

THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Written by

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Based on the book  
Trapped  
By David C Jaundrell

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1 INT. NIGHT. RESTAURANT

Three couples are having dinner in a half full restaurant. They are middle class, educated, mid thirties. JOY is heavily pregnant.

CHLOE  
(patting JOY's stomach)  
It's so exciting. Not long to go now.

PAUL  
(to Joys husband)  
And think of all that tax benefit eh mate? And the sleepless nights, no more sex for ages, the poo, University fees, banged away for drugs...

DAN  
(smiling)  
Can't wait

ROB  
(raises glass)  
To the unborn, yet to be named, future Prime Minister of Great Britain and, if he does his job right, the world.

They all raise their glasses

ROB (CONT'D)  
To the next leader of the world.

2 INT. NIGHT. CAR. LATER

Deserted city streets

Joy and Dan are staring ahead.

JOY  
You arsehole. Can't wait indeed.

DAN  
Fuck you

JOY  
That was the first mistake I made. I let you. Well not exactly let you did I?

DAN  
Not this again.

JOY  
You raped me

DAN  
For Christs sake I didn't rape you.  
You were my wife and we were both  
drunk, thank god.

JOY  
We hadn't had sex in months

DAN  
And then we did, for what it was  
worth. Get over it.

JOY  
Why did you stop?

DAN  
(shakes his head)  
Give it a rest

JOY  
And why should I get over it! I'm  
about to have a baby which you  
don't want, and I may lose my  
career over, and that's all you can  
say?

DAN  
Well that's the catholic faith for  
you eh? Expensive catholic  
education, paying homage to some  
imaginary god whose disciples tell  
women they can't do contraception  
or abortion. That worked for you  
didn't it. And I'm the asshole?

Joy punches him in the face. The tyres squeal as Dan  
struggles with the wheel and the car mounts the curb and hits  
a wall.

3 NIGHT. HOSPITAL. THEATRE. LATER

Dan looks through a glass panel into the Theatre where  
doctors and nurses surround Joy who lies on a surgical table.  
Her face is bruised, her legs are raised. The baby is pulled  
out by a nurse but it is not breathing. The nurse slaps it,  
and again.

DOCTOR  
Oxygen!

An oxygen mask is placed over the baby's face. The nurse slaps it again, and again and it starts crying. The crew show relief and happiness at their success. The baby is given to Joy who shows little sign of happiness. Joy looks over to the glass pane but Dan has his back to her and on his phone.

DAN

I can't for Christs sake, she's in an operating theatre having the thing. ....its alright for you, everybody knows about you..... No, I have too much to lose.... I don't know when....

(he snarls in anger and hangs up)

4 EXT. NIGHT. STREET

A three storey mews house in a middle class suburb.

5 INT. LOUNGE.

Dan and Joy are watching tv and drinking wine. The baby starts crying upstairs. Joy looks at Dan who shows his irritation in his face

DAN

Why me?

JOY

(still watching tv)

Why not?

He gets up, points a finger angrily in her face, and leaves the room, taking his wine with him.

6 INT. CHILDS (DAVID) BEDROOM.

The bedroom is dimly lit with a side light. David is in a cot crying loudly.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES.

Dan is seen entering the room

The picture is a bit 'jumpy' as the baby tries to focus on Dan.

He walks around the cot, one side then the other, staring at David

DAN

(quiet, with menace)

What the fuck are you looking at?

David is still watching but crying less.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Like watching do you? Like crying  
do you?

He looks round at the door, then approaches the baby. Dan extends his hand to the baby, who reaches towards it. But Dan moves his hand very close to the baby's face where it lingers for a moment, and then he flicks his finger viciously in the baby's eye.

Half the screen disappears and the baby screams in pain.

Normal

DAN (CONT'D)  
(Goes to door, opens it  
and shouts)  
I need help up here

Joy arrives. The baby is still screaming

DAN (CONT'D)  
There's something wrong with his  
eye

Joy looks at David

JOY  
Oh Christ. Now what do we do?

DAN  
It would help if he shut up

Dan goes to the baby and squeezes his mouth open

JOY  
What are you doing?

DAN  
Shutting him up

He pours wine in the baby's mouth.

JOY  
We can hardly ring a doctor now  
you've done that.

DAN  
Do it tomorrow, he won't die

Joy goes to pick David up

DAN (CONT'D)  
Just leave him. He'll only ruin the  
night downstairs as well

JOY

But..

DAN

(curtly)

Leave him

Joy thinks for a few moments but shrugs and they go downstairs.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

He sobs as he blurrily watches the door close

7

EXT. PARK. SUMMER - DAY

Caption on Screen - age 2 years

Joy is sitting on a park bench, using her iPad. David is sitting on the grass playing with a teddy bear.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

He looks at the trees. On one of them a kite is stuck and its tail flutters in the breeze. He looks around the park. At its space, the sun, children and dogs playing.

NORMAL

A woman with a dog approaches, smiles and looks at David. She bends down to him.

WOMAN

Hello

(David is not responsive -  
she talks to Joy)

Lovely day.

JOY

(not keen to talk)

Yes

WOMAN

How old is the child?

JOY

(Joy is stumped for a  
second)

About two

The woman looks at her quizzically for a fleeting moment. Joy continues on her iPad. The woman strokes David's cheek and notices a bruise on his neck.

WOMAN  
Did he fall over?

JOY  
What?

WOMAN  
He's got a bruise on his neck, did he fall over?

JOY  
He's forever bumping into things. Wanders all over the room exploring. Saw the doctor but he just said let him enjoy himself, he won't come to much harm.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

WOMAN  
(lovely smile - tickling David's cheek)  
Maybe you'll grow up to be an explorer sometime eh?

David looks at his mother's face who is not smiling. He looks back at the smiling woman.

NORMAL

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Ah well, take care. Come on Bruce. Ta ta little man

JOY  
Ok, bye

Joy goes back to her iPad but after a few moments looks to where the woman is now a distance away and throwing a ball for the dog, then covers the bruise with the child's clothes.

8 INT. HOME. KITCHEN. TEATIME - DAY

CAPTION ON SCREEN - age 5 years

The family sit eating around a kitchen island.

JOY  
School tomorrow. That will be good eh?

DAVID  
(looking at Dan)  
Yes

JOY

We've got everything, haven't we.  
Books, pens, crayons, even a little  
packed lunch if you need it

DAVID

Yes

DAN

And work hard. You get nothing in  
this life if you don't work hard.

JOY

He's five, going to a junior  
school. He's not doing an MBA.

DAN

(pointing to himself)

I've got an MBA

9

INT. NIGHT. (BUT LIGHT) . LOUNGE - LATER

The family are watching a natural history program.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

A lion pursues an antelope and drags it down and kills it. He  
slowly looks sideways at Dan.

Normal

DAN

See, the survival of the fittest.  
Kill or be killed. The hunter or  
the hunted.

JOY

I think I've said this before, he's  
five

DAN

He's got to learn. Doesn't want to  
grow up to be some weak little  
nancy boy.

JOY

(sarcastically)

Who can't get it up

DAN

You be very fucking careful

Joy gets up

JOY

I'm going to make some tea



DAN  
Wine please

JOY  
I'm fed up of making tea

DAN  
Very funny

Dan picks up the remote

DAN (CONT'D)  
Let's watch that again

He rewinds and plays it again. As the lion gets the antelope by the neck he puts it on slo-mo.

DAN (CONT'D)  
(glaring at David)  
Just remember that.  
(he opens his mouth wide  
to expose his teeth and  
holds his throat)

10 DAVID'S BEDROOM. - LATER

David is in bed reading a comic. The door opens. Dan walks in. David's face changes and he is wary. Dan sits on the bed.

DAN  
Now, lets make sure you've got this right. What do you say at school tomorrow?

DAVID  
Nothing

DAN  
And what do you say about home?

DAVID  
It's nice

DAN  
And what about your parents?

DAVID  
They're nice

DAN  
And what else have you got to do?  
Always got to do?

DAVID  
Smile

DAN  
Good. Cause you know what will  
happen if you don't?

DAVID  
Yes

DAN  
What?

David starts to shake and whimper.

DAN (CONT'D)  
(quietly, with aggression)  
What will happen?

David puts his fingers together and opens his mouth

DAN (CONT'D)  
Yes. And now you're getting bigger  
there's something else I'm sure  
you'll like soon

Dan walks to the door, turns and clicks his fingers. David  
automatically opens his mouth.

DAN (CONT'D)  
That will never stop amusing me

The door closes and David looks through the window at a large  
tree a distance away.

11 INT. KITCHEN. NEXT MORNING

His school satchel is ready. Joy is having breakfast and  
david is sitting, watching her.

JOY  
What?

He just looks at her and is near to tears

JOY (CONT'D)  
What?

He holds out his arms

JOY (CONT'D)  
(annoyed)  
Oh for goodness sake, don't be so  
needy

She ignores him and takes her plate to the sink

His face is filled with rejection.

12 EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOL - DAY

Cars are arriving at school gates and dropping off children.

13 INT. CAR. SAME

JOY

You've got everything?

DAVID

Yes

JOY

Ok, one of us will be back later to  
pick you up.

David looks at the mothers taking their children in to  
school.

DAVID

(pleading)

You stay with me

JOY

I haven't got time

DAVID

Please

JOY

(irritated)

Just go

David starts crying

JOY (CONT'D)

Oh for goodness sake

She gets out of the car, goes to his door and pulls him out.  
She looks to see if she has been noticed. Another mother is  
watching

JOY (CONT'D)

(smiling, relaxed)

He decides to get first day nerves  
just when I have an important  
meeting at work. Ah well, I  
supposed it happened to all of us.

MOTHER

He can come in with us if you like.  
My two are just starting as well.

JOY

If you wouldn't mind

MOTHER  
No problem at all

JOY  
(Unseen, quiet, forceful)  
You just go with the woman and shut  
up. Ok.  
(Louder)  
Ok, go with the nice lady and I  
will pick you up later

She gives him to the lady who is with twin girls.

JOY (CONT'D)  
Thank you

MOTHER  
My names....

She sees that Joy is already in the car, and stares for a few moments.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
One hell of an important meeting.  
(to David- smiling warmly)  
What's your name?

David nods at her, and watches her warily, but smiling. Always smiling.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

DAVID  
It's nice

The bell rings in school

MOTHER  
(Giggling)  
Well its time to go 'nice'

She leads them into school. Before he goes in he looks back at a large tree in the playground.

14 David is sitting in a class of children. On the desk is a drawing book.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

He watches the other children intently. Going from one to another. He sees a child throw a crayon to the floor and immediately looks to the teacher. His heart beat raises dramatically and thumps away. The teacher doesn't notice. The other child looks at him and David points agitatedly at the crayon on the floor, whilst quickly looking back and forward to the teacher.

The teacher notices and walks over. David's heart beat thumps furiously.

TEACHER  
(smiling)  
You ok?

He nods and makes a small noise

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
Good

The teacher notices the crayon, picks it up and gives it to the child.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
(to David)  
What have you been drawing?

NORMAL

She sees David drawing on both pages. They are both crude but one shows a tree and the other a devil.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
You've been watching too much tele

15

INT. NIGHT. LOUNGE

CAPTION SHOWS six years old

David and Dan are watching tv. Joy comes in with her coat on.

JOY  
I'm off now. Early night for you as your teacher says you're not doing too well at school. She says you don't pay much attention. So, more sleep. Ah well, bye

DAVID  
Bye mom. Mom?

JOY  
Yes?

DAVID  
Could I come? I want to come.

JOY  
What is wrong with you?  
(to Dan)  
Just what I need, two pathetic males in the family

Dan raises his middle finger.

JOY (CONT'D)  
Just watch tele with your dad and  
go to bed in an hour

Joy leaves

16 INT. LOUNGE. LATER

Two cups on small table, two plates, half eaten sandwich.

DAN  
Right, it's bed time

David doesn't move

DAN (CONT'D)  
Move

David shrinks back in chair. Dan rushes at him and grabs his neck. David struggles. Dan pushes him down and puts a cushion over his face. After a few moments David stops struggling and Dan takes the cushion off. A few moments later David comes round. Dan grabs his shirt and hauls him out of the lounge.

17 INT. NIGHT. DAVID'S BEDROOM.

The room is dim. Dan drags David in and throws him on to the bed.

DAN  
Get undressed

David doesn't move. Dan grabs his throat.

DAN (CONT'D)  
(very angry)  
Do as I fucking tell you or you end  
up like the fucking antelope

When David is naked Dan clicks his fingers and David automatically opens his mouth

DAN (CONT'D)  
I don't think so

He grabs David and bends him over the side of the bed

DAVID  
(whimpering, begging)  
No

DAN  
 (fumbling with his zip as  
 the fingers of his other  
 hand bite into David's  
 shoulder to restrain him.  
 David yelps with pain  
 like an animal)

Yes

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

He looks out of the window and sees the silhouette of the tree lit up by a street light. Every time Dan pushes against him it goes blank as he closes his eyes and yelps in pain.

18

EXT. BACK GARDEN - DAY

A table and four chairs. David is sitting on one. He watches a cat jump over the fence and come into the garden. The cat comes closer and David rubs his fingers and makes the pss pss sound that seems to attract cats. The cat jumps on the table and David strokes it. His hand circles the cat's throat and he slowly strangles it.

His face acquires the look of someone almost having an orgasm as he experiences control and power. He looks around to see if he has been seen. He looks over the fence of the side opposite to where the cat has arrived. No one is in and so he throws the cat over into their garden.

CAPTION SHOWS eight years old

19

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

David and a group of boys are running round chasing a ball. He accidentally runs into a bigger, older boy, knocking him over.

David stands by him, looking in concern at what he has done. The older boy jumps up and starts hitting him. David does not resist, he says nothing, his face acquires an 'other world' look (as he dissociates) and he is beaten to the ground. The older boy kicks him and then moves away. David is quite still. He is not badly hurt but his eyes are vacant and he slowly rises.

He walks slowly to the school building

20

INT. LATER. SCHOOL TOILETS

David walks slowly in as though in a dream. He looks around the toilet searching for something.

He walks in to a toilet cubicle, kneels in front of the toilet and tries to put his head in the water. It doesn't reach and so he flushes the toilet and he chokes.

A hand reaches down and drags him out by his collar

TEACHER

What are you doing? Are you being sick? What's the matter?

DAVID

(monotone)

I don't want to be here

TEACHER

You have to come to school. All children go to school. Aren't you feeling well? Shall I ring your mother or father?

DAVID

My mother please

TEACHER

Come with me and I'll take you to the nurse and we'll see if we can get your mother here.

DAVID

My mother please

21

INT. NURSE'S ROOM. LATER

David is sitting in a corner. The nurse comes off the phone.

NURSE

(smiling, gentle)

I'm sorry, your mom can't get here so we'll just check you over and make sure you're ok. And then we'll put you safely on the bus later.

He watches the nurses face

DAVID

Can I stay with you?

NURSE

Until the end of school?

DAVID

No, can I stay with you?

NURSE

Why would you want to stay with me  
(she grins)

(MORE)



NURSE (CONT'D)

You'll be back with your mother and  
father soon and they'll tuck you up  
in bed. Won't that be nice.

DAVID

That will be nice

22 EXT. STREET. LATER - DAY

David is waiting to cross the road to his house. His anxiety shows by small involuntary movements. Go goes to cross but stops. He repeats it several times. He whimpers almost silently.

He crosses the street to his front door, finds the key in his satchel and goes in.

23 INT. LOUNGE. SAME

David is sitting. Waiting. He goes to the window and looks out. Sits down again. Repeats it. He is getting more and more upset.

He walks out of the lounge

24 INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. SAME

David, crying, paces up and down, looking out of the window repeatedly. He goes to the door, holds it open, puts his hand on the door frame and forces the door against it. His mouth opens in pain but there is no sound. He does it again, and again...

25 EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

David's face is scouring the children to find his attacker. He sees him, and with the large rock we now see he is holding, runs and hits his attacker on the head. When he collapses, David drops the stone and in a frenzy of deep seated anger, keeps hitting and kicking him until he gets exhausted.

DAVID

(quietly)

Next time you'll die, like the  
antelope

26 INT. HEADMISTRESSES STUDY. LATER

Sitting in the study are David's mother and father, the nurse and a policeman.

## HEADMISTRESS

We all know why we are here but to make sure we are all on the same page let me lay out what happened. One of our pupils was savagely beaten by your son. He is now at the hospital but luckily there is no serious damage.

## DAN

Could I...

## HEADMISTRESS

Not now. You will be able to help us later. I have done some checking and find that your son was actually beaten by that boy a day or two ago in, it would seem, an unprovoked attack. Now that may explain why your son did it, but I am not sure it explains the aggression and severity involved. Why would a child who is usually quite quiet and mild, suddenly do this?

(to Dan)

You were going to say?

## JOY

I think I can help. It seems to me there may be two causes. Firstly, and forgive me for bringing this up here, but Dan and I have struggled recently. We both have executive jobs, work long hours, and our marriage, and time with our son, has suffered. That is our fault but I am sure that has perhaps affected him more than we realised. Secondly, and quite bizarrely, a little while ago I decided to start buying

(she puts her fingers in 'quotes')

healthy foods. This involved a lot of fish and also, unfortunately, shellfish. He enjoyed the new diet but his behaviour changed. I took him to the Doctors, only a day or two ago, who told me about shellfish and how it can have a reaction. We stopped giving it to him and he has got a lot better but it may take a few days to get out of his system.

## HEADMISTRESS

I had no idea shellfish were allergenic.

(MORE)

HEADMISTRESS (CONT'D)

I have to keep a long way away from peanuts or I blow up like a balloon.

(to police officer)

I don't think we need keep you do we officer? I think perhaps just one of those things eh?

POLICEMAN

I think so. If you wouldn't mind just emailing us a small report for our files...?

HEADMISTRESS

Of course

27

INT. CAR. LATER

On the way home Dan is driving. David is on the back seat.

DAN

(stares at joy)

I had no idea you were capable of lying so convincingly.

JOY

There's lots about me you don't know

DAN

Shellfish?

JOY

I read it somewhere. Plus, of course, I have to continually lie that I am married to a man.

DAN

You...

DAVID

Can I go back to school tomorrow?

DAN

(angry)

Just shut up you stupid moron

David's face and demeanour have changed. Although he shuts up he looks in the mirror at Dan and his face has defiance on it. Dan sees him in the mirror.

DAN (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

David continues to stare at him. Something has changed.

DAN (CONT'D)  
I'll stop the car and beat the crap  
out of you

JOY  
He isn't doing anything

DAN  
He's looking at me

JOY  
Oh for crying out loud. Which one  
of you is the child?

DAN  
(looking in mirror at  
David's face)  
I'm fucking warning you

David still stares at him. Dan screeches to a halt

JOY  
What are you doing?

Dan gets out of the car, opens the back door, reaches in and starts punching David heavily on the body.

Joy leans over to stop him

JOY (CONT'D)  
What the hell are you doing you  
cretin. Do you want to land up in  
jail?

Dan doesn't stop and Joy slaps him.

JOY (CONT'D)  
Stop it now!

Dan stops and stares at David. David's lip is bleeding but although he is subdued, he still stares back at Dan

DAN  
(pointing)  
You'll fucking regret this

He slams the door and gets back in the car. He starts the car and looks in the mirror. David is still looking at him. Dan points to the mirror in anger.

INT. HOME. HALL. LATER

They walk in

JOY  
 Go to your room and do any homework  
 you have.  
 (to Dan)  
 In here. We need to talk

29

INT. LOUNGE. SAME

JOY  
 Enough of this, you should move  
 out.

DAN  
 Yeah right, as if

JOY  
 What is wrong with you? We haven't  
 had sex in eons, we are not  
 affectionate or compassionate, in  
 fact I actually loathe and despise  
 you.

DAN  
 (gloating)  
 Good

JOY  
 Good? Why is that good?

DAN  
 I prefer you that way

JOY  
 You're gutless. All you do to prove  
 your masculinity to yourself is hit  
 a little child.

Dan grabs her by the throat

DAN  
 Be very fucking careful

JOY  
 I'm sorry

DAN  
 Good

JOY  
 I'm sorry.....I meant to say a  
 little child and women.

He stares at her in rage. His fists bunch. He storms out of  
 the lounge and the front door bangs. She goes into kitchen.

30 INT. KITCHEN. SAME

She makes a cup of tea and sits at the island deep in thought.

31 INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. SAME

Close up of David's face creased in pain. From his look and his movements it is obvious he is closing the door on his hand.

One week later

32 INT. NIGHT. LOUNGE -

The family are watching tele

JOY  
(all dressed up, jumps up)  
Right, I'm off  
(to David)  
I won't be back tonight so I'll see  
you for tea tomorrow, ok?  
(to Dan, and looking at  
David)  
And just remember what I told you.  
Not one touch.

33 INT. NIGHT. LOUNGE -LATER

Dan looks at the clock on the fireplace.

DAN  
Put your coat on

DAVID  
Why?

DAN  
Because I said so

DAVID  
But why?

DAN  
Don't then

He grabs David by the collar and drags him out to the car. He throws him in the back seat. As he goes to his side David tries to get out but the doors have the child locks on them, and he is trapped.

34 INT. CAR. LATER

They are travelling though dark streets. David is squeezed into a corner in the back. In due course the car goes off the main road and up a long, dark track. It stops outside a smallholding.

Dan gets out, locks the car and goes to the door. He knocks, it opens slightly, then Dan goes back to the car and drags David to the house.

35 INT. NIGHT. SMALLHOLDING. LOUNGE. SAME

Dan and David enter where four men are sitting. One of the men (Man 4) is Bennett. Bennett appears again later as a school teacher.

MAN 1  
So this is him eh? Hello little boy, how are you?

David says nothing but shrinks back.

MAN 2  
Don't say much do you? Never mind, you won't be able to do much talking tonight anyhow

DAN  
Who's first?

MAN 3  
Its my honour tonight

He gets up and goes to David

MAN 3 (CONT'D)  
Come with me little man

He tries to hold David's hand

DAVID  
No, leave me alone. No!

The man looks at Dan

DAN  
(grinning)  
He's shy.

The man drags David out of the lounge into another room. The men listen.

DAVID  
(obviously struggling)  
No, no, no, no...  
(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 (his voice is cut off by  
 something obviously being  
 put in it)

After thirty seconds or so

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 No, no, no,

Sounds of a struggle which is the man taking David's trousers off

MAN 3  
 (angry)  
 Keep still

David takes deep breath and screams in pain

DAN  
 (smiling)  
 Mission accomplished I think. Pete  
 never takes long so who's next  
 (Spock voice - Star Trek)  
 to go where .... only two men have  
 ever been

MAN 1  
 I'll go sir. If I don't  
 return....come and pull me off

They all laugh

36 INT. NIGHT. HALL. LATER

Dan comes in supporting David who is barely conscious. He takes him upstairs and puts him in bed. He leaves the room and a few moments later returns with a glass of water and a tablet which he gets David to take.

DAN  
 Sleep for a week

37 INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. MORNING

He is asleep

38 INT. DAVID'S HEAD. SAME

Everything is dark. A child is alone. Dark shapes writhe and attack. They rush in and claw and bite and then move away. The child waves his arms to try and keep them at bay but the attacking increases until they all move in closer and close until he is no longer seen beneath them.



39

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. SAME

David moans, waves his arms around and wakes up.

THROUGH DAVID'S EYES

Everything is blurred. Slowly it takes shape and Dan is sitting on the bed watching him. Dan raises his hand quickly and David instinctively shuts his eyes. After a moment he opens them again. His father is combing back his hair with his hand and smiling menacingly

DAN

Thought I was going to hit you did you?

Dan moves up and down as David nods.

DAN (CONT'D)

I told Joy I wouldn't hit you and I haven't. Good eh. Did you enjoy last night? Did you enjoy my friends? I bet you did. I bet you loved it. Did you love it? Would you like more?

DAVID

(whimpers)

No

DAN

Well, we'll see. It really depends on whether you are a good boy doesn't it? What are you going to tell your mother about last night?

DAVID

Just that you took me out

DAN

(Angry)

No. We didn't go out at all last night did we?

DAVID

No

DAN

No what?

DAVID

No, we didn't go out

DAN

Good. If you say anything different we head straight back to my friends.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

And we'll invite some more friends  
as well eh, so you can really enjoy  
it. Now, as I missed out on last  
night

(he kneels over David,  
clicks his fingers and  
starts to unzip his  
trousers)

Caption on Screen - age 10 years

David is walking down a lane. He comes across an isolated house and he sees kennels up the drive. The 'lassie' type dogs bark in their runs as they see him there. He looks around but there seems to be no one there so he goes to the kennels. He looks around furtively. He starts to undo a kennel door.

FARMER

(walking from house)

What are you doing?

DAVID

Nothing

FARMER

Why are you down here?

DAVID

Its the school holidays, I was just  
walking

FARMER

Why were you opening the kennel?

DAVID

(David's face changes and he  
becomes sociable, smiling)  
I just wanted to stroke a dog

FARMER

(debating)

Ok, but next time don't enter  
premises that don't belong to you

DAVID

Ok

FARMER

(grinning warmly)

That was a bit of a joke. Premises  
that don't belong to you. Get it?  
How old are you?

DAVID

Nearly eleven

FARMER

Nearly eleven year olds don't own premises. See?

DAVID

Not really

He takes David in a kennel and David strokes the dog. The man goes in another kennel. David puts his hands round the dogs throat.

FARMER

Do you like dogs?  
(David relaxes his grip)

DAVID

I don't know

He leads David out of the kennel. One of the runs does not have a dog in it but the kennel door is open.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Where's the dog?

FARMER

She's quite ill I'm afraid. She's lying in there.

DAVID

Is she going to die?

FARMER

She may

DAVID

Can I see her?

FARMER

She may not move much

DAVID

That's ok

The man opens the run and David goes to the door of the kennel. Inside a dog is lying on straw. She looks at him forlornly.

FARMER

I'll be back in a minute. Her name's Mandy by the way

40

INT. KENNEL. SAME

David goes in the kennel and sits by the dog. He looks at her for a while. He starts to stroke her head, then moves his hand to her neck. He starts to slowly tighten, but then he looks at her face and she whimpers, and his hand relaxes.

DAVID  
Are you in pain Mandy?

Mandy moves slightly and rests her head on his leg.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I get a lot of pain Mandy.  
(tears start to roll down  
his cheeks. He puts his  
head next to Mandy's and  
cuddles her. He bursts  
into tears)

When he has cried enough he wipes his eyes with a handkerchief, makes himself comfortable and cradles Mandy's head, stroking her tenderly.

The man pokes his head in the kennel

FARMER  
Ready to go now?

DAVID  
No, I want to stay longer please

FARMER  
What do you mean?

DAVID  
Stay with Mandy please. Longer.

FARMER  
She won't come out into the run

DAVID  
I know

FARMER  
Well it's not a problem for me if  
you want to. And Mandy would love  
it

The man leaves and David continues cradling Mandy with genuine warmth and caring.

DAVID  
Please don't die.

Mandy nuzzles him and his tears flow again.

41 INT. KENNEL. LATER

O C  
(ladies voice)  
Hello.

Her head pokes through the open kennel door.

LADY

Hello. Are you ok in here? You've been in here two hours you know

DAVID

That's ok

LADY

I've brought you a cup of tea and a piece of cake

(she disappears from view  
and appears with both)

DAVID

Thank you

LADY

You sure you're ok in here?

DAVID

Yes

LADY

When you're ready to go, just call at the house and we'll know you're leaving

DAVID

Ok

She leaves. David takes a sip of tea and then starts feeding Mandy the cake.

42

EXT. OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE. LATER - DAY

David knocks on the door and moves several paces away.

FARMER

We thought you were going to stay the night, you've been in there nearly six hours

DAVID

I'm sorry but I have to go home

FARMER

You don't really do jokes do you? Take things a bit literal eh?

DAVID

Can I come back?

FARMER

If you want

43 EXT. ENTRANCE TO FARMHOUSE DRIVE - DAY

It is eight in the morning. The birds are singing. He walks up to the house and knocks. He walks back several paces. The door opens

LADY  
Well hello.  
(she looks at her watch)  
It's only eight o'clock

DAVID  
You said I could come back and be  
with Mandy

LADY  
(smiling)  
Of course you can

DAVID  
Thank you

He walks to the kennels and she calls after him

LADY  
Would you like a cup of tea?

DAVID  
No thank you

He opens the run and goes in the kennel

44 INT. KENNEL. SAME

Mandy's tail wags as he enters and he sits and hugs her.

DAVID  
(as though they had been  
apart for years)  
Mandy, Mandy, Mandy, Mandy

He starts to cry

45 INT. KENNEL. LATER

David is curled up by Mandy.

DAVID  
Mandy. Can I tell you a secret?

He gets up and looks out of the kennel, then sits again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Look

(he opens his shirt and  
his ribs are badly  
bruised)

If I tell anyone, he is going to  
kill me

(he starts shaking in fear  
and then crying. He  
clings on to Mandy)

If you die Mandy I'll kill myself  
and come with you

46

INT. KENNEL. LATER

FARMERS WIFE

(head pops into view)

How are you doing in there?

DAVID

Ok, thank you

FARMERS WIFE

Would you like some lunch?

DAVID

No, thank you

FARMERS WIFE

Have you got anything to eat?

DAVID

No

FARMERS WIFE

Then come and have some lunch with  
us

DAVID

(ponders)

In your house?

FARMERS WIFE

Yes

DAVID

No thank you

FARMERS WIFE

You're a funny little thing, would  
you like me to bring you a  
sandwich? Nice one of ham and  
tomato?

DAVID

Please

Caption - Four days later

David is walking up the drive early in the morning and he sees a 4 x 4 by the kennels. The farmer and his wife and a man are standing in Mandy's run.

David runs

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mandy

He gets to the kennel

FARMER

Hello

DAVID

(grief stricken)

Mandy

FARMER

It's ok, its ok. She'll be alright.  
This is the vet and last night he  
was out looking at one of the cows  
and he looked at Mandy while he was  
here. She had a dead pup in her and  
it was killing her. So he took her  
to his surgery and now she's back.

(his face shows his  
empathy for the grief on  
David's face)

You can go in to her

David goes in the kennel where the dog is bandaged. He hugs her and cradles her.

DAVID

Mandy

47

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

The farmers wife is looking out of the window. David is taking Mandy a walk. She walks very close to him, with no lead.

FARMERS WIFE

He has been down here every day for  
five weeks. Every day.

FARMER

I know. I don't know whether that's  
wonderful or sad

FARMERS WIFE

What do you mean?



FARMER

Doesn't he have any friends to play with? It's his holidays, don't his family take him anywhere?

FARMERS WIFE

Have you asked him?

FARMER

All he says is 'its nice'

FARMERS WIFE

What's nice?

FARMER

I have no idea.

FARMERS WIFE

You know the dog can't have any pups now that her womb was taken out?

FARMER

Go on

FARMERS WIFE

You know what I'm going to say

FARMER

We give her to the boy

FARMERS WIFE

The boy. We don't even know his name. He has never mentioned his name and avoids giving it. Its as though he doesn't exist. And yet there he is, every day, all day, and sometimes a lot of the night.

FARMER

He loves the dog. If he wants it and can look after it, by all means let him have it.

48

INT. KITCHEN. LATER - DAY

Joy and Dan are getting tea ready. David comes in excited.

DAVID

Can I have a dog?

DAN

(instantly)

No

DAVID

Why not?

DAN  
Because I say so

JOY  
Why do you suddenly want a dog?

DAVID  
I've been looking after a dog for a few weeks at a farm. She was ill and now she's better and they say I can have her if I want her.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Can I have her?

DAN  
(instantly)  
No

DAVID  
Please

DAN  
No

JOY  
What kind of dog is it?

DAVID  
(excited)  
Its a collie. Like lassie.

DAN  
No

JOY  
Is that all you can say?

DAN  
I got it off you

JOY  
I'm going to the loo

Dan watches her leave. She is heard going upstairs.

JOY (CONT'D) O C  
Cretin

DAN  
(quiet)  
So you want a dog eh?

DAVID  
Yes

DAN  
You know how to get one don't you?

DAVID

No

DAN

Spend more time with me and my friends

DAVID

(David visibly wilts, as though about to pass out)

No, please

DAN

Is is a nice dog?

DAVID

Yes

DAN

And do you care for the dog?

DAVID

Yes

DAN

Don't you think the dog would be disappointed if it knew it could come here and you wouldn't let it. Just because you didn't want your dad to have a bit of fun?

David doesn't answer

DAN (CONT'D)

But if you don't care enough about the dog....

David puts his head down

DAVID

(very quiet)

Ok

DAN

Ok what?

DAVID

I'll do what you want

DAN

There you go, that wasn't difficult was it

Joy comes back in the room

DAN (CONT'D)

I've changed my mind, he can have the dog

JOY  
Really, and what caused that  
wondrous change of heart?

DAN  
I thought it would be a bit of  
company for you

Joy shrugs and then realises what he means

JOY  
You're saying I'm a.....you  
bastard

49

EXT. FARMHOUSE YARD - DAY

Dan and David are with the farmer and his wife. David is  
holding Mandy's lead.

DAN  
(smiling, friendly,  
fatherly)  
I'm sure he'll take good care of  
her

FARMER  
I'm sure he will

FARMERS WIFE  
Its very kind of you to give Mandy  
a home

DAN  
It's what the lad wanted so how  
could we refuse  
(he tousles David's hair)

David tries to get Mandy get in the rear of the car but she  
won't go.

DAN (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
Let me help son

He lifts Mandy up

They get in the car. David waves through the window.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Bye

They drive away

FARMERS WIFE

At least we know she's going to a good home. Did you take a photo?

FARMER

Yes

50 INT. CAR. LATER - DAY

Dan looks across to David

DAN

Just remember one thing. One very important thing  
(he stares at David, waiting)

DAVID

What?

DAN

If you ever say no to me, or say anything about me and my friends, what will I do?

DAVID

Kill me. Like the antelope.

DAN

No..... I'll kill the dog

DAVID

(whimpering)

No

DAN

I'll make it suffer in so much pain before it dies. Just because you said 'no'.

DAVID

I won't, I wont

DAN

Remember that because if we have to kill the dog it will be your fault.

51 INT. NIGHT. DAVID'S BEDROOM.LATER

David is asleep in bed. His arm is draped over the side and rests on a sleeping Mandy.

52 INT. LARGE SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Caption shows Age 11 years

The Head Teacher is on the stage addressing the new intake

HEAD TEACHER

And so to conclude. A French philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre, once said that 'Freedom is all about having choices'; and education and knowledge give you that. So enjoy your time here, work hard, learn much and take advantage of all our sports and hobby activities after school.

In the hall David writes on his hand

CAPTION

Education and knowledge = freedom

David leaves the Hall and follows the others. He is not part of the crowd but a little divorced from it.

O C

You all know your classroom numbers  
so off you go

A montage of shots showing David in different classroom working diligently, listening intently.

53 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

David is talking to the farmer and his wife. Mandy is being stroked by the wife.

DAVID

I wanted you to see her

FARMER

Thank you. Why did you want to do that?

DAVID

To show you I have looked after her.

WIFE

We knew you would

DAVID

Some people wouldn't. Some people would hurt her

WIFE  
What kind of people?

DAVID  
Nasty people. People that hurt you

FARMER  
Do you know people like that?

DAVID  
(hesitates)  
No

WIFE  
Would you like to come in for a cup  
of tea or something

DAVID  
No thank you. I'll go now.

WIFE  
Are you at your new school now?

DAVID  
Yes

WIFE  
Are you enjoying it?

DAVID  
I am. I am going to learn  
everything

WIFE  
Everything?

DAVID  
Yes

WIFE  
Why?

DAVID  
(thinks hard)  
Jean (in English) Paul Sarter said  
'freedom is having choices'. And  
knowledge gives you choices.

FARMER  
That's very true. I've got some old  
encyclopaedias if you want them?

DAVID  
I don't know what that is

FARMER  
They are books full of knowledge.  
Come in and have a look.

David doesn't move

FARMER (CONT'D)

Its ok

David doesn't move

FARMER (CONT'D)

Would you like me to get them for you?

DAVID

Yes please

The farmer goes in and brings out several books in a carrier bag.

FARMER

There you are. Science, biology, the arts, loads of subjects

He offers them to David

FARMER (CONT'D)

You have them. Take them home and read them.

David doesn't move

WIFE

(she takes the books and talks gently)

You have to trust someone, trust us. Remember we loved Mandy, like you do.

David takes the books hesitantly and moves back

DAVID

Thank you. Come on Mandy

He walks away

FARMER

(looks at wife)

I still think what I thought before. It's his eyes. Unless he is with Mandy they lack life, they lack..... love

WIFE

I know. But what can we do? He never complains, we've never seen anything to suggest he's not looked after. His father was nice and kind. Should we say something to someone?



FARMER

I don't know. What could we say? We know a lad who is not as happy as we think he should be and you should investigate?

WIFE

Ok.

(shakes her head in frustration)

54 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The children are taking their seats. A teacher walks in with a man.

TEACHER

Mrs Walker is not well today and so Mr Bennett is here to help us out.

55 INT. CLASSROOM. LATER

Mr Bennett is walking up and down the children to see what they are doing. He leans over David and David looks up. For a moment Bennett freezes and then moves on. He goes back to the front of the class, starts to write something on the board but surreptitiously looks back at David who is just getting on with his work and has no interest in Bennett.

56 INT. CLASSROOM. LATER

The bell rings and they start packing up their things.

BENNET

Thank you for your effort today  
class

They file out. He watches David but David is concentrating on a book he is reading as he walks. When the classroom empties Bennett moves to the window and takes out a mobile phone. He rings, but looks around to make sure he is not being listened to.

57 INT. SMART OFFICE. SAME

Dan is sitting behind a large desk. His mobile, on his desk, rings. He looks at it, frowns, is hesitant, but takes the call.

DAN

What?

58

INT. CLASSROOM. SAME

BENNET

(quiet, furtively)

You fucking idiot. Why didn't you  
tell me what school your fucking  
sons in?

DAN

(sarcastically)

I don't remember you asking?

Split screen

BENNET

You fucking smart arse. I've just  
been teaching him, for fucks sake

DAN

And what happened?

BENNET

Nothing. He didn't seem to  
recognise me

DAN

I doubt whether he would

BENNET

Why? I've stood in front of him  
enough times

DAN

He doesn't remember things. I  
noticed it a few years ago. The  
worse the experience the less he  
remembers. He just shuts off and  
then its as though it didn't exist.  
And now I think its just automatic.  
As far as he's concerned he isn't  
there.

BENNET

Are you fucking sure?

DAN

Did he remember you?

BENNET

Not that I could tell, no.

DAN

There you go then

BENNET

Fucking hell I was scared

DAN

I bet. Just think what would have happened if he screamed 'That's Bennett, he sticks his prick up my arse'. What would you have done then eh?

BENNET

Fuck off  
(hangs up)

59

EXT. CAR. NIGHT

Dan is driving up the lane to the isolated house

DAN

Something a bit different for you tonight

David says nothing. Just looks ahead. His eyes are vacant. He has switched off (dissociated).

DAN (CONT'D)

(nudges David)

A bit different. Good eh?

David just looks ahead

60

INT. ROOM. LATER

David enters the room. The lights are dim, there are several men in there but their faces are difficult to make out.

MAN

(to David)

Well hello, look who's back. You must really enjoy it eh? And you're growing. That's good eh. For us  
(the men laugh)

From a closed room a child screams with pain. For a second David's eyes flicker to the door and then they are dull again. The man looks at another man and they smile. David is just standing there. Emotionless.

CHILD - FROM THE ROOM

(screaming)

No, no, no

MAN IN SAME ROOM

Shut the fuck up  
(a loud slap is heard -  
the child screams again  
and then silence)

A man walks over to David and guides him to a door.

MAN  
(leering)  
You're nice. I like you. In here.

They go in and three other men follow

MAN IN MAIN ROOM  
(to Dan)  
He'll be lucky to walk tomorrow

DAN  
(shrugs)  
It's Saturday

The camera rests on the closed door.

61 INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. LATER. NIGHT

David is lying in a foetal position, resting on Mandy. He only has his underpants on and they have blood on them at the back.

62

Caption shows Age 13 years

63 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

David is on the periphery, sitting, reading a book. He sees a girls legs standing in front of him. He looks up. The girl is attractive and 'developed' but rather 'common'.

GIRL  
Hello.

DAVID  
Hello

GIRL  
What are you reading?

DAVID  
Cosmos by Carl Sagan

GIRL  
What's it about?

DAVID  
The cosmos

GIRL  
Oh. Do you have a girlfriend?

DAVID  
(pauses)  
No

GIRL  
Would you like one?

DAVID  
I don't think so? Why would I like one?

GIRL  
You know, to go out with. Go to the cinema. And, you know...  
(she pulls the bottom of her blouse down to tighten it a little)

DAVID  
I've got Mandy.

GIRL  
You said you didn't have a girlfriend

DAVID  
Mandy's my dog.

GIRL  
You prefer a dog to a proper girl?

Flashback

Mother is rejecting his need for a cuddle

DAVID  
(smiling)  
Yes, I love Mandy

GIRL  
Weirdo  
(she walks away - David continues reading)

A few minutes later david looks up to see the girl and two boys in front of him.

BOY  
My sister says you've insulted her and you're a weirdo who does it with animals

David says nothing.

The boy kicks david

BOY (CONT'D)  
I'm talking to you

DAVID  
I haven't done anything

The boy slaps David across the face.

BOY  
Come on, insult me weirdo

DAVID  
(he is getting agitated,  
trying hard to hold his  
anger in)  
I haven't done anything

The boy slaps him again

David leaps up and hits him hard, and keeps on hitting him. The other boy joins in but David's built up anger is overwhelming and he continually hits them and when they go down he kicks them continually. He also kicks them viciously in the genitals.

GIRL  
(shouts)  
I knew you were a weirdo

David punches her hard in the mouth.

A small group has formed around them. David's control comes back to him. His expression becomes vacant. He picks up his book and walks away.

64

INT. HEADMASTERS OFFICE - DAY

Dan and Joy are sitting facing the Headmaster.

HEADMASTER  
So, if I could sum up. We were told by Kylie that she had been insulted by your son. She tells her brothers who, according to her, ask him politely why he said it? He launches a ferocious attack on them resulting, I may add, in both going to A & E, and their sister having a heavily bruised face.

JOY  
(sarcastically)  
Kylie and her brothers? What do they do, pimp for her? What's their last name, Kray?

HEADMASTER

Please..... Their parents are demanding that your son is expelled. In fact they feel he should be in Court.

JOY

He's eleven for goodness sake

HEADMASTER

I know. As it happens we have taken statements from several pupils who completely contradict Kylie and her brothers version of the events. They say he was just sitting, reading his books as usual, and they picked on him.

JOY

See

HEADMASTER

That being the case, and the fact that he has never been in any trouble here, indeed quite the opposite, we are going to take no action.

JOY

I should think not, he did nothing

HEADMASTER

However we are going to ask you to keep him away from school for the rest of this week, not as a punishment, but perhaps to see someone who can explain where the violence came from.

65

INT. CAR. LATER

JOY

What do we do about the 'where the violence came from?'

DAN

You

JOY

You what?

DAN

It comes from you

JOY

(annoyed)

Me?

DAN

See. Just like that. Poor little  
sod has to put up with that  
fermenting bile all the time

JOY

Fermenting bile?  
(deep breath)  
Do we get him to see someone?

DAN

Nah. A few days off, walking the  
fields with that bloody dog and  
he'll be fine.

Joy shrugs her acceptance

DAN (CONT'D)

You know when he grows up he'll  
marry that dog.

66

EXT. FIELDS AND WOODS - DAY

David and Mandy are playing. He throws a ball, she gets it.  
He hides the ball, she finds it. He takes a biscuit out of  
his pocket, gets her to sit down, puts the biscuit on her  
paw.

DAVID

Wait

She waits for his command

DAVID (CONT'D)

Ok

She eats the biscuit. He hugs her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What shall we do now Mand? Mand,  
you know I told you I came second  
in class overall? Well I reckon  
with a bit more work, next year I  
can be top.

She barks her encouragement

DAVID (CONT'D)

I know. Good eh? Ah well, come on.

Montage

They walk the fields, climb the hills. David looks at his  
watch.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Home time Mand



After a short time Mandy starts limping. He looks at her paw.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
You've cut your paw Mand.

A realisation overwhelms him and he hugs Mandy. He starts to cry.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Please don't die Mand. Please don't  
die. Please don't die. I only have  
you...

The dog licks him and he recovers. He picks her up, drapes her over his shoulders and carries on.

67 INT. CAR. NIGHT

DAVID  
Where are we going?

DAN  
To play snooker

DAVID  
I don't know how to do that

DAN  
Its ok, you don't need to

68 INT. SNOOKER ROOM. LATER

Four men are playing snooker in someone's home. They are drinking whisky from crystal glasses. David is sitting on a chair. He just stares into the distance.

GEORGE  
He doesn't say much

DAN  
What do you want him to say?

GEORGE  
(opens his mouth wide)  
Aaahhh

DAN  
Good one

A game comes to an end.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Lets have a bit of a break and  
relax.  
(looks at David)  
Come here

David doesn't move

DAN (CONT'D)  
Come here!

He still doesn't move

DAN (CONT'D)  
Now what could we do with Mandy?

David gets up and goes to them

DAN (CONT'D)  
Take your trousers off and bend  
over the table

David does as he is told and bends over. Two pairs of hands hold his shoulders down on the table and his face is pressed hard against it.

GEORGE  
Hang on a minute

He gets a cloth and puts it under David's face.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Got to look after the cloth

Close up of David's face and the arms holding him down. His face is full of pain and fear. It jumps, and he winces, as the man rapes him.

69

INT. SNOOKER ROOM. LATER

They are standing and one man is pulling up his zip. David is still half naked, his face on the snooker table. His eyes are closed.

GEORGE  
Let's get a coffee

They walk out

David stays in that position for several minutes.

He slowly pulls himself up, the pain obvious. He reaches under the table for his trousers, puts them on and slowly walks to a chair. He sits down but his mouth opens wide as he lets out a silent scream of pain. He reaches in his back pocket and takes out a photo of Mandy. Going to a far corner he curls up on the floor clutching her photo.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

70

INT. SNOOKER ROOM. LATER

The men walk in. David is asleep (dissociated) on the floor.

DAN  
I'll wake the little fucker up

GEORGE  
One of these days he's going to  
steal into your bedroom as you  
sleep and hack your fucking head  
off

George walks over to David and wakes him gently. David recoils and tries to back away.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
It's ok, I'm not going to hurt you.  
Get up and let me talk to you.

David gets up apprehensively

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
You have been a good boy and I'm  
sorry if it hurt a little at times.  
And because you have been a good  
boy we want to thank you. Everybody  
is going to give you ten pounds.

DAN  
What..

GEORGE  
Except your dad who is going to  
give you twenty. So that means you  
are getting fifty pounds for being  
a good boy. What do you think of  
that eh? Fifty pounds for being a  
good boy.

DAN  
One minute please George  
(he points outside the  
door)

They walk outside and Dan shuts the door.

DAN (CONT'D)  
Why are we paying him? He knows he  
can't talk in case I kill him.

GEORGE  
You? Kill? Don't make me fucking  
laugh. You may scare little kids  
and women but that's it.

DAN  
Hang o..

George grabs him by the throat and pushes him against a wall.

GEORGE

Do you know why I've got a fucking  
big house with paddocks and horses  
and a pool and a snooker room....?

DAN

No

George squeezes his throat harder

GEORGE

Then its time you thought about it.  
You are fuckin brainless. That kid  
is getting bigger by the day and  
soon he'll either kill you as you  
sleep or shop you. He may not do  
either if you start being nice to  
him. In fact let me put it another  
way. Change your strategy or I'll  
send round some friends and change  
you. Got it?

Dan nods

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Got it?

DAN

Yes

GEORGE

Don't forget because I'm not  
getting banged up because of you.

71

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Caption Age 15 years

David and his parents are sitting round the table.

DAVID

At school today they told us about  
a trip in the holidays.

(he hands over a leaflet)

It's two weeks at a camp in Spain  
where you can pony trek, canoe,  
hike, all those things. Can I go  
please?

DAN

(instantly)

No

JOY

Ignore your father. How much is it?

DAVID

There's two months to the holidays and so they want us to take in thirty pounds a week until then and we go on the trip just after school finishes

JOY

Three hundred and sixty pounds, that's reasonable for two weeks. Take your dad as well.

DAVID

So I can go?

JOY

Yes

DAN

You could do the same thing in Wales but, as your mother insists...

JOY

When's the first payment?

DAVID

Tomorrow

Joy extends her fingers and rubs them to ask for money

DAN

Give him a cheque

DAVID

They won't take cheques. They said no cheques as they cause problems.

DAN

I bet, bouncing all over the place

He hands over the thirty pounds

72

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. LATER

David goes to a corner of the room, moves a small set of drawers, lifts the carpet and a floorboard. His hand goes in and he removes a can and unscrews the top. He takes out a roll of bank notes, hundreds of pounds. He stares at the money for a few moments, his head lowers, then he puts the thirty pounds with them and then puts everything back.

73 INT. CLASSROOM. LATER

A teacher stands in front of the class.

TEACHER

Well, that's it. The end of another year. Well done to you all, have a good holiday

(cheers)

And when you come back, all refreshed, we can buckle down to a year of study to get you ready for your O Levels

(boos)

Ok, off you go and enjoy yourselves

As David is leaving he is stopped by the teacher.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Top in class again. Keep it up, you'll do well.

DAVID

Thank you

74 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Joy and Dan are going to work.

JOY

Now you've got everything?

DAVID

Everything

JOY

You're sure? Clothes, antiseptic cream, sun lotion, everything?

DAVID

Yes mom

JOY

And what about...

DAN

We did all this yesterday teatime, and again at bedtime. Nothing's changed

JOY

Ok. Well here's a hundred pounds from me and your dad. Have a lovely time and see you in two weeks. Ring if you want but just enjoy yourself. And you're sure the kennels don't mind having Mandy?

DAVID  
No, they're fine. And Mandy knows them.

JOY  
Good. What time's your bus?

DAVID  
Eleven

DAN  
(irritated)  
For goodness sake, lets go to work

Joy kisses him on the cheek and Dan nods and gives him a curt smile. They leave and he goes to the window to watch. After a few moments he sits on a chair, head in hands and sobs. He raises his head, his body quite limp and his face shows the exhaustion of having to keep 'everything in'.

75 INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM. SAME

David gets the money from the tin and puts Joy's one hundred pounds with it. He picks up a large rucksack off the bed and puts it over his shoulder.

76 INT. KITCHEN. SAME

David goes into the fridge and takes out a pack of cling filmed sandwiches which he puts in the rucksack

He goes out of the kitchen

O C  
A door opens

DAVID  
Mandy

He walks back into kitchen and in a moment Mandy runs in, excited. He bends and hugs her. Stands up, reaches for a hanging lead and puts it on her. He looks at a clock on the wall which shows nine fifteen.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Come on Mand

77 EXT. FARM ENTRANCE - DAY

David looks around but can see no one. He walks up to the house and puts an envelope though the letter box, then leaves.

78 EXT. TRAIN STATION. LATER - DAY

David standing on the platform with Mandy. The large clock shows 10:45. A train pulls in and they get on it.

79 EXT. TRAIN STATION. LATER - DAY

They get off the train at VICTORIA STATION. The clock shows 1:15.

David looks around bemused. He goes to a cafe, buys a cup of coffee and sits down. Mandy sits by him. A lady sits down.

LADY  
(smiling)  
That's a nice dog

DAVID  
It's Mandy

LADY  
(stroking dog)  
Hello Mandy. Are you waiting for  
someone?

DAVID  
No

LADY  
So you just come here in the day  
and sit and look around?

DAVID  
I've never been here before

LADY  
You don't give much away do you?

DAVID  
Have you got a dog?

LADY  
I'm afraid not. Not easy having a  
dog in London

DAVID  
Why?

LADY  
I'm not sure it's geared up for  
animals

DAVID  
Oh

LADY  
Do you live in London?



DAVID

No

LADY

Where do you live?

DAVID

Nowhere at the moment. I've got to find somewhere

LADY

What's your name?

DAVID

Do you know anywhere I can stay so I can find a new school?

She sees her train come up on an overhead sign.

LADY

I'm so sorry but I have to catch my train. Look

(she writes on a piece of paper)

That's my phone number, ring me if you get stuck. But what you should do is

(she looks around)

There's a policeman over there, go and talk to him. He can help you.

DAVID

Ok

She gets up and smiles at him

LADY

Go and talk to him

DAVID

Ok

She walks away and looks back and David is going towards the policeman. He looks back and waves. She does a thumbs up. After a few more steps she looks back but David has gone.

80

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

David is walking slowly through the streets. Looking in shops, looking at buildings.

He sees a man sitting on the pavement, begging, playing a flute with a small dog with him.

DAVID

Hello

BEGGAR  
All right mate?

DAVID  
Where do you sleep at night please?

BEGGAR  
Why?

DAVID  
I don't know where to sleep

BEGGAR  
You run away from somewhere?

David doesn't reply.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)  
I sleep under the railway arches.

DAVID  
Can I come?

BEGGAR  
You can if you want pal but it's not exactly the Ritz and the people there aren't much better. Come back in a couple of hours and I'll take you. You got any money?

DAVID  
Yes

BEGGAR  
Give me what change you've got as I'm helping you

David gives him his change

81 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The beggar leads David and Mandy to the dark railway arches. There are other people lying on the floor. He goes to a small space that is his.

BEGGAR  
Move up a bit, we've got company

Men either side make a bit of space.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)  
(pointing)  
Down there. You sleep there

82 EXT. UNDER ARCHES. - LATER

He is leaning against the wall. A man lights a joint, takes in a large lungful and hands it to beggar who does same. He hands it to David

DAVID  
I don't smoke

MAN  
It's not a fag, its a joint. Go on,  
it'll do you good. Takes all your  
cares away. Go on  
(pushing it forward)  
Give it a try.

David takes it, takes a tiny puff but doesn't inhale.

BEGGAR  
Not like that, like this

83 EXT. UNDER ARCHES. - LATER

A larger group of men are sitting around smoking. David is still smoking, Mandy by his side. His eyes are sleepy, his movements slow, his rucksack by his side.

BEGGAR  
How're you doin?

DAVID  
(slurred)  
Good

A bottle is passed round. David is given a drink and he chokes. They all laugh. David slowly links his arm through the rucksack, pulls Mandy to him and goes to sleep.

84 EXT. UNDER ARCHES. - LATER

AS David is sleeping a man walks quietly up to him and tries to open the zip on the rucksack. The beggar lying by David grabs his arm.

BEGGAR  
Fuck off

The man goes.

85 EXT. UNDER ARCHES. - DAY

David is sitting with the others. He is smoking a joint.

BEGGAR  
Like those?

DAVID  
(blearily)  
I do. I like the feeling. It's nice

BEGGAR  
Why don't you come in with me and  
we'll get you some more?

DAVID  
Ok

86 EXT. CITY STREET. - LATER

David is sitting with the beggar. The beggar spots a man across the street.

BEGGAR  
Give me some money

DAVID  
How much?

BEGGAR  
A tenner, you got that much surely?

David reaches in his pocket and brings out thirty pounds. He gives the beggar a tenner.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)  
You didn't run away with much did  
you? How are you gonna live?

DAVID  
I'll be ok

The beggar looks at him inquisitively and then sits down and brushes the side of his face as a signal. The man comes over and gives him the cannabis.

87 EXT. UNDER ARCHES. - NIGHT

They are sitting around smoking and drinking.

88 EXT. UNDER ARCHES. - DAY

The next morning David wakes up and his companion is not there. He looks around but he is nowhere to be seen. He cuddles Mandy.

DAVID  
Come on Mand, we've got to find a  
place to get a wash.

He picks up his rucksack and the top falls open. He looks at it a bit befuddled. He looks in but everything is there.

He then reaches in to a zipped pocket where the money was. It is open and empty. For a moment or two he freezes and then he retreats into a void.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
(whimpering)  
No, no, no, no...

He looks around and sees a brick and starts hitting his fingers with it. Mandy comes to him and whines her discomfort at his pain.

89

EXT. CITY STREETS. - DAY

David walks back to where the beggar is sitting with his dog.

DAVID  
You've stolen my money. Give it  
back to me

BEGGAR  
I haven't mate

DAVID  
You have

BEGGAR  
Mate, if you were someone else I'd  
fuckin smack you, but I know you're  
ok. I promise you, if you've lost  
your money, I didn't take it.

David isn't convinced

BEGGAR (CONT'D)  
Look. Was it a lot of money?

DAVID  
Yes

BEGGAR  
Well do you think I'd still be  
here, begging, if I'd nicked all  
your money? Sitting here where you  
could find me?

DAVID  
(dejected)  
No

BEGGAR  
Come on pal, here's some money.  
(takes change from cap on  
pavement)  
Go and get us both a coffee and  
come and sit down with me for a  
bit.

David walks away. The beggar feels his trousers just above his genitals and smiles to himself.

90

EXT. STREET. LATER

David and the beggar are sitting on the pavement. Occasionally a passer by puts money in his hat.

BEGGAR

I'm going to move on in a day or two. It stops working after a while. They get sick of seeing you.

DAVID

Where are you going?

BEGGAR

I don't know, wherever I end up I suppose. Anyway, I was thinking, why don't you take this spot?

DAVID

Me?

BEGGAR

No, I'm fucking talking to the invisible alien sitting by you. Why not? All you do is sit here and look pathetic. You got a nice dog, the women will like that....

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

91

EXT. STREET. NEXT DAY - DAY

David and Mandy are sitting, begging. Mandy is sitting up, looking cute. She gets the occasional pat and David gets some money, mainly from women. When they give him money he thanks them politely.

Two men walk in his direction. Young, city types in suits. They stumble into pedestrians. They are drunk. They stop and look at David. David looks up.

DRUNK 1

What the fuck are you looking at you fucking illegal scum?

DAVID

Nothing

DRUNK 1

I'm fucking nothing am I?

DAVID  
I didn't mean that

The man leans down and slaps David's face

DRUNK 1  
Nothing am I? Fucking scum.

He slaps it harder. Mandy growls at him. DRUNK 2 stamps down on Mandy's head and snap is heard. She stops growling instantly and doesn't move.

DAVID  
Mandy!

He cradles her head but she is limp and her eyes are closed.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
No, no, no, no  
(looks at drunk)  
You've killed her

DRUNK 1  
And I fuckin care

David jumps up and grabs the drunk. He grabs his head and smashes it against the wall. The drunk slumps down. DRUNK 2 goes for David but David frenziedly scratches down his face, gouges his eyes and kicks him several times in the genitals. The second man goes down and David carries on punching and kicking him. He is dragged off by onlookers who hold him down.

O C  
A police siren

92 INT. POLICE STATION. LATER

David is brought in handcuffed. He is crying and in despair.

DAVID  
Where is Mandy?

The desk sergeant looks at one of the policemen.

POLICEMAN 1  
It's his dog Sarge. Well it was.

SERGEANT  
(heard it all before)  
Drugs?

POLICEMAN 1  
Tested positive for drugs and alcohol

SERGEANT

What happened?

POLICEMAN 2

This kid's high on drugs, begging on the pavement. Two city types, a bit merry, stop and give him a bit of stick. He turns nasty, one of them kicks the dog which accidentally kills it. He gets nastier and one of them has his head smashed in, literally, and the other is in A & E hoping he's got some balls left.

SERGEANT

Ok. When you write it up would you phrase it a little differently please.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

(To David)

What's your name?

David doesn't answer

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

What's your name? Are you English?

DAVID

(completely distraught)

Mandy, Mandy

SERGEANT

Always my bloody shift

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Give me your name son? Where do you live?

David is completely overcome with grief.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

Ok, put him in a cell for a while and give him a coffee to sober him up. I'll get him brought back when he's calmer. And ring the Duty Doctor to take a look at him.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

Joy is watching the news on tv.



## NEWSREADER

We have received mobile phone footage taken by a passer by of an incident in London. It appears to show a young man begging, perhaps an illegal immigrant, who is berated by two men. A fight ensues that left one of the men in a critical condition and the other seriously injured in hospital. Some viewers may find this upsetting.

The large tv shows David and Mandy and the altercation. However the angle of the shot does not show the man slapping David. His back is in the way.

## NEWSREADER (CONT'D)

If anyone can help the police with any information please phone their local force and they will be routed to London.

Joy stares at the television. The picture changes

## NEWSREADER (CONT'D)

In Brussels today

## JOY

(pauses tv)

Dan! Dan! Come here quickly!

Dan comes in

## DAN

Don't tell me, a bloody spider

## JOY

Watch

Joy rewinds the tv and they watch the Newsreader.

They look at each other, not believing.

## DAN

He's in Spain

## JOY

Obviously not, that was Mandy

## DAN

Oh shit

## NEWSREADER

In an update to the story about the fight on the London street. We have just heard that the man who had head injuries has just died.

JOY  
 (holds her hands up in  
 front of her)  
 I don't believe this. It can't be  
 happening. It can't be him, it just  
 can't

She reaches in her handbag for her phone.

DAN  
 Who are you ringing?

JOY  
 I've got the school secretary's  
 mobile number  
 (she holds up her hand to  
 shut him up)  
 I'm so sorry to bother you in the  
 evening but.... you've seen it? But  
 why isn't he still in Spain?  
 (she listens but her face  
 is perplexed)  
 He did, he did, we gave him the  
 money each week like the brochure  
 said..... ok, thank you.

DAN  
 Well?

JOY  
 He didn't go. He never enrolled to  
 go and never gave them any money.

DAN  
 We are so fucked

JOY  
 I'll ring the police  
 (grimaces)  
 And go to the loo

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

She re enters.

DAN  
 And?

JOY  
 Excluding the fact that he asked  
 what the noise was, I've told them  
 what they need to know.  
 (MORE)

JOY (CONT'D)

I said we would go straight down  
but they said it may be better if  
we went first thing and also  
arranged a solicitor

DAN

Fucking hell

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

94

INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

A large, expensively furnished lounge. The home owner is the man with the snooker table. The newsreader is on the tv screen. He turns off the tv.

GEORGE

(he thinks hard and rubs  
his face - shouts out of  
room)

Darling, I know its a bit early but  
how do you fancy a few weeks  
abroad?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

95

INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

David's Head Teacher is looking at a paused tv and on his mobile phone.

HEAD TEACHER

I agree...we can do that. According  
to Celia they thought he was on the  
Spain trip. Just make absolutely  
sure he didn't enrol and then  
cancel so that we can't be found  
wanting in any way. Go over his  
file and make sure we cover  
ourselves properly. I remember we  
did have that incident when he was  
aggressive but we had the parents  
in and did a proper safeguarding  
thing so we're covered. When the  
local rag rings tomorrow we need a  
form of words. You know, everybody  
says it...erm...

(thinks)

(MORE)

HEAD TEACHER (CONT'D)

We can say very little at the moment due to the nature of the events but obviously our thoughts are with the parents at this time etc etc

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

96

INT. LOUNGE. - EVENING

Kylie, the girl who David hit, is sitting with her parents. The lounge is untidy. They are eating pizzas. Her father is drinking beer and the women wine

KYLIE

That was him. That was the boy who hit me at school. Remember? You wanted him expelled.

MOTHER

You sure?

KYLIE

(getting up)

Yeah. Wow. I'll put it on Facebook, how he hit me.

MOTHER

(to father)

Do you think if we rang the papers they'd pay us for Kylie's story?

FATHER

Got to be worth a try. Err London killer tried to murder our daughter

MOTHER

Sounds good to me

FATHER

And the school. They kept him there and Kylie got, what's the word, you know, where they make you do something you don't want to do?

MOTHER

Err..uncomfortable

FATHER

No. You know, that word, they all use it. Ends with 'ised'

MOTHER

(shrugs)

Tried...?

FATHER  
(irritated)  
Ised...

MOTHER  
Give me a clue

FATHER  
Sounds like....drama

MOTHER  
Drama?

FATHER  
Trauma, that's it, traumatised. We could sue them for her being traumatised having to be err con...err confronted by him every day. It made her a wreck.

MOTHER  
Yes, she was a wreck.  
(shouting)  
Kylie, put on Facebook you was a wreck.

FATHER  
Is there anybody else we can do?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

97 INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

One of the two men who were with the snooker man and Dan. He is staring at the tv and his mouth is open. His wife sits nearby

WIFE  
You ok?

He keeps staring

MAN  
Yes

WIFE  
You ok? What's the matter? It's tragic isn't it. Those poor men. I bet he's from Albania or somewhere but the police will soon know

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

98

INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

The last man of the four is in a smaller lounge. The lounge door is open and through it the stairs can be seen. Under the stairs is an empty space. The tv is on in the lounge but muted. The man is rocking backwards and forwards and is very distressed.

MAN

Oh god, oh god, oh god. I don't  
want to go to jail. Oh god.

He picks up his phone, puts it down, picks it up, puts it down.

MAN (CONT'D)

(whimpering)

I don't want to be locked up, no,  
no, no

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

99

INT. LOUNGE. -EARLY EVENING

The home of Bennet the schoolteacher. The tv is on low in the lounge. Through the open lounge door to the front door where Bennet is talking to a lady with a nine years old child.

LADY

Thank you again Ted. He'd struggle  
without you. Its not that he's not  
bright but it certainly takes him a  
while to get there.

BENNET

Music isn't easy. Private schools  
always assume that the parents are  
immersed in classical music, opera,  
the theatre and that their children  
are all budding virtuosos. As you  
know I prep for maths and English  
as well and this is by far the most  
difficult subject. But don't worry,  
he'll be fine

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

100

101 INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

A smart, modern lounge. Watching the tv is the lady that David met at the train station. She has her hands to her mouth, then moves them down and puts them on her heart

LADY  
(softly)  
Why didn't you ring me?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

102 INT. LOUNGE. - EARLY EVENING

The inside of the farmers lounge. The newsreader is talking about David on the tv but the room is empty. Through the window the farmer and his wife can be seen at the kennels, stroking the dogs before they are put away.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

103 INT. POLICE STATION. HOLDING CELL. LATER

The holding cell is quite spacious. David is sitting on one of several chairs sitting against the wall. The doctor is let in. He pulls up a chair.

DOCTOR  
I'm the Duty Doctor, my name's  
Andrew, what's your name?

DAVID  
They killed Mandy

DOCTOR  
Who is Mandy?

DAVID  
My dog

DOCTOR  
Who did?

DAVID  
I don't know

DOCTOR  
I need to check you over, is that  
ok?

David nods and the doctor starts to do a quick check. A policeman comes in.

POLICEMAN

Just to let you know sonny, one of  
the men you beat up has just died.

DOCTOR

(holds up his hands in  
exasperation)

Really? Now?

The policeman shrugs and smiles

POLICEMAN

Thought he'd like to know.

DOCTOR

Enough

The policeman goes.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You seem to be ok physically but  
you need sleep. I'll go and get you  
something to relax you.

He leaves.

David looks around the cell. He looks at the bars. He looks  
at the policeman outside the cell. He looks at the bars  
again.

He looks at the wall, which he stays on for a few moments, he  
looks down slightly,

DAVID (O.C.)

(softly)

I'm coming Mandy

and then runs head first to the wall.

BLACK.

104

INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

Dan and Joy are sitting drinking cups of tea. Joys mobile  
goes

JOY

Yes?

(she listens for a few  
moments, tears well in  
her eyes. She hangs up

DAN

What?

JOY

It was the police. He's dead



DAN  
I know, we saw it on the news.

JOY  
No, he's dead. He committed suicide  
by running head first into the cell  
wall

DAN  
That can't be right, he wouldn't do  
that

JOY  
He did  
(she starts sobbing, puts  
her head in her hands)

He goes to her and puts his arm round her to comfort her.  
With his other arm, out of sight, he makes the sign of  
triumph by clenching his fist and mouthing 'yes'.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

105 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

A large, expensively furnished lounge. The home owner is the  
man with the snooker table. He is watching tv.

NEWSREADER  
A further development in the murder  
in London today. The youth that  
killed one man and seriously  
injured another, has committed  
suicide. We will bring you more on  
that later

MAN  
Darling, maybe it is too early to  
go away.

He turns off the tv, picks up a glass of whisky, stands up,  
picks up a golf putter leaning against the side of settee and  
starts practicing putting.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

106 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

David's Head Teacher is looking at a paused tv and on his  
mobile phone.

HEAD TEACHER

I agree, quite different. I think,  
for now, its going to have to be  
err....

(thinking)

Tragic circumstances, thoughts and  
prayers with the parents etc etc,  
Now, as you're on, have you given  
any more thought to the new  
extension. I'm not sure that Jones  
should have the end classroom, I  
think....

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

107

108 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

Kylie, the girl who David hit, is sitting with her parents.  
The father is pointing the remote at the tv to mute it.

KYLIE

Wow, he's dead. I'll be a celeb.  
Facebook here I come  
(she goes out)

FATHER

How does that affect us?

MOTHER

I don't know. We could still sue  
the school but I don't know about  
the papers...? Is he worth less now  
he's dead?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

109 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

One of the two men who were with the snooker man and Dan. He  
is staring at the tv.

NEWSREADER

A further development in the murder  
in London today. The youth that  
killed one man and seriously  
injured another, has committed  
suicide. We will bring you more on  
that later

His mouth falls open, his body relaxes and he emits a sigh of relief. His wife comes in

WIFE

You're looking better. It's like a great weight has been lifted off you

MAN

Come on, I'll take you out for a meal to celebrate

WIFE

Celebrate what?

MAN

The fact that nothing has changed

WIFE

That's a funny thing to celebrate

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

110 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

The other man from the snooker room.

The lounge is empty, the tv on. The Newsreader is telling about David's suicide. On the coffee table lie a note and a pen. Through the door the man is hanging from the stairs.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

111 INT. LOUNGE. BENNET'S HOUSE - EVENING

In the empty lounge the tv is low and the newsreader is just finishing the news about David's death. Through the open door, up the hall to the music room.

Bennet is fastening his zip

BENNET

That was good wasn't it.

(he smiles and tousles the boys hair)

You really enjoy that now don't you. Good.

(MORE)

BENNET (CONT'D)

And you are doing so much better at music, and your mom and dad will be really proud of you. And I'll make sure you get through your exam ok. Ok?

CHILD

Thank you

BENNET

But it has to stay our secret otherwise all the other little boys will want to be as good as you and that's no good is it?

CHILD

No

BENNET

Good. Our little secret then

The door bell goes

BENNET (CONT'D)

Your mom's here. Suck this mint.

(gives him a mint)

So remember....

(he puts his finger to his lips)

The child puts his finger to his lips

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

112 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

A smart, modern lounge. Watching the tv is the lady that David met at the train station. She is crying. In her hands she cradles a photo of a baby girl

113 INT. LOUNGE. - NIGHT

The inside of the farmers lounge. The tv is on. They are both standing and he is cradling her as they both cry.

On the sideboard is a framed photo of David kneeling by Mandy. Their heads are together like lovers. David's smile is radiant. Lying by it is a letter.

LETTER

Please find enclosed £20 for the books.

(MORE)

## LETTER (CONT'D)

As education and knowledge =  
freedom, I have read them all.

Freedom here I come.....