

Somewhere
by
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Based on "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare

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EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

As two bitter rivals battle on the pitch, fans around the stadium, wearing their green and blue colours, cheer and shout obscenities.

We see a montage of supporters showing a fierce hatred towards their mortal enemies that's rarely seen in public.

EXT. OUTSIDE STADIUM - DAY

PAUL (mid twenties) and his GANG are walking home from the football game. The land around the stadium is mostly abandoned, with a few burnt-out buildings and run-down pubs.

The boys are all dressed in their team's green shirts, swigging from cans of beer. They're not in a triumphant mood, but the alcohol seems to have raised their spirits.

PAUL

It was a draw, for fuck's sake!

GANG MEMBER #1

I'm just saying, we should have won.

PAUL

Yeah, we should have, but we fucking didn't, alright? We should have destroyed those blue bastards, but we didn't. Now, can we talk about something else?

GANG MEMBER #2

Like what?

PAUL

I don't know. Do I have to come up with everything?

Paul sees one of the gang members biting their thumbnail.

PAUL

Stop biting your thumb, John, it's disgusting.

The thumb-biter looks a little embarrassed and lowers his hand.

GANG MEMBER #2

There was that story in the papers about them suggesting a single team for the city.

(CONTINUED)

GANG MEMBER #1
Instead of us and the blues?

GANG MEMBER #2
Yeah.

PAUL
It won't work. Do you really want to support a team that has half of their players in it? Do you want to go to a pub with some blue cunts and cheer for the same team?

GANG MEMBER #1
You're right, Paul, but the city council's talking about doing something extreme.

GANG MEMBER #2
It's not us they should be punishing. It's them!

A group of blue team supporters walks along a different road. ROB (twenty-ish) walks amongst them. The group is made up of a selection of randoms who chat amongst themselves.

Rob's talking on his phone.

ROB
(into the phone)
No, the point is that I'm twenty and single. My little brother can find a boyfriend and I can't find a girlfriend... Gays make up, what, ten percent of the population? That means straight girls make up forty-five percent, right? But I still can't find one that likes me... Well you're single too, Ben, so shut it... Okay, I'll talk to you later. Hope you're shitty little team loses.

Rob's group is reaching the end of the road.

Back on Paul's group:

PAUL
The point, boys, is that we don't want it and they don't want it. We've been around for too long to change things now.

The group has reached a corner. They turn and stop dead in their tracks. The blue supporters are facing them.

The two groups stand tense for a moment.

PAUL

You boys are in our way.

Slowly, the blues move over to the other side of the road, making room for the greens to pass.

Paul strafes to the side a few steps and his gang follow so that they end up face-to-face with the blues again. Paul shrugs his shoulders.

ROB

We just want to pass.

PAUL

You think you deserve to pass after your boys' efforts on the field today?

BLUE BOY #1

It was a draw.

PAUL

Technically, yes. But there's always a better team.

BLUE BOY #2

And you think that was you?

PAUL

Everyone knows it was us.

Paul steps up to the blue boys and takes a last swig of his beer. Suddenly he raises his other hand and grabs the back of one of the blue's head. The other blues take a step towards him but stop when the greens do the same.

The chosen blue boy's terrified. Paul lifts up his empty can, places one end on the boy's forehead and pushes down, crushing the can.

He lets go of the boy's head then places the can in the boy's hand.

PAUL

Recycle that for me, will you?

Paul's gang chuckle. Paul turns around.

PAUL

(to his gang)

Come on.

Paul walks to the side and passes the group of blues. His gang follow him, sneering at their rivals.

Moments later the crushed can smacks Paul on the back of his head. Startled, he turns around.

The blue boys all look at the can-thrower.

ROB

Oh fuck.

CAN-THROWER

(shouting to Paul)

Fuck you!

A tense moment as Paul stares down his opponents.

Then Paul starts sprinting towards them, his gang following suit. The blue boys turn and flee.

As they continue to run over the dis-used land and between burnt-out buildings the group of blues scatters, as do the chasing greens.

Rob's soon on his own, running for his life, looking over his shoulder to see a green boy chasing him.

Rob goes off-road, jumping over the piles of rubble that litter the landscape. The green boy is still chasing him and seems to be gaining.

Rob pushes on and gets to another deserted road. He turns a corner and arrives at a set of abandoned storage lockers. Two long rows form a corridor that Rob runs down.

He's half-way down the row when a green boy appears at the end. Rob stops running, gasping for breath and turns around: the other green boy is at the other end of the row of buildings. Rob's blocked in.

He looks around for options but there are only two exits and both are now guarded by greens.

Rob runs over to the wall and starts trying to scramble up it to get to the roof. The green boys start running towards him.

They reach him and pull him down, throwing him to the ground. They start kicking him. Rob squirms with every hit.

One of them stops and looks up: he hears a siren in the distance. The other notices this too. They give Rob a final kick each and run off.

Rob lies on the ground as the siren draws closer.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - EVENING

A council housing estate.

Paul walks up the street and across the front garden.

INT. KITCHEN, TOM'S HOUSE

TOM'S MUM and DAD cook dinner. They hear the front door closing.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM'S HOUSE

Paul enters the room. TOM (late teens) and his sister, SARAH (a little older), are sitting watching the TV.

PAUL

Hey.

Tom and Sarah say hello. Paul sits down on the sofa beside them.

PAUL

You guys watch the game?

TOM

Yeah. Poor show.

SARAH

What was the crowd like?

PAUL

Everyone was pretty pissed off.
We met some blue boys on the road
home. Chased them away.

TOM

Pussies.

SARAH

Paul!

PAUL

They deserved it.

Tom's Mum shouts from the kitchen.

TOM'S MUM

(o.s.)

Dinner!

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM'S HOUSE - LATER

Tom, his MUM and DAD, Paul and Sarah sit around the TV eating dinner. They continue in silence until-

SARAH
Daniel's brother's gay.

No-one reacts.

SARAH
Tom?

TOM
I don't want you to set me up
with your boyfriend's brother.

SARAH
Why not? He's hot.

TOM
Because I can find my own one.

PAUL
(laughing)
Oh yeah. 'Cause you get so much.

TOM'S MUM
(tutting)
Paul.

PAUL
What? It's true!

TOM
I'm fine.

PAUL
If fine means never getting any
then yeah, you're "fine".

Tom smiles. His Dad sees this and smiles too.

SARAH
So I'll give him your number?

TOM
No!

TOM'S DAD
Sarah, Tom can find his own
boyfriend.

TOM'S MUM
(to Tom)
Is there no-one at school?

(CONTINUED)

TOM

No.

TOM'S MUM

What about at the shop?

TOM

No. It's fine, okay? I'll find someone when I get to uni.

SARAH

That's, like, almost a year away.

PAUL

You've waited seventeen years, one more won't hurt.

TOM'S DAD

And when you do find him, make sure he's rich enough to buy us all season tickets.

TOM

What if he's not a green?

TOM'S DAD

We'd probably disown you, right darling?

TOM'S MUM

Oh, straight away. Turn your room into a gym or something.

Tom laughs.

TOM

As if you two would use a gym.

They all laugh. Paul looks at his watch and puts his plate down beside him.

PAUL

I need to head.

He stands up and picks up his coat.

TOM'S MUM

Oh right. Thanks for coming, Paul. Say Hi to your Mum.

PAUL

Will do. Thanks for dinner, Aunt Jackie.

Tom's Mum stands up and walks with Paul out of the room.

Tom finishes his dinner and stands up.

(CONTINUED)

TOM
I'm going to my room. Night.

TOM'S DAD
Night, son.

Tom leaves the room.

INT. HALL, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom passes his Mum and Paul at the front door.

TOM
Night, Paul.

PAUL
See you later.

TOM
Thanks for dinner, Mum.

TOM'S MUM
Okay Tom. Night.

Tom climbs the stairs.

Paul watches Tom climb and waits for Tom's door to close.
He whispers to Tom's Mum.

PAUL
There's this party in a few days.
You should get Tom to come, and
get Sarah to bring that guy.

TOM'S MUM
I'll talk to Sarah.

PAUL
It'll be good for him.

TOM'S MUM
Night.

Paul walks out of the front door and Tom's Mum closes it.
She turns back to the stairs and looks up to her son's
room with a hopeful expression.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - EVENING

Another council estate. Very similar to the one in which
Tom lives. MAX, whom we'll meet later, lives here.

A police car pulls up outside one of the houses.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

MAX'S MUM looks out of the window at the police car. She calls out to her husband.

MAX'S MUM

Peter!

She sees the policemen getting out of the car. One of them opens the car's back door.

MAX'S DAD enters the room.

MAX'S DAD

What's wrong?

Max's Mum sees the car door open and out steps a badly-beaten Rob.

MAX'S MUM

Oh Rob!

She runs out of the room as the doorbell rings.

Max's Dad watches his son hobble up the path. He sighs.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE - LATER

Rob sits on the sofa. He's been cleaned up and is nursing a cup of tea.

Max's Mum and Dad sit beside him.

MAX'S MUM

And they didn't catch the boys?

ROB

No. I didn't really see them.

MAX'S DAD

Little bastards.

MAX'S MUM

(tutting)

Peter...

MAX'S DAD

Where was your brother?

ROB

Dunno. Max left us after the game to go into town.

MAX'S MUM

Why?

(CONTINUED)

ROB

He said he had to get something
for his costume.

MAX'S MUM

It's that damn musical he's
doing! I told him to come
straight home with you. He could
have stopped it.

ROB

No, Mum. There were lots of them.

MAX'S DAD

Maybe I should go over there and
find the boys who-

ROB

Dad. We would have done the same
as them.

MAX'S MUM

But you wouldn't have attacked
someone like this.

Rob stays silent.

They hear the sound of keys turning in the front door.
Max's Mum stands up to get it.

MAX'S MUM

That better be your brother.

INT. HALL, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Mum arrives at the door as MAX (late teens) opens
it.

MAX'S MUM

Max!

She almost lunges for him, hugging him tightly.

MAX

Mum, okay. Okay!

She lets go of him. He holds up a shopping bag.

MAX

I got that shirt I needed for the
show.

MAX'S MUM

That doesn't matter.

She takes his hand and leads him into the...

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

... where he sees Rob, bruised and battered.

MAX
Rob! What happened?

ROB
Some green boys.

Max drops his shopping bag and sits down beside his brother. He looks him over, studying his bruises.

MAX
Are you okay?

ROB
I'm fine.

MAX'S MUM
Why didn't you go home with your brother like I asked you to?

Max turns to her.

MAX
What?

MAX'S MUM
You could have helped him.

Max's Dad puts his hand on his wife's shoulder.

MAX'S DAD
Honey...

MAX
I...I...

ROB
Max couldn't have stopped them. I said there were too many. Okay?

MAX'S MUM
Okay, but next time...

MAX
I'll come straight home with Rob.

Max's Mum stands up and kisses her sons on their foreheads.

MAX'S MUM
I'm going to finish dinner. Rob, will you be able to eat?

(CONTINUED)

ROB

Yeah, Mum. I'm starving. Getting a beating does that to a man.

Max's Mum give a sympathetic smile and leaves the room.

MAX'S DAD

I suppose you boys don't want to talk about the game.

MAX

Drawing's worse than losing.

MAX'S DAD

That's true. What about that play you're doing at school, Max?

ROB

Isn't it a musical?

MAX

It's West Side Story.

MAX'S DAD

With the dancing gangs?

Max smiles.

MAX

Yes, with the dancing gangs. I'm playing the lead.

MAX'S DAD

Oh yeah? That's great.

ROB

If you're the lead, do you have to kiss a girl?

MAX

Unfortunately.

ROB

And you'll be okay with that?

MAX

It's a price worth paying for fame and stardom.

ROB

Maybe all that girl-kissing will turn you straight.

MAX'S DAD

Rob!

MAX

Maybe. But I've got my boyfriend
to protect me from that.

The doorbell rings. Max's Dad gets up and leaves the room.

INT. HALL, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Dad opens the door: a young man (DAVID) stands
there.

MAX'S DAD

David! Speak of the devil.

DAVID

Hi. Is Max in?

Max's Dad stands aside and gestures for him to come in.

MAX'S DAD

Yeah. Come in.
(turns back to the living
room)
Max!

David enters and Max's Dad closes the door. Max comes into
the hall.

MAX

Hey!

Max gives David a quick kiss and Max's Dad returns to the
living room.

Max leads David up the stairs.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM

Max and David enter the room. Max closes the door. They
sit down on Max's bed.

Max puts his hand on David's thigh and begins to move it
up. David takes Max's hand and holds it.

DAVID

I think we need to talk.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - LATER

Max lies on his bed, alone. He stares at the ceiling
vacantly.

He looks down to his walls and to the array of blue
posters, banners and photos.

(CONTINUED)

Max gets out of bed and walks over to a wall-mounted mirror. He sees himself wearing his blue football top. He looks down and takes his top between his fingers, feeling the texture.

He notices a drop of blood on the inside of his wrist. Confused, he turns his other wrist over: another drop of blood.

Max looks up to the mirror: his shirt has now turned red.

Max opens his eyes. He's lying in bed. He sits up and looks around the room - it's dark and empty. He looks at his wrists - they're clean.

He lies back down on the pillow, closes his eyes and falls asleep.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tom lies in bed. His gaze lowers from the ceiling to the walls of his room: they're covered in football memorabilia. From poster to poster: a sea of green.

FADE OUT

INT. KITCHEN, TOM'S HOUSE - MORNING

Tom's making some toast for breakfast. Sarah enters the room in her pyjamas.

SARAH
You off to work?

TOM
Yeah.

Tom looks at his watch.

TOM
Shit!

He stuffs the rest of his toast into his mouth and gulps tea from a mug.

SARAH
Do you know about this Halloween party?

Tom's now walking out of the room.

TOM
No...?

INT. HALL, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom walks down the hall followed by Sarah.

SARAH
It's tomorrow night. Should be fun.

TOM
Who's going?

SARAH
Oh, everyone. You should invite people. What about your friend at work?

Tom takes his coat from the stand and puts it on.

TOM
I'll ask him. Will I need a costume?

SARAH
Yeah. But after a few drinks no-one will care.

TOM
Okay, cool.

SARAH
So you'll come?

TOM
Sure. Tomorrow night.

Tom opens the front door.

SARAH
Great!

TOM
Okay. I'll see you later.

SARAH
Bye!

Tom steps outside and closes the door.

INT. SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY

Max walks through a crowded shopping centre. He arrives at the large supermarket and walks through the entrance.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Max walks down an aisle of the supermarket. He picks up a bag of rice and drops it into his basket. He walks further down the aisle and turns to the shelf. He's looking at jars of sauce, not sure which one to choose.

Tom (wearing his work uniform) is stacking shelves at the other end of the aisle.

Max finally makes his mind up and grabs a jar, drops it in his basket and turns away from Tom. He walks down the aisle and turns the corner, not noticing Tom.

Max walks to the tills. He gets to a till but doesn't choose it. He walks past, looking for something.

He continues past several tills and then sees...

MAX

Hey Ben!

BEN (20 ish) is sitting behind a till in his uniform. He looks utterly bored.

BEN

Max!

Max starts unloading his basket onto the conveyor belt.

BEN

Your Mum send you to do the shopping?

MAX

No, I came to cheer you up.

Ben's now scanning Max's purchases.

BEN

Cheer me up? How?

MAX

I think I've found a girl for you.

BEN

A girl? Pray, tell me more.

MAX

She's called Rosaline, and she's in my drama class.

BEN

How hot is she?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Very hot. And I say that as a gay man. I mean, I almost would.

BEN

She must be hot.

Ben's finished scanning and Max has finished packing the items.

BEN

That's twenty pounds and fourteen.

Max hands over a bank note and finds the change in his pocket.

MAX

Want me to put in a few good words for you?

Max hands the coins to Ben.

BEN

Immediately.

MAX

I'll talk to her on Monday. You still up for fives tonight?

BEN

Yeah, as long as I finish here on time.

MAX

Good. See you later then.

Max picks up his shopping.

BEN

Anon, dear friend, and spread my name further among your female friends.

MAX

It is my duty, Sir.

Max turns and leaves his friend manning the till.

BEN

(wishfully)
Rosaline...

Tom appears at Ben's till and startles him.

TOM

Ben! What are you doing tomorrow night?

BEN

Nothing.

TOM

There's this Halloween party in my estate. Wondered if you wanted to come?

BEN

A Halloween party? Sure.

TOM

Cool.

BEN

What's the crowd going to be like?

TOM

The usual. You're still single, right?

BEN

Unfortunately. But I've been told I have a potential suitor waiting in the wings.

TOM

And I'm sure there'll be lots of fine young ladies waiting for you at the party.

BEN

And of course some fine young men for you?

TOM

Hopefully. Oh, and it's cool if you want to bring friends.

BEN

You mean young single gay friends?

Tom laughs.

TOM

I knew there was a reason I'm friends with you.

EXT. 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL - EVENING

Max, Rob, Ben and friends play football. They're all wearing blue shirts except for Ben - he's wearing the yellow of another team.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

Max, Ben and Rob walk home from football carrying their kit.

BEN

What are you guys doing tomorrow night?

MAX

Nothing.

ROB

Same.

BEN

Want to go to a Halloween party?

ROB

Where?

BEN

The other estate.

Max and Rob laugh.

ROB

Are you fucking nuts?

BEN

I got invited by a guy at work. There's going to be lots of people there. No-one will notice you.

MAX

You'll be fine - they don't hate supporters of some shitty bottom-of-the-league team.

BEN

Fuck you!

ROB

But if they work out who we are, if they realise we're the enemy...

(CONTINUED)

BEN

It's a Halloween party. It's fancy dress!

They walk along the road in silence.

Eventually -

MAX

It might be fun.

ROB

What? Come on, we can't.

MAX

It's just a party.

BEN

A fancy fucking dress party.

(to Max)

And I'm sorry to bring it up, but you have just been dumped.

MAX

It was mutual.

BEN

(ignoring him)

And so you need a night out.

ROB

I'll think about it.

BEN

That's a yes. Only problem is, we will need costumes.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - EVENING

Establishing.

INT. BATHROOM, TOM'S HOUSE - EVENING

Tom's standing in front of the mirror. He's applying some green eye shadow to complete his costume.

The bathroom door bursts open and his sister walks in.

TOM

Occupado!

SARAH

Nice makeup!

(CONTINUED)

TOM

I try my best.

SARAH

Well finish up soon, I need a shower.

She starts to close the door but stops.

SARAH

Oh, by the way. That guy I was telling you about, he's going to be there tonight.

TOM

I told you I'm not interested.

SARAH

And I've told you he's hot. At least check him out.

She closes the door.

Tom sees a bottle of aftershave in the cabinet above the sink. He looks at it for a moment, then picks it up and sprays his neck and wrists.

He puts the bottle back and looks down to his hands: they're green from the eye shadow. He turns on the tap and washes them clean.

EXT. OUTSIDE PARTY - NIGHT

A shabby-looking hall stands at the edge of Tom's estate. Lights and music indicate that the party's already started.

Max, Rob and Ben walk through the car park towards the hall in fancy dress. Max is dressed in blue hospital scrubs with a mask lowered below his jaw. Rob wears the blue (and red) Superman costume with eye mask resting on his forehead. And Ben wears a yellow "Geordi La Forge" style yellow Star Trek outfit with matching eye visor resting on his forehead.

MAX

(to Ben)

No-one's going to know who the hell you are.

BEN

What? Of course they will!

ROB

No, but seriously, who the fuck are you?

(CONTINUED)

BEN
Geordi La Forge!

ROB
Geordi La what?

Max laughs.

BEN
The blind guy... in Star Trek!

Ben holds his eye visor up to his eyes.

ROB
You mean the cyclops guy from
X-men?

Max laughs even harder. They've reached the entrance.

BEN
Mask up boys.

The boys put on their various masks and make their way into the party.

INT. PARTY HALL

The large room's packed with young people wearing a variety of costumes. Some stand at the edges of the room chatting; some dance in the centre; others are at the bar.

Max, Rob and Ben walk through the door and stand at the entrance surveying the scene.

ROB
Let's get a drink.

BEN
I'm just going to say Hi to my
friend. Back in a sec.

Ben walks across the dancefloor. Max and Rob walk over to the bar in the corner of the room. Rob squeezes between bodies at the bar and leans forward trying to catch the attention of the barman; he fails.

Ben crosses the room and reaches a crowd of people. He pushes through them and sees Tom chatting away. Tom's wearing a green Peter Pan costume.

BEN
Tom!

Tom sees him and holds out his hand.

(CONTINUED)

TOM

Ben! How's things?

They shake hands.

BEN

Good. Thanks for the invite.
(he looks around)
Some fine talent here tonight.

TOM

We provide only the best!

Paul joins the conversation, a little drunk.

PAUL

And who's this?

TOM

Paul, this is Ben. He works at
the shop. Ben, this is my cousin
Paul.

BEN

Hey.

PAUL

Charmed, I'm sure. Are you one of
us?

Paul takes Tom's green t-shirt between his fingers and rubs it.

BEN

Ah, no, I'm a yellow man myself.

PAUL

Jesus! And you're not too
embarrassed to admit that?

BEN

Pride can cost a man his dignity.

Paul raises his can of beer.

PAUL

Amen to that.

They clink their various drinks and Paul turns and walks over to another group.

TOM

He's going to be pretty wasted
later.

BEN
And you're not?

TOM
We'll see.

BEN
Look, I've got to get back to my
friends. But we'll chat later,
right?

TOM
Yeah, cool. Have a good night.

Ben turns and walks back across the room. Tom watches him:
Ben reaches his friends and Tom spots one of them in
particular, a guy wearing hospital scrubs.

Back near the bar:

BEN
Where's Rob with our drinks?

MAX
He's coming.

Max nods towards Rob at the bar and Ben starts off towards
him. Max turns back to where Ben came from and sees Tom
watching him.

Their eyes meet, time slows down, noise silences. Max
slowly pulls down his mask to reveal a smile. Tom returns
it.

A hand grabs Tom's shoulder and he jumps out of the
trance, turning around to face his sister. She's standing
beside a good-looking young guy, CALLUM.

SARAH
This is Callum.

TOM
Hi.

Tom's sister nods at him. Tom realises who Callum is.

TOM
(holding out his hand)
Oh, hey, it's nice to meet you.

Callum shakes his hand.

CALLUM
I've heard good things.

Tom smiles then looks over Callum's shoulder to Max. Max
raises his mask and turns back to the bar.

At the bar, Rob hands Ben and Max some drinks.

ROB
So, any hotties?

MAX
(covering a slight grin)
Not yet.

ROB
Why are you grinning?

MAX
What? I'm not.

BEN
You were! Who? Where?

Ben and Rob spin Max around and start scanning the room.

MAX
No-one!

Ben grabs Max's shoulders and starts squeezing them. Max starts squirming.

MAX
Fine, fine!

Ben releases.

MAX
In the corner. Peter Pan.

Rob and Ben look over the the corner and spot Tom.

ROB
He's hot. Well... you know.

BEN
Oh, no, he's off limits.

Ben turns Rob and Max around.

BEN
I know him. While he bats for
your team, his costume reveals
his allegiance.

Max turns his head to see the green Peter Pan costume. He looks disheartened and turns around. Rob takes his brother's shoulder and holds up his glass.

ROB
Cheer up Max. It's time to get
pissed.

The boys toast then down their drinks.

Tom's still stuck with Sarah and proposed future-husband.

SARAH
So I'll leave you two alone.

Sarah turns to walk away.

TOM
No, Sarah!

Callum looks disheartened.

TOM
I need to talk to you about something. Sorry, Callum.

CALLUM
Oh, that's okay. I'll.. go and get a drink.

TOM
Thanks.

Callum walks away.

SARAH
What the fuck are you doing?!

TOM
What the fuck am I doing? What the fuck are you doing? I told you I wasn't interested.

SARAH
But you'd never met him. You'd never even fucking seen him!

TOM
I know. And now I have, I'm still not interested.

Paul barges into their conversation.

PAUL
What are you cunts fighting about?

TOM
Nothing.

SARAH
Tom doesn't want to sleep with a hot guy.

PAUL
Cousin! What the fuck?

TOM

I'm just not interested in him.

PAUL

Who are you fucking at the moment?

TOM

No one.

PAUL

Well then, who do you want to be fucking at the moment?

Tom pauses.

SARAH

Ah, there's someone else!

TOM

No there's not.

PAUL

Come on, who is he?

TOM

I've fucking told you, there's no one!

PAUL

So the fact that you've been staring at the guy with the mask at the bar for the last ten minutes, that doesn't mean anything?

Sarah excitedly turns to the bar.

SARAH

Who? Who?

PAUL

Dr Scrubs.

Sarah scans the faces.

SARAH

Oh I see him! Who is he?

TOM

I don't know.

SARAH

Are you sure he's gay?

TOM

Yeah.

PAUL

How do you know?

TOM

It's all in the eyes.

SARAH

So, who's he here with?

Ben and Rob sit surrounded by girls. They're flirting to the extreme.

Max walks over to them.

MAX

I'm going to the toilet.

ROB

We'll be here. Won't we girls?

The girls laugh. Max shakes his head and smiles. He walks across the room to the toilet.

Tom watches Max cross the room.

PAUL

(leaning into Tom's ear)

No time like the present.

Sarah doesn't hear this.

SARAH

I'm going to check Callum's okay.

Tom nods and picks up his drink as Sarah leaves. His cousin winks at him and walks away to other friends. Tom takes a swig of his drink then pauses.

He puts down his drink and walks towards the toilet.

INT. TOILET, PARTY HALL

Max is washing his hands with paper towel. He hears the door open and turns to see Tom. They stand facing each other. Max takes the mask off of his face and puts it down on the sink beside him.

MAX

Nice tights.

Tom smiles, looks down to his bright green tights, then back up at Max.

(CONTINUED)

TOM

Nice scrubs.

The boys look at each other for a moment.

Tom takes a step forward but Max holds out his hand.

MAX

We're meant to be mortal enemies.

Tom looks at Max's blue costume, then smiles mischievously.

TOM

Are we?

Suddenly they stride forwards and grab each other. They kiss and hold. Interlocked, they walk into a cubicle and Tom jumps up onto the back of the toilet. He sits on it with his legs apart as Max steps forwards and they kiss again. Max rubs Tom's legs and then grabs his crotch. Max moves to put his hand down Tom's tights when Tom grabs his hand.

TOM

Wait.

Max stops. Tom looks around the disgusting cubicle.

TOM

Not here.

MAX

Okay.

Max leans forwards and they kiss again.

Max takes Tom's hand and holds it against the cubicle wall. He takes a pen from his top pocket (his scrubs are authentic) and writes his phone number on Tom's hand.

MAX

Text me.

Max kisses Tom again, holding Tom's head in his hands. He pulls his hands away and looks down to the green eye makeup on his fingers.

Tom takes hold of Max's hands and closes them together, then kisses Max.

TOM

It doesn't matter.

INT. PARTY HALL

Paul stands beside the door to the bathroom, his back to the wall. Max walks through the door and Paul watches him walk across the room.

INT. TOILET, PARTY HALL

Tom washes his hands and face in the sink. He looks at himself in the mirror, smiles. He looks down to turn the tap off and sees Max's mask.

INT. PARTY HALL

As Tom walks through the door his cousin grabs him and spins him around.

PAUL
Good for you, cuz.

Tom looks panicked.

TOM
Did you see him?

PAUL
What? Yeah. Did you fuck him?

He pushes his cousin away.

TOM
None of your business.

Tom starts to walk away when his cousin grabs his arm. Tom stops, turns and looks down to his own hand - he's holding Max's mask.

PAUL
What's this?

TOM
It's... I found it in the toilet.

PAUL
Is it his?

Paul looks towards Max. At the same time Max turns around to face Paul. For the first time, Paul sees Max's face.

PAUL
I don't recognise him...

TOM
(panicking)
Should you?

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
If he was from here, I think I
should.

Max walks over to Ben and Rob, still chatting to the same girls.

MAX
I'm ready to go.

BEN
Do we look like we are too?

Max takes hold of Ben's arm, pulling him up. Ben sees the green on Max's hand and grabs and turns Max's other hand over - green on it too.

BEN
No...

Ben jumps up and turns around to see Paul staring at him. Confused, Rob stands up and turns to face Paul.

PAUL
(recognising Rob)
He's a fucking blue.

ROB
(recognising Paul)
Oh shit.

BEN
Max, your mask!

Max's hands reach up to his face. As he realises his mistake he turns to see Paul walking towards him.

MAX
Oh fuck.

ROB
Run!

Rob pushes Ben and Max towards the door. Paul starts to run after them.

EXT. STREETS

The three blue boys run down the street chased by Paul and his gang.

MAX
(shouting as he runs)
Split up?

The other two "aye" in agreement. They arrive at a cross roads and take separate paths.

(CONTINUED)

Max runs down a lane behind a set of houses. He jumps over rubbish bins and bushes and reaches the end of the lane when-

Someone runs out from the side of the end of the lane and crashes into Max. They stumble and fall.

Max jumps to his feet.

INTERCEPTOR

Wait!

Max recognises the voice and turns: it's Tom.

TOM

(gesturing down the road)

Come on.

Max looks back down the lane and sees the other pursuers catching up. He turns back to Tom.

TOM

Come on!

Tom starts walking backwards and Max joins him. Soon they're running down the street together.

EXT. TOM'S GARDEN

Outside of Tom's house the boys run across the patch of grass and to the corner of the house. There's a rain pipe on the wall leading up to a small balcony.

The boys stop at the rain pipe. Tom starts to climb up it, Max grabs him.

MAX

Where are you going?

TOM

Shh! My room.

Tom continues climbing. Max looks around nervously. The lights in the house are all out.

Tom reaches the top of the pipe and climbs over to the balcony. He opens the door silently and sneaks inside.

There's a noise: shouting nearby. Max drops to the ground and scrambles over towards a bush. He hides behind it.

The light in Tom's room turns on. Max sees it then turns back to the shouting: it's louder now.

Tom returns to the balcony and looks down to Max: he's disappeared.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly Paul and his gang appear on the road outside the house. Max sees them from behind the bush.

PAUL
(shouting up to Tom)
Where the fuck is he?!

TOM
I don't know.

Paul looks around, deflated, catching his breath.

TOM
If they're from the other estate
then they'll not have gotten too
far.

Paul takes some breaths while he considers his options.

PAUL
Tomorrow, I'm going to tell your
Mum and Dad exactly what you did
tonight.

TOM
I didn't know he-

PAUL
Yes you fucking did! You knew
exactly what he was.

Tom stays silent.

PAUL
(signaling to his mob)
Let's go.

They start off down the street.

Once they've turned the corner and are out of sight, Max stands up from behind the bush and looks up to Tom.

MAX
That was close.

TOM
He's not as dangerous as he
appears.

MAX
Now that's a lie. I should go
home.

TOM
What? With that mob hunting you
down? Stay here tonight. Go home
in the morning.

MAX
I don't know...

TOM
If you leave, I'll scream.

Max laughs.

MAX
Fuck you.

Max starts climbing up the rain pipe. Tom smiles.

TOM
(to himself)
That's the plan.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The boys lie on the bed, embracing.

FADE OUT

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Tom lies on the bed asleep. Max wakes and turns to face him. Max smiles.

Silently, Max gets up, puts on his clothes and opens the door to the balcony.

He watches Tom sleeping as he closes the door behind him.

EXT. STREETS

Max walks home from Tom's council estate. Along with a huge grin, he's still wearing his hospital scrubs outfit.

EXT. PLAYPARK - MORNING

A rusty old playpark: swings, a merry-go-round, a seesaw, etc.

Paul and his gang lounge about. They're drinking the cheapest local brew.

GANG MEMBER #1
Paul, it's no big deal.

PAUL
No big deal? They crashed our party.

(CONTINUED)

GANG MEMBER #2
Then we chased them out.

PAUL
So you think it doesn't matter?

GANG MEMBER #2
Not really. I don't know why
you're getting so pissed about
it.

PAUL
Fuck you!

Paul stands up and faces the group.

PAUL
When did you all becoming fucking
pussies? Blue boys came and
ruined our fucking night.

The gang seems confused as to why Paul's so upset.

GANG MEMBER #1
They didn't ruin the night.
Nothing fucking happened.

Paul goes to say something then stops. He takes a moment
to think. Then...

PAUL
We need to show them that they
can't do it again.

GANG MEMBER #2
But they know that! They know
they were crossing a line and
they lost.

PAUL
(getting angry)
But we need to make sure it never
happens again!

GANG MEMBER #1
Paul, but there's no need-

PAUL
I won't let him do it again.

The group falls silent for a moment. Paul realises what he
said.

GANG MEMBER #2
Who?

Paul looks around the group - all eyes on him.

PAUL

My cousin Tom is gay, right?

(nods from the gang)

Last night...

(trouble finding the words)

Last night he got off with one of those blue boys.

The group exchange awkward looks. One of the gang members who's on a swing starts sniggering to himself. Paul notices and hits him across the jaw. The guy flips over backwards and lands hard on the ground.

The other guys jump to their feet: some hold back Paul, some help the guy up.

GANG MEMBER #1

Jesus, Paul!

PAUL

It's not fucking funny!

The gang sits the now-bloody-faced man down on the ground. Once he's settled, Gang Member #2 gets up and faces Paul.

GANG MEMBER #2

What do you want us to do?

EXT. STREETS

Max is still walking home.

His phone rings and he answers it.

MAX

Hello?

ROB

(o.s., on the phone)

Max, where did you go?

MAX

I hid low for a while. What about you?

ROB

You hid low? What?

MAX

I... I found the guy and... stayed at his.

ROB

Oh yeah? Ha! Did you sleep on his sofa?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Not exactly.

ROB

Swine. I got home and so did Ben.
But if that guy now knows we
sneaked into the party-

MAX

It'll be fine. He was drunk. He
won't care by now.

On the phone, we hear the tires of a car squealing to a
stop.

ROB

Oh, fuck!

Max stops.

MAX

What? What is it?

Max stands still as he hears shouts on the phone. He hears
a scuffle and it sounds like the phone hits the ground.

MAX

Rob?!

Max hears the phone being picked up.

PAUL

(o.s., on phone)

Who's this?

Max stays silent.

PAUL

I said, who the fuck is this?!

MAX

Is Rob okay?

PAUL

Are you the cunt that ruined our
party last night?

MAX

Yeah.

PAUL

And your name, good sir?

MAX

Max.

PAUL

Well, Max, if you ever come near my cousin, my family, or my estate ever again, I'll kill your big brother.

The phone goes dead. Max takes it away from his ear and looks at it. He's in shock.

After a moment, he puts it in his pocket and starts running down the street.

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - LATER

Max bursts through the front door.

MAX

(shouting)

Where's Rob?

He runs into the living room to see his family sitting down. Rob's there too - he's not badly hurt, just a few scratches and bruises. Max's Dad jumps to his feet.

MAX'S DAD

What the hell did you do last night?

Max looks to Rob for help.

ROB

I told you, Dad, it was my idea.

MAX'S DAD

I'd like to hear my other son's version of events.

MAX

We went to this party, at the other estate.

MAX'S MUM

Why, Max?

ROB

I already said there were some girls.

MAX'S MUM

So you went to a green party for some girls? Then were caught, chased away, and today you were attacked?

(CONTINUED)

MAX'S DAD
For some girls?

Max stands at the doorway, silent. Then-

MAX
We went because we wanted to. We
were caught because of me.

ROB
Max...

MAX
It's okay. I kissed a guy... from
the other estate.

MAX'S MUM
Oh Max.

MAX'S DAD
You didn't come home last night,
but Rob did. Tell me you
didn't...

He looks at Max. Max looks at the floor.

MAX'S DAD
With a green boy? Jesus!

Max's Mum gets up from the sofa and stands in front of
Max. He slowly looks up to her, looking for comfort. She
slaps him, then pulls him in for a hug.

MAX'S MUM
What were you thinking?

Max holds her for a moment, then releases, turning around
to go to his bedroom.

INT. HALL, MAX'S HOUSE

Max starts to climb the stairs when his Dad appears below.

MAX'S DAD
Max?

Max stops and turns.

MAX'S DAD
I'm sorry that you broke up with
David, but now's not the time to
be making stupid mistakes like
you did last night.

MAX

I know. I'm sorry.

Max's Dad nods and Max climbs the rest of the stairs.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM

Max closes the door behind him, puts his phone down on his desk and sits down on his bed.

He sighs, then lies down. His phone vibrates on his desk. He looks to it just as there's a knock at the door.

MAX

Come in.

Rob steps inside. He closes the door behind him. Max sits up on the bed.

ROB

You okay?

MAX

Me? You're the one that got jumped.

Rob smiles and sits down on the end of the bed.

ROB

Yeah, but you're the one that just got told he's not allowed to see the guy he's passionately in love with.

MAX

I wouldn't go that far.

ROB

Well I hope he was worth it.

Max smiles.

ROB

That's enough for me. You know they won't want you seeing him again?

MAX

I know.

Rob stands up and turns to the door.

MAX

Rob? I'm sorry.

ROB

It's not your fault.

Rob leaves the room.

Once the door's closed Max gets off the bed and goes to his desk. He picks up his phone and looks at the screen: "1 new message from Tom".

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom sits at his desk with his homework open in front of him. He's holding his phone, typing into it. The screen reads: "I had a really nice time last night. Want to do it again?"

Tom presses the send button.

The door bursts open and his Mum and Dad walk in.

TOM'S DAD

What did you do last night?

TOM

(flustered)

What?

TOM'S DAD

Last night. What happened?

TOM

Nothing!

TOM'S MUM

Paul just called. He said you were with a boy from the other estate.

Tom's not sure what to say.

TOM'S DAD

Well?!

TOM

Yeah, okay. But we didn't do anything and-

TOM'S MUM

And you won't see him again. How could you even think that it would be okay?

TOM'S DAD

Were you drunk? Did he take advantage of you?

(CONTINUED)

TOM
No, Dad, Jesus! I wasn't drunk
and neither was he.

TOM'S DAD
That's even worse.

After a moment of silence, Tom's Mum and Dad turn to leave the room.

TOM
Is it so bad?

Tom's Dad turns around and strides towards his son.

TOM'S DAD
No son of mine's going to even
talk to a boy in blue. You forget
about him.

Tom's Dad storms out of the room leaving his Mum watching him. She shakes her head then leaves the room.

Tom sits back in his chair. His phone buzzes once with a text. He looks at it but doesn't pick it up.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Max lies on his bed. His phone is lying beside him. He picks it up.

Max opens his recent texts and sees his last one was to Tom. He's not received a reply.

Max drops his phone by his side, a sullen look on his face.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom's watching TV. His phone buzzes and he picks it up: "1 new message from Max".

He stares at it, then drops it by his side. He leans back in the sofa and sighs.

He hears the front door open and Sarah enters the living room. Tom pushes his phone under his leg to hide it.

SARAH
Hey!

TOM
Hey, how was college?

Sarah slumps into a chair.

SARAH

Alright. I've got some coursework to do tonight. How was school?

TOM

Not bad.

SARAH

What are you doing later?

TOM

Nothing.

SARAH

Want to come out with me and my friends?

TOM

Eh, maybe.

SARAH

You should.

TOM

Yeah, I don't think so.

SARAH

Oh don't tell me you're still thinking about that blue guy?

TOM

What? No, of course not.

SARAH

Well then you should come out tonight.

TOM

Maybe.

SARAH

Is that a no?

TOM

It's a maybe.

Sarah stands up.

SARAH

There's no point moping round here all night. If you need to do something to get over this guy then going out and getting pissed with me and my friends sounds like a pretty good thing to do.

TOM
Thanks for the offer.

SARAH
Fine! I've got an essay to write.

Sarah leaves the room. Once she's gone, Tom takes his phone out from under his leg and checks the screen: "2 messages from Max."

TOM
(to himself)
Shit.

EXT. 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL - EVENING

Max, Rob, Ben and their friends play football.

INT. CHANGING ROOM - LATER

Max, Rob and Ben are finishing getting changed after football.

BEN
Tell me about this Rosaline girl.

MAX
Well, she's in my drama class.

BEN
Yeah, yeah. What I really mean is
have you got a photo?

Max and Rob laugh. Max takes out his phone - his smile temporarily fading as he sees he has no new text messages.

MAX
Wait a sec.

Max starts playing about with his phone looking for a photo.

ROB
She'll be out of your league.

BEN
Fuck you!

ROB
What are you, like, a six?

BEN
A six?! A six?!

ROB
Max, what's Ben?

BEN
At least a seven.

MAX
(not even looking up from
his phone)
A six.

Rob and Max laugh.

BEN
Fuck you too!

MAX
No, I'm joking. You're...
(he studies Ben for a
moment)
... a five.

BEN
You've got terrible taste in men.

ROB
So might Rosaline.

BEN
Have you got a photo?

MAX
Yeah, here.

He hands the phone to Ben. Rob goes to look over his shoulder.

BEN
Oh, nice.

ROB
She's an eight.

BEN
She definitely is an eight.

ROB
A five can't ask out an eight.

BEN
I'm not a fucking five! Even,
even, if I am a six, she'd
totally go out with me.

Ben hands the phone back to Max.

BEN

And it's not weird me going out with a schoolgirl?

ROB

A hot schoolgirl. You realise you may well be about to live out every man's fantasy?

MAX

Well, not every man's fantasy. And you're only a few years older than her. It's not weird.

BEN

You're both right. Well, mainly Max is right, you're just a bit pervy Rob.

MAX

If you think you've got a chance, you should come round after school on Monday. Show practice finishes at six.

ROB

You don't have a chance.

BEN

Fine, fine! I won't go. I'll be single forever.

ROB

I'm single, and look how well I'm doing.

BEN

What? Playing football with your wee brother on a Friday night?

ROB

I like playing football! You should always do what you want to do, otherwise, what's the point?

Max looks down to his phone in his hand.

MAX

Rob's right. Carpe diem. Seize the-

Ben throws a football at Max's head.

MAX

What the fuck?!

BEN

Stop showing off. We know what it means.

EXT. OUTSIDE CLUB - NIGHT

Tom and his sister approach a slightly-dingy club.

TOM

Who's going to be here?

SARAH

Just friends from college.

TOM

Do I know any of them?

SARAH

I don't think so.

INT. CLUB, DANCEFLOOR

Lights and music and people.

Tom is dancing directly across from Callum in a circle of Sarah and her friends. Tom's trying not to catch his eye; Callum's doing the exact opposite.

Tom dances awkwardly as Callum watches him.

INT. CLUB, BAR

Tom's waiting to order a drink. Sarah walks up to him. They have to shout to hear each other over the music.

SARAH

Having a good time?

TOM

This was a setup!

SARAH

What? No!

TOM

You didn't know he was going to be here?

SARAH

He was undecided until...

TOM

Until you told him I was coming?

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

Look, I think you two would make a nice couple.

TOM

Well that's nice, but I disagree. Go and tell him I'm not interested.

SARAH

Me?! Why should I have to do it?

TOM

You brought him here!

SARAH

You're the one he wants. You should tell him.

Tom considers this.

TOM

I'll need a drink first.

SARAH

We should do shots!

INT. CLUB, SEATING AREA

Tom sits on his own on some seats at the edge of the dancefloor. Dozens of empty shot glasses sits on the table in front of him.

Callum sits down beside Tom. Tom doesn't react with such fear as he might have if he was sober.

CALLUM

Hey!

TOM

Hi. How are you?

CALLUM

I'm having a good night. You?

TOM

Oh yeah. Good. Just having a wee rest.

CALLUM

I can see that.

Callum shuffles up closer to him.

(CONTINUED)

CALLUM
Mind if I join you?

TOM
Well...

Callum leans into him and puts his hand on Tom's leg.
Tom's too drunk to notice.

TOM
There's something I need to tell
you.

Callum goes in for the kiss. The kiss lasts for what seems
like minutes. Callum pulls away leaving Tom startled.
Eventually...

TOM
Thanks...?

Callum looks devastated.

CALLUM
It wasn't good?

TOM
It was, you know, fine. But I'm
sorry, I just-

CALLUM
It's okay.

Callum stands up and starts off, but he spins around and
kisses Tom again. Tom's caught off-guard.

Callum releases. Tom awkwardly smiles and shrugs his
shoulders.

TOM
Sorry.

Tom stands up and walks away leaving Callum on his own.

EXT. OUTSIDE CLUB

Tom leaves the club and starts walking down the street.
Sarah exits the club and runs after him.

SARAH
Tom!

Tom stops and turns. Sarah reaches him.

SARAH
Where are you going?

TOM

Home.

SARAH

Why?

TOM

I'm tired.

SARAH

Callum said you ignored him.

TOM

He kissed me.

SARAH

And that's bad?

TOM

I don't know why you're not getting this, Sarah. I don't like Callum and I don't want you to keep trying to get me and him together.

SARAH

But you need to get over the other boy. It's never going to happen with you and him because no-one will let it happen.

TOM

I will.

SARAH

Tom, you don't understand. This isn't about you. This is about Mum and Dad. What will they tell their friends? That their son is dating a blue boy? They'll be disowned by everyone. Do you really want that happen?

TOM

Of course not!

SARAH

Then forget about him.

TOM

I can't.

SARAH

You have to.

They stand in silence for a moment, Tom digesting what he's just heard.

Sarah watches Tom turn around and walk away.

EXT. GRASS PITCH - DAY

Tom and a large group of his friends play football on a grass pitch near the playpark.

EXT. PLAYPARK - DAY

Max sits on one of the swings. He's watching Tom play football. He takes out his phone and presses a few buttons.

EXT. GRASS PITCH

Tom feels his phone vibrate in his pocket. While trying to keep one eye on the game, he looks at the screen: "Make an excuse to leave. And turn around."

He looks up and turns: in the distance he sees Max waving at him.

The ball suddenly comes his way and he switches back to the game. He dribbles the ball up the pitch, past a few defenders and whacks it towards the goal. It looks like a perfect shot... but it's wide.

A mixture of support and mockery from Tom's friends as he jogs back down the pitch.

EXT. PLAYPARK

Max smiles and writes another text message.

EXT. GRASS PITCH

Tom's phone vibrates again. He reads the message: "Rubbish. Please come and talk?"

Tom looks back up towards Max, not sure what to do. The game's about to restart.

He starts jogging towards Max.

TOM
(to his friends)
Back in a minute. Keep playing.

His teammates let their disappointment be known, while his opponents cheer as he runs off the pitch.

EXT. PLAYPARK

Max watches Tom approach. Max's smile disappears when he sees how angry Tom appears.

When he's near enough...

TOM

What the fuck are you doing here?

MAX

(a bit taken aback)

I wanted to see you.

TOM

But I've been ignoring your texts. Doesn't that tell you something?

MAX

I know. But I wanted to talk.

TOM

Here? In my estate? Everyone knows about you. Paul was fucking raging.

MAX

You know what he did to Rob?

TOM

Who's Rob?

MAX

Rob. My brother. He attacked him. Warned me that it'd be worse if I ever saw you again.

Tom obviously didn't know this. He takes a moment.

TOM

So why are you here?

MAX

Because I couldn't stop thinking about you. Because all I want to do is be with you. They don't need to know about us. No-one needs to know about us.

TOM

They'll find out.

MAX

No they won't. We can keep it hidden. My parents thought I was straight for sixteen years. I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAX (cont'd)
know how to hide things, and I
guess you do too.

TOM
This is different. Because if
they find out-

MAX
What? What are they going to do?
Disown you? Throw you out?

TOM
Maybe.

MAX
And my parents might do the same.
But I'm here now.

Tom takes a moment.

TOM
I have to go.

MAX
Look, if you can tell me that you
never want to see me again, then
I'll go home and I won't text, I
won't call, I won't come and find
you. But if you can't do that,
then we can find a way to make
this work.

Tom looks back to his friends - they're playing the game,
not taking any notice of him.

TOM
I need time to think.

MAX
Okay.

Max tries a smile at Tom. Tom shakes his head, but can't
help but smile.

TOM
I can't believe you came here.

MAX
Look...
(he points to his non-blue
clothes)
... for once I'm not wearing
blue.

TOM
Is that a first?

MAX
(laughing)
Probably.

Tom smiles then looks back to the football game.

TOM
I need to get back.

MAX
Text me?

TOM
Maybe.

Tom turns and jogs back to the pitch.

Max sits on his swing quite content. After a while he starts rocking slowly forward and back. Before he knows it, he's into full-on swing mode.

EXT. GRASS PITCH

Back on the pitch, Tom turns back to Max and sees him almost breaking the swings. He smiles.

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - DAY

The house sits silently.

Keys turn in the front door and Max enters with Tom behind him.

TOM
(whispering)
You sure there's no-one here?

MAX
Yeah. Everyone's at work.

Max starts to climb the stairs.

MAX
Come on.

Max takes Tom's hand and leads him upstairs.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM

Max leads Tom into his bedroom, closing the door behind them.

Tom starts looking around the room, investigating.

MAX

It's not as nice as yours. I don't have a balcony.

Tom laughs.

TOM

You don't need one with our usual weather.

Tom reaches Max's desk and looks at the sheet music that's lying on it. He picks it up: it's the score to "West Side Story".

TOM

I didn't know you were into musicals.

Max looks embarrassed and walks over to Tom, takes the sheet music and puts it down on the desk.

MAX

I'm not. We're doing it at school.

Tom picks it up again and sits down on the bed.

TOM

You're doing West Side Story at school? Who are you playing? Maria?

MAX

Very funny.

Max sits down beside Tom.

MAX

I'm playing Tony.

TOM

Tony?! You're playing the lead? You must be good.

MAX

Well... I don't know. Have you seen the show?

(CONTINUED)

TOM

Yeah it's one of my favourites.
There's this Pet Shop Boys cover
of-

He stops and looks at Max.

TOM

Too gay?

MAX

No. I mean... a wee bit gay, but
that's fine. I'll forgive you
seeing as how you are an actual
homosexual.

Tom smiles.

TOM

Have you got proof of that?

Max places his hand on Tom's thigh.

MAX

Proof that you're a poof? It
can't be that hard to find.

Tom takes Max's hand, raises it up and places it against
his own cheek.

TOM

(overly camp)
Darling, we should sing.

Max laughs.

MAX

I don't think we should.

TOM

Yeah, come on.

MAX

Here? Now?

TOM

I'll be Maria.

Tom stands up and grabs the sheet music from the desk. He
sits back down beside Max and holds the sheet music out in
front of them.

TOM

Ready?

Max does a fake cough.

MAX
Shall I begin?

Max points at a line in the music.

MAX
From here?

TOM
Yeah.

They start a rendition of "Somewhere".

MAX
(singing)
There's a place for us. A time
and place for us.

Tom laughs, then so does Max. A pause, then...

TOM
(singing)
Hold my hand and we're halfway
there.

MAX
(singing)
Hold my hand and I'll take you
there.

Now they're into full-blown crescendo mode.

TOM
(singing)
Somehow...

MAX
(singing)
Someday...

TOM
(singing)
Somewhere!

They laugh, then look at each other. Tom moves in for a kiss which Max gladly accepts.

TOM
You know you're the first guy
I've been with?

MAX
You're doing well so far.

TOM
Oh yeah?

MAX

Sure. An easy seven out of ten.

TOM

Only seven?

MAX

Well, I may be able to up your score, but I really do need more evidence.

TOM

What sort of evidence?

MAX

Evidence of a... physical nature.

TOM

(smiling)

That was awful.

MAX

Thank you.

They kiss and fall back onto the bed.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Ben and Rob stand in an aisle of the supermarket. Ben's scanning large packets of crisps from a trolley.

ROB

I feel bad for him.

BEN

Max?

ROB

Yeah, you know, he finds a guy he likes then it turns out he can't be with him.

Ben scans another packet of crisps, then picks another one up and hands it to Rob without scanning it.

BEN

On the house.

Rob opens the packet of crisps and starts eating.

ROB

Thanks.

BEN

You sure it wasn't just a one-night stand?

(CONTINUED)

ROB

I don't think so. The way Max was acting. I think he really likes the guy.

BEN

But you've told him that he can't see him again?

ROB

Yeah, Mum and Dad made that clear.

BEN

Look, you know Max is my best mate, so I just want him to be happy, but he just broke up with David. He'll get over Tom soon.

ROB

Have you talked to Tom about it?

BEN

No, I've not had a shift with him yet. Not sure what I'll say.

ROB

I hope Max can get over him quickly.

BEN

In a couple of days it'll have blown over. Max will be lusting after some other guy. He'll have forgotten Tom even exists.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM

Tom and Max sit on the bed. They're watching West Side Story on the TV - it's the wedding scene in the dress shop. Max holds a script between them and reads off of it in time to the film.

MAX

I Anton, take thee, Maria.

TOM

I Maria, take - do I really have to be Maria?

Max laughs.

MAX

Yes! I need to learn these lines!

Max turns back to the TV.

(CONTINUED)

MAX
Look, we've missed some bits!

TOM
Sorry. Rewind it.

Max picks up the remote and rewinds the DVD. Tom picks up a packet of Hoola Hoops and eats one.

Max presses play.

MAX
Right, ready?

TOM
Go!

The scene starts again.

MAX
I Max, take thee, Tom.

Tom smiles.

TOM
I Tom, take thee, Max.

Max turns to Tom.

MAX
For richer, for poorer.

TOM
In sickness, in health.

They start leaning in towards each other.

MAX
To love and to honor.

TOM
To hold and to keep.

MAX
From each sun to each moon.

TOM
From tomorrow to tomorrow.

MAX
From now to forever.

TOM
'Till death do us part.

They kiss, then Max leans over Tom and puts his hand into the packet of crisps. He brings out a single Hoola Hoop and holds it up to Tom.

MAX

With this ring, I thee wed.

Tom smiles and holds out his ring finger. Max puts the "ring" onto Tom's finger. Tom looks down to it then back up to Max, smiling.

TOM

With this ring, I thee wed.

They share a moment, then-

MAX

(over-the-top singing)
Make of our-

Tom puts his finger up to Max's lips, stopping him.

TOM

That's enough practice. I hear
it's typical to consummate the
marriage.

MAX

(laughing)
Oh really?

Tom kisses him and they roll over. Tom sits on top of Max and holds out his left hand. Max opens his mouth and leans forward, his mouth encompasses Tom's ring finger.

Max carefully takes the Hoola Hoop between his teeth and leans backwards, pulling it off Tom's finger.

He lies back on the pillow, the Hoola Hoop between his teeth. Tom smiles. Max bites down.

INT. TOILET, SUPERMARKET - DAY

We're in one of the cubicles. Hands press against the walls, two bodies move against each other while they groan and sigh.

INT. BACK AREA, SUPERMARKET

Ben walks through the back area of the supermarket.

He walks through a door into the...

INT. TOILET, SUPERMARKET

... where he walks over to the urinals. He's about to unzip when he hears a noise.

He turns around - it came from one of the cubicles. Only one of the cubicles has its door closed.

There's a shuffling sound from the cubicle. Ben leans down and looks underneath the closed cubicle's door - he sees two pairs of feet. He smiles.

He takes a few steps towards the cubicle.

BEN

Is there conudling occuring in
the toilets?

He waits for a response, but doesn't get one.

BEN

Which of my colleagues is getting
his rocks off?

Ben reaches the cubicle door and knocks on it.

BEN

Knock knock. Who's there? Oh,
it's me, the man who's about to
have a fun story to tell at
parties.

Still no response.

BEN

I'll allow you the dignity of
revealing yourselves.

After a moment, Ben hears the door unlock.

BEN

Hello...?

The door slowly opens revealing Tom.

BEN

Thomas! And who's you lovely ma-

Ben sees Max behind Tom.

BEN

Oh, Christ.

Ben takes some steps back allowing Tom and Max to step out of the cubicle.

(CONTINUED)

TOM

Ben, you can't tell anyone.

BEN

I...I...

MAX

Ben, please. No-one knows.

TOM

If they did...

BEN

Fuck. Guys, how could you continue seeing each other?

MAX

We know it's a bad idea. But...

BEN

A bad idea? It was a bad idea you inviting me to that party. It was a bad idea you two kissing for the first time. This is beyond a bad idea.

Ben walks over to the sinks and splashes water on his face.

BEN

I don't want to be overly dramatic...

MAX

I think you've failed.

BEN

... but if anyone was to find out, they'd... I don't know what they'd do.

TOM

They'd probably disown us.

BEN

Exactly. And then what would you do? Where you going to live? How you going to pay bills and buy food and... what about your cousin, Tom?

TOM

He won't find out.

BEN

Who else knows?

(CONTINUED)

TOM

No-one. Just you.

MAX

Please, Ben, keep it a secret
until we work out what to do.

Ben wipes his face dry with a paper towel.

BEN

Fine, but you guys need to leave
now.

TOM

Why?

BEN

Because I really need a piss.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Tom and Max are lying on the bed playing a video game.

There's a noise downstairs. Tom hits the "Pause" button.
The boys look towards the door.

TOM'S DAD

(o.s.)

I'm home!

TOM

(whispering)

Oh shit!

They silently get off the bed.

MAX

What do I do?

TOM

The balcony!

Tom carefully opens the balcony door.

MAX

When will I next see you?

TOM

I don't know.

MAX

I could surprise you at work?

TOM

Is it really a surprise if you
tell me you're going to?

(CONTINUED)

MAX
Oh, good point.

TOM'S DAD
(o.s.)
Tom, you up there?

Tom pushes Max towards the balcony.

TOM
I've got a long shift on
Saturday. Maybe you can come and
provide some...
(leans in close to Max)
...relief?

MAX
It would be a pleasure.

They share a quick kiss, then Max steps out onto the balcony and Tom closes the door behind him.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE

Max starts climbing down the rain pipe beside the balcony.

Sarah turns the corner at the end of the street and walks towards the house.

Max reaches the bottom of the pipe and runs across the garden and away down to the other end of the road.

Sarah stands watching him.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Tom is stacking shelves. Ben walks up to him.

BEN
Tom, are you able to come onto
the till for an hour?

TOM
Sure. Just need to finish this.

BEN
That's fine, thanks.
(he lowers his voice)
How's you-know-who?

Tom stops stacking and stands up properly.

TOM
It's good. He's good.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

I'm glad.

TOM

But there's the problem that I want to be with him all the time, but I can't. I want to watch the football with him. I want meet his friends and his family. But I can't.

BEN

You're parents still don't know you're seeing him?

TOM

God, no. We don't know what to do. We can't afford to move out, and while we're at home we can't be together.

BEN

Your parents think, what, that someone like you shouldn't be with someone like Max because of the football team you support?

TOM

It's more than that. The team means everything to them. It's like he's a different species. And how could I love someone that's not the same species as me?

BEN

Then you need to show them that they're wrong. You need to show them how much you love him.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Tom's doing his school work at his desk. His door is ajar. Sarah knocks on it. Tom turns around.

TOM

Hey.

SARAH

Can I come in?

TOM

Sure. What's up?

Sarah closes the door behind her and sits down on Tom's bed.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH

I wasn't sure if I should tell you this, but I think it's for the best.

TOM

Okay...?

SARAH

I saw that blue boy leave your bedroom yesterday.

TOM

What?

SARAH

I saw him.

TOM

I don't know what you're talking about.

SARAH

Tom, I know you're still seeing him and I'm so happy that you've found someone you like, but please, you have to stop.

Tom lowers his voice.

TOM

I don't think I can.

SARAH

If I found out, Tom, who's to say Mum and Dad won't, or someone else?

TOM

We'll be more careful.

SARAH

Do his parents know?

TOM

No. They're the same as Mum and Dad.

SARAH

Then, for both your sakes, you have to break up with him.

Sarah stands up and moves to the door. Before opening it she stops and turns back to Tom.

SARAH

I'm sorry.

Sarah leaves the room and closes the door. Tom sits at his desk, staring out to space.

INT. SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY

Max walks through the shopping centre.

INT. CLOTHES STORE, SHOPPING CENTRE

Paul is browsing through clothes in a shop. He looks up and out of the window: Max walks past.

Paul drops the clothes he's holding and leaves the shop.

INT. SHOPPING CENTRE

Paul follows Max through the crowds of the shopping centre.

INT. SUPERMARKET

Max enters the supermarket and starts walking past the aisles towards the tills. Paul follows him from a distance.

From Paul's POV we see Max stop by a till and lean over to kiss someone. He leans back revealing Tom.

Paul's expression changes in an instant.

Paul watches Tom get up from the till and take Max's hand. He leads him past a few tills and then through a door.

Paul walks towards the door.

INT. BACK AREA, SUPERMARKET

Tom and Max kiss in a secluded part of the back area.

TOM

My sister knows about us.

MAX

How?

TOM

She saw you leave my house.

MAX

Oh, we'll need to be more careful next time.

TOM

She said we should break up.

Max stops.

MAX

And what did you say?

TOM

That that wasn't going to happen.

Max smiles and kisses Tom. He reaches down to Tom's trousers then puts his hand inside them. Tom closes his eyes. Tom giggles and opens his eyes and-

TOM

Shit!

Paul is standing watching them. Tom steps back from Max. Max turns to Paul.

Paul lunges forward and hits Max who falls to the ground. Tom kneels down and cradles Max. Max's nose is bleeding, but he's otherwise fine. They both look up to Paul.

PAUL

Tonight at six, at the park...
Max.

Paul looks at Tom, then spits on the ground. He turns and storms away.

Tom holds Max, both in shock.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTRE CAR PARK - DAY

Max storms through the car park. Tom pursues him. Both are distraught.

TOM

You can't!

MAX

I have to!

TOM

No you don't.

Max stops and turns.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Then what do I do?

TOM

We...

He's lost for words.

MAX

Exactly.

TOM

We could leave. Go away somewhere together.

MAX

Where? How?

TOM

I don't know. But we can work it out.

MAX

You don't get it! We, us, we can't be together. This, whatever this is, it isn't meant to be.

Max turns and starts off.

TOM

Max!

No response.

TOM

Max!

Max turns.

TOM

Please, promise me you won't fight him.

Max doesn't say anything. He turns and leaves Tom alone.

INT. HALLWAY, MAX'S HOUSE - DAY

The front door opens and Max walks straight into the...

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

... where his Mum, Dad and Rob are watching the TV.

They all look up to him in shock. Max's breathing heavily - he's been running.

(CONTINUED)

MAX'S MUM

What's wrong, Max?

MAX

I've got something to tell you,
but now's not the time to get
angry.

MAX'S DAD

What is it, son?

MAX

I've been seeing the boy from the
other estate.

Looks of shock from Rob and Max's Mum and Dad.

MAX'S DAD

What?!

MAX

And his cousin, the one who
attacked Rob, found out about us
and wants to fight me tonight.

ROB

I'll fucking kill him.

MAX'S DAD

No Rob. You're not going to fight
him. No-one's going to fight him.

MAX

He'll just get even more angry.

MAX'S DAD

And if so, we'll call the police
and they can deal with him.
You're not going to fight him.

MAX'S MUM

How could you keep on seeing him?

MAX

Please Mum, not now. I need to
decide what to do.

ROB

You're not going to do anything.
If he comes here I'm going to-

MAX'S MUM

No! Max is going to go to his
room, Rob's going to keep
watching the TV and your Dad and
I are going to discuss what to
do.

(CONTINUED)

(to Max)
We'll talk about what you've done
to your family after dinner.

Max turns and walks out the room. Then he stops and turns back.

MAX
I'm sorry.

MAX'S DAD
I don't know if you are.

Max turns and leaves the room.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom walks up his garden towards his front door, tears in his eyes.

INT. HALL, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom enters the house and walks upstairs.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

He sits down on his bed and pulls out his phone. He writes a text message: "Please don't fight him."

Tom presses "Send" and drops his phone. He holds his head in his hands and starts crying.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Max lies on his bed, eyes open, staring at the wall.

His phone buzzes with a text. He's too entranced to notice it.

He continues staring at the wall: he's looking at the clock.

EXT. PARK - DUSK

Paul and his gang sit at a dilapidated play park: swinging on swings; spinning slowly on the merry-go-round.

Paul looks down to his watch: it's past six o'clock.

PAUL
Let's go.

(CONTINUED)

HENCHMAN #1
We going home?

PAUL
Oh no.

The gang stands up, leaves the play park and gets into their cars. They drive off.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - DUSK

The door bursts open and Sarah walks into the room. Tom's at his desk.

SARAH
Why is our cousin going to start a fight at the other estate?

TOM
What?

SARAH
Paul. He's going to start a fight.

TOM
Max promised he wouldn't fight him.

SARAH
Max? Paul found out?

TOM
He caught us earlier. Oh God. I didn't think he would go to their estate.

Tom stands up.

TOM
I have to stop it.

Tom grabs his phone and keys from his desk and barges past Sarah.

SARAH
Tom, you can't! Paul's already on his way over there.

INT. HALLWAY, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom runs down the stairs and out of the front door.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE

Tom unlocks his bike from the side of the house and rides down the garden path.

EXT. HOUSE ON MAX'S ESTATE - DUSK

The front door of a council house just like Max's. A finger rings the doorbell and a few seconds later an old woman answers.

She's greeted by Paul.

PAUL
(affecting a posh accent)
Oh hello, I wonder if you could possibly tell me where a boy called Maxwell resides?

OLD LADY
I'm not sure.

PAUL
Oh darling...

Paul steps to the side revealing his gang in their cars behind him.

PAUL
... we really do wish to know.

Paul looks down to his waist: he's holding a short blade. The old lady looks down, sees this, and catches her breath.

PAUL
I'd hate to inconvenience you any further.

OLD LADY
Number forty-two.

She slams the front door closed and Paul, smiling, turns around to his gang.

PAUL
What a lovely old dear.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - DUSK

The number forty-two hangs beside the door of Max's house.

The gang's cars pull up outside of the house.

Paul blasts his car's horn a few times and leans out of the window.

(CONTINUED)

PAUL
Oh Maxwell!

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM

Max looks out of his bedroom window and sees the gang.

He instantly takes a step back and runs to his door, opens it, then shouts down the stairs.

MAX
They're here!

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE

A few doors down, Ben pulls back the curtains of his living room. He sees the gang outside Max's house.

INT. HALL, MAX'S HOUSE

Max runs down the stairs as his Dad walks into the hall.

MAX
Don't open it!

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Mum stands near the window holding the phone. She dials "999".

INT. HALL, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Dad turns to Rob who's making his way to the kitchen at the end of the hall. Max's Dad watches as Rob picks up three knives from the knife stand.

MAX'S DAD
We'll tell them you're not going to fight.

MAX
And what if they don't go away?

MAX'S DAD
You're Mum's calling the police...

Rob walks back into the hall clutching the knives.

MAX'S DAD
... and we can protect ourselves.

Rob places the knives on a sideboard in the hall and joins Max behind their father as he unlocks and opens the door.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE

Paul stands on the short garden path with his gang behind him. Max's Dad appears at the door. He pulls the door closed so that Paul can't see Max.

PAUL

Oh good day to you kind sir. Is,
perchance, your cunt of a son
home?

MAX'S DAD

Go home.

Paul spins around and starts down the path.

He gets to the end of the garden and then stops. He slowly turns around.

PAUL

Oh no, wait. You can't tell me
what to do and you shouldn't even
try to, old man.

Max pushes past his Dad and walks out to the garden path. His Dad and brother call after him.

MAX

I won't fight you.

PAUL

Maximillion!

MAX

I'm sorry we crashed your party,
I'm sorry your cousin loves me,
but we've nothing to fight about.

PAUL

Loves you?! My cousin loves you?
How could a good man like Tom
love a piece of shit like you?

MAX

Because the colour of my t-shirt
doesn't matter.

PAUL

I, and my friends here, strongly
disagree. Now...

(he holds out his blade)

... shall we begin?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

You can fight the police when they arrive, but I won't fight you.

BEN

(o.s.)

I'll will.

They all turn to the street to see Ben standing there, clutching a kitchen knife.

MAX

No, Ben!

PAUL

Will you?

Paul starts walking over towards Ben. His gang shuffle behind him.

PAUL

You're shorter than me. You're less built than me. And, importantly...

(Paul lifts up his knife)

... your weapon is smaller than mine.

MAX

Ben, go home!

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Mum is still on the phone.

ROB

(to his Mum)

Well?

MAX'S MUM

Police are coming.

Rob turns to the window and sees Ben.

ROB

Oh fuck!

He runs out of the room.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE

BEN
Size doesn't always matter.

PAUL
Fucking disagree, but whatever.

Rob runs past his Dad and out to the garden beside Max.

ROB
Ben, stop!

BEN
I'm not going to let him ruin
Max's life.

Paul is now metres away from Ben.

PAUL
You're not even a blue boy, are
you? Yet you're happy to fight me
for him.

BEN
Max loves Tom.

PAUL
Don't...

BEN
And Tom loves Max. He told me he
loves him.

Paul lunges forward. Ben steps to the side in time and Paul dashes past him. Ben flicks his wrist as Paul passes and takes a slice out of Paul's side. Paul falls to the ground, clutching his wound.

His gang run towards him but he holds up his hand.

PAUL
No! It's me and him.

Ben steps back and strafes around Paul who's now getting back to his feet. He looks down to his wound and bloody hand and smiles.

PAUL
Top swordsmanship, my man!

Ben bows ceremoniously and Paul launches himself at him. His knife misses and they brawl to the ground.

Max runs back to the house.

INT. HALL, MAX'S HOUSE

Max grabs one of the knives from the sideboard and runs back out.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE

Max runs out of the house. He passes his dad who grabs his wrist and turns him around.

MAX'S DAD

No.

Max nods and prises his father's hand off of his wrist. He walks back to his brother's side in the garden.

The scuffle has ended and Paul and Ben are both facing each other again.

Paul now looks bored, and turns to his gang.

PAUL

(to himself)

Fuck it.

He holds the knife downwards, the blade now pointing to the ground, looks up at Ben, and throws it underarm towards him. The knife hits Ben in the chest, impacting deeply.

MAX

No!

Max runs down the garden path towards Ben. Rob runs after him. Max's Dad runs back to the house.

Max grabs hold of Ben who's lying on the ground. Rob helps him drag Ben backwards away from Paul.

Paul hears sirens in the distance.

PAUL

(to his gang)

Let's go.

His gang turn to their cars and Paul starts walking back to his.

At the end of the street, Tom jumps off his bike. In the distance he sees Ben lying on the ground and Max and Rob beside him. He sees his cousin and gang walking away.

Max watches blood pour from Ben's wound and looks up to Paul. He looks down to his own knife and then picks it up.

Rob notices this just as Max jumps up.

(CONTINUED)

ROB

Max!

Max runs towards Paul who turns around just at the last moment.

Max stabs Paul in the stomach, pushing the knife deep. Paul cries out in pain and drops to the ground.

Tom watches as Max stands over his cousin.

Max's Dad runs out of the house clutching a knife. He stops in his tracks when he sees his son holding the bloody knife.

The sirens are near.

The gang members look in the direction of the sirens, then back to their leader. As he bleeds in the street, they steps backwards and silently get in their cars.

Paul holds his hand out to them as they reverse out of the road.

Max's Dad runs down to his sons. He grabs Rob who's still trying to help Ben and then Max. He pulls the knife from Max's fingers, drops it, and leads them inside the house.

Tom stares at the two bodies now lying alone in the street. He sees the police cars turn the corner into the estate then picks up his bike and cycles away.

INT. KITCHEN, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Dad rushes his sons into the kitchen. He turns the sink tap on and starts washing their hands for them.

The two boys allow their Dad to do so. He's breaking down, crying as he scrubs the blood from their fingers.

ROB

Dad.

Max's Dad ignores him and keeps scrubbing.

Rob lifts up his hands and takes hold of his father's hands, holding them still. His father looks up to him, tears in his eyes.

ROB

That's enough.

Max is standing motionless looking out of the kitchen window above the sink.

Rob takes his Dad with one hand and takes hold of Max's with his other. He leads them out of the kitchen into the...

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

They stop as they enter. Max's Mum is standing in the middle of the room. It's obvious she's been crying.

MAX'S MUM

We have to say Ben did it. We don't mention Max's name.

Max is still emotionless. He stares at her.

MAX

We can't.

Max's Mum slowly walks up to him.

MAX'S MUM

It's what we're going to do.

She holds him tightly. Max begins to cry.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - EVENING

Tom cycles over the pavement and jumps off his bike, letting it fall onto the grass. Taking out his keys, he runs up to the front door and opens it.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE

Tom rushes through the front door and into...

INT. TOM'S LIVING ROOM

Sarah stands between Tom's Mum and Dad. They stare at him.

TOM

Paul...

(catches his breath)

Paul's dead.

Tom's Mum collapses; his Dad catches her. Sarah slowly sits down on the sofa and begins to cry. Tom stands watching them.

FADE OUT

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max's Mum escorts two police officers to the front door.

POLICE OFFICER
Thank you for your time.

MAX'S MUM
That's fine.

Max's Mum opens the door and the policemen leave. She closes the door, sighs, and goes into the...

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S HOUSE

Max's Dad, Rob and Max sit on the sofas.

Max's Mum sits down and takes a sip of a cup of tea.

MAX'S MUM
They'll find Max's prints soon
and they'll work out Ben didn't
kill Paul.

ROB
We could say it was self defense.

MAX'S DAD
Paul's gang will say otherwise.

Max's Mum looks up to the window.

MAX'S MUM
I need to talk to Ben's parents.

MAX
Maybe I should do it?

MAX'S MUM
No. You need to pack a bag.

She looks to her husband who nods.

MAX'S DAD
You're going to your aunt's for a
wee while.

MAX
What?!

MAX'S DAD
Just while we work out what to
do.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

But what about To-

MAX'S DAD

(jumping to his feet)

Don't you dare say his name in this house! Your best friend just died. You killed someone. All because of him.

Max sits petrified. His Mum stands up and takes hold of her husband.

MAX'S MUM

(to Max's Dad)

Call your sister and tell her Max is coming.

(she turns to Rob)

Rob, take your brother to his room and help him pack a bag.

Rob stands up and takes Max's arm, pulling him up. Max is in a state of shock. Rob helps him out of the room.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM

Rob helps Max into the room and sits him down on the bed. Rob fishes out a holdall from under the bed, opens the wardrobe, and starts throwing in some clothes.

Max sits on his bed, a glazed look in his eyes. He looks to the wall and sees photos stuck to it. One photo is of Max, Rob and Ben posing after a football game.

He pulls the photo from the wall and stares at it. Ben's beaming smile looks back at him. He starts crying.

Rob hears Max.

ROB

I'm sorry Max, but now's not the time.

Rob turns and sees Max holding the photo. He walks over to him and takes the photo, sees Ben.

Rob sits down beside his brother and puts one arm around him. Max slumps into Rob's chest, crying.

Rob places the photo onto the bed, face down.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Max's Dad drives the car through the streets. Max stares vacantly out of the window.

EXT. MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car pulls up outside the house and Max and his Dad get out.

INT. HALLWAY, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

Max's Aunt opens the front door. She kisses Max's cheek and he steps inside. His father carries Max's bags inside.

MAX'S DAD

Hi Anne.

MAX'S AUNT

Is Max okay?

MAX'S DAD

Not exactly.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

Max sits down in a chair in the front room while his Dad drops his bags

Max's Dad sits down beside Max, then Max's Aunt joins them.

MAX'S DAD

Thanks for this.

MAX'S AUNT

That's okay. There was, a stabbing?

MAX'S DAD

Yeah. Someone came for Max but one of his friends got in the way. Max tried to stop him and... unfortunately...

MAX'S AUNT

Are you okay Max?

Max nods.

MAX

Can I get some water?

(CONTINUED)

MAX'S AUNT
(pointing to the kitchen)
Sure, help yourself. There's
biscuits and crisps.

Max stands up and goes into the...

INT. KITCHEN, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

... where he runs the cold tap and finds a glass.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

MAX'S AUNT
How long do you want me to look
after him?

MAX'S DAD
Don't know. Just until things
settle down. We need to make sure
he's in the clear.

MAX'S AUNT
You know I don't judge you. I'd
do the same if it was my son. But
if they find out you tried to
hide him away, it'll be worse for
everyone.

MAX'S DAD
I know. But he was trying to
protect his friend. He didn't
mean to kill the guy.

INT. KITCHEN, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

Max stands near the door, listening to the conversation.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

MAX'S AUNT
Why did the guy come for him
anyway?

Max's Dad is reluctant to answer.

MAX'S DAD
Max had been seeing a boy from
the other estate. We told him to
stop. We told him that he
couldn't see him. But they kept
going. The other boy's cousin
found out and wanted to put a
stop to it.

(CONTINUED)

Max's Aunt takes a moment to digest this.

MAX'S AUNT

What's happened to the other boy?
The one Max was seeing.

MAX'S DAD

I don't know. But we don't need
to worry about him anymore.

INT. KITCHEN, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

Max listens, tears forming in his eyes.

MAX'S DAD

(o.s.)

They'll never see each other
again.

EXT. MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max's Dad drives off.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max's Aunt stands in the living room. Max appears at the
kitchen door. She holds out her arms and Max hugs her in
silence.

INT. LIVING ROOM, TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom and his Dad stand at odds to each other in the living
room.

TOM

This isn't about me. This isn't
even about him. It's about you!
What would your friends think of
you? How many of them would laugh
behind your back, making comments
about how bad a parent you must
be?

TOM'S DAD

Don't be ridiculous! This is
about you being with someone
you're meant to be with. Not
someone that hates you for what
you are.

TOM

What am I? I watch some men kick
a ball around for an hour and a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOM (cont'd)
half every week and I wear a
green shirt. Is that what I am?!

TOM'S DAD
You're my son. But my son wears
his colours with pride and he
doesn't forget how he was raised.

TOM
And this is how I was raised? To
hate people that support a
different team? To try to kill
someone just like Paul did?!

TOM'S DAD
He's dead, Tom. He's dead because
of what you did.

TOM
You blame me for his death?

Tom's Dad takes a moment.

TOM'S DAD
He went too far. But he wouldn't
have need to if you had done what
we told you to.

Tom turns and storms off.

TOM'S DAD
Where are you going?

TOM
Bed.

TOM'S DAD
Wait!

Tom stops and turns.

TOM'S DAD
This is it, Tom. It's gone too
far. You'll never see him again.
And if you do, you're no longer
my son.

INT. BEDROOM, MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max lies in bed, wide awake.

He sees flashes: Paul, Ben, the knife, their bodies, the
blood.

He turns over to his side. Tom's lying beside him,
smiling. Max strokes his face then kisses him.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

I'm so sorry.

Tom puts his finger to Max's lips to silence him.

TOM

It's not your fault. It's their.

Tom suddenly squirms a little.

MAX

What's wrong?

TOM

It's my stomach.

Max looks down to Tom's abdomen: there's a bloody wound. He looks back up and-

Paul's now facing him.

Max wakes with a start.

He turns onto his back and lies on the bed in the darkness.

INT. BATHROOM, TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom finishes doing his teeth and swirls some water in his mouth. He spits it out and washes his hands.

He looks into the mirror. In the reflection, he sees Max slowly step into frame. Max stands perpendicular to him, facing the side of his face.

Max leans forwards to Tom's cheek and kisses it. Tom smiles and closes his eyes. Max moves to Tom's ear.

MAX

(whispering)

Goodbye.

Tom's eyes burst open and he turns to see the empty bathroom. He looks back in the mirror but Max has gone.

Tom turns on the tap and splashes his face with water.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY, TOM'S HOUSE

The hall is dark. Tom quietly opens the bathroom door, steps into the hall and closes the door behind him.

He starts walking up the hall and then sees a slither of light coming from a room. He stops and listens.

INT. TOM'S PARENT'S BEDROOM, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom's Mum and Dad sit in bed. There's a bedside table light on.

TOM'S DAD
What are we going to do?

TOM'S MUM
About Tom?

TOM'S DAD
And that boy.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom listens to the conversation.

INT. TOM'S PARENT'S BEDROOM, TOM'S HOUSE

TOM'S MUM
Well, Tom said a boy called Ben killed Paul after Paul attacked him. But we could tell the police it was Max.

TOM'S MUM
But we've got no proof.

TOM'S DAD
I know. But at least that might scare Max enough to make sure he never comes back here.

TOM'S MUM
And what do we do about Tom?

TOM'S DAD
I've told him that this is it. His cousin died today because of it.

Tom's Mum starts crying. Tom's Dad puts his arm around her. She wipes her eyes with a tissue.

TOM'S MUM
I'm okay. Have you taken your sleeping pills?

TOM'S DAD
Ah, no they're in the bathroom.

Tom's Dad gets off the bed.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom tip-toes quickly to the end of the hall and enters his bedroom just as his Dad opens the door.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tom sits on his bed holding his phone. The screen reads:
"I still love you."

He pauses for a moment, then presses "Send".

He slumps over so that he's lying on the bed. He begins to cry.

A moment later, his phone buzzes. He picks it up and reads the message: "I love you too."

Tom raises a wry smile, then closes his eyes.

His bedroom door slowly opens to reveal Sarah standing in her pyjamas. Tom looks up from the bed.

Sarah walks over and lies down beside her brother, putting her arms around him.

They lie silently in the darkness.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Tom lies asleep on the bed.

TOM'S MUM
(o.s., shouting)
Tom! Wake up!

Tom stirs in his bed. He yawns.

TOM'S MUM
(o.s., shouting)
Tom? You need to get up for school.

TOM
(shouting back)
Yeah, okay.

Tom slowly sits up and rubs his face, yawning again.

He stands up and goes over to his window.

TOM'S MUM
(o.s., shouting)
We're off to work and Sarah's going to college. Make sure you get to school in time.

(CONTINUED)

Tom looks at his clock - it's 8.15am.

TOM
(shouting back)
Okay Mum!

Tom hears the front door close then looks outside and sees his Mum and Dad getting into their car. Sarah walks off down the street.

He turns around and looks at the wall facing him: his green football memorabilia.

He walks over to the wall and takes hold of one of the framed photos: it's him and his friends, all wearing their green tops.

He looks at his green shirt hanging on the front of his wardrobe. A sudden rage hits him. He throws the photo at the wall shattering it. Tom stands for a moment in silence.

Then he takes another photo from the wall and smashes it. Then another. Soon he's destroyed most of his memorabilia leaving his walls bare and his floor covered in posters, banners and broken glass.

Tom looks down and sees a photo of himself and his Mum and Dad. Everyone's smiling.

He bends down to pick up the photo. His finger slides along a piece of broken glass and Tom winces. He looks at his finger: the cut's not that bad, but it's bleeding.

Tom leaves his room and goes to the...

INT. TOM'S BATHROOM

Tom turns the cold tap of the sink on and holds his bleeding finger under it. With his other hand he opens the medicine cabinet above the sink and takes out a plaster.

Tom dries his finger on a hand towel and applies the plaster.

He looks up to close the medicine cabinet and sees the bottle of his Dad's sleeping pills.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY - FLASHBACK

We're back with Ben and Tom stacking shelves.

BEN
Then you need to show them that they're wrong. You need to show them how much you love him.

INT. TOM'S BATHROOM

Tom stands staring at the tub of sleeping pills.

He picks it up and reads the label. He zones in on the warning label: "extreme doses can cause prolonged unconsciousness".

He thinks for a moment, then closes the cabinet door. He stares at himself in the mirror.

INT. MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE - MORNING

Max and his aunt are sitting in the living room eating breakfast.

MAX

And you're sure about this?

MAX'S AUNT

Of course. I don't care which football team he supports. But before you ask him, you need to be sure that it's what you really want. If you ask him to move in here then change your mind you'll break his heart.

MAX

I know. I'm sure.

MAX'S AUNT

Okay.

They sit in silence for a moment.

MAX'S AUNT

Well then?

MAX

What?

MAX'S AUNT

Aren't you going to ask him?

MAX

Now?

MAX'S AUNT

Why not?

Max gets up from his chair, goes over to his Aunt and kisses her on the cheek. He picks up his phone from the coffee table.

(CONTINUED)

MAX'S AUNT
I'll make dinner for three
tonight then?

MAX
Damn.

MAX'S AUNT
What's wrong?

Max's phone shows no sign of life.

MAX
Phone's dead, and the charger's
at home.

MAX'S AUNT
I can go around for it later.

MAX
Thanks.

Max looks out the window and sees his bike chained to the
fence.

MAX
Maybe I'll go and tell Tom now.

MAX'S AUNT
No, Max. You shouldn't go to that
estate now. And you've got
school.

MAX
It'll be fine. I'll get to see
Tom and then I'll head to school.

MAX'S AUNT
I don't think-

MAX
It's fine. I'll be quick on my
bike, and his Mum and Dad will be
out at work already.

MAX'S AUNT
Really, Max...

Max grabs his keys from the coffee table and puts down the
phone. He runs out the door before his Aunt has a chance
to stop him.

EXT. MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

Max unlocks his bike and cycles off.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom sits on his bed, the bottle of pills beside him. He takes out his phone and presses some buttons. The screen reads: "Taking Dad's sleeping pills to fake an OD. I'll be fine. Need to show them how I feel. Love you."

Tom reads the message over, then presses the "Send" button.

INT. MAX'S AUNT'S HOUSE

Max's phone sits on the coffee table. It's off.

EXT. STREETS

Max energetically pedals towards Tom's house.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

Tom writes another text on his phone. The screen reads: "Can't do this anymore. Can't be without him. I love you and Mum and Sarah. Tell them I'm sorry."

Tom takes a moment. A deep breath. He presses the "Send" button.

Tom picks up the bottle of pills.

EXT. STREETS

Max cycles down the street...

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE

... and arrives at the house. He jumps off his bike, leaving it on the grass, and runs over to rain pipe on the wall. He looks up to the balcony above, then starts to climb up.

He reaches the top of the pipe and climbs onto the balcony. He looks through the glass door into Tom's bedroom: Tom's lying face down on the bed. Seeing Tom again, Max smiles.

Max turns the handle of the door and steps inside.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

Max takes a step forward, then stops. He sees the open bottle of pills lying beside Tom.

MAX

No...

Tom's body is lying face down on the bed, apparently lifeless.

Max jumps on to the bed and lifts up Tom's head.

MAX

Come on. Come on.

He shakes Tom's head, and puts his ear to Tom's mouth to listen for breathing - none.

MAX

No. No.

Max rolls Tom over to his back and starts pumping his chest. He repeats then breathes into Tom's mouth.

He stops and looks down at Tom - he's still "dead".

Distraught, Max does the CPR again, harder, faster.

But with no luck.

Standing up from the bed, he looks around the room, searching for anything to help him. Crying and panicking, he's at a loss and he stumbles into the corner and slumps down, staring at his love lying dead before him.

Max looks at the empty pill bottle beside Tom. He gets up and picks it up, turns it into his open hand, but it's empty.

He drops the bottle and stumbles out of the room.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY, TOM'S HOUSE

Max walks down the corridor and ends up in the bathroom.

Tears streaming down his face, he opens the cabinets and fingers through the medicine bottles, looking for something he can use on himself.

His fingers shaking, he knocks one bottle down into the sink.

He looks down to pick it up and sees a razor lying behind the taps.

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM

Max enters the room again and lies down on the bed beside Tom's body. He seems calmer.

He pushes Tom's hair back from his face, closes his eyelids, and kisses him on the cheek.

He whispers to Tom:

MAX
I'm so sorry.

Max kisses Tom again then stands up from the bed and leaves the room.

INT. TOM'S BATHROOM

The bath is filling with water when Max returns. He steps into it, splashing water around the room.

Once there's enough water to cover his arms, Max leans forward and turns the taps off. He sits back and picks up the razor that's sitting on the edge of the bath.

He looks down to one of his wrists and cleans it in the warm water.

He pauses, holding the razor beside his wrist, then he closes his eyes.

The bath water starts to turn red.

FADE OUT

INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - LATER

Tom wakes up. Groggily, he looks around then sits up on the bed.

Rubbing his eyes he stands up and leaves the bedroom.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY, TOM'S HOUSE

Tom walks down the hallway half-asleep then hears a quiet splash and stops.

He looks down to his foot: he's stepped in water. It's coming from beneath the bathroom door.

INT. TOM'S BATHROOM

Tom slowly opens the door. He sees Max lying in the bath, his arms splayed out, wrists cut open.

He runs forward, screaming, and takes hold of Max.

He looks for signs of life, shaking, slapping Max, but he won't respond.

He leans Max forward, then climbs into the bath, ending up cradling Max in his arms. He holds Max's cut wrists trying to stop the bleeding.

TOM
(shouting)
Help! Someone!

No-one's there to reply.

He holds Max's head and tries to wake him again, but he's too late.

Tom lets go of Max and allows Max's body to slump into his. He strokes Max's cheek as he weeps.

Tom sits there for a while, holding Max in his arms.

He looks down into Max's lap and sees the razor floating in the water.

He picks it up with one hand and cups Max's head close to his own with the other.

TOM
(quietly, contently)
Somewhere.

Tom kisses Max's cheek and smiles. He lets Max's head rest against his shoulder and places the razor against his own wrist.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom's Dad screeches his car to a halt outside the house. He gets out and runs to the front door.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE

Tom's Dad runs through the downstairs.

TOM'S DAD
Tom! Tom!

Unable to find him, he rushes up the stairs and bursts into the...

INT. TOM'S BATHROOM

He stands motionless in shock, staring at the boys lying in the bath. He stumbles backwards, falling to the ground in the hallway. He starts crying.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE

A large crowd has gathered outside the house. An ambulance sits on the kerb.

A car stops outside the house and Max's Mum and Dad and Rob run out of it.

Two stretchers sit on the pavement. Max's body lies on one. Max's family runs to it.

The front door opens and Tom's Dad steps out carrying Tom's body in his arms. He walks down the garden to the other stretcher.

Tom's Mum and sister weep as they watch Tom's body being carried out.

Tom and Max lie side-by-side on the stretchers, their families gathered around them, their green and blue shirts now both red.

Their fathers look at each other. Their stares holds steady. A silent respect. A truce, of sorts, but nothing need be said.

They look back to their sons lying side-by-side.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Tom and Max sit together on the bed.

Max sings a line from "Somewhere" from West Side Story.

MAX
(singing)
There's a place for us. A time
and place for us.

Tom laughs, then so does Max. A pause, then...

TOM
(singing)
Hold my hand and we're halfway
there.

MAX
(singing)
Hold my hand and I'll take you
there.

(CONTINUED)

They laugh again, before going into full-blown crescendo mode.

TOM
(singing)
Somehow...

MAX
(singing)
Someday...

TOM
(singing)
Somewhere!

The boys laugh.

They turn to face each other, and then they kiss.