

1 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - NIGHT 1
A high-rise block of flats in a city centre.

CUT TO:

2 INT. FLAT NO. 9, HALLWAY - NIGHT 2
We are inside a compact flat up on a high floor of the block. The lights inside are dim. We hear laughter and voices on the other side of the door.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
(laughing)
Put it in!

ADAM (O.S.)
I can't.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
Don't... you're dropping me...
arghh!

The door flies open and ADAM carries CHRISTINE inside. We linger on the number on the front of the door: 9.

Title caption: "THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTINE".

CUT TO:

3 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 3
A studenty flat with cheap furniture, beanbags, posters on the wall etc. There is an artificial Christmas tree in the corner with flashing blue lights.

ADAM is a handsome young man in his mid 20s. He is dressed as a fireman (fancy dress costume) and he is carrying CHRISTINE, a bubbly girl who is a bit pissed. CHRISTINE is dressed as a naughty nun, with a wimple and fishnets.

CHRISTINE
Is this a proper fireman's lift?

ADAM
I dunno, I'm not a proper fireman.
Have you got anything to drink?

CHRISTINE
Probably, have a look in the
fridge.

ADAM goes to look in the kitchen.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Don't touch anything with Fung on it?

ADAM (O.S.)

What?

CHRISTINE

She's my flatmate. She's labelled everything.

ADAM (O.S.)

Fung? What's that, Chinese?

CHRISTINE

Yeah. Don't say her name, she'll appear.

ADAM

What is she, a genie?

ADAM comes through with two cans of lager.

CHRISTINE

Shh, she's only through there. She'll have been in bed since 9 o'clock.

ADAM

Well they have a different New Year don't they?

CHRISTINE

Yeah, she won't come out till February.

ADAM

Is that when it is?

CHRISTINE

Yeah. I'm a Dog apparently.

ADAM

Oh I've seen worse.

She hits him playfully and they laugh.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Ow! I thought you were going home with John Lennon anyway.

CHRISTINE

He wasn't John Lennon, he was Harry Potter.

ADAM

Was he?

CHRISTINE

I think so. To be honest it was only a pair of round glasses.

ADAM

Did he show you his wand?

CHRISTINE laughs.

CHRISTINE

No. Anyway, I told him I'd rather see the fireman's pole.

They kiss on the sofa.

ADAM

My name's Adam by the way, if you're interested.

CHRISTINE

Oh, I'm Eve!

ADAM

Really?

CHRISTINE

No, I just said it. I'm Chrissie, Happy New Year.

They shake hands.

ADAM

Happy New Year. Where's your toilet?

CHRISTINE

It's just down there.

ADAM

I just need to... unravel my hosepipe.

CHRISTINE

Urgh, don't have it on sprinkle!

ADAM smiles and departs for the toilet. CHRISTINE lies back and takes a glug of her lager, the blue Christmas lights flashing behind her.

The landline phone rings. CHRISTINE slowly gets up and goes over to answer it. We stay close on the phone.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Hello?

CUT TO:

4 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - DAY

4

We now see that the flat is in daylight and CHRISTINE is dressed in her normal work clothes (skirt, jacket with name-badge and blouse). We hear ADAM's voice.

ADAM (O.S.)
Hi sexy. Did you get my
Valentine's card?

CHRISTINE
No I didn't but the post hasn't
been yet. Did you get mine?

ADAM (O.S.)
Yes, it's probably among the pile
somewhere.

CHRISTINE
Ha ha. So what time are you
picking me up?

ADAM (O.S.)
7ish? Do you want sex then meal or
meal then sex.

CHRISTINE
What about sex meal sex?

ADAM (O.S.)
That depends - is The Grudge going
to be in?

We see FUNG, a long-haired Chinese girl, sitting at the breakfast table eating toast.

CHRISTINE
I'm not sure, I'll get back to you
with that information.

ADAM (O.S.)
Is she there?

CHRISTINE
Yes.

ADAM
I'll call you later then, bye.

CHRISTINE hangs up and approaches the dining table.

CHRISTINE
Hi Fung.

FUNG
Good morning.

CHRISTINE

What have you got on today?

FUNG

I have a seminar this morning and another seminar this afternoon.

CHRISTINE

More maths?

FUNG

Continuous quantity, yes.

The morning post arrives and CHRISTINE goes to collect it.

CHRISTINE

Sounds complicated.

FUNG

Not necessarily, it depends on your approach to measurable magnitudes.

CHRISTINE

Right.

CHRISTINE is opening a Valentine card.

FUNG

Like you have been going out with Adam for 13 months, which is one year and one month. This is referred to as a portable vector, because the month is quantitatively divisible by the year...

CHRISTINE

Oh my God! How weird.

FUNG

Not really, it's number theory.

CHRISTINE

I've got a Valentine's card from my ex boyfriend.

FUNG

Maybe he still like you?

CHRISTINE

I haven't seen him since I was 12, I can barely remember him.

CHRISTINE shows the card to FUNG and she reads the poem.

FUNG

"Roses are red, violets are blue
What is that smell? I need a poo."

CHRISTINE

His sense of humour hasn't changed much. I wonder how he got my address?

FUNG

Right, I got to go to my seminar. I won't be back till 7.30 if you want to have sex with Adam.

CHRISTINE

Oh, thanks...

FUNG goes off to her room. CHRISTINE considers the card, then tears it up and throws it in the bin.

We see the torn-up card at the bottom of the bin.

MARION (V.O.)

Oh Christine, I've still got that teddy you know!

5

INT. FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY

5

CHRISTINE's mum MARION sits on the sofa with ADAM. She is a jolly lady in a nice floral dress. She is showing ADAM a series of loose photos.

CHRISTINE enters from the kitchen with a tea tray.

CHRISTINE

You haven't!

MARION

I have. It was bigger than you! Oh she had a lovely peachy bottom Adam. Look at that...

MARION shows ADAM a photo of CHRISTINE as a baby.

ADAM

Aahh...

CHRISTINE

Mum, you're embarrassing Adam!

MARION

No dear I'm embarrassing you.

CHRISTINE places the tray on the coffee table and MARION starts to pour the tea.

MARION (CONT'D)

Right, shall I be mother?

CHRISTINE

Yeah go on, it is Mother's Day.

MARION sees ADAM looking at the photos.

ADAM
Who's that?

MARION
Oh that was Christine's first
boyfriend. Such a shame. He died
when he was sixteen.

CHRISTINE
Did he?

MARION
Yes! He got...

MARION mouths the word "leukemia".

MARION (CONT'D)
(to ADAM)
She's got a memory like a sieve.
But she's done well with you Adam.
You're smashing, though you could
do with getting a haircut.

CHRISTINE
Mum!

MARION
When are you going to marry her
anyway?

ADAM
Er...

CHRISTINE
Oh for God's sake.

MARION
Well you've been courting for two
years. I was married with a
daughter by then.

CHRISTINE
Well that was you. I've got my
career to think about.

MARION
Career! Measuring feet in Clarks's
is hardly a career Christine.

CHRISTINE
Thank you very much.

MARION
I'm just saying. Your father would
like to walk you down the aisle
while he still can.

Awkward silence. ADAM senses the tense atmosphere.

ADAM
Does anybody want a biscuit?

MARION
Yes please.

CHRISTINE
No thanks.

ADAM (CONT'D)
OK.

ADAM gets up and goes to the kitchen.

CHRISTINE
(whispering)
Just stop it, alright!

MARION
There's nothing wrong with getting married you know. Your generation thinks it's old fashioned - it's not, it's a commitment.

CHRISTINE
We don't even live together...

MARION
Exactly. That would be a start.

CHRISTINE
Well we're not doing it mum, so you can stop going on about it. I'm not even sure if Adam's really...

ADAM (O.S.)
Chrissie?

CUT TO:

6 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

6

ADAM comes back in carrying a heavy cardboard box.

ADAM
Where shall I put the my CDs?

CHRISTINE
There. God you've got so much stuff.

ADAM
I told you. You're not regretting it are you?

CHRISTINE

No, of course not. Now Fung's moved out someone has to pay the rent, so...

ADAM

So...

ADAM kisses CHRISTINE.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Right, I've got to take the van back before it closes.

CHRISTINE

Here.

CHRISTINE hands ADAM a keyring with keys.

ADAM

What's this?

CHRISTINE

Your new house keys.

ADAM

Aw - thank you. What's that? A pair of seagulls?

CHRISTINE

It's two doves. Me and you.

ADAM

Oh right. Weird.

CHRISTINE

It's romantic! Don't be long - I've got a surprise for you when you get back.

ADAM

Oh, OK.

ADAM leaves. CHRISTINE opens the CD and has a quick look through, picks one out and puts it in the player. The song is "Time to Say Goodbye" by Andrea Bocelli.

As the song plays CHRISTINE takes out a bag of chocolate Easter eggs, and starts hiding them around the flat. She hides the first one in the fold of a Happy Easter card on the mantlepiece. Then she puts one in the grate of the fireplace; another under the TV. She leaves for the bedroom.

7

INT. FLAT NO. 9, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

7

CHRISTINE comes into the bedroom and sees lots of ADAM's clothes on hangers, in a big pile on the bed.

She lifts them off and puts them in the wardrobe creating a side for his clothes.

CHRISTINE returns to the bed and lifts up the pillow to place a chocolate egg under it. As she bends down a real egg is thrown at the wall behind her and smashes. She is shocked.

CHRISTINE
Shit! Adam?

She looks scared and confused, then hears another egg splat in the hallway. She cautiously leaves the bedroom to investigate.

8 INT. FLAT NO. 9, HALLWAY - NIGHT 8

CHRISTINE sees another broken egg on the floor in the hallway.

CHRISTINE
This isn't funny Adam.

She walks into the kitchen.

9 INT. FLAT NO. 9, KITCHEN - NIGHT 9

CATHERINE walks into the kitchen. She is confronted by ten eggs on the floor. All smashed. She sees the door to the pantry move slightly and walks towards it. CHRISTINE slowly pushes open the pantry door. There is nobody there. From behind she hears a voice:

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

CATHERINE swings round and sees a STRANGER standing in the middle of the smashed eggs. He's a small man in glasses and a raincoat. He reaches out to her.

CUT TO:

10 INT. FLAT NO. 9, MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING 10

CHRISTINE wakes up with a start. The alarm is going off. ADAM is sleeping in bed next to her.

CHRISTINE
God...

ADAM
What?

CHRISTINE
Horrible dream.

ADAM

Oh. Get the alarm would you?

CHRISTINE presses the alarm, it stops beeping. By the alarm we see a framed photo of ADAM and CHRISTINE's wedding.

CHRISTINE

You're going to be late for work.

ADAM

It's Bank holiday isn't it?

CHRISTINE

Oh yeah.

ADAM

But I'll have a cup of tea now
you're up.

CHRISTINE gets out of bed and we see she is heavily pregnant.

CHRISTINE

What shall we do today?

CUT TO:

11 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - DAY

11

The floor is covered in pieces of unassembled cot. CHRISTINE sits perched on the edge of the sofa. She holds the instructions. ADAM is kneeling on the floor trying to work out how the cot fits together.

CHRISTINE

"Align sliding panel AB, along side
bar EF."

ADAM

Yeah. Done that.

CHRISTINE

Are you sure that's EF? It looks
like CD to me.

ADAM

Just carry on.

CHRISTINE

Alright. "Insert groove dowel pins
into B1 and B2."

ADAM

I don't know what they are.

CHRISTINE

They look like that, like maggots.

ADAM inserts the groove dowel pins.

ADAM
OK - then what?

CHRISTINE
"Align sliding panel AB, along side
bar EF."

ADAM
We've already done that!

CHRISTINE
"Insert rod into top hole until
base connects".

ADAM
Isn't that how we got into this
mess in the first place?

CHRISTINE bursts into tears.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Don't cry, it was only a joke.
Hey...

ADAM tries to hug CHRISTINE.

ADAM (CONT'D)
What you worried about?

CHRISTINE
I don't know. I just... I don't
want the baby to spoil everything.

ADAM
Course it won't. How's it going to
do that, eh?

CUT TO:

12 INT. FLAT NO. 9, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

12

CHRISTINE and ADAM lie in the dark of their bedroom, wide awake. A baby monitor flashes as they listen to a mournful cry.

BABY JACK (O.S.)
Dada!! Dada!!

ADAM
What shall I do?

CHRISTINE
I don't know. We're meant to be
leaving him.

ADAM
I can't bear it.

ADAM sits up like he is going to go.

CHRISTINE
Don't.

ADAM
OK.

ADAM lies back down. The baby continues to cry.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Can I give him more Calpol?

CHRISTINE
Not for another half an hour.

ADAM
That's close enough isn't it?

CHRISTINE
No, you can't just drug him!

ADAM gets up and leaves. CHRISTINE lies in the bed listening to ADAM settle BABY JACK over the monitor. ADAM sings a line or two of "Time to Say Goodbye." CHRISTINE takes out a Fathers Day card from her bedside drawer and writes it:

"To Daddy, Sorry for keeping you up all night - that should be Mummy's job! Love, Jack xxx."

The baby monitor has gone quiet. CHRISTINE seals the card and puts it on ADAM's pillow. Over the monitor we suddenly hear a scream from JACK, followed by the STRANGER's voice.

STRANGER
Come on little man, let's get you out of there...

CHRISTINE jumps up and runs out of the room.

13 INT. FLAT NO. 9, JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

13

CHRISTINE runs into the baby's bedroom and turns the light on. JACK's cot is empty.

CHRISTINE
Jack? Adam! Adam! Someone's taken Jack!

ADAM appears behind CHRISTINE. He is carrying a sleeping JACK (now 1 year old).

ADAM
What are you doing?

CHRISTINE

I heard somebody talking.

ADAM

Yeah, it was me trying to get him to sleep.

CHRISTINE

It wasn't you!

ADAM

Calm down, you'll set him off again.

ADAM puts JACK back in his cot.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You're just over-tired. Come back to bed.

ADAM leaves. CHRISTINE takes one last look at the sleeping JACK then switches out the light.

In the darkness we hear MARION's voice.

MARION (O.S.)

That's it... keep them closed... a few more steps.

CUT TO:

14 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - DAY

14

CHRISTINE has her hands in front of her face.

MARION (O.S.)

And... open your eyes!

CHRISTINE removes her hands from her eyes. She's another year older and her hairstyle has changed slightly. She looks more mumsy. The flat is more maturely decorated but there are toys and toddler paraphernalia around.

CHRISTINE sees that the table has been laid with some gifts and a birthday cake. There is a Happy Birthday helium balloon.

MARION is by CHRISTINE's side. CHRISTINE's dad ERNIE is there but looks glazed and distant. CHRISTINE's friend BOBBY is there.

ALL

Surprise!

The guests cheer and pop party-poppers.

CHRISTINE

Oh my God! Hi dad!

CHRISTINE goes to hug ERNIE but he doesn't appear to recognise her. He's not all there.

MARION

He's so been so excited all week,
haven't you Ernie?

ERNIE looks bemused.

MARION (CONT'D)

(quietly to MARION)

He did know he was coming but I
think it's gone again. I shouldn't
have brought him.

CHRISTINE

No I'm glad he came.

MARION

He wouldn't want you remember him
like this.

CHRISTINE kisses ERNIE's cheek. BOBBY hands over a present.

BOBBY

Here you go dear, happy birthday.
I bet you can't guess what these
are?

BOBBY hands over a present, which is shoe box sized.

CHRISTINE

But they didn't have it in my size?

BOBBY

Well someone rang Ipswich and got
them DHL'd.

CHRISTINE

Oh Bobby you shouldn't have! Thank
you.

CHRISTINE hugs BOBBY.

BOBBY

Two words: "staff" "discount".
Where's Adam?

CHRISTINE

I don't know actually. Mum,
where's Adam?

MARION

I'm not sure, he said he'd be
here...

The door opens and ADAM enters with ZARA, an attractive girl.

ADAM
Hi darling, happy birthday!

ADAM pecks CHRISTINE on the cheek.

CHRISTINE
Thanks. Hi Zara.

ZARA
Happy birthday Chrissie. You look
fab.

CHRISTINE
Oh, I don't but thanks anyway.

ZARA
No I'm sure you've lost a bit, turn
round.

CHRISTINE self-consciously turns round.

ZARA (CONT'D)
Yeah you definitely have.

MARION
It's just baby fat, it'll be gone
soon enough.

ADAM
He's not a baby, he's two now.
Where is he?

CHRISTINE
Having a nap. How was your work
do?

ADAM
Yeah we popped our heads in, didn't
we? Schmoozed a few clients. Hiya
Bobby.

BOBBY
Hi Adam.

ADAM
This is Zara, she's just started
under me.

BOBBY
Has she?

CHRISTINE looks away.

CHRISTINE
My dad's here look. Go and say
hello to him.

ADAM

Alright, I'll just get us a drink first.

MARION

Come on then Chrissie, it's that time.

CHRISTINE

No mum.

MARION takes off her scarf.

MARION

It's tradition! Every birthday since she was 6 we've played Blind Man's Buff...

CHRISTINE

Not every birthday!

MARION

Yes we have! Though last year I think it was Blind Drunk Buff.

BOBBY

Excuse me, I wasn't there!

ADAM

She said "buff" not "puff".

MARION starts to tie the scarf around CHRISTINE's eyes.

MARION

She's always enjoyed party games, haven't you love. First person you catch can give you your main present.

ZARA

Where should I put my coat?

ADAM

Oh yeah, it's just through here...

ADAM and ZARA disappear down the corridor. CHRISTINE is blinded and strains to hear them go.

MARION

Right, you spin her Bobby.

BOBBY

My pleasure.

BOBBY spins a confused CHRISTINE round three times.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

1, 2, 3... and off you go.

We see CHRISTINE start to play the game, and see from her POV, opaque images through a scarf.

CHRISTINE moves round the room, but people edge away from her as she approaches. She approaches one figure and grabs him, but he cries out, afraid. It is ERNIE.

CHRISTINE
Sorry dad, sorry.

CHRISTINE moves toward the hallway, her arms outstretched.

15 INT. FLAT, HALLWAY - DAY

15

CHRISTINE stumbles into the corridor and makes her way toward the bedroom, feeling the walls as she goes. She becomes aware of the sound of a squeaking bed.

CHRISTINE
Adam?

CHRISTINE'S POV as she moves towards the closed door at the end of the corridor. She feels for the door handle as the squeaking sound gets louder and faster.

CHRISTINE removes the blind fold and sees the door. She reaches for the handle and throws open the door.

CUT TO:

16 INT. FLAT NO. 9, MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

16

It is another year on. ADAM is pushing on a large suitcase on the bed, trying to make it shut.

ADAM
I can't close this case, you'll have to take something out.

CHRISTINE is now dressed in summery clothes.

CHRISTINE
You always pack the cases.

ADAM removes a pair of nude peep-toe shoes.

ADAM
You don't need these shoes do you?

CHRISTINE
They were my birthday shoes from last year, I've barely worn them.

ADAM
Well we can't take all these toys.

ADAM takes out various child's toys.

CHRISTINE
He won't sleep without that.

ADAM
Well make him choose one thing.
You're too soft on him.

CHRISTINE
It's his holiday too.

ADAM
It wasn't meant to be was it.

CHRISTINE
Don't start.

ADAM
This was supposed to be just me and
you, get away from this miserable
flat for a while.

CHRISTINE
Well I'm very sorry my dad died. I
couldn't expect mum to take him now
could I?

ADAM
I'm not saying that.

CHRISTINE
Well what are you saying then?

ADAM
I wanted it to be fun, like it used
to be.

CHRISTINE
Well that's just life Adam! We're
doing what everybody else does,
we're going on holiday as a family.

ADAM
Yeah and I can't fucking wait.
Bring the passports.

ADAM storms out of the room. CHRISTINE opens the drawer of ADAM's bedside table. She goes through the drawer, finding the old keyring with two doves which she gave to ADAM four years ago. It is now grubby and worn.

CHRISTINE gets out the passports. She looks at the picture in her passport showing a younger, happier CHRISTINE.

CHRISTINE stares at herself for a sad moment. She looks at the younger ADAM, then at JACK's passport. There she sees a photograph of JACK as a small baby.

CUT TO:

17

INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - DAY

17

We see JACK, now aged 4 and a half, dressed in a school uniform and holding a small book bag. We see him through the viewfinder of a camera which is videoing him.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
That's it, give me a big smile!
What day is it Jack?

JACK
September the first.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
And what's happening today?

JACK
I got school.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)
Yes that's right, you're a big boy
now. Show us your bag.

JACK hold up his school bag.

We cut out of viewfinder mode to see CHRISTINE holding the camera. MARION moves toward JACK.

MARION
Right, come on, Grandma's going to
walk you down.

JACK
I want you to take me.

CHRISTINE
Mummy's got to go to work darling
but I'll be there to pick you up,
OK? You have a brilliant day, I'm
so proud of you.

CHRISTINE hugs JACK. MARION looks on sadly.

MARION
Come on then. Let's not be late on
our first day. See you later love.

CHRISTINE
Thanks Mum.

MARION

Are you going to show me the way?

MARION and JACK leave. CHRISTINE is bereft. She sobs, then rallies herself and goes over to the CD player.

There are a few boxes of possessions and a case in the corner of the room. CHRISTINE picks up a few CDs from a pile and places them into the box. She sees the CD she remembers putting on when ADAM first moved in, and this sets her off crying again.

CHRISTINE's dad ERNIE appears behind her. He's now much fitter and healthier. CHRISTINE carries on packing the box.

ERNIE

Come on Chrissie, don't upset yourself.

CHRISTINE

I just didn't think it would turn out like this.

ERNIE

Well I never thought I'd end up walking naked into the garden centre and peeing on the hydrangeas, but there you go.

CHRISTINE

But you weren't well, it wasn't your fault.

ERNIE

And this isn't yours girlie.

CHRISTINE

Isn't it? Adam's left me, Jack's left me...

ERNIE

Only till 3 o'clock.

CHRISTINE

I know; but 35, divorced and working in a shoe shop with my gay best friend. It's hardly the Cinderella story is it?

ERNIE

Now come on, enough of that nonsense. It's Jack's first day at school, this is meant to be a happy memory.

CHRISTINE

Well I'm sorry dad but it doesn't feel like it.

The door buzzer sounds. CHRISTINE looks round and ERNIE has disappeared. The buzzer sounds again, followed by the sound of the key in the lock and the front door opens.

ZARA appears. She looks shocked to see CHRISTINE.

ZARA

Oh sorry Chrissie, I thought you'd be at work...

CHRISTINE

I'm just leaving.

ZARA

I'll wait outside.

CHRISTINE

No it's alright, you're here now. Has he got you collecting his things?

ZARA

Yeah. Something came up at work...

CHRISTINE

Huh, I bet it did.

CHRISTINE gets her bag ready for work.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Well it's all in that corner, help yourself. If wants his Anusol tell him I chucked it, it's out of date.

ZARA

OK.

CHRISTINE puts on her coat.

ZARA (CONT'D)

Isn't it Jack's first day at school today?

CHRISTINE

Oh he remembered did he? Well a phone call would have been nice.

ZARA

Chrissie, can I just say... I hope that at some point in the future we can just sit down, open a big bottle of wine, stick on a romcom and have a a proper girly chat, like a couple of mates. What do you think?

CHRISTINE

I think you should fuck off.

CHRISTINE goes to the front door.

ZARA

Sorry?

CHRISTINE

I don't do romcoms.

CHRISTINE closes the door. The buzzer sounds.

CUT TO:

18 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

18

The flat is decorated for Halloween, with a pumpkin on the table, bats hanging from the ceiling and cobwebs round the picture frames.

The flat is empty. The buzzer sounds again.

CHRISTINE (O.S.)

Will you get that Bobby?

BOBBY (O.S.)

I can't, I'm putting my contacts in.

CHRISTINE emerges into the living room. She is dressed as a witch, with a green face, long nose, black cloak and pointed black hat. She goes to the entry-phone.

CHRISTINE

Yes?

ADAM (V.O.)

It's me, can you buzz me in?

CHRISTINE

You're late.

CHRISTINE presses the buzzer and hangs up, then opens the front door. She then crosses back down the hallway and into the bathroom.

19 INT. FLAT, BATHROOM - NIGHT

19

BOBBY is in front of the mirror dressed as a vampire. White face, drawn-on widow's peak, and a drip of blood down his chin. He is struggling to put a contact lens in. CHRISTINE come in.

CHRISTINE

Adam's here now - are you ready?

BOBBY turns to CHRISTINE.

BOBBY
What do you think?

CHRISTINE
Are they the contacts or just your eyes?

BOBBY
Contacts!

CHRISTINE
It's good. Are you a zombie waiter?

BOBBY
Oh piss off Chrissie - I'm meant to be a vampire.

CHRISTINE
Right.

BOBBY
I'm changing it to a werewolf.

He starts drawing lots of black lines on his face.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I've got teeth somewhere. So is your new fella going to be there?

CHRISTINE
He's not my new fella, be quiet.

BOBBY
You want him to be though don't you?

CHRISTINE
I've only seen a picture of him on a website.

BOBBY
It's fancy dress - how will you know it's him?

CHRISTINE
He's going to have an alien bursting out of his chest.

BOBBY
And did you just say you were going as yourself?

CHRISTINE
Ha ha.

The front door slams shut. CHRISTINE calls out to ADAM:

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
Jack's in his room.

A figure of a MAN flashes past the bathroom.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
(to ADAM)
You've got some explaining to do.

BOBBY
Do I look hairy enough?

CHRISTINE
You look like Tony the Tiger.
Here...

CHRISTINE takes the eye line pencil and draws on his face.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
I'll turn it into a cobweb.
Remember ten years ago when I first
moved in here - and I was living
with - what was her name - Fung?

BOBBY
Oh my God "The Grudge", that would
have been a good one.

CHRISTINE
We said if neither of us were with
someone in ten years time, we'd get
married to each other, do you
remember?

BOBBY
Aw, you're not that desperate are
you babe?

CHRISTINE
I was just thinking, it's funny how
things turn out isn't it?

There is a knock on the flat door.

BOBBY
Trick or treaters. Go and scare
'em.

CHRISTINE leaves the bathroom.

20 INT. FLAT NO. 9, HALLWAY - NIGHT

20

CHRISTINE answers the door. ADAM is standing there dressed
as a Devil. He's exhausted.

ADAM

You didn't tell me the lift was broken. I'm knackered.

CHRISTINE looks down the corridor and races towards JACK's room.

CHRISTINE

Jack?

21 INT. FLAT NO. 9, JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 21

CHRISTINE pushes open the door and finds the STRANGER - last seen in her kitchen - standing over JACK's bed holding the child in his arms.

STRANGER

It's alright. I've got him.

CUT TO:

22 INT. FLAT NO. 9, HALLWAY - NIGHT 22

The front door bursts open and CHRISTINE runs in carrying a crying JACK. She is on her phone.

CHRISTINE

It's alright, I've got him. Just come get back here quick as you can.

CHRISTINE puts down her phone and takes JACK to the bathroom.

23 INT. FLAT NO. 9, BATHROOM - NIGHT 23

CHRISTINE runs into the bathroom and turns on the cold tap. She quickly pulls JACK's hand under the tap.

CHRISTINE

Keep it under the tap - it might sting but don't move it, alright? I'm just going to ring Daddy.

JACK cries and whimpers. CHRISTINE races into the corridor.

24 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 24

CHRISTINE runs to the phone and dials a number.

Outside we can hear sporadic fireworks going off, and maybe see some in the darkness through the window.

ADAM (O.S.)

Hello?

CHRISTINE

Adam, Jack's had an accident.

ADAM (O.S.)

What...?

CHRISTINE

He's alright, he just burned his hand on a sparkler.

ADAM (O.S.)

OK, erm, well, you need to get a wet tea-towel...

CHRISTINE

That's chip-pan fires.

ADAM (O.S.)

Is it? Well just run it under a tap then. Are you at home?

CHRISTINE

Yes. Can you come round? I need you.

ADAM (O.S.)

OK, I'm on my way.

CHRISTINE

Thanks. He's probably fine, I'm just over-reacting. I've seen too many public information films.

ADAM (O.S.)

"I am the spirit of dark and lonely water..."

CHRISTINE

It's not funny Adam.

MARION enters and approaches CHRISTINE.

MARION

Christine?

CHRISTINE

(to MARION)

He's in the bathroom.

MARION hurries off toward the bathroom.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

My Mum's here now, so...

ADAM (O.S.)
I'll be there in five minutes, OK.

CHRISTINE
OK...

ADAM
Hang on. I love you.

ADAM hangs up. CHRISTINE replaces the receiver. She's thoughtful: does ADAM still love her? A firework explodes outside. CHRISTINE snaps out of her musing.

CHRISTINE
Is he alright Mum?

MARION enters with JACK.

MARION
Yes he's fine. There's not a mark on him, look...

MARION holds out JACK's hands. They are perfectly normal and not marked.

CHRISTINE
But... he was crying...

MARION
You frightened him!

MARION ushers JACK out.

MARION (CONT'D)
Go and watch the fireworks Jack, you can see them out of your window.

CHRISTINE is confused. She slumps down in a chair.

CHRISTINE
He picked up a sparkler and burnt his hand. I saw it...

MARION
He can't have done, there's nothing wrong with him. You did, when you were his age. Burnt right through your mittens, do you remember?

CHRISTINE looks at her hand. There is an old burn scar from when she was a little girl. She stares at it.

MARION (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Maybe you were thinking of that. Let me make you a cup of tea.

CHRISTINE
 I don't know what's wrong with me
 Mum. I'm getting everything
 jumbled up...

As we move round, the Christmas tree with the flashing blue lights has appeared behind CHRISTINE.

MARION (O.S.)
 Well put your hat on then.

CHRISTINE
 What?

CUT TO:

25 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - DAY

25

CHRISTINE is sitting at the dining table in the middle of the room. It is Christmas Day, and the table is decked out with crackers and a turkey dinner.

MARION, BOBBY, FUNG and ERNIE sit at the table wearing Christmas hats. CHRISTINE is momentarily confused.

MARION
 Put your hat on!

MARION places a red paper hat on CHRISTINE's head.

MARION (CONT'D)
 That's better.

BOBBY
 Right...
 (reading)
 "Why are Christmas trees so bad at
 sewing? They always drop their
 needles."

ERNIE
 Terrible.

BOBBY
 Fung?

FUNG
 (reading)
 "What does Santa suffer from if he
 gets stuck in the chimney?
 Claustrophobia." I don't get it.

ERNIE
 Neither do I dear.

MARION

You never had a sense of humour did you Ernie?

ERNIE

Oh I don't know, I married you didn't I?

Everyone laughs apart from CHRISTINE, who is feeling a sense of disconnectedness.

CHRISTINE

Are you alright dad?

ERNIE

Yes, I'm tickety-boo. I had to be here for this didn't I? Wouldn't have missed it for the world.

ADAM comes in and sits next to CHRISTINE.

ADAM

You alright love? Well done on this, it looks gorgeous. Just like you.

ADAM kisses CHRISTINE on the cheek.

MARION

I did the sprouts!

BOBBY

And we'll be hearing from them later!

Laughter.

CHRISTINE

Where's Jack?

ADAM

He's just getting his outfit on for the Nativity.

MARION

Aw, bless him.

CHRISTINE

(to ADAM)

Are we... back together Adam?

ADAM

Yeah, course we are. You remember Bonfire Night, last year...

FUNG

I think it's time for the present now.

CHRISTINE
I don't want the present.

BOBBY
Yes, go on.

ADAM goes to get the present which is under the tree.

ERNIE
This is from all of us dear, we all
contributed. I hope you like it.

ADAM hands CHRISTINE a wrapped up book. CHRISTINE opens the present to reveal a printed photo album. On the front is a photo of CHRISTINE as a baby next to one of her as an adult. The title is "Christine Clarke: A Life in Pictures".

CHRISTINE
Oh no! Is that me?

MARION
Yes!

CHRISTINE flicks through the book. She sees photos of herself as a child, in her younger days with FUNG and with BOBBY. A photo with ERNIE and MARION. Baby JACK and ADAM...

CHRISTINE
Remember that cot - we couldn't put
it up could we?

ADAM
Took us three days.

CHRISTINE
Ha, look!

CHRISTINE shows BOBBY a picture from Halloween.

BOBBY
Tony Tiger.

CHRISTINE leafs through the book and we see a variety of pictures. She smiles, wrapped up in her comforting memories.

CHRISTINE
Oh my God you've got everything!
It's almost like my whole life
flashing...

CHRISTINE stops. An awful realisation has hit her.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
Oh. I think I know what this is
now.

The sound of police radio static.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 26

Close on CHRISTINE's bloodied face at the wheel of her crashed car. Her eyes flicker as she clings onto life. The windscreen is smashed and steam rises from the engine. There are eggs smashed on the windscreen and passenger seat. The car has cashed into a bollard at the side of the road.

The fire brigade are in attendance, as are police and paramedics. A FIREMAN is prising open the car door. The car stereo is playing "Time to Say Goodbye".

The STRANGER from CHRISTINE's nightmares is nearby talking to a POLICEMAN. A WPC holds onto a shocked JACK.

STRANGER

It's my fault, I just stepped out
onto the road, I wasn't looking...

A FIREMAN is carefully lifting CHRISTINE from the wrecked car. Her eyes flicker.

27 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 27

CHRISTINE remembers being carried by ADAM dressed as a fireman.

CHRISTINE (V.O.)

I don't know what's happening to
me, I'm getting everything jumbled
up...

28 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 28

CHRISTINE is laid onto the PARAMEDIC's gurney. The blue light of an ambulance illuminates CHRISTINE's face.

29 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 29

CHRISTINE lies on the sofa, the blue Christmas tree lights in the background.

MARION (V.O.)

She's got a memory like a sieve...

30 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 30

The PARAMEDICS swarm around trying to save CHRISTINE.

PARAMEDIC
We're losing her... BP's dropping
rapidly.

31 INT. FLAT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 31

CHRISTINE is motionless in her chair.

ADAM
Jack, Mummy's going now!

CHRISTINE
No... I don't want to...

JACK appears. He is dressed for his Nativity as an angel,
with a halo made from a coat-hanger and tinsel.

32 EXT. BLOCK OF FLATS - DAY 32

The STRANGER looks on as the PARAMEDICS fit a neck brace onto
CHRISTINE. JACK is with a WPC. He stares at his Mum.

STRANGER
I managed to get the kid out but I
couldn't get to her. I'm sorry...

CHRISTINE's eyes flick as the PARAMEDICS fit an oxygen mask.

MARION (V.O.)
He wouldn't want you remember him
like this.

CHRISTINE (V.O.)
That's just life Adam!

ERNIE (V.O.)
This is supposed to be a happy
memory.

They shine a light in her eyes.

33 INT. FLAT NO. 9, LIVING ROOM - DAY 33

CHRISTINE is faced by her family and friends.

MARION
It's time Christine.

JACK runs up to CHRISTINE and hugs her. CHRISTINE smiles and
addresses her family.

CHRISTINE
Bye everyone. Love you.

THE END