

1	OMITTED	1
2	OMITTED	2
3	OMITTED	3

4 OMITTED 4

5 OMITTED 5

6 OMITTED 6

6A EXT. MURIEL'S GARDEN - DAY 24. 11.00 (2025) 6A

MURIEL in her GARDEN.

All is well with the world. A bright, crisp, frosty morning. It's surprisingly calm, after the terror of the last episode. Muriel's happy, moves a pot. A little pruning. Then...

Beep beep. Beep beep. Beep beep.

A quiet alarm, from the kitchen. Muriel huffs, heads in.

CUT TO:

6B INT. MURIEL'S KITCHEN - DAY 24. 11.01 (2025) 6B

MURIEL comes in, speaks to the Alexa-type UNIT. The soft little beep-beep keeps running.

MURIEL

All right. Stop. You can stop the alarm, thank you. What's your name? You. Little unit. Gringo? Stop the alarm, Gringo. Oh I give up, what is it?

She opens a cupboard. Handwritten sign: IT'S CALLED SIGNOR.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Signor! Stop the alarm.

SIGNOR VOICE

Alarm stopped.

The *beep-beep* stops.

MURIEL

Thank you. The last time we had an alarm in this kitchen, we all thought the world was coming to an end. So that's quite enough.

She goes to head out, back to the garden.

SIGNOR VOICE

Do you wish to be reminded of the reason for the alarm?

She stops.

MURIEL

Well. Yes. I was coming to that.

SIGNOR VOICE

The alarm is a reminder for Edith
Lyons on Channel 1516.

MURIEL

Oh! Yes yes yes, Signor! Call the
family. No, what do I say? What's
the word? Join us up?

And she's hurrying out.

CUT TO:

6BB INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, STUDY - DAY 24. 11.02 (2025) 6BB

MURIEL hurrying in, gets the TV REMOTE, talking to Signor:

MURIEL

Oh, I know. Calling family link.
Is that right?

SIGNOR VOICE

Calling family link.

CONT., INTERCUT with Sc.6C - 6F.

CUT TO:

6C INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAY 24. 11.03 (2025) 6C

STEPHEN, BETHANY and RUBY sit together, ready to watch TV,
but all with their own TABLETS; together but separate.
Stephen talking to the air, to the family link:

STEPHEN

We're all here, Gran, we're
waiting. It's her big moment!

Behind them, CELESTE at the kitchen table, half-watching on
her mobile (phone propped up on a thin, slender stand), but
she's working on her LAPTOP. Grim. Trouble at work.

CELESTE

Some of us have got work to do.

MURIEL

Happy as ever, Celeste.

CELESTE

Lovely to hear your voice, Muriel.

STEPHEN

Where are the boys, are they with
us, Dan? Are you on the link?

CONT., INTERCUT with Sc.6BB, 6D-6F .

CUT TO:

6D INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 24. 11.04 (2025) 6D

A happy home. DANIEL & VIKTOR live together now. They were sitting, about to watch TV, but then a mock-fight broke out over a pot of YOGHURT and Daniel is now trying to wrestle it out of Viktor's hands, without spilling it, both laughing.

DANIEL
I'm here. We're not... No!

VIKTOR
Oh no no no.

DANIEL
Just. Don't.

VIKTOR
Ha haaa!

MURIEL
Well I'm glad we haven't got vision. Rosie, are you with us?

CONT., INTERCUT with Sc.6BB, 6C, 6E, 6F.

CUT TO:

6E INT. ROSIE'S FLAT - DAY 24. 11.05 (2025) 6E

ROSIE with LEE, making him watch the TV. LINCOLN's wandered off, deep in b/g. Lee's eating a cheap EASTER EGG.

ROSIE
I keep telling the boys, we all used to watch TV on Saturday mornings. Doesn't exist any more.

STEPHEN
Hush, she's on!

Cont., INTERCUT with Sc.6BB-6D, 6F.

CUT TO:

6F INT. CHANNEL INDIA TV STUDIO - DAY 24. 11.06 (2025) 6F

EDITH LYONS being interviewed. Current-affairs, FEMALE INTERVIEWER, Indian, 30. Logo: Channel India.

INTERCUT with Sc.6BB-6E, all the family watching.

EDITH

Six months ago. We all thought we were going to die.

MURIEL

That's what I just said.

ALL

Hush/sssh/Gran!

EDITH

But then we realised. The day after Hiroshima, what happened? The sun came up. People got out of bed. They went to work. A nuclear bomb exploded but the west just carried on, and it's the same today. Life goes on, relentlessly.

INTERVIEWER

Some people say we were lucky.

EDITH

Well. We didn't have Armageddon. Just one missile, and China backed down, but with 45,000 dead. And that's why we need these sanctions against America, they turned a trade war into an actual war -

STEPHEN

She doesn't understand a thing!

CELESTE

(of her laptop)

Who pays the price? Me?

STEPHEN

(to the girls)

Your Aunty is an idiot.

EDITH

I should know. I was there.

CUT TO:

7

EXT. HONG SHA DEVASTATION - DAY AA 15.00 (2025)

7

FX SHOTS. Like photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but in colour. And with motion: these are DRONE SHOTS.

STILL INTERCUTTING all the family, Sc.6BB-6E. But all staring, more hushed, now. And INTERCUT with Sc.6F Edith.

INTERVIEWER

You were in Vietnam, is that right?

EDITH

For the explosion. But we took the
ship and sailed towards Hong Sha.
We took this footage with drones.

FOOTAGE of BLAST SHADOWS, as in Hiroshima. A man reaching
for the sky. A bicycle. What might be two children running.

ROSIE

Look. They were people. The bomb
goes off, and that's all they leave
behind. Their shadow.

LEE

I've seen this millions of times.

Sc.6D, Daniel & Viktor. Not to the air, to each other:

VIKTOR

What's she like? Edith.

DANIEL

Bit serious.

VIKTOR

But when you were kids?

DANIEL

Serious, even then. I don't know,
she's older than me, she was more
friends with Stephen, really.

Sc.6C, Stephen not to the air, but answering Ruby.

STEPHEN

We went interrailing once, but...
She wanted to sleep on beaches and
go to markets and find things to
smoke. I just wanted a nice hotel.

Sc.6E, Rosie not to the air, but to Lee.

LEE

Is she rich?

ROSIE

I'd like to know. Why d'you think?

LEE

Cos she's famous.

ROSIE

Not really. This is Channel India,
there must be five of us watching.

LEE

But she lives on a boat.

ROSIE

Yeah, but there's like 15 on board,
I bet it's stinking. What happens
is, they get money off sponsors and
charities, like if someone wants to
stop people drilling for oil in the
Arctic, they give Edith money to
sail over there and get in the way.
Mind you, I bet she got paid for
this. The footage. She could've
made a fortune. I wonder.

On TV: closer on Edith, the interview becoming more personal.

INTERVIEWER

If I could ask. What's the range
of your drones?

EDITH

(wary)

Um. What does it matter?

INTERVIEWER

We estimate, they've got a range of
5 miles. So you took your ship 5
miles off the coast of Hong Sha,
within two days of the explosion?

Back home, they're beginning to realise...

DANIEL

What..?

ROSIE
She said fifty miles!

STEPHEN
She said she was safe.

INTERVIEWER
Were you poisoned? By radiation?

EDITH
I think you should focus on the
victims within China itself -

INTERVIEWER
We calculate, at the very least,
you were exposed to 1 Gray of
radiation. So the damage has been
done. You might have limited your
life span. To another 20 years.

EDITH
So? That could take me to 60.

INTERVIEWER
Then it's true?

Edith. Trapped. So what the hell:

EDITH
Yes.

Sc.6BB-6E erupt!

ROSIE
Oh my God, she's an idiot, Gran,
stop watching, turn it off!

DANIEL
She tells us on TV!

Stephen storming out of the room, calling out -

STEPHEN
Signor, call Edith Lyons! Now!

SIGNOR VOICE
End link, calling Edith Lyons.

RUBY
Is she dying, is Aunty Edith dying?

CELESTE
(shrugs, not bothered)
...eventually.

As Stephen storms upstairs, Edith's answerphone in the air -

EDITH'S ANSWERPHONE

Leave a message, thank you.

STEPHEN

Edith! We're all watching! You promised me you were safe!

Daniel on his MOBILE to Edith's answerphone too -

DANIEL

Thanks very much, Edith! What a way to let us know, on TV!

Rosie calls to the air, the family link still open:

ROSIE

Gran? Are you okay?

Sc.6BB Muriel watching. Shaken. But moved. Proud of Edith.

Edith, angry, takes control of the interview. Like Daniel in 1/25, a slow creep in, a noise, a hum, pressure building...

EDITH

Never mind me, Hong Sha Dao will have consequences. For all of us. And it terrifies me.

(directly to CAMERA)

Cos the world keeps getting hotter. And faster. And madder. And we don't pause, we don't think, we don't learn, we keep racing on to the next disaster, I keep wondering what's next? Where are we going? When's it ever going to stop?

And the pressure BURSTS, the picture goes *RIP* - !

Sc.8-22 ROCK FORWARD, driven by pressure, music (Muse, 'Uprising,' loud, hard), onwards, onwards, next scene, next! INTERCUT MORE than scripted, 8-22 punching in FAST IMAGES: flags, crowds, riots; grabbed, hot, wild impressions of the world speeding up, almost too much information to take in.

CUT TO:

8

INT. BBC NEWSROOM - DAY 26. 13.00 (2025)

8

STOCK FOOTAGE: Mike Pence and crowds, cheering, then:

NEWSREADER to CAMERA. Graphic: photo of Mike Pence.

NEWSREADER

President Pence has defied the
United Nations, telling them that
America will happily stand alone -

CUT TO:

9 INT. NEWSNIGHT STUDIO - NIGHT 26. 22.35 (2025) 9

A BRITISH EXPERT being interviewed, vexed:

BRITISH EXPERT

But we're making it worse! The
more we impose sanctions, the more
America swings to the right -

CUT TO:

10 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT 26. 23.00 (2025) 10

Daniel, bit drunk, mid-rant, with VIKTOR and his neighbour
FRAN BAXTER, and 8 OTHERS, music in b/g. The house is more
relaxed, more open; more fun with Viktor than with Ralph.

DANIEL

You've got Putin, President for
life, Xi Jinping, President for
life, and now Pence is just a
puppet, Trump is still in charge,
these old men are in power forever!

CUT TO:

11 INT. POINTLESS STUDIO - DAY 27. 12.00 (2025) 11

VIVIENNE ROOK and JULIE PEASGOOD are in the Pointless final.
The counter goes down, down, down... to zero! They've won!

Viv and Julie leap, cheer, hug, overjoyed!

JUMP CUT to ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG.

ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG

Amazing! And remind us again, what
are your charities?

JULIE PEASGOOD

Mine's a children's hospice in
Coventry.

VIV ROOK

And mine's to build a statue for
all the horses killed in World War
1.

CUT TO:

12 INT. VLOGGER'S BEDROOM - DAY 28. 16.30 (2025) 12
AMERICAN 17 y/o BOY to CAMERA.

VLOGGER
Hong Sha is fake. The whole thing.
All those Chinese with injuries? I
know for a fact, they're actors.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. FIELD - DAY 29. 14.10 (2025) 13
NETWORK 85 TV FOOTAGE, WILDLIFE EXPERT being interviewed.

WILDLIFE EXPERT
...the bird population across
Britain has fallen by 50%. Because
the insect population has fallen by
80%. That's 80% in 30 years.

INTERCUT STOCK FOOTAGE, flocks of birds, swarms of insects.

CUT TO:

13A INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 29. 15.00 (2025) 13A
Whap! MURIEL kills a FLY with a rolled-up MAGAZINE.

CUT TO:

14 INT. ITN NEWSROOM - DAY 30. 13.00 (2025) 14
NEWSREADER, using STOCK FOOTAGE from Cape Town in 2018.

NEWSREADER
Cape Town has run out of water.
The city has been declared closed.

CUT TO:

15 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAY 31. 14.40 (2025) 15
POP! A bottle of champagne.

SUMMER, a daytime party, buffet & wine, for BETHANY's 18th.
STEPHEN & CELESTE proud, daughter RUBY with mate CLYDE,
DANIEL happy with VIKTOR, ROSIE with LEE & LINCOLN, singing
Happy Birthday. Cake & candles. Bethany embarrassed, hates
being centre stage, though she's smiling.

JUMP CUT TO PARTY in b/g, CELESTE on edge, having a quiet
word with ROSIE and DANIEL. Maybe a glass of wine too much.

CELESTE

My bosses are basically American,
so with all these sanctions,
they're going to withdraw.

ROSIE

You'll get a payoff though?

CELESTE
They're saying no! They're saying,
take us to court! Tough!

CUT TO:

16 EXT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAY 32. 11.30 (2025) 16
FOR SALE SIGN being erected. CELESTE watching, grim.

CUT TO:

17 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 32. 21.05 (2025) 17
STEPHEN, CELESTE, BETHANY, mid-argument, RUBY storming out -

CELESTE
We just need somewhere smaller -

RUBY
I'm not moving! I'm not!

CUT TO:

18 INT. ITN NEWS - NIGHT 32. 21.20 (2025) 18
NEWSREADER to CAMERA. A light item at the end of the news.

NEWSREADER
It's a phenomenon that's being
called Towntime.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY 32. 11.45 (2025) 19
OFFICE EXPERT, 30, smart, excited, being interviewed.

OFFICE EXPERT
The 2000s saw a huge move, to work
from home. But people at home
basically eat and masturbate. So
Towntime means a return to office
jobs, Monday morning, 9am.

CUT TO:

20 INT. BETHANY'S LONDON OFFICE - DAY 33. 10.06 (2025) 20
Plain city-centre office space, in a tower block. BETHANY at
her desk. She's a data miner.

She's nervous, shy, but this is perfect for her: a boxy compartment, like American offices, no need to interact. She sits, headphones on, types, happy in her own little world.

CUT TO:

21 INT. BBC NORTH WEST NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT 34. 18.40 (2025) 21
MANCHESTER PRESENTER to CAMERA.

MANCHESTER PRESENTER
...with the loss of two thousand
jobs across the city. The company
says 90% of deliveries will now be
made by drone.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY 35. 11.00 (2025) 22

TV FOOTAGE, branded with NORTH WEST NEWS. Background: huge,
bleak modern warehouses, branded with the POST & FLY logo.
Foreground: the Metlock MP, ARCHIE GOOLDING, in front of a
CROWD OF 50 WORKERS and PRESS. He's cutting a ribbon.

ARCHIE
It's my honour to declare the Drone
Park officially... open!

CUT TO A DELIVERY DRONE taking off, the classic four-
propellers, carrying a CARDBOARD BOX, with POST & FLY logo.

CUT To Archie waving, CROWD behind him clapping.

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
Good luck! Bon voyage!
(jokes to the camera)
Don't go to my house, I'm not in.

CUT TO ARCHIE to CAMERA, formal interview. And during this,
a DRONE is lowering down BEHIND HIM, slowly, slowly...

ARCHIE (CONT'D)
As MP for the Northern Powerhouse,
I promise that for every job loss,
there will be a job gain. This
fleet of drones will be the pride
of Manchester. As you can see -

He TURNS -

INTO THE PROPELLORS!

LENS COVERED with a SPRAY OF BLOOD! CAMERA jerks away -

- to PEOPLE in the crowd hit by the blood, SCREAMING!

The drive, energy, music of sc.8-22 ENDS, HARD. Handheld chaos, camera slams to the floor, feet, 'Archie! Archie!'

CUT TO:

23 INT. ROSIE'S SCHOOL KITCHEN - DAY 35. 12.00 (2025) 23

ROSIE at work in a COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL KITCHEN. She's a CHEF MANAGER, roughly £26k a year. Now, she's on her mobile:

ROSIE

Oh my God, have you seen? My MP's been decapitated!

CUT TO:

24 INT. BBC NORTH WEST NEWS STUDIO - DAY 35. 12.03 (2025) 24

VIVIENNE ROOK being interviewed.

VIV ROOK

It's terrible news about Archie. But I can't help feeling it's symbolic. With the greatest of respect, I hereby declare that I will be standing in the by-election for his constituency.

CUT TO:

25 INT. CONTAINER ESTATE - DAY 35. 12.04 (2025) 25

DANIEL & STAFF in an improvised office area UNDER TARPAULIN, a bit M.A.S.H-like, open at the sides, the estate visible in b/g, busy. He's watching on his LAPTOP, sc.24, Viv Rook.

VIJAY BABU at his own makeshift desk, LAPTOP, etc, nearby. DANIEL on his mobile. INTERCUT with Rosie, Sc.23.

DANIEL

Seriously. I'm watching her now. Vivienne Rook.

ROSIE

She's gonna be my MP?

DANIEL

No, she is not, I've told you, don't you dare vote for her! I will give you money, not to vote.

ROSIE

Oh all right then. That's a deal. Gotta go, pay me in cash, bye.

As she hangs up, Vijay calls across:

VIJAY BABU

You know she owns us, don't you?
Viv Rook. Now they've privatised
Housing, we're part of Stonerock
Holdings. Which is owned by Slight
& Weight. But the parent company
is McRossiter, and they're part of
YesChain, and on the board...

Ping! He sends the Golem page to Daniel: Vivienne Rook.

DANIEL

Oh my God, she's my boss.

Daniel disturbed. Sc.24 Viv TO CAMERA, filling the screen:

VIV ROOK

This is my chance. At last. To
honour my country, and to serve it.

CUT TO:

25A	INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 35. 12.00 (2025)	25A	*
	MURIEL goes to the window, and sees...		*
	EXTERIOR GARDEN, VIKTOR hauling a big piece of fencing across the garden. He's doing odd jobs. He waves, she waves back.		*
	JUMP CUT, TEN MINUTES LATER, Viktor in the kitchen, and she's giving him a big glass of SQUASH.		*
	VIKTOR		*
	Your greenhouse. I don't think it's very safe.		*
	MURIEL		*
	Oh, people have been saying that for years. I got a man in, to look at it. But part of it fell on his head and he never came back.		*
	VIKTOR		*
	You should be careful, though.		*
	MURIEL		*
	Viktor. All the money in this house was my father's. And he lost it in 1976, we haven't been able to afford this place ever since. Let it rot. Gently. I'll survive.		*
	(with no warning)		*
	Daniel said. About your parents.		*

VIKTOR *
...yeah. *

MURIEL *
They reported you? To the police. *

VIKTOR *
In fairness. They thought it was *
their duty, they're Christians, I *
mean genuinely, it hurts them. *

MURIEL *
D'you forgive them? *

VIKTOR *
I have to try. *

MURIEL *
Rubbish. They are disgusting. *
Your mother and father are *
disgusting people. Is that clear? *
I mean, I'm not without prejudice *
myself. I don't like Londoners. *
And I don't like people who wear *
sunglasses indoors. But you. You *
are beautiful. In the eyes of *
Christ, and in the eyes of myself. *
Have you got that? *

VIKTOR *
Yes. *

MURIEL *
And you're very welcome here. For *
the rest of your life. Yes? *

VIKTOR *
(upset) *
Thank you. *

MURIEL *
Now don't cry. You're not getting *
a hug or anything. Back to work. *

VIKTOR *
Thank you. *

He heads off. Muriel smiling to herself. *

CUT TO: *

27 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY 35. 12.40 (2025)

27

Nice lunch restaurant, CELESTE and BETHANY heading in, being led by a WAITER to a table.

CELESTE

I thought this would be nice. Just the two of us. Now you're working, we can be ladies who lunch.

(reaching the table, to the waiter)

That's great, thanks very much.

WAITER

Can I take a drinks order?

CELESTE

We'll just have a look, thanks. Give us a couple of minutes.

The waiter goes. As they settle down, picking up menus, Celeste thinks she's setting the agenda, but Bethany's got a little burn of excitement, with something to say.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

I wanted to explain. Your dad said, you'd offered to pay rent, but there's really no need. Honestly. I've got work until the autumn. Heights of Essence isn't pulling out till October, so there's no emergency. We won't starve!

(pause)

After that. Well. Maybe you can give me advice! When I went to university, they said accountancy was a job for life. But now. Thanks to your lot. Artificial Intelligence can do my job in one second flat. I'm going to be quite literally redundant, in every way.

Suddenly:

BETHANY

Will you call me?

CELESTE

Sorry?

BETHANY

Will you call me?

CELESTE

You mean telephone you?

BETHANY

Yes.

CELESTE

When?

BETHANY

Now.

CELESTE

But you're sitting right here.

BETHANY

This is why I wanted to have lunch.
Will you just phone me? Now?

Celeste huffs, gets her mobile, dials *Bethany*. It rings...

Bethany holds up her right hand. Which is ringing. NB, no sign of Bethany's HANDSET. She clicks her fingers, to accept the call, then holds her hand to her ear in that phonecall-mime, little finger to mouth, thumb to ear.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

Hello? Bethany speaking.

Celeste doesn't get it.

CELESTE

Hello?

BETHANY

Are you phoning for Bethany?

CELESTE

Yes. What are you doing?

BETHANY

This is Bethany, can you hear me?

CELESTE

Well you're right in front of me!

BETHANY

But you can hear me down the phone?

CELESTE

(realising, horrified)
...oh my God.

BETHANY

This is me, on the phone. I had it
implanted. My hand is the phone.

She stands, walks away. Talking into her hand. Celeste
staring at her phone. Bethany's voice is coming out of it.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

You see, I can walk. And talk.
Cos I'm on the phone. The phone
inside my hand. I am the phone.

Bethany walks back, still miming the phonecall.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

This is what phones are going to be
from now on. I have integrated.
Thank you for your call.

And she snaps her fingers. Chirp, call ends.

CUT TO MINUTES LATER: CU Bethany's RIGHT HAND; she's holding
it palm-up on the table, now with her MOBILE on the table.
Celeste alarmed, but fascinated, trying not to overreact.

Under the skin: a grey pad on each finger-and thump-tip.
Wires under the skin running from the pads to the wrist.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

Sub-dermal implants. They charge
themselves with motion, like a self-
winding watch. And it's on the 22
Network, I get a signal across 95%
of UK mainland, 98 by next year.

CELESTE

But when I phoned you... it was
ringing. You were ringing.

Bethany shows her LEFT WRIST. Tiny, red BEAD underneath.

BETHANY

That's the speaker. It's so small.

CELESTE

But when did you get it done?

BETHANY

That course? In Winchester. I had
one finger done every night. I
still need to use the handset to
phone out, look...

On her MOBILE, she presses MUM. Celeste's phone rings, she's
staring at Bethany, who's hand-to-ear, as Celeste answers.

CELESTE

Hello?

BETHANY

Hi!

CELESTE

Okay. But look. I can't believe you had surgery without telling me.

BETHANY

Skinplants. Not surgery. And I knew you'd be cross, but I'm 18, and you had that tattoo when you were 18, and it's the same sort of thing, and I wanted to ask you... Will you do me a favour?

CELESTE

What?

BETHANY

Will you tell dad?

They are, absurdly, facing each other while on the phone, but Bethany, suddenly tearful, now looks so scared, so young.

CELESTE

Oh sweetheart.

BETHANY

Please will you tell dad for me?

CUT TO:

27A	INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY XX. 14.00 (2025)	27A	*
	STEPHEN weary, worried. Sighs. Picks up his phone. Dials. Waits. Then it's answered.		*
	STEPHEN		*
	Hello, I'd like to speak to Bethany Bisme-Lyons, please.		*
	And REVEAL, she's sitting opposite him, on her HAND-PHONE.		*
	BETHANY		*
	Hello dad.		*
	STEPHEN		*
	Oh that's weird.		*
	And he hangs up. She hangs up too.		*
	STEPHEN (CONT'D)		*
	What if it gets infected?		*
	BETHANY		*
	Yeah, but you might as well worry about my earrings.		*

STEPHEN *
I know, I'm just... *

(pause) *

Actually. I'm surprised you went *
to your mum first. I thought I was *
good cop, what happened to that? *

BETHANY *
Sorry. *

STEPHEN *
No, it's great, it's good. It's *
nice for Celeste. *

BETHANY *
I suppose... I wanted her to know, *
cos this thing means I can get *
promoted. She's lost her job, but *
if I'm earning more, I can help. *

STEPHEN *
Beth, we're only moving to scale *
down a bit, we're not short of *
money. *

BETHANY *
I know, but data-miners get fast- *
tracked, if we integrate with *
technology. I've already gone up a *
grade, just with this. *

STEPHEN *
So. The Home Office promotes you. *
If you upgrade yourself..? *

BETHANY *
Yeah. *

STEPHEN *
And if you don't..? *

BETHANY *
You stay on a lower grade. *

STEPHEN *
Which means..? The government has *
decided that people who don't *
integrate with technology... are a *
lower class. *

BETHANY *
Yeah. *

STEPHEN *
Wow. *

BETHANY *
Makes sense. *

STEPHEN *
Does it?! It's a bit sinister. *

A hint of arrogance in Bethany, now. *

BETHANY *
Yeah, well. Tough. *

STEPHEN *
Seriously? *

BETHANY *
It is! It's tough. *

STEPHEN *
Well that's nice. Is that what *
integration's taught you? *

BETHANY *
Yeah. You've got to keep up, or *
get left behind. *

STEPHEN *
...okay. *

Stephen quietly alarmed. *

CUT TO: *

28 EXT/INT. PETROL STATION - NIGHT 35. 23.20 (2025) 28 *

FLARE of HEADLIGHTS. Glean of light on the metal of a CAR.
JUMP CUT TO DANIEL, filling the car with petrol.
JUMP CUT, COST: £130, he presses an APP, *blip!*, all paid for.
JUMP CUT, Daniel going into the LITTLE SHOP. He goes up to
the counter, the till staffed by... VIKTOR.

DANIEL
Good evening.

VIKTOR
Good evening, sir.

DANIEL
Litre of non-milk, thanks.

Viktor reaches out, gets a LITRE OF NON-MILK, bleeps it,
Daniel bleeps his card, and the milk is handed over.

VIKTOR
Anything else?

DANIEL
I thought a shag might be nice.

VIKTOR
Nothing I can do about that, sir.

DANIEL
I'll just go home all alone, then.

VIKTOR
Well. You're a bit ugly, sir.

DANIEL
I am.

VIKTOR
It's very sad. Good night, sir.

DANIEL
Good night.

Daniel walks away, beginning to smile, and...

CUT TO:

29 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 35. 01.15 (2025) 29

Bang-bang-bang, DANIEL and VIKTOR in the middle of sex!
Viktor fucking Daniel, this time. Good fun. Both properly
laughing, Daniel almost slides off the bed, woah!

Bump, he sends a little BEDSIDE CABINET flying, and -

A WRISTWATCH drops to the floor. Stay on the watch, lying
there, the bang-bang-bang happily carrying on in the b/g.

CUT TO:

30 OMITTED 30

31 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY 36. 07.25 (2025) 31

Radio voice in b/g: 'Next month, it's a year since Hong Sha
Dao, and the shockwaves continue around the world, with
instability still rocking the banking system...'

DANIEL in his boxers. Putting the little BEDSIDE CABINET
straight after last night. And he sees...

The WRISTWATCH.

He picks it up. Smiles. A bit sad, knowing what he must do.

CUT TO:

32

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY 36. 12.00 (2025)

32

DANIEL sitting in his car, parked, waiting with TWO COFFEES. An ordinary street, near a Primary School; far-off, some MUMS & KIDS, and the sound of the yard at lunchtime.

Daniel sees, walking towards him, RALPH.

Ralph reaches the car, gets in the passenger seat. An old routine, from the old days. Though Ralph is brittle now. Pretending it's fine. Daniel hands over the coffee.

RALPH

Thanks, but I'm not stopping. I haven't got long, I'm supposed to be on lunch duty.

DANIEL

Here it is.

He hands over the WRISTWATCH. Ralph unimpressed.

RALPH

Yeah. Didn't even miss it. Only cost 20 quid.

DANIEL

You're the only man I know who's got 10 different watches.

RALPH

Well you don't wear the same shirt all the time, do you?

Daniel says 'same shirt' with him, an old routine.

DANIEL

So how are things, okay?

RALPH

Not bad. Nice and busy. What about you, how is he? The boy?

DANIEL

He's only six years younger.

RALPH

That's so hot.

DANIEL

Stop it.

(rushes into:)

But I thought, if you could. Sign those papers. We're trying to get Viktor this Leave to Remain thing, and if I'm divorced, that might help. I was honestly bringing you the watch, I really was, but...

RALPH

Dan. You shat on me. In front of everyone. I don't have the slightest wish to stay married to you, okay? I'll sign it.

DANIEL

Sorry.

Pause. Less hostile:

RALPH

Almost a year ago now.

DANIEL

Two weeks's time. Gran's still insisting on her party.

RALPH

That's one thing I won't miss. Standing there, freezing, politely.

DANIEL

I keep telling her, that weekend isn't just her birthday, it's commemorating 40,000 dead, now.

RALPH

And it's a barbecue.

DANIEL

I know!

Both laugh, more relaxed, nice pause, then:

RALPH

So what's his status now? Veektor. My name eez Veektor.

DANIEL

He's still classified as an asylum seeker, that hasn't changed.

RALPH

But he's allowed to live with you?

DANIEL

Yeah. The house is a mess now, it would drive you mad. Veektor. But it's still tough, he's not allowed to have a job, or anything. He works part-time so he doesn't go mad, but it's all cash in hand. He's got a degree in Economics and he's stuck working in a petrol station. Tell you what though, d'you know the good thing about it?

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

He gets free pasties when the sell-
by date is up, they give them away.

RALPH

(smiling)
You love pasties.

DANIEL

I do! I get free pasties!

RALPH

Well. I'm glad you're happy.

DANIEL

Thank you.

RALPH

Really though.

DANIEL

Thanks.

CUT TO:

33

EXT/INT. PETROL STATION - NIGHT 36. 22.50 (2025)

33

All quiet. VIKTOR on duty. Radio in b/g, late night news,
trouble with the banks. A MAN approaching the counter...

It's RALPH.

RALPH

Hi, sorry, my app's frozen, I'm on
Pump Number Two, thanks.

VIKTOR

Uh-huh.

Viktor playing on his phone, doesn't look up, stabs in £120.
(He'd have seen videos of Ralph, but crucially, he doesn't
look.) Ralph watching. Name-badge, VIKTOR. He's found him.

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

120 pounds, thank you.

Ralph bleeps his contactless card (limit now £200).

VIKTOR (CONT'D)

Anything else, sir?

RALPH

No. That's just fine. Thanks.

Viktor looks up, but too late, Ralph turns and walks away.

CUT TO Ralph sliding back into his car. Thinking, wondering.
Then he lifts up his PHONE. Photographs Viktor, *snap!*

CUT TO:

34 INT. BBC NEWS STUDIO - DAY 37. 14.00 (2025) 34

NEWSREADER to CAMERA.

NEWSREADER

This weekend will be marked by
services up and down the country,
to remember Hong Sha Dao, on the
first anniversary of the explosion.

CUT TO:

35 OMITTED 35

36 INT. MEDIA 24 NEWS STUDIO - DAY 37. 14.10 (2025) 36

NEWSREADER 3 to CAMERA.

NEWSREADER 3

...and American embassies have been
surrounded by crowds, protesting at
the events of this time last year -

STOCK FOOTAGE, crowds held back by police.

CUT TO:

37 OMITTED 37

38 INT. LOCAL MANCHESTER NEWS STUDIO - DAY 37. 14.30 (2025) 38

VIVIENNE ROOK being interviewed, solemn.

VIV ROOK

Campaigning will be suspended, for
the day. My thoughts and prayers
are with Beijing.

CUT TO:

39 OMITTED 39

40 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, GROUND FLOOR - DAY 37. 14.41 (2025) 40

STEPHEN and FAMILY ARRIVING. He heads down the hall, with a
ribboned BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE, and into a hug with MURIEL.

STEPHEN

Happy birthday! Although
technically, it's not till
tomorrow, so if you don't survive
the night, I'll have this back.

CELESTE arriving with two CAKE TINS, which allows her to not
hug Muriel. BETHANY with her. RUBY heads for Gran, for a
hug, as Stephen leaves Muriel, goes to hug DANIEL and VIKTOR
as they arrive from the KITCHEN, 'Hello, you two.'

MURIEL

There now sweetheart. If your mum
and dad want to move house, you can
always come and live here, can't
you? Who loves you? I do.

CELESTE

Oh that helps enormously! Well
done. Happy birthday, Muriel.
(MORE)

CELESTE (CONT'D)
And did you hear? Bethany got promoted, isn't that good?

MURIEL
Marvellous. Whatever that job is.

CELESTE
She's data mining.

MURIEL
Yes, I know what it is, but I don't know what it *is*.

STEPHEN
I've got a rule, nobody is allowed to stare at my daughter's hand, Beth, show them your hand -

Bethany holds up her hand.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
And down again, that's it, we've had enough of people staring. Turns out the calls are twice the price, she didn't ask about that!
(mock innocent)
So where's Rosie? Not here yet?

Muriel heads back to the kitchen, taking Ruby with her.

MURIEL
She said she'd be late, she said Lincoln had a bit of a tum.
(to Ruby)
Now I looked and looked and looked for chocolate, but you just can't find it any more, I'm sorry.

Passing Daniel, so behind her back, Daniel mocks, 'Where's Rosie?', Stephen, 'What? That was good!' 'You're rubbish!'

CUT TO:

41 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 37. 14.45 (2025) 41

MINUTES LATER, CELESTE & BETHANY unpacking a big FREEZER BAG, more COLESLAW, DANIEL & RUBY pouring SOUP into THERMOSES, VIKTOR making tea. MURIEL digging out wine. STEPHEN loading a plate with coleslaw, starving. All busy, criss-crossing.

MURIEL
I thought, this year, no TV. Even when the boys arrive. TV off. That thing scared us to death last year, let's be honest, it was terrifying. I actually thought I could see you all perish.
(MORE)

MURIEL (CONT'D)

My own family. Right in front of
me.

(building up to:)

So I might have said some silly
things.

CELESTE

I certainly did. And I'm sorry.

MURIEL

I'm sorry too.

Muriel and Celeste give the most fantastically awkward hug. Daniel, Stephen, Viktor, Ruby, glances. As they separate:

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Now maybe you won't have to stay away for a whole year.

CELESTE

I didn't do it on purpose, I've been busy, that's all.

MURIEL

Well, Stephen says, not so busy.

And the edge is back.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

What about the house, any news?

STEPHEN

That Mr Yamagata liked it, so yes, I think we've found a buyer.

DANIEL

Hey, I was going to ask, d'you think I should move my money? With all this fuss about the banks?

STEPHEN

Financial advice off me costs £300 an hour, thank you very much. But you should be all right, you haven't got £85,000, have you?

DANIEL

God, no.

VIKTOR

That would be nice!

STEPHEN

Anything under 85, you're insured, by the government, so you're fine.

VIKTOR

I said that would be nice, not because I want him for his money. It's just the sex. I'm in it for the sex. The endless sex.

DANIEL

I thank you.

STEPHEN

Once you've been loved by a Lyons.

RUBY

Oh my God.

DANIEL

Is it bad though? With the banks?

STEPHEN

It's the sanctions, against America, they're ridiculous, we might as well take out sanctions against ourselves. I mean, we are American, our business is American, our culture's American, we're certainly not European, are we?

Beep!, Stephen's, Daniel's, Celeste's phones. Excitement!

DANIEL

There we are, Gran, that's Rosie.

CELESTE

Right, now, Muriel, put that down, let's go out and see her, come on.

MURIEL

She knows her way in, she's here every week.

Stephen ushering Muriel out.

STEPHEN

No, let's go and say hello...

CUT TO:

42

EXT. MURIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 37. 14.47 (2025)

42

MURIEL coming out of the house, puzzled. DANIEL, STEPHEN, CELESTE, VIKTOR, BETHANY, RUBY following, hanging back in the doorway, Daniel, Celeste & Ruby filming on phones, excited.

ROSIE's just pulled up. Getting out, with LEE & LINCOLN.

ROSIE

Here we are then. Surprise.

Because getting out of the passenger seat...

EDITH.

MURIEL

Oh you silly girl.

(upset)

Your mother should be here.

Edith's smiling, wary. But tough. Taking in all the family as she walks forward. Into a hug with Muriel. Hold, then:

STEPHEN

Careful, she's radioactive.

EDITH

Buzzzzzz.

And Daniel runs in for a hug, Stephen sauntering in too.

CUT TO:

43 OMITTED 43

43A INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT 37. 19.00 (2025) 43A

BIG TABLE centre. MURIEL laying out plates, DANIEL & VIKTOR on cutlery, STEPHEN & CELESTE putting out GLASSES.

MURIEL

We can't just have any old
barbecue. Not with Edith home.
Let's make it nice and special.

DANIEL

Oh because Edith's special.

STEPHEN

She's so special.

DANIEL

We're just dirt.

STEPHEN

I love Edith more than anything in
the world, don't you?

MURIEL

You'll get a clip in a minute.

CUT TO:

44 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 37. 19.01 (2025) 44

EDITH unpacking her battered old HOLDALL, putting dirty washing into a plastic laundry basket. ROSIE with her. Quiet moment between them, two sisters.

ROSIE

Is it weird? Being back?

EDITH

Little bit. Yeah.

ROSIE

Viktor's nice.

EDITH

Sexy.

ROSIE

Bethany's a bit odd, you know she
wants to be a robot?

EDITH

Am I all right, staying at yours?
Cos Gran said I could stay here.

ROSIE

Oh my God, you'd die in this place,
course you can, you can get to know
the boys. How long for?

EDITH

Dunno.

ROSIE
Not sailing off? On a mission?

EDITH
Yeah. It's all gone a bit sour.
(relaxes, now)
It's so stupid, it's that footage
we took, of Hong Sha. People think
we sold it for lots of money.

ROSIE
Oh, do they? God, that's terrible.

EDITH
Trouble is, some people on the boat
think we should. You remember Bob?

ROSIE
Cap'n Bob.

EDITH
He says we need funding, so why
not, and... I might just step
away. Have a think. And it's
weird, this radiation thing.

ROSIE
You're feeling all right, though?

EDITH
Yeah. But one day. The clock's
ticking. Maybe it's time I did
something with my life, instead of
shouting. I'm just not sure what.

Rosie just nods. Holds the pause, then:

ROSIE
Can you pay rent?

EDITH
Yeah!

ROSIE
Oh thank God.

CUT TO:

45 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT 37. 19.20 (2025) 45

20 MINUTES LATER. All the family together around the BIG TABLE, EDITH & ROSIE now with MURIEL, STEPHEN, DANIEL, CELESTE, VIKTOR, BETHANY, RUBY, LEE and LINCOLN. They've improvised the barbecue into a feast, piles of BURGERS and SALADS. Beers, red wine, coffee and tea, all relaxing.

MURIEL

So come on, Edith. Tell me stories of the high seas. What would you say is the best place you've been?

DANIEL

Oh don't do that!

EDITH

It's a bit like an interview, Gran.

MURIEL

Well I don't know where to start. You've been away for so long.

VIKTOR

Did you see online? The North Pole melted, like, it's gone! You should tell the people about that.

EDITH

Well, I could, yes, but. I did. There's not much point any more.

ROSIE

Oh don't say that.

EDITH

No, but really. Y'know, like... We keep saying, you've got 10 more years to sort out climate change? You've got 10 more years to sort out flooding? You've got 10 more years to sort out the rainforest? We were saying that 30 years ago. It's too late. We've run out of time. Everyone knows it. Nothing to be done. You can recycle and campaign and go on marches. We're going to flood. And burn. And starve. And we won't die, I'm not saying that, the human race will carry on, just... living on plateaus. Like shepherds. Little villages. Maybe with a computer in a hut that you can visit once a week. Then go back to growing your little patch of corn. And you might be digging out some rocks and singing Elvis to yourself, or the Beatles, but you won't know who they are any more. Just folk songs from long ago.

Pause.

DANIEL

It's so nice to have you back.

ROSIE
Jesus, Edith! Don't listen, kids!

EDITH
(laughing)
No, I'm saying, let's have fun!
Sod it! Enjoy it, now!

Digging in her DUFFLE BAG, takes out TWO BOTTLES. A glint in her eye; the sister who used to sell her siblings dope.

EDITH (CONT'D)
Cos I got this. In Japan.
Slightly under the counter, it's
that new synthetic alcohol.

DANIEL
Oh God, it's supposed to be lethal.

EDITH
No, but that's the point, it's
designed to cut out the byproducts
so you can get completely pissed.
With no hangover.

CELESTE
Does it work?

Edith shrugs, holding up the bottles, daring them, and...

CUT TO:

46 EXT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, GARDEN - NIGHT 37. 22.30 (2025) 46

They are all now PISSED. Madness, 'One Step Beyond', LOUD. Illuminated by the HEADLIGHTS of TWO CARS, swung round to face the garden. Music from a CD player on an extension.

EDITH, DANIEL, STEPHEN, ROSIE, CELESTE, VIKTOR dancing, hooting, roaring. Not proper dancing, mucking about and having a laugh, all stopping to say the 'One step beyond!' bit. RUBY not drinking but pushing her dad round, laughing. LEE and LINCOLN bopping about like crazy, excited.

AT A DISTANCE: MURIEL settled in a nice chair, watching, all wrapped up warm. Loving it. BETHANY just bringing her a WHISKY, and then she sits with Muriel, to watch, smiling.

SHRIEKS from the others. Stephen has now somehow lost all his clothes. Runs off naked into the night. All howling. Yells and whoops from off, in the dark, like animals.

CUT TO:

47 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 37. 00.00 (2025) 47
MIDNIGHT. STEPHEN, a mess, slobbering, asleep on the settee.

CELESTE in a chair. Barely conscious. RUBY putting down a glass of water for her mum, smiling, then creeping away.

CUT TO:

48 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - NIGHT 37. 00.01 (2025) 48

An old bathroom, but handsome, old Victorian white tiles. EDITH sitting on the bath. Towel round her shoulders. Hair wet, she's tried dousing her head. Insensible with booze.

BETHANY sits a good distance away. Fascinated by her aunt.

BETHANY

I think that alcohol needs a bit of work.

Edith just nods. Pause, then Bethany quietly excited.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

I looked it up. Like, the wind direction. In the days after Hong Sha. And your angle of approach. Fallout patterns and things.

(pause)

I think you got a bigger dose than you said.

(pause)

I think you might have ten years.

Edith tries to focus. Holds up a finger to her lips. Sssh.

A good pause. Then:

BETHANY (CONT'D)

Did you know you can live forever?

And they just look at each other.

CUT TO:

49 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 37. 00.02 (2025) 49

VIKTOR running his head under the cold tap. MURIEL with him, rubbing his back, kind and gentle with someone to mother.

DANIEL at the table, woozy, stupefied with drink.

VIKTOR

Vy namahalysya vbyty mene. Ty strashny anhliys'ka.

MURIEL

That's right, darling.

(to Daniel)

What's he saying?

DANIEL

Beh.

Viktor's phone bleeps, he reaches, fumbles for it.

MURIEL

No, no, no, you'll drop it, here we go, stay there, don't move.

And she takes his phone, leaves him at the sink, goes to sit at the table. And she can't help reading the text.

MURIEL (CONT'D)

Well that's got to be fake. Fake news. Bang on midnight.

(reads)

'Message from the Home Office' As if they'd text! 'Our records show you may not have leave to remain in the UK.'

(puts it down)

You should tell your friends. That's not funny.

(stands)

Black coffee, I think.

She gets busy. Viktor still leaning over the sink. Daniel lays his head down on the table top.

The phone on the table, glowing.

CUT TO:

50

EXT. MURIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 38. 08.45 (2025)

50

NEXT DAY. Outside the front of the house, MURIEL giving DANIEL a kiss goodbye, then VIKTOR, both men looking rough.

MURIEL

See you next week. And take care. I'm not sure you're fit to drive.

DANIEL

The focus group can officially declare, alcosynth does not work.

VIKTOR

God, I feel bad.

MURIEL

And sort that text out. Tell them. It should be illegal, using the words Home Office like that.

DANIEL

Will do. See you.

But as Daniel and Viktor slide into the car, smiles fall.

VIKTOR
I think it's real.

DANIEL
Yeah.

VIKTOR
I looked online, there's many
people saying. Text at midnight.

DANIEL
We've been privatised with the same
system. Date changes at midnight,
automated texts go ping, it's real.
(starts the engine)
We'll sort it. I'll phone Yvonne.

VIKTOR
Deportation by text.

CUT TO:

50A	INT. ROSIE'S FLAT - DAY 38A. 14.00 (2025)	50A	*
	ROSIE and EDITH with LINCOLN & LEE. Edith with a pile of luggage - five rough, battered, leather holdalls.		* *
	EDITH		*
	Honestly, I'm fine, don't go to any fuss, I can sleep on the settee!		* *
	ROSIE		*
	No, there's plenty of space, cos Lincoln, if you move your things into Lee's room, then you two can share. And if you're really, really good, we could get bunk beds.		* * * * * *
	LEE		*
	Oh can we?! Brilliant!		*
	ROSIE		*
	Right, grab your clothes and put them in that bottom drawer, and Lee, make some room. Five minutes!		* * * *
	Lee and Lincoln run off.		*
	ROSIE (CONT'D)		*
	Why do kids love bunk beds?		*
	EDITH		*
	Ah, they're great boys, though, they're really funny.		* *

ROSIE *
Oh just you wait, you've only been *
here two minutes. *

A call from off, and LESLEY walks in, carrying her little SIX- *
MONTH-OLD DAUGHTER, POPPY. *

LESLEY *
Knock knock, only me. *

ROSIE *
Be careful. We've got very sore *
heads, my sister poisoned us last *
night. This is Edith! And this is *
Lesley from down the hall. *

LESLEY *
Oh, the missing sister! *

EDITH *
Hello! *

LESLEY *
Aren't you supposed to be dying? *

EDITH *
Well, aren't we all, in the end? *

LESLEY *
You look good on it. *
(gives a coupon to Rosie) *
Just got that coupon. It's good *
till Friday, can't stop, I'm on the *
3.15, I'll see you tonight, yeah? *

ROSIE *
(to Edith) *
And that's Poppy. She's six months *
old, aren't you, Poppy? *

LESLEY *
Say hello. Hello! *
(waves Poppy's hand) *
I'll leave you to it. *
(to Edith) *
Good luck. Hope you don't die. *

EDITH *
Thanks! I'll try my best. *

Lesley & Poppy go. Rosie dying for them to leave, excited: *

ROSIE *
So that's her. That's Poppy. *

EDITH *
What d'you mean? *

ROSIE

I told you, Poppy. Don't you read
any of my emails? The little girl?
The Poppy, that was her!

JUMP CUT, FIVE MINUTES LATER, both with a cuppa. Calm.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

So they did a scan. And Poppy had
a gap in her spine. Just like me.
And they went in. And fixed it.

EDITH

In the womb.

ROSIE

Isn't it amazing? I mean, they've
been doing that for years, but now
they can grow the nerve tissue,
they can cultivate it inside, so
they can fix it completely. She's
only six months, so they'll see how
it goes, but really. That's it.
Spina bifida, cured. Almost.

EDITH

That's amazing.

ROSIE

She'll still have therapy. But if
you ask me, it's gone.

EDITH

(cautious)
And... is that okay?

ROSIE

Yeah, it's brilliant.

EDITH

I know, but I mean. It was too
late for you. Is that a bit
strange?

ROSIE

(quiet)
Well. I suppose. A bit. For a
second. I had a little moment.
(smiles)
But no. Truth is. I'm happy for
her, but I wouldn't change how I
am. Not a thing. I think I'm
brilliant.

EDITH

I think so too.

ROSIE
Good.

*
*

EDITH
I'm glad I've come home.

*
*

ROSIE
Me too.

*
*

Nice smile between them. Hold, then...

*

EDITH
Mind you. If I had the chance.
I'd change a couple of things about
you, you're a snippy little bitch.

*
*
*
*

And they both hoot!

*

CUT TO:

*

51 INT. HOME OFFICE REPORTING CENTRE - DAY 39. 12.00 (2025) 51 *

(Today, 2018, this is Dallas Court in Salford.) Functional, bare building, built in the 80s. Waiting room, rows of plastic chairs. PEOPLE sit in bunches of two or three, all clutching files, papers, proof. SECURITY GUARDS on duty.

DANIEL, VIKTOR and YVONNE BUKHARI, their solicitor, sit there. She's 30, Pakistani, tough, overworked. All on edge, dressed quite smart, Viktor in a suit. Holding paperwork. More than anyone, Daniel feels out of place here.

The routine is this: all look up as a STAFF MEMBER from the Immigration Compliance & Enforcement team comes out...

ICE STAFF
Hester Babatunde?

...and Hester, her caseworker and solicitor stand, go through the doorway with the ICE Staff. Everyone else keeps waiting.

Discreet conversation:

YVONNE
The phrase to watch out for is "live discreetly." Technically, homosexuality isn't illegal in Ukraine, so if they say you can "live discreetly," they can say you're safe to be returned.

VIKTOR
You mean I should be not-discreet?

DANIEL

Indiscreet. But it wasn't the gay thing, he got out because they'd registered him as a dissident.

YVONNE

Unofficially. We can't prove that. So I'm gonna use everything.

VIKTOR

I could wear a dress.

YVONNE

That would help.

Smile between all three; they've been through a lot together.

ICE STAFF 2, female, 50, comes out of the door.

ICE STAFF 2

Viktor Goraya?

VIKTOR

Right.

YVONNE

Got everything?

VIKTOR

Yup.

DANIEL

Good luck.

Quick little peck goodbye for Daniel & Viktor, then Viktor & Yvonne leave with ICE Staff 2, through the door.

Click. Gone.

Daniel settles back. Looks at a clock on the wall.

12.01.

He sighs. Sits there.

Waits.

JUMP CUT TO Daniel, sitting, finishes the paper. Glances up.

12.40.

He leans his head back.

Just...

...closes his eyes...

BLINK, AWAKE, SUDDENLY, Yvonne next to him, hushed, urgent.

YVONNE

They've detained him. I'm sorry.
I need to get back to the office, I
can make an appeal by six o'clock.

Daniel gathering himself, what?? 12.50. A beat behind:

DANIEL

Sorry. Where is he?

YVONNE

He's been detained.

DANIEL

Right. So. Where is he now?

YVONNE

Back there, in a holding room, but
then they're going to move him.

DANIEL

But what d'you mean detained,
detained for how long?

YVONNE

Well. He's been detained. That's
it. That's why I need to get back.

DANIEL

You mean he's been arrested?

YVONNE

Well, no, but, in effect, yes.

DANIEL

But what happened? They did what?

YVONNE

They said he's been working, in a
petrol station, for money, so he's
broken his conditions. I'm not
even going to ask you if that's
true, I'm just going back to work.

DANIEL

So where is he?

YVONNE

He's in a holding room but then
they'll take him to Three Bridges.
That's near Gatwick.

DANIEL

They're taking him away?

YVONNE

Yes.

DANIEL

Where to?

YVONNE

It's a centre called the Three Bridges, near Gatwick.

DANIEL

But can I see him? Now? He hasn't gone already, can I see him?

YVONNE

They won't allow it.

DANIEL

But. I work for the council. I'm not just anyone, I'm in Housing, I move people all the time, I know the system, I'm allowed to see him.

YVONNE

Daniel, you can't, listen to me, trust me, don't piss them off.

DANIEL

Well I'm going to talk to them.

He looks at the door, guards, and crucially, doesn't move.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

But... what happens? What are they going to do?

YVONNE

They want to deport him.

DANIEL

But they tortured him! In Ukraine, they tortured him. Where is he?

YVONNE

They're taking him to a place called the Three Bridges Centre, in London, it's just outside Gatwick.

Defiant, he gets out his phone, presses *Viktor*.

YVONNE (CONT'D)

They've taken his phone off him.

DANIEL

Well that's not legal.

YVONNE

They can remove the phone if it has a camera or internet access. Which is every phone in the world.

DANIEL

So who's got his phone? How are they allowed to have his phone? The phone belongs to him, so where is it, right now, who's got it?

YVONNE

I need to get back to the office.

DANIEL

...he's going *where?*!

CUT TO:

52 EXT. MOTORWAY - DAY 39. 13.50 (2025) 52

DANIEL in his car. SIGN whizzing past: M6, heading for the South. He's wired, brittle, on his hands-free phone.

DANIEL

Three Bridges, it's a centre, like Yarl's Wood, near Gatwick. He's on his way now! It's ridiculous!

CUT TO:

53 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAY 39. 13.51 (2025) 53

STEPHEN on his LAPTOP. Talking to the air, via Signor, no handset needed. INTERCUT with Daniel, sc.52.

STEPHEN

I've got it here, it says Three Bridges is a removal centre. Does that mean..?

DANIEL

It's near Gatwick. You go there to be removed.

STEPHEN

They can't deport someone in a single day!

DANIEL

Oh, your little world.

CUT TO:

54 OMITTED 54

55 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 39. 19.08 (2025) 55

DANIEL with STEPHEN, CELESTE, BETHANY & RUBY. All having
takeaway pizza. Tension ticking away, but life goes on.

CELESTE

...we should be moving in a month or so. The first man came back, Mr Yamagata, he offered the asking price, so off we go. Except Ruby.

RUBY

I'm not moving, I'm really not.

STEPHEN

Pizza with lemon. Does not work.

CELESTE

That house in Chancellor Road fell through. So we might have to rent for a couple of months. Which is a bit of a hassle, but... Gives me time to look for work.

DANIEL

How much did this place go for?

STEPHEN

2.6 million.

DANIEL

Oh my God. London!

Daniel's phone rings! Unknown number. He LEAPS UP, and OUT -

CUT TO:

56 EXT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 39. 19.09 (2025) 56

- DANIEL heading into the GARDEN, on his MOBILE -

DANIEL

Hold on, hold on, hold on, hello?

CUT TO:

57 INT. THREE BRIDGES CENTRE - NIGHT 39. 19.10 (2025) 57

VIKTOR, in his ROOM. Small, two single beds, plain, but not a cell. Some BLOKE asleep on the other bed. Viktor on a basic MOBILE. INTERCUT with Daniel, Sc.56, in the garden.

VIKTOR

Hey, guess where I am?

DANIEL

I know where you are, I'm like a world expert in Three Bridges now, are you okay? Whose phone is this?

VIKTOR

They give you a phone with £10 credit, I'm not allowed my old one -

DANIEL

I know, I know, so what happened to your proper phone? Who's got it? Did they take it, did they bag it? Did they give you a receipt? Cos that's really not their property, d'you know where it is?

VIKTOR

I don't really care about the phone.

DANIEL

No.

Pause. Both smile. (Behind Daniel, INT. HOUSE, the family clears away, withdrawing, but all still watching Daniel.)

VIKTOR

Are you okay?

DANIEL

Yeah. I didn't even say goodbye.
(pause, both upset, but
Daniel recovers)

So. Anyway. I'm down here, in London, I'm not far away, I'm staying with Stephen, I've got your clothes. I just shoved them in, first thing tomorrow, I'll make an appointment to see you.

VIKTOR

You can't.

DANIEL

Well, tough, cos I can and I will.

VIKTOR

No, it takes 24 hours to make an appointment. And they're flying me out at 7am. 12 hours time.

DANIEL

No, but, Yvonne's put in an appeal.

VIKTOR

Doesn't matter.

DANIEL

But she's putting in an appeal.

VIKTOR

That's the system now. The law
reverted, back to 2014. You get
deported, then you can appeal.

DANIEL
But they can't do that.

VIKTOR
Okay. Tell them.

Silence.

Both holding on. Trying not to break.

DANIEL
7am.

VIKTOR
Yup.

DANIEL
Where to, Kiev?

VIKTOR
Yeah.

DANIEL
Well. Then. You go. And then.
We'll get you back.

VIKTOR
Yes please.

Hold on them both. Right on the edge.

No words.

CUT TO:

57A	INT. ROSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 39 01.00 (2025)	57A	*
	ROSIE asleep in bed, when...		*
	The duvet lifts up, and EDITH gets in.		*
	ROSIE		*
	Hey.		*
	EDITH		*
	Hi there. Shut up. Go to sleep.		*
	ROSIE		*
	What's all this?		*
	EDITH		*
	Nothing.		*
	ROSIE		*
	Is the bed all right?		*

EDITH *
It's fine. *

ROSIE *
Were the boys making trouble? *

EDITH *
No. *

ROSIE *
Is there something wrong? *

EDITH *
No. Just. This is nice. That's *
all. Now hush. *

ROSIE *
(smiles) *
Ahhh. *

EDITH *
Shut up. *

ROSIE *
Haven't done this for years. D'you *
remember that caravan? *

EDITH *
All the food went off, d'you *
remember? *

ROSIE *
Mum was livid. *

EDITH *
Happy days. *

ROSIE *
Yeah. *

Pause. *

EDITH *
Night, then. *

ROSIE *
Welcome home. *

And they both snuggle down. *

CUT TO: *

58 EXT. LONDON - DAWN. DAY 40. 06.58 (2025) 58 *

The Thames, and the city at sunrise. Ticking towards 7am.

CUT TO:

59 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAWN. DAY 40. 06.59 (2025)59

Early light. DANIEL standing there.

He went to bed for a bit. It didn't work.

Now he's waiting, waiting, waiting.

06.59.

STEPHEN in boxers & t-shirt. Making a coffee. Kettle rumbling. Looks at his watch, still 06.59. Goes through to see Daniel. But they've said it all. They just stand there.

Daniel looks at his phone.

Blink, 06.59 becomes 07.00.

DANIEL

Right.

Daniel makes to go.

STEPHEN

What are you going to do?

DANIEL

Go back home. Get him back.

He gives Stephen a kiss.

Grabs bag, jacket, whoosh, out of the door, SLAM!

CUT TO:

60 EXT. STREET NEAR ROSIE'S FLAT - DAY 40. 16.00 (2025) 60

ROSIE, whizzing along in her WHEELCHAIR! Fast! Excited!
Looking behind her like she's trying to race something.

She stops. Stabs a name in her MOBILE.

Excited, waiting, come on, come on...

EDITH OOV

Hi there, you okay?

ROSIE

Come outside! Quickly! Come and
look outside! Now!

CUT TO:

61 INT. ROSIE'S FLAT - DAY 40. 16.01 (2025) 61

EDITH waving away cigarette smoke, on her MOBILE.

EDITH

Danny says Viktor's been flown out,
he phoned the Home Office but just
ended up talking to a clerk -

ROSIE OOV

Yes yes yes, Edith, come outside!

CUT TO:

62 EXT. STREET NEAR ROSIE'S FLAT - DAY 40. 16.02 (2025) 62

ROSIE on her MOBILE, waving up at her flat.

ROSIE

Here I am! Can you see me?

EDITH appears on the balcony outside the flat, on her MOBILE.

EDITH

What's all the fuss?

ROSIE

Oh my God, wait and see, here it comes! Oh it's hilarious!

And rumbling down the street behind her...

A RED DOUBLE DECKER BUS. Open top.

Branded with Vivienne Rook's FACE. And slogans: VOTE VIV.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

It's the Battle Bus! It's the Rookmobile! It's Vivienne Rook!

Rosie can only look up, but Edith can see clearly from the balcony. STAFF on the top deck. A few PEOPLE on the street. KIDS ON BIKES chasing the bus, whooping. Some LADS jeer.

EDITH

Oh my God, I've read about her.

ROSIE

She's on TV, all the time, you've missed it, she's got her own party, the Four Stars. Hello Viv! HELLO!

The bus just passing Rosie.

EDITH

She sounds like a monster.

ROSIE

Oh I wouldn't vote for her, she's horrific. I read somewhere she acts all normal but she's a millionaire. GO VIV! Whoop!

EDITH

Rosie, I don't think she's actually on the bus.

ROSIE

Oh I know, she wouldn't set foot in this place, we've been Labour for 500 years. Mind you. Nice to have a woman. GO ON VIVIENNE! WHOOOO!

The bus trundles away, trailing kids on bikes in its wake.

CUT TO:

63 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT 40. 20.00 (2025) 63

THAT NIGHT. DANIEL standing in his kitchen with FRAN BAXTER, and their mate JILLY. Nursing coffees, tense. Waiting.

FRAN

So who's he got, out there?

DANIEL

His mum and dad. But they're Eastern Orthodox. And when the Russians occupied Ukraine, they named him. To the police. As gay. That's what people do. His own parents. He's got friends but they're all too scared -

RING RING, his LAPTOP, a Skype with a +380 number, Ukraine.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Oh my God, oh my God...

He stabs the connection, and on screen -

CUT TO:

64 INT. VIKTOR'S HOUSE, KIEV - NIGHT 40. 22.00 (2025) 64

There's Viktor, on the webcam. Smiling! He looks fine. Dark, cluttered house in b/g, home of his grimy gamer mate.

Viktor seen ONLY ON WEBCAM in sc.63, so he's remote, distant.

VIKTOR

Here I am, I'm alive, I did it, I'm here. Hello!

DANIEL

Are you all right? What time is it there, where are you?

VIKTOR

I'm fine, I'm really fine.

Fran and Jilly delighted, but hurrying out.

FRAN

We're going, don't mind us, we'll leave you to it! Well done Viktor. He'll get you home! Out, out, out.

VIKTOR

Hi there! Thank you!

DANIEL

I'll come round later, Fran.

Slam, they're gone. Daniel overwhelmed.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Look at your face. So where are you, where's that?

VIKTOR

Claude's. I'm staying with Claude. He's there, in the kitchen. Just to warn you. Don't whack it out.

DANIEL

I wasn't going to!

VIKTOR

Oh I would.

Both laughing.

DANIEL

But you're all right? I mean, you're not under arrest, are you?

VIKTOR

No, it's fine, I promise. One good thing. Britain deported 200 in one day. 55 to Kiev. So, y'know, that's a lot of people. It helps.

DANIEL

But you're on a government list.

VIKTOR

I don't want to fight. I just want to go. Till then... I'll do what they say. I will live discreetly.

DANIEL

Live discreetly.

VIKTOR

Until I come home.

DANIEL

I can fly out.

VIKTOR

But... is that discreet?

DANIEL

I don't know, is it?

VIKTOR

I don't know.

DANIEL

God.

VIKTOR
Just for now. We will be discreet.
(pause)
I love you.

DANIEL
Well. I love you. But. Can they
listen to this?

VIKTOR
I don't know.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. MUNICIPAL HALL - NIGHT 40. 20.10 (2025) 65

CARS, PEOPLE, NOISE. ROSIE and EDITH making their way
through the CROWD. It's a PUBLIC DEBATE for the by-election.

POSTERS and PLACARDS for Vivienne Rook. VOTE VIV simplified
to XVIV. POLICE on duty, SUPPORTERS for STAN THOMAS
(Labour), ASRA BAVAYI (Conservative), SUZIE CHAN (Liberal)
and ROY BASSETT (Independent), but images of Viv dominate.

EDITH
This is a different country to the
one I left! No one used to care
about by-elections, it's gone mad.

ROSIE
We're all bloody furious now.

EDITH
What about?

ROSIE
Everything.

CUT TO:

66 INT. MUNICIPAL HALL - NIGHT 40. 20.15 (2025) 66

PACKED. 400 PEOPLE. Noise, hubbub, a bristling atmosphere,
laughter, shouts, POLICE, people calling to mates across the
room. Rows of seating, with people standing on the edges
too. In the front row, JULIE PEASGOOD is signing autographs.

ROSIE's got an end-of-row space for her WHEELCHAIR, 10 rows
back, EDITH beside her. With something worrying her:

EDITH
I'm not getting in the way, am I?
At home. Cos you keep cleaning up
around me. Every time I make a
move, you're there, cleaning.
Would you rather I went?

ROSIE

No, I love having you there, it's just...

(confession time)

Look. With mum. When she was on chemo, the leaflet said, the drugs are radioactive, so don't touch urine. Don't touch vomit. Don't touch any bodily fluids. And it kind of got to me, I mean, I was with her all day, I wore gloves and scrubbed everything.

(helpless)

You're not radioactive, are you?

EDITH

No, I'm not.

ROSIE

I keep thinking of the boys.

EDITH

I wouldn't do that to you! I swear, it doesn't work like that. You get more radiation off rocks -

ROSIE

- oh my God - !

- as VIVIENNE ROOK enters! Applause, cheers, boos! One row of YOUNG PEOPLE sits and applauds in SIGN LANGUAGE.

Also, STAN THOMAS, ASRA BAVATI, SUZIE CHAN, ROY BASSETT walking in, with the HOST, 40y/o LUCIE DENHAM, local TV presenter. But it's all about Viv. Not everyone supporting her, it's scattered, but wild. Viv in her element.

Rosie caught up in the moment, yells. Edith bemused.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Come on, Viv! Come on!

EDITH

Are you on her side, now?

ROSIE

I don't know, I haven't made my mind up. COME ON VIVIENNE!!

JUMP CUT TO 10 MINUTES LATER.

The five candidates have a podium each. And the audience is a sea of DEVICES. 80% of people with the glow of a MOBILE. Many filming, many taking photos, many texting & tweeting. It's a 3-way conversation; stage, audience, and devices. And it's all being SIGNED by an INTERPRETER, side of the stage.

The main battle is between Viv and Stan. Viv in fine form.

VIV ROOK

I think your party's let us down,
Stan, just like the Conservatives,
just like all of you. Europe is
punishing us. They're imposing
embargoes and export tariffs and
border restrictions, we're fed up!
And what are you doing? Nothing.

STAN THOMAS

Export tariffs?

VIV ROOK

Yes.

STAN THOMAS

They impose export tariffs?

VIV ROOK

It's a disgrace.

STAN THOMAS

What's an export tariff?

Viv thrown. Caught.

VIV ROOK

...I mean, tariffs, in general.

STAN THOMAS

If they impose an export tariff,
then they pay the export tariff
themselves. We don't pay, they do.
Do you actually understand that?

VIV ROOK

I just meant...

STAN THOMAS

I don't think you understand
anything. This is really,
detailed, precise information and
you don't begin to understand it,
you're just saying words, Mrs Rook!

Whoops, hostile yells. Viv's lost the crowd.

ROSIE

Oops.

Edith looking round, fascinated. Everyone: PHOTOS, TEXTS.

JUMP CUT TO FORTY MINUTES LATER. Host announces:

LUCIE DENHAM

And now, closing remarks from
Vivienne Rook, Four Star Party.

Viv at the podium. The audience: phones, lights, screens, glowing. Viv calm, quiet, taking her time.

VIV ROOK

Thank you. And thank you to my fellow candidates. I've been humbled tonight, I've learnt a lot. I certainly know about export tariffs, now. Although I can't help noticing, a woman is not allowed one mistake.

A couple of cheers. Edith thinks it's a cheap shot, mutters:

EDITH

Don't do that.

VIV ROOK

I wonder. We've been asked about strategies. And policies. I've been accused of sounding vague. I think, perhaps, I'm cautious. No. I'm scared. I am. I am terrified. Given the size of the task in front of me. Have you seen one of these?

She takes out a small, WHITE STICK. Audience murmurs.

VIV ROOK (CONT'D)

They've been on the news. Highly illegal. Smuggled in from Taiwan. I will be surrendering this to the police as soon as we're done here tonight. For those of you who don't know, this is called a Blink. A Blink is a weapon. Created by cyberterrorists. It goes... blink.

She clicks it, like a pen.

BLINK! All DEVICES go out. Phones, tablets, SCREENS GO DEAD. Not the overhead lights, just online tech.

Consternation. Rosie showing her dead phone to Edith. A few yells from the floor, complaining. But Viv dominates.

VIV ROOK (CONT'D)

It takes out any online device within a radius of 30 metres -
(singles out a protestor)
If you don't mind, I'm talking, and if you can't manage without your phone for five minutes while we talk, face to face, like human beings, then what is the point of anything, sir?
(to the room)
Because I would go further.
(MORE)

VIV ROOK (CONT'D)

I would suggest. Legalising the Blink. I would give one of these to every parent. Every teacher. Every school. I would activate the Blink in every classroom. Every home. Every day. Because d'you know what I did? I looked at my goddaughter's phone. She is six years old. She is six years old and let me tell you what I saw, on the phone of that six year old girl, on the phone of every six year old girl in the country, on the phone of every six year old girl and boy in the whole of the civilised world, I saw this.

One of Viv's TEAM operates a LAPTOP. There's a SCREEN behind the candidates, facing the audience. It lights up, and as the FOOTAGE shashes and blinks into life -

STAN THOMAS

Hey. That's cheating, we're not allowed visual aids -

VIV ROOK

Get a new plan, Stan.

(to the room)

This is the filth, on the phones.

IMAGES play behind her. Hard core porn, but FOCUS on Viv - the images BLURRED behind her, shapes in EXTREME CU and SLOW-MOTION, NO SOUND, though the audience can see clearly.

ROSIE

Oh my God.

EDITH

Wow.

WILD REACTIONS, some people EXITING, outraged, some with KIDS, hurrying them out - some MEN CHEER, some stand yelling 'Turn it off!' 'You can't show that!' 'That's disgusting!'

But Viv is magnificent!

VIV ROOK

Look at it. Look at it! Because our children do. Non-stop porn, streaming into our children's eyes. All day long.

(singles out a man)

You there, laughing, are you proud of this, mate? Are you? Pornographic sex for kids?

ROSIE

Amazing.

VIV ROOK

But let me guarantee. As your MP.
I will go to Parliament. On your
behalf. And I will find those CEOs
in California. Those hi-tech
giants. Those men! I will bring
them here. Not to appear in front
of a select committee, no, I will
bring them here to stand trial! I
will bring them here to find them
guilty! I will bring them here to
jail them! Are you *with me?*!

A WAVE through the audience, WOMEN in particular, but MEN
too, stand, yell, 'Yes!' Rosie exhilarated!

ROSIE

Yes! Yes! Yes!

VIV ROOK

And now, ladies and gentlemen...

ICONIC IMAGE as she holds the WHITE STICK aloft.

BLINK!

All the DEVICES come back on!

VIV ROOK (CONT'D)

Tweet that!

And EVERYONE LIFTS A PHONE, snap, snap, snap!

CUT TO A FEROCIOUS BLIZZARD OF IMAGES, whoosh!, online, FULL
SCREEN: Viv, Viv, Viv, Viv, Viv & Blink. Viv's smile.

IMAGES INTERCUT with: #voteviv #saviour #helpthekids #YASSS
#vivrules <3 VIV #4star #vivforPM #atlast #youhadtobethere,
with comments: *At last! Victory 4 Viv! OMG Hitler. Rook
takes flight. Vote vote vote! Brave new world.*

People clapping. The sign-language row jazz-handing like
mad. And then Edith makes her mind up. She stands.
Alongside Rosie. And Edith begins to clap, hard, grim.

ROSIE

Thought you hated her.

EDITH

Tear the world down.

CUT TO:

67 INT. MUNICIPAL HALL - NIGHT 40. 21.20 (2025)

67

10 MINUTES LATER, FLOOR LEVEL, A CRUSH, POLICE & VIV'S STAFF holding back the CROWD, for VIV to reach the door. Rough, but not terrifying, Viv in control, grabbing handshakes.

VIV ROOK

Thank you. Thank you. Make sure
you vote. Get registered.

- and suddenly ROSIE's pushing forward, for a SELFIE!

ROSIE

Out the way, out the way, 'scuse me-
(yells)
Viv! For the kids! D'you mind?

Viv sees a chance, delighted to be photographed with a
wheelchair-user, leans in with Rosie, big smile, SNAP!

And Rosie Lyons is snapped with the future Prime Minister.

CUT TO:

68 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 40. 23.00 (2025) 68

CELESTE taking GLASSES out of a kitchen cupboard.

Wrapping them in paper.

Putting them in a big CARDBOARD BOX, full of wrapping.

WIDER, the whole kitchen almost BARE. Lots of BOXES. Moving
day is approaching, in a few days. Celeste introspective.

STEPHEN at work, on his LAPTOP, but 11pm, he's ready for bed.

CELESTE

I'm fed up of it, now. Finish off
tomorrow. Going to bed?

STEPHEN

Yeah. The money's in. Thank you,
Mr Yamagata.

On screen, his bank: THE OLD ALLIANCE. Account: £1,220,000.

But she's not smiling.

CELESTE

Ruby's right. I don't want to move
either.

(puts on a smile)

Still. Maddy said there might be
jobs with Simon Harris. Worth a
try. Coming up?

And she heads upstairs.

Stephen closes the laptop.

STEPHEN

Signor, lights out downstairs.

SIGNOR VOICE
Lights out, ground floor.

And click, click, click, the lights go out on the ground floor, as Stephen heads upstairs. He's just a little figure in a shaft of light in the hall as he pads up, to go to bed.

Hold, let him go. The house ticks over. Waiting.

CUT TO:

69 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 40. 01.00 69
(2025)

That same tension, of waiting, in the dark. 1am. STEPHEN and CELESTE fast asleep. And then...

Beep.

A text.

Silence. Then...

Beep.

Another text. And beep, another. And beep, a third.

It's Stephen's MOBILE. And Celeste's MOBILE too. Though more texts on Stephen's. Beep, beep, beep, beep.

He surfaces, reaches for his phone.

Reads. Puzzled. Beep, more texts, Celeste stirring too.

CELESTE
My phone.

STEPHEN
No, it's mine as well.

He switches on the light. Stares at his phone. Both sit up.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
It's Sally. And Tanya.

CELESTE
Me too. And Richard Peel.

STEPHEN
What time is it in Tokyo?

CELESTE
Must be... 9am. Just opened.

STEPHEN
(of the texts, worried)
D'you think it's true?

CUT TO:

70 INT. BBC NEWS CHANNEL STUDIO - NIGHT 40. 01.01 (2025) 70
ECONOMICS EDITOR to CAMERA. Urgent news.

ECONOMICS EDITOR
The Japanese Exchange Group has
issued a statement of no confidence
in Foster-Foster Drake.

FINANCE EDITOR to CAMERA.

FINANCE EXPERT
Foster-Foster Drake is the second
largest investment bank in America -

CUT BACK TO Economics Editor, to CAMERA.

ECONOMICS EDITOR
The JXS maintains that Foster-
Foster Drake will be filing for a
Chapter 11 bankruptcy as soon as
trading opens on the East Coast -

CUT TO:

71 OMITTED 71

72 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 40. 01.15 (2025) 72
KITCHEN. STEPHEN & CELESTE in night clothes. Coffee.
Worried. Stephen's laptop on THE OLD ALLIANCE online bank.
Stabbing refresh, but not getting through.

STEPHEN
The online bank's gone down. Must
be everyone.

CELESTE
But Foster-Foster Drake doesn't own
the Alliance.

STEPHEN
No. We'll be fine. It's
connected, though. They ghost a
lot of services.

CELESTE

And you left. All that money. In one account?

STEPHEN

I just... I don't move money till the morning. That's what I do. Every morning. I have a coffee. And if money needs moving. That's when I do it.

(bright smile)

Nothing we can do till the banks open. I can sort it then. Okay?

CUT TO:

73

INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAY 41. 08.30 (2025)

73

BRIGHT SUNLIGHT. KITCHEN, STEPHEN now dressed, stabbing refresh, refresh, refresh. But the Alliance online is still frozen. He's on his MOBILE, 'Sorry, this service is unavailable.' He's got two other MOBILES on the table, swaps, 'Sorry, this service is unavailable.' BETHANY is sitting there, worried, hand-phone to ear; she's calling on Stephen's behalf. But, 'Sorry, service unavailable.'

A clatter, he sees CELESTE hurry down the stairs, dressed. (During this, RUBY passes by for breakfast, ignoring it all.)

CELESTE

I'm going to the bank.

STEPHEN

You can't take out 1.2 million.

CELESTE

I know, I'm going to move it.

They've argued about this all night:

STEPHEN

I always move the money in the mornings!

CELESTE (CONT'D)

I'm not saying it's your fault!

STEPHEN

Celeste. This is the kind of thing that causes a run on the bank.

CELESTE

Yes. And if there's a run on the bank. I am running.

She heads out. Stephen panics - grabs coat -

STEPHEN

Okay. Good point. Hold on!
(calls to Bethany, of her
hand)
Is that thing working?

BETHANY

There's no reply.

STEPHEN

Keep trying. It's Bruce McNolte,
patch him through to me!

And he runs, after Celeste -

CUT TO:

74 OMITTED 74

75 EXT. PEDESTRIANISED STREET, LONDON - DAY 41. 08.40 (2025) 75

STEPHEN and CELESTE marching along.

STEPHEN

He's not just a friend, Bruce.
He's a mate. I wrote that
reference for his son. And if he
could just backdate, that's all, if
he backdated the transfer by one
day -

They round the corner. Stop dead.

It's a broad street, with major shops and chains, like any
city. But there's a BIG CROWD outside THE OLD ALLIANCE BANK.
Ordinary people. Restive, but behaving, POLICE on duty.

CELESTE

Oh my God.

STEPHEN

No. We'll be all right. Come on.
We're not just any old customers.

They walk forward, to the back of the crowd.

At the front, POLICE are keeping PEOPLE back - calmly, for
now, it's under control - as customers are allowed in one by
one, with ALLIANCE STAFF on duty in the doorway.

ALLIANCE STAFF MEMBER

One at a time. I'm sorry. Just
one at a time, that's it, I'm sorry
but could you just keep back?

CELESTE

They're going in one at a time.

STEPHEN

But this is *us*.

Sees a slightly-separate POLICEMAN to the side of the crowd:

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Hold on. Wait here.

Stephen leaves her, makes his way round to the policeman.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm sorry, this is all a bit of
a mess, isn't it? I wonder if you
could get me in?

POLICEMAN

You'll just have to wait, sir.

STEPHEN

No, but. I'm quite a special customer. I haven't got just 500 quid in an ISA, I'm on the Gold Star list.

POLICEMAN

Sorry, there's nothing I can do, you've got to queue with the rest.

STEPHEN

Is Bruce McNolte in there? He's the Area Manager. I actually know Bruce McNolte quite well. I've had dinner at his house. And he'd want to see me.

POLICEMAN

I've told you, nothing I can do.

STEPHEN

But I really need to see him!

POLICEMAN

And I'll have to ask you to step back, thank you, sir.

STEPHEN

But he's my friend!

POLICEMAN

Sir. I'm telling you. Step away.

STEPHEN

My name is Stephen Lyons.

But then -

ALLIANCE STAFF MEMBER

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I've been told to lock the doors. Sorry!

- as he steps INSIDE. And staff CLOSE THE DOORS. LOCK THEM.

STEPHEN

But they can't. They can't!

THE CROWD'S furious! The ANGER SPREADS, people yelling, and the crowd SURGES FORWARD. POLICE holding them back.

These are ordinary people. Men and women, students, pensioners, reduced to yelling, pushing, all terrified.

At the back of the crowd, Celeste steps back, horrified. She can see Stephen, in the crowd, red-faced, yelling. He doesn't look like anyone she knows any more.

Then she sees someone run past, behind her.

Heading somewhere else.

Then two, three more, running. She walks in their direction. Panic spreading like wildfire. Then she begins to RUN.

Celeste runs, runs, runs, terror taking over.

These people are running to a SECOND BANK, CLIFF & SHORE. Here too, the doors are locked. They start banging on the glass. A RED-FACED MAN is going WILD.

RED-FACED MAN

You've got my money! You can't do this! You've got £20,000 of my money, let me in! Let me in!!

Police run in, to hold them back. Celeste halts. Wild-eyed. She calls, on her mobile, *terrified* now. Has to shout:

CELESTE

Stephen? Can you hear me? It's the same with Cliff & Shore. The whole thing's going down.

CUT TO the Alliance crowd, Stephen in the crush, on his mobile:

STEPHEN

Oh Jesus. Try to get anything. Anything.

Behind him, the POLICEMAN is realising what's happening down the street. He's got money in Cliff & Shore! Panic on his face. He abandons his post, runs!

Stephen pushes forward - reaches the front -

He hammers on the glass.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Let me in! I'm a friend of Bruce McNolte's! I'm a friend of Bruce!

Cliff & Shore: Celeste not joining in, stepping back as more people run in. Red-faced man still shouting and now - the POLICEMAN from the Alliance reaches the bank, joins in! Hammering on the glass, losing it.

POLICEMAN

You've got my money! You've got my money! Give me my money!!

Celeste just standing back. Watching the world fall apart.

She looks back, helpless at the Alliance crowd.

CUT TO Stephen, wild, losing it, hammering and hammering:

STEPHEN

Let me in, let me in, *let me in!!*

CUT TO:

76 OMITTED

76

77 OMITTED

77

78 OMITTED 78

79 OMITTED 79

80 OMITTED 80

81 OMITTED 81

82 INT. STEPHEN & CELESTE'S HOUSE - DAY 41. 12.00 (2025) 82
Silence.

STEPHEN standing there, shattered. Hollow. CELESTE, a distance away. Only just holding on. BETHANY and RUBY sitting, scared. The house around them bare, in BOXES.

Hold the silence, then he talks to the air, via Signor.

STEPHEN

The bank has failed. Officially. The government could step in. But won't. So that leaves us kind of... stuffed.

(little laugh)

That's the word. Stuffed. I said to Mr Yamagata, can't we just wind back a day? Just to be nice? But no. He said no. The house is sold, and we've got to get out.

CUT TO:

83 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 41. 12.01 (2025) 83

DANIEL amazed, on his PHONE to Stephen, sc.82. No handset, talking to the air, a blue light on his Alexa-type unit.

On his LAPTOP, also listening -

CUT TO:

84 INT. VIKTOR'S HOUSE, KIEV - DAY 41. 14.01 (2025) 84

VIKTOR on WEBCAM, insert into sc.83, listening to Stephen.

CUT TO:

85 INT. ROSIE'S FLAT - DAY 41. 12.01 (2025) 85

ROSIE & EDITH amazed, on Signor, listening to Stephen, sc.82.

CUT TO:

86 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 41. 12.01 (2025) 86

MURIEL on her MOBILE, horrified, listening to Stephen, sc.82.

DANIEL

So how much have you lost?

STEPHEN

Well. We're covered. Up to £85,000. That's the limit. There was a Temporary High Balance clause but...

CELESTE

It's gone.

STEPHEN

With the collapse of Foster-Foster
Drake... insurance is fucked.

MURIEL

Stephen, how much did you lose?

STEPHEN

Minus the 85. We lost one million,
one hundred and 35 thousand pounds.

DANIEL

Oh my God.

Rosie shocked, thrilled, goes to laugh. Edith: 'Don't!'

Viktor mimes, with his ear, how much?

Daniel mouths, 'One million! Plus!' Viktor open-mouthed!

MURIEL

How much of that can you get back?

STEPHEN

Nothing. That's it.

ROSIE

You've still got 85,000 though!

STEPHEN

To buy a house? Is that enough?
With two kids? Really?

ROSIE

Give it to me, I'll have a go!

MURIEL

Stop it, Rosie.

More in her stride now:

ROSIE

No, I won't, because! They've
knackered the whole country. For
the second time. The bankers and
the experts and... I'm sorry, but
people like Stephen! They did
this. Yes they did!

Edith gives her a solidarity-raised fist.

MURIEL

All right. Rosie. Not now.

ROSIE
Well it's true.

EDITH
It *is* true.

STEPHEN
Have you finished? Enjoying yourselves? Thanks.

DANIEL
What about work? What happens?

STEPHEN
It's... not great. I'm the financial advisor who lost a million quid.

CELESTE
And you might be facing charges for rioting in the street.

MURIEL
There's no need for that.

CELESTE
Shut up.

All the Lyons: ouch!

Silence. Raw. Then:

DANIEL
So what are you going to do? Where are you going to live?

That question hums in the air, and...

CUT TO:

87 OMITTED 87

88 EXT. MURIEL'S HOUSE - DAY 42. 14.00 (2025) 88

MURIEL steps out of her front door. Smiling. To greet...

STEPHEN. Pulling up. The CAR packed with CASES. A big, overflowing ROOF RACK. And a TRAILER behind the car, stuffed full of their worldly goods.

Stephen gets out to walk to his Gran, feet made of lead, CELESTE getting out, mustering a thin smile, then BETHANY and RUBY. With such heavy hearts. Their new lives unfolding.

MURIEL

We'll be fine. There's plenty of
room! Happy little household.

A look from Muriel to Celeste, tight as a high-tension cable.
Then Muriel hugs Stephen.
He's close to tears. So is she.

CUT TO:

89 INT. MUNICIPAL HALL - NIGHT 43. 01.40 (2025) 89

RETURNING OFFICER at the MICROPHONE.

RETURNING OFFICER
Vivienne Alison Rook, Four Star
Party... 18,556 votes.

Amazement from the CROWD, woah, that's a huge vote. The HALL full, all parties, wild, fevered atmosphere. Now, CHEERS and BOOS, but immediately shushing. TENSION. Is it enough?

On stage, lined up: VIV ROOK, STAN THOMAS, ASRA BAVATI, SUZIE CHAN, ROY BASSETT. All with fixed smiles. Stan worried.

RETURNING OFFICER (CONT'D)
Stanley Edward Thomas, Labour.
17,367 votes.

She's won!

Viv gasps. Amazed.

The place goes wild! YELLS, CHEERS! Labour, Conservative and Liberal voters in absolute revolt. Matched by the Four Star Party voters. JULIE PEASGOOD is hoisted up on shoulders. And in the crowd: ROSIE LYONS. Yelling!

ROSIE
Go Viv! Yes! You did it!

RETURNING OFFICER
I declare that Vivienne Rook is
duly elected as Member of
Parliament for this constituency.

All shake hands on stage, polite, but Viv's fast, brisk - Stan dismissed - as she walks forward, to the microphone.

The crowd insane!

And Viv rises to the moment. Stands there. Soaking it in.

CUT TO:

90 INT. ROSIE'S FLAT - NIGHT 43. 01.41 (2025) 90

EDITH watching, with LEE. LINCOLN's been allowed to stay up too, in case they see mum. He's wide-eyed. Edith raises a beer to Viv, loving anyone who can smash the system apart.

On TV: BBC NORTH WEST NEWS COVERAGE of sc.89.

CUT TO:

91 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT 43. 01.42 (2025) 91

DANIEL sits alone, watching TV. Terrified.

On TV: BBC NORTH WEST NEWS COVERAGE of sc.89.

CUT TO:

92 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, STUDY - NIGHT 43. 01.43 (2025) 92

MURIEL watching TV. With STEPHEN, CELESTE, RUBY and BETHANY packed in. It's so old-fashioned, for them, to sit and watch a plain old TV together, but they're being polite, for now.

On TV: BBC NORTH WEST NEWS COVERAGE of sc.89.

CUT TO:

93 INT. MUNICIPAL HALL - NIGHT 43. 01.44 (2025) 93

VIV ROOK at the microphone. CROWD yelling. ROSIE ecstatic.

And this is the moment. History turns around this.

VIV ROOK

The beginning. Just the beginning
(into camera)

This is just the beginning. I
promise you, this is the day when -

CUT TO:

94 INT. MURIEL'S HOUSE, STUDY - NIGHT 43. 01.45 (2025) 94

Click, Muriel changes channel.

MURIEL

You don't mind, do you?

STEPHEN & CELESTE

(yes!)

No!

END OF EPISODE TWO