE
Well, you were the one about to
be born ...
(BEAT)
... weren't you.

She's crying.

ARCHIE
Oh, Skunk!

SKUNK
(laughing)
I can't help it!

ARCHIE
You're a very strange girl, love.
Come on. Lets get this done.

She pulls her top up, exposing her stomach. ARCHIE injects her.

88

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

88

Packed. SKUNK is showing FIONA TORBY her new phone.

FIONA
Beautiful.

SKUNK
Yeah, the only thing is I've got
to pay for half of it.

FIONA
How d'you do that?

SKUNK
Give up half of my pocket money
every week.

FIONA
Shit. That sucks.

SKUNK hurriedly puts the phone away when she sees SUNRISE approach.

SUNRISE

All right?

FIONA hands her two pounds. To SKUNK:

SUNRISE

Fuck is yours, you chunky twat?
 (to FIONA; taking the
 five)
You're all right; you're
 punctual.

SKUNK

Can I bring it into you on
 Monday?

SUNRISE

You ain't got it?

SKUNK

I will on Monday.

SUNRISE

(PAUSE)
 Make sure you do or you're going
 on the list.

(BEAT)
 Have your swollen fucking head
 kicked in. Chubby cunt.

She goes. HOLD on SKUNK and FIONA.

89 OMITTED 89

90 OMITTED 90

91 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 91

SKUNK stands at her window, staring across the square at -
 RICK'S WINDOW
 which remains in darkness.

SKUNK

stares for a long time.

92 EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY 92

MR and MRS BUCKLEY stand at the entrance, while, off a
 little, KASIA instructs SKUNK.

KASIA
Now, you know to do whatever
you're told ...

SKUNK
Yes.

KASIA
... And not to forget your
manners.

SKUNK
Kasia...!

KASIA
All right. All right. Go on,
then.

SKUNK joins MR and MRS BUCKLEY and they go inside.

93 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

93

RICK is sitting in bed watching TV. The door opens and MR and MRS BUCKLEY enter.

MRS BUCKLEY
Hello, darling!

RICK
Hi, Mum.

MRS BUCKLEY
Look who's here to visit.

SKUNK peeks her head in shyly.

RICK
Hiya, Skunk. Come in.

She does. MR BUCKLEY shuts the door.

RICK (CONT'D)
How are you?

SKUNK
Fine. Why are you talking like
that?

MR BUCKLEY
It's his medication.

RICK
Talking like what?

SKUNK
Kinda groggy.

RICK

Am I?

He looks confused. PAUSE. He smiles. Everyone laughs.

SKUNK

Oh, wow, you've got your own telly
and all.

RICK

Yeah. You know, I watch, um ...
(struggles to remember;
SILENCE; then)
I'm sorry.

MR BUCKLEY

(calming unnecessarily)
That's okay. That's okay.

RICK

How's school?

SKUNK

'S alright. We're on a half day
today.

MRS BUCKLEY

Isn't she good to come, Rick?

RICK

She is ...

MRS BUCKLEY

She asked to, you know.

RICK

... she's really good.
(to SKUNK)
I always thought that Skunk was
good, didn't I?

SKUNK

I dunno.

He looks at her a moment, smiling, then turns to the TV.
After several moments more:

SKUNK

So, what did it feel like?

RICK

Hm?

SKUNK

When you went kinda mad.
(to MR BUCKLEY)
Is it all right to say that?

RICK
It's hard to describe, really.
It's like there's a toxic cloud,
isn't that right, mum? Down in my
stomach ...

SKUNK
A toxic cloud?!

RICK
... Or a mist of ... I don't
know, evil or something ...

SKUNK
Really?!

RICK
... Or badness. Yeah.

SKUNK
And is it there right now?

MR BUCKLEY
Less.

MRS BUCKLEY
Less.

MR BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
In fact, Doctor Sinclair says, at
this rate of improvement, Rick
might be able to come home for a
weekend. Right, son?

SKUNK
When?

RICK
(slightly panicked)
Not now ...

MR BUCKLEY
No, no. Not now.

MRS BUCKLEY
No, no. Not now.

RICK
... But soon.

SILENCE. Then, smiling lopsidedly at SKUNK, he enthuses:

RICK (CONT'D)
It's so good of you to come,
Skunk!

HOLD on SKUNK smiling awkwardly back.

95 EXT. PATHWAY - DAY

95

SKUNK and DILLON walk.

DILLON

... yeah, I'd an uncle was crazy something like that, he thought he'd worms in his hair ...

SKUNK

Oh, yeah?

DILLON

... like nesting there. Shaved it off, he's been bald ever since.

SKUNK

Is he better, though?

DILLON

Nah, he's worse. He lives in Florida now. You know they've lizards there?

SKUNK

What?!

DILLON

Lizards. Millions of 'em just walkin' around the streets - "Hey, how you doin'?" - You and I should go, you know that?

SKUNK

When?

DILLON

I dunno. One day.

(BEAT)

Why, would you come if I asked you?

SKUNK

Yeah.

DILLON

What about that guy you're in love with?

SKUNK

Mike?

DILLON

That teacher.

SKUNK

He'd understand. I'm in love with you as well, you know.

DILLON
Sweet. They call that a *menage a trois*.

SKUNK
What does that mean?

DILLON
Love triangle. Give us a kiss.

SKUNK
No!

DILLON
Go on.

She kisses him. He smiles.

DILLON
Nice one.

96 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

96

VIKRAM, an Indian pupil, reads aloud. The class, including SKUNK, listen.

VIKRAM
"... and so, in spite of the enormous fear he felt, James took a breath, and, without any further hesitation, stepped through the doorway."

MIKE
Well done, Vikram. So ...
(to class)
... what's on the other side?

KEVIN
How should we know?

MIKE
Well, take a guess. Anna?

ANNA
Dragons?

MIKE
Maybe.

ANNA
There are.
(holds up book)
They're on the cover, see?

VIKRAM

Does he die? I don't want him to die.

KIM, a Korean pupil, punches STEPHEN.

STEPHEN (O.S.)

Ouch, Motherfucker!

MIKE

Stephen!

STEPHEN

He hit me!

MIKE

Kim! Come on, lads!

VIKRAM

Does he die?

MIKE

I can't really say if he dies or not, Vikram. That's why we read on. To find out.

(to class)

But, lets agree there's a chance he might, all right?

VIKRAM

I don't want him to.

MIKE

(ignoring this)

... all right? Then, why does he go? Kevin.

KEVIN

Well, his life was rubbish, wasn't it; and boring, whereas through the door, there might be wicked shit ...

ANNA

Like dragons.

KEVIN

... like dragons and shit and trolls and shit you could disembowel, yeah?

VIKRAM

And what if they disembowelled you?

KEVIN

Do me a favour, Vik.

MIKE
Well, that's the definition of
courage, isn't it? Being afraid
and doing it anyway?

VIKRAM
Hmm.
(BEAT)
I still would not go.

C.U MIKE: his face has gone blank. As he sits down slowly:

ANNA (O.S.)
Well, of course you wouldn't.

VIKRAM (O.S.)
I wouldn't want to die.

MIKE
(quietly; almost to
himself)
He doesn't die, Vikram.

PAUSE. The entire class registers shock. Then:

VIKRAM
You tell me the end?! Why do you
tell me the end?!

Everybody starts giving out, except SKUNK, who is watching
MIKE. KIM punches STEPHEN again.

STEPHEN
Ouch, motherfucker!

ANNA
Sir ...?

VIKRAM
(starting to cry)
You ruined it, Mr Kiernan!

ANNA
Sir!

VIKRAM
You ruined it!

KIM punches STEPHEN again.

STEPHEN
Ouch, you fucking asshole!

VIKRAM
... Why did you have to ruin it?!

HOLD on SKUNK as the chaos continues.

97

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

97

SKUNK watches, over FIONA's shoulder, SUNRISE approach.

FIONA
... I don't know, it was like ...

SKUNK
Uh-huh.

FIONA
... like he just switched off or something. Click ...!

SKUNK
Yeah.

FIONA
... Click! ... And he just wasn't there anymore ...

SUNRISE
(arriving)
Hello, fats.

SKUNK
(PAUSE; scared)
I haven't got it.

SUNRISE
You haven't got it?!
(pushes SKUNK against the wall)
Are you fucking joking me?

SKUNK tries to move away, but SUNRISE grabs her and, again, pushes her against the wall and repeats:

SUNRISE (CONT'D)
Are you fucking joking me?

SKUNK
Leave me alone.

SKUNK tries to walk away again and, again, SUNRISE grabs her, but this time -

SKUNK (CONT'D)
Let go!

SKUNK swings SUNRISE around, throwing her to the ground. Shocked at her own actions, she gives a little hysterical titter.

SUNRISE
You fucking laughing?!

SKUNK

No, I ...
 (another involuntary
 titter)
 ... I'm sorry, Sunrise ...

SUNRISE

(getting up; embarrassed
 and slightly teary)
 Bitch, you're gone ...

SKUNK

... I ... Sunrise ...!

SUNRISE

... History, yeah? You're now
 officially on the list, so just
 you fucking wait.

(BEAT)

Dumpy little turd.

She goes. SKUNK watches, then notices that several kids scattered around the playground are just standing there solemnly, staring right at her.

98 INT. CLASSROOM 98

SKUNK stares off into space as an unseen FEMALE TEACHER drones on.

99 EXT. STREET 99

SKUNK on her way home. She stops, seeing ahead of her, SUNRISE and her big sister, SASKIA.

100 INT. MIKE'S CAR 100

MIKE drives home. He takes a corner, sees, as they pass, running in the opposite direction, SKUNK and her pursuers.

101 EXT. ANOTHER STREET 101

SKUNK, exhausted, comes to a stop, turns to face the two OSWALD girls who have slowed now to a walk. As they approach:

SKUNK

Please ...
 (as they get closer)
 Please ...

SUNRISE punches her in the face. She falls, curls up into a ball as the two girls begin kicking her.

SUNRISE
 Fucking fat fucking bitch ...!
 Frigid fucking slut ...! Hey!

They are being pulled away from her by MIKE.

MIKE
 What the hell do you think you're
 doing?!

SASKIA
 Fucking touch me again, I'll
 report you ...!

MIKE
Report me?!
 (BEAT)
 How old are you? Huh? Beating up
 someone half your size!

SASKIA
 Oh, fuck off, Paedo!

MIKE
 Get out of my sight! Go on!

SASKIA
 ... Fucking queer!
 (to SUNRISE)
 Come on.

MIKE
 Not you, Sunrise. You stand over
 there.

SASKIA
 (as SUNRISE obeys)
 Whatcha doing? Don't listen to
 him.

SUNRISE
 He's a teacher, Sask.

SASKIA
 He's a fucking jockstrap, more
 like. I'll see you at home, then,
 yeah?

She goes. MIKE squats down in front of SKUNK.

MIKE
 Skunk ...?
 (BEAT)
 Darling, are you all right?

SUNRISE
 "Darling"?!

SKUNK looks up at MIKE. Her nose is bleeding.

SKUNK
I think so.

102 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR 102

SKUNK sits on a bench, bloody tissues held to her nose. O.S and muffled, we can hear MIKE'S VOICE raised in anger.

103 INT. CLASSROOM 103

MIKE sits across from SUNRISE.

SUNRISE
What kids?

MIKE
Don't insult me, Sunrise. Please. You're a thief and you're a bully and I am not going to entertain your denials. Not for a second. All right? Now, every day for the next two weeks you'll come here for ...

SUNRISE
(looking away)
Yeah, right.

MIKE
... for a ... Look at me, Sunrise!

She does. Hatefully. MIKE continues:

MIKE (CONT'D)
... for an hour and a half's detention, starting tomorrow. Do you understand?
(no answer)
Do you understand, Sunrise?
(no answer)
Do you understand?

104 INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - HALLWAY 104

SKUNK and MIKE enter. SKUNK calls out:

SKUNK
Hello-o! Jed ...? Kasia...?

They head down the hall. Just then, KASIA appears from the kitchen, sees SKUNK's bruised face.

KASIA
Skunk! What happened you?!

MIKE
She's okay.

KASIA
My God!

MIKE
She had a bit of a run-in with
another girl. We sorted it out.
Don't worry.

SKUNK
Mike rescued me.

KASIA
Really.

SKUNK
Can I have a jam sandwich?

KASIA
(BEAT)
Okay. Change out of your uniform
first.

SKUNK exits. KASIA goes to the press.

KASIA
So, who was it?

MIKE
She says she wants to tell you
herself.

KASIA
Fair enough. Can I make you some
tea?

MIKE
No, no, I'm okay.

She brings bread and jam to the table and begins to prepare
SKUNK's sandwich. MIKE watches her for several moments;
then, thoughtfully:

MIKE
It's weird, when you're in the
middle of something, isn't it?
How things can be so, you know
... confusing ...

KASIA
Mm.

MIKE

... unclear, whereas ...

KASIA

What are you talking about?

MIKE

Well, I'm saying, whereas, a bit of distance, or time, or a bit of perspective, everything sort of

...

(sighs)

Look: whatever you want.

KASIA

Sorry?

MIKE

The house, the baby, whatever you want, I'll give you.

KASIA

That's very kind of you, Mike.

MIKE

No, see, this is what I'm saying. It took my stepping back to ...

KASIA

Right.

MIKE

... or away ...

KASIA

... to get perspective.

MIKE

Yes. And to realise that the things that you want ...

KASIA

Mike ...

MIKE

... the things that you want are the things that I want, Kasia.

KASIA

Mike.

(BEAT)

I'm with Archie now.

105 EXT. HALLWAY

105

Pulling SKUNK, now dressed in her everyday clothes, down the stairs, along the hallway, towards the kitchen, over which we hear:

MIKE (O.S.)
You what?!

KASIA(O.S.)
I'm sorry.

MIKE (O.S.)
With fucking Archie?!

KASIA(O.S.)
Yes.

MIKE (O.S.)
As lovers?!!

SKUNK stops just outside the door. Reacts.

106 INT. KITCHEN

106

BEAT. KASIA nods.

MIKE (CONT'D)
And are you in love?

KASIA
(PAUSE)
Yes.

A LONG PAUSE; then, on the verge of tears:

MIKE
I'm so fucking happy for you!

He picks the jam-jar up and throws it against the wall, smashing it.

107 EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

107

MIKE exits, heading for his car. He reaches it, gets in. SKUNK comes running out of the house, calling:

SKUNK
Mike?

He drives off. She calls again:

SKUNK
Mike!

He's gone. HOLD on SKUNK. She runs off in the other direction.

108 INT. MIKE'S CAR 108

MIKE drives, tears streaming down his face. HOLD before -
SPLAT! a bagful of SHIT explodes against his window.

109 EXT. SCRAPYARD 109

SKUNK walks, lost in thought. She comes to the caravan and opens the door.

109B INT. CARAVAN 109B

She enters, seeing, on one of the armchairs, a guy, trousers around his ankles, having sex with SUSAN OSWALD. SKUNK gasps. SUSAN sees her.

SUSAN
What the fuck?!

The guy turns around. It's JED. SKUNK, in shock, backs away.

JED
Skunk ...

She bolts.

110 INT. CUNNINGHAM KITCHEN - EVENING 110

ARCHIE and KASIA sit at the table, which is laid for dinner.

KASIA
... What could I do ...?

ARCHIE
Uh-huh.

KASIA
... I told him.

ARCHIE
What?

KASIA
That I was with you. What else?

ARCHIE
And where was Skunk at the time?

KASIA
Upstairs. But we need to tell
her, Archie ...

ARCHIE
I know.

KASIA
... her and Jed.

ARCHIE
I know. Just let me, uh ...

We hear the front door opening. After a moment, SKUNK enters. ARCHIE goes to her.

ARCHIE
Let me see.
(squats down, examines
her face)
Are you okay?

SKUNK
Uh-huh.

ARCHIE
Sit down and tell me about it.

SKUNK
(as they sit)
There's nothing to tell, dad.

ARCHIE
Of course there is. Who was it?

SKUNK
I dunno. Some girl.

ARCHIE
And why did she ...

SKUNK
Can we talk about it another
time, dad?

ARCHIE
Skunk...

PAUSE. We hear the front door open and close, then footsteps running up the stairs and another door closing. PAUSE. Everyone looks at each other.

He is lying in bed, miserable. SKUNK enters.

SKUNK

You have to come down for your dinner.

(LONG PAUSE)

What were you doing?

JED

You know what.

SKUNK

Why?

JED

I dunno.

SKUNK

Why her?

JED

I dunno! Promise you won't tell anyone, will you?

SKUNK

Okay. I just don't ...

JED

You haven't promised!

SKUNK

I promise. I just don't understand why people would do that.

JED

It's what you do when you're in love.

SKUNK

You're in love?!

JED

I am. I don't know about her.

SKUNK

And what if she's pregnant?

JED

She's not! Jesus ...

SKUNK

What if, though?

JED

Skunk!

SKUNK stops. LONG PAUSE; then:

JED (CONT'D)
What's for dinner?

112 INT. SUSAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

112

SUSAN sits with SUNRISE.

SUNRISE
What do you mean, you don't know?

SUSAN
I'm not sure.

SUNRISE (CONT'D)
Well, whose could it be, then?

SUSAN
Simon Malloy's ...

SUNRISE
Okay ...

SUSAN
... Jed Cunningham's, Dennis
Woods' ...

SUNRISE
Jed Cunningham's?!

SUSAN
Yeah, I know.

SUNRISE
Who else?

SUSAN
A couple of guys whose names I
can't remember ... Who's the one
with the dreadlocks?

SUNRISE
Nicky Cantwell?

SUSAN
He's going to fucking kill me,
Sunrise!

SUNRISE
He's not. Just let me ...

SUSAN
Yes, he is!

SUNRISE
... Just let me think for a
minute, will you?

HOLD as she does.

113 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

113

BOB has the TV in his arms again. He struggles under the weight. SUSAN, SUNRISE (both wearing school uniforms) and SASKIA watch in horror.

SUNRISE
... Dad, don't ...!

BOB
I will and it won't even matter,
'cos after, I'll lock you all in
the fucking shed and I won't let
you fucking out, you hear me?!
Drastic fucking measures're gonna
be taken unless you give me the
dirty bastard father's fucking
name!

(BEAT; raises the TV)
WHOSE IS IT?!

SUNRISE SASKIA
SUSAN!!! SUSAN!!!

SUSAN
Mister Kiernan!

BOB
(BEAT; then, lowering
the TV)
Who the fuck is ...?

SUNRISE
He's a teacher in school.

BOB
A TEACHER?!!!

SUSAN
He ... He took me for lifts in
his car ...!

The TV slips out of BOB's grip, crashing to the floor.

BOB
Fuck!

SUSAN
... He ...

SUNRISE SASKIA
Da-ad!!! Da-ad!!!

114 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY 114

PULLING BOB in C.U down the empty corridor.

SUSAN (V.O; CONT'D)
 ... He said I could be his
 girlfriend if I ... if I let him
 put it in me!

FOLLOWING BOB into -

115 INT. MIKE'S CLASSROOM 115

The class is going wild, kids screaming at each other, throwing things, etc. MIKE sits behind his desk, oblivious to it all, staring off into space, then -

BANG! BOB knocks him off his chair and begins beating him viciously. MIKE curls up into a ball as blows rain down.

After several moments of this, BOB screams.

SKUNK has her arms around him and is biting into his waist. He grabs her by the hair and pulls her away from him. Then, raising his fist to hit her:

SKUNK
 Mr Oswald ...!

He hesitates. SKUNK is terrified.

SKUNK (CONT'D)
 ... It's a lovely day, look?

SILENCE. BOB looks out the window. It's raining. He looks at the class, all the frightened faces staring at him. He looks at SKUNK again. Another PAUSE, then:

BOB
 It's fucking raining!

He releases her, goes.

SKUNK
 Mike!

She runs to him, squats down. He has blood all over his face. His nose is broken. His eyes are beginning to swell. One of his front teeth is missing.

SKUNK
 Mike!

MRS MCCLUSKEY enters, followed by MR BROWN, the school janitor. Seeing MIKE:

MRS MCCLUSKEY
My God! Mr Brown, call an
ambulance! Call the police!

MR BROWN
(exiting)
Will do!

MRS MCCLUSKEY
My God!

116 INT. OSWALD'S HOUSE - DAY

116

Present are BOB, SASKIA and SUSAN. SUNRISE comes running
in. (SUSAN and SUNRISE still wear school uniforms)

SUNRISE
They're coming, dad!

BOB
All right.
(kneeling down in front
of SUSAN)
Now, you know I'll be back, and
you know I'll make sure every-
thing turns out okay, don't you?
(she nods; he embraces
her)
I love you so fucking much.

Loud knocking. A VOICE in the letterbox.

VOICE
Mr Oswald?

BOB
I love you all so much.

VOICE
Mr Oswald!

BOB
(to the other girls)
C'mere, we'll do a big fucking
family hug.

They gather around him so that he can embrace them all.
HOLD, then -

117 EXT. OSWALD'S HOUSE - DAY

117

Four POLICEMEN manhandle a struggling BOB out the door.

BOB
(calling back)
Saskia! No boys, all right?
(MORE)

BOB (cont'd)
 No parties!
 (to POLICEMEN)
 Fucking pigs!

POLICEMAN 1
 No need for that, sir.

BOB
 Cunts!

POLICEMAN 1
 No need for that kind of abuse,
 sir.

BOB
 (calling back)
 ... And stay away from my fucking
 shit!

They continue to struggle.

118 OMITTED 118

119 INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 119

MIKE, bruises, stitches, etc., is being interrogated by DC
 CARSON (male) and DC JENKS (female).

DC CARSON
 ... and, when's the last time you
 saw Miss Oswald.

MIKE
 Last week.

DC CARSON
 Where?

MIKE
 Outside the school. She was
 hurting another child, so I had
 to ... Hang on, did you say
Sunrise?

DC CARSON
 Sorry?

MIKE
Sunrise Oswald?

DC CARSON
 Susan.
 (to DC JENKS)
 What did we say?

DC JENKS

Susan.

MIKE

Sorry. Right. No, no, it was Sunrise I reprimanded. Susan, I don't know.

DC CARSON

You don't know her.

MIKE

No. Well, I know her, she's in the school, but I've never had any contact with her.

DC CARSON

I see. Well, she claims you've been having an affair.

MIKE

She what?!

DC CARSON

That's right.

MIKE

That's insane. How old is she?

DC JENKS addresses MIKE for the first time.

DC JENKS

She's fourteen years old, Mr Kiernan. She's also pregnant.

LONG PAUSE. MIKE just stares at her; then:

MIKE

I have the right to call a solicitor, don't I?

DC JENKS

Yes.

MIKE

Well, I'd like to do that now.

The door opens and a POLICEWOMAN pops her head in.

POLICEWOMAN

Sorry, uh ... Mr Kiernan's solicitor's here.

DC JENKS and DC CARSON look at each other.

120 LATER

120

C.U: ARCHIE.

ARCHIE
... And this is alleged only.

DC CARSON (O.S.)
Yes.

ARCHIE
So, you haven't arrested him yet.

DC CARSON (O.S.)
For the moment, he's helping us
with our inquiries.

ARCHIE
(to MIKE)
Get your jacket on.

GO WIDE to include MIKE, DC JENKS, DC CARSON, as:

DC JENKS
Wait a minute ...

ARCHIE
She's a liar.

DC JENKS
What?

ARCHIE
She's done this kind of thing
before, Detective. Check it out.
Another man, another accusation -
essentially of rape - another
lie. Now, make a decision;
release my client or, better yet,
arrest him so we can take this
matter further when her story
falls apart.
(SILENCE; then, to MIKE)
Get your coat.

DC CARSON
Hang on ...
(BEAT; then, heading for
the door)
... I just need a word with my
superior.

121 INT. PUB - DAY

121

ARCHIE and MIKE at the bar, drinks in front of them.

MIKE

Thank you.

ARCHIE

Thank Kasia, Mike. She's the one who convinced me to ...

MIKE

Right.

ARCHIE

... to come in for you.

MIKE

How are you two doing?

ARCHIE

I don't really want to talk about that.

MIKE

Do you not?

ARCHIE

No.

MIKE

Why? Is what you have so special it can't be articulated?

ARCHIE

(BEAT)

No. It's because it's none of your business, Mike.

MIKE

Fuck you, you know what? The last thing I need, beyond losing the fucking woman I love, is to be obliged to the man who stole her.

ARCHIE

I didn't steal her ...

MIKE

Well ...

ARCHIE

... And there's no obligation.

MIKE

Oh, fuck off, Archie, will you? You couldn't be more patronising if you tried.

ARCHIE watches MIKE simmer a moment; then:

ARCHIE
 Fair enough.
 (getting up)
 Look after yourself, Mike.

ARCHIE goes. HOLD on MIKE.

122 INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

122

ARCHIE, KASIA, SKUNK and JED have dinner.

SKUNK
 ... Then what?

ARCHIE
 I dunno. They might do a DNA
 test ...

SKUNK
 Right.

ARCHIE
 Do you know what that is?

SKUNK
 (BEAT)
 Yes.

ARCHIE
 ... So ...

SKUNK
 No.

KASIA
 It's a test that'll show he isn't
 the father.

SKUNK
 He isn't the father ...

ARCHIE
 We know.

SKUNK
 ... She's a liar. I mean,
 everyone knows she's done it
 with ...
 (unconsciously glancing
 at JED)
 ... God, with lots of boys ...

KASIA
 It doesn't matter, Skunk.

SKUNK
 Why not?

KASIA

Because they're boys. Mike is an adult, you understand? A teacher. And in this kind of situation, they have to be absolutely sure of his innocence. And until they are, they just can't allow him to work with children.

The doorbell rings. JED goes to answer the door.

SKUNK

So, he's not coming back.

ARCHIE

Not for the moment, no.

(BEAT)

I'm sorry, Darling.

SILENCE. JED returns. As he sits back down:

JED

For you, Skunk.

123 THE FRONT DOOR

123

is opened by SKUNK to reveal DILLON standing there.

SKUNK

HI.

DILLON

Hi. Do you wanna go for a walk?

124 EXT. ALLEY - EVENING

124

SKUNK and DILLON stand there.

SKUNK

Birmingham?!

DILLON

Yeah.

SKUNK

But I thought ... I thought you and me were gonna go to Florida, and see ...

DILLON

That was ... Yeah, but ...

SKUNK

... you know, see the lizards and all.

DILLON
... That was when we're older.

SKUNK
Why not now, though?

DILLON
'Cos my aunt says I have to go to
Birmingham, Skunk.

SKUNK
(PAUSE)
But what am I gonna do without
you?

DILLON
Here ...

He takes a friendship bracelet out of his pocket.

DILLON (CONT'D)
... Will you take this?

SKUNK
Why?

DILLON
To remember me by.

She takes it. PAUSE.

SKUNK
When do you go?

DILLON
Tomorrow.

SKUNK
Tomorrow?!

DILLON
Early. So I'm not gonna get to
see you again.

SKUNK is in shock. PAUSE; then:

SKUNK
And how long did you know this?

DILLON
What?

She starts hitting him.

SKUNK
How long did you know this,
you're only telling me now?!
You're an asshole, Dillon ...

DILLON
(fending her off)
Skunk!

SKUNK
... How long did you know you
were going?!

DILLON
Skunk! Stop!

She stops hitting him. They just stand there.

DILLON (CONT'D)
I wanted to tell you, but I was
afraid to.

(BEAT)
Please don't hate me, Skunk.

SKUNK
You're leaving me, Dillon.

DILLON
Yeah, but ...

SKUNK
Of course I hate you!

BEAT; then, shouting -

SKUNK (CONT'D)
I'll always hate you!

She runs away. HOLD on DILLON.

CUT TO:

125 AN ODDLY SHAPED CAKE

125

upon which is inscribed with icing: "Welcome home, Rick!"

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)
It's okay.

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
It's not.

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)
It's fine.

MRS BUCKLEY (O.S.)
"Fine"! ...

MR and MRS BUCKLEY stand in their KITCHEN, looking down at
the cake.

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
... I wanted it to be perfect.

MR BUCKLEY
Is it edible?

MRS BUCKLEY
Course it is! How dare you?!

MR BUCKLEY
And the sentiment's legible. I mean, that's all you want, really, isn't it?

MRS BUCKLEY
I suppose.

MR BUCKLEY
I've gotta go.
(kisses her)
He'll love it, Doris.

He goes. She calls after him:

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
Oh, get some milk on your way back, Dave, would you?

MR BUCKLEY (O.S.)
Sure.

We hear the front door open and close. HOLD.

126 INT. OSWALD'S HOUSE - EVENING

126

SASKIA, SUNRISE, SUSAN and several others, male and female, party. The place is a mess, everyone drinking, smoking BOB's weed. SASKIA makes out with a BEARDED GUY. SUSAN watches EASTENDERS on the much smaller TV we saw earlier in the kitchen. The doorbell rings. Nobody moves.

SUSAN
Is anyone gonna get that?
(no answer; another ring)
Saskia ...?
(no answer; then, getting up)
Fucking hell!

127 EXT. OSWALD FRONT DOOR

127

Opened by SUSAN to reveal JED standing there.

SUSAN
Hi Jed.

JED
Can I talk to you about
something?

SUSAN
(sways slightly; BEAT;
then)
What is it?

JED
I just wanted to say that, if you
want me to, then I'll be the
daddy.

SUSAN
The what?!

JED
The dad of the baby. I'll take,
you know, the responsibility for
it. You and me can get married
and ...

SUSAN
Jesus Christ! Are you serious?

JED
Yeah.

SUSAN
Jed, listen: we're having a party
here, all right?

JED
But ...

SUSAN
Don't call over again.

She shuts the door in his face. As she heads back down the
hall, we can see that the backs of her tracksuit bottoms
are dark with blood.

128 INT. LIVING ROOM

128

Everybody's mellowed now except SASKIA and SUNRISE who are
dancing to their dance instruction DVD on the couch.
Between them, SUSAN lies asleep. She is right at the sofa's
edge and, inevitably, after a bit more dancing, she topples
onto the floor -

SUNRISE
Whoops!

and stays there, unmoving. PAUSE; then:

SUNRISE

Susan?

SASKIA

Oh, God! Sunrise!

SUNRISE

What.

SASKIA

Oh, God! Oh, Jesus ...!

SUNRISE

Shit.

She has just seen what SASKIA is shouting about. The sofa, where SUSAN has just been lying, is covered in blood.

SASKIA

... Oh, God!

BEARDED GUY

What's going on?

SUNRISE is now in front of SUSAN, shaking her.

SUNRISE

Susan!

(BEAT)

Susan! Call an ambulance, Saskia.

SASKIA

What's the number?

SUSAN

Nine-nine-nine, you twat!

129 INT. HOSPITAL RECEPTION - NIGHT

129

Quiet. Rick's DOCTOR signs a couple of forms at the counter. He gives them to the RECEPTIONIST, then, turning to MR BUCKLEY and RICK:

DOCTOR

So, you have my number, so don't forget: routine, medication ... I gave you the chart ...

MR BUCKLEY

You did.

DOCTOR

... and calm. So, lets, in as much as we can, confine things to the home for the weekend, okay? Just to be safe this first time out.

A strange looking PATIENT wanders past in the background, staring intensely at them. Then, to DOCTOR:

MR BUCKLEY
Yes. Of course. Thank you,
Doctor.

DOCTOR
Not at all. Best of luck, Rick.
(shaking his hand)
Have a great weekend.

130 INT. MR BUCKLEY'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

130

MR BUCKLEY drives, RICK beside him. After a moment:

MR BUCKLEY
I wonder does he mean we can't
have a kickabout. I wouldn't mind
a bit of a kickabout. Rick?

RICK
Hm?

MR BUCKLEY
Would you?

RICK
I think I'd rather stay inside,
dad.

MR BUCKLEY
Fair enough. No, you're probably
right. Best to go by the book.
(PAUSE)
Mum made a cake.

RICK
Mm-hm.

MR BUCKLEY
It's lopsided.
(BEAT)
Just thought I should warn you.

RICK smiles a little. They turn into DRUMMOND CLOSE and are lit through the windscreen by flashing blue lights -

MR BUCKLEY
Something going on there, eh,
Rick?

which belong to an ambulance parked outside the Oswalds.
SUSAN is being taken out on a stretcher. Her sisters stand about, upset.

MR BUCKLEY
Nothing changes, right?

MR BUCKLEY pulls the car up outside his own house.

MR BUCKLEY (CONT'D; O.S)
... Well, we won't let it bother
us will we?

As they get out of the car, MRS BUCKLEY comes running out of the house and throws her arms around RICK (Over the following, RICK never takes his eyes off what's happening outside the Oswalds').

MRS BUCKLEY
Oh, my darling! My darling,
welcome home!

MR BUCKLEY
Guess what? I forgot to get the
milk.

MRS BUCKLEY
Oh, Dave!

MR BUCKLEY
I'll just nip down to the garage,
shall I?

MRS BUCKLEY
(of the Oswalds)
What's going on up there?

MR BUCKLEY
(getting back into the
car)
Pay no attention. I'll be back in
five minutes.

He drives away. MRS BUCKLEY turns back to RICK, who is still staring; taking his arm:

MRS BUCKLEY
Come on, Rick. You heard your
father. Pay no attention.

SASKIA spots him.

SASKIA
Jesus Christ! Here's the other
pervert, look?

SUNRISE looks. SASKIA shouts at RICK:

SASKIA
It's because of fucking scum like
you that this is happening!

SUNRISE
Fucking rapist!

SASKIA
Fucking sicko!

MRS BUCKLEY gently urges:

MRS BUCKLEY
Come on, darling. Lets go inside.

As she guides him toward the door:

SUNRISE (O.S.)
Fucking evil bastard!!!

131 OMITTED 131

132 INT. HALLWAY 132

MRS BUCKLEY shuts the door, then turns to see RICK heading up the stairs. She frowns.

MRS BUCKLEY
Rick? Where are you going?

He stops. Then, without turning:

RICK
To my room.

MRS BUCKLEY
But ...

RICK
Just for a little while.

MRS BUCKLEY
But, I made you cake, love.

RICK
(BEAT; then ascending
again)
I'll have some later, mum.

MRS BUCKLEY
(hurrying after him)
But, you only just got here,
Rick. Please! Don't go to your
room ...!

SOUND of the AMBULANCE SIREN passing outside, takes us to -

132B THE LANDING

132B

where MRS BUCKLEY catches up and grabs RICK's arm. Becoming hysterical now:

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
... Please, love! Don't mind what they said.

RICK
But, they're right, mum!

MRS BUCKLEY
No ...

RICK
They're right!

MRS BUCKLEY
... they're not! They couldn't be more wrong! You're gentle, and good and ... Please come down, Rick ... Please ...

He moves away. She grabs him again, panicking:

MRS BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
... Please, love. Don't go to your room ...
(they struggle)
... Please, love ... Please, love
... Please, love ...

133 EXT. STREET

133

The ambulance speeds past camera, its SIREN blasting loud.

134 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE.

134

Quiet. MR BUCKLEY buys milk and toilet roll.

135 OMITTED

135

136 INT. CAR - MOVING

136

MR BUCKLEY drives.

137 INT. BUCKLEY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

137

MRS BUCKLEY lies at the bottom of the stairs, eyes staring, body contorted into an impossible position.

We hear Mr Buckley's CAR pulling in, the ENGINE turning off, the DOOR opening and closing.

SILENCE.

THE FRONT DOOR opens and MR BUCKLEY enters -

MR BUCKLEY
Guys ...?

closing it behind him. He turns, sees MRS BUCKLEY. SILENCE; then:

MR BUCKLEY
Doris ...?
(getting down on one
knee)
Doris! Jesus Christ!
(trying to hold her)
Jesus Christ!
(calling)
RICK!
(BEAT)
RICK!

RICK (O.S.)
I'm sorry, dad.

RICK is standing in the hallway. He is crying.

MR BUCKLEY
What did you do?!
(to MRS BUCKLEY)
Doris!

He gets to his feet, takes out his mobile.

MR BUCKLEY (CONT'D)
I've gotta call somebody.

RICK
No!

MR BUCKLEY
What?

RICK
Please!

MR BUCKLEY
(dialling)
I've gotta call somebody, Rick!

RICK
They'll say I'm bad.

MR BUCKLEY
 (putting his phone to
 his ear)
What?!

RICK
 They'll say I'm bad like before,
 but it wasn't me ...

MR BUCKLEY
 Rick ...

RICK
 ... It wasn't my fault!

MR BUCKLEY, waiting for his call to be answered, ignores him.

RICK (CONT'D)
Please, dad ...

MR BUCKLEY
 Rick ...

RICK (CONT'D)
 ... You don't have to tell them!

MR BUCKLEY
 Rick ...
 (into phone)
 Hello?

RICK rushes forward -

RICK
 YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THEM, DAD!

then, stabbing him repeatedly with the kitchen knife:

RICK (CONT'D)
 YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THEM, DAD!
 YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THEM ...!

138 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

138

ARCHIE knocks on the open door -

ARCHIE
 Skunk ...?

and enters.

SKUNK sits, as before, on the floor, back against the wall,
 duvet pulled up to her chin.

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
 ... You okay?

SKUNK
 Why didn't you tell me and Jed
 about you and Kasia?

ARCHIE
 (PAUSE)
 I'm sorry.
 (BEAT)
 I was trying to find the, um ...
 I suppose, the right moment ...

SKUNK
 Are you gonna marry her?

ARCHIE
 I ...

SKUNK
 (calling)
 I know you're out there!

KASIA appears in the doorway. SKUNK continues to ARCHIE:

SKUNK (CONT'D)
 Are you?
 (BEAT)
 Because she'll leave us, dad, the
 way she left Mike, like mum left
 us, like everyone does.

KASIA
I won't.

SKUNK
 You will. Don't lie. It'll all go
 wrong as usual, dad. Everything
always goes wrong. Why do only
 bad things ever happen?!

ARCHIE
 Good things happen too.

SKUNK
 Like what, your love affair? What
 about me? Or Jed? Or Rick? Or
 Mike? What about Mike, Kasia?!!

KASIA
 Skunk. I ...

SKUNK
 Get out! I don't wanna talk to
 either of you.
 (PAUSE; a shout)
GET OUT!!!

CUT TO:

145 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT 145

BOB is screaming, out of control with grief. Doctors and security restrain him.

146 INT. CUNNINGHAM KITCHEN - NIGHT 146

ARCHIE, KASIA and JED. ARCHIE paces, phone in hand.

ARCHIE
I'll kill her.

JED
Maybe ...

ARCHIE
Maybe what?! She knows she has to call if she's gonna be late ...

KASIA
Call her again.

ARCHIE
(dialling again)
... She knows from last time.

He puts the phone to his ear and waits; then:

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
Skunk? I'm really worried. Please call me, will you, darling? It's dad.
(clicking off)
Oh, fuck this.

He grabs his coat from the back of a chair.

KASIA
Where are you going?

ARCHIE
To look for her.

As he puts it on:

JED
I know where she might be, dad.

146B INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT 146B

ARCHIE enters, JED behind him. ARCHIE shines a torch around.

ARCHIE
... And, what? You come here to ...

JED
Just to hang out.

ARCHIE
Uh-huh.
(shines the torch around
some more; then)
Whose are the cigarettes?

The beam is on the ashtray, full of butts.

JED
Not mine.

ARCHIE shines the torch in JED's guilty face.

146C EXT. CARAVAN

146C

They step out. ARCHIE looks around, takes out his phone, checks it, puts it back in his pocket. PAUSE.

ARCHIE
Come on, Skunk. Where are you?

DISSOLVE TO:

147 OMITTED

147

148 OMITTED

148

149 OMITTED

149

150 OMITTED

150

151 OMITTED

151

152 OMITTED

152

153 SKUNK

153

in profile. She is lying on her back on the floor of RICK'S BEDROOM. She is terrified. RICK's face enters frame, his mouth moving to SKUNK's. Then, their lips not quite touching, he inhales as if taking her breath from her body.

SILENCE.

He does it again.

SILENCE.

And again.

SILENCE.

And again.

FADE TO BLACK:

154 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

154

ARCHIE argues with a POLICEMAN.

POLICEMAN

... I'm just saying, kids, they wander in; they've been to a party ...

ARCHIE

Christ ...!

POLICEMAN

... a friend's ...

ARCHIE

... We've spoken to all her friends, okay? We've exhausted that possibility along with every other! Now my daughter has type 1 diabetes, and if she doesn't stay monitored, she ...

POLICEMAN

Calm down ... All right ...

ARCHIE

... she could die, do you understand me?! She could die!

JED starts crying. As ARCHIE sees this:

ARCHIE

Shit. C'mere, son.

JED goes to ARCHIE. ARCHIE embraces him. HOLD.

154B INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE

154B

KASIA stands at the back door, smoking, fretting. Her phone rings from the LIVING ROOM. She rushes in, picks it up, answers.

KASIA

Archie?

MIKE (V.O.)

Kasia?

KASIA

Mike?

MIKE (V.O.)

Sorry to ring so late ...

154C INT. MIKE'S FLAT

154C

MIKE, very drunk, sits on his couch.

MIKE (CONT'D)

... Can I talk to you?

We CUT BACK AND FORTH between them until stated.

KASIA

Mike. This isn't really ...

MIKE

I'm not gonna keep you long, all right? I just wanted to ring this once to say, I dunno, sorry ...?

KASIA

Okay.

MIKE

... to say thank you?

KASIA

For what?

MIKE

I dunno. For helping me out today, I suppose? Archie as well, of course, I was fairly rude to him earlier on and I didn't mean to be, he's a decent guy, and I just wanna say you're a very good match and I wish you the best ...

(BEAT)

... I wish you the very best.

KASIA

All right.

MIKE

Will you do me a favour, Kasia? Will you apologise to Skunk for me ...?

KASIA

For what?

MIKE

Just for all the stupid embarrassing shit she's had to be witness to. She's a terrific kid, you know? Jed as well, of course, but Skunk, I dunno, some day she's gonna blow us all away, d'you reckon, Kasia?

KASIA puts her hand over her mouth to prevent herself from crying.

MIKE (CONT'D)

D'you reckon she's gonna blow us all away?

KASIA

Mm-hm.

154D OMITTED 154D

154E OMITTED 154E

155 INT. RICK'S BEDROOM 155

RICK sits against the wall, staring in horror at SKUNK, who lies on the floor, her breaths coming in shallow gasps, her body spasming violently, foam spilling from her mouth, her eyes rolling back in her head.

155B INT. CUNNINGHAM SITTING ROOM 155B

KASIA is barely holding herself together.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Anyway. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Kasia.

155C INT. MIKE'S FLAT 155C

MIKE continues:

MIKE (CONT'D)

Have a good life, yeah?

155D INT. CUNNINGHAM SITTING ROOM 155D

KASIA nods.

KASIA

You too, Mike.

Click. He's gone. HOLD on KASIA. After a moment, the sound of a car turning into the close makes her look up.

156 EXT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE 156

ARCHIE'S CAR comes to a stop outside. He and JED get out. ARCHIE looks up, his eye caught by the light in RICK'S WINDOW. He stares at it a second before:

VOICE

Well?

He turns. KASIA is standing at their door. JED is already walking toward her. He passes inside without saying anything. ARCHIE and KASIA just stare at each other.

FADE TO BLACK:

156B EXT. DRUMMOND CLOSE - DAWN 156B

The sun is coming up.

157 OMITTED 157

158 INT. OSWALD'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAWN 158

SASKIA and SUNRISE lie together in the same bed. After a moment:

SUNRISE

Did dad come home?

SASKIA

(PAUSE)

No.

SUNRISE

Where is he?

SASKIA

I don't know.

159 INT. TAXI - MOVING 159

BOB, devastated, sits in the back.

160 OMITTED 160

161 OMITTED 161

162 EXT. DRUMMOND CLOSE 162

The taxi pulls up outside the OSWALDS' HOUSE. BOB gets out. The taxi drives away. BOB stands there, looking at his front door, trying to find the courage to enter.

OVER HIS SHOULDER

and just out of focus, a FIGURE staggers out of the BUCKLEY HOUSE.

BOB turns, sees -

MR BUCKLEY

covered in blood. He sways a little, then collapses.

163 INT. BUCKLEY'S HOUSE 163

MRS BUCKLEY'S dead body lies at the bottom of the stairs. BOB is standing over it.

BOB
Jesus ... Christ ...!

He looks up. A fast, continuous thumping noise is coming from upstairs.

BOB
Rick?

164 INT. LANDING HALLWAY 164

Pulling BOB up the last couple of stairs, across the landing, the thumping sound increasing in volume, and into -

165 INT. RICK'S BEDROOM 165

where the first thing he sees is RICK sitting against the wall, head slumped forward, dead, blood from his slit throat everywhere. BOB reacts, then looks around to see -

SKUNK

lying on the floor, vomit on her front, her body contorting in a diabetic fit. As he moves to her:

BOB
Oh, no ... no ... no ... Darling,
no ...

He gets down, cradles her in his arms, looks wildly around, sees her PHONE on the bed, grabs it, dials, waits; then:

BOB

Hello? Can I get an ambulance,
please?

(BEAT)

It's fif ... It's fourteen
Drummond Close. That's in ...
Yes.

(BEAT)

A fit.

(BEAT)

I don't know. There's someone's
been stabbed as well. And ...

(BEAT)

I don't fucking know, could you
just fucking come, please?

(BEAT)

Thank you.

He looks at SKUNK. Her fit has subsided a little. He looks
at the phone in his hand.

166 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM 166

ARCHIE lies curled up and asleep on SKUNK's bed.

167 INT. RICK'S BEDROOM 167

BOB scrolls through SKUNK's address book.

CLOSE ON SCREEN: as it stops on -

DAD.

168 INT. SKUNK'S BEDROOM 168

ARCHIE's phone rings. He wakes, reaches into his pocket,
fumbles it out.

CLOSE ON SCREEN: It reads -

SKUNK.

ARCHIE stares. HOLD.

169 INT. RICK'S BEDROOM 169

SKUNK is unconscious now, completely unmoving. BOB holds
her tightly, his face against hers, continues to rock her.

BOB

... There we are now ... There we
are ... Daddy's coming, Darling

...

170 EXT. DRUMMOND CLOSE

170

Pulling ARCHIE as he hurries toward the Buckleys.

BOB (V.O; CONT'D)
 ... Daddy's on his way ...
 Daddy's on his way ...
 (PAUSE)
 ... Daddy's on his way ...

FADE TO BLACK:

171 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

171

ARCHIE sits in a chair beside a hospital bed, holding SKUNK's hand in both of his. After a moment:

ARCHIE
 I won't deny it's getting tough
 to think of things to talk about,
 Skunk. I mean, not enough happens
 in a day to fill, you know, ten
minutes lately. Although the scan
 is pretty impressive, isn't it?

INSERT:

A BABY SCAN photo lying on SKUNK's bed.

ARCHIE (O.S; CONT'D)
That's pretty exciting.

BACK TO ARCHIE.

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
 And you know, Kasia... Not that
 boys are better than girls, but
 Kasia kept saying, "No, let it be
 a suprise," - the gender, like -
 but then, when the woman asked,
 she's ... you know, if we wanted
 to know what it was, she's like,
 "Oh, we'd absolutely love to,
yes!"
 (shakes his head)
I dunno. Couldn't help herself, I
 suppose.
 (BEAT)
 How the hell am I going to cope,
 love? Christ! 'Nother boy in the
 house ...
 (BEAT)
 ... Another Jed!
 (PAUSE)
 (MORE)

ARCHIE (CONT'D)

The thing that annoys me, though, is she gets pissed off all the time - Kasia- tells me I need to spend more time at home. Bit naggy, actually.

(BEAT)

Though I won't deny that, what, with work and with coming here to see you, I suppose my attention has been lacking a little bit lately ...

(BEAT)

... But ...

(breaking down a little)

... you're my girl, Skunk ...

(PAUSE)

... You're my girl, so, how can I do anything else, you know ...?

CLOSE ON SKUNK

her eyes closed. Unmoving.

ARCHIE (O.S; CONT'D)

... How can I ever do anything else?

HOLD for several moments; then -

DISSOLVE TO:

WIDE SHOT

Of THE ROOM, ARCHIE, SKUNK. HOLD for several moments; then -

DISSOLVE TO:

ARCHIE

his head bowed, SKUNK's hand still held in his. Oddly, the background is now different, suggestive more of a church than a hospital room. HOLD again; then -

DISSOLVE TO:

SKUNK

again. Her background has also changed. An entire church is spread out behind her. HOLD; then -

DISSOLVE TO:

A WIDE SHOT

of the back of the church. SKUNK, alone now, is standing, facing us. HOLD; then -

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSER ON SKUNK

just staring straight ahead. SILENCE; then -

VOICE

Skunk!

She turns to see:

SKUNK

Jed!

JED

Hey, sis. Looking good.

SKUNK

Yeah, right.

JED

No, I mean it.

SKUNK

Kasia!

KASIA

(appearing; hugging her)
Oh, I'm so proud of you, darling.

SKUNK steps back, looking down at KASIA's swollen stomach.

KASIA(CONT'D)

Your new brother.

SKUNK

Wow!

(then, seeing MIKE)
Oh, my God!

He also hugs her.

MIKE

You okay?

SKUNK

Yeah, I'm good.

SKUNK looks around the church. Gathered are all the people she's known in her life. Among them she spots -

THE BARLOW BROTHERS

who glide past on their scooters. Her gaze follows them to -

DILLON

standing with several other YOUNG MEN. He raises his wrist, points at it.

She looks at her own, seeing the friendship bracelet he gave to her.

Next up is -

SKUNK

Fiona!

They hug.

FIONA

I'm so happy for you, Skunk.

They come apart as -

THE OSWALDS

burst loudly through the front doors. As they walk along the back wall, a MAN accidentally collides with BOB.

BOB

You got a problem?

SASKIA grabs his arm, hisses -

SASKIA

Dad! For fuck's sake!

and pulls him into the back row where SUSAN and SUNRISE are already seated. He looks up, then smiles sheepishly at -

SKUNK

who smiles sheepishly back. Then:

VOICE

Skunk?

She turns.

SKUNK

Rick!

They hug. Hard.

SKUNK

I'm sorry.

(BEAT)

I'm so sorry.

RICK

For what?

SKUNK
For all the pain you had in your
life.

RICK
Don't be.

They come apart; BEAT; then:

RICK (CONT'D)
You ready?

SKUNK
(PAUSE; then)
Why isn't my dad here?

RICK
He doesn't want to say goodbye.

SKUNK
That's silly.
(SILENCE; then)
What's it like there?

RICK
Awesome.

SKUNK
Really? Will I be happy?

RICK
Very.

SKUNK
Will I be able to eat what I
like?
(off his smile)
What?

RICK
Nothing. Yes. You'll be able to
eat what you like.

SKUNK
Even M&Ms?

RICK
Uh-huh.

SKUNK
(after a LONG PAUSE)
I can't go without saying goodbye
to my dad.

RICK
All right.

SKUNK
Can I do that?

RICK
Of course you can. He's outside.

SKUNK turns and looks at the church's INNER DOORS. Then, to RICK:

SKUNK
All right. Be back in a minute.

She walks down the aisle toward the doors, pulls one open and steps into -

THE FOYER

on the far side of which ARCHIE stands beside the half-open OUTSIDE DOOR. Through it, we can see a beautiful GARDEN filled with sunlight. After a SILENCE:

SKUNK
Why won't you say goodbye?

ARCHIE
Why won't you come back?

SKUNK
It's just too hard, Dad.
(PAUSE)
Do you hate me?

ARCHIE
Why would I hate you?

SKUNK
For going.

ARCHIE
I love you, Skunk. I'll always love you.

SKUNK
Then I need you to say it.

ARCHIE
I can't.

SKUNK
You can. Of course you can.
(LONG PAUSE; then,
crying)
Just say Goodbye.

ARCHIE
Why should I?

SKUNK
Because I'm your girl.

ARCHIE also starts crying. PAUSE.

SKUNK (CONT'D)
Please.
(PAUSE)
Say Goodbye, dad.

LONG PAUSE; finally, through his tears:

ARCHIE
Goodbye, love.

She is already running toward him. He moves forward too and she leaps into his arms in the middle of the FOYER and he spins her around, holding her as tightly as he can.

CLOSE ON SKUNK

her eyes shut tight, as we -

FLASH ON

a series of vaguely formed images.

A WOMAN

throws her arms around a smiling man.

Cuts her finger while chopping carrots.

Stands at the top of a mountain, looking down at the landscape below.

Holds the hand of another woman who is crying.

Pushes a child on a bicycle.

172	OMITTED	172
173	CLOSE ON ARCHIE holding SKUNK to him.	173
174	THE WOMAN runs full out on an athletics track. Is examined by a doctor. Holds her hands out as a smiling toddler toddles into them. Prunes roses.	174

Waltzes with a man at a party. Stumbles. Recovers. Laughs.
Wades in the ocean.

CLOSE ON SKUNK

eyes closed, still in her father's embrace.

175 OMITTED 175

176 THE WOMAN 176

sets candles into a child's birthday cake.

Sinks under the water of a bath.

Looks through a telescope.

Puts on eyeshadow.

Stands in a forest.

Cries in an empty hallway.

Poses in a sexy dress.

Sucks a long string of spaghetti into her mouth. Laughs.

Guides two children as they throw bread to ducks in a park.

Points out cloud formations to the same two children.

Lies in a hospital bed, holding a newborn baby. The children touch its head.

Holds an old man's hand across a table. Smiles at him.

Comes up behind him somewhere else. He's sitting. Leans over and kisses the top of his head.

177 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM 177

ARCHIE sits, head bowed, still holding SKUNK's hand.

178 INT. CHURCH FOYER 178

SKUNK is alone.

She looks back into the CHURCH where everybody waits.

She turns back to look across the FOYER at the churches open FRONT DOOR, the garden beyond filled with sunlight.

SILENCE.

She runs across the FOYER and out the FRONT DOOR,
disappearing down the steps.

179

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

179

Her eyes open. They blink several times, eventually
focusing on -

ARCHIE

his head bowed.

CLOSE ON SKUNK'S HAND

held in her father's. After a moment, her fingers slowly
curl around his and squeeze.

ARCHIE

raises his head.

FADE OUT.