

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Well, That's Just Bostin'

Written by

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Note to reader: Well, That's Just Bostin' is set in the Black Country, an area of the English West Midlands, covering most of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Each character should have a black country/ 'Brummie' accent.

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For Submission

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EXT. FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Outside a small, run down house. A MAN fights to lock the front door, jangling a bunch of keys. This man is GRAHAM, white, late 50s, balding, classically middle aged.

Full plastic bags are beside Graham's feet.

GRAHAM
Oh, would you just-

The key turns in the lock. Graham lifts the plastic bags, heads down his garden path.

The upstairs window of his next door neighbour's opens. MRS T, British Pakistani, 70s, hair in rollers, gaping satin dressing gown, pokes her head out.

MRS T
Ow b'ist gooin?

Graham shuts his eyes, breathes in. He forces his face into a smile, turning to look up at Mrs T's window.

GRAHAM
Morning Mrs. You alright?

MRS T
Getting worried about y'ow wife, I am. Any word?

GRAHAM
Not yet. If you could, you know, not shout about it that'd be amazing-

MRS T
Oh bab, everyone's been talking about it already.

GRAHAM
Truly great. Well, that's just bostin'. Ta-ra Mrs.

EXT. ROAD - BESIDE GRAHAM'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Graham opens the boot of his old Toyota Camry.

MRS T
I'll keep my eye out for her. Give her a good bollocking if I see her. Ta-ra a bit, mate.

Graham chucks the plastic bags in the boot.

He squeezes into the driver's seat, slamming the door shut.

INT. CHES'S CAR - MORNING

CHES, white, mid 60s, loud in every sense of the word from hair to clothes to temperament, pulls her battered, pink Ford Fiesta up outside a block of flats.

Her front wheels are both on the pavement. Her back wheels are not.

Ches honks twice.

She pulls down the sun shade, flicks the vanity mirror open. From inside her bra, she pulls out a bright blue lipstick, ringing it around her lips.

High fashion or high-pothermia?

Two wrinkled hands and a face smack against the passenger side window. It's BABS, white, mid 60s, short hair, smoker's skin and cough.

CHES

Christ Babs. Nearly ruined all this.

Ches pouts at her blue lips in the mirror.

Babs slowly gets into the car, strapping herself in.

Ches punches the radio on. 'Baby One More Time' by Britney Spears blares. Without checking for traffic, Ches hurls the car from its dodgy parking space, back onto the road.

INT/EXT. GRAHAM'S CAR - MORNING

On Graham's radio, the news blares.

RADIO

In Shoreham, ruined grass verges
national fury...

Graham is hooked, nodding along with the monotonous voices.

On the pavement in the distance, Graham sees the back of someone tall, skinny with mid-length golden, brown hair.

Is this his wife?

Graham slows beside the person. He leans across, manually winding down the window. The car trickles along.

GRAHAM
Andrea? A? It's me.

Graham stops the car as the person turns round.

Not Andrea. Not even a woman. It's a HEAVILY FACE-PIERCED MAN with mid-length brown hair.

HEAVILY FACE PIERCED MAN
You taking the piss, mate? If you are
I'll have ya-

GRAHAM
I'm so sorry, so sorry. I got
confused. See my wife, well, you
don't care.

He starts to roll the window up quickly.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
So sorry to bother you.

HEAVILY FACE PIERCED MAN
You're yampy mate. Don't you ever
disrespect me-

Graham cuts him off by driving away.

The Heavily Face-Pierced Man thrusts his middle fingers up. Graham spots this in his rear view mirror.

INT. CHES'S CAR - MORNING

Ches sings, lead vocals and back up.

CHES
I must confess, it's killing me-and-
I must confess-

Babs nods her head along to the song.

CHES (cont'd)
I still believe- Still believe.

Ches draws up to a set of traffic lights.

In the side mirror, Babs spots LITTLE ROADMEN 1 and 2 walking pitbulls so stocky they could pass as tigers.

Babs rolls the window down, shoves her hand out, gesturing for the LITTLE ROADMEN to come over.

LITTLE ROADMAN 1
Alright, Babs?

Babs fishes in the apron she's wearing, pulling out a ciggy. She holds it between her teeth, putting her head out the window.

Little Roadman 1 grabs a lighter from his tracksuit bottom pocket, lighting Bab's cigarette.

She drags from it. Little Roadman 1 steps away.

Babs nods, giving him a thumbs up. She winds the window up as-

CHES
(shouting through the
closing window)
Tell your mom we said hello.

The window closes. The traffic light turns green. Ches drives.

INT. GRAHAM'S CAR - MORNING

On the radio, the weather is being read.

RADIO
Much of the morning is looking dry,
if not a little overcast. This
afternoon will be considerably more
unsettled with a chance of rain in
some areas across the West Midlands-

A bike shoots out in front of the car.

Graham emergency stops to avoid hitting it.

The kid on the bike is KADE, a white, 15 year old horror, dressed in a Sports Direct tracksuit.

Kade lock eyes with Graham before falling dramatically to the floor.

Graham switches on his hazards. He gets out the car.

GRAHAM
Where did you get the money for that
then, son?

Kade lifts his neck from the ground.

KADE
You just hit me!

GRAHAM
Don't start, Kade.

KADE
I'll sue you. I'll take everything
you--

GRAHAM
Been watching Judge Rinder?

KADE
Graham. Hitting a kid in the street
is very serious! I can't wait to take
it all--

GRAHAM
So, what happens when they check the
CCTV then?

KADE
There ain't CCTV round here!

Grham points to a camera looking out onto the road from a
lamp post.

KADE (cont'd)
That ain't.

GRAHAM
It is.

KADE
Nah.

GRAHAM
It is, son.

KADE
You're serious? And they're
everywhere?

Graham purses his lips, he just wants to get to work. Kade
sits up.

KADE (cont'd)
Fuck. They will've seen the bike-and
the kid- shit.

GRAHAM
Language! So the bike's not yours?

KADE
Oh, this one? Yeah, yeah all mine.
New, it is.
(beat)
How much does a CCTV camera go for
then?

Graham sighs. He walks back to his car door, opening it.

GRAHAM
Get up, Kade. First day back today,
bloody good start we're having as
well.

Kade pulls himself up then tugs his bike up.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Remember I've seen you already. If
you don't turn up, I'll start asking
a few more questions about that bike
of yours.

KADE
I didn't steal this shit.

GRAHAM
I never said you did.

Graham gets back in the car. Kade moves off the road.

Graham gives the horn two, upbeat beeps before driving off.

In return, Kade gives him a swift middle finger. Two in one morning!

Graham pretends not to notice.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - MORNING

Graham's pulls up into the Thomas Telford Community Centre,
(TT community centre) car park.

The centre is large, brick, smacks the fact it's underfunded
in your face.

Graham drags himself out the car. He takes the plastic bags
from the boot.

He unlocks the automatic doors to the centre, steps in.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - FOYER - MORNING

Graham sets the plastic bags down. He glances around at the empty foyer, smiling slightly.

With his shirt sleeve, he wipes the glass of a picture hanging on the wall. It's of a gaggle of misfits holding a giant cheque. Its amount reads '£22.85'. A thick layer of dust comes off.

Graham picks the bags back up. He heads from the foyer towards-

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - GRAHAM'S OFFICE - MORNING

Graham's office is small, organized and professional. The only personal touch is a framed photograph on the desk.

Graham sits behind the desk. As he lifts the photograph, the image is revealed. Graham and Andrea on their wedding day.

He stares at it for a while until-

CHES

(O.S)

We're back, baby!

Graham puts the photograph down. He takes a deep breath. He stands.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CORRIDOR - MORNING

Graham strides down the corridor.

Behind him, is an unshaven TONY, early 30s, wearing fleecy PJs, mullet akimbo. He creeps behind Graham unnoticed.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - FOYER - MORNING

Ches points a picture out to Babs.

CHES

He looks so much better without that beard.

(beat)

I would--

Ches spots Graham. She throws her hands into the air.

CHES (cont'd)
It feels so good to be back. Come
here, chick.

She pulls Graham into a long hug which goes from swaying to jumping. She then speaks quietly into his ear.

CHES (cont'd)
I heard about Andrea. That cow--

GRAHAM
I don't want to talk about her today.

CHES
Of course, chick, of course. But when
you do, I'm here.

She forces Graham's head down, holding it on her boob. Graham tries to retract.

GRAHAM
Well, cheers Ches. Thanks, really.

Graham yanks himself free of the boob pillow.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Alright, Babs?

Babs nods her head.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Fantastic. Shall we get a brew on?

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Babs checks each cupboard by opening and shutting it.

Ches leans against the work surface.

Graham enters with the plastic bags, dropping them onto the side.

GRAHAM
I've got you a present, Babs.

Babs stops banging the cupboard doors.

Graham pulls a white chef's hat from one of the bags. He places it on Babs' head. She smiles.

She opens her mouth to speak but-

CHES

Oh Babs, look at you! If I had the power, I'd give you a Michelin star right now. Doesn't it look great?

GRAHAM

Suits you!

CHES

I know I should probably save this for the speech, but I'm just so happy we're reopening. These last few weeks have been dark. I've been alone-

Babs fills up the kettle with water. She gets out three mugs. Graham passes her teabags, milk and sugar from the plastic bags.

CHES (cont'd)

-for the most part.

Graham hands Babs a spoon, raising his eyebrows.

CHES (cont'd)

No one to talk to.

(beat)

But here, at the TT community centre, I finally have people who listen, people who care.

Graham sneezes. Babs salutes instead of saying bless you. A mix up in superstitions.

Ches moves, standing between Babs and Graham to get their full attention.

CHES (cont'd)

I'm just so grateful for the centre. For you guys. I-I-

Ches starts crying.

GRAHAM

Steady on, Ches.

Graham puts an awkward hand on her shoulder. Babs passes her a cup of tea.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

It's not even 9 o'clock yet.

EXT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CAR PARK - MORNING

TEONÉ, Indian, mid twenties, newly qualified teacher, and JASMINE, Caribbean, late 20s, food bank volunteer, pull up outside the community centre in Jasmine's Fiat 500.

TEONÉ

I'm just not really ready for anyone to know yet. I'm still trying to get the kid's respect.

JASMINE

Why? Because it's so disgusting us being together--

TEONÉ

Obviously not, the kids I teach, they've been kicked out of normal school, Jaz. They come to us as a last resort. Respect isn't their thing. I just mean--

JASMINE

Well, I can confirm you didn't find it disgusting last night--

TEONÉ

I know. Jaz, just listen to me. It'll, I'll, come out. Just not yet.
(beat)

Can you just stick to the whole carpool thing?

Jasmine glares at Teoné playfully, then smiles.

JASMINE

Fine.

Teoné smiles. She leans in, kissing Jasmine for a long time.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CLASSROOM - MORNING

Teoné pulls papers, pens and a laptop from a rucksack. Jasmine sits at a chair, watching.

Teoné catches Jasmine watching her. She glances around before quickly kissing Jasmine on the lips. She straightens, playing with the hair that falls around Jasmine's face.

There's a noise in the corridor. Teoné jumps away from Jasmine as Kade enters.

Kade holds a phone, blaring trap music up to his ear. He fist pumps the air with his other hand.

KADE
Wait for it. Wait for it.

He purses his lips, nods his head and holds one finger up.

KADE (cont'd)
It's coming. Wait.

A quite underwhelming beat drop plays.

KADE (cont'd)
There she is.

Kade stamps his foot against the ground.

KADE (cont'd)
Damn.

Kade shuts his eyes. The music blares out.

TEONÈ
Kade, come on now. Phone off. Hand it to me.

Kade keeps his eyes shut, feeling the music.

TEONÈ (cont'd)
(sternly)
Kade!

KADE
Alright!

Kade shuts the music off. Jasmine sighs.

JASMINE
Well. I'm gonna go.

Teoné holds out her hand for Kade's phone, distracted.

TEONÈ
Great. See you later, Jaz.

Kade places his phone in Teoné's hand.

KADE
Since it's the first day back.

Teoné puts the phone in a small basket across the room.

KADE (cont'd)

Did you like it though? Me and my mates been working on it for ages.

Teoné's back is turned to Kade.

TEONÉ

It's, um, it's just like the music they play in Pussycats.

KADE

Pussycats? The club beside the train station.

TEONÉ

Yeah.

KADE

Fuck me, how long's that been open then?

Teoné turns to face Kade, mouth hanging open in fake shock.

TEONÉ

Language, Kade! It wasn't long since I was a student. I'm not as boring as you think.

KADE

How often did you go?

TEONÉ

Every now and again. Thursday night was student night.

KADE

Who did you go with?

TEONÉ

Just some friends on my course normally.

KADE

Did you get drunk?

TEONÉ

Not appropriate.

KADE

I need to know these things. If you went there, then it ain't the kind of place I want to be seen, innit.

TEONÉ

Charming.

KADE

What's the security--

TEONÉ

Please don't ask me anything that I'm going to have to report this early in the morning!

Kade scrunches his face up, thinking.

KADE

Ain't going now anyway. Can't believe you used to go.

TEONÉ

You've still got three years yet before you can get in. And if I hear anything at all about you even thinking about going clubbing underage, I will make sure I'm dancing at every local club you could possibly visit--

Teoné is interrupted by Graham knocking lightly against the open door.

KADE

Alright, blood?

GRAHAM

Kade, nice to see you made it.

KADE

Said I would.

Kade sits at a chair, slouching, manspreading.

GRAHAM

Good kid.

(beat)

I need everyone to meet in the hall for a quick brief on plans for the day. That okay Teoné?

TEONÉ

Of course, we'll be there in a min.

Graham gives a big thumbs up.

GRAHAM
Fantastic.

Graham leaves.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - HALL - DAY

Graham is at the front of the hall.

Babs and Jasmine stand among other CENTRE WORKERS.

Ches mills about the Centre Workers, chatting and crying simultaneously.

CHES
Can you believe it? We're all back?

She sniffs, moving on to someone else.

CHES (cont'd)
How am ya? I've missed you.

Ches weaves around.

Teoné and Kade enter. Teoné and Jasmine lock eyes, smiling shyly. They're clearly enjoying their shared secret.

GRAHAM
Morning, everyone.

Graham waits for the chatter to die down. He consults the cue cards in his hands.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
It's so pleasant to see you all again
and to be reopening the centre with
you all beside me.

CHES
(clapping)
Wooooooooo!

A couple of unenthusiastic claps join Ches'. Graham ignores the awkward interlude.

GRAHAM
We've got a very busy day and I just
wanted to check in with everyone and
make sure you all know what you're
doing.

Graham checks his cue card.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
With the Mayor coming this afternoon,
we've really got a lot to prove.

Graham flicks the card over to read the other side.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
I'd love if we could all stick to the
plan as much as possible and prove to
him that we are a useful resource in
our society.

Graham clears his throat.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
That being said. Here's who's doing
what: Babs and Micheal you'll be in
the kitchen, obviously. I'll come
through and let you know what needs
doing after the meeting.

Babs nods her head. MICHEAL, early 20s, Indian, lanky and
spotty, salutes.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
The chair committee, I need you to be
on, well, chairs. Neat rows please.

Graham counts on his fingers.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
I'm thinking... three chairs, four
for the mayor, five for his plus one,
five chairs up on the stage please.
(beat)
Ches, Kade and I will be making our
speeches at the ceremony so that's
all sorted. We'll just need to
practice.

At the mention of his name, Kade looks up quickly, then back
down to his feet. He squeaks the rubber toes of his shoes
against the hall floor.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Other than that, if everyone else can
just do some tidying. Oh and if
someone could spray something nice,
like a bit of fabreeze. There was a
really odd smell when I got in this
morning.
(beat)
It was like sleep or something.

Graham trails off. He looks up from his cue cards.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Great. Well, that's it from me. Don't
be scared to come and find me if you
need any help.

Ches claps as Graham walks from the front of the hall. He
forces his face into a smile, then leaves. The others hover.

Ches stands with OLI, Pakistani, mid 30s, member of the
chair committee.

OLI
Graham said the mayor's bringing a
plus one?

CHES
He's supposed to be a right player.
I'm surprised I've not met him, you
know, with all the men I've had ar--

OLI
What if the plus one's a man? I heard
he's into the proper men.

CHES
Course you'd think that, chick.

OLI
You know I have a wife right, Ches?

CHES
I've never seen her.
(beat)
Think he could be into all this?

Ches body rolls violently before changing into a disturbing
snake-like dance.

OLI
We've literally been out to dinner
with Mo and his wife.

MO, Indian, early 40s, is across the room, carrying two
chairs under each arm uncomfortably.

OLI (cont'd)
(shouting across the
room)
Mo! Remember when we all went out to
dinner with my wife? A couple months
ago.

Mo shuffles along to the front of the hall. The only person doing any work.

MO
I've got a lot going on right now,
Oli.

The chairs are slipping from Mo's hands.

MO (cont'd)
Can someone help me?

Ches raises her eyebrows.

CHES
Never mind, chick.
(beat)
I want a big slice of Mayor Elias.
He'd be sweet and buttery, ay?

Ches and Oli head for the hall door.

OLI
That poor man would be broken by the
time you were done with him.

Ches and Oli leave the hall.

CHES (O.S.)
Is that because I'm fat?

OLI (O.S.)
No, Ches. I didn't mean that-I meant-

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CORRIDOR - DAY

Babs and Micheal pace down the corridor.

Further along, Tony is half in, half out of an adjoining storage cupboard. He is smoothing something out across the width of the corridor.

MICHEAL
I'm not addicted Babs, I'm just
really good at winning. Every week
you get such good offers that your
money is normally doubled.

They reach Tony. He rolls up a sleeping bag.

Babs and Micheal step over him, paying little attention.

MICHEAL (cont'd)
Yam alright, Tone?

Tony keeps rolling his sleeping bag as the pair sweep past.

MICHEAL (cont'd)
There's actually only been a couple
of times where it hasn't worked that
way. But if you just put a little bit
more on, you get it back and some-

The camera turns off, away from Babs and Micheal into-

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CLASSROOM - DAY

Ches drapes different, outrageous outfits over chairs.
Across a table is lipsticks, hairspray, eye shadow palettes.

It's like she's getting ready for the Brits, not a speech in
a dingy community centre.

Ches pulls a curling iron from a plastic bag beside her
seat.

Teoné enters with Kade.

TEONÉ
Ches?

Ches looks up.

CHES
Hiya chicks!

Kade sits down at the table, playing with Ches' stuff.

TEONÉ
So Ches. This is the classroom, hon.

CHES
You've done a great job in here.

She nods at the display boards.

CHES (cont'd)
It's just fantastic. And the lighting
is really doing good things for me.
Hey, Kade?

KADE
Oh yeah, really smoothening out some
of those lines across there.

He points to her forehead.

CHES
You cheeky bastard--

TEONÈ
I meant, Ches, as in this is a
classroom-
(beat)
-and you can't actually be in here,
doing all this.

She gestures to Ches's hair and makeup mission equipment.

CHES
So, you're kicking me out?

KADE
She's kicking you out, Ches.

Teoné holds her palm up to Kade to silence him.

TEONÈ
I'm not kicking you out Ches. I'm
just-just, asking you to leave. You
know, for the sake of Kade's
education.

CHES
For Kade?

KADE
For me?

TEONÈ
(to Kade)
Shhhh.

Ches stands, scooping her stuff into various bags.

CHES
Okay, well. Not a major disaster. I
get it, we can't share.

Some of Ches's things fall to the floor. Kade picks them up,
dropping them into a bag.

CHES (cont'd)
There's loads of room in here. You
could've just worked around me--

TEONÈ
Cheers, Ches! I really appreciate
this. You're going to look amazing.

CHES
There's just so much space and with
the nice lighting.

Teoné says nothing.

CHES (cont'd)
But it's fine. It's fine.

Ches, loaded with bags and covered in hangers, leaves.

CHES (O.S.)
I'll find somewhere.

Teoné shuts the door behind Ches. She lets out a huge sigh.

TEONÈ
Right then. Speech?

Kade looks down at the table. He etches into the wood with
his fingernail.

KADE
Speeches. Yeah. Where someone stands
at the front, talks at an audience
for a while and everyone pretends to
be interested.

TEONÈ
Correct. And yours is...

KADE
Well, mines more creative, tonally-

TEONÈ
So not done?

KADE
It ain't not done. It's just
unfinished.

TEONÈ
Not started?

KADE
Not started.

TEONÈ
Right.

Teoné whips around the classroom, picking up pens and paper. She sits opposite Kade at the classroom table.

KADE

I thought you'd be more annoyed.

TEONÉ

I had a small thought it might be-
(beat)
-unfinished.

KADE

Normally, that doubt would piss me off but you know...

TEONÉ

We've got time. We can get it done.
(beat)
You know this is important right?
I've got to film you to send to the exam board. It's gonna be embarrassing for me too if we can't do this, alright?

KADE

I get it, alright. It's important.

Teoné softens. Her shoulders relax. She takes a breath.

TEONÉ

Well, lets just have a bit of a chilled five then make a start, okay?

Kade looks up from etching at the table. He nods.

KADE

Please don't say chilled.

Teoné ignores him. She passes him a sheet of paper and a pen.

TEONÉ

Write down a couple of things you did this summer, nothing illegal please, and make a list. It could be something you did with your parents, maybe you went on a trip, or out for dinner or something.

Kade stares at the blank piece of paper. Teoné gets up from her chair, straightening things out around the classroom.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN - DAY

Babs and Micheal stand around, sharing a packet of biscuits. Graham enters, holding two laminated pieces of paper.

GRAHAM

Right then.

He rubs his hands together.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Have you seen what's in the fridge and the freezer? Thought I'd do a bit of a bigger budget than normal on food.

MICHEAL

Oooo, you trying to impress the mayor?

GRAHAM

Yes, Micheal. That's actually completely the point of today.

MICHEAL

Oh.

(beat)

I thought it was the reopening?

Babs opens the fridge, rifling through it.

GRAHAM

Well yes, but the ceremony is more so the mayor can see we're worth the money.

MICHEAL

He gives us money?

GRAHAM

He funds the entire-

(beat)

You know what? There's a lot going on today.

Micheal scratches his nose.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Here's the menus.

He hands the laminated pieces of paper to Micheal. Babs doesn't look up from the fridge.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
If you could just whip these up for
this afternoon. Everything you need's
in there.

He gestures at Babs and the fridge.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
I've heard a few people say their
excited for the free food, you know.
Once I told them what was on the
menu, they were sold. I think its why
anyone's coming!

Graham chuckles.

OLI (O.S.)
(shouting)
Graham!

GRAHAM
Bloody hell, already? Ta-ra both,
I'll be back in a bit.

Graham leaves the kitchen. Micheal reads from the menu.

MICHEAL
Appetizers.

Micheal sniffs snottily.

MICHEAL (cont'd)
Smoked salmon and dill deviled eggs.
Mini beef tourt-terries. Trout patty.
Blue cheese tartlets.

Babs still rifles through the fridge and freezer.

Tucked between the fancy foods are TT community centre
staples: turkey dinosaurs, fish fingers, microwaveable mac
and cheese.

Babs lifts a fresh fish wrapped in plastic out of the fridge
drawer. She turns to Micheal, holding the fish up by the
tail. The rest of its limp body slumps over in half.

Babs raises her eyebrows in a way that says 'what the fuck?'
without any words.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CLASSROOM - DAY

Kade smacks his pen down on the table.

TEONÈ

Done?

Teoné sits in the chair beside him. She pulls the blank piece of paper towards her.

TEONÈ (cont'd)

Really interesting and insightful. I can see your handwriting has improved since you've been away.

Kade says nothing.

TEONÈ (cont'd)

Look, Kade. I'm only messing. We could just talk if you don't want to write?

KADE

I didn't fucking do anything, did I?

Teoné is shocked but doesn't interrupt.

KADE (cont'd)

I looked after my sisters cus my mom's been sick again. Couldn't go and see my dad cus he's moved and hasn't given me his new address.

TEONÈ

Your mum's sick again? Same as before?

Kade crosses his arms, swings back on his chair and nods.

TEONÈ (cont'd)

You made that song!

KADE

Song? Oh yeah, the song. I guess.

Teoné picks up the pen from the table.

TEONÈ

Well, what's it like being back? Having a bit of time away from everything at home?

Kade wipes at his nose with his hand. He puts the four legs of the chair down.

KADE

I don't mind, like, looking after everyone but, it's um, I guess, kinda nice to have a break. My youngest sister is only two. The fucker never stops crying.

Teoné takes brief little notes. Speech content creation has commenced.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - HALL - DAY

Some chairs have made it to rows. Others are stacked up in the corner.

In the middle of the hall, Ches stands in the centre of a circle of chairs she's made. She dances erratically, stretching her body and attempting twists that probably shouldn't be tried at her age.

Tinny, new age music plays from a small speaker beside her.

Members of the chair committee are sitting in a line, watching.

Oli and Graham enter.

OLI

(shouting)

We gave her five minutes. She's still bloody at it.

Someone in the 'audience' line shhhses. Ches opens her eyes, still dancing.

CHES

Welcome, brothers.

In her thick brummy accent, this phrase doesn't quite land the way she thinks it will.

OLI

I'm not your brother, chick because if I was I'd be allowed to tell you how cr--

GRAHAM

Everything alright, Ches?

Ches beckons him over with floaty hand gestures.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
(whispering to Oli)
I've got it.

Graham strides over to Ches. He scrapes apart two chairs, entering the circle.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
What's going on here?

CHES
I'm just opening up my body, really loosening off. Channeling any negative energy out of my orifices.

GRAHAM
Right, and why now? Right in the middle of us setting up?

CHES
It's part of my warming up process, for the speech.

Ches reaches both hands over head, leaning into a back bend.

CHES (cont'd)
(strained)
Come on. Join in.

GRAHAM
There's absolutely no chance--

CHES
Come on. Loosen off. Me and Andrea used to do this all the time.

GRAHAM
You and Andrea? You and A--

CHES
Yes, we did a couple of classes last year, didn't we?! She's very good. Very supple body, very loose hips--

GRAHAM
(sternly)
Enough!

Graham grabs the speaker, cutting off the music.

Ches' hands fall to her sides. She pouts.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Sorry, Ches. I'm just quite stressed
today. You've warmed up for a while
now, what like--

OLI
(from across the hall)
Forty-seven minutes.

Graham points his hand towards Oli.

GRAHAM
Isn't it time to maybe go and
practice your speech? Or get dressed?

CHES
Fine.

Ches stomps out of the chair circle.

Graham picks up the small speaker.

GRAHAM
Isn't this mine? From my office?

Ches doesn't turn round. She exits the hall. Graham sighs.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Well, it's all yours.

The chair committee stand. Graham exits the hall.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CLASS ROOM - DAY

Teoné and Kade still sit at the table. They look at a piece
of paper filled with notes.

TEONÉ
There's some good stuff here, mate.
Some stuff that would work really
well.

KADE
It's a bit Disney.

TEONÉ
Disney?

KADE
Yeah like, you know, a bit--

Kade fake gags.

TEONÉ

Right. Okay. Stop that.

Kade laughs.

TEONÉ (cont'd)

I get it, okay. But honestly, the exam board will want to see that. You might win them over with a bit of emotive language. Remember that? We did it in the last class before we shut?

KADE

Oh yeah, I wrote that Jay was an utter fuckwit with rosy red cankles.

TEONÉ

Okay.

(beat)

Bad example, but yes that was the class.

Jasmine pops her head through the classroom door.

JASMINE

Hiya!

Teoné looks up, blushing, stumbling over her words.

TEONÉ

Oh, um, hi, Jaz.

Jasmine gives a little wave before disappearing from the doorway. Kade scoffs.

TEONÉ (cont'd)

What?

KADE

You guys come to work together don't you?

TEONÉ

Huh?

KADE

Like lift share?

TEONÉ

Oh yeah, we, um, carpool.

KADE

Nice, nice.

Kade looks down at the paper.

KADE (cont'd)

Is it normal to get off with the person who drives you to work or--

TEONÉ

Kade!

KADE

Are you hiding it? Cus car parks outside where you both work ain't that good a place. You'd be better--

A buzzing comes from Teoné's rucksack across the room. She stands too fast, rushing over to it.

TEONÉ

Oh my goodness, so unprofessional. It's normally turned off.

While Teoné is flustering with her bag, Kade swipes his phone from the basket. He picks up the piece of paper from the desk.

TEONÉ (cont'd)

If that was you, I would've been so angry. I'm sorry. Let me just...

Teoné wrestles with her phone.

KADE

Going to the toilet. Back in a minute.

Kade leaves the classroom.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN - DAY

Across the worktops are chopping boards, knives, random bits of food and packets.

In the corner, Tony, now dressed in black joggers and a purple polo neck, eats fists full of chocolate cereal from the box with his hands. He intermittently swigs milk from the bottle at the same time.

The oven is on. A pan is on the hob. The fire door is open.

EXT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - OUTSIDE THE FIRE DOOR -DAY

Babs and Micheal sit on the step up to the kitchen's fire door. They smoke as they watch three 6/7-year-olds fight with each other in the road.

MICHEAL

I miss having a good fist fight.

Babs exhales a long stream of smoke. She nods. Those were the days.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CAFE SEATING AREA - DAY

Ches has once again relocated. Now, her makeup and clothes are spread out across one of the cafe's tables.

She sits alone, smothering foundation a shade too dark across her face.

Graham crosses the other side of the room. He glimpses Ches doing her makeup. He smiles but doesn't stop.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - GRAHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Graham shuts his office door. He sits at his desk, letting out a long exhale. His lips vibrate together like a horse.

He looks at the framed photograph of him and his wife, picks it up, holding it tight. He places it back down carefully.

He lifts the office phone, quickly dialing a number he has no problem recollecting. He holds it to his ear as it rings.

ANSWERPHONE

I'm sorry but the person you have dialed is unavailable. Please leave a message after the tone.

The answering machine beeps.

GRAHAM

(into the phone)

Andrea. It's me. You know, Graham. I'm not sure why I clarified that, you probably remember my voice.

(beat)

Unless you've forgotten it which I've heard can happen.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (cont'd)

(beat)

I was just ringing to tell you that I thought I saw you earlier, walking down near Tookeside, while I was on my way to work. So I pulled over and called you but, well, you probably know the end to this but it wasn't you. It was a man.

(beat)

You don't look like a man though. He just had the same hair as you. I miss your hair, like, the smell of it. And you. Not in a weird way, just because you smell nice and, and, familiar. Now this is coming off slightly differently to how-

(beat)

Well, lets start again. I just called to say I love you. That's a song right?

Graham clears his throat. He closes his eyes, still talking to the answerphone machine.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

(singing oddly well)

I just called to say I love you. I just called to say how much I care. I just called to say I love you. And I mean it from the bottom of my heart. No summer's high, no warm July. No harvest moon to light one tender August night. No autumn breeze, no falling leaves-

Just as Graham really gets into the song, there are two swift knocks at the door. Teoné bursts in.

TEONÉ

Oh, I'm so sorry--

GRAHAM

Teoné. Oh hi.

Graham whispers into the office phone.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Call me back when you get a chance.

TEONÉ

I didn't mean to just burst in--

Graham waves his hand.

GRAHAM

It's-it's fine. Everything okay?

TEONÉ

Um, its not 100%, Kade went to the toilet quite a while ago and, well, he's not come back out. I've tried knocking and calling. I thought I could hear someone in there but I'm not sure.

GRAHAM

Come on then. I'll go in and see if he's there.

TEONÉ

Thank you and, again, I'm sorry for interrupting. It sounded like you really had something going...

Teoné trails off. Graham says nothing. He stands. They exit.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE MALE TOILETS - DAY

Graham and Teoné press their ears to the door. Graham knocks.

GRAHAM

It does sound like there's someone in there.

(calling out)

Kade, if you're in there, it's Graham. I'm coming in.

TEONÉ

Do you have to announce you're going in every time? For like, safeguarding or something?

GRAHAM

No, at least I don't think so.

(beat)

It just seemed like the right thing to do.

Teoné shrugs. Graham opens the door. He goes in.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - MALE TOILETS - DAY

GRAHAM
Kade! Are you alright? Teoné said
you've been gone a while.

Bang. A stall door opens. Graham jumps.

Tony exits, removing a wedgie.

TONY
Hiya, mate.

GRAHAM
Oh. Tony. Hi. I didn't see you get
here.

TONY
Oh yeah. I got here, um, earlier.
(beat)
Was someone banging the door?

GRAHAM
Yes, Teoné was. We thought Kade was
in here.

Graham checks each of the stalls.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
But clearly he's not, which is quite
a big problem.
(beat)
Bloody hell. That boy.

Graham spins, marching towards the bathroom door.

TONY
Ta-ra then, mate. Have a nice day.

Tony pulls a razor from his breast pocket. He dry shaves his
mustache area.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE MALE TOILETS -
DAY

Teoné still has her ear against the door as Graham pulls it
open, coming back out into the corridor.

TEONÉ
Is he alright?

GRAHAM
That was just Tony. Kade's not in there.

TEONÉ
Oh.

Teoné pistols grips her hands, resting her index fingers against her lips.

GRAHAM
This is pretty bad.

Teoné nods, face pale.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - FOYER - DAY

Members of the community arrive ahead of the ceremony.

Oli invites them in.

OLI
Welcome home. Welcome back.

SANDRA, Caribbean, 80s, motor-scooter, wheels in.

OLI (cont'd)
Sandra. Nice to see you. So glad you could make it.

Sandra smiles, leans towards Oli, stroking the back of his hand with a greasy thumb before wheeling away.

OLI (cont'd)
(under his breath)
Grim.

He wipes the back of his hand on his trousers. He greets others.

OLI (cont'd)
Hello. Welcome, welcome. Very exciting, isn't it?

Teoné and Graham speed walk into the foyer.

They look around, getting in the way of the those coming in.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CAFE SEATING AREA - DAY

A small crowd has gathered around Ches's table.

She has recruited EDDIE-B, late 30s, white, with a bulky body and skinhead, to hold her different outfits up one at a time for her to look at.

Eddie-B holds up a lime green jumpsuit.

CHES

I mean this is definitely serving me 'the-queen-but-cooler' looks but I'm not sure. I don't want to go too crazy.

The small crowd around Ches nods along.

EDDIE-B

If I'm honest with you Ches, I just don't see it going with the blue lipstick.

CHES

No. You're right. It might be a bit clashy.

Ches reaches to one of the chairs, lifting a tight sequined maxi dress off it. She hands it to Eddie-B.

CHES (cont'd)

What about this?

Eddie-B holds it up in front of his body.

A couple of people in the small crowd gasp.

CHES (cont'd)

Explain it to me, EB.

EDDIE-B

Explain it?

CHES

Yes, I want to hear you explain so I can see it through the eyes of my audience.

Eddie-B coughs. He launches in-

EDDIE-B

Now this, ladies and gentlemen, is the one, *the* OOTD. She's sweeping the floor.

He shakes his hips from side to side, swishing the dress side to side with them.

EDDIE-B (cont'd)
But not in a 'I'm your cleaner' kind of way. It's more of a 'watch where you step because I'm about to sweep you off your feet'. Now though, look at this.

Eddie-B shows off the side split of the dress.

EDDIE-B (cont'd)
It's subtle, but it's important. She's giving you respectable from the right but DTHF, down to have fun, on the left. Those sequins, that length.
(beat)
You've found it.

Ches is nodding. Graham enters the canteen away from the group, still looking for Kade.

CHES
It's a yes from me. I'm saying yes to the dress!

The small crowd claps.

Graham comes over to see what is going on.

Ches takes the dress from Eddie-B, lying it across the table.

She crosses her arms to opposite sides of her t-shirt, starts to lift it up.

Graham jumps in front of her.

GRAHAM
Ches! What are you doing?

Ches lowers her arms.

CHES
Changing?

GRAHAM
No! Not in here! There's strangers and kids and the mayor will be here soon and, and, just no--

EDDIE-B
Boo!

Graham glares at Eddie-B, who holds his hands up in surrender.

Eddie-B steps away from the table.

Graham puts his hands over his eyes, turning to face Ches.

GRAHAM

Are you?...

CHES

I've still got my clothes on.

Graham takes his hands from his face.

CHES (cont'd)

Chuffing hell, Graham. I knew you're a bit prudish but come on.

GRAHAM

This is a public, community, safe space Ches!

Ches sighs.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

I'm going to need you to find a new space. Again.

CHES

This is absolutely ridiculous. Three times I'll have moved now. I might not even be ready in time. I'm having second thoughts about doing my speech now anyway--

GRAHAM

No! Ches, please, don't try me. I'm in the middle of something. Just, just. Have my office. Get changed. Practice your speech but promise me you'll be up on that stage.

CHES

Hmm.

(beat)

Your office?

(beat)

I'll take it.

She picks a few of her things off the table.

CHES (cont'd)
Eddie-B, will you?

Ches gestures to the rest of the items on the table.

Eddie-B does as he's told. They leave the foyer.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN - DAY

Things are getting steamy but not in a good way.

Multiple pans boil over on the stove. The microwave is on. The work surfaces are still cluttered with knives, pans and rubbish.

The oven door is open. The tartlets are under the grill. They are black.

A tartlet catches fire. A small flame but a strong one.

EXT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - OUTSIDE THE FIRE DOOR - DAY

Babs and Micheal have ventured away from the fire door step. Both have fags hanging from their mouths.

On the ground, they have drawn a large chalk circle.

Inside the circle, the kids from earlier are fighting one another.

MICHEAL
Go on mate. Get him. Left hook. Go,
go go.

Babs claps.

MICHEAL (cont'd)
(to Babs)
This could be a great little money
maker this.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CORRIDOR - DAY

Teoné and Graham meet back up.

GRAHAM
I've checked the canteen, the hall
and the toilets again.

Teoné is chewing her nails. Graham's forehead wrinkles.

TEONÉ

Nothing. He's not in any of the cupboards or your office. Did you know Ches is in there?

GRAHAM

Oh, yeah. I told her it was fine.

TEONÉ

Okay. He's not in the food bank either. Jasmine's keeping an eye out.

GRAHAM

This is really not good. We're going to have to cancel the ceremony if we can't find him.

(beat)

How's this going to look? First day back and we've lost a kid. A few people have come to actually see him.

TEONÉ

Excuse me, but fuck. That little fucker.

(beat)

Don't cancel yet, I'll keep looking for the next half hour and if I can't find him, then we might have to start talking alternatives okay?

Graham nods.

TEONÉ (cont'd)

I'll go outside and walk around. Someone will know where he is.

Teoné rushes off without waiting for Graham's response. Graham stands in the dull corridor.

Tony exits the supply cupboard with a mug in his hand. Graham jumps, again.

GRAHAM

Where do you keep coming from?

Tony just shrugs. He walks away from Graham.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - GRAHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Ches dressed in her outrageous outfit, holds cue cards, throwing herself and her body into practicing her speech.

CHES

This place, the titty community centre is the hive for our local bees. A place we bring ourselves to regroup, to share stories. Somewhere we leave behind our honey, our sweetness.

She pauses for effect.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - HALL - DAY

The hall is packing up.

A few people already sit in chairs, others claim spaces by draping coats over the seat backs. Mrs T has arrived.

She stands with MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

MRS T

Y'ow see the menu?

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 1

Looks sick. I don't know what half the stuff is but I ain't complaining.

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 2

Is it just for the mayor?

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 1

Nah. It's for everyone, mate. I checked.

MRS T

Graham's really thrown himself into this, ay? Something to do since that cow left him.

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 2

Andrea left him?

MRS T

Well, go to the foot of our stairs! Did y'ow not know that? They'd been together years.

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 2

Really?

MRS T

'E ay heard nothing from her. I asked him this morning. They've had a bost-up.

(beat)

If yaw ask me, she ain't coming back.

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 1

Do you think?

MRS T

Bored, she is. Mind yow, I can see why. 'E plays the news on the radio all the time. I can hear it through the walls.

MEMBER OF PUBLIC 1

God. I feel sorry for you.

The group laughs before leaning in to share more gab.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - GRAHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Graham enters the office.

GRAHAM

How's it going Ches? That's an outfit.

CHES

Thanks.

(beat)

And thanks for asking me to do this Graham. The centre really has done a lot for me. You should be proud of it.

Graham smiles, genuinely touched.

GRAHAM

Thank you, Ches. Without you guys coming in to help, we wouldn't be able to run--

CHES

Oh and I've forgiven you for kicking me out of all my other places. I've had a nice time in here.

(beat)

What's that smell you've brought in with you?

GRAHAM
What? What smell?

CHES
You've brought in a smell. It's kind
of like, like, burning?
(beat)
You've checked on Babs?

GRAHAM
Not in a while.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN - DAY

Babs re-enters the kitchen, finding it full of smoke.

From the oven, she pulls out the tartlets. All of them are
now on fire.

Weirdly calm, she picks up a tea towel. She wafts it. All it
does is push the existing smoke around until-

The kitchen door opens. Graham and Ches stand, staring at
the smoke, watching Babs waft her tea towel.

The fire alarm starts wailing.

For a long moment, nothing happens then-

GRAHAM
(shouting)
Fire! Everyone out!

Graham pulls his brick phone from his pocket.

Time to ring the emergency services.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CORRIDOR - DAY

No one seems particularly bothered about the fire alarm.

Graham panics. He takes long strides. Ches struggles to
keep up.

GRAHAM
This is just a complete disaster, a
mess.

He opens the store cupboard door.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Tony.

Tony steps out.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

There's a fire, get out. Pass me that first.

He points to a megaphone. Tony hands it to him.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

(through the
megaphone)

Fire in the building. Fire in the building. I need you all to leave quickly and calmly.

CHES

Graham, go and make sure everyone's okay out on the car park. I'll sort it out in here.

She holds her hand out for the megaphone. Graham hands it over, grateful for this rare moment of calmness from her.

EXT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CAR PARK - DAY

An eclectic mix of people stand around the car park. Some are alone, others are in groups.

Graham carries a clipboard, desperately skim reading through procedure.

He tucks the clipboard under his arm, cups his hands.

GRAHAM

(shouting)

Everyone, listen up, I need you all to form an orderly queue so I can do a headcount.

(beat)

Oli, Oli!

Oli turns around.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

(shouting)

If you could all queue behind Oli that would be great. Give us a wave.

Oli waves awkwardly.

Teoné comes across the car park, alone. Graham spots her.
He places his clipboard on the floor, walks to meet her.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
No sign of him?

TEONÉ
What the hell is going on? Why is
everyone out here?

GRAHAM
Kitchen fire. Babs and Micheal plus
appetizers didn't go particularly
well.

TEONÉ
Clearly!

GRAHAM
The fire brigade are here now. The
fire was mostly out, it's just a bit
smoky. But, that's really not, I'm
just, not worried about that. Where
is Kade?

Teoné looks past Graham's shoulder.

TEONÉ
That's not--

Graham turns. Kade, plastic bag hanging on one arm and
Graham's clipboard in his hand stands beside Oli.

He's doing the headcount.

TEONÉ (cont'd)
Are you kidding me? He had me running
around the streets. That little...

GRAHAM
Fucker?

TEONÉ
Exactly.

Teoné and Graham march over to Kade.

KADE
I've been making a tally. We're on 25
so far.

(MORE)

KADE (cont'd)
I don't know how many people were in there though so someone could, yanno, dying in there but... Did you want to take over?

He extends the clipboard out to Graham. Graham snatches it.

GRAHAM
(to Teoné)
Do you think you can talk for the both of us?

Teoné nods.

TEONÉ
Oh, I can. Come on, Kade.

Kade and Teoné move away from the queue.

TEONÉ (cont'd)
What the hell?

KADE
I know I fucked up, but I wasn't gone that long--

TEONÉ
There's been a whole fire evacuation since then. If you didn't turn up, we would've doubted we'd looked everywhere for you. We would've thought you were stuck inside.

KADE
I just really needed some air.

TEONÉ
You know what Kade? I'm relaxed with you because I think that's the way you learn best. But I'm also more relaxed because I trust you. I trust you normally to not do dumb shit like run away.

(beat)
I felt sick, Kade.

(beat)
I'm going to have to start getting a whole lot stricter if we don't have trust, you know that?

Silence hangs between them.

KADE
Teoné. I'm sorry.

He pulls a crumpled piece of paper from his pocket, holding it out to Teoné. She takes it.

KADE (cont'd)
I did something while I was gone.
It's my speech. For later. If that's
still happening, what with this shit
show.

Kade looks around. Teoné silently reads the speech. Her shoulders soften. The beginnings of a smile forms.

TEONÉ
I'm still incredibly pissed at you,
but, honestly, this is perfect.
Really lovely, Kade.

Teoné's kind comments are cut short by the crowd applauding and wooing.

TEONÉ (cont'd)
Christ, what now?

Teoné and Kade head over to Graham. He points to the automatic doors of community centre.

Ches is in the arms of a FIREMAN, wearing his hat. She struggles to lift a fire extinguisher above her head.

The fireman is loving the attention just as much as Ches is.

FIREMAN
(shouting to the
crowd)
It's all clear! Safe to go back in!

Babs follows behind Ches and the fireman. She goes over to Graham, whispers something in his ear.

Graham, standing beside Ches and the fireman, faces the crowd.

GRAHAM
(shouting)
Babs just wanted me to let you know
that she is sorry for the
inconvenience and,

Babs whispers in Graham's ear again.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
And that the food, while adapted slightly and maybe to be expected a bit later than stated, will still be available!

The crowd whoops, starting to surge back towards the automatic door.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
(shouting)
Lets all enter carefully, one at a time.

No one is listening. Graham's voice is lost between other conversations.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - HALL - LATER

The reopening ceremony has begun.

The hall is packed, with the fire oddly attracting more visitors than before.

The windows are propped open, as well as the fire doors to remove the smell of smoke.

On chairs angled on the stage, sits Teoné, Kade and Graham. Beside Graham are two empty chairs.

Underneath Kade's chair is a plastic bag.

Ches is centre stage, finishing her speech, and somehow pulling off the tight, sequined dress.

CHES
I know that our community sometimes gets a bad rep. But when I look around here.

She pauses, looking around the crowd.

CHES (cont'd)
When I look around here, I'm proud. We might not have it the easiest but the centre gives us a place we can all call home. Somewhere we can exist and express ourselves without judgement. Somewhere we can be safe.
(beat)
Perhaps not from fires but in every other sense.

(MORE)

CHES (cont'd)
So Graham, thank you for the work you
do here. I am so grateful to have
found a place like this.

Ches's speech is met with applause and cheers. She laps it
up, before handing the mic to Graham.

GRAHAM
Thank you so much for that Ches. That
really was so beautiful.
(beat)
Our next speaker is Kade, as many of
you will know, Kade is a student at
our alternative learning provision
here at the centre.

Kade and Teoné stand from their chairs. Teoné carries a
small video camera.

TEONÉ
You ready?

KADE
Ain't got no choice, have I?

TEONÉ
Nope!

Graham hands the mic to Kade.

GRAHAM
Do us proud, our kid.

Kade shuffles centre stage. He looks out across the crowd.
The door at the back of the hall opens.

In comes the MAYOR ELIAS, Indian, early 50s, silver fox. At
his side is his plus one. Its ANDREA, skinny, mid length
brown hair, mid 50s, Graham's estranged wife.

Graham grabs the mic back from Kade.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
Andrea.

Andrea doesn't react. She walks arm-in-arm with the Mayor.
Ches snatches the mic from Graham's hand.

CHES
Mayor Elias. Welcome to the grand
reopening of the TT Community cente.
(MORE)

CHES (cont'd)
If you, and your plus one, I guess,
would like to come up onto the stage
we've got some chairs waiting.

Ches hands the mic back to Kade.

CHES (cont'd)
(whispering to Graham)
Sit down. Be quiet, and don't look at
her.

Ches sits in Teoné's chair. Graham sits beside her.

The crowd whispers as the Mayor and Andrea make their way up
the hall, onto the stage.

They sit at the chairs. Andrea falls into place beside
Graham.

GRAHAM
Andrea!

CHES
Shhhh.

She points at Kade. Kade clears his throat.

Teoné is off the stage, pointing the video camera at Kade.
She gives him a thumbs up.

KADE
Um, so yeah, I'm Kade. I'm a student
at the learning provision here cus I
got kicked out of normal school.
That's Teoné, my teacher.

He points to Teoné, who is filming but gives a little wave.
Kade pulls out a crumpled piece of paper.

KADE (cont'd)
When Graham, um, asked me to speak. I
was a bit like shi- really? As many
of you have heard, or possibly seen,
we sometimes clash.

The audience laugh a little. Kade loosens.

KADE (cont'd)
I said, you really want me up on the
stage? The horror kid? Up on the
stage to talk? He replied 'yes'.
(MORE)

KADE (cont'd)

(beat)

Graham's still got a bit of a way to go with emotive language.

The audience laugh again.

KADE (cont'd)

That 'yes' got me thinking about the centre, and what it means to all of us who use it.

(beat)

Does the centre provide food for those without it? Yes. Does the centre offer free counselling to those who need it? Yes. Does the centre educate the un-educatable? Sadly, yes.

Another round of laughs.

KADE (cont'd)

What I am trying to say is the centre gives people a step up. A first chance, a second chance, an eighth chance. A chance to make friends, a chance to learn something new. A chance to really exist in a community where it is hard to.

Kade coughs. The audience are quiet.

KADE (cont'd)

To conclude, I am so thankful for the centre and glad it has reopened again. Oh and I'm excited for whatever Babs is whipping up in the kitchen that hopefully isn't on fire this time.

Kade nods, concluding the speech. Teoné ends the recording.

Graham stands, clapping loudly.

Everyone is on their feet clapping, wooing Kade. Teoné jumps up and down.

TEONÉ

That was so good!

Kade goes red, still standing in the centre of the stage. Mayor Elias comes over. He shakes Kade's hand. Mayor Elias takes the mic.

MAYOR ELIAS

Hi everyone.

The crowd slowly settles back down.

MAYOR ELIAS (cont'd)

There isn't much point me following up that speech but I just quickly wanted to say, what a turnout!

He scans the packed hall.

MAYOR ELIAS (cont'd)

To see this today and to hear that speech, reminds me of the good that can be found in a cohesive, connective community. Thank you Graham and thank you to you all for making the TT community centre a fantastic provision for everyone that uses it.

Mayor Elias opens his mouth to say something else. As he does the hall doors open, Babs enters with the megaphone.

BABS

(through megaphone)

Food's ready!

The crowd forget about the mayor. They pile out of the hall.

MAYOR ELIAS

Well then.

Those on the stage remain on the stage.

Teoné hops back up, high five-ing Kade. Ches joins them.

Graham remains on the chair beside Andrea.

GRAHAM

Andrea. What are you- are you with--

Andrea won't look at Graham. She keeps her head firmly forwards.

GRAHAM (cont'd)

Andrea. Look at me. What's all this?

Andrea ignores him still. She rifles through her handbag, pulling out her mobile phone. Graham sits back with a sigh. Then jolts upright again.

GRAHAM (cont'd)
You haven't got a voicemail from me,
have you? Well not me, the office, my
office.

ANDREA
Voicemail?

GRAHAM
You haven't opened it?

ANDREA
No, I...

Andrea flicks through her smartphone.

ANDREA (cont'd)
I see it now.

She hits voicemail, going to play it.

GRAHAM
No!

Graham tries to grab her phone. He catches part of it but
Andrea clings on.

ANDREA
Bloody hell, Graham. What are you
doing?

GRAHAM
No, just give me the phone. I need to
delete it.

They are both pulling the phone either way like toddlers.

ANDREA
Let go of my phone.

Mayor Elias marches over.

MAYOR ELIAS
Andrea, honey, is everything okay?

GRAHAM
Honey? Honey, Andrea. Seriously?

MAYOR ELIAS
You two, stop it. I'm sure we can
resolve this in a civil way.

The Mayor gets involved in grabbing for the phone.

Kade points at the scrap. Ches and Teoné turn.

KADE

Okay.

He goes to his chair, pulling out the plastic bag. From the bag, he grabs a cheap, corked fizzy wine.

He shakes it, whilst wiggling the cork with his hand.

TEONÉ

Alcohol! Kade! Where did you get that? This is so, so bad.

CHES

Oh, he's going to--

The cork pops off the bottle. Wine starts to shoot out. Kade rushes over to Graham, Andrea and the Mayor.

KADE

(shouting)

To reopening!

He shakes the bottle, soaking them in wine.

Andrea screams. Graham and the Mayor yell. The phone drops to the floor.

Ches runs over, opening her mouth trying to catch wine.

The bottle stops overflowing.

Kade keeps hold of it.

Graham, Andrea, the Mayor and Ches stand there, dripping. It's silent.

CHES

Well, that's one way to manage a crisis.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - FOYER - DAY

On a pin board hanging on the wall, Mayor Elias, shirt untucked and still soaking, hangs a bold sign up sheet entitled:

'Community Centre Concerns, Comments and Questions Panel'.

Mayor Elias steps back. Andrea, hair matted, make-up down her face, takes out a pen. She signs her name at the top.

Tony, picking his ear, walks past.

ANDREA

Tone! Come here a minute.

Tony comes over. Andrea hands him a pen, directing him to the sheet. He doesn't read the details but signs his name. Andrea smiles.

INT. TT COMMUNITY CENTRE - CAFE SEATING AREA - DAY

It's busy. People sit on chairs and tables eating food from paper plates. Not the fancy appetizers expected but turkey dinosaurs, lasagna, cheese strings and chicken nuggets.

Around one big table sits Graham, Ches, Babs, Micheal, Kade and Teoné. Graham and Ches have towels hanging around their shoulders, still wet from the wine.

GRAHAM

That went well.

KADE

I didn't know what else to do.

TEONÉ

I can't believe you got hold of that. I'll be having a very stern words with Wine Time.

CHES

Sorry but are we just going to ignore that Andrea was the mayor's plus one?

Everyone turns towards Graham who looks down at his plate.

CHES (cont'd)

She's come from the back of Rackhams, she has.

TEONÉ

Ches!

CHES

She has. Flouncing off with a new man already--

GRAHAM

She barely said two words to me.

Kade pats Graham's shoulder.

KADE
At least she got sprayed.

GRAHAM
So did I.

KADE
I know but I sprayed her more.

GRAHAM
You did?

KADE
Yeah.

The table falls silent. Graham splutters a little, a laugh bursts out.

GRAHAM
She got sprayed, and the Mayor did.

The others, relieved, join in with Graham's laughter.

KADE
She was screaming.

MICHEAL
I saw the Mayor putting toilet roll on the seats of his Beamer so they could sit down.

This sets Graham off even more. The group belly laughs and means it. Graham stops laughing suddenly.

GRAHAM
I've got to buy her a new phone now.

Kade tenses. His eyebrows furrow. He looks at Graham.

Graham crumbles, bursting out laughing again. Kade relaxes joining back in.

People at others tables turn and stare. They smile. Music starts.

The reopening is now a party and, well, that's just bostin'.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW