

ROCKS

Written by Theresa Ikoko and Claire Wilson
Story by Theresa Ikoko

Directed by Sarah Gavron

FINAL SHOOTING SCRIPT

Developed with the assistance of BFI and Film4

© 2020 Fable Pictures Ltd, The British Film Institute and Channel 4
Television Corporation

CONTACT:
hannah@fablepics.com

The cast and many other young Londoners collaborated with the writers and filmmakers to create the characters and world of our film. Some of the dialogue was improvised.

1 EXT. LONDON - SUNSET 1

It is the perfect summer day in East London. A group of 14 and 15 year old girls frolic on the rooftop of a block of flats. Hijabs, braids, tracksuits, braces, songs, banter, dance moves and laughter. This is friendship. This is London.

2 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- BEDROOM - MORNING 2

ROCKS (real name: Shola Joy Omotosa, 15, Black (Nigerian & Jamaican)- British, cool, responsible, mature for her age, serious, stony, aloof, until she laughs. Her laugh lights up her face and all around her. She laughs like a child. We're reminded of her age when she laughs. And when she cries) gets ready for school. Her room is small. Cluttered with belongings that aren't hers. Plastered with stickers and pictures. Lazy attempts at putting her personal touch on the decor.

3 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- KITCHEN - MORNING 3

A narrow kitchen. Linoleum floor. Counter tops filled with appliances, letters and other things intended to be gotten back to, at some point long passed. A radio plays. **EMMANUEL** (Rocks' younger brother, 7, vivid imagination, a little spoilt, heart of gold) fries Nigerian style egg. **FUNKE** (early 40s, hard working, loving, but feels everything dangerously deeply) supervises with a heavy smile.

FUNKE

I think it's done now baby.

Rocks enters. Surprised by the feast being prepared.

ROCKS

(suspiciously)

What's all this?

FUNKE

Breakfast.

ROCKS

Yam and egg?... On a school day?

Funke ignores Rocks' line of questioning. Sets the table.

FUNKE

Big day. That's all.

Funke's energy is high. Emmanuel feeds off of it. They talk about school, about the trips coming up. Emmanuel wants Funke to take time off to be a parent chaperone for their zoo trip. Funke doesn't confirm that she will, but her positive energy is enough for the young child.

They all sit. Rocks' suspicion has not been allayed.

ROCKS

You sure you're alright mum?

Funke squeezes Rocks' hand. Offers a reassuring smile, that doesn't reassure.

EMMANUEL

I'm serving.

Emmanuel picks up the spoon. Dishes himself a mountain of yam.

ROCKS

You won't finish that.

EMMANUEL

Yes I will.

ROCKS

No you won't.

FUNKE

That's enough you two. Come on.

EMMANUEL

Should we say the Lord's prayer cos we're eating yams?

Funke and Rocks laugh. Emmanuel waits for them with hands clasped and one eye closed, like a school nun. Funke and Rocks quickly heed his warning, swallowing their laughter, they close their eyes and bow their heads.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Our father, he's up in heaven, long
be thy name, thy kingdom come, I
won't be done, in earth as is
heaven, give us our stay our daily
bread, and give us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us, and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil. Amen.

ROCKS

Amen!

FUNKE

Remix!

The family eat and laugh. They appear perfect. There is nothing lacking here. Rocks grabs everything off the plate and stuffs it between two slices of bread. Funke shakes her head. Rocks bites into the bulging sandwich.

4 EXT. OUTSIDE OMOTOSA FLAT - MORNING

4

Funke sees Rocks to the door.

ROCKS

Bye mum.

FUNKE

Wait.

Funke pulls Rocks close into an unexpected embrace. Confused, Rocks reciprocates. Wonders for a moment whether to ask her mum once again if she's ok. Decides against it.

ROCKS

Don't forget-

FUNKE

Nana's birthday, I know. I'll get a phone card.

ROCKS

Save me minutes please.

Rocks walks across the landing, looks over onto the street below. **SUMAYA** (14, Rocks' best friend, Somali-British, fiercely loyal, tomboy, family oriented, simultaneously secure in her skin and unsure of who she is) jumps up and down waving.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

(calling down)

Sumaya! Waste gal!

Rocks laughs. Races down to meet her friend.

5 I/E. ROCKS' SCHOOL, GROUNDS. MORNING.

5

Girls run across playgrounds, through halls and down corridors. A fashion parade masking a tribal display. This is storytelling at its most ancient.

Little flicks of individuality turn uniforms into couture. Girls with the same debut hairstyles and trainers size one another up, embrace or form instant rivalries.

Girls exchange, stories, gossip, belated birthday cards. Girls in hijabs exchange Eid gifts. Middle Eastern girls contour faces, transforming into Kardashians. Black girls show off new braids. White girls compare festival wrist bands.

The pitch is high - chirping. Promise. Re-branding.

MS BOOKER

Sumaya!

MS BOOKER (age unidentifiable, maybe 25, maybe 40, Black-British, respected, maybe even feared), points to Sumaya's feet.

SUMAYA

I've got football club, Miss.

MS BOOKER

At lunchtime.

SUMAYA

Miss-

Ms Booker shakes her head, "don't fuck with me". Sumaya lets her bag fall off her shoulder with a giant sigh. Pulls out a pair of shoes. Does the switch. Rocks tries not to laugh at her friend. Ms Booker turns to other girls who have tried their luck this morning, with new piercings, trainers and accessories.

6 INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL. FORM CLASS. MORNING.

6

Classroom buzzes. Students look at phones under desks. Girls pull hijabs down to cover earbuds. Mascara is applied. Homework is rushed. Gossip is passed. SABINA (14, Polish Gypsy-British, football mad, and the youngest of a family of all boys, who adore her and ensure she is always in the latest tracksuit and trainers) sits with feet on table. She beams as girls gush over her latest limited edition finds.

MS BOOKER

BukuROSHÉ Mediah?

Chatter continues.

MS BOOKER (CONT'D)

One...

Girls stop talking.

MS BOOKER (CONT'D)
BukuROSHÉ Mediah?

No answer. MS BOOKER calls names on register. Girls resume chatter. A little quieter.

Girls share latest insta-crushes, lay out brand new stationary and turn to the mystical rubber, with questions of their future.

ROCKS
Is Sumaya gonna make it through a
week without detention this term?

Rocks flips the rubber marked "yes" on one side and "no" on the other. The rubber lands on "no". Everyone laughs. They continue with this game. Questions are mischievous, raunchy, sincere, sinister and everything in between.

Rocks and Sumaya are clearly at the top of the food chain. They are loved by most. Their friendship admired by all.

KHADIJAH (Bangladeshi-British, confident and insecure, funny, good at everything, but a disruption in most classes) has spent the break learning lyrics and a routine to the latest UK Afro Swing hit. She shines in the spotlight. She demands it.

YAWA (Congolese-British, a rare balance of popular, academically brilliant and a regular in detention). A talented dancer. Has downloaded a DJ app over the break. She's been practising. Her music and dance supports Khadijah's performance.

AGNES (white-British, finding her place, socially conscious, almost to the point of anxiety) discreetly Googles the lyrics. Tries to naturally sing along with the crowd. Trying out for a permanent place in the group.

7

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL. FORM CLASS - LATER

7

Ms Booker tells the class of girls about the importance of year 10. About their future and the significance of this year. This is the year they become women. Ms Booker is heavy-handed with her delivery. Serious. Intense. She scares some, loses some and confuses others. But is respected, and even admired, by all. Her love for them is without doubt.

8

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- FORM CLASS - LATER

8

The TA and Ms Booker float around, helping girls.

KHADIJAH

I want to be a lawyer.

TA

(doubtfully)

You'd need really high grades to pursue law.

Khadijah is disheartened. Sumaya comes to her defence.

SUMAYA

What you trying to say Miss?

The girls all turn to the TA. Their eyes daring her.

TA

(a little hesitantly)

Just that... It's always good to have a backup plan. A plan B.

ROCKS

(to Khadijah)

You don't need no back up.

TA busies herself elsewhere. The girls look at each other knowingly. Roll their eyes. Silently decide the TA will be proven wrong one day. Offer Khadijah arm pats of support. Ms Booker joins the girls' table. Looks at Rocks' form.

MS BOOKER

(reading)

P Diddy? 50 Cent?

ROCKS

Yeah. I want to be like P Diddy and 50 Cent. I want to make a mill before I'm 30.

Rocks looks at Ms Booker expectantly. Ms Booker doesn't flinch. She nods. Thinks.

MS BOOKER

Ok. Good. But now get specific. What *type* of career path do you want to take you there. They're in entertainment-

ROCKS

-Business.

MS BOOKER

Now you're getting there. What type of business.

SUMAYA

Makeup.

(pulling up Rocks' MUA
instagram profile)

Look how many followers she has.
She gets paid to do their makeup.

MS BOOKER

(to Rocks)

Are these all clients? Very impressive.

Rocks beams at Ms Booker's approval. Ms Booker nods at Rocks, proud, as she walks away.

9 EXT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- PLAYGROUND - DAY

9

Rocks finishes a girl's eyebrows and winged eyeliner. The payment is £2.50. Rocks takes a picture and uploads it to her MUA instagram page.

Sumaya sells sweets at her and Rocks' unsanctioned tuck shop. Customers haggle. Sumaya is not easily steam rolled.

SUMAYA

Hold on. Hold on! Put your pesky hands back fam and pay the money if you want it.

10 INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- CLASSROOM - DAY

10

Girls fall asleep as a geography teacher explains the difference between types of rocks. Some girls doodle. Others pass notes. Rocks wakes suddenly from her nap. Her expression of shock... Fear. Rocks shifts forward in her chair. Looks behind her. Sees blood on the seat. Quickly slides back to cover it. Rocks holds her breath. Doesn't blink. Sumaya notices something's wrong.

SUMAYA

You ok?

Rocks doesn't answer. Her face tenses.

SUMAYA (CONT'D)

Diarrhoea?

ROCKS
(whispered)
I'm bleeding.

SUMAYA
Shit. You hurt yourself? Where?

Sumaya goes to raise her hand to get the teacher's attention.
Rocks quickly pulls Sumaya's hand down.

ROCKS
No. From my-... I think I've
started my period.

Sumaya tries not to laugh at her friend.

11 INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- CLASSROOM - LATER 11

Sumaya and Rocks wait for the class to file out. Sumaya takes off her jumper and gives it to Rocks to tie around her waist. Rips out pages of her workbook to clean the chair.

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- TOILETS - MOMENTS LATER

Rocks sits on the toilet.

SUMAYA (O.S.)
You can do it man. Come on.

Rocks looks doubtfully at a tampon.

SUMAYA (CONT'D)
You know it doesn't actually take
your virginity right?

Losing patience, Sumaya pops her head over the dividing wall of the cubicle.

SUMAYA (CONT'D)
Just put it in! Hurry up!

ROCKS
Ok then move.

The two burst out laughing. Another story down in the book of their friendship.

13 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT. LATE AFTERNOON. 13

Rocks enters the flat with Emmanuel. Emmanuel has had a good day. He is excited. Rocks listens, sincerely and intently to stories about his day and about dinosaurs.

Emmanuel puts the TV on. Rocks reminds him to wash his hands and change out of his uniform. Bribes Emmanuel with a yoghurt and crisps. Emmanuel complies.

14 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- KITCHEN. LATE AFTERNOON. 14

Rocks plays music from her phone. Retrieves the promised crisps from the cupboard. Spots a note and an envelope on the worktop. Casually picks it up and begins reading. Singing along to the music. Taking the crisps to Emmanuel.

15 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- FUNKE AND EMMANUEL'S ROOM. LATE AFTERNOON. 15

Rocks stands at the bedroom door. Emmanuel changes. Rocks throws Emmanuel the crisps. Reads the note and sings along to the music. As Rocks reads, the music fades from her attention. Rocks focuses on her mother's writing. Reads words saying "sorry", "I had to leave", "I tried my best", "mummy loves you".

Rocks can't concentrate on a smiley and excitable Emmanuel, who has now picked up a story from earlier about his school day.

ROCKS
(accidentally snapping)
Go and watch TV.

Emmanuel is a little confused. A little hurt. Rocks is immediately sorry.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
(smiling an apology)
Guess what I've got for you in my
bag?... A penguin bar.

Emmanuel's forgiving face lights up. Emmanuel runs to the living room.

Rocks re-reads the note. Opens the envelope. Counts out £200.

16 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- LIVING ROOM. LATE AFTERNOON. 16

Rocks checks on Emmanuel. Emmanuel is engrossed with the screen. Tucking into his Penguin bar.

ROCKS
You want chicken and chips?

Emmanuel is too engrossed to respond.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Don't open the door ok? I'll be
back in a second.

Rocks is reluctant to leave. But does.

17 EXT. OUTSIDE OMOTOSA FLAT. LATE AFTERNOON.

17

Rocks stands outside the flat. Unsure what to do. Calls Funke over and over. There is no answer. It goes to voicemail. Rocks cuts it off as soon as she hears the start of the recorded message-

FUNKE VOICEMAIL RECORDING
.... Hello, this is Funke-

Rocks's neighbour GERALDINE (Irish, worn in), returns home with shopping bags.

GERALDINE
You alright love?

ROCKS
Yeah... Erm... Have you seen...

Rocks thinks about asking her. Thinks twice.

GERALDINE
Love?

ROCKS
Nothing. Just. Was gonna ask...
Lost my Oyster.

GERALDINE
Oh no. I'll keep an eye out.

18 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT. LATE AFTERNOON.

18

Rocks rushes back in. Looks through the stack of used phone cards in the fruit bowl. Tries them. They're expired. Funke must have forgot to call Nana. Rocks is doubly frustrated.

19 EXT. HACKNEY STREETS, LATE AFTERNOON. 19

Rocks steps out of the flat. Mindful of not leaving Emmanuel alone too long. Runs around the local area. Checks the corner shop, the launderette, the cafe, the pub, the post office, hair shop, butchers, and bank. Avoiding conversations and questions from local adults who know Rocks well. Rocks isn't sure where else to look.

On the a lamp post we see the first of many bunches of flowers fastened to the metal. Indicating death. There is a poster with a teenager's smiling face looking out.

20 INT. FUNKE'S WORKPLACE. LATE AFTERNOON. 20

Rocks hovers, waiting for other customers to complete their orders.

ROCKS
(quietly)
Excuse me? Do you know if Funke
Omotosa is working today?

The Worker shakes his head. Asks someone else. Looks back.

WORKER
Funke hasn't done a shift for a
couple of weeks. Not sure she's
still on the roster.

The other worker looks up at Rocks.

OTHER WORKER
You Funke's girl?

Rocks isn't sure how to answer.

OTHER WORKER (CONT'D)
Yeah... She keeps a picture of you
in her locker. Boss tried to throw
it away, but I kept her stuff for
her.

Workers read the panic and confusion in Rocks' face.

OTHER WORKER (CONT'D)
You wanna tell her? Tell her to
come pick it up? It's probably a
bit heavy for just you- clothes,
shoes- we accumulate all sorts in
them lockers. Yeah... It'll be too
heavy, or I'd give it to you.

WORKER

She... She ok?

The workers look at each other. Sharing a secret conversation that Rocks is left out of.

ROCKS

Yeah. Oh. I... Yeah. Sorry. My fault. She got a new job. I forgot- In a bank- In the city. Sorry. I forgot.

OTHER WORKER

Ooh. Good for her. Always too pretty for these hair nets, she was.

WORKER

Excuse me?

OTHER WORKER

You're not exactly an oil painting Christine.

WORKER

You'd think I was the bloody Mona Lisa the way your Charlie can't take his eyes off me when he comes in.

OTHER WORKER

You wish. He's probably trying to figure out which of your eyes to make contact with. You know them things can never agree on what way to look.

A customer interrupts the two. They haven't noticed that Rocks has gone.

21

EXT. PHONE CREDIT STALL. LATE AFTERNOON.

21

Rocks hesitates. Hovers by a small stall selling international phone cards. An AFGHAN man sits behind listening to a tinny radio.

AFGHAN MAN

You want something?

Rocks bites her lip. She makes a decision.

ROCKS

Phone card.

AFGHAN MAN

Which one... I have...

The sales man is filled with east end sales man patter. Rocks interrupts his well rehearsed sales pitch.

ROCKS

Any. For Nigeria. Just. Whatever.

They make the exchange.

22

EXT. OMOTOSO FLAT. EARLY EVENING

22

Rocks loads the credit from the card unto her phone. She dials a number and waits. A huge smile creeps across her face as her great-grandmother answers the phone. Her Nana doesn't hear her. A dodgy connection. Age-related hearing loss. The line disconnects. Rocks tries again. Nana is ecstatic to hear from Rocks. For a moment Rocks has forgotten it's Nana's birthday.

NANA

I thought you people had forgotten
it's my birthday.

ROCKS

(sort of lying)
Of course not Nana.

NANA

In my 65 years, I have never
forgotten any single family members
birthday.

ROCKS

(laughing at Nana's
typical dramatics)
We didn't forget... How are you? I
hope you're being spoilt rotten.

NANA

Spoilt ke? You know nobody loves
Nana like you, my first grandbaby.

ROCKS

I know.

The two share a special bond.

Rocks speaks in Yoruba, telling her Nana all about her day. Rocks wants to tell her Nana that she can't find her mum and that she's not sure what to do. Nana is so happy to hear from Rocks, so instead, Rocks tells her about her first period.

Nana shrieks with excitement then quickly goes into a lists of dos and don'ts. How to clean. Very important. How to hold herself. Nana alternates between Yoruba, pidgin and English. Rocks listens, cringing but appreciating the great care.

NANA

(in Yoruba)

You are a woman now. My baby is a woman. Look at God... You know it is me you called mummy until you were 4.

ROCKS

(smiling)

I know.

NANA

I miss you my baby. You and your brother. But home is too good for my bones. Those doctors in London don't know that sunshine and good fish can cure anything. I will shock them. I will live long here... But I miss you too much.

ROCKS

(eyes watering)

I miss you too Nana.

NANA

Remember when it was just you and me?

Nana begins singing a classic Yoruba song she taught Rocks. Something like Prince Adekunle's, "Aye Nreti Eleya/AropinNi T'enia". Rocks laughs. The memories, the expectation in Grandma's song for Rocks to join in. Rocks does. Quietly. This moment is pure.

NANA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Good. Good. You still remember... All you knew was your nana. You would cry if even your mother tried to take you from me.

Rocks' smile fades.

ROCKS

(a little defensive)

I was just a kid... She was working a lot... It wasn't her fault.

NANA

(not really hearing/
listening to Rocks)

Mm. You're right. Me, I can't blame her. Not every woman is supposed to be a mother, my dear. Your mother's mother wasn't either. That's why God kept me... for you and your brother-

The words burn Rocks.

ROCKS

She's been doing good Nana. Really good.

NANA

Oh. Did I tell you, I had dinner with the governor's wife? She attended my church-

ROCKS

(lying)

I have to go. The card's done.

NANA

Ok dear. Tell your mother to call me o. She hasn't returned any of my calls. She must call her grandmother on her birthday at least. For all she knows I am lying in a gutter-

Rocks hangs up. Stewing. Squeezing the calling card in one hand until it snaps.

23

EXT. PERFECT FRIED CHICKEN. EARLY EVENING.

23

Khadijah works her usual after-school shift. Her dad owns the franchise. Khadijah is distracted by her reflection in her front-facing camera. The shop is filled with school-kids. There is a group of older boys that dominate. One of them in particular has Khadijah's attention. Khadijah wouldn't dare speak with him. He may not know she exists. Khadijah catches his eye in the reflected image on her phone. Did he catch her spying? She freaks out. Embarrassed. Drops her phone in the fryer. The oil splashes up at Khadijah. Khadijah screams.

KHADIJAH'S DAD

Tumi ki karach?!

(What are you doing?!)

The school-aged patrons laugh. The boy doesn't. Khadijah's Dad holds Khadijah's arm under a cold tap. Fishes her fried phone out of the frier. Serves 3 "2 for 2s", without missing a beat. This shop and Khadijah are his pride and joy.

Rocks enters. Disoriented from her unsuccessful search and contact attempts. Orders 2 "2 piece meals". Hands Khadijah a £20 note from the envelope. Careful not to reveal the wad of cash. Khadijah is too distracted by her own embarrassment to notice the worry on her friends face.

24 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- ROCKS' BEDROOM. NIGHT. 24

Emmanuel sleeps in Rocks' bed. Rocks can't sleep. Rocks calls Funke over and over again. No answer. She checks Funke's room. Checks to see what's missing. Some clothes are gone. Rocks searches Funke's drawer of documents -

Finds Funke's passport. A little relief on her face. Funke can't have gone far.

25 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- KITCHEN. MORNING. 25

The following day, Rocks is hurrying to get Emmanuel ready for school. Sumaya is on FaceTime. Rocks struggles with his tie. Growing frustrated. Emmanuel is picking up on her stress.

EMMANUEL

Don't worry - mum can do it. She's really good at ties.

ROCKS

(to Sumaya)

I'll call you back.

Rocks hangs up.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

(snaps, to Emmanuel)

Mum's not here, is she?

Seeing his little face sag. Rocks brightens. It's too late, Emmanuel is mad at her. He slumps on the chair. Sitting on Rocks' phone.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Get up. What are you doing?

EMMANUEL

Sitting down.

ROCKS
On my phone?

EMMANUEL
I was just sitting down.

ROCKS
Why are you raising your voice?

EMMANUEL
Why are *you* raising *your* voice.

ROCKS
Just eat your breakfast.

EMMANUEL
That's what I was about to do.

ROCKS
Do it then.

EMMANUEL
I am.

ROCKS
Good.

CUT TO:

26 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT - MOMENTS LATER

26

Rocks watches Emmanuel play with his food. He looks sad.
Guilt washes over her.

ROCKS
(to Emmanuel, thinking on
her feet)
Remember when she went away before?
But she came back...
(almost to herself)
She always comes back, doesn't
she?...
(to Emmanuel)
I bet she's gone to find you the
best birthday present ever!

Emmanuel beams.

EMMANUEL
Ooh. What's she getting me?

ROCKS
It's a surprise.

27 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- KITCHEN. MORNING. 27

Rocks washes the dishes. Daydreams. Tired. Her homework on the kitchen table. Abandoned.

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL GROUNDS. AFTERNOON

Lunchtime. Rocks has forgotten the bag of Freddos and jewellery for her and Sumaya's tuckshop.

SUMAYA

Aw man-

ROCKS

-Fuck sake Sumaya. Obviously it was an accident. God!

Sumaya is confused by the blow up. Doesn't retaliate. Rocks is embarrassed by her unprovoked snap.

SUMAYA

You... you ok?

Rocks doesn't say anything for a moment. Rocks is about to-

SUMAYA (CONT'D)

-Oh yeah. Time of the month.

(giggling)

My sister's a proper bitch when she's on. I'll get you some Evening Primrose. My mum literally forces it down my sister's throat. She slammed the bathroom door so hard once it came off the hinges. That was the last straw.

Sumaya nudges Rocks. Forcing a smile.

29 INT. ROCK'S SCHOOL- CLASS. AFTERNOON. 29

History class. Rocks doesn't have her homework.

Rocks's distraction is read by the MALE TEACHER as nonchalance.

ROCKS

Whatever sir.

Rocks' phone rings.

TEACHER

Phone. Off now. You should know better.

Rocks searches her bag for the ringing phone. Tries to listen for where in her big, messy bag it might be.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Off.

ROCKS

Shut up! I need to listen.

TEACHER

Excuse me?!

Rocks finds the phone. Private Number. Rocks answers.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Ms Omotosa. Give it to me. Now.

ROCKS (INTO PHONE)

Hello?

Rocks tunes out Teacher's objections and reprimands. Listens hard. Hoping.

PRE RECORDED VOICE (THROUGH THE PHONE)

Our records tell us you were recently in an accident-

ROCKS

-Fuck sake!

Rocks hangs up. Slams bag down.

TEACHER

Out. Now. And give me your phone.

Rocks refuses to hand over the phone. Leaves.

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- EXCLUSION ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Ms Booker's on duty in exclusion this period.

Rocks enters. Hands Ms Booker the note she was sent with. Ms Booker reads it. Is surprised to see Rocks in exclusion. Rocks doesn't have, or refuses to offer, an explanation for her behaviour.

There is only one other girl in exclusion. Ms Booker notices the distress on Rocks' face. Rocks' lips tremble a little when Ms Booker asks if everything's ok.

ROCKS

I... My...

MS BOOKER

(to Girl)

Earphones in. Go on.

Girl isn't sure this isn't a trap.

MS BOOKER (CONT'D)

Before I change my mind.

Girl shrugs, reveals the phone hidden on her lap. Plugs in and disappears into her own, cyber-world.

MS BOOKER (CONT'D)

(to Rocks)

You were you saying?

ROCKS

Nothing. Started my period.
Hormones init.

Rocks finds a seat as far away from Ms Booker and Girl as possible. Ms Booker isn't convinced by the excuse offered.

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL, DANCE HALL - AFTERNOON

Ms Booker covers for the regular dance teacher. Ms Booker is clearly not a dancer. What she lacks in skill, she makes up for in enthusiasm. The girls encourage and uplift her. They have fun. Rocks is distracted. Sumaya notices.

32

EXT. EMMANUEL'S SCHOOL, LATE AFTERNOON.

32

Sumaya and Rocks collect Emmanuel from school. He's excited to see Sumaya. They walk down the street hand in hand. Swinging Emmanuel in the air at regular intervals.

Sumaya and Emmanuel chase an ice cream van. Rocks laughs and shakes her head. Leaving them to it. Sumaya and Emmanuel queue for their ice cream cones with all the trimmings.

SUMAYA

So what do you want for your
birthday?

EMMANUEL

I'm getting a special present from
mum. She's gone away to get it but
she'll be back soon- for my
birthday- with my present.

(MORE)

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

A special present. It's a surprise.
Do you know what it is?! You can
tell me. I can keep a surprise.

Sumaya isn't sure what to make of this. She plays along for Emmanuel's sake. Refusing to ruin the surprise for him.

Sumaya and Emmanuel catch up with Rocks. Emmanuel's ice cream drips down his arm. Sumaya cleans it off with a tissue. He runs to a bin nearby to drop it in.

SUMAYA

She gone again?

Rocks' brows furrow.

SUMAYA (CONT'D)

Manny said. Said she's gone to get
him a present or something. She's
been gone two days? Unless she's
getting it directly from Father
Christmas himself...

ROCKS

(trying to laugh)
Think he only makes seasonally
specific toys.

Rocks is nervous to tell Sumaya, but this is a safe place. Sumaya waits. Giving her friend a moment- the space to share.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

It's not like before. She's been
doing good. It's just a few days...
She'll be back before his
birthday... Honestly.

Rocks downplays it. Sumaya isn't convince. For Rocks' sake she doesn't challenge.

SUMAYA

So... what you're saying is... we
got a free yard?

Sumaya smiles. Throws an arm around Rocks. Rocks is relieved. She's grateful for her friend's understanding.

Rocks and Sumaya shop with Emmanuel. They race around the aisles having fun - Emmanuel pretending he's the driver, shouting directions. Sumaya hops back on the trolley.

Fills the cart with brightly coloured, distracting goodies to keep Emmanuel happy.

They turn and corner and run into Agnes and her mum. Agnes' mum might be high/drunk. She seems almost more familiar with Rocks than Agnes. There is a hint at a previous life- a previous, closer friendship between the girls. The two girls are awkward. Agnes afraid of her mum embarrassing her and Rocks afraid of Emmanuel letting something slip. They work hard at shortening the conversation. Both wanting to escape with their secrets and pride in tact. Both pull away in opposite directions.

34 INT. LARGE SUPERMARKET. LATER

34

The cashier is surprised by the vastness of Rocks' purchase. Curious. Rocks declines the offer of bags, to save money. When the price is totalled, Rocks is shocked. Rocks counts the money out of the envelope. The cashier looks at the poorly hidden wad of cash with suspicion.

CASHIER

How's your mum.

ROCKS

She's fine. She's really good.

Sumaya looks nervously at her friend. Her protective nature niggling at her to do something.

35 EXT. DOWNSTAIRS FROM OMOTOSA FLAT - LATER

35

SUMAYA

Should I help you take them up.

ROCKS

Nah, it's alright.

Rocks loads herself with the bags. Sumaya looks on expecting Rocks to collapse under the weight of them.

SUMAYA

Are you sure?

ROCKS

Yeah.

Sumaya watches as Rocks drags herself, the bags and Emmanuel towards their block. Rocks is tired. Of it all.

EMMANUEL
(none the wiser)
Do dinosaurs really exist?

Rocks ignores Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not deterred.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)
Do dinosaurs really exist?

ROCKS
What?

EMMANUEL
Do dinosaurs really exist?

36 EXT. OUTSIDE OMOTOSA FLAT. EVENING.

36

Rocks drags Emmanuel and her purchases, to the door.
Geraldine opens her door.

GERALDINE
Oh. Was hoping it was your mum.

Geraldine looks at the scene of the confused, near tearful child, the distressed and tired teenager, and bags packed with purchases that were clearly bought without guidance from a list.

ROCKS
She's sleeping-

EMMANUEL
-She's ba-

-Rocks nudges Emmanuel harder than she meant to. He bangs his head.

ROCKS
Shit. Sorry.
(to Geraldine)
I should-

GERALDINE
-Well... tell her, her Mary Kay's come. I'll knock round after dinner.

ROCKS
I can just take it for her.

GERALDINE
She still has to pay for it.

ROCKS

How much?

GERALDINE

It's ok. I'll just pop by later-

ROCKS

-She's working.

GERALDINE

I thought she was asl-

ROCKS

How much?

Geraldine hesitates.

GERALDINE

20.

Rocks hands Geraldine the 20. Rocks abandons the shopping trolley outside and carries Emmanuel in.

37 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT- LIVING ROOM. NIGHT. 37

Rocks keeps Emmanuel awake. Reads what to do about a head injury. Knowing she can't take him to the hospital, Rocks ices Emmanuel's head with an ice lolly.

Rocks and Emmanuel binge watch cartoons. They giggle together and falls asleep.

38 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT. AFTERNOON. 38

The following day. Rocks and Emmanuel are still asleep. They are woken by banging on the front door. For a moment Rocks is scared. The letter flap opens. It's Sumaya.

SUMAYA

Hellooooo?

39 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT. AFTERNOON. 39

Sumaya has just come from Arabic lessons. She wears an abaya. Enters before Rocks even gets a chance to say a word. Sumaya is comfortable at this house. She opens the curtains.

SUMAYA

What are you? A vampire?

ROCKS

Cut it. It's too early.

Sumaya. Shifts the framed picture of her and Rocks to the front of the photos on the mantle piece. Helps herself to things in the fridge and cupboard.

Sumaya's mum returned Funke's plastic bowl from the last exchange of food between the mothers. It's clear these families are very much intertwined.

SUMAYA

Bruv. Why you not dressed?

Rocks had forgotten their plan to hang out today.

ROCKS

I'm looking after Emmanuel.

SUMAYA

Bring him. I'll look after him.

ROCKS

He's not coming.

SUMAYA

Just get ready.

Rocks knows better than to argue with Sumaya when she's like this.

ROCKS

(taking in Sumaya's
outfit)

Mashallah, mashallah lead the way.

Rocks lifts Sumaya's foot.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Air forces? Nice touch.

The two laugh. Sumaya shoos Rocks away to get ready. Sumaya looks around at the mess. Begins tidying.

ROCKS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Don't tidy up.

Sumaya ignores Rocks.

40 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY 40

Music blasts from speakers. Skaters practice tricks. Fail. Try again. Succeed. Wow. BMXers show off their flips and spins. Graffiti artists mark their territory.

Our girls look out over the edge. Do makeup. Watch boys and other girls. Take pictures. Laugh. Sing along. Dance along. Listen to the music that competes from multiple speakers. It is a scene of pure elation. Of youth. Of their invincibility. Of their infinity. Of their joy.

41 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY 41

The girls say their goodbyes.

SUMAYA

(to ROCKS)

You guys know you can always stay
at mine.

Sumaya was quiet, but Rocks' paranoia doesn't think she was discreet enough.

ROCKS

(laughing, mocking,
nervous)

No offence, but ain't you got half
of Somalia staying round? I'm good.

A few of the other girls laugh. Rocks walks away with Emmanuel.

42 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT - LATER 42

Rocks and Emmanuel arrive home. They are tired, and elated. For a moment, they have forgotten all the problems and worries behind their front door. Emmanuel throws himself on the couch. Rocks goes into the kitchen-

EMMANUEL

-Sis the TV's not working.

Rocks takes the remote. Tries. Nothing. Tries turning the tv on at the box. Nothing.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

I tried that. It's not working.

Emmanuel tries the light.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)
Nothing's working.

Rocks checks the fridge. Other lights.

ROCKS
Damn.

Rocks grabs the electric key. Reaches into her pocket for the money envelope. It's not there. She panics. Begins searching.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Have you see the money?

Emmanuel is distracted by toys.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Move. Help me look.

Rocks searches under the couch.

EMMANUEL
There's nothing under here... only
breadcrumbs... How to get rich.
Maybe I could do a charity run... a
sponsored walk?

ROCKS
Ah just shut up and look for the
money.

43 I/E. OMOTOSA FLAT. NIGHT.

43

Rocks opens the door with a bag of rubbish in hand. Catches Geraldine outside about to knock. Geraldine looks curiously into the pitch black flat.

GERALDINE
I was just going to ask if-

54 Rocks drops the rubbish bag outside and shuts the door in 54 Geraldine's face. Exhausted, unable to lie or engage at all. She looks down at her ringing phone. Diverts Sumaya's call.

INT. OMOTOSA FLAT. NIGHT.

Rocks piles all the duvets and blankets on top of Emmanuel to keep him warm.

Rocks tries Funke's phone again. This time she receives a "number disconnected" voice message.

For a moment, Rocks feels as if she can't breathe. Rocks looks at Emmanuel sleeping. Guilt and panic on her face. Unsure if she knows what to do. Rocks holds him close to stop herself from crying.

44 INT. EMMANUEL'S SCHOOL. MORNING. 44

Monday, back to school. Rocks kisses Emmanuel goodbye.

ROCKS

Remember, mummy going away is our secret ok? Otherwise you wont get your birthday present.

They do their handshake to seal the promise.

As Rocks walks away, Emmanuel's teacher runs after her. Emmanuel's teacher has questions about Emmanuel's bumped head. Rocks stumbles and laughs an excuse about jumping on the bed. It doesn't make a lot of sense. The teacher also observes the state of Rocks' uniform. Rocks hadn't noticed in the dark flat she dressed in. The teacher smiles to hide her judgment. Her conclusion.

45 INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- RECEPTION - MORNING 45

A queue forms at the receptionist's desk. ROSHÉ (new girl, 15, from Nottingham, on her 4th secondary school, in 3 years, and her 5th reinvention of herself... she's hoping this one sticks) hangs around waiting to be instructed on where to go on her first day.

GIRL 1

I need to go home I have a doctor's appointment.

RECEPTIONIST

What class are you in?
(distracted, to Roshé)
Should you be on your phone?

ROSHÉ

No Miss.

RECEPTIONIST

And you're also not allowed nail polish.
(handing over polish remover)
Take it off.

Roshé makes a mocking face at Receptionist. Rocks giggles a little at it. The two catch eyes. Smile at one another.

ROCKS
(to Receptionist)
Can I check if my mums called in?

RECEPTIONIST
Your mum's called in... Ok, what's the name?

ROCKS
Funke Omotoso.

RECEPTIONIST
No, no one's called in.

ROCKS
My name's Shola Joy Omotoso

RECEPTIONIST
Yeah but no one's called in.
Are you expecting a call?

ROCKS
Nah not really but I was just checking.

RECEPTIONIST
Well come back later just in case.

46 INT. ROCK'S SCHOOL- HOME ECONOMICS. AFTERNOON.

46

Yawa drums on the table. Khadijah raps ingredients. Girls ad lib, "ayyy". Dance.

SUMAYA
You didn't answer my call.

Rocks ignores or doesn't hear Sumaya.

SUMAYA (CONT'D)
Yesterday... I was just offering...
Was just trying to help.

ROCKS
Don't.

SUMAYA
I think you should tell someone-

ROCKS
-Stop.

Rocks walks away. Busies herself at the sink.

Roshé enters late.

TEACHER

Bukuroshé, I take it? Nice of you to finally join us-

ROSHÉ

Just Roshé, miss.

TEACHER

Right. Welcome. Grab a spatula. Join a group.

Roshé grabs a spatula as instructed. Looks around nervously for a group to join. Approaches a table.

ROSHÉ

(to Natasha)

Hi...

NATASHA

Can you make malawa?

ROSHÉ

I don't know what that is.

SASHA

Wrong answer.

The girls laugh. Rocks watches on. Comes to Roshé's rescue.

ROCKS

Yo Roshé. In that cupboard there should be chocolate. You can just help me make chocolate sauce.

Girls whisper and laugh at Roshé across the room.

KHADIJAH

She speaks bare weird. Have you heard her accent?

NATASHA

Why is she even here? You know what I mean?

Roshé sees red. Turns back. Tips a bowl of cake mixture into Natasha's lap.

ROSHÉ

Oops.

Girls scream with excitement. Natasha jumps up. Equal part fury. Equal part embarrassment.

NATASHA

Miss, she done that on purpose.

The oohs and ahhs grow louder. Challenge Natasha and Roshé to a duel, whether they want to or not. There is an audience now. And they expect a show.

ROSHÉ

Who the fuck are you talking to like that?

TEACHER

Stop! What are you doing? Sit down!

Girls are on their feet shouting. The Teacher is calling for calm. Too late. Fever has taken the class. Roshé steps to Natasha. Natasha to Roshé. Neither is backing down. Flatbread flies back and forth. Rocks defends Roshé with an expert malawa toss. Other girls get involved. Batter is catapulted across the room. Angry screams quickly turn to mischievous screeches. A class wide food fight is on. Full scale teenage mayhem. The Teacher has lost control.

Sumaya looks on with jealousy at the familiarity between Rocks and Roshé. Rocks is relieved to have a distraction and a break from Sumaya's heavy worrying.

47

EXT. ROCKS' SCHOOL. MONDAY AFTERNOON - DAY

47

The girls walk out the school gates together. Sabina kicks a football round. Rocks hangs back with Roshé. A bond has quickly formed. Rocks notices Roshé's nails.

ROSHÉ

My step mum owns a salon.

ROCKS

Where is it?

ROSHÉ

Dalston.

ROCKS

Dalston?

ROSHÉ

You do make up, don't you? I follow you on insta.

Roshé's admiration for Rocks slips out.

48

EXT. EMMANUEL'S SCHOOL. MONDAY EVENING.

48

Rocks waits in the primary school playground for Emmanuel. She feels like a giant in a tiny world. Emmanuel races over to Rocks carrying a frog in a tank. Rocks eyes it with suspicion.

ROCKS

Erm. What's that?

EMMANUEL

Tiny.

ROCKS

Ok... And?

EMMANUEL

The class pet. I'm taking him home.

ROCKS

Does everyone have to take him home?

EMMANUEL

Of course. Otherwise, he wouldn't be a *class* pet... he'd be a pet.

Emmanuel's teacher appears behind Rocks.

TEACHER

Every child takes Tiny home for a night. It's an exercise in responsibility. He's friendly isn't he Emmanuel?

EMMANUEL

Yes miss. He's the best.

Rocks looks skeptical.

TEACHER

Will it be a problem? Shall I talk to your mum first?-

ROCKS

-No. It's fine. Great.

Rocks puts on a smile.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Great.

49 EXT. ESTATE. MONDAY EVENING. 49

Rocks and Emmanuel round the corner to their block. Emmanuel carries Tiny in the tank. A smartly dressed Man (white, dad-bod) and Woman (black, middle aged, motherly) stand outside. Rocks pulls Emmanuel back. Hides.

CUT TO:

50 EXT. OUTSIDE OMOTOSA FLAT. MONDAY EVENING. 50

The Man and Woman wear local borough lanyards and ID passes. They knock repeatedly. Their knocks disturb Geraldine. Geraldine opens her door.

GERALDINE

Can I help you?

Geraldine notices their lanyards.

GERALDINE (CONT'D)

Oh.

BACK TO:

51 EXT. ESTATE. MONDAY EVENING 51

Rocks watches on from her hiding place. Tries to read the situation. Tries to read lips. No luck.

ROCKS

(quietly)

Stay here.

Emmanuel goes to protest, but Rocks is off.

52 EXT. STAIRS. MONDAY EVENING - CONTINUOUS 52

Rocks skulks up the stairs. Gets close enough to hear.

GERALDINE (O.S.)

Don't get me wrong, she's a lovely mum... when she's on form... I just know she gets a bit down sometimes. And I haven't seen her in a few days, I'm just a bit worried for the kids.

MAN

You did the right thing in calling us.

Rocks races down the stairs. Grabs Emmanuel.

ROCKS
(quietly, to Emmanuel)
I've got a surprise for you.

EMMANUEL
Is mum back?!

ROCKS
Shh... And no, we're going to
Sumaya's for a sleepover!

Rocks feigns excitement. Emmanuel is excited. He loves Sumaya. Emmanuel remembers that he would need his own pillow and blanket to facilitate a sleepover. Emmanuel is particular. A boy of habits and routine. One who requires advance notice for such a disruption to said routine. Rocks begs Emmanuel to cooperate. Something clicks with Emmanuel. Emmanuel sees Rocks' desperation. Takes Rocks' hand. Nods. Rocks kisses Emmanuel. Grateful.

53 EXT. OUTSIDE SUMAYA'S HOUSE. MONDAY EVENING.

53

Sumaya's Uncle and Brother are in the front garden. They drink tea and talk amongst themselves. Uncle eyes the tank in Emmanuel's hand.

UNCLE
(pointing at Tiny)
What's that?

Emmanuel protectively grips the tank tighter.

BROTHER
You alright Rocks? Wagwarn Manny?

There is a belonging here. Rocks doesn't have to be announced or make requests. Brother calls for Sumaya.

Sumaya comes to the door. Emmanuel runs straight into Sumaya's arms. He loves her. The feeling is mutual. They hug and laugh. His joy pierces the tension between the two girls.

ROCKS
(quietly)
Can Emmanuel and I stay the night?

SUMAYA
What's going on?

ROCKS
I'll tell you later... Can we?

Sumaya nods. Not needing to be asked again, she steps aside. Uncle still watches the frog. Emmanuel watches Uncle. Holds Tiny close. Rocks and Emmanuel walk in.

SUMAYA UNCLE

Is it normal to bring an animal
into the house?

SUMAYA'S DAD

It's normal.

SUMAYA UNCLE

Please Abdirahman, stop it...

SUMAYA DAD

Everyone has a pet.

Sumaya and her brother roll their eyes at their uncle.

54 INT. SUMAYA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS 54

Sumaya's Mum receives Rocks warmly. But questions Sumaya in Somali. It's a school night. She should have been informed. She would have made more food. Sumaya expertly bats away all of her mum's questions and concerns. Sumaya is loyal.

Sumaya is walking on egg shells around Rocks. She is desperate to help her friend. Desperate to fix it. But the growing barrier is making her resent her friend. A gulf is forming between them.

55 INT. SUMAYA'S HOME- LIVING ROOM. MONDAY EVENING 55

Rocks is at home here. There is a picture of Rocks and Sumaya amongst the family pictures. Framed. Pride of place.

56 INT. SUMAYA'S HOME- LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 56

Sumaya's large family eat around the table. They laugh. Tease. Talk over one another. They are tactile. Affectionate. Sumaya's mum fusses over them all. Spoils them. There is undeniable love here. It is a joy to witness. But, simultaneously a pain for Rocks to witness. She isn't jealous... But, she wishes the lump in her throat would dissolve.

57 INT. SUMAYA'S HOME, BEDROOM. NIGHT 57

Sumaya and Rocks get ready for bed. A beautiful dirac hangs in Sumaya's room. It is her bridesmaid dress.

Sumaya's Brother is getting married next week. Sumaya dreads the day. She and her brother are close. She doesn't want him to leave. But Sumaya pretends that what she truly dreads is her bridesmaid role. Sumaya hates being on show... Especially in a dress. Sumaya is more a dungarees kind of girl. Rocks teases Sumaya. Excited to see her in a dress for the first time in their friendship.

Sumaya dresses Rocks in the dirac. Rocks poses in the mirror. Rocks isn't much of a dress wearer either. The two laugh hysterically. It feels like their friendship is back on track.

Sumaya's Mum and sister, Fawzia come to the door. They speak in Somali and English.

SUMAYA'S MUM

I'll buy one for you when you get married.

Rocks and Sumaya both laugh at the idea. Sumaya's Mum looks across the corridor at Emmanuel asleep on the couch.

SUMAYA'S MUM (CONT'D)

(in Somali)

Their mum knows they're here? Are you sure I shouldn't call her.

Fawzia sees the look of worry on Sumaya's face. She isn't sure what is going on, but steps in to cover.

FAWZIA

It's OK, I talked to her already.

SUMAYA MUM

(in Somali)

OK, good night, I'm very tired.

ROCKS

(to Fawzia)

What did your mum say?

FAWZIA

She said it's cool, don't worry. See you in the morning. Night.

ROCKS

Goodnight. Thank you.

Fawzia leaves.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

You're lucky your sister backs you, you know?

SUMAYA

I know... I'm gonna miss her when she goes.

ROCKS

It's just Leicester. It's not really a big deal.

SUMAYA

It kinda is. I've been living with her my whole life. It's just a bit...

ROCKS

It's like two trains to Leicester.

SUMAYA

And my brother's leaving as well. It's bare-

ROCKS

(frustrated by Sumaya's pity party)
-Tottenham. He's only going Tottenham.

Rocks removes the dirac. Sumaya hangs it. Thinks.

SUMAYA

Listen Rocks... I think you should tell someone about your mum.

ROCKS

Well, I don't.

SUMAYA

It's just you and Emmanuel in the house, it's not safe.

ROCKS

I've been doing just fine.

SUMAYA

I'm just trying to help.

ROCKS

I don't need you- I mean... I mean, I don't need *help*. I don't need you worrying about me. Or feeling sorry for me. I'm just here for the night-

SUMAYA

(across)
-Go then.

ROCKS

I said I'm here for tonight.

SUMAYA

Leave Emmanuel and go-

ROCKS

-You're not listening.

SUMAYA

Go. If you don't need me, then go-

ROCKS

-You don't get it. You wouldn't understand-

SUMAYA

-I'm trying to! I'm always here for you, and you always have barriers up. Talk to me, help me get it.

ROCKS

Bruv you have everything. You have your mum, your dad, your nice house. Like-

SUMAYA

-What's that got to do with it?

ROCKS

Everything. It has everything to do with it. You have this perfect family-

SUMAYA

-And I've always brought you into my family.

ROCKS

(across)
You live this perfect life.

SUMAYA

(across)
You don't know that.

ROCKS

(across)
And you're still complaining...

SUMAYA

(across)
I wasn't *complaining!*

ROCKS
(across)
Leicester, Tottenham.. -who gives a
fuck?-

SUMAYA
-Don't swear in my house.

Rocks pants.

SUMAYA (CONT'D)
You keep pushing me away and...

ROCKS
And, what?

Sumaya says nothing.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Exactly. That's what I thought.

SUMAYA
We'll see when you have no one
left. We'll see.

ROCKS
I've lost everyone already. I have
no mum, I have no dad. So you
leaving me doesn't mean anything.

SUMAYA
You're impossible... Why do you
make it so hard to love you. No
wonder your mum keeps leaving!
You're exhausting. I think your
broken.

Silence.

Too far.

Rocks storms out of the room. Sumaya cries in regret and
frustration.

58 INT. SUMAYA'S HOME- LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

58

Rocks curls up on the couch with Emmanuel. Her jaw clenches.
Eyes wide open. She won't sleep now. Too angry. Too hurt. Too
scared that Sumaya's words may be right.

59 I/E. SUMAYA'S HOME. TUESDAY MORNING. 59

Sumaya and Rocks get ready in silence. Ignoring one other. Seething. They both turn down the breakfast Sumaya's mum offers. They turn separate ways at the door. They do not look or speak to each other. Both a little worried that this argument has pushed them beyond the point of no return. Both terrified of losing one another, but too angry to turn back to each other.

60 EXT. OUTSIDE EMMANUEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL. TUESDAY MORNING. 60

Emmanuel carries Tiny in the tank as he walks towards the gates with Rocks.

Rocks spots the same Man and Woman with the lanyards, outside Emmanuel's school.

ROCKS

Shit!

Rocks leads Emmanuel away.

EMMANUEL

Wrong way. Wrong way.

ROCKS

I know. I know. School's closed today.

EMMANUEL

But-

ROCKS

-They told me yesterday but I forgot.

EMMANUEL

(pointing to a child in his uniform)

But there's my friend.

ROCKS

I think her mummy forgot too. It's school holidays.

Emmanuel is confused. Rocks feels bad for lying.

61 EXT. LONDON STREETS, TUESDAY MORNING 61

Roshé walks quickly. Late. As usual. Roshé steps into the road without looking. A cyclist swerves.

CYCLIST

Oi watch where-

ROSHÉ

-Get a fucking car, you broke
prick.

62 EXT. LONDON STREETS, TUESDAY MORNING

62

Roshé runs into Rocks. Rocks is walking in the opposite
direction of school.

ROSHÉ

Where you going?

ROCKS

Not coming in today.

ROSHÉ

You bunking?

Roshé is intrigued.

ROCKS

No

ROSHÉ

(across)

I'm coming. Where we going? Let's
go.

Roshé grabs Emmanuel's hand.

ROSHÉ (CONT'D)

(to Emmanuel)

Come on little man. I'll let you
have ice cream for lunch.

Rocks laughs a little to herself. Roshé once again provides a
welcome distraction. A moment of relief.

63 INT. SCHOOL- ART CLASS. TUESDAY MORNING.

63

The complete identity collages.

Yawa's collage is full of justice related images. She wants
to be like her mum - an immigration lawyer, fighting for
justice for people without a voice. But she wants to be rich.
Her mum isn't rich. Yawa wants to find a way to change the
world but also have a Kylie Jenner G-Wagon.

YAWA

Like Oprah... I basically wanna be Oprah.

Khadijah wants to be Beyonce. She is adamant that she will not settle for Michelle, no matter what Mean Girls have to say about her lofty dreams.

Sabina has pieced together any trace of "Polish Romani" imagery she can find to create a story of her heritage. Sabina is proud of this. Sabina talks proudly of her lineage. The rich culture. How it has shaped who she is. She lists off famous Romani people.

SABINA

Charlie Chaplin, Picasso and bare footballers.

Agnes' collage is unclear. She can't explain the splodges of colours. Agnes refuses to use images from the magazines because of the oppressive impact magazines have on women. Agnes isn't sure who she is or what she wants. She's always trying on personas and rehearsing words she's heard before.

Sumaya is distracted. Questions about the whereabouts of Rocks irritate her.

AGNES

Ok so I'm walking up to the school gates just minding my own business. And then guess who I see?

KHADIJAH

Who?

AGNES

Ferrero Roshé. New girl, walking away from School... *with Rocks.*

Sumaya pretends not to be moved by this. Her eyes betray her.

YAWA

Why's Rocks bunking with her?

KHADIJAH

This girl's trouble...

Rocks, Roshé and Emmanuel arrive at a hairdressers. This is Roshé's step-mum's sister's shop.

It's is an eclectic mix of women of different cultures, languages, ages, sizes and varying beauty needs. It is busy. But many are there for the conversation and company, rather than the service.

Rocks eyes the tired looking make up station. She tells Roshé she has her own kit. Professional quality. Roshé knows she's talented, she's seen her Instagram. Rocks asks if her mum might let her do some hours here. She could bring in customers. Roshé regards Rocks - intrigued.

ROSHÉ

You looking to make money?

Rocks nods. Tries not to appear too enthusiastic. Roshé takes this in.

Roshé's step-mum, **ANNA** (larger than life, social, funny, vibrant, dresses youthfully) makes a fuss over Emmanuel immediately. All the women love him.

ANNA

No school?

ROSHÉ

Erm no, it's an inset day.

ANNA

Ok, and who's this handsome chap?

ROSHÉ

His name's Emmanuel.

ROCKS

My little brother.

A salon worker takes Emmanuel over to a pedicure chair. Turns on the water and bubbles. Emmanuel laughs. Rocks watches on. Happy to see her brother happy.

Anna hands Roshé a stack of letters. Roshé opens them. A little embarrassed. Piles them. Notes instructions in Polish.

ANNA

Important?

Roshé folds and hides the letter from school detailing her absences and risk of suspension.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Nah. I put the notes on.

Anna proudly shows Roshé some new words she is able to read. Embarrassed, Roshé shuts her down. Rushes away. Anna smiles away her disappointment. She understands. Smiles an apology.

Rocks pretends not to have seen or understood the exchange.

ROSHÉ

Come with me. I got a motive. We've got to leave Emmanuel here though.

Rocks hesitates.

ROSHÉ (CONT'D)

Come on.

ROCKS

Would your mum allow it?

ROSHÉ

Yeah.

(to Anna)

Anna, me and Rocks want to go to the library. But leave Emmanuel here?

Anna looks over at Emmanuel enjoying himself. She speaks to the other Salon Worker in Polish.

SALON WORKER

It's fine with me.

ANNA

Well you're lucky. Don't be long.

Rocks watches Emmanuel play in the water and with nail polish. A little guilt. But mostly relief to have a break. He'll be fine here, she's sure.

65

INT. BUS - DAY

65

ROSHÉ

Why they call you Rocks then?

ROCKS

In year 7, older girls were picking on Sumaya. I backed her. Got into a fight. They started calling me a "rockers"... it kinda stuck.

Roshé laughs.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Me and Sumaya been best friends
ever since...

Sadness and longing washes over Rocks. Rocks shakes it off.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
So, where we going?

ROSHÉ
To meet my cousin Mo, and his
friend, Mohammed.

ROCKS
They're both called Mo?

The girls laugh.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Is Mohammed your boyfriend?

ROSHÉ
What? Err no.

They laugh. Roshé thinks about her next words. Partly showing off. Partly trying to impress. Partly trying to entice.

ROSHÉ (CONT'D)
Do you want me to tell you a
secret?
(beat)
I work in the salon sometimes...
When the customers are paying I
take pictures of their credit
cards, their debit cards, their
receipts, and I just hand it over
to Mo and Mohammed.

Roshé flashes a wad of cash.

ROCKS
What? So you basically do fraud.

ROSHÉ
(waving the cash)
This was a receipt worth £2.

Rocks covers her ears.

ROCKS
No. Stop. Don't tell me I didn't
hear that. I don't wanna know.

Roshé laughs. Puts her money back in the pocket of her backpack.

66 EXT. OLD STREET - DAY

66

Roshé and Rocks approach MO and MOHAMMED. The boys wait for them on their bikes. Mo smiles at Rocks. Rocks tries not to let her nerves show on her face.

ROSHÉ

Hey.

MO

Ahh, finally.

(to Rocks)

I'm Mo, nice to meet you.

MOHAMMED

We got a surprise for you guys.

MO

(to Rocks)

Jump on.

Mo swings his bike around for Rocks to board. Rocks looks skeptical.

MO (CONT'D)

What? You don't trust me.

Roshé jumps on the back of Mohammed's bike. Mohammed zooms down the road. Roshé screams with delight. Hands in the air.

ROSHÉ

(calling back to Rocks)

Come on.

MO

(stretching out a hand)

Madam.

Rocks laughs. Shakes her head. Climbs on.

67 EXT. MONTAGE. DAY

67

Music blazes from Mo's phone. They cycle fast. Tricks. Off and on pavements. In and out of cars. The wrong way on one way roads. Stop for selfies. The girls giggle and scream. Sing along to the music. Catch the eyes of the boys. Smile. Blush. Flirt with their eyes. Rocks is fully involved now. She's having the time of her life. Closes her eyes.

Lets the breeze whip her face. Lets the songs drown out her thoughts and wash them away.

68 EXT. LUXURY FLATS, OLD STREET. TUESDAY AFTERNOON. 68

They come to a stop outside a stunning apartment block. The girls look up at the building in awe. The boys watch their faces. Proud and satisfied by their responses.

69 INT. LUXURY APARTMENT - DAY 69

Mo unlocks the door to the penthouse. Their eyes widen as they step in. They take in the sights. Roshé and Rocks are blown away.

ROCKS
Does your uncle really own this place?

MOHAMMED
(grinning)
Yeah...

MO
Yeah right!

They mess around exploring the flat. They film videos. Make drinks at the minibar. They head out to the balcony.

70 EXT. EXTERIOR BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 70

Mohammed and Roshé take pictures at one end of the balcony. Rocks and Mo look out at London's skyline at the other end.

MO
So, where you from?

ROCKS
From from?

MO
Yeah.

ROCKS
Half Jamo. Half Naij.

MO
Swear? Me too. Half Jamo, I mean.
Other half's Chinese and Ukrainian.

ROCKS

Chinese and Ukrainian? So what do you eat at Christmas?

MO

Chicken init.

Rocks laughs.

MO (CONT'D)

It's universal.

Rocks laughs harder. Mo watches the light in her eyes.

MO (CONT'D)

You know, I know some nice spots to London... Better views than this. I wouldn't mind showing them to you. I'm free next week, if you're up for it.

Rocks blushes. Shy. Shrugs.

MO (CONT'D)

Come on, what do you wan't? The moon?

Rocks laughs again. Mo enjoys making her laugh.

71

INT. BATHROOM. TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

71

Rocks carefully selects the right shades and colours out of Roshé's makeup bag. Checks them against Roshé's skin. Thinks hard. Concentrates. She's in her element.

The girls talk about what their lives would be like if they lived here. Fantasize about their days sunbathing on balconies under a grey London sky, above congested London roundabouts. They talk about what changes they would make to the decor. The parties they would host. The weight is lifted from Rocks. She is a child again. Dreaming and becoming lost in her imagination.

Roshé lies that her home in Nottingham was like this.

ROCKS

Why did you leave?

ROSHÉ

Got a better place in London. Bigger. Bigger than this. On Oxford Street.

ROCKS

Oxford Street? How come you go to our school then?

Roshé hesitates. Stumbles. The lie flashes above her head. Rocks sees it. There's a loneliness about Roshé. A desperation here. The facade slipping a moment. Rocks saves Roshé from the embarrassment.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Yo, this is your colour!

Rocks holds a highlight palette up to Roshé's cheekbone. Roshé quickly laughs the mask back into place.

Rocks applies the highlighter. Roshé watches Rock's focussed face.

ROSHÉ

So what's going on with you?

ROCKS

What do you mean?

ROSHÉ

You seemed like... like you've got stuff on your mind. When I ran into you on the way to school you looked... kinda scared...

Rocks sighs finally.

ROCKS

My mum's gone away.

ROSHÉ

What do you mean?

Rocks isn't sure how much to share.

ROCKS

For work... So I'm looking after Emmanuel for a bit.

ROSHÉ

By yourself?

ROCKS

Yeah, but, it's fine, she'll be back soon.

ROSHÉ

You sure you're ok? Can't you go to your dad's?

ROCKS

Nah, my dad died when I was like 4.

ROSHÉ

Ah, that's sad man.
(untying one of two red
rope bracelet around her
wrist)
Here.

Roshé ties one bracelet around Rocks' wrist.

ROCKS

What's this?

ROSHÉ

A talisman.

ROCKS

I don't mess with juju.

Roshé laughs.

ROSHÉ

It ain't. It's Polish or Gypsy or something. My step-mum used to tie them round my wrist when I was a kid, if things were getting a bit... a bit much. It's like a blessing. Or a wish for good things to come or something. I dunno.

ROCKS

Does it work?

ROSHÉ

Course. My life is practically perfect in every way. Duh.

A moment of sadness flashes across both of their faces. Roshé catches herself in the mirror.

ROSHÉ (CONT'D)

Wow. I'm peng init?

They laugh.

ROSHÉ (CONT'D)

For real though, You're mad talented Rocks.

ROCKS

Thanks.

ROSHÉ

Let me go show the boys.

Roshé leaves the bathroom.

Rocks packs away the makeup. Puts the makeup bag in Roshé's bag. Rocks' hand hovers over the pocket she saw Roshé put the money into earlier. Looks at herself in the mirror. Snaps out of it. Carries on packing away the makeup.

72 INT. LUXURY FLAT, OLD STREET. TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

72

Rocks returns to the group.

MO

I got a drink for you.

ROCKS

I should get my brother and go home.

ROSHÉ

Not yet. Sit.

Roshé spots a man in a suit and a couple walk into the living room adjacent to the balcony.

ROSHÉ

Who's that?

CUT TO:

73 INT. LUXURY FLAT- LIVING ROOM

73

ESTATE AGENT
(showing the couple
around)
...lots of light

BACK TO:

74 EXT. LUXURY FLAT- BALCONY

74

The others spot the estate agent.

MO

Oh shit.

Rocks, Roshé and the boys get up with their drinks.

CUT TO:

75 INT. LUXURY FLAT- LIVING ROOM 75

The Estate Agent spots the kids. Looks confused. Panics.

ESTATE AGENT
(to couple)
Excuse me please. Stay inside.

Estate Agent runs after the kids.

76 EXT. LUXURY FLAT- BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 76

Rocks and her new friends are through the other door, down the stairs and out of the flat before they are caught. They laugh hysterically. Mo carries his drink in hand still.

77 EXT. ESTATE. TUESDAY EVENING. 77

Rocks and Emmanuel walk towards the flat. Emmanuel carries Tiny. Drags his feet. Rocks takes the tank. Drags Emmanuel. Looks towards their home. Knows they can no longer stay there. Makes up a game to ensure Emmanuel stays quiet and moves quickly. Scared of notifying the neighbour. Scared of a return visit from the man and woman with the lanyards. Rocks creeps and looks around corners to make sure there is no one around. The coast is clear.

78 INT. OMOTOSA FLAT. THURSDAY EVENING. 78

Rocks packs a bag for the two of them. Packs Emmanuel's pillow case and blanket. Packs food.

Rocks goes through Funke's wardrobe. Picks out an outfit that makes her look sufficiently older. Puts on makeup and fixes her hair. Rocks takes note of her tired, bagged eyes in the mirror. Sees, for the first time, how much she looks like her mum. Rocks calls Funke again. The number is disconnected.

79 INT. B&B/HOSTEL. TUESDAY NIGHT. 79

A dressed up, older looking Rocks arrives at the B&B/Hostel with Emmanuel. Rocks easily passes as a young mum. The manager is lecherous. His advances make Rocks uncomfortable.

Rocks pulls out a wad of money. The money from Roshe's bag. Rocks pushes down any doubt or regret. Looks at Emmanuel to remind herself that she had no choice. Rocks pays for one night.

80 INT. B&B/HOSTEL- ROOM. TUESDAY NIGHT. 80

The room is a little grotty. But there is heat, light and a TV with Freeview. Rocks dresses the bed in the bedding from home. Emmanuel is satisfied.

Rocks pulls out a Superdrug bag of brand new Revolution Pro makeup. Rocks beams at the products. Recreates celeb looks on her and Emmanuel's faces. Takes pictures. Posts them on social media. Rocks is talented.

CUT TO:

81 INT. B&B/HOSTEL- TUESDAY NIGHT. 81

Rocks blocks out the dodgy noises, coming from the hallway, with a towel, under the door. Rocks lays out a picnic of snacks and sandwiches. She and Emmanuel watch TV, talk and laugh.

82 INT. B&B/HOSTEL- TUESDAY NIGHT. 82

Rocks packs away their leftovers and rubbish. Emmanuel watches his sister.

EMMANUEL

Why did she go?

Rocks ignores Emmanuel. Huffs. Continues packing things away.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

... Tell me...

Rocks ignores her brother.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Please.

Rocks stops in frustrating.

ROCKS

Because of me init!

EMMANUEL

-I knew it!

Rocks collapses onto the bed. Exhausted in more ways than one.

ROCKS

I don't know Manny. I don't know why she left... And, I don't know when she's coming back.

Collapsing next to his sister.

EMMANUEL

I don't want her to come back anymore. She's a stupid person.

Emmanuel takes Rocks' hand.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Close your eyes. Think happy thoughts. Take a deep breath. In... And out... And stop thinking about all your worries.

Rocks follows Emmanuel's instructions.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Are you happy now?

Rocks shrugs the tears back.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

How do you not know?

83 INT. B&B/HOSTEL- ROOM. TUESDAY NIGHT.

83

Rocks sleeps. For the first time in a long time. Her phone buzzes. She wakes. Checks her notifications. A DM on Instagram. Someone is offering to pay her £50 to do their birthday makeup. Rocks is elated. This is the beginning of something special for her. She knows it.

84 INT. SCHOOL- FORM CLASS. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

84

The class is vibrant. Ms Booker takes the register. Stops after Rocks' name. Queries if anyone has heard from her. All say no.

MS BOOKER

Sumaya?

Sumaya is irritated by the expectation that she should know. Irritated by the fact that she doesn't know.

GIRL

Uh-oh. Trouble in paradise?

GIRL 2
Lovers tiff?

Others whisper curiosities. What could have shaken the power pair?

85 INT. B&B/HOSTEL- ROOM. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. 85

Emmanuel is bored. Begs Rocks for a trip to the park. Emmanuel usually has a park trip twice a week - on Saturday and Tuesday. Emmanuel has missed both his park days. Rocks agrees to make it up to him. Emmanuel insists on bringing Tiny.

86 INT. SCHOOL- PHSE CLASS. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. 86

AGNES
Actually Miss, it's LGBTQAA.
Asexual and Allies.

TEACHER
Thank you. Agnes.

YAWA
What's the A stand for?

ROSHÉ
Any sexual. A jezzy.

NATASHA
(under her breath)
You would know.

Laughter.

AGNES
Asexual- Miss. Did you know fish
are turning transgender?

GIRL 2
What the fuck are you bringing up
fish for?

TEACHER
Language!

Teacher points her finger to the door.

GIRL 2
I'm sorry miss.

AGNES

A fifth of river fish in the UK are transgender because of contraception medicine in the water.

GIRL 2

We're drugging fish? That's *fu-messed-* up.

Teacher nods. Acknowledging Girl 2's self-correction.

AGNES

Yep. Bare mutant fish.

GIRL 1

You saying transexuals are mutants?

AGNES face flushes bright red.

AGNES

No! I-

GIRL 2

That's transphobic. Miss!?

The class ooh and ahh. Agnes sinks into her seat. Once again, she has found herself saying and doing the wrong thing.

TEACHER

That's enough! Quiet now.

The class quiet. Snigger. Agnes lowers her red face.

87 EXT. PARK. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

87

Rocks and Emmanuel play in a park. It's empty. It's not the nicest of parks, but Emmanuel is satisfied. They swing.

EMMANUEL

Will you make lots of money from your job today?

ROCKS

Yeah I'm gonna be a millionaire.

EMMANUEL

I wanna be one too. A child millionaire? So I can still live with you.

ROCKS

Of course.

Emmanuel jumps down from his swing. Checks on Tiny in his tank.

EMMANUEL

Tiny is sick and tired of moving around. How about we let him free?

ROCKS

To be honest, I don't care about that frog.

Emmanuel gasps in genuine shock. Rocks bursts out laughing.

EMMANUEL

How dare you say that?

Emmanuel sets the frog free.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

Bye bye froggy. You'll always be my friend.

(to Rocks)

Aren't you gonna say bye?

ROCKS

Bye bye froggy.

EMMANUEL

It's too late now. He's gone.

Two PCSOs pass by. One notices Rocks and Emmanuel playing.

PCSO 1

(to Emmanuel)

Hi.

Emmanuel smiles at the officer. Returns to the top of the slide.

PCSO 2

(to Rocks)

Not in school today?

ROCKS

We're off today.

PCSO 2

Really? What's school's that?

ROCKS

You wouldn't know it... Not in London.

PCSO 2

Try me.

ROCKS

Allahu Akbar Academy... It's a religious school.

PCSO 2

That right?

ROCKS

Yeah.

PCSO 2

What's your name?

ROCKS

(to Emmanuel)

Come let's go. Time for prayer.

EMMANUEL

Prayer?

ROCKS

Come on.

Rocks offers her back for Emmanuel to climb onto. Emmanuel excitedly does. With Emmanuel on her back, Rocks power walks away from the inquiring officers.

PCSO 2

(calling after Rocks)

Get to school, or your parents will get fined.

Rocks rolls her eyes.

88

EXT. SCHOOL. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

88

Sumaya runs her and Rocks' tuck-shop alone. Roshé leans through the crowd. Picks up a bracelet, from Sumaya's table. Sumaya looks up at Roshé.

ROSHÉ

This is nice, you know. Where'd you get all this?

AGNES

Online.

Roshé slides on a bracelet.

ROSHÉ
Mates rates yeah?

SUMAYA
You're not my mate.

Roshé puts her hand to her chin, smiling wider at the reaction. Wanting to push it. The air is electric.

ROSHÉ
On second thoughts. I'm just going
to take it.

Roshé starts to walk away. Sumaya glares at Roshé's back, anger boiling over.

SUMAYA
Give it back.

ROSHÉ TO SUMAYA
Your mate Rocks stole from me. So,
she owes me.

SUMAYA TO ROSHÉ
Don't piss me off, not today Roshé.

Roshé keeps walking. Sumaya gets up. Follows Roshé.

SUMAYA
Give back the fucking bracelet!

Roshé turns. Sumaya pushes Roshé. Roshé is shocked. Holds her ground. Pushes back. This riles Sumaya even more. Sumaya pushes Roshé with full force. Roshé flies into a chair, smacking her head. Blood appears quickly.

Silence spreads through the canteen. The duty teacher rushes over.

TEACHER
What's going on here?

The girls look at each other. Shaken. Scared. Sumaya opens her mouth. Ready to defend.

ROSHÉ
(quickly)
-Nothing. Nothing miss.
(to Sumaya)
Tell her, I want my money.

Roshe throws the bracelet down.

ROSHÉ (CONT'D)
Your shit is tacky, by the way.

89 EXT. OMOTOSA FLAT - DAY 89

Ms Booker knocks on the door. Peers through the letterbox.

MS BOOKER
Ms Omotoso?
(nothing)
Rocks? Rocks!

No answer. She walks away.

90 INT. BUS - DAY 90

Rocks and Emmanuel ride on the top deck. Rocks checks her phone. DMs from her prospective client instructing her where to meet. Rocks is nervous. Excited.

EMMANUEL
I'm hungry.

ROCKS
When I finish doing this woman's
make up, I'll get money. Then, I
can buy you food. We'll be done in
an hour. Ok?

Emmanuel nods.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Don't say anything when we get
there. If anyone asks you anything
about mum, just be quiet.

Rocks looks out the window. Checks the address in her phone. Presses the bell.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
Come on. We're getting off this
stop. Make sure you have
everything.

The bus stops. Rocks stands. Looks out the window. Spots Roshé and a reluctant Mo racing to catch up to the bus.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
(to self, realising)
What the f...

Rocks quickly sits down. Drags Emmanuel down next to her. Panics. Wills the bus to drive. Roshé is screaming up at her. Rocks ducks from embarrassment as the whole bus looks between Roshé and Rocks.

ROSHÉ (O.S.)
Get off the bus. You t'ief. Get off
the bus.

EMMANUEL
Isn't that Roshé?

ROSHÉ (O.S.)
Just give it back.

EMMANUEL
What's happening?

ROCKS
Nothing.

The bus begins to pull away. Rocks peers over her shoulder out the window. Roshe just missed it.

ROSHÉ (O.S.)
(shouting up)
I thought we were friends...

Roshé's voice cracks a little. Rocks cries silently. Emmanuel watches her.

91

INT. B&B/HOSTEL. WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

91

Rocks arrives back at the B&B/Hostel with Emmanuel. Notices their belongings by the front desk. Fumes. Checks their bags.

ROCKS
What the-

MANAGER
-Leave.

ROCKS
Why? What-

MANAGER
-You're underage. You could get us
shut down.

ROCKS
What are you talking about?

The manager had been through Rocks' belongings and found her school uniform and school ID. Rocks is fuming. Rage springs tears in her eyes. The manager is taking away the only security they've had for days. Rocks insults the establishment and the manager's lascivious ways. Loud enough for the few people in the bar to become uncomfortable. The manager threatens to call the police. Rocks dares him.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Go on. Then you can tell them where you found my ID... Why you were rummaging through my knickers?...

The manager shifts, uncomfortable.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Yeah. That's what I thought. Pedo. And get me my brother's pillowcase and blanket. T'ief... Don't wanna stay here anyway. It's shit.

On their way out the manager makes a racist slur under his breath. Rocks pushes Emmanuel behind her. As if to protect him from the words. Rocks let's all the wrath of hell rip loose on the manager. She unloads days, weeks, maybe even years of pain.

Emmanuel watches. Grows angrier. Picks up Rocks' bag and throws it at the Manager. The bag contains Rocks' makeup. The makeup smashes all over the floor. Rock stares at her only lifeline, crumbled at her feet. Her mouth open. Her hope lost.

92 EXT. WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

92

Rocks and Emmanuel walk. Emmanuel complains of tiredness. Rocks unlocks her phone. Scrolls through her contacts.

EMMANUEL

I'm tired.

ROCKS

Me too.

93 INT. PERFECT FRIED CHICKEN. WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

93

Rocks arrives at PFC. Khadijah and her dad argue. Rocks waits to be noticed and for the shop to empty. Rocks makes up a story about losing her keys and her mum working late. Khadijah has heard rumours from Roshé. She is worried about her friend.

KHADIJAH

Are you ok?

ROCKS

Yeah... I told you... Just locked out. Can we stay at yours till mum gets back from work?

Khadijah looks at Rocks doubtfully. Rocks reads Khadijah's love as pity. It irritates her.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Forget it.

KHADIJAH

(whispering)

I would, but there was a fight in school today and I'm sort of grounded, and it wasn't even me like. It was Sumaya and that new girl.

ROCKS

Sumaya?

KHADIJAH

Yeah.

Rocks tries not to let her concern take hold. Khadijah's dad yells in Bengali. Khadijah rolls her eyes.

KHADIJAH (CONT'D)

Sorry, got to get back to work.

94 EXT. BEHIND PFC. WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 94

Rocks collects Emmanuel and her bags from behind PFC. Rocks unlocks her phone. Scrolls through her contacts. Pauses at Sumaya's name. Scrolls back up to the top.

95 EXT. AGNES' HOUSE. VERY LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 95

Rocks carries Emmanuel and all the bags. She struggles under the weight of it all- literally and figuratively. Emmanuel drifts in and out of sleep.

96 I/E. AGNES' HOUSE. VERY LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 96

Agnes opens the door to Rocks. Confused by Rocks' presence, Agnes stares a moment.

Rocks bursts into tears. Crumbles to the floor under the weight of Emmanuel and the bags. Under the weight of so much more.

AGNES

It's ok. I've got you.

Agnes grabs Emmanuel from Rocks. Tries to hold Rocks up too.

97 INT. AGNES' HOUSE. VERY LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 97

Agnes sneaks Emmanuel and Rocks into her room. They pass the living room where Agnes' parents drink, smoke weed, play music loud and argue louder- about politics, about each other, about the state of the flat and their disappointment with their shared life. They are drunk and high often. Consumed with each other, to the expense of Agnes. They may not like each other. Agnes is embarrassed for Rocks to witness this. Hurries Rocks along to her room quickly.

98 INT. AGNES' HOUSE- AGNES' ROOM. VERY LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 98

Rocks blubbers the most uncensored version of the last week's events. Tells all.

ROCKS TO AGNES

I didn't even do anything. I'm not like them other kids that swear to their mum, I didn't do nothing to her.

AGNES TO ROCKS

You know, there's got to be a way to like sort all this out.

Emmanuel snores. They laugh a little.

Rocks notices a picture of her and Agnes on Agnes' wall collage. They are very young in the picture. Rocks is sorry that they drifted apart in secondary school. Agnes pretends that it doesn't matter. But it does. The apology means a lot to Agnes. Agnes feels grounded again. She has her friend back.

99 INT. AGNES' HOUSE. THURSDAY MORNING. 99

Rocks stirs. Wakes to see Emmanuel in her bed. Star-fished. His arm across her face. He must have crept in in the night. She smiles a little. Pushes his arm away. Lets him have all the space he wishes.

100 INT. AGNES' HOUSE. THURSDAY MORNING. 100

Rocks stirs. She wakes a little. Her sight is hazed and blurry. She is confused. She thinks she sees Emmanuel, still sleeping, being carried by the man in the lanyard. The woman in the lanyard, Social Worker, stands over Rocks. Rocks doesn't hear her words. Panics. Reaches for Emmanuel. The woman stops her. Emmanuel is carried out by the man.

101 I/E. AGNES' HOUSE. THURSDAY MORNING. 101

Bare foot, Rocks chases the man and her brother. Emmanuel is awake. Reaches for Rocks. Rocks screams. Emmanuel screams. Becomes distressed.

Rocks jumps to reach for Emmanuel. Fights Social Worker as she tries to help. Chaos. Social Worker has Rocks restrained. Rocks is tired.

Rocks doesn't hear Agnes' sobs. The woman holds Rocks. Implores her to calm down. Shows her ID. Rocks doesn't hear the words but reads the woman's lips- "Social Services". Rocks shakes free. Pounds on the door of the car that Emmanuel has been put into.

ROCKS
Emmanuel, open the door.

AGNES
I was just calling for advice. I
just wanted to help.

Rocks doesn't hear Agnes.

ROCKS
Emmanuel open the door!

Rocks is in pieces. She cries. Sputters. Pleads.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
(to no one in particular)
Why are you doing this to me?
Emmanuel please. Please. Open the
door.

AGNES
I was just calling for advice. I
swear. I just wanted to know your
options. I thought you'd have
rights.

Social Worker holds Rocks gently. Rocks is almost tempted to submit to the embrace. She doesn't want to be held. But oh how she needs to be.

SOCIAL WORKER

Please calm down. You're upsetting your brother- working yourself up. I want you to both travel together. But I can't have you both distressed like this- Please. Please. Take a deep breath. Your friend has told us how hard you've worked to look after him-

-Rocks looks to Agnes. Betrayal. Agnes looks away. Shame. Agnes' words are muffled.

Rocks stares at Emmanuel in the car seat. Breathes deeply.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

Ok... That's better.

102 INT. CAR, THURSDAY MORNING.

102

Rocks squeezes Emmanuel's hand. Holds him as he cries for his mum. Rocks looks occasionally at the door. At the Woman next to her. In the rearview mirror, at the Man in the lanyard. Trying to hatch a plan. Impossible. Tired. Exhausted.

We truly see, maybe for the first time, how rough they've been living. Their clothes are a mess. Their hair is unkept. They are hungry. Tired. Afraid... They are children.

103 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES. THURSDAY MORNING.

103

Emmanuel sips hot chocolate. Rocks holds his hand tight. A new social worker enters. Emmanuel is introduced to her. Confusion flashes across Rocks' face. The new social worker reaches a hand out to Emmanuel, offering a new backpack filled with goodies. Rocks will not let go of her brother's hand. Social Worker takes a sad deep breath. Not ready for this fight. Heartbroken too, seemingly, not wanting to be on the opposing side to Rocks.

SOCIAL WORKER

Come now.

Social Worker tries to separate Rocks and Emmanuel's hands.

ROCKS

Where is she taking him?

SOCIAL WORKER
We've found a lovely home for-

ROCKS
-What are you talking about?

SOCIAL WORKER
You can visit-

ROCKS
-WHAT are you TALKING about?

NEW SOCIAL WORKER
(Taking Emmanuel's hand)
Come-

ROCKS
Get off.

Rocks pushes New Social Worker away.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
(to Woman)
You said we could stay together.
You promised.

SOCIAL WORKER
I didn't-

ROCKS
You did-

SOCIAL WORKER
I *said*-

ROCKS
You said if I calmed- I fucking
calmed down, didn't I?- You
promised!

SOCIAL WORKER
I'm really sorry if you
misunderstood-

Social Worker tries to gently take Rocks' hands from
Emmanuel. Rocks grips him tighter.

ROCKS
Get off!

EMMANUEL
(to Rocks)
Ow!!! You're hurting me.

Rocks looks down at her hands. Her tight grip. Her shattered, scared brother. She feels like she's failed. She pauses everything. Crouches down in front of him.

ROCKS

I'm sorry.

EMMANUEL

It's ok.

ROCKS

It's not.

Emmanuel doesn't really understand.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

You're gonna have to go with this woman, ok?

Rocks gestures to New Social Worker.

EMMANUEL

You're not coming?

ROCKS

No, I'm not coming.
(hugs Emmanuel, whispers
in his ear)
Me, you and mummy are gonna be
together soon, ok? Pinky promise.

Rocks looks at Emmanuel's shirt. Gently pokes his chest.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

You have something there...

Emmanuel smiles. He knows the game. He starts to back up. The laughter from the impending tickle attack creeps up.

EMMANUEL

Where?

ROCKS

There - There -

Rocks pokes and tickles Emmanuel until he is almost breathless. Emmanuel is led out.

Rocks crumples to the ground. Emmanuel runs back to her. Arms outstretched, ready to cling on for dear life. He is whipped away as his fingers make contact with her tears.

ROCKS (CONT'D)
(whispered)
You promised.

Social Worker swallows guilty, helpless tears. Rocks stares down at the red bracelet. Clawing at it. The knot tightens. Her world blackens.

104 I/E. ANITA'S HOME. THURSDAY AFTERNOON. 104

Social Worker pulls up. Plasters on a professionally optimistic smile.

SOCIAL WORKER
She's looking forward to having you stay.

ROCKS
Yeah? Did she say that or you?

Rocks looks at her. The Social Worker can't answer.

105 INT. ANITA'S HOME. THURSDAY AFTERNOON. 105

A tasteful, working woman's flat. Eclectic black art - from West African sculptures, to Haitian, hand-made religious dolls, to antique pots, drums and framed Fela posters. Scatter cushions, candles, old bottles of rum and chardonnay. The place has the feel of confidence. Classy.

The radio is on. Curry goat bubbles on the stove.

106 INT. ANITA'S HOME- SPARE ROOM 106

Rocks throws her bag on a dresser in "her" room/the spare box room. Rocks tries to listen through the walls and doors. The radio obscures the voices.

107 INT. ANITA'S HOME. THURSDAY AFTERNOON. 107

Social Worker talks to ANITA (An attractive woman (50s) who could pass for much younger. She has a strength and warmth about her) and her husband REGINALD (50s. Anita's number 1 fan. Kind eyes. Strong hands. Cycling mad).

SOCIAL WORKER
I'll arrange a visit but in the meantime, if she wants she can write a letter for me to pass on to him.

(MORE)

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

I've given her a bag with a few bits, but I think you might need to pop down to the shop and get some more things- Women's hygiene products, that sort of thing.

ANITA

And where did you say her mother was?

SOCIAL WORKER

We don't know. We suspect she's had difficulty managing her medication and mental health. Rocks has been looking after herself, looking after her little brother, for we think, a couple of weeks now.

Anita and Reginald tut and shake their heads.

108

INT. ANITA'S HOME- ROCK'S ROOM. THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

108

Rocks and Anita make up the bed together. Rocks is timid. Unsure. Nervous. Anita approaches gently.

ANITA

You hungry?

ROCKS

No, I'm fine.

ANITA

You eat spicy food?

ROCKS

A little.

ANITA

I cook good, you don't have to worry about that. If you fancy anything let me know, and I'll heat up some curry goat for you, alright?

ROCKS

Thank you.

ANITA

That's my pleasure. I'll leave you to settle. If you want anything, I'm just in the other room alright.

ROCKS

Okay.

ANITA

Okay.

Anita hovers at the door. Wants to offer more to this little girl who both fills and disappears in this tiny room. A smile is the best she can think of for now.

109 INT. ANITA'S HOME- ROCK'S ROOM. NIGHT 109

Rocks lays awake in bed.

110 INT. ANITA'S HOME. KITCHEN - NIGHT 110

Rocks sneaks to the stove. Opens the pot. It smells good. Anita was right about her cooking skills. Rocks puts her fingers in the pot. Grabs a piece of goat meat. Gently closes the lid. Careful that the heavy iron dutch pot lid doesn't wake anyone.

111 INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- CANTEEN. FRIDAY MORNING. 111

Mid morning break. Rocks steps into the canteen. Silence washes over the hall. Followed by whispers. Eyes take Rocks in. Rocks looks like a shell of herself. The confidence and surety that aspired popularity and admiration has been drained from her. There is nothing left of Rocks.

Some enjoy this moment. They see an opportunity for them to rise through the school hierarchy. Jump ahead a few places in the ecosystem.

Whispers turn to quiet giggles.

Sumaya watches. She's tormented. Unsure what to do. Still hurt. Pained. She can't look at Rocks. Can't look away.

Rocks hovers at the door. Jaws clench. Eyes water. She won't let the tears fall. Her leg wobbles a little. Still so tired. But won't crumble.

Sumaya's heart pounds. Mouth dry. Hands sweat. She grips and twists her skirt. Breathing deep. Remembering to breath.

Rocks looks down. Sumaya hates this. Hates that she doesn't recognise her best friend. She takes a deep breath.

The screech of a Sumaya's chair turns heads. Sumaya has pushed back from the table. She stands. Rocks looks up. Eyes meet. Hearts burst.

SUMAYA

Yo Rocks. Come sit here.

CUT TO:

112 INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL- CANTEEN

112

Rocks, Sumaya, Sabina, Khadijah and Yawa sit in awkward silence.

Sumaya takes a spare bowl. Empties the cake out. Scrapes the custard off it. Hands the cake to Rocks.

ROCKS

Thanks.

Rocks eats the cake. Sumaya eats the custard.

SABINA

(to Sumaya)

Why do you always get cake and custard when you hate cake?

SUMAYA

Cause she likes cake and hates custard.

ROCKS

And she loves custard.

Yawa shakes her head.

YAWA

So... everyone's bless now yeah?

Rocks and Sumaya look at each other. Unspoken repentance and forgiveness.

ROCKS

Yeah...

SUMAYA

Yeah...

YAWA

Good. Rocks, where you been man?

ROCKS

Just chilling.

KHADIJAH

Ghosting, she's been ghosting.

YAWA

Ghosting on us like Casper, casper
the ghost.

They all laugh. Rocks is relieved for this moment of safety
with her girls.

113

INT. ROCKS' SCHOOL. FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

113

The girls sit around on desk. Rocks is still a little quiet.
Reacquainting herself with her place in this group.

SUMAYA

So where's Emmanuel?

ROCKS

Hastings.

KHADIJAH

Hastings?

YAWA

Where's Hastings?

KHADIJAH

1066 battle of Hastings?

The girls laugh at Khadijah.

KHADIJAH TO SUMAYA

Fam, that's the only Hastings I
know. Do you know any other
Hastings?

They laugh. Rocks exhales for maybe the first time in weeks.

ROCKS

I need to see him.

Rocks reminds Sumaya that it's Emmanuel's birthday. That this
will be his first birthday without her. Sumaya has a soft
spot for Emmanuel. She'll do anything to have things like
they were before with Rocks.

SUMAYA

Whatever you need.

Rocks gulps back tears.

ROCKS

Thanks.

Khadijah, Yawa, Sabina and Sumaya discuss ideas. The plan is raised to sneak out of school. Get a train to Hastings. Rocks saw Emmanuel's new address on the social worker's folder. She looked up the schools closest to Emmanuel's new address. She's sure there's only one viable option. She wants to see him.

Khadijah looks up the price of train tickets.

KHADIJAH

Rah guys, it's £29 off peak for one person.

ROCKS

29?

KHADIJAH

Per. Person.

All their eyes widen. Yawa counts how many of them there are. Does some quick maths on her fingers. The total shocks her.

YAWA

Are you mad?!

Rocks sighs.

ROCKS

I have zero p to my name.

Sumaya sees the hope fading from Rocks' eyes. Refuses to give up.

SUMAYA

Let's add our money together. We only need two tickets to bump the train.

They begin to fish for coins and notes in purses and bags. Sumaya holds a hand up to reject any objection from Rocks.

They pool their money together. Khadijah got paid yesterday and intended to save the money for Wizkid tickets. Khadijah gives it up and adds it to the fund.

Sabina was saving up for shin pads. She's managed to collect a tenner, offers it to the pot instead. It's her confirmation soon, she's sure she'll get more money then.

Sumaya got money at her brother's wedding. Contributes the last of it.

Rocks is grateful, but gutted to have missed the wedding. There are pictures. Sumaya shares them. She's embarrassed. No one has ever seen her in anything but trainers or Kickers. They laugh and tease.

Agnes enters. The room goes silent. They all watch as Agnes makes her way to a seat near Rocks.

ROCKS

What do you want Agnes?

Agnes looks at the pile of money on the table. At the ticket site open on Khadijah's phone.

KHADIJAH

I know what she wants, to snitch again.

Khadijah quickly locks her phone and moves from Agnes' eye line.

AGNES

I want to help.

SUMAYA

You got money.

Agnes puts in the last and much needed £10. She holds it out as a peace offering. Rocks looks her in the eye. All is not forgiven.

AGNES

I'm sorry.

Yawa takes the money. Holds it up to the light.

YAWA

Mm hmm.

Khadijah and Sabina laugh at Yawa. Agnes doesn't. Rocks can't. Sumaya watches her friend closely. Ready to step in for her if she needs.

YAWA (CONT'D)

We got this man. So we're all cool right?

AGNES

Are we?

ROCKS

(swallowing her pride)
Yep.

114 INT. KINGS CROSS STATION. FRIDAY AFTERNOON. 114

The girls arrive at the station. They are dressed in bright colours and full of excitement. This unauthorised adventure has their adrenaline high.

115 INT. KINGS CROSS STATION- TICKET BARRIERS 115

The girls hover. They try not to look suspicious.

ROCKS

You lot are panicking just wait. Me and Sumaya will go through first, then we'll give you guys the ticket.

SUMAYA

That's what I'm trying to say.

KHADIJAH

Okay okay.

ROCKS

And then you guys go through one by one.

Khadijah bounces anxiously.

SUMAYA

Khadijah chill yeah.

ROCKS

And stop panicking, you're sweating as well.

Khadijah quickly wipes the sweat from her top lip and forehead.

Rocks approaches the barriers. Puts the ticket in. Sumaya rushes through behind her.

SUMAYA

Go go go go!

Agnes spots a lady in a push chair open the luggage gate.

AGNES

Guys, there's no one there. Wait...

The remaining girls run over to the gate. Hold it open for the mum. Rush in once she's past.

The girls run and giggle up the platform. The doors for their train beeps.

TRAIN STATION GUARD (O.S.)

Oi, oi!

The girls run, screeching down the platform. Grab each others hands. Squeeze tight. Jump onto the train just in time.

116 INT. TRAIN. FRIDAY AFTERNOON. 116

The train is near enough empty. The girls play music. Sing. Dance. Reconnect. Hide from the ticket inspector. Hide from the British Transport Police. They have the time of their lives.

117 INT. TRAIN TOILET. FRIDAY AFTERNOON 117

Rocks steps out of the tiny cubicle and bumps right into Sumaya. The door bumps her.

ROCKS

Oh sorry...

(realising it's Sumaya...

really meaning it)

I'm sorry.

SUMAYA

No- I'm-... I'm *really* sorry. I didn't mean-... I love you. I'm so sorry.

This is the first time they've said the words. They both needed to say it, more than they neede to hear it.

ROCKS

Me too.

They smile. Awkwardly. Not sure what to do with this moment. Wanting to hold onto it a while.

ROCKS (CONT'D)

Alright man. Stop looking at me like you wanna lips me.

SUMAYA

Dickhead.

They laugh. Grab each other tight. Hold each other tight. For ages.

118 EXT. HASTING STATION - DAY 118

The girls arrive. The views are spectacular. They are blown away. They take it all in. The sea. The sisterhood. The solidarity. The survival.

YAWA

Man it looks like Italy.

SUMAYA

I wouldn't want to stay here like more than a day though.

YAWA

For real. They're trying to take us into the sunken place.

The girls fall about laughing. Their joy piercing the silence of the sleepy town.

119 INT. HASTINGS, STREET - DAY 119

Rocks and Sumaya look at their maps app. They turn left. The others follow. They arrive at the bottom of a hill. Khadijah lags at the back.

YAWA

Khadijah, we have a surprise for you.

Khadijah groans. Her feet already sore in her sandals.

SUMAYA

Come on. In your bridesmaid shoes.

The girls laugh at Khadijah's floral, flowing frock.

YAWA

Don't know where this girl thought she was going in that outfit?

ROCKS

To find her a husband.

KHADIJAH

Get out of here man.

120 EXT. HASTINGS, PRIMARY SCHOOL. FRIDAY AFTERNOON. 120

The girls peep through gates. Search the faces of kids in the playground.

SUMAYA
(looking at all the white
faces)
At least it won't be hard to spot
him.

Rocks squints. Her eyes dart quickly. Her heart pounds hard.

KHADIJAH
Maybe he's not here.

ROCKS
(to herself, willing it to
be true)
He's here.

YAWA
Look he's right there.

ROCKS
Oh my god.

SUMAYA
Rocks, we found him.

ROCKS
I said we was gonna find him.

Rocks watches Emmanuel play for a moment. He laughs and yells in delight.

SUMAYA
He seems happy here though.

KHADIJAH
Looks like he made some friends.

SUMAYA
Do you want to call him over?

Rocks tunes everyone and everything out. Stares at her brother. Eyes water. She knows what she has to do. She holds on to the sight of his smile and the sound of his laughter a moment longer.

FADE TO:

121 INT. BEACH CAFE - DAY

121

Rocks sits. Alone. Processes, stares, questions her decision. Squeezes Emmanuel's toy dinosaur tightly. Sumaya puts a milkshake in front of Rocks. Sits next to her. Tears fall helplessly down Rock's face.

SUMAYA

You did the right thing...

ROCKS

Did I?

SUMAYA

I think so.

Sumaya puts an arm around Rocks. Pulls Rocks close. Rocks rests her head - finally - on someone's shoulder. They sit together in silence. Drink their shakes.

122 EXT. BEACH - DAY

122

The six girls play on the beach. Take photos. They each take their turn to dance around Rocks. They work hard, but effortlessly, at pulling her out of her sadness.

123 EXT. BEACH

123

They stand in a line at the edge of the water. Trousers rolled up to shins. Hands held. Edging carefully into the water. Screaming with every inch and splash. They play. Children. Friends. Sisters.

We bask in their youth, their hopefulness, their girlhood.

CUT TO BLACK

124 CREDITS

124