

' The Falcon Spies '

by

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FADE IN:

INT. KEATS-SHELLEY HOUSE IN ROME - DAY

ANNEKA five foot nothing, eighteen years of age, short-cropped dark hair, walks slowly around the museum. She wears summer clothes.

Anneka stands in front of the John Keats deathbed.

EXT. THE SPANISH STEPS IN ROME - DAY

Anneka leaves the Keats-Shelley House bathed in warm sunshine.

Anneka climbs the Spanish Steps.(Scalinata di Spagna)

From the Spanish steps Anneka looks towards the Fontana della Barcaccia fountain in the square below. A satisfied smile as if she's where she wants to be. She recites from Keats' 'Isabella'.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

(reciting)

'He knew whose gentle hand was
at the latch, Before the door had
given her to his eyes; And from
her chamber-window he would catch
Her beauty farther than the
falcon spies;'

EXT. A ROAD NEAR THE SUPERMARKET - DAY

Anneka, wearing a leather jacket and jeans walks on the pavement towards the supermarket rear entrance with other employees. A teenage SUPERMARKET BOY riding a scooter slows down in line with her.

SUPERMARKET BOY

Wanna lift, Anneka?

ANNEKA

No, I'll walk.

He almost touches her with the bike.

ANNEKA

Fuck off. I said I'd walk.

She pushes him almost knocking him off.

SUPERMARKET BOY

Careful!

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Anneka looks at her watch as she serves at the checkout.

INT. HOSPITAL - CASUALTY AREA - DAY

AUNTIE VAL in her late sixties, holds hands with VINNY her son, in his forties and mentally handicapped. Vinny holds a swab over his forehead.

INT. SUPERMARKET CORRIDOR - DAY

Anneka stands outside of toilets, using her mobile phone.

ANNEKA
(into phone)
Auntie Val...it's Anneka. How's
Vinny?

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Auntie Val on the phone.

AUNTIE VAL
(into phone)
Not too bad, thank you, dear.

Vinny sits on a sofa in the lounge, his head bandaged.

INTERCUT:

ANNEKA
Oh, that's good...Give him my
love...See you Thursday. Bye.

Supermarket Boy makes a grab for her mobile phone as she lowers it. She kicks at him but misses.

ANNEKA
(off of phone)
Fuck off! Arsehole!

He laughs as he enters the toilet.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

JASON dark haired and nineteen sits at the wheel of his black Morris Mirror smoking.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Aneka serves at her checkout.

SALLY blonde and in her thirties, pushes a trolley with her one year old baby girl NAOMI in it, at the next checkout.

SALLY

Hi Aneka.

ANNEKA

(awkwardly)

Hi.

MOMENTS LATER: Aneka serving a CUSTOMER, glances towards Sally pushing a trolley with Naomi in it, in the car park.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

Jason gets out of the car, takes Naomi out of the trolley as Sally puts shopping in the boot of her Ford Fiesta parked next to Jason's car.

Jason gets in the passenger side of Sally's car.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Aneka's attention is drawn to another CUSTOMER.

EXT. A MOTORWAY CAFE - DAY

Cars on the M1 shoot by.

SIMON, tall, blonde and in his late thirties, sits staring out of a window, holding his mobile phone.

INT. SALLY'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Sally uses her mobile phone, holding Jason's hand. Naomi is strapped in the rear. Jason puts his hand between Sally's legs, under a loose-fitting dress, under a macintosh. She pushes his hand away as she reaches.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

Sally's car drives off.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - DAY

Anneka approaches a south London council estate.

She approaches a ground floor flat.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

DAWN, Anneka's Mother, in her mid forties, blonde frizzy hair, eats with Anneka. The conversation is stilted, matter of fact.

DAWN

How was work?

ANNEKA

All right.

DAWN

Made any friends there yet?

ANNEKA

No.

DAWN

Must be someone? You've been there six months.

ANNEKA

There's no one. It's just work. Somewhere to make money.

KITCHEN:

Dawn and Anneka wash up. Dawn washes, Anneka dries.

DAWN

Think you'll stick it?

ANNEKA

Don't know. Probably. For a bit. Unless you're gonna support me.

DAWN

Want someone to support me. Never mind about you.

ANNEKA

Shouldn't have married a cunt then should you?

Anneka puts down the tea cloth and walks away.

DAWN
 Anneka, don't speak like that.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE AREA - NIGHT

Jason waves to Anneka from his car as he passes her. She waves back awkwardly.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Anneka sits behind Sally and Jason. Sally palpably warms to the age differential with the other students, in their twenties and younger. DAN, nineteen year old, sits across the aisle to the side of Anneka. A female TEACHER in her thirties enters.

LATER: Jason stands by his desk holding a sheet.

JASON
 (reciting)
 'She has an air that mops up the
 bright sky. She wears it like a
 dress. It hangs luminous, all
 around her. And lightens her way.
 And she glows. How she glows.'

Applause.

JASON
 (as he sits)
 Dedicated to Sally.

SALLY
 (embarrassed)
 No.

Jason hands Sally the sheet. She grips his hand as she takes it. More applause.

LATER: The Teacher addresses the class.

TEACHER
 What drew you to poetry, Anneka?
 And when? Can you remember?

ANNEKA
 It...it was my Nan.

INT. A LOUNGE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Anneka's aged NAN sits reading to the eight year old ANNEKA, leaning against her legs holding her hand.

ANNEKA (V.O.)
She used to read to me. When I
was about eight.

BACK TO SCENE:

ANNEKA
Just before she died. About six
months before she died. It meant
something, somehow, reading to
me just before she died. Like it
had some...spiritual...

Anneka holds back, embarrassed.

TEACHER
Yes? Go on.

ANNEKA
...some spiritual meaning. That
sounds stupid, I know.

TEACHER
No.

ANNEKA
Whenever I...whenever I think of
her, I can hear her reading
poetry. Like her spirit's
floating upwards to heaven. That
sounds stupid.

Anneka scans the classroom as a burst of laughter rings out.

ANNEKA
(embarrassed)
It does. I know it does.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE AREA - NIGHT

Dan hurries to catch Anneka up as she walks quickly away.

DAN
It doesn't.

ANNEKA
What?

DAN
Sound stupid. What you said about
poetry and spirituality. I can
relate to it.

Anneka stops at the school gates.

ANNEKA

Don't give me that bullshit.

DAN

I'm not. Really. I always read poetry at the cemetery where my Dad is. It makes me feel closer to him.

She walks on.

DAN

That's spiritual, isn't it? Fancy a coffee?

ANNEKA

Gotta get home. See you.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anneka asleep cuddled up to a large fluffy bear. She grabs an alarm clock and pulls it under her duvet as it rings.

DAWN (O.S.)

Anneka...time to get up.

Dawn opens the door.

DAWN

Anneka, come on. You'll be late.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Sound of shower. Dawn smiles at Anneka's bear on her bed.

EXT. A ROAD OF TERRACED HOUSES - DAY

Simon's car is parked on the other side of the road to Sally's car, parked behind Jason's car.

INT. JASON'S BED-SITTER - DAY

Jason on top of Sally in bed making love. Naomi is in a carry cot beside the bed.

EXT. A ROAD OF TERRACED HOUSES - DAY

Sally, holding Naomi, kisses a shirtless Jason at the front door.

Sally walks to her car.

Sally sees Simon standing by his car across the road.
Their eyes meet.

EXT. DOVER CLIFFS - DAY

Simon stands looking out to sea.

INT. A DOVER COFFEE BAR - DAY

Simon sits on his own staring out of a window.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Anneka drinks a bottled beer with EMMA and SUSIE, both
Anneka's age, drinking shorts

EMMA
Gonna dance, Anneka?

SUSIE
Loads of gorgeous blokes out
there, Anneka.

ANNEKA
No, I won't bother. You two go.
(raises her bottle)
I'll drink my beer.

Emma and Susie walk onto the dance floor.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Anneka walks past a bald BOUNCER.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Simon sits on a sofa, his head bowed. Sally stands over him.

SALLY
I can't explain. I wish I could.
I just love him. So much. And he
loves me.

(beat)
I didn't ask for it to happen,
Simon. It just did.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)
 (lost in it)
 He's a poet. He reads poetry to
 me, you know. He sits and reads
 to me, and...

Simon gets up, pushes past her and rushes out of the room.

SALLY
 Simon...

HALL:

Simon runs up the stairs.

NAOMI'S BEDROOM:

Simon lifts Naomi from her cot.

SALLY (O.S.)
 Simon!

EXT. SALLY'S ROAD - NIGHT

Anneka walks on the pavement.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - HALL - NIGHT

Simon runs down the stairs carrying Naomi.

SALLY
 Simon!...Simon!...No!

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anneka sees Simon open the near side rear car door. Sally
 chases after him.

SALLY
 Simon! Please!

Simon puts Naomi in the rear of the car.

SALLY
 Simon, you can't take her!

ANNEKA
 What's going on? It's cold.
 She'll get pneumonia.

Simon backs down and walks away from the car. Sally seizes
 the moment and removes Naomi.

SALLY
 My darling, my darling.
 (angrily to Simon)
 What do you think you're doing?

Sally shakes her head and rushes back to the house. Simon is motionless, frozen to the spot.

ANNEKA
 You all right?

Simon doesn't react.

MOMENTS LATER: Simon glances fleetingly at Anneka before driving off.

EXT. A SPORTS CENTRE CAR PARK - NIGHT

The lights of the sports centre go out. The car park is empty, apart from Simon's car illuminated by a full moon.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anneka pulls her dressing gown cord tighter as she looks out of the window to the illuminated sky.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

Simon at the perimeter of the car park sees Jason get in Sally's car.

The car drives off.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Simon sits at a table drinking a coffee cupped in both hands, staring deep in thought.

Anneka approaches the checkout. She sees Simon.

Anneka carries her tray and stands by him.

ANNEKA
 All right if I sit down?

He looks at her blankly.

ANNEKA
 I saw you last night. But I don't suppose you...

She sits down.

MOMENTS LATER: Anneka eats a doughnut, wipes her mouth with a serviette.

ANNEKA

What's your name?

SIMON

Simon.

ANNEKA

I'm Anneka. I go to Sally's poetry class.

(he lifts his head)

I don't know what was going on last night, but...

(looks at her watch)

Listen, I've gotta go. But...

She takes out a pen, straightens the serviette and writes.

ANNEKA

Leave you my number.

She stands up, and pushes the serviette towards him.

ANNEKA

If you wanna talk, give us a ring.

He looks up at her. She walks away.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Simon packs clothes into two cases on the bed.

SALLY

Mr Roberts rang. I said there were family problems. I didn't go into details, and he didn't ask.

Simon closes both cases.

SALLY

I said you'd be back next week.

Sally steps aside as Simon walks past her out of the room.

HALL:

Sally calls to Simon from the top of the stairs as he hurries down the stairs.

SALLY

Simon, where are you staying? How can I get in contact with you?

Simon pauses and looks at Naomi in a playpen in the lounge.

SALLY
 He does love me, Simon. And I
 love him. I love you, Simon, but
 not in the same way as I...

Simon opens the front door and leaves quickly.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon closes the boot of his car as Sally closes the door.

INT. A PUB - NIGHT

COLIN blonde and skinny in his twenties and DAVE, the same age, drink beers at the bar. A SHOPKEEPER in his seventies wearing a deaf-aid attracts their attention.

EXT. AREA OF THE PUB - NIGHT

Colin and Dave leave the pub laughing, as Anneka approaches.

COLIN
 Hello, Anneka, little sister,
 where you going?

ANNEKA
 Never you mind.

COLIN
 (pissing with her)
 Poetry class. You going to poetry
 class?

Anneka ignores them and continues walking.

COLIN
 (calls out, laughing)
 I'm a poet and I don't know it!

Anneka doesn't look back.

MOMENTS LATER: Colin leans out of the window as his old Datsun passes Anneka.

COLIN
 I'm a poet and I don't know it!

Constant toots of the car horn as they drive off.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - VINNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Auntie Val stands in front of a pile of Encyclopedias on a large Victorian desk Vinny sits at, his head bandaged.

AUNTIE VAL
I'll just put these away, dear.
Anneka's coming to see you tonight.

Auntie Val puts the last of the encyclopedias in an alcove cupboard as the doorbell rings.

HALL:

Auntie Val hugs Anneka.

AUNTIE VAL
Anneka.

ANNEKA
Auntie Val.

EXT. A ROAD - NIGHT

Colin's car parked opposite a small confectionery shop.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT

Colin and Dave smile as lights go on in a room above the shop. Their cue to move.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Auntie Val makes tea. Anneka holds up a packet of biscuits.

ANNEKA
The biscuits you wanted auntie Val.

AUNTIE VAL
Oh, thank you, Anneka. I'll give
you the money for them.

ANNEKA
No, you're all right.

INT. A BINGO HALL - NIGHT

Dawn and MANDY, Dawn's sister, sit at a table close to the front of a stage where an aged COMPERE is in action. Mandy is blonde and thin in her forties.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - VINNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Auntie Val enters carrying a tray of tea and biscuits, which she puts on the desk.

AUNTIE VAL
Anneka's come to see you, Vinny.

ANNEKA
Hello, Vinny...
(closer to him)
Oh, look at you, your poor head.

AUNTIE VAL
He fell over on the path
(to Vinny)
Didn't you dear?

Anneka leans across the desk and kisses Vinny's forehead.

VINNY
(gushing smile)
Anneka...

AUNTIE VAL
Anneka's come to read to you,
Vinny. You like Anneka to read
to you, don't you, dear?

Anneka sits holding Vinny's hand across the desk.

ANNEKA
Vinny...

LATER: Anneka reads Keats' 'Isabella' from a book of verse.

ANNEKA
(reciting)
'So said he one fair morning, and
all day His heart beat awfully
against his side; And to his
heart he inwardly did pray For
power to speak; but still the
ruddy tide Stifled his voice, and
puls'd resolve away- Fever'd his
high conceit of such a bride,'

She puts the book down, and holds both his hands across the desk as she recites.

ANNEKA
Yet brought him to the meekness
of a child: Alas! when passion
is both meek and wild!'

Anneka hugs him fully.

EXT. A PARADE OF SHOPS - NIGHT

Colin and Dave jump over the wall of a garden.

Colin smashes the rear door lock with a spanner.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HALL - NIGHT

Anneka stands hugging Auntie Val.

ANNEKA
Night Auntie Val.

AUNTIE VAL
Thanks for coming, Anneka.

They break.

ANNEKA
If there's anything you want give
me a ring.

AUNTIE VAL
Thanks, Anneka. I don't know what
I'd do without you. You're a
Godsend. You really are.

VINNY
Anneka...

Anneka blows a kiss to Vinny at the top of the stairs.

ANNEKA
Bye Vinny. See you next week.

INT. A BINGO HALL - NIGHT

Dawn stands up.

DAWN
Bingo! I won! I bloody won!

LATER: Dawn walks off the stage waving a handful of
banknotes to audience loud applause.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - SHOWER - NIGHT

The outline of Sally showering in a cubicle, as Jason
takes off his boxers and steps in with her. Water hits
their faces as they come together.

EXT. SALLY'S ROAD - NIGHT

Heavy rain hits Simon's windscreen; his car opposite Jason's car parked outside of the house.

INT. CONFECTIONERY SHOP - NIGHT

Colin lifts a slip mat, discovers a loose floorboard and a tin under it, containing rolled up banknotes.

INT. A PUB - NIGHT

A busy bar. Dawn and Mandy clink glasses.

EXT. CONFECTIONERY SHOP - BACK YARD/ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Colin and Dave run away from the rear of the shop. Dave jumps up the wall. Colin goes to the back door and unbolts it. They laugh at the situation.

Colin and Dave stop running as Anneka passes.

ANNEKA

Colin...what you doing?

COLIN

Nothing. Just having a laugh.

DAVE

(touches Colin's shoulder)

Come on.

They run laughing to Colin's car.

Anneka stares at them as they drive off. Her phone rings.

ANNEKA

(into phone)

Hello.

EXT. A ROAD - NIGHT

Rain beats down in sheets. Anneka slowly approaches Simon's car unsure if it's his.

Simon stares ahead. Anneka opens the passenger door.

ANNEKA
Can I get in?

INT. LATE NIGHT CAFE - NIGHT

Anneka and Simon sit drinking coffee.

ANNEKA
When did you last eat?

Simon stares blankly. Anneka sees a WAITER hand an egg and bacon sandwich to a customer nearby.

LATER: Simon looks at his untouched egg and bacon sandwich.

ANNEKA
Eat it, then.

Simon slowly lifts the sandwich and eats.

MOMENTS LATER:

ANNEKA
I saw them at poetry class
together. And at the supermarket.
I thought something was going on.
(beat)
Have you moved out?
(beat)
Don't talk much, do you?

SIMON
Yes...yes, I have.

ANNEKA
Where you staying? In a hotel?
With friends?

SIMON
No.

ANNEKA
Where then?
(beat)
You're not sleeping in the car,
surely? You can't sleep in a car.
You'll get pneumonia.

EXT. LATE NIGHT CAFE - NIGHT

Simon unlocks the car remotely and opens the driver's door.

SIMON
Thanks for...

ANNEKA

What? I haven't done anything.

SIMON

Bye.

He gets in the car and closes the door. She opens it.

ANNEKA

You can't get away from me as easy as that, you know. I'm like a leech, I am.

EXT. A ROAD - NIGHT

Dawn and Mandy arm-in-arm totter on the pavement, both drunk. Dawn slips and falls.

MANDY

Get up, you stupid cow!

Colin's car drives in the area.

Colin jams on his brakes as Dawn steps out into the road.

COLIN

Careful, you stupid!
(realises)
Mum!

Dawn leans in the window of the car.

DAWN

Colin, love.

COLIN

You're pissed.

Dawn looks at Mandy on the pavement, laughing hysterically.

DAWN

No I'm not. Am I? Pissed? Me? Never.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Dawn leans forward and puts three £20 notes between Colin's legs.

DAWN

Have this.

MANDY

Your Mum won two hundred and fifty quid at bingo.

COLIN
 (hands it back)
 No, Mum, you're all right.

DAWN
 Last time I saw you, you said you
 weren't working.

COLIN
 I'm getting by, Mum.

DAWN
 What?..Doing what?

COLIN
 Buying and selling stuff
 (to Dave)
 Aren't we Dave?

DAVE
 That's right Mrs Smith. We're
 buying and selling stuff.

Dawn pulls Colin's face to one side and tries to kiss him.

DAWN
 Oh you lovely boy.

He loses his grip on the steering wheel.

COLIN
 For fuck's sake Mum!

EXT. A ROAD - NIGHT

The car swerves.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - A BEDROOM - NIGHT

Auntie Val opens the door and switches the light on. Simon
 follows carrying a case. Anneka carries the other case.

ANNEKA
 Thanks Auntie Val.

AUNTIE VAL
 I'll go and get you some sheets.

She leaves.

ANNEKA
 Can't have you sleeping in a car,
 can we?

SIMON

Thank you.

Awkward beat.

ANNEKA

Well, I'll...I'll say goodnight then. Get some sleep. You could do with it.

SIMON

Thank you...Anneka.

ANNEKA

You remembered my name.

(beat)

Night.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HALL - NIGHT

Dawn rushes up the stairs, holding herself.

DAWN

Oh, I wanna piss.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HALL - NIGHT

Anneka walks down the stairs to Auntie Val folding sheets.

ANNEKA

Thanks Auntie Val. It won't be for long.

AUNTIE VAL

It's fine, dear. He can stay as long as he wants.

ANNEKA

I'll get the bastard sorted out.

(Auntie Val makes
a face)

Sorry, didn't mean to swear.

(kisses her)

Night.

AUNTIE VAL

Night Anneka.

EXT. LOWER NORMANDY - A STONE COTTAGE - DAY

A large detached stone cottage. Two caravans close by.

INT/EXT. LOWER NORMANDY - A STONE COTTAGE - DAY

RON in his forties, thick set and bearded is plastering a wall. A second PLASTERER is plastering a wall opposite.

A FRENCH FEMALE SUPERVISOR in her thirties, dark-haired and attractive wearing a hard-hat enters.

Ron stands behind her as she inspects a section of plastered wall. She makes comments. He kisses her neck gently. She turns around and pushes him away. He holds her, pins her to the wall and kisses her hard on the lips.

INT. MANDY'S FLAT - HALL - DAY

Mandy, wearing a dressing gown, yawns as she picks up an envelope from the floor. She examines it.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Dawn looks worried as she stares at a letter, as Mandy lifts her cup.

MANDY

What does he say?

(beat)

What? What is it Dawn?

DAWN

He said his job's finished.

MANDY

What does that mean?

DAWN

(sharply)

Means his job's finished, and he's gotta get another job. What else do you think it means?

Mandy looks at her worried.

DAWN

I know what you're thinking. Don't worry, it's not gonna happen. It's not, Mandy.

MANDY

Didn't say a thing.

DAWN

Didn't have to.

MANDY

I'm your sister. I'm concerned about you.

(touches Dawn's hand)

Never think of Frank. When he left me it was the happiest day of my life. But you and your Ron...

DAWN

We agreed, Mandy. We agreed he'd go away and never come back.

MANDY

Yeah, but...you what he's like.

DAWN

He comes back, I'll go to the police and shop him. After what he did. Honest to God I will.

EXT. CONFECTIONERY SHOP - DAY

The Shopkeeper remonstrates with a POLICEMAN and points in the direction of the alleyway.

Anneka looks at them curiously as she walks by.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Anneka serves at the checkout. Glances at her watch.

SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA:

Anneka sits using her mobile phone.

ANNEKA

(into phone)

Hello...Simon? Have you washed and shaved and eaten?

(smiles)

Won't recognise you then, will I?

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anneka and Simon walk from the house to his car.

ANNEKA

What'd you do?

SIMON

I work with computers.

ANNEKA

Computers. Hm. Brainy, ah?
 (looks sideways at him)
 You look brainy. You do. I could
 tell.

SIMON

Don't know about that.

ANNEKA

I do.
 (beat)
 Bet you went to University didn't
 you?

SIMON

Yes

ANNEKA

You don't go to University if
 you're not brainy now do you?
 Even I know that. And I'm not
 brainy.

INT. MC DONALD'S - NIGHT

Anneka stuffs on a double burger.

ANNEKA

She called me Anneka, after
 Anneka Rice. On TV. 'Treasure
 Hunt'. Before my time, but...
 (beat)

You must remember? Girl with the
 big arse the camera used to
 follow around? Squeaky voice?
 Silly smile? Very big arse?...No?

SIMON

Yes. I remember.

Dan appears at the counter from the kitchen. He sees
 Anneka and Simon.

ANNEKA

Stupid name, really, Anneka. I
 don't feel like an Anneka. I'm
 short and I haven't got a big
 arse. Least, I don't think I have.

Simon looks away vacantly.

ANNEKA

You're supposed to say no you
 haven't.

SIMON
What? Sorry?

ANNEKA
Never mind.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Dawn sits drinking a gin, smoking furiously.

EXT. A ROAD - NIGHT

Anneka and Simon walk towards Simon's car. The area is part residential, part business.

ANNEKA
You gonna divorce her?

SIMON
I don't know.

ANNEKA
You should. See a solicitor. Now!

Anneka sees a solicitor's nameplate on a wall of a building.

ANNEKA
Look, there's one here.

She climbs the steps to the door. Rings the doorbell.

ANNEKA
Wake them up, get them out of bed,
get things moving.

She sits on the steps and folds her arms.

ANNEKA
Camp overnight. You're good at
that. Be first in the queue.

Simon smiles at her.

ANNEKA
What're you smiling about?

SIMON
You.

EXT. A ROAD - NIGHT

Simon's car moving.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Anneka smiles reflectively.

ANNEKA
What's your daughter's name?

SIMON
Naomi.

ANNEKA
That's a nice name. How old is she?

SIMON
Just over a year.

ANNEKA
Naomi...Naomi. I love that name.
Wish my Mum had called me Naomi.
(beat)
When you going to see her?

SIMON
I don't know. Soon.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - NIGHT

Simon's car pulls to a stop.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT

SIMON
Thanks Anneka.

ANNEKA
What for?

SIMON
For helping.

ANNEKA
Gotta help people, haven't you?
I might need helping one day,
then I'll come running to you.

Simon touches her hand.

SIMON
Thanks. For everything.

She looks at his hand touching hers.

ANNEKA

No problem.
 (beat)
 Night then.

She opens the door.

ANNEKA

I'll ring you. Tomorrow.

SIMON

Okay. Night.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE / DAWN'S FLAT - NIGHT

Anneka closes the car door. Simon drives off.

Anneka walks towards the flat.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'With every morn their love grew
 tenderer, With every eve deeper
 and tenderer still;'

FRONT DOOR:

Anneka dwells on her hand before she turns the key.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dawn lies on the bed asleep, her mouth wide open, an empty glass and photographs on the bed, a near empty bottle of gin on the floor. Anneka enters.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'He might not in house, field,
 or garden stir,'

Anneka pulls a duvet over Dawn, kisses her finger and touches her forehead.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'But her full shape would all his
 seeing fill; And his continual
 voice was pleasanter To her, than
 noise of trees or hidden rill;'

Anneka puts the photographs back in an album.

INSERT: A PHOTOGRAPH OF RON AND ANNEKA(12)

BACK TO SCENE:

Anneka shuts the album quickly.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Dan tells his story to the class. Sally is missing.

DAN

My Dad never got over my Mum
dying of cancer. They loved each
other so much.

Jason swivels round and looks towards Dan, phasing Anneka.

DAN

When they rang me at work, and
said he'd taken his own life I
wasn't surprised. In some way I
was relieved. They were together.

TEACHER

That's sad.

DAN

Yes, sad they're both not alive.
Of course. I miss them a lot.
(beat)
But not sad that they're together.
Because they are. I know they are.
And like I told Anneka...
(looks towards Anneka)
...I read poetry to him, where
his ashes were scattered. And I
know he hears. I just know. Like
Anneka said, it's spiritual somehow.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

A transit van pulls up outside of the house.

TOM and Jason carry two large speakers up the path. Tom's
the same age as Jason.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Auntie Val puts a plate of eggs and bacon in front of a
clean-shaven Simon.

HALL:

Auntie Val smiles as Simon opens the front door wearing a
suit, carrying a briefcase.

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon walks towards his car.

Auntie Val peers at Simon from behind the curtains.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka sits drinking a coffee staring at her mobile phone.
She picks it up, presses digits, decides against it.

INT. SIMON'S OFFICE - DAY

Simon works at his PC. He picks up a photograph on the desk.

INSERT: FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH

BACK TO SCENE:

He replaces the photograph.

EXT. A SOUTH LONDON COLLEGE - CAR PARK - DAY

Jason and Tom walk towards the college entrance.

Jason holds the door open for SARAH and JANICE to enter.
Both nineteen years old.

INT. A SOUTH LONDON COLLEGE - CAFE - DAY

Jason and Tom sit drinking coffees opposite Sarah and
Janice. They smile and draw the girls' attention.

EXT. A PUB - NIGHT

Establishing shot of the pub.

INT. A PUB - NIGHT

Anneka and Simon sit drinking at a quiet corner table.

ANNEKA

He's only moved in with her
'cause he won't have any rent to
pay.

SIMON

You think?

ANNEKA

Course. He's a student. Goes to college. No money. Not gonna be...

(flowery)

'in love' with her, is he? None of that shit.

Colin and Dave enter with TANIA dark-haired and MAXINE blonde haired, both in their twenties. Maxine is Colin's girl, Tania, Dave's. They walk towards a busy bar.

ANNEKA

Infatuation. That's all it is. She's the age isn't she? What is she, mid-thirties, late-thirties?

SIMON

Thirty five.

ANNEKA

Whatever. Young guy finds her attractive. She's flattered. Feels good about herself. And she's besotted enough to fall for it.

MOMENTS LATER: Anneka looks up as Colin arrives.

COLIN

Anneka, my little sister. Who's this then, the poetry teacher?

ANNEKA

(awkwardly)

No, Colin. A friend...Simon, my brother Colin. Colin, Simon.

SIMON

Hello.

COLIN

Looking after Anneka, my little sister, are you, keeping her out of trouble?

(beat)

Get you and your friend a drink, Anneka?

ANNEKA

No, thanks. We're going soon.

MOMENTS LATER: Tania nestles up to Dave at the bar. Maxine has her arms around Colin, holding a CROSS on Colin's neck chain as he watches Simon and Anneka leave the pub.

COLIN
My little sister and the poetry
teacher.

They all laugh.

EXT. A PUB - NIGHT

Laughter from the pub over as Simon and Anneka walk to
Simon's car.

SIMON
Can I give you a lift?

ANNEKA
No, it's okay. I'll walk.
(beat)
Only joking about you going to a
solicitor last week. You looked
really down. I thought I'd try
and cheer you up.

They reach the car.

ANNEKA
You'll be back with her soon, you
wait and see. She'll come to her
senses, realise what a bloody
fool she's been, kick him out.
It won't last long.

SIMON
You sound very sure.

ANNEKA
Course. I know about these things.
Worldly-wise Anneka, that's me.
Eighteen going on eighty.

They stand by the car.

ANNEKA
Night then. Sleep tight.

She kisses him on the cheeks.

SIMON
Anneka. Thanks. For everything.

ANNEKA
(smiles)
I'll put my invoice in the post.
Night.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - NIGHT

Anneka walks to the estate. She passes two hooded TEENAGE BOYS hanging around, smoking.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Dawn sits looking at the letter shaking her head. She sinks a large gin in one, and jumps startled at the sound of the front door opening.

DAWN

Oh God!

She hides the letter behind her as Anneka appears.

ANNEKA

What's the matter?

DAWN

Nothing. Why?

ANNEKA

Look like you've seen a ghost.

DAWN

Felt like a drink. Someone at the hospital. One of the cleaners. She died. Unexpected like. Ten years younger than me and all. Makes you think.

ANNEKA

That's a shame. Still, we all gotta die. Night.

DAWN

Night

Dawn waits until Anneka's climbed the stairs before lifting the gin bottle.

EXT. A SOUTH LONDON COLLEGE - DAY

Sally's car pulls up outside of the college playground and parking area.

INT. SALLY'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Sally sees Jason's car.

EXT. A SOUTH LONDON COLLEGE - DAY

Tom and Jason, and Sarah and Janice, leave the college, up close and personal.

INT. SALLY'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

A shocked Sally sees them.

EXT. A SOUTH LONDON COLLEGE - DAY

Sarah and Janice wave to the boys, who walk towards Jason's car. Jason calls them back. The girls look at each other undecided, then walk back towards Jason's car.

INT. SALLY'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Sally starts crying and turns on the ignition.

EXT. DOVER FERRY PORT - DAY

Early morning. A ferry docked. Ron walks down a gangway from the ferry to shore. He carries two holdalls, and wears a three-quarter length leather jacket and jeans.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - UPSTAIRS LANDING - DAY

Dawn knocks on the door.

DAWN

Anneka...Anneka, time to get up.

ANNEKA'S BEDROOM:

Anneka in bra and pants takes out a blouse from her wardrobe. The sun shines through her window. Dawn enters.

DAWN

Anneka did you...
(surprised)
You're up.

ANNEKA

Clever. I'm not gonna work today.

DAWN
Why not? You always work on
Saturdays.

EXT. ROAD TO DOVER - DAY

Simon's car moving.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - UPSTAIRS LANDING - DAY

Anneka rushes to the bathroom in bra and pants.

ANNEKA
I'm going out with a man.

DAWN
What man?

ANNEKA
An older man.

DAWN
What older man?

ANNEKA
(acting scary)
A dark, evil, horrible older man.

DAWN
Anneka, what older man?

INT. SIMON'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Anneka smiles and looks relaxed and happy.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - UPSTAIRS LANDING - DAY

About to go in the bathroom.

ANNEKA
Don't worry, he's not gonna rape
me. I might rape him though.

Dawn presses up against the door as Anneka closes the
bathroom door.

DAWN
Anneka, don't say things like
that. Even if you're joking.

ANNEKA (O.S.)
I'm not. I might rape him.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Anneka looks at Simon surreptitiously. He catches her look and smiles.

EXT. DOVER CLIFFS - DAY

Anneka and Simon stand looking out to sea.

ANNEKA
Why here?

SIMON
It's where my parents live.
France.
(beat)
I came here the day I found out
about Sally.

ANNEKA
Wanna be close to your parents,
I suppose. Feel their presence.

SIMON
Maybe. I don't know.

ANNEKA
Have you told them?

SIMON
No. Not yet. No point.
(beat)
I'll wait. See how things go.

ANNEKA
How far is it to France?

SIMON
Twenty one miles, I think.

LATER: Simon and Anneka walking.

SIMON
My Father was a successful
businessman. But the stress of
it all got to him. He had a mild
heart attack.

ANNEKA
That's a shame.

SIMON

They saw it as a warning.

(beat)

My Mother made him take early retirement. And do something he really wanted to do. Now they're making wine in Bordeaux. Together.

ANNEKA

And they're happy?

SIMON

Very. Their only regret is that they didn't do it years earlier.

A beat.

ANNEKA

My old man's over there, too.

SIMON

In France?

ANNEKA

Yes. Somewhere. I don't know where.

EXT. DOVER FERRY PORT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Ron carrying two cases, walks up the gangway to a ferry. He turns and waves.

A tearful Dawn waves to him from shore.

INT. A STATIONARY CAR - DAY - FLASHBACK

ANNEKA(12) in the rear turns her head slowly towards the back of Ron. Tears flood her eyes.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

Yeah, he went away and left us, Mum, me and Colin. Six years ago.

BACK TO SCENE:

SIMON

Why did he leave you?

ANNEKA

There were family problems. My Mum wanted him to leave.

SIMON

That's sad.

ANNEKA

Well, I don't think she really wanted him to leave, but...She thought it best if he did. For all of us.

(urgently, grabs his arm)

Come on, I'll race you.

Anneka runs for twenty yards and stops out of breath.

ANNEKA

You're not running.

SIMON

Nor are you.

ANNEKA

I know.

SIMON

What is it?

ANNEKA

(doubles over)

Sorry...God, I'm so unfit. It's my Mum's fault, smoking in the bloody flat all the time.

He walks to her.

SIMON

(smiles)

You all right?

ANNEKA

(breathes heavily)

Yeah. Shit. Not a good idea.

INT. A B&B HOUSE - DAY

Ron signs in at reception.

Ron uses a wall-mounted payphone.

INT. MANDY'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Mandy tying up her dressing gown picks up the phone.

MANDY

(into phone)

Hello...

(shocked)

Ron, what you doing ringing?

EXT. DOVER CLIFFS - DAY

Anneka and Simon walk slowly in silence for a while.

SIMON

What do you want to do, Anneka?

ANNEKA

What do I want to do?...I don't know. Work. Earn money. What else is there?

SIMON

What about your dreams? You must have dreams?

ANNEKA

I don't have dreams. I work in a supermarket. How can a thicko like me have dreams?

SIMON

You're not a thicko, Anneka. You're a bright girl.

ANNEKA

Not as bright as you.
(pointed)
You went to University.

SIMON

Come on now.

ANNEKA

Well, it's true.

SIMON

Everyone has dreams.

ANNEKA

Well, yeah, I suppose. Not dreams, but...there are things I wanna do, places I want to go.

SIMON

Like what?

EXT. PROTESTANT CEMETERY - ROME - DAY.

Anneka stands looking at the John Keats and Joseph Severn gravestones.

INT. KEATS-SHELLEY HOUSE IN ROME - DAY

Anneka sits by the Fontana della Barcaccia fountain, looking up at the Keats-Shelley house.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

I'd like to visit the John Keats grave in Rome. And the house, where he died.

BACK TO SCENE:

SIMON

John Keats. You like poetry?

ANNEKA

Love it. Always have. Right since I was very young.

(thinks a bit)

I love the music of it. I can't explain. Words just say things. Poetry says things musically. Like it means more, somehow. And it's spiritual. It's definitely spiritual.

(glances at him)

Sure you think I'm off my head, a checkout-girl in a supermarket liking poetry?

SIMON

Not at all.

(beat)

Have you got a boyfriend?

ANNEKA

No.

SIMON

I thought all girls of your age...

ANNEKA

Eighteen.

SIMON

Is that how old you are?

ANNEKA

Yeah. I said, didn't I? Remember? Worldly-wise, though. Just like I said. Boys of my age don't appeal to me. Most of them are such arseholes.

SIMON

Why do you say that?

ANNEKA

They just are.

(beat)

I'm hungry. Must be the air.

(she skips ahead)

I bet Auntie Val gave you a
cooked breakfast, eggs, bacon,
the lot? Didn't she?

(she skips back and
nudges him)

Didn't she?

SIMON

Yes, she did.

ANNEKA

Knew she would. Come on, you can
buy me some food.

LATER: They walk towards a cafe.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HALL - DAY

Dawn picks the phone up.

DAWN

(into phone)

Hello...

INT. MANDY'S FLAT - HALL - DAY

Mandy on the phone.

MANDY

(into phone)

He's back.

INTERCUT:

DAWN

What you say?

MANDY

You heard. I said he's back. I
just knew it. When you got that
letter, I just knew it, Dawn.

Dawn's face whitens immediately.

MANDY

Dawn, did you hear what I said?

The phone drops limply to Dawn's side.

INT. A DOVER CAFETERIA - DAY

Simon is talking to a WAITRESS in her twenties. Anneka looks absorbingly at him, smiling unconsciously.

Simon drinks coffee and smiles at her as she digs into a full English breakfast.

ANNEKA
 (her mouth full)
 Delicious
 (wipes her mouth)
 Sorry.

SIMON
 What for?

ANNEKA
 Being a pig.

EXT. A DOVER CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka and Simon walk slowly away from the cafeteria towards Simon's car in a car park a distance away.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE - DAY

Dawn sits on the sofa, drinking a gin, looking very worried, the phone in her hand.

EXT. A DOVER CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka stops walking in front of the car, she cups his face and kisses him on the lips.

ANNEKA
 That's for being nice to me. For
 bringing me here.
 (she puts her hand
 on his mouth)
 Don't say anything. Nothing.

She breaks and walks to the car. He unlocks the car.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Simon reflects smilingly.

SIMON

It was like a bad dream. All of it.

ANNEKA

Yeah, I know.

SIMON

Sleeping in the car. Trying to grab Naomi...When I think of what I did, how I reacted.

ANNEKA

Was a bit crazy.

(beat)

Still, you don't know how you're gonna react to things till it happens, do you? None of us does.

SIMON

I'm feeling so much stronger. Thanks to you.

ANNEKA

And Auntie Val's cooking.

SIMON

(smiles)

And auntie Val's cooking, of course. Never eaten so much in my life. Think I've put on pounds.

ANNEKA

Yeah. I noticed.

She touches his tummy.

SIMON

Thanks.

ANNEKA

It's true. You have. You could do with it, though. Skinny whatname. Like a rasher of wind before.

(considers)

Like a poet.

SIMON

A poet? Why do you say that?

ANNEKA

Yeah, someone like Keats. Bit older, of course. He died when he was twenty five.

SIMON

I don't understand.

ANNEKA

How you were, when I first met
you, all pained and troubled, and
thin and.....

(looks at him)

Sorry. I'm talking bollocks. Tell
me to shutup.

SIMON

Shutup Anneka.

ANNEKA

(punches his arm)

Hey you! Who do you think you are,
telling me to shutup?

They look at each other and smile. A real connection.

INT. A PUB - DAY

Ron sits drinking a pint at a table facing the door.

EX. A PUB - DAY

Dawn wears a macintosh and tightens her belt outside of
the pub. She takes a deep breath, touches her hair.

INT. A PUB - DAY

Dawn enters, and sees Ron sitting at a table facing the door.

EXT. A ROAD - DAY

Simon's car moving.

Simon drives into a petrol station.

INT. A PUB - DAY

Ron puts a pint to his mouth and drinks. Dawn lifts a gin
from the table and sees her hand shaking.

DAWN

Look, my hands are shaking. This
is what you've done to me. Fuck
knows why I'm here. Why am I here?
You tell me why I'm here?

Ron drinks his beer.

DAWN

You said you'd never come back.
No contact. Nothing. That's what
you said. That's what we agreed.
You'd go away and we'd never see
you again. And yet here you
are...here I am, talking to you.

Ron drinks his pint.

DAWN

I must be fucking mad.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Anneka sees Simon enter the petrol station shop. She opens
the glove compartment. Photographs.

INSERT: PHOTOGRAPH OF SIMON

BACK TO SCENE:

She picks it up and looks at it.

ANNEKA

'He knew whose gentle hand was
at the latch, Before the door had
given her to his eyes; And from
her chamber-window he would catch
Her beauty farther than the
falcon spies;'

MOMENTS LATER: She puts the photograph in her jacket
pocket as Simon opens the car door.

INT. A PUB - DAY

Ron finishes his pint.

RON

I'd like to make it up with her.

Dawn stands up, fumbles as she collects up her things,
anxious to leave.

DAWN

Make it up with her? How can you
make something like that up, ah?
You tell me that? You must be
fucking mad. Think she'd want to
see you, after what you did to her?

She leaves the pub. Ron puts a fresh pint to his lips.

EXT. ROAD TO LONDON - DAY

Simon's car moving.

EXT. A TOY SHOP - FRONT - DAY

Colin enters the shop. Dave walks round the back.

Colin leaves the shop and catches Dave walking from the rear pathway. Dave shakes his head and laughs.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - DAY

Simon's car pulls to a stop.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Anneka leans into him.

ANNEKA

Thanks for the day. It was great.

SIMON

I enjoyed it, too.

She kisses him on the cheeks, opens the door.

ANNEKA

Eat everything auntie Val puts down for you. You hear me?

SIMON

I will. I promise.

ANNEKA

She'll tell me if you don't. Bye then.

SIMON

Bye Anneka.

She leaves the car.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HER BEDROOM - DAY

Dawn sits on the bed looking at letters in her lap.

DAWN
You bastard! Get out of our life.

She flings the letters across the floor and pushes a tin on the floor. Sound of the front door.

DAWN
(calls out)
Hello, who's that?

ANNEKA (O.S.)
Who do you think it is?

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Anneka runs up the stairs and past Dawn at the top.

DAWN
Where you been?

ANNEKA
Need a piss. This family and
their weak bladders.
(as she enters the bathroom)
I told you. Out. With a man.

Dawn stands outside of her bedroom, the door open.

DAWN
What man? Who is he?

BATHROOM:

Anneka sits on the toilet.

ANNEKA
I told you. A horrible older man
who wants to have his evil way
with me.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Dawn sees the letters and the tin on the floor and panics.

DAWN
God...

DAWN'S BEDROOM:

Dawn sits on the bed putting the last of the letters back as Anneka appears at her door.

ANNEKA
(preoccupied with Dawn)
His name's Simon. He's nice. I
like him. Don't worry.

DAWN

Well, I do. You know I do.

Anneka looks at Dawn clutching the tin.

ANNEKA

Everything all right?

DAWN

Yeah. Why shouldn't it be?

ANNEKA

You look...

DAWN

What? I look what?

ANNEKA

I don't know...

(beat)

Fancy a cup of tea?

DAWN

Tea? Yeah. Thanks love.

Anneka dwells on her Mother before moving away.

EXT. A TOY SHOP - FRONT - NIGHT

Shutters pulled down over the shop windows.

INT. A TOY SHOP - NIGHT

In darkness Colin loads up two holdall bags with a miscellany of toys.

Colin finds a tin with bank notes in it behind the counter.

Colin wears a Batman mask, Dave a Robin mask. They stop what they're doing, look at each other and start laughing.

EXT. A TOY SHOP - FRONT - NIGHT

Colin and Dave continue laughing as they run towards Colin's car parked yards from the shop.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Anneka, deep in thought, wearing a dressing gown switches off her hair drier.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Anneka looks at the chest-of-drawers in her Mother's room.

LOUNGE/DINER:

Dawn is asleep on the sofa, her mouth wide open. Anneka stands at the open door, slowly brushing her hair.

DAWN'S BEDROOM:

Anneka comes across the tin in the chest-of-drawers.

Anneka sits on the bed reading letters. She looks up, surprised.

She puts the tin back in the chest-of-drawers.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sally kneels down at the toilet being sick.

INT. DOCTOR'S SURGERY - DAY

A DOCTOR stands up from his desk and shakes Sally's hand.

EXT. SALLY'S ROAD - DAY

Sally sees a transit van parked outside of her house, and Tom carrying a computer towards it, as she approaches with Naomi in her buggy.

Sally sees Janice and Sarah in the van facing her, smiling, as she passes.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Tom walks down the stairs followed by Jason.

JASON

Tom's got to move out of his flat.
I said he could have the spare
bedroom.

MOMENTS LATER: Sally watches Tom walk to the girls holding DVDs and a duvet which he takes from them.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The Teacher looks at Jason.

TEACHER
Does anyone know what's happened
to Sally?
(to Jason)
Jason?

JASON
No.

TEACHER
I thought you were quite friendly
with her?

JASON
No idea where she is.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Sally sits on a sofa crying. Sound of music from upstairs.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

TEACHER
Anneka?

Jason turns around and stares at Anneka.

ANNEKA
What? Sorry?

TEACHER
Seen anything of Sally, Anneka?

ANNEKA
(nervously)
No, I...No I haven't seen her.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Simon's car stops fifty yards from the club entrance.

Simon and Anneka walk towards the entrance.

ANNEKA
I come here sometimes for a drink.
(looks at him)
Don't mind, do you?

SIMON
No. Of course not.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Emma and Susie are at the bar, drinking. Loud music.

Anneka and Simon sit at a table away from the dancing area. Anneka finishes one bottled beer, and picks up another.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Colin and Dave walk towards the nightclub. Exuberant, they punch each other's fists.

COLIN
Here's to buying and selling.

COLIN
Selling and buying.

They hug each other and laugh.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Simon and Anneka at a table.

ANNEKA
Sorry about the noise. Can't hear
yourself think.

SIMON
No problem.

Simon sees Colin and Dave enter.

SIMON
There's your brother, Anneka.

ANNEKA
So it is.

DANCE FLOOR:

Colin and Dave look at Emma and Susie dancing together.

LATER: Emma and Colin are dancing close up. Colin tries to kiss her on the lips.

EMMA
(pushing him away)
Not here, Colin.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Colin's car is parked ahead of Simon's, in line with a fenced construction area. Building materials, sand, stones, bricks, etc outside of the fenced area.

Colin and Emma walk towards the car, Colin's hand first on Emma's back, then her backside. She pushes his hand away.

EMMA
Get your hands off!

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Simon and Anneka at the table. Anneka stands up.

ANNEKA
Come on, let's go. Stupid idea.
The music's too loud.

SIMON
(having to shout)
Sorry?

ANNEKA
Yeah, exactly.

Anneka stands, and lifts him up.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT

Colin pulls Emma's bra straps down, and tries to kiss her.

EMMA
Fuck off, I said!

COLIN
Come on, you want it as much as
I do.

EMMA
I said fuck off!

Emma puts her hand on the door handle, Colin pushes her hand away. Colin presses the seat lever, the seat jerks back.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Anneka and Simon leave the nightclub. She glances at Dave as she walks past him, leaning against the wall.

Colin's car is in view of Anneka as she walks on the pavement with Simon. The sound of the music softens. Isolated screams come from the car.

Anneka walks closer to the car. The passenger side door opens, then closes. Continuous screaming.

Anneka stops yards from the car. She sees Emma's hands, held aloft, in the rear window. She rushes to it.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT

Emma's breasts are exposed as the windscreen shatters.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Anneka throws bricks at the windscreen.

INT/EXT. COLIN'S CAR/ ROAD - NIGHT

COLIN

What the...

The driver's side door opens.

ANNEKA

Leave her alone!

Anneka grabs Colin around the neck and tries to strangle him. Simon leans in the door.

SIMON

Anneka. No!

Anneka lets go of Colin.

COLIN

You're off your fucking head.

Emma gets out of the car, crying.

ANNEKA

Emma, you all right?

Emma rushes away from the car. Colin gets out of the car.

COLIN

Look what you done to my car.

SIMON

Anneka, come on.

COLIN
Stupid fucking cow.

Anneka makes a grab for him again. Simon stops her.

SIMON
Anneka. No!
(he holds her back)
Let's go.

COLIN
Yeah, please go. Get her away
from me, mate, otherwise...

ANNEKA
Otherwise what?

Simon puts his hands on her shoulder, and turns her around.
They walk away. Colin calls after them.

COLIN
Hope you're gonna pay for the
damage you've done. Bitch! Bitch!

Anneka turns towards Colin. Simon pulls her away.

They walk to Simon's car.

SIMON
You all right?

ANNEKA
I'm fine. It just reminded me of...

SIMON
What?

ANNEKA
Nothing. Never mind. Take me home
please.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Anneka stares ahead. Simon looks towards her.

ANNEKA
Sorry.

SIMON
What for?

ANNEKA
Everything.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - NIGHT

Anneka walks away from the car as Simon drives off.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Dawn sits on the sofa drinking, tearful. Sound of the front door. Dawn jumps startled and wipes her nose and eyes.

ANNEKA

Hello...

Dawn looks towards her, but quickly faces away.

ANNEKA

What's wrong with you?

DAWN

Nothing.

ANNEKA

You're drinking again. It's all you ever fucking do.

DAWN

It's only water. And don't swear.

ANNEKA

You don't drink water.

Anneka walks over to her.

ANNEKA

What're you crying about? Come on, what is it, tell me?

Dawn looks away, but cries uncontrollably.

ANNEKA

One of the cleaners died, did she?

(beat)

Of course. I know what this is about.

Dawn looks at Anneka full in the face as she sits beside her.

DAWN

Anneka, I'm sorry. I had this call from Mandy, and...He just turned up, out of the blue. He said he wants to see you. I told him no, but...

Dawn holds Anneka's hand as she emotionally collapses.

DAWN
 I'm sorry, love, I don't know
 what to do, I don't know what to
 do, I don't know what to do.

Dawn buries herself in Aneka's chest.

EXT. A B&B HOUSE - NIGHT

Ron leaves the guest house carrying a Harrods plastic bag.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dawn sits drinking a glass of gin and smoking furiously.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - NIGHT

Ron walks towards Dawn's flat.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aneka sits at the dressing table putting lipstick on. She wears a black skirt and white blouse.

KITCHEN:

Sound of the door bell. Dawn jumps up, startled.

DAWN
 Oh my God!

HALL:

Dawn opens the front door to Ron.

ANNEKA'S BEDROOM:

Aneka opens her blouse buttons down to her cleavage.

DAWN (O.S.)
 Aneka...

HALL:

Dawn stands at the bottom of the stairs.

DAWN
 (calls out)
 Aneka, where are you?

Dawn puts her hands to her mouth, shocked at the sight of Aneka at the top of the stairs.

DAWN

Oh my God!

Aneka walks down the stairs. Dawn rushes to the kitchen.

LOUNGE/DINER:

Aneka stands at the door. Ron stands up from a sofa.

ANNEKA

(cooly)

I heard you was around, Dad.

She walks in the room.

ANNEKA

What do you want?

RON

Aneka...Here's some chocolates for you.

He holds the bag with a fully extended arm. She takes them at arm's length herself.

ANNEKA

Right. Thanks. Love chocolate. You remembered.

(looks at the bag)

Hm. Harrods. Posh place. Still, only the best for your daughter, ah Dad?

RON

Aneka...

ANNEKA

What Dad? Wanna try and make it up me do you? With chocolates from Harrods?

Aneka walks up close to him.

ANNEKA

(looks down at her cleavage)

Take a good look, Dad. Is this what you've come back for?

He steps back, and turns around.

RON

No Aneka.

She walks round and stands in front of him.

ANNEKA

You sure? Six years on, ah, Dad. You fucked me when I was twelve. Wanna try the eighteen year old version, do you? See if it feels any different? Any better?

RON

Anneka, no. No. You got it wrong.

ANNEKA

I got it wrong? Me? No! You got it wrong!

(pointing)

You promised! You promised I'd never ever see you again!

RON

Anneka, you're my daughter.

ANNEKA

Wrong, Dad. Was. Was your daughter. Was. It's in the past. Was. Past tense. You know. Was. Like it happened. But it's not anymore.

KITCHEN:

Dawn empties the remaining gin in her glass.

DAWN

God help us. Please. God help me.

LOUNGE/DINER:

Ron backs away to the door as Anneka moves closer to him.

ANNEKA

Every scream. Every cry of anguish. Every horrible, disgusting, filthy moment of what you did to me...It's with me. All the time. Every day. Every single day. And it never goes away. Never.

RON

Anneka...

ANNEKA

Now get out now before I go to the police, and get you locked up in prison. Which is where you should be now, if I had my fucking way.

RON

Anneka...

ANNEKA
I said get out! Now!

Ron leaves the room.

KITCHEN:

Sound of the front door slammed. Anneka appears.

ANNEKA
He's gone, Mum.

Dawn puts her arms around Anneka's neck.

DAWN
Oh Anneka...

ANNEKA
And he's never coming back.

EXT. A RIVERSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK - PARKING AREA - DAY

Simon's car pulls to a stop.

Simon shakes hands with an ESTATE AGENT.

EXT. A RIVERSIDE APARTMENT - BALCONY - DAY

The estate agent points out London landmarks to Simon.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka sits drinking a coffee. She lowers the cup, and picks up her mobile phone on the table. She looks at her watch.

INT. SIMON'S OFFICE - DAY

Simon is working at his PC. The phone rings on his desk.

SIMON
(into phone)
Hello...Simon Watkins.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka on the phone, slightly nervous.

ANNEKA
 (awkwardly)
 Afternoon Mr Watkins.

INTERCUT:

SIMON
 Anneka..

ANNEKA
 Never knew what your surname was.
 How's it going...in the office?

SIMON
 Fine.

ANNEKA
 Bet you're really good at your
 job, aren't you?

SIMON
 I don't know. I do my best.

ANNEKA
 Your own office, I bet. Have you
 got your own office?

SIMON
 Yes, I have.

A SECRETARY enters and puts a document on his desk,
 gestures to sign quickly.

ANNEKA
 Did you see that apartment?

SIMON
 Yes, I did. Sorry, I have to go
 Anneka. Speak later.

Anneka puts the phone down, disappointed.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Sally opens the door to Simon, holding Naomi.

SALLY
 You'd better come in.

LOUNGE:

Simon leads the way. He looks at the large speakers, and
 various rock posters pinned on the walls.

SALLY

Simon...I've got something to tell you. I'm pregnant. The baby is yours. I promise. If you don't believe me, have a test.

SIMON

Have you told him?

SALLY

Jason? Yes, of course I have. He's delighted about it. He loves me. Very much. And I love him.

Naomi puts her hands out to Simon.

SALLY

Go to Daddy. There's a good girl.

Sally hands Naomi to Simon.

SALLY

He's going to be a famous poet, and makes lots of money and be very rich one day soon. Until then you'll have to go on supporting us, Naomi and me.

She picks up a number of bills from the table.

SALLY

Oh. And I've gone over the limit on the Visa card. Can you...sort it out please, Simon? Naomi needs more clothes. She's growing all the time.

He takes the bills from her outstretched hand.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Sally waves limply from the step, her face drains as Simon turns away and straps Naomi in the car.

EXT. A PARK - DAY

Simon pushes Naomi in the buggy, looking distant.

ANNEKA

You all right?

SIMON

Fine. Why?

ANNEKA

You look a bit distant, that's all.

SIMON

No, I'm fine.

LATER: They continue walking.

ANNEKA

I call her my auntie. But she's not really my Auntie. Just someone I met. Two years ago.

EXT. A ROAD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Anneka runs up and kicks at fifteen year old BOYS pulling faces, taking the piss out of Vinny. with Auntie Val.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

I caught these blokes taking the piss out of Vinny, so I gave them what for.

BACK TO SCENE:

ANNEKA

Auntie Val buys these books for him. Encyclopedia Britannicas, or whatever they're called.

Simon walks in silence. Anneka looks at him closely before continuing, sensing that he's not listening.

ANNEKA

I always tell her when I'm coming round, so as not to surprise her. Give her a chance to put the books away, hide them, keep her secret safe.

(beat)

It's her dream, I suppose. Keeps her going. Pretending. Thinking what might've been if things had been different, and Vinny wasn't born the way he was.

(beat)

Suppose we all do that.

(deliberate)

Don't you think?

SIMON

Yes. I suppose.

She looks at him, worried.

PARKING AREA:

Colin's car parked. Anneka and Simon walk to a cafe and sit down outside.

PARK CAFE:

Anneka holds a milk shake in both hands.

ANNEKA

Auntie Val's gonna miss you. Bet she's grown really attached to you. Cooking for you, looking after you. Just like her own son.

SIMON

Yes, I expect.

ANNEKA

Sally pissed off with Jason yet, is she?

SIMON

No. No, she's not.

ANNEKA

Don't worry. Won't be long. Few weeks. By the time you move in that apartment, you'll be back with her. You see if I'm not right.

SIMON

I'd better get her back, Anneka.

Simon stands up.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Colin sees Anneka and Simon walking towards the car park.

COLIN

There's Anneka with that bloke again. Married bloke with a kid. She must be shagging him. The poetry teacher.

EXT. THE PARK - DAY

Colin's car drives off.

Simon finishes securing Naomi in the back of the car.

SIMON

I'll give you a lift.

ANNEKA
 No, it's...it's okay, I'll walk.
 (half points)
 It's only...over there.

She kisses him on the cheeks.

ANNEKA
 Bye then.

SIMON
 I'll see you later. And thanks
 again Anneka.

ANNEKA
 You don't need to keep saying
 that. I don't have to be here,
 you know.

LATER: Simon drives off. Anneka lowers her hands from waving and looks really low.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Simon comes down the stairs carrying two cases. Simon puts the cases down and hugs auntie Val and Simon at the door.

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon carries the cases to his car.

Vinny and Auntie Val wave from the front door as Simon gets in the car.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anneka lies on the bed, looking at Simon's PHOTO.

TEACHER (V.O.)
 When Keats' love letters to Fanny
 Brawne were published in 1878,
 they caused quite a stir.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE AREA - NIGHT

Anneka walks towards the school.

TEACHER (V.O.)
 And from his last letter to Fanny,
 he writes...morbidly, and I quote.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The Teacher walks down the aisle, reading.

TEACHER

'the world is too brutal for me--
I am glad there is such a thing
as the grave--I am sure I shall
never have any rest till I get
there....I wish I was either in
your arms full of faith or that
a Thunder bolt would strike me.'

The Teacher stops beside Anneka.

TEACHER

Anneka, will you read for us,
please?

ANNEKA

Sorry?

TEACHER

Would you read the poem please?

MOMENTS LATER: Anneka reads from 'Book 1 of Endymion'

ANNEKA

'A thing of beauty is a joy for
ever: Its loveliness increases;
it will never Pass into
nothingness;'

She stops reading.

TEACHER

Anneka...Please. Carry on.

ANNEKA

(with great difficulty)
' but still will keep A bower
quiet for us, and a sleep Full
of sweet dreams, and health, and
quiet breathing.'

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

ANNEKA(12) wearing a nightdress sits in front of a
dressing table with a mirror reading from a book of verse.
A tape recorder positioned on the windowsill.

ANNEKA (AGED 12)
 'Therefore, on every morrow, are
 we wreathing A flowery band to
 bind us to the earth, Spite of
 despondence, of the inhuman
 dearth Of noble natures, of the
 gloomy days,'

Anneka sees Ron via the mirror holding a bottle of scotch.

BACK TO SCENE:

Tears run down Anneka's face. She stares at the book.
 People look at her. She tries to read.

ANNEKA
 'Of all the unhealthy and o'er-
 darkened ways Made for our
 searching: yes, in spite of all...'

ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

Ron stands behind her stroking her hair.

BACK TO SCENE:

Anneka is frozen to the spot.

ANNEKA(12) (V.O.)
 DAD, GET OFF! GET OFF ME!

TEACHER
 What is it, Anneka?

ANNEKA
 It's the poem...
 (rubs her eyes)
 It's...Sorry. I've gotta go.

Anneka rushes out of the classroom.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Anneka runs along the corridor. Dan runs after her.

DAN
 Anneka!...Anneka! Wait!

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Anneka runs across the playground. Dan catches her up. He
 grabs her shoulder. She turns on him very sharply.

ANNEKA
Don't touch me!

DAN
Sorry, I...

Anneka walks on. Dan walks with her.

DAN
Anneka, what is it? What's the matter.

ANNEKA
Nothing you'd understand.

DAN
Try me. Go on, try me. I might surprise you.

ANNEKA
Go back to classs.

Anneka runs out of the playground.

DAN
Anneka...Anneka...

EXT. SIMON'S RIVERSIDE APARTMENT - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Anneka presses the bell.

INT. SIMON'S RIVERSIDE APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - NIGHT

Simon sees Anneka on the VIDEO ENTRY SYSTEM.

MOMENTS LATER: He opens the door to her. She falls in his arms, in tears.

SIMON
Anneka, what is it?

ANNEKA
Make love to me. Please. Simon...

SIMON
Anneka...

She stands back.

ANNEKA
Simon...
(beat)
Don't you want to? Am I ugly, is that it?

SIMON

No. Of course you're not ugly.

ANNEKA

What then?

SIMON

What's happened?

ANNEKA

I need you to. Don't make me say it again. Please.

SIMON

Anneka...

ANNEKA

(puts her hand to his mouth)

Don't ask me any questions.

BEDROOM:

She holds him very tightly and claws her way into his skin as they make love passionately.

LATER: Simon sits on the side of the bed, his back to her.

ANNEKA

Don't get up. Stay with me. Just for a bit.

SIMON

Anneka, I wish you'd...

She sits up and presses against his back.

ANNEKA

Did you enjoy it? You did come, didn't you? It's been a few weeks for you, so...What did I feel like? Was I all right? It's been a long time, you see. A girl needs to know these things.

He turns to her. She touches his face.

ANNEKA

Got little marks by your nose, indentations, where your glasses go.

He stands up.

ANNEKA

Thanks for that.

SIMON

Don't say that.

ANNEKA

Why not? I asked you. Payback for...you know, helping you a bit. See it like that and it'll make it more okay to you. When you think about it. Which you will.

SIMON

I wish you'd tell me what's wrong.

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Colin's car draws up and parks on the other side of the road to the house.

EXT. THE REAR OF AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Colin and Dave walk down a path to the back of the house. Colin smashes the lock on the back door with a spanner.

EXT. RIVERSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK CAR PARK AREA - NIGHT

Simon and Anneka leave the apartment.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN/HALL - NIGHT

Colin and Dave walk through to the hall. Both wear black masks. Dave goes upstairs.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Auntie Val is asleep. The door to her bedroom is open.

Dave walks slowly towards a jewel box, on a chest of drawers, and opens it. Full of rings, brooches, necklaces.

Dave picks up a Bible, flicks to the back, a wad of £20 notes. He takes the money and puts the Bible back. Auntie Val sighs in her sleep.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Simon with Anneka, drives in silence.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Colin opens up the door. Vinny sits facing the TV. Colin walks in front of Vinny, and smiles.

Colin opens up drawers of a Welsh dresser. He turns and smiles towards Vinny. Colin finds Auntie Val's wallet in the Welsh Dresser.

Dave enters holding up the jewel box and the money. Colin holds up the wallet. Colin wags his finger towards Dave who stands by him. They both look towards Vinny, and quietly laugh.

VINNY

Where's Mummy?

This startles them both. They walk towards the door.

VINNY

Where's Mummy?

Auntie Val opens the door, wearing a nightdress.

AUNTIE VAL

Vinny...

Colin pushes her away as she makes a grab for him, and both run towards the back door.

AUNTIE VAL

Vinny, my darling, are you all right?

VINNY

Mummy...

Auntie Val suddenly holds her chest.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - NIGHT

Simon's car pulls up.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT

Anneka kisses him on the cheeks and opens the door.

ANNEKA

Night.

SIMON

Anneka, I wish you'd...

ANNEKA
Sleep tight.
(smiles)
Night.

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S ROAD - NIGHT

Colin and Dave run away from the house laughing.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

COLIN
Can you believe that?

DAVE
When he said..
(imitates)
'Mummy..Mummy'...I could've
fucking died.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Colin's car moving. Laughter over.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HALL - NIGHT

Vinny is kneeling down beside Auntie Val, collapsed.

VINNY
Mummy...Mummy...

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Dawn is asleep on the sofa. Sound of the front door.
Anneka glances in the lounge, sees her Mother.

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Simon's car pulls up outside of the house.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - HALL - NIGHT

Simon opens the front door. Vinny stands by Auntie Val.

Simon bends down and checks Auntie Val's pulse. He stands, puts his hands on Vinny's shoulders. Vinny lowers his head, looks at his clenched fist. Simon touches Vinny's fist. Vinny opens it, he's holding a CROSS.

INT. DAWN'S HOUSE - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anneka asleep on the bed. Her mobile phone on the bed rings. She wakes, surprised.

ANNEKA
(into phone)
Hello...

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

TWO PARAMEDICS carry Auntie Val on a covered stretcher to the ambulance.

Anneka running towards the house pulls up as the stretcher is loaded into the ambulance.

ANNEKA
What...Who?

Anneka sees Simon and Vinny standing by the front door.

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Anneka hugs Vinny, who is crying.

ANNEKA
It's gonna be all right, Vinny.
You hear me?
(she steps back)
It's gonna be all right. I'll
look after you.
(she points to him,
and her)
I'm gonna look after you. Me. I
will look after you.

VINNY
Anneka...

ANNEKA
Oh Vinny.

Simon approaches Anneka.

SIMON
He was...

Anneka wipes the tears off of Vinny's face with the back of her hand.

ANNEKA

What?

SIMON

...holding this.

Simon holds out the cross. Anneka takes hold of it.

INSERT: CROSS with an inscription, 'Love from A'.

BACK TO SCENE:

Anneka looks at the cross lastingly.

SIMON

What is it?

MOMENTS LATER: Simon is in the background talking to TWO POLICEMEN.

Simon approaches her.

SIMON

Anneka...the cross?

Anneka rolls it in her hand, and looks towards Vinny.

ANNEKA

It's Vinny's. I gave it to him,
for his birthday.

(to Vinny)

Didn't I, Vinny? Love from Anneka.
You remember, Vinny?

EXT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - DAY

Anneka stands outside of the house hugging Vinny.

Auntie Val's sister THELMA, in her late sixties, holds Vinny's hand and leads him to a car parked outside. Her husband HAROLD opens the rear door.

VINNY

(waves to Anneka)

Anneka...

Anneka waves back.

EXT. A CEMETERY - DAY

Auntie Val's coffin is carried by COFFIN-BEARERS to a chapel.

Thelma and Harold stand with Vinny by the entrance. Anneka and Harold shake hands with Anneka and Simon, and other MOURNERS.

INT. A CHAPEL - DAY

A VICAR delivers a service.

Vinny turns to Anneka, sitting behind him. She touches his shoulder, looks looks down at her clasped hand and the CROSS.

EXT. CEMETERY - GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE - DAY

Dan stands by a tree reading from a book of verse. He stops reading when he sees Anneka. Their eyes meet.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka sits at a table looking at the cross.

INT. COLIN'S FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

Colin and Dave are packing holiday cases, in good spirits.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka slides her mobile phone towards her.

INT. COLIN'S FLAT - LOUNGE - DAY

Colin and Dave sit drinking beers, laughing. Two cases by the door. Colin looks at his watch. Sound of the doorbell. Colin stands up.

COLIN
Must be the girls.

Colin opens the door to TWO POLICEMEN.

EXT. STREET - COLIN'S FLAT - DAY

A black taxi pulls up outside of a shop below Colin's flat.

Tania and Maxine take their cases from the boot.

INT. STAIRWAY TO COLIN'S FLAT - DAY

The two policemen lead Colin and Dave down the stairs.

EXT. STREET - COLIN'S FLAT - DAY

Colin and Dave are led to a police car.

Tania and Maxine look at each other confused.

Colin and Dave get in the rear of the police car.

INT. SUPERMARKET CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka sits looking down at her mobile phone.

INT. A POLICE STATION - DAY

Colin and Dave sit opposite TWO POLICEMEN. One of the Policemen leans forward and shows the cross to Colin.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Anneka at her checkout starts to cry. She tries to hold it back, but she can't. She walks and then runs away from the checkout.

INT. SUPERMARKET CORRIDOR TO TOILETS - DAY

Anneka enters the Women's toilet, wailing.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

A STORE SUPERVISOR in her fifties shakes her head disparagingly at Anneka's empty checkout.

INT. SUPERMARKET - WOMEN'S TOILET - DAY

A CUBICLE: Anneka sits on the toilet seat her head in her hands crying loudly.

Anneka leaves the cubicle. She looks in the mirror and throws cold water over her face. The Store Supervisor enters.

STORE SUPERVISOR
 Anneka, you don't just leave your
 checkout unattended. What do you
 think you're playing at?

Anneka pulls a long length of paper from the towel machine and spreads it over her face, looking at the Store Supervisor via the mirror.

STORE SUPERVISOR
 I'm going to have to report this
 to the Store Manager.

ANNEKA
 Fuck the store manager! Fuck your
 job! And fuck you!

EXT. WATERLOO BRIDGE - DAY

Anneka walks over the bridge, tears in her eyes.

EXT. DAWN'S FLAT - NIGHT

Colin smashes his fist against the front door.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HALL/LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Colin bursts past Dawn as she opens the door.

COLIN
 She shopped me! My own fucking
 sister shopped me!

DAWN
 What you talking about?

LOUNGE/DINER:

Colin charges around the room like a caged lion.

COLIN
 Where is she, the little bitch?

DAWN
 She's at work. What you talking
 about, shopped you?

HALL:

COLIN
 (shouts up the stairs)
 Anneka, where are you, you bitch?
 (rushes up the stairs)
 Anneka!

Dawn rushes up after him.

DAWN
 I told you, she's at work.

ANNEKA'S BEDROOM:

Colin enters. Dawn follows.

COLIN
 Anneka, where the fuck are you?
 (turns to Dawn)
 It's eight o'clock. What time she
 get home?

DAWN
 I don't know. Anytime. She
 might've gone somewhere. What you
 done? You're not making sense.
 Shopped you for what?

COLIN
 Another time, Mum.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Colin rushes out of Anneka's bedroom.

COLIN
 Bitch!

DAWN
 What is it? Tell me?

HALL:

Colin runs down the stairs and opens the front door. He
 turns to her halfway down the stairs.

COLIN
 (points with
 clenched fist)
 Just tell her...

DAWN
 What? Tell her what? What you done?

He shakes his head and leaves.

INT. MC DONALD'S - NIGHT

Anneka sits by a window drinking coffee, tearful. Her reflection in the window. Dan approaches.

DAN
(carefully)
You okay?

ANNEKA
I'm fine.

DAN
You sure?

ANNEKA
I'm sure.

He continues to look at her. She looks up.

ANNEKA
I'm sure...Thanks.

He turns and leaves.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NAOMI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sally tucks Naomi's sheets in her cot.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Sally walks down the stairs. Sound of laughter from the lounge.

LOUNGE:

Tom and Sarah, Jason and Janice sit with their around each other, kissing, drinking beers. Rock music plays.

HALL:

Sally stands outside the door.

Sally slowly walks up the stairs.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - NIGHT

Anneka walks towards the flat.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HALL - NIGHT

Dawn appears as Anneka closes the front door.

DAWN
What's going on?

Anneka walks up the stairs.

DAWN
Colin's been here. He said you shopped him. What's he talking about, shopped him?

Dawn follows her and grabs her arm.

DAWN
No, you're not walking away, I want an answer. I'm not drunk, either. I haven't touched a drop.

ANNEKA
Makes a change, Mum.

Dawn slaps her face hard.

DAWN
I'm asking a question, I expect a civil answer. What's Colin talking about, about you shopping him?

ANNEKA
He broke into an old lady's house.

DAWN
Broke in?

ANNEKA
Yeah. He's a criminal, Mum.

DAWN
A criminal? What you on about? He buys and sells. Colin buys and sells.

ANNEKA
(angrily)
No, Mum. He breaks into shops and robs people. Except in this case it happened to be someone I knew. A friend of mine. I called her my Auntie Val. She's got a retarded son named Vinny. And I love them, I love them both to bits. He broke in, she had a heart attack and died.

DAWN
It's not true. It can't be.

ANNEKA

Yeah, I shopped him. And he'll go to the nick. Him and his mate Dave. They both deserve to be locked up. For fucking ever. Anything else you wanna know?

DAWN

Oh my God, it can't be true. Not Colin?

Anneka reaches the top of the stairs.

ANNEKA

Still what can you expect really, uhh? An old man who rapes his daughter, a brother who's a criminal. Two peas from the same pod. Can't expect much else, can you Mum, really?

DAWN

Oh my God. What's happening to this family?

ANNEKA

What family? We don't have a fucking family!

Anneka goes into the bathroom. Dawn starts crying.

DAWN'S BEDROOM:

Dawn sits on the bed, looking at a photograph album. She wipes tears from her eyes.

INSERT: A WEDDING PHOTO OF RON AND DAWN

BACK TO SCENE:

She flings the photo album to the floor, and screams.

ANNEKA

You gonna do that with the letter's he's been writing to you for six years?

DAWN

How'd you find out about those?

ANNEKA

I found them. Addressed to auntie Mandy. Clever, Mum.

DAWN

You had no right to go to my things.

ANNEKA
No. You're right. I didn't.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - HER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sally in bed asleep on her own. Laughter from outside.
Sally wakes, looks at the clock. 2 O'CLOCK.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Sally in a dressing gown passes Tom's room, the door partly open. Sound of lovemaking. After some hesitancy she looks inside. Sarah is on top of Tom on the floor making love. The lower part of Jason and Janice's legs on the bed. Tom sees Sally and kicks the door closed.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - KITCHEN - DAY

Dawn and Anneka sit drinking teas.

ANNEKA
Any jobs at the hospital?

DAWN
You don't wanna work in a hospital.

ANNEKA
Gotta work...Unless you're gonna support me?

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Sally opens the door to Simon. She looks tired and drawn.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

Simon leads the way. The place is a mess.

SALLY
I'll get her.

NAOMI'S BEDROOM:

Sally lifts Naomi out of her cot.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Janice sits on a bed putting on lipstick, Sarah stands brushing her hair. They smile at Sally as she passes by.

LOUNGE:

Simon looks at the mess of the place. He picks up two empty cans of beer, puts them on the table.

UPSTAIRS LANDING:

Sally comes out of Naomi's bedroom carrying Naomi, she closes the door on the girls as she passes the bedroom.

LOUNGE:

Sally enters carrying Naomi. She hands her to Simon.

SALLY

(forced)

A publisher's going to publish a collection of his poems. All dedicated to me. Isn't that wonderful, Simon?

(difficult)

'I couldn't write without you'. That's what he tells me. I'm his inspiration. What do you think of that?

Simon looks at Sally sympathetically. He sees Sarah and Janice in the hall go to the front door.

SALLY

College friends of Jason's. They come here to read poetry to each other.

Simon walks to the door with Naomi.

SALLY

Oh, Simon...I've...I've got some more bills.

(picks up bills)

And I need some cash. I...can't find the...the card, and...I've got so much on my mind.

Simon hands Naomi to Sally, and goes for his wallet.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon looks towards Sally waving limply at the door.

INT. SIMON'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Simon sees Janice and Sarah walking on the pavement.

EXT. SALLY'S ROAD - DAY

Simon's car passes Janice and Sarah.

EXT. APPROACH ROAD TO HOSPITAL - DAY

Dawn and Anneka walk towards the hospital entrance.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Dawn and Anneka sit drinking teas.

DAWN

What a bloody mess. Colin, blue-eyed little boy. Butter wouldn't melt in his mouth when he was young.

ANNEKA

Blue eyes don't make him a saint, Mum.

DAWN

Trouble with the police, when I thought he was getting on all right.

ANNEKA

It'll work out, you wait and see.

DAWN

You reckon?

ANNEKA

I reckon.

DAWN

Sorry I hit you.

ANNEKA

No. You did good. I deserved it.

A middle-aged female CLEANING SUPERVISOR arrives.

EXT. A PARK - DAY

Anneka and Vinny walk on a path, holding hands.

Anneka and Vinny reach a bench and sit down. She holds his hand. She takes out her mobile phone.

INT. SIMON'S OFFICE - DAY

Simon sits looking at the photograph of his family. The phone rings. He picks it up.

SIMON
(into phone)
Hello...

EXT. A PARK - DAY

Anneka sits with Vinny, on the phone.

ANNEKA
(into phone)
It's Anneka...Fancy going out
tonight somewhere, pub or something?

INTERCUT:

SIMON
(awkwardly)
No, Anneka, I...I have something
planned.

ANNEKA
Okay. No problem. Just thought
I'd ask...Okay. Bye.

She disengages the phone, looks sad, turns to Vinny and smiles.

Two twelve year old BOYS play football with a plastic ball close to Anneka and Vinny walking.

ANNEKA
I don't know what's gonna happen.
To me. Or you. But whatever it
is we'll have each other.
(points to her and him)
Me and you. Together. We're a
partnership. I won't let you down.
That's a promise. Okay Vinny?

VINNY
Anneka...

The plastic ball rolls close to Vinny.

ANNEKA
Kick it, Vinny. Come on.

VINNY
Anneka...

Anneka holds his hand and walks him to the ball. She imitates kicking. Vinny lifts back his foot and kicks it.

ANNEKA

There you go.

They all applaud.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - STATIONARY - DAY

Colin looks towards Anneka and Vinny playing football with the boys. He faces Dave and smiles cynically.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lights on everywhere in the house.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NAOMI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sally wearing a dressing gown, sits on the floor holding Naomi who is crying in her cot. Tears roll down Sally's face. The sound of heavy rock music.

SALLY

(recites)

'She has an air that mops up the bright sky. She wears it, like a dress.

(looks down at Naomi)

And she glows. How she glows.'

Sally picks up a bottle of wine and swills from it.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

THREE TEENAGE GIRLS dressed to kill, carrying bottles of wine, walk to the front door.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

A number of YOUNG PEOPLE at a party in full swing.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NAOMI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sally sits on the floor straightening screwed up sheets of paper. An almost empty bottle of wine on the floor. She looks desperate and ill.

SALLY

He does still love me. I'm his
 inspiration. He loves all of us.
 (she touches her tummy)
 Even your baby brother.

LOUNGE:

A BLONDE STRIPPER wearing a Policeman's outfit begins her routine to wild applause and cheering.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Simon's car pulls up.

Simon stands outside of his house. Lights on everywhere. The noise of the party booms out.

Simon rings the bell.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NAOMI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sally reacts to the doorbell ring.

HALL:

Simon bursts the door open.

LOUNGE:

The Blonde Stripper is down to her thongs and bra and Policeman's hat. Jason and Janice, Tom and Sarah are locked in a clinch. The air is one of complete abandon. Simon is too stunned to react initially.

SIMON

Stop!

The Blonde Stripper stops performing. Jason breaks away from Janice. The music stops.

SIMON

You're in my house. Get out! All
 of you! Get out! Now!

People start to disperse.

JASON

No. Wait. Don't go. We're having
 a party.

SIMON

What're you doing to my wife? You
 bastard!

Simon tears into him. Sally enters in a dressing gown.

SALLY

Stop!

They stop fighting.

SIMON

Sally, tell him to go. Him and his friends.

JASON

What're you talking about you daft fuck? She wants me, not you.

SIMON

Sally, tell him. Now. Please.

A beat. Sally starts crying uncontrollably.

SALLY

I'm pregnant. With Simon's son.

JASON

Pregnant? Fuck! Why didn't you tell me?

Sally rushes to Simon and puts her arms around his neck.

SIMON

Get out.

JASON

Pregnant. Fuck!

SIMON

I said get out. Now.

Jason shakes his head and walks away smiling facetiously.

LATER: Simon sits on the sofa with Sally in silence, on their own, her arms around him.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

SALLY'S MOTHER in her fifties holds Naomi as Simon helps Sally in the front passenger seat.

INT. A SURGERY - DAY

Sally sits in front of a DOCTOR. She stares vacantly ahead. Simon stands at her side.

INT. SIMON'S RIVERSIDE APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - DAY

Simon stands facing Anneka.

SIMON

I'm going back to her, Anneka.

ANNEKA

Said you would, didn't I? Jason's a kid, isn't he? She's gonna get fed up with him, realise she's made a mistake and...

SIMON

She's sick. She needs medical help.

ANNEKA

Sorry to hear that.

SIMON

And she's pregnant. With my child.

(beat)

I knew some time ago. I should've told you. I'm sorry.

ANNEKA

There was one or two things I didn't tell you. So I guess that makes us even.

(beat)

Congratulations on the baby. Hope your wife gets better.

SIMON

She will. But it'll take time.

ANNEKA

Well, you'll be there to look after her, won't you?

A beat. Anneka puts her hands on his shoulders, stretches up and kisses him, breaks, turns around, walks to the door.

SIMON

Bye, Anneka.

EXT. RIVERSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK - NIGHT

Anneka walks away from the apartment block, tearful.

INT. COLIN'S CAR - STATIONARY - NIGHT

Colin glances at Dave, as they see Anneka.

EXT. A COURTHOUSE - DAY

Anneka and Dawn walk towards the building. Dawn stops walking, and starts crying. Anneka puts her arms around her, and persuades her to walk on.

Simon stands outside of the courthouse.

Anneka and Dawn approach him. Anneka kisses Simon, and introduces Dawn..

INT. A COURTROOM - DAY

Colin and Dave in the dock. Colin stares at Anneka, who sits with Dawn. Simon sits in another row from Anneka.

The JUDGE passes sentence.

Colin stares at Anneka.

COLIN
(to Anneka)
Bitch! Fucking bitch!

TWO POLICEMEN step forward for Colin and Dave. Colin smiles cynically at Anneka as he is led away.

Anneka comforts Dawn, who cannot stop crying.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Anneka and Dawn mop the floor. Mandy arrives and gestures drinking.

INT. SIMON'S RIVERSIDE APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Simon packs a case on the bed. He clips it shut.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Dawn and Anneka sit together, Mandy opposite. Dawn and Mandy talk, but we don't hear. Anneka is preoccupied.

INT. A COURTROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Anneka fixes on Colin's cynical smile.

BACK TO SCENE

Anneka looks worried.

EXT. RIVERSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK - CAR PARK AREA - DAY

Simon walks towards his car carrying two cases.

Simon unlocks his car remotely.

Simon closes the boot.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka puts her cup down.

ANNEKA
(to herself)

No.

Mandy and Dawn look at her. Anneka stands up.

ANNEKA
No! No! No!

EXT. RIVERSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK CAR PARK AREA - DAY

A CROWBAR smashes across Simon's forehead, a knife slashes his face from one side to the other.

TWO YOUTHS run away.

Simon drops down the side of the car, his eyes bursting with blood, his forehead bleeding heavily.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Anneka runs out of the hospital.

EXT. RIVERSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK CAR PARK AREA - DAY

Simon is carried on a stretcher towards an ambulance by TWO STRETCHER BEARERS. A group of ONLOOKERS.

Anneka runs towards the ambulance.

ANNEKA
Simon...Simon...

Anneka reaches the ambulance as Simon is lifted in the ambulance.

ANNEKA
Oh God, Simon, Simon. No!

The rear doors of the ambulance are closed.

Anneka watches the ambulance drive off.

INT. A HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

A MALE DOCTOR stands by Simon in bed, his face and eyes covered with dressings.

INT. HOSPITAL - ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCY - DAY

Anneka stands up as the Male Doctor appears.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Anneka lies on the bed crying.

HALL:

Dawn enters. She hears Anneka crying.

DAWN
(calls up the stairs)
Anneka...

Dawn runs up the stairs.

ANNEKA'S BEDROOM:

Dawn enters the bedroom.

DAWN
Anneka, where'd you get to? We
had two more wards to clean.
Can't just run off like that love,
you'll lose your job.

Dawn sits on the edge of the bed.

DAWN
What is it?

Anneka immediately turns and buries her face in Dawn's chest. Dawn tentatively wraps her arms around Anneka, not used to this.

ANNEKA
I think they've blinded him, Mum.

DAWN
What?

ANNEKA
(screams)
Oh God... God. If only I hadn't
done it. If only I hadn't shopped
Colin.

DAWN
Sh...There now. What? What is it?
Blinded who?

Anneka cries uncontrollably.

ANNEKA
Simon...
(she looks up)
I love him. I really love him, Mum.

DAWN
Love him. You mean...

ANNEKA
Oh Mum...

Dawn strokes Anneka's hair as she buries herself in her
Mother's arms.

INT. A HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT

Sally and her Mother approach Simon's bed. He is asleep.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Anneka and Dawn cuddle up on a sofa.

ANNEKA
I've never loved a man in my life,
Mum. Didn't think I ever could.
After what happened.

Dawn pulls her close, and cuddles up more.

DAWN
Not surprised about that.

ANNEKA
But I do. I do, Mum.

Dawn strokes Anneka's hair with rapid strokes, and almost breaks down.

DAWN
It's gonna be okay. Everything.
You wait and see.

Dawn pushes hairs out of Anneka's eye.

DAWN
Everything.

INT. A HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT

Sally takes hold of Simon's hand. She strokes his hair.
Sally's Mother steps forward and holds Sally's hand.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - NIGHT

Anneka sits up on the sofa. Dawn arrives with a mug of tea.

DAWN
Nice cup of tea, make you feel
better.

ANNEKA
Thanks Mum.

Anneka sips her tea as Dawn goes to the mantelpiece.

DAWN
Oh, forgot to tell you...

She takes a letter from the mantelpiece.

DAWN
A letter came for you yesterday.

INT. A SOLICITOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Thelma and Harold sit in front of a SOLICITOR in his fifties.

SOLICITOR
(reading)
'I leave my house to my dear son
Vincent Lane, to be sold, and
money made available for him to
live in the Parkside Care Home
in Wandsworth.
(beat)
To my dear sister Thelma Johnson...

OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE:

Anneka knocks on the door.

SOLICITOR (O.S.)

Come in.

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE:

Anneka enters, very nervous.

ANNEKA

Sorry I'm late.

THELMA

Hello Anneka.

Thelma and Harold stand up, kiss and greet her warmly.

HAROLD

Anneka...

SOLICITOR

Sorry. You are?

ANNEKA

Anneka...Anneka Smith.

LATER: Anneka sits alongside of Thelma and Harold.

SOLICITOR

(reading)

'To Anneka Smith, who has been a wonderful friend to Vincent and me, I leave the sum of one hundred thousand pounds.'

(addresses Anneka)

Congratulations Miss Smith.

LATER: Thelma and Harold embrace Anneka.

HAROLD

Thank you Anneka.

THELMA

Thank you, Anneka, for all you've done.

ANNEKA

Haven't done anything. Nothing.

THELMA

She thought the world of you, Anneka. You were like a daughter to her.

ANNEKA

I just loved her, that's all.

INT. A HOSPITAL - DAY (SEVERAL WEEKS LATER)

Simon, wearing dark glasses, walks with his MOTHER and FATHER, in their sixties, guiding him.

Anneka leans against the side wall close to the main door. She sees Simon and his parents walks towards her.

ANNEKA

Simon...

Simon and his parents stop walking. Anneka approaches them.

ANNEKA

Simon, I'm so sorry.

SIMON

Don't blame yourself, Anneka.
Please.

He puts out his hands, she takes them, and kisses them.

SIMON

It's all right.

Anneka stretches up and kisses Simon's lips lightly. Simon's parents look surprised.

ANNEKA

Simon, I love you. I love you so much.

She hugs him for some time. Simon's parents eventually move forward and take him by the hands. Anneka steps aside and they walk on.

EXT. THE HOSPITAL - DAY

Simon walks away from the hospital with his parents.

Anneka looks at Simon from inside of the hospital.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

(confidently)

'A thing of beauty is a joy for
ever: Its loveliness increases;
it will never Pass into
nothingness;'

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Anneka stands reading.

ANNEKA

'but still will keep A bower
quiet for us, and a sleep Full
of sweet dreams, and health, and
quiet breathing. '

MONTAGE OF FLASHBACKS:

INT. AUNTIE VAL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Auntie Val, Simon, and Anneka drink tea. Auntie Val is talking. Anneka looks at him lovingly

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'Therefore, on every morrow, are
we wreathing A flowery band to
bind us to the earth,'

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - ANNEKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anneka lies on her side looking towards Simon's photograph.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'Spite of despondence, of the
inhuman dearth Of noble natures,
of the gloomy days,'

INT. A DOVER CAFETERIA - DAY

Anneka puts her knife and fork down and looks at Simon lovingly. He looks up. She looks embarrassed.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'Of all the unhealthy and o'er-
darkened ways Made for our
searching: yes, in spite of all,'

INT. SIMON'S RIVERSIDE APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - NIGHT

Anneka stretches up and kisses Simon him on the lips.

ANNEKA (V.O.)

'Some shape of beauty moves away
the pall From our dark spirits.'

END MONTAGE OF FLASHBACKS.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Anneka's smiling, almost laughing.

ANNEKA

'We have imagined for the mighty
dead; All lovely tales that we
have heard or read: An endless
fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's
brink.'

She wipes her nose with the cuff of her cardigan.

TEACHER

That was very well read, Anneka.

ANNEKA

Yes, yes, it was. It was great,
wasn't it? Really great. Never
read better. Never.

She looks around at their blank expressions.

ANNEKA

Sorry. Being stupid.

TEACHER

Are you all right?

ANNEKA

I'm fine. I'm really fine. Never
felt better. Sorry. Must think
I'm off my head. All of you.

Anneka turns and catches Dan smiling at her. She smiles
back uninhibitedly.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HALL - DAY

Anneka rushes down the stairs carrying a large travel bag.
Dawn follows her.

DAWN

Where you going, what're you
gonna do?

ANNEKA

Don't know yet. I haven't decided.

DAWN

You can't just go off without
anybody knowing where you're going.

ANNEKA

Can't I? You just watch me. I'll give you a ring when I get there, Mum. Wherever I end up.

DAWN

Anneka. Wait...

Dawn reaches the bottom of the stairs.

ANNEKA

Oh, and Mum...

DAWN

What?

ANNEKA

I put twenty grand into your account.

DAWN

You did what?

ANNEKA

You heard. I put twenty grand in your account. Don't spend it all on gin, either..

DAWN

Twenty grand. You didn't. You can't have.

ANNEKA

All right, I didn't. But I did.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - DAY

A taxi pulls up.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HALL -DAY

Anneka and Dawn hug each other, both in tears.

DAWN

Oh Anneka, I'm going to miss me.

ANNEKA

I'm gonna miss you and all.

(they break)

Another thing, Mum...He'll screw around, treat you like crap, like he always did. But if you want him back, it's up to you.

(MORE)

ANNEKA (CONT'D)

If you wanna fuck your life up
all over again, why should I
stand in your way?

(beat)

I know you still love him. Don't
you?

DAWN

Anneka...

ANNEKA

Don't you, Mum?

DAWN

I don't know, Anneka. After what
he did. How he is.

ANNEKA

Just don't let him know about the
money, that's all. You hear me?

Dawn nods limply. Sound of a taxi horn.

ANNEKA

Bye, Mum. Gotta go.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - DAY

Anneka walks to the taxi.

Dawn cries and waves at the front door.

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon gets out of his car. Sally puts out a hand for him
to hold. Sally's Mother gets out of the car, carrying Naomi.

Anneka's taxi approaches.

INT. TAXI - MOVING - DAY

Anneka leans forward to the TAXI DRIVER.

ANNEKA

Can you stop, please?

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Sally walks Simon up the pathway.

INT. TAXI - STATIONARY - DAY

Anneka looks towards Sally as she opens the door and helps Simon enter.

ANNEKA

Okay. Thanks.

The taxi moves off. Anneka looks out of the rear window.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HER BEDROOM - DAY

Dawn sits on the bed looking at Ron's letters.

EXT. A FERRY TO FRANCE - DAY

Anneka stands on deck by the railings. She throws a cassette overboard. A relieved smile. She turns to Vinny, puts her arms around him and hugs him.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - LOUNGE/DINER - DAY

Dawn pulls the curtains back.

DREAM:

Ron stands looking towards the house.

BACK TO SCENE:

Dawn shakes her head as Ron's image slowly fades away.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

Simon sits holding Naomi in his arms. Sally touches his shoulder and sits beside him.

INT. DAWN'S FLAT - HER BEDROOM - DAY

Dawn sits on the bed holding the tin containing the letters.

KITCHEN:

A waste bin lid flips open. A mass of torn letters drop into the bin. The bin lid flips closed.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Mandy is mopping the floor. Dawn approaches her. They talk.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - DAY

Ron approaches the flat, flicks a cigarette butt to the floor and rings the bell.

EXT. VICTORIA COACH STATION - DAY

Dawn and Mandy get on a coach, high-spirited.

EXT. DAWN'S FLAT - DAY

Ron walks away from the house.

INT. A COACH - MOVING - DAY

Dawn and Mandy both wear silly hats and funny glasses.

EXT. THE SPANISH STEPS IN ROME - DAY

Anneka climbs the Spanish Steps, stops, looks around to Vinny a few steps behind her. She takes hold of his hand.

Anneka sits on the steps looking towards the Fontana della Barcaccia fountain, in the square below. Vinny sits down next to her. She takes hold of his hand.

ANNEKA

(reciting)

'He knew whose gentle hand was
at the latch, Before the door had
given her to his eyes; And from
her chamber-window he would catch
Her beauty farther than the
falcon spies;'

EXT. PROTESTANT CEMETERY - ROME - DAY

Anneka strokes a cat in front of the Keats gravestone. Vinny sits on a bench.

INT. A ROME COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

Anneka and Vinny sit at a table. She picks up her mobile phone from the table.

ANNEKA

(into phone)

Dan...it's Anneka...I'm on holiday at the moment, but...

(difficult)

...If you want to take me out when I get back you can. Long as you don't try and shag me on our first date.

She continues talking. But we don't hear. We see her face light up. And a different Anneka.

FADE OUT:

THE END