FADE IN:

INT. COSY HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

ZELDA (18) baby faced, snuggles under his blanket, glass of wine in hand, a modelling talent show on the TV.

The front door CREAKS open, then closed again.

BARNEY (18) Styled Beard, curly moustache, bow tie and bowler hat. Hipster. Strolls in, eyes up Zelda and the TV.

BARNEY
What the fudge are you watching?

Zelda kicks the blanket off of him, sits up, man spreads.

ZELDA
What? nothin', it was just on.

BARNEY
Bullship! she hosts this, don't she?

Zelda ignores. Barney moves between him and the TV.

BARNEY (CONT’D)
Don't she?

Zelda hastily pushes Barney to one side.

ZELDA
Shush, fine, yes, shes on now!

ON TV

ARIEL GARLAND (20's) a goddess, smoke billows around her as wind waves through her golden locks.

BACK TO SCENE

Zelda stares, puppy dog eyed at the TV, it's screen goes black.

ZELDA
Why the hell did you do that?

BARNEY
I had to, before you started touching yourself.
Zelda HUFFS, stands, heads for the stairs.

    ZELDA
    Come, exciting news I wanna show ya.

Barney doesn't budge.

    BARNEY
    Tell me here, I don't wanna go up there.

    ZELDA
    Just come on for fuck sake.

Barney plods to the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - ZELDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pictures and memorabilia of Ariel Garland cover everything. walls, tables, the bed.

Zelda sits at a COMPUTER, searching online.

Barney stands at the rooms centre, taking it all in.

    BARNEY
    Fudge'in'ell I hate this room.

    ZELDA
    Look, shes sent me another message, the best one so far.

Barney inspects a POSTER of a scantily clad Ariel Garland next to the bed.

    BARNEY
    Like, how much seamen is on this?

Zelda spins around in his chair.

    ZELDA
    None, I don't think. Will you come and look at this?

Barney heads over to the computer.

    BARNEY
    If you put a black light in here, I reckon you can see it from space. Right, what's this message.
Zelda opens up an Instagram post of Ariel's. It has a lengthy comment.

ZELDA
Now, look at the first letter of each line of her comment, what does it say?

Barney leans in closer.

BARNEY
It doesn't say anything.

Zelda frantically opens up another tab on the browser.

ZELDA
Idiot, it's a code.

BARNEY
Naturally.

ZELDA
But if you put those letters into an enigma machine--

BARNEY
-Why would you put that into an enigma machine? Doesn't matter, I have something to tell you.

ZELDA
To crack the code obviously.

Barney tries to grab the computer mouse, wrestles it from Zelda's grip. Zelda tries to snatch it back

ZELDA (CONT'D)
Get off, stop. I gotta show you the message.

Barney whips the mouse into Zelda's face. he squeals in pain. Zelda slumps in defeat.

Barney sits on the bed, spots the scantily clad poster and jumps back up. He removes a handkerchief from his pocket, carefully lies it out on the bed and sits on it.

BARNEY
Now, please please please, do not lose your ship over this.

Zelda leans forward. Barney takes a deep breath.
BARNEY (CONT’D)
I may know a guy, who knows a guy, who has connections with a guy who is related to... to be honest I forgot the friggin' link, the point is. I may have a chance for you to meet Ariel.

Zelda sits back, stares, mouth agape.

ZELDA
Don't toy with me.

Barney's expression is serious. Zelda leans forward.

ZELDA (CONT’D)
Seriously?

Barney nods.

BARNEY
Yes mate, seriously.

Zelda stares before leaping from his seat.

ZELDA
(Squealing)
Oh my god! Oh my god! Oh my god!

Zelda grabs Barney and squeezes him tightly.

EXT. DINGY STREET - NIGHT

Rows of terraced houses. YOUTHS gather on the corner. Barney leads Zelda along the path.

ZELDA
Why have you brought me to benefit street?

BARNEY
This is where my guy lives.

Zelda eyes up the youths, they glare back, Zelda quickly shifts his gaze.

ZELDA
Your guy, how you know this guy?

BARNEY
Work with him.

Zelda looks puzzled.
5.

ZELDA
Do you mean you used to work with him?

Barney and Zelda come to a stop outside a scruffy house, a tatty saint Georges flag flies from an upstairs window.

BARNEY
No, i work with him now.

ZELDA
Fuck sake Barney! You started there like two days ago, you don't know anyone.

BARNEY
Pretty sure this is it.

Zelda eyes up the house.

ZELDA
Oh great.

EXT. DINGY HOUSE STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Barney knocks on the door. It creaks open, ADNAN (30's) scrawny, plain face, plain clothes, stands in the doorway.

ADNAN
Please, in, in.

Barney follows Adnan into the house. Zelda sighs and follows.

INT. DINGY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Minimal. Very British pictures adorn the walls. the Queen, Beatles, a red bus, people waiting patiently in a long queue.

Barney and Zelda hover awkwardly in the centre, Adnan heads through a door into the kitchen.

ADNAN (O.C.)
Er, you, er, wanting cock?

Zelda fires Barney a look.

BARNEY
Erm, excuse me?

ADNAN (O.C.)
Er, you know, er, cool cock, cock.
Adnan appears, makes a blowjob gesture with his hand.

**ZELDA**
Did he just ask...

**BARNEY**
Yea I think so.

**ZELDA**
What the hell, this is your guy?

**BARNEY**
Nope, no idea who he is.

Another door swings open, in boulders GAZ (40's) skinhead, tattoos, a face only a mother could love.

**GAZ**
Bell ends, hes asking if you want a coke.

**BARNEY**
Gaz the geezer!

Barney and Gaz bump into an awkward hug.

**GAZ**
Barney me old mucker!

Gaz looks Zelda up and down.

**GAZ (CONT’D)**
Who's this?

**BARNEY**
Yea, yea this is the guy I was telling you about, Zelda.

Gaz unsuccessfully tries to hide a snigger. They shake hands.

**GAZ**
Alright mate.

**ZELDA**
My parents were gamer's, I'm aware it's a sucky name.

Gaz gestures to the sofa, Zelda sits, Gaz joins him.

**BARNEY**
Where's the pisser mate?

**GAZ**
Upstairs, room with the toilet in.
Barney heads upstairs.

Adnan pokes his head through the kitchen door.

    ADNAN
    Cock?

    ZELDA
    Erm, yea sure.

Adnan disappears back into the kitchen.

    GAZ
    Sorry bout him mate, he's Syrian, don't speak English all that great.

    ZELDA
    Oh I see, did you take in one of them Syrian refugees? That's a great thing to do.

Gaz stares, stern,

    GAZ
    He's me husband.

Zelda nervously laughs.

    ZELDA
    Yea good one.

    GAZ
    The fuck you laughin' at? What? Just because I look like a Neo-Nazi's wet dream I can't like a bit of cock?

Gaz stands up.

    GAZ (CONT’D)
    You judgemental mother fucker.

Barney comes back into the room.

    BARNEY
    Woah! Whats going on?

    GAZ
    Your fucking mate here bringing his neolithic prejudice into my house. sorry I don't fall into your stereotypical ideals of what a gay man should look like.
Barney glares at Zelda.

BARNEY
So sorry mate, he don't get out much.

Gaz gets in close to Zelda.

GAZ
Guess what, I didn't vote UKIP, I voted Green Party, shove that up your prejudicial arse.

Adnan storms into the room, throws a COKE CAN a little too hard at Zelda, and cradles Gaz face.

ADNAN
Calm my love.

Adnan kisses Gaz. They both take a seat, Zelda and Barney follow suit.

GAZ
I don't think I wanna do this now.

ZELDA
No, no, no please. I'm super sorry. I didn't mean to offend, i'm just, god I'm sorry.

Zelda gets on his knees in front of Gaz and takes his hand.

ZELDA (CONT’D)
I'm not homophobic, I swear, I beg you, please.

Gaz stares at Zelda, eventually he cracks a smile.

GAZ
Gimmie a hug.

Zelda grabs Gaz and squeezes tight.

GAZ (CONT’D)
Alright, alright I forgive you.

Zelda releases and sits next to Barney, beaming.

GAZ (CONT’D)
Me and Barney 'av already 'ammered out a deal. You wanna "meet" Ariel garland right?

Gaz puts up finger quotes at the word meet.
ZELDA
More than- why did you put meet in quotes?

Barney hits Zelda on the arm.

ZELDA (CONT’D)
Sorry, yes, yes I do. More than anything. Can you really make it happen?

GAZ
Can I make it happen? ’course mucker. You just leave the details to me and Adnan.

ZELDA
Thank you! Thank you so much.

BARNEY
See! Told you my guy was legit. Zelda here was worried you might have been some weirdo.

Gaz and Adnan laugh hysterically at the notion.

GAZ
Totally normal me, mate.

Gaz stands.

GAZ (CONT’D)
Barney boy! I'll be in touch when it's done. Don't forget what we agreed!

Barney and Zelda both stand. They both shake hands with Gaz and Adnan.

INT. CLASSIC BEETLE CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Barney drives, glances between the windscreen and a sat-nav.

Zelda, in the passenger seat, wears a tuxedo. He breaths quicker than he should. Barney gives him a reassuring tap on the shoulder.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Barney and Zelda stand next to the beetle, mouths agape staring at the building.
ZELDA
Barney?

BARNEY
Yes mate.

ZELDA
This doesn't look like a good meeting place. You sure you got the right address?

Barney takes a deep breath. He turns to Zelda and straightens up his clothes.

BARNEY
Of course! It's just, out the way you know, probably to avoid the paparazzi and shiz.

Zelda's breath quickens, panic setting in.

Barney kisses Zelda's forehead to calm him. Zelda cracks a nervous smile, he's ready.

Barney runs to the boot of the car, hauls out a BAG OF SAND. He hauls it onto his shoulder and strolls past Zelda. Zelda follows next to him

ZELDA
Barney?

BARNEY
Yes mate.

ZELDA
Why are you carrying a bag of sand?

INT. EMPTY WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Zelda and Barney look small in the expanse of the warehouse, they stare ahead, mouths agape. Barney drops the bag of sand.

At the centre of the warehouse, a figure slumps in a chair, hands tied behind their back, a black bag over their head.

The door behind them slams shut, startling the hostage.

Gaz emerges from a corner office door, pulls up his trouser zip.

GAZ
Lads! About bloody time.
Adnan emerges from the same door, wiping his mouth. He waves at the new arrivals enthusiastically.

Gaz moves next to the hostage, caressing their head.

    GAZ (CONT’D)
    Told you I could do it!

Zelda pelts it across the warehouse floor towards the hostage, Barney follows close behind.

Zelda grabs the bag and in one swift tug, rips it from the hostages head.

HOSTAGE (50's) male, gagged, stares terrified at Zelda.

Zelda squeals, jumps back. Barney points to the hostage.

    BARNEY
    Who the flip is this?

Gaz looks puzzled at the hostage, then at barney.

    GAZ
    It's Ariel Garland, numb nuts.

    BARNEY
    No, it's not.

    GAZ
    Yes, it is.

    BARNEY
    No, it really isn't.

    ZELDA
    Wha- wha- why is he tied up?

Gaz moves in close to the hostage.

    GAZ
    Oi, weepy bollocks. Whats your name?

The hostage mumbles under the gag. Gaz gives him a swift kick in the leg.

    GAZ (CONT’D)
    Speak up.

Adnan rolls his eyes, moves over to hostage and takes off the gag. The hostage gasps, stretching his newly freed jaw.
HOSTAGE

Gaz stands up straight, arms stretched.

GAZ
See, told ya.

HOSTAGE
Please, I'm begging, help.

Gaz slams his palm over the hostages mouth.

GAZ
Another word and the gag goes on, nod if you understand.

The hostage nods frantically. Gaz releases the mans mouth, patting him patronisingly on his cheek

GAZ (CONT’D)
There's a good boy.

Zelda grabs Barney by the scruff.

ZELDA
Why the fuck is there a middle aged hostage?

Barney wrestles Zelda off him.

BARNEY
Why would we want to meet this old guy? The TV host, the TV host Ariel Garland, that's who we wanted!

GAZ
Oh, I see.

Zelda drops down to his knees, quick panicked breaths.

GAZ (CONT’D)
I'll lay it out straight with you mate.

ADNAN
Ha, you no straight.

Gaz and Adnan chuckle.

GAZ
Look look look, I wasn't really paying attention when you were telling me who to grab.
BARNEY
I didn't ask you to grab anyone!
You said we could 'meet' her, meet,
not grab.

GAZ
This was the only Ariel Garland I
could find, so I figured it was
him.

Zelda makes it back to his feet.

ZELDA
Wait, just wait for a fucking
second. So you don't know Ariel
Garland?

Gaz points to the Hostage.

ZELDA (CONT’D)
Not this guy, the fucking TV star!

GAZ
Oh that one, no, no I don't.

Zelda weeps. Adnan rubs his back for comfort.

Gaz places a hand on Barney's and Zelda's shoulders and leads them away to one side.

GAZ (CONT’D)
Hate to bring this up now mate, but er, you got what we agreed? I know I got it a little bit wrong.

Zelda scoffs.

GAZ (CONT'D)
But I did still grab a guy, you know, still stuck me neck out for ya!

BARNEY
Fine! Whatever.

Barney leads them over to the bag of sand and points to it.

BARNEY (CONT’D)
There you go. You got like, a DIY
construction thing going on?

Gaz looks at the sand, glares at Barney.
GAZ
You 'avin a fucking laff?

BARNEY
What? No, you said you wanted a bag of sand!

GAZ
Is he 'avin a fucking laff?
A bag of sand, a grand, that's one thousand pounds to you fucking northern knob heads.

BARNEY
Oh! I see.

Gaz storms off towards the hostage.

GAZ
I don't fucking believe this.

Zelda and barney follow Gaz.

ZELDA
You, you thought this guy, could legitimately arrange a hook up with Ariel.

Barney nods.

ZELDA (CONT'D)
And you! not only did you think we wanted someone kidnapped, but you thought we wanted this guy?

The hostage watches, more puzzled that frightened.

ZELDA (CONT’D)
And you really thought, that he wanted paying with builders sand?

BARNEY
In my defence I didn't know he was committing a crime.

Zelda puts his hands on the back of his head.

ZELDA
How can this get any fucking worse.

Sirens wail outside. Everyone glares at the warehouse door. The sirens stop, a car door opens, a car door closes.
NEGOTIATOR (O.S)
Good evening. I am a police negotiator, how are we in there?

ZELDA
How the fuck did they know?

Barney notices the hostage looking shifty, he moves round to his hands and wrestles a mobile phone from his grip. He holds it up for the others to see.

BARNEY
Open line to the police.

ZELDA
Shit! Shit shit shit.

BARNEY
You kidnap a guy, and don't check his pockets for a mobile phone?

GAZ
My bad.

BARNEY
No bag of sand for you! You only get half a bag now.

GAZ
A monkey.

Barney seethes.

BARNEY
I'm not getting you a fucking monkey!

Barney holds his mouth for a second.

BARNEY (CONT’D)
Shit! Three years I have gone without swearing!

Barney kneels on the ground.

BARNEY (CONT’D)
Shit, twat, Bollocks, tit wank! God it feels so good.

Zelda rushes over to Barney, he cradles his head.

ZELDA
Come on mate, I need you. What the fuck are we going to do.

(MORE)
ZELDA (CONT’D)
Oh my god, I'm gonna go to prison aren't I. I can't go to prison, I'll be bullied.

GAZ
They'll do more than bully you mate.

NEGOTIATOR
Please respond. We need to know everyone is OK in there.

Zelda kneels in front of the hostage.

ZELDA
Please, sir. We- we can just let you go, and you tell 'em this was all a big mistake, right? That can work.

The hostage nods frantically.

GAZ
No fucking chance mate! Me and Adnan swiped the guy, were not going down because of your celeb fetish!

Zelda stands up.

ZELDA
Please, please! We just explain.

GAZ
We will do this our way.

Adnan reaches both hands behind his back, pulling two HANDGUNS from his trousers, holding them proudly in the air.

ZELDA
Oh my god! what the fuck?

Gaz swags to the warehouse door, pushes it slightly ajar.

GAZ
Listen 'ere filth! We're armed, so you fuck off, we leave. Alright.

Zelda is a ghostly white, shaking.

ZELDA
We're gonna die, that's it. We're gonna fucking die.
Adnan thrusts a handgun into Zelda's chest. Zelda squeals, smacks the gun to the floor. BANG. A round hits the wall.

Zelda screams like a child.

CRACK. The warehouse door flies open. Grenades roll in.

PUFF. Thick smoke emanates from them.

    GAZ
    Fuck you pigs!

Gaz picks up the handgun, him and Adnan fire blindly. POP, POP, POP.

Zelda screams more frantically, spinning on the spot, not knowing where to go.

Figures move through the smoke. Zelda flings his hands up.

    ZELDA
    I surrender, I surrender. Oh god please I surrender.

Zelda squeezes his eyes tight.

    CUT TO BLACK:

The sound of the smoke grenades die out, multiple footsteps hurry towards Zelda. He waits, waits to be grabbed. Nothing

    FADE IN:

Zelda opens his eyes.

Ariel Garland, the Ariel Garland, stands in front of him. Television smile across her face, she brings a microphone to her ruby red lips.

    ARIEL GARLAND
    Zelda! my darling, you're the latest victim of 'Chain Yankers'

Ariel giggles.

Zelda stares at her mesmerising face, eventually he glances around the room.

A TV crew stand behind Ariel, cameras pointing straight at Zelda. Gaz, Adnan and the hostage stand, grinning and clapping.
ARIEL GARLAND (CONT’D)
(To camera)
This was our best chain yank yet!
He's still in shock, let's see if
he can talk yet.

Zelda is frozen to the spot, mouth ajar. He spots Barney
standing and clapping. Barney winks back.

BARNEY
(Mouthing)
You're welcome.

Ariel wheels around to Zelda, pushing the microphone up to
his lips.

ARIEL GARLAND
Zelda, Zelda Zelda. How are you
feeling?

Zelda's eyes flicker between both of Ariel's. A smile creeps
across his face.

FADE OUT.