EXT. RIVER. NIGHT

A run-down, barely sea worthy boat sits moored alongside an isolated stretch of bank.

Inside, we hear LAUGHTER.

INT. BOAT - LIVING AREA. NIGHT.

A burly man in his fifties downs a tumbler of whisky. This is AIDAN, the hot-headed leader of the group.

Sitting around the table are the other members of AIDAN'S team: BARRY, late forties, and MIKEY, early twenties.

AIDAN

Here's to it.

BARRY

We did it.

AIDAN

You not drinking, Mikey?

MIKEY shifts uncomfortably.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Whisky not good enough for you?

MIKEY

No, it's not that.

BARRY

Have a little. Celebrate, yeah?

MIKEY

I want to keep a clear head.

AIDAN

So you can carry on panicking and jumping at shadows?

MIKEY gets up and leaves.

BARRY shakes his head at AIDAN.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Sod him.

EXT. BOAT. NIGHT.

MIKEY sits on the top of the boat. BARRY appears.

BARRY

Relax.

MIKEY

Easy for you to say.

BARRY

We're all in this.

INT. BOAT - LIVING AREA. NIGHT.

AIDAN opens a small safe.

MIKEY (O.S.)

Up to our necks.

AIDAN drags a silver Samsonite case up onto the table. With his cygnet ring encrusted fingers, he flicks open the combinations.

The case contains necklaces, rings and amazingly expensive jewellery.

BARRY (O.S.)

No one knows we're here. We're safe.

AIDAN snaps the case shut.

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

We just have to sit it out.

Wait for the fence.

AIDAN looks thoughtful and turns his gaze upwards, where we pass through the roof of the boat to -

EXT. BOAT. NIGHT.

BARRY sits with MIKEY on top of the roof.

MIKEY

Sorry, I'm just spooked, that's all.

BARRY

First time nerves. I get those every time.

BARRY smiles. MIKEY relaxes. The pair step down and head below.

INT. BOAT - LIVING AREA. NIGHT.

LATER. AIDAN and BARRY are playing draughts. MIKEY is flicking channels on the old portable.

AIDAN

Give it a rest.

MIKEY

Trying to get the news.

AIDAN

We ain't going to be on it.

MIKEY

Yeah?

AIDAN

You think all that shit was legal? Dixon can't report the theft because you can be damn sure that jewellery wasn't on his contents insurance.

AIDAN moves a draught.

MIKEY

But what about his wife?

INT. MANSION - DRAWING ROOM. NIGHT.

FLASHBACK.

A beautiful woman in a blue dress, wearing a shed load of bling. This is MRS. DIXON. She and her tuxedo'd husband MR. DIXON have arrived home, after a party. Laughing. A little drunk. Happy.

The laughter dies when they realise that three MASKED men - AIDAN, BARRY and MIKEY are waiting for them.

MRS. DIXON looks terrified.

MR. DIXON looks angry. He advances towards BARRY, but BARRY produces a sawn-off shot qun.

BARRY

Don't try it.

MR. DIXON

I heard your voice.

BARRY looks uncertain.

AIDAN strides forward and - refusing to be intimidated - shouts directly in MR. DIXON'S face.

AIDAN

Fuck you!

(to MRS. DIXON)
Take all that off. The
jewellery. Not the dress.
Although...

MR. DIXON looks furious. If he could kill these men, he would.

MRS. DIXON starts to unfasten a chain. She can't do it, the clasp is caught. She panics.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Come on.

MIKEY sees a small puddle of urine appear on the floor next to MRS. DIXON'S leg.

MR. DIXON looks at MIKEY.

MR. DIXON

When I find out who you are, you're dead. All of you.

AIDAN punches MR. DIXON in the stomach.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. BOAT - LIVING AREA. NIGHT.

AS BEFORE. MIKEY fiddles with the television. A snatch of Newsnight. A snatch of Big Brother. Some shit film on Five.

AIDAN

Turn it off before I chuck it over board.

AIDAN throws the portable onto the floor.

He stares at MIKEY.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to the pub.

AIDAN undoes the safe and pulls out the Samsonite case.

BARRY

You ain't taking that.

AIDAN

You suggest I leave it here with you two?

BARRY

You might not come back.

AIDAN

You'd better come with me then. 'Sides a babycham could be just what Harry Potter here needs.

AIDAN starts to stomp off.

BARRY takes the case.

BARRY

Let's leave it locked up here. Then we all know where we are.

AIDAN concedes. He throws the case in the safe and slams it shut.

AIDAN

Come on.

BARRY indicates to MIKEY that they should follow.

BARRY

Twenty three hours and the fence will be here and it'll all be over.

MIKEY nods and follows.

EXI. PUB GARDEN. NIGHT.

BARRY and MIKEY sit at a garden table, nursing pints.

AIDAN is chatting up TWO GIRLS. They aren't interested.

AIDAN

So what do you get up to in the evenings?

RACHEL

Studying.

AIDAN

What you studying?

RACHEL

Civil engineering.

AIDAN

Yeah?

AIDAN can't think of anything to say. The GIRLS giggle at each other and move inside to the bar.

BARRY shrugs. Some you win.

MIKEY

(MOCKING)

The silver tongued cavalier.

Then AIDAN notices a girl sitting alone in the far end of the garden. Alone. She is texting on a phone.

ATDAN

Bet you bottle it.

MIKEY

Excuse me. I've got a girlfriend.

AIDAN

So have I.

MIKEY

Show me how it's done then.

AIDAN

I will. You poof.

AIDAN strides off to the end of the garden. BARRY looks at MIKEY. He shouldn't have done that.

To their surprise, they see that the girl - SANDY - asks AIDAN to sit with her. AIDAN cocks a sneer back at his comrades.

LATER.

AIDAN has his arm around SANDY.

BARRY asks MIKEY if he wants another drink.

Then AIDAN comes over, with SANDY.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

I'm going back to the yaght for a little private party.

MIKEY

The yaght?

BARRY

Where are we supposed to go?

AIDAN

Stay here. Give us an hour, eh?

AIDAN and SANDY walk off, arm in arm. BARRY and MIKEY look at each other.

INT. BOAT. NIGHT.

The sound of SANDY and AIDAN laughing.

EXT. PUB GARDEN. NIGHT.

BARRY and MIKEY are nursing drinks at the close of the evening. Suddenly, MIKEY has a thought.

MIKEY

You believe that?

BARRY

What?

MIKEY

That trog pulling a bird?

BARRY

Oh god.

The two men run from the beer garden.

EXT. BOAT. NIGHT.

SANDY'S head pokes out from below deck. She checks that the cost is clear and then she totters onto the river bank.

BARRY and MIKEY are running towards her.

SANDY spots them and starts to run.

BARRY

You get her. I'll check the safe.

MIKEY runs off after SANDY.

BARRY clambers on the boat.

INT. BOAT - LIVING AREA. NIGHT.

BARRY enters. He clocks the scene. Two glasses of wine. A bra slung over the table.

No trace of AIDAN.

BARRY rushes to the safe and opens it.

MIKEY enters with a protesting SANDY.

SANDY

You're mental. Let go of me.

MIKEY

Just be quiet a minute. Barry?

BARRY is staring in the safe. He looks grave.

Then he pulls out the Samsonite brief case.

BARRY

Still here.

SANDY

Now will you let go of me?

BARRY turns on her.

BARRY

Where's Aidan?

SANDY

Who?

BARRY

That charmless prick that chatted you up in the pub and bought you back to this charming 'yaght'.

SANDY

Gone. Nipped out for some air.

MIKEY looks at BARRY. What's going on?

MIKEY

The case is still here.

BARRY

Yeah.

MIKEY

She didn't try and nick it.

SANDY

Why would I want to nick it?

MIKEY examines it.

MIKEY

It's still locked.

BARRY

Still locked and no sign of Aidan.

They both look at SANDY.

INT. BOAT - SLEEPING QUARTERS. NIGHT.

SANDY is locked in the bedroom. She hammers on the door.

SANDY

Let me out you fuckers.

EXT. BOAT. NIGHT.

BARRY and MIKEY are on the roof - partly to escape the noise. BARRY has the Samsonite case.

MIKEY

He's been gone three hours.

BARRY looks solemn.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I say we cast off this heap of crap and get away. Something's not right.

BARRY

She knows where he is.

MIKEY

But she's not saying.

BARRY

Aidan meets a woman. She falls for him. Ridiculously easily. Then he vanishes and she tries to run away from us. But both of them leave the jewels.

MIKEY

Unless -

MIKEY places the briefcase on his lap. He starts to turn the dials.

Suddenly, a SCREAM from below deck.

BARRY runs to the door.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

No!

Too late, he's gone. Just as the latches unclip on the briefcase and MIKEY sees -

INT. BOAT - SLEEPING QUARTERS. NIGHT.

BARRY opens the door. SANDY is still screaming.

SANDY is standing stock still screaming. She stops when BARRY enters. She is holding a knife.

She plunges it into BARRY'S chest.

EXT. BOAT. NIGHT.

MIKEY stares into the Samsonite case, which now contains:

AIDAN'S bloody severed hands, complete with cygnet rings.

MIKEY sees some figures walking towards him along the river bank.

Panicked, he realises that one of the figures is MR. DIXON. He is flanked by two men.

Hurriedly, starts the engine. But the boat is tethered!

He tries to cast off.

MIKEY

Barry! Give us a hand.

The boat is still attached by one mooring and it drifts at a diagnonal from the shore.

MR. DIXON holds a plastic bag.

He lifts the jewellery out of it and smiles.

MIKEY turns to the door of the ship.

SANDY is standing with a knife.

He has no escape.

As SANDY and MR. DIXON advance, MIKEY takes his only chance.

He pushes SANDY off the boat, grabbing her knife as he does so.

Then he turns and slashes the remaining mooring. The boat chugs off.

The figures on the shore get smaller and smaller.

INT. PAWN SHOP. DAY.

A dishevelled MIKEY enters the dusty old shop. A shop full of curios and oddities - stuffed animals, antique globes, cabinets of jewellery.

The PROPRIETOR eyes him suspiciously.

MIKEY lays down a velvet bag on the counter.

The PROPRIETOR looks at the goods - but we stay on the two men's faces.

PROPRIETOR

Give you twenty for the lot.

MIKEY

Make it thirty.

PROPRIETOR

Twenty. Take it or leave it. These things are ten a penny.

We pull out to show AIDAN'S cygnet rings.

MIKEY

S'pose it's better than nothing.

END