

"For Rosie"

by

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OVER BLACK: The sound of rain and the roar of a crowd.

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. FARM FIELDS - SLAUGHTER HOUSE - NIGHT**

Flickers of light escape through corrugated walling.

**INT. SLAUGHTER-HOUSE - NIGHT**

A mass of MEN huddle closely at its center. Glimpses of barbarity. Teeth tearing at flesh. A head rammed into the blood soaked ground.

**INT. SLAUGHTER-HOUSE - SIDE-ROOM - NIGHT**

The crowd's roar reverberates through. Thirsty for blood.

A MAN kneels beside a wall, steadies his hand and carefully thumbs pressure on to the end of a syringe. The substance takes effect. His body goes limp and he falls back against the wall. His leg starts to thrash.

Two HEAVIES enter and forcefully lift the Man to his feet.

HEAVY #1

Get up ya crackhead!

The second Heavy yanks the syringe from the Man's arm and casts it aside. Without compassion they drag him from the room.

**INT. SLAUGHTER-HOUSE - NIGHT**

We follow as the Man struggles to keep up, gets marched through the crowd then launched into an opening.

Opposite the Man stands his OPPONENT; equally intoxicated. Their eyes meet and without hesitation they charge each other.

The violence is savage. A thumb pressing deep into an eye. Hair torn clean from a scalp. The MAN grabs his Opponent's head and repeatedly head-butts him in the face.

**INT. SQUAT - DAY**

The room is small, dingy, and other than a mattress and a yellowed sleeping bag, empty.

The Man from the previous night is motionless on the mattress. Congealed blood has glued his face to the mattress.

His eyes blink into life. He peels himself off and struggles to his feet. His body is covered with cuts and bruises.

His name is GAVIN DAVEY, though he's known locally as MEPH. He's in his late twenties, but his face has been weathered by a history of abuse: parental abuse, physical abuse, alcohol and drug abuse... all the abuses.

Meph dresses himself in overtly branded but poorly fitted clothes then makes his way to the windowsill, pauses, looks out and taps his head against the pane several times.

He makes his way downstairs and through the living room where another FIGURE lie asleep beside a couch, and then finally to the kitchen. The cabinets are mostly empty. Some stale bread finds use as breakfast and the remains of a can of cider washes it down.

He returns to the living room and softly kicks the Figure on the floor.

MEPH

What ya on the floor for? I'm gonna get fags. Want some?

The Figure groans and turns in his sleeping bag.

Meph exits through a kitchen window at the rear of the squat.

**EXT. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND - DAY**

A poor excuse for a playground. Beer cans and fag butts litter the ground. Meph sits alone puffing frugally on a cigarette and looks into the distance.

The sound of a mobile phone rings out. He pulls the phone from his pocket, scans the screen and keys answer.

MEPH

(into phone)  
Yeah?... Alright. Meet ya at the bus stop.

**EXT. BLUE BUS-STOP - DAY**

The blue bus-stop stands out against the oppressive colors of the council estate.

The Figure that had been laying in the squat earlier is sat waiting. He's dressed in an oversized jacket and worn out trainers. His name is STEVEN KIRK, early thirties, tall and emaciated.

Meph approaches fag in hand and they greet with a nod. Meph sits down beside Steven and holds out a pack of cigarettes. Steven takes one out and lights it.

STEVEN

Ta.

Whilst the guys puff away and watch the passing traffic, an OLD LADY arrives and sits on Steven's side of the bench.

OLD LADY

(to Steven)

Do you know if the number five  
has been by yet?

Steven looks at Meph then back at the Old Lady shrugs his shoulders and gobs on the ground.

STEVEN

Fuck knows.

Disgusted, the Old Lady shuffles further along the bench.

**INT. DOUBLE-DECKER BUS - TOP FLOOR - DAY**

Meph and Steven are sat at the rear. Meph looks out the window, Steven taps away on his mobile.

**EXT. HIGHSTREET - DAY**

The bus comes to a halt at a bus stop beside a newsstand and two YOUNG GIRLS board.

**INT. DOUBLE-DECKER BUS - TOP FLOOR - DAY**

Steven looks up from his mobile as the Young Girls sit, then nudges Meph.

STEVEN

I fuckin' would, wouldn't you?

Meph freezes on seeing one of the Young Girls.

Steven notices this and nudges Meph again.

STEVEN

Yeah, I can see you're up for it!  
Ya know what I always say, if  
there's grass on the pitch, play!  
(laughs)  
Or, or if they're old enough to  
know, they're old enough to blow-

MEPH

Shut up ya fuckin' twat!

STEVEN

Huh?

Meph stands.

MEPH

C'mon get up, we're getting off!

STEVEN

Fuck off, there's still another  
couple of stops yet.

Meph stares at Steven coldly. Steven climbs to his feet and as they pass the two Young Girl, Meph turns his face away from them.

#### **INT. SQUAT - NIGHT**

A torchlight propped against a brick illuminates the room. Steven is slumped across the mattress; his body half on and half off. Meph finishes the last of a can of Special Brew and turns to face Steven.

MEPH

Steve... Oi, wake up.

Meph skittles the can across the floor, crawls over to Steven and shakes him gently.

MEPH

I wanna tell you something.

Steven is incapable of reacting.

Meph struggles to his feet, circles the room then crouches next to Steven, puts his hand in Steven's pocket and pulls out a pack of cigarettes.

#### **INT. SQUAT - BATHROOM - DAY**

A mobile phone vibrates on a hardwood floor beside a yellowing bathtub. Meph grabs it, clears his throat and keys answer.

MEPH  
(into phone)  
Yeah... Who is he?... Yeah, I've  
heard of him. I wanna go all in  
if he's up for it?

**EXT. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND - DAY**

Steven makes his way over to a children's climbing frame carrying a can of cider and a joint.

Meph (wearing ill-fitted shorts) runs at speed towards Steven. He arrives labouring for air and they greet with their customary nods.

Still panting for breath Meph reaches for a swig of Steven's cider, downs a mouthful then takes a few more deep breathes.

MEPH  
Got a call earlier. I'm fighting  
all-in against some big fella  
from up-north. Meant to be a  
right hard cunt.

STEVEN  
How much ya getting?

MEPH  
Four-hundred.

STEVEN  
That's shit! You should fight for  
my brother. He'd sort you out  
better than that.

Meph puts his thumb against his nose and exhales heavily. A line of phlegm streams out.

MEPH  
Put ya hands up will ya?

STEVEN  
I ain't doing that now, it hurts!

MEPH  
Don't be a poof, c'mon.

Steven puts his can on the floor and flicks the last of his joint away before reluctantly lifting his hands.

Meph clenches his fists and throws a combination of punches at Steven's hands.

STEVEN  
Stop it, Meph. It fucking hurts!

Meph sighs as Steven turns and tries to shake the pain away.

MEPH

C'mon, help us out. I gotta be sharp for this guy. He ain't coming for a fucking tickling contest!

Steven reluctantly holds up his hands again. Meph throws a lightning-fast combination that force Steven back.

STEVEN

No fucking more, Meph. You're gonna break fuckin' hands!

MEPH

Ponce!

STEVEN

Yeah? Well it's not you taking the punches is it?

MEPH

It fuckin' will be ya twat... and with you as my pad man, it definitely will be!

STEVEN

I didn't ask to do it, did I?

Steven gobs at the floor then picks up his can and backs away from Meph. Meph drops to the ground and starts repping out press ups.

STEVEN

Up for grabbing radios later?

MEPH

Dunno. Probably.  
(playful)  
Girl.

STEVEN

Fuck off.  
(beat)  
Oh yeah, I nearly forgot to say. You know that mental, Disco Kev? I sold him the broken radio we got the other night. Funny thing is the dickhead rides round on a fucking bike!

MEPH

How much for?

STEVEN

Forty quid.

MEPH  
 (jumps to his feet)  
 Bullocks did ya!

STEVEN  
 I fucking did.

Meph turns his attention to a MOTHER (35) who's keeping one eye on her DAUGHTER (9) playing on the climbing frame, and another on him and Steven.

Meph watches the Daughter closely.

STEVEN  
 What's with the shorts? Bit gay  
 aren't they?

The Mother takes the Daughter from the climbing frame and readies her to leave.

STEVEN  
 Oi, Meph... Snap out of it.

MEPH  
 Wha... Yeah, what?

STEVEN  
 Where the fuck did you get those  
 shorts, bit tight aren't they?

MEPH  
 Next-door's washing line.

STEVEN  
 But that guys a fat cunt. Wait a  
 sec, if they're tight on you how  
 the fuck did he get into 'em?

The Mother and her Daughter pass Steven as they leave.

MOTHER  
 (to Steven)  
 Excuse me.  
 (as Steven turns to her)  
 Do you think it makes you look  
 big swearing around kids?

Steven is thrown off for a moment.

STEVEN  
 Yeah it does, so fuck off and  
 mind your own business!

The Mother scuttles off with her Daughter. The Daughter looks back and briefly makes eye-contact with Meph.



STEVEN

Fuck's her problem? She's lucky I didn't show her the elephant!

MEPH

What elephant?

STEVEN

The one in front of ya!

Steven reaches into his pockets, pulls them inside out then unzips his fly and flops his cock out.

STEVEN

This one!

MEPH

(laughs)

Filthy bastard!

**EXT. RIVER CAM - WAR BUNKER - DAY**

The guys are laying on top of an old concrete war bunker. They're surrounded by empty cans and chip wrappers.

STEVEN

(points at cloud)

Look at that one. It looks like a fat woman's gash!

MEPH

Does it fuck, how do ya make that out?

Steven rolls onto his side, pushes his hand down the back of his trousers, farts, and puts his hand over Meph's mouth.

Meph bolts upright.

MEPH

(laughs)

Ah ya dirty bastard!

Steven sits up.

STEVEN

I guess we better go and clock in for work?

Meph shuffles closer to the roof's edge, then clumsily lowers himself down but stumbles over as he lands.

STEVEN

(laughs at Meph)

Still shaken are ya?

**EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT**

They walk from car to car, pausing beside each one to glance inside.

STEVEN  
I'm starving, Meph!

Meph stops beside an aged but expensive looking sports car.

STEVEN  
Let's go get some chips. There's  
a Chinky's round the corner.

MEPH  
How can ya be hungry? You had two  
bags of chips earlier!

STEVEN  
Yeah, but that was ages-

MEPH  
Oi shut up a moment. Try this  
one.  
(gestures to car door)  
These never have alarms.

Steven scuttles over and with little thought of subtlety forces a table knife down into the doors locking mechanism.

MEPH  
Quiet, Steve. Take it easy.  
There's a neighborhood watch  
sticker on that post over there.  
We should be careful!

STEVEN  
You're right. Perhaps we should  
stop and turn ourselves in now?  
(playfully)  
Dick head!

The guys stifle their laughter as Steven becomes more forceful with the door by ramming his hip against it.

**INT. SQUAT - BEDROOM - DAY**

Meph continually strikes his fists into a mattress that's been propped against a wall. Beads of sweat gather at his jaw line. The strikes are wild but strong. Not the punches of a trained professional, but the punches of a fighter who's trade has been learnt from direct work experience.

**INT. SQUAT - BATHROOM - DAY**

Meph washes himself beside a wash basin using a small plastic tub, pouring the same dirty water over his head again and again.

**EXT. TRAVELLERS' FIELD - DAY**

Rain falls heavily. Mud and shit everywhere.

At ground level a forest of denim and tracksuit bottoms obscures our view until an opening shows a face amongst the mass. It's Meph's. His back is pressed to the ground and his face is being pushed into the mud. He thrashes his arms upwards in a desperate attempt to defend himself but the punches continue to rain down. Several strikes and he's out cold...

But the beating continues. Meph's unconscious body shuddering with the impact of each blow.

**EXT. SCHOOL GATES - DAY**

Meph sits alone watching CHILDREN leave school. His bruised face attracts the attention of several worried PARENTS.

**EXT. NEWSAGENTS OPPOSITE SCHOOL - DAY**

Meph catches sight of a GIRL, (9), short brown hair, dressed in trousers and a jumper. It's the same girl he'd earlier seen on the bus. He follows her, being careful not seen.

**EXT. CITY STREET - DAY**

The Girl glances back and Meph cuts left down a side street... then reemerges moments later and continues to follow her.

**EXT. YOUNG GIRL'S HOUSE - DAY**

From a distance he watches the Girl enter a house.

**INT. SQUAT - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

In near pitch black Steven clambers in through the kitchen window and crashes down heavily onto the sink, then climbs out and clumsily crash to the floor.

Meph enters the kitchen holding a torch and shines it at Steven's face.

MEPH  
Gotcha ya, ya fat bastard!

STEVEN  
Fuck off.

MEPH  
Oooo moody! Did ya get the booze?

Steven nods and Meph breathes a sigh of relief.

**INT. SQUAT - FRONT-ROOM - NIGHT**

Meph is sits drinking in the corner of the room. Music can be heard coming from a mobile phone. Steven wobbles around in a feeble attempt at dance.

MEPH  
Out of fags?

STEVEN  
Yeah.

Meph pulls a pack of cigarettes from his pocket and chucks them to Steven.

STEVEN  
You got jam round your mouth.

MEPH  
It's blood ya, nob.

STEVEN  
You win?

MEPH  
Nah, I was robbed. It was going my way an' all.

Steven lights up a fag and starts puffing away.

STEVEN  
Get your money?

MEPH  
He said next week for sure.

Steven inhales deeply then slumps down beside Meph, their shoulders touching.

STEVEN  
Fuckin' hate that cunt. He's minted but reckons he cant pay ya. Bullocks. You should smack him one and fight for my brother instead!

MEPH

Shut up about your brother will ya? I ain't at the standard he's after. You'd know if you came to my fights!

Meph drops the rest of his fag into an empty beer can.

MEPH

I've got something to tell ya.

STEVEN

Not gonna tell me you're a poof are ya?

Meph leans away causing Steven's upper-body to sag for a moment.

MEPH

Nah, nothing like that.

STEVEN

I was kidding mate. Go on what is it?

Meph smiles, pauses, becomes serious.

MEPH

I've been talking to someone from Outreach. He reckons he'd help me clean up if I want.

STEVEN

You're wasted mate. What's in those fags?

Meph climbs to his feet.

MEPH

I'm serious. I wanna go for it, I wanna sort myself-

STEVEN

What ya on about? Why?

Steven staggers to his feet and stands square-on to Meph.

STEVEN

(fans arms out)  
What, you're too good for it now are ya?

MEPH

Huh? Calm down, mate. I didn't say that did I? Look, I've had enough of this shit. I'm fuckin' sick of it!

STEVEN

What you on about? I mean... What the fuck is there to sort out?

Steven paces the length of the room.

MEPH

I wanna see my kid.

Steven turns and looks Meph in the eye.

STEVEN

Wha? You ain't seen her in years. Do ya even remember what she fucking looks like? You're daft if you ask me!

MEPH

I ain't asking ya-

STEVEN

And that cunt mum of hers would never let you see her anyway.

MEPH

I gotta try.

STEVEN

No point!

MEPH

I gotta try, Steve.

STEVEN

Yeah, whatever. I'm off.

MEPH

Wha's ya problem with me seeing-

Steven leaves slamming the door behind him. Meph stands alone. Stunned.

**INT. SQUAT - BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Meph packs his sleeping bag, grabs his jacket and leaves.

**EXT. DERELICT BUILDING - NIGHT**

A number of boarded up out-houses in a state disrepair.

Meph moves from building to building, yanking at doors that won't open.

**INT. DERELICT BUILDING - GLASS-HOUSE - NIGHT**

Exhausted, Meph settles for a battered old glass-house that adjoins the central building.

**EXT. YOUNG GIRL'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY**

Meph stands motionless, staring at the GIRL'S door. He takes a deep toke on the remainder of a fag, flicks it away then knocks on the door.

Seconds later a WOMAN (32), with bleached blonde hair, hollow cheeks and loosely fitted bra straps opens the door.

MEPH

How long?

WOMAN

Fuck off!

She sucks deeply on her cigarette, then exhales the remaining smoke and throws the butt into the garden as she moves to shut the door. Meph steps forward to stop her closing the door.

MEPH

How long, Tanya?

TANYA

Fuck off, Meph!

MEPH

I ain't here to fight.

TANYA

Yeah, well it don't look like it.  
Now fuck off!

MEPH

I just wanted to say hello,  
that's all.

TANYA

What?... I haven't heard a peep  
out of you in... I dunno know how  
long and you suddenly turn up at  
my door. What the fuck?

MEPH

I didn't even know you were here.  
How long you been back?

TANYA

(snarling)

I ain't giving you any money if  
that's what you're after?

MEPH

I'm not here for money! I just wanted to say hello and ask you where you've been all this time... That and see how Rosie is.

Tanya steps out from the door and points scornfully at Meph's face.

TANYA

Don't you fucking dare mention my daughter's name you cunt!

MEPH

She's mine an' all!

TANYA

She hasn't been yours since I left!

MEPH

You had no fuckin' right to-

TANYA

Yeah whatever. You ain't seeing her... So fuck off or I'll call the police!

Meph backs off, surveys the street and catches sight of a curtain from an upstairs window twitching. It's ROSIE peeping though. Their eyes meet for a moment before she whips the curtain shut.

Tanya picks up on what happened and turns back to the hallway.

TANYA

(to Rosie)

Oi... Get out of my room!

The sound of a door slamming shut echoes down.

An uncomfortable silence descends on the front garden as they stare each other in the eye. Meph edges back further to the gate.

MEPH

I'm gonna come back. She's my daughter as well.

TANYA

You come back here and I'll have your head kicked in. Think you can just show up on my doorstep after six years and everything would be hunky-dory did ya? You stupid wanker!



They turn on hearing the sound of a NEIGHBOR'S window opening. A Neighbor (40), pokes her head out.

NEIGHBOR  
You alright, Tanya?

TANYA  
Yeah, Karen. Close the window,  
I'm alright.

Karen nods, eyes Meph then closes her window.

Meph steps out of the garden then turns to walk away just as Tanya sticks up two fingers at him.

**INT. DERELICT BUILDING - GLASS-HOUSE - NIGHT**

Meph is crouched in a the corner with his body half leant against a wall. He's shivering violently. His skin is drained of colour and his clothing is soaked through with perspiration.

**INT. DERELICT BUILDING - GLASS-HOUSE - DAY**

Meph is stood lost in thought, peering out at the forecourt. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out his phone, keys in a number and waits for it to connect. After a few seconds it connects..

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)  
Hello.

MEPH  
(into phone)  
Kathy... It's me.

KATHY (V.O.)  
You alright, love? You haven't  
called in ages. Have you changed  
your number because I tried-

MEPH  
(into phone)  
Yeah... I lost my phone. Listen,  
Kathy. Can I ask you for a favor?

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

The caravan is almost empty other than a few basics and a black and white television in the corner. Meph is sat opposite KATHY (55), pretend posh but kind hearted.

KATHY

The caravan is yours for as long as you need it, but on one condition.

MEPH

Anything.

KATHY

You bloody well take care of it!

MEPH

Of course, yeah.

KATHY

It might look like much now, but after me and Mike tied the knot we lived in this for over a year. Any way, I'll ask Mike if there might be something you could do at the factory too. They always need people.

MEPH

Yeah that would be great. I've not had much luck lately.

KATHY

When have you ever had much luck?

**INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY**

Meph is tightly clutching the handle of a trolley. His eyes are fixed on an aisle with a vast selection of booze. He lets go of the trolley and walks the other way, leaving the trolley and his things behind.

**INT. FACTORY - DAY**

Blue overalls, white helmets and noisy machines.

Meph pushes a trolley along.

**INT. FACTORY - CANTEEN - DAY**

Tables, chairs and lumpy mash potato on plastic blue plates. Meph is sat alone... Until a CLAIR PECK (19), simple looking, with thick lensed glasses and straight hair waddles up to him carrying a pink Care Bear with "I LOVE YOU" printed on its belly.

MEPH

You alright?  
(reads her name badge)  
Clair.

CLAIR

Yes, thank you. This is for you.

She pushes the Care Bear at Meph, forcing him to take it.

MEPH

Erm, thanks.

CLAIR

I think you're handsome. Are you married?

Stifled giggles can be heard coming from the kitchen. Clair looks back over to the KITCHEN STAFF who in turn wave her to move closer. Clair blushes, turns and waddles off back to the kitchen.

Embarrassed, Meph stands to leave.

**EXT. BINGO HALL - ENTRANCE - DAY**

With some flowers in one hand and the pink Care Bear in the other, Meph waits beside steps that lead up to the hall's entrance.

Tanya spots him and adopts her customary scowl.

TANYA

I told you what would happen if you showed up again!

MEPH

I don't wanna fight with ya, Tanya.

(shows her the gifts)

These are for you. The bear's for Rosie.

Tanya's expression morphs from a scowl to a cautious stare.

MEPH

Anyway I can't stick about I've-

TANYA

Bloody right you can't. Bastard!

MEPH

I can't stick around 'cos I gotta get back to work. Just take them. Please.

Meph holds out the presents for Tanya.

TANYA

Work? Yeah right.

(eyes the gifts)

You nicked them I bet?

Shaking his head...

MEPH

Please.

Tanya reluctantly takes the presents then turns and makes for a bus. Meph watches her as she leaves.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph, face-down in the pillow, sleeping. Until...

A mobile phone spins in circles on the bedside cupboard and wakes him. He sluggishly picks up and keys answer.

MEPH

(into phone)

Yeah?

KATHY (V.O.)

It's me, Gavin. I'm outside. Can you open the door?

MEPH

Yeah, of course. Gis' a sec.

Meph staggers out of bed, dresses then opens the door.

KATHY

Hello, love. You alright?

MEPH

Yeah, not bad.

Kathy steps in and gives the caravan the once-over.

KATHY

Sorry to wake you, love. But I'm here because, well I don't know if you know or not, but your dad's back. He's been asking about you. I told him I haven't seen you but... well, he keeps asking.

Meph sways for a second then props himself beside the sink.

MEPH

(after a short pause)

I couldn't give a shit, Kathy! I'm sorry, I know you're just looking out for him, but he's been dead to me for years. I'm not angry with you, and I know you mean well and that. But I can't see him, not now.

Kathy acknowledges Meph with a nod. A few seconds of silence pass before Meph walks over to a window and opens it.

MEPH

Where's he been?

KATHY

I don't know. He wouldn't say. He doesn't look good though. He said the doctor's have given him six months. It's his liver.

MEPH

No surprises there.

KATHY

Well would you think about it at least, Gavin... For me?

MEPH

I can't, Kathy. I'm sorry.

Kathy smiles warmly.

KATHY

If do change your mind, call Me OK?

Kathy smiles softly and moves closer to the door. Meph returns the smile as she leaves.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OFF-LICENCE - NIGHT**

Meph is stood with his hands in his pockets. He's staring through the shop window and slowly edging closer to the door when he pauses, takes a deep breath, looks down and closes his eyes...

Moments later he opens his eyes, turns to walk away and spots three TEENAGERS approaching.

MEPH

Can one of ya get me some fags if I give ya the money?

TEENAGER #1

I'll try mate. Depends if he'll serve us though. We were gonna ask you the same thing.

MEPH

He won't serve me. The tosser banned me for nicking a Mars bar.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY**

Meph coughs into his hand then knock the door. Seconds later Tanya opens an upstairs window and pokes her head out.

MEPH  
I didn't nick it!

TANYA  
I don't care how you got it, now piss-

MEPH  
I know ya don't like me coming here-

TANYA  
You're clever!

Tanya grabs the handle to close the window.

MEPH  
Just gimme a chance will ya?  
Please. Tanya... Please.

Tanya sighs and release her grip on the window handle.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph lie on his bed starring at the ceiling, smoke trailing from the cigarette in his hand.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY**

Tanya is leant against the door frame staring at Meph. Her posture less aggressive than on their previous meetings.

TANYA  
You're like a bad rash, keep coming back like this!

Meph looks down to hide a smile.

TANYA  
Must be the what, five, six times you've been here now? I suppose you're gonna keep coming until I give in?

MEPH  
That's the plan, yeah!

She eyes him up and down.

TANYA

So what you doing for work?

MEPH

Just factory stuff. Mike got me it.

TANYA

Your auntie's Mike?

Meph nods.

TANYA

I heard got killed or something.

MEPH

You can't always listen to what people say can ya? He hurt his back that's all.

TANYA

Anyway, think you'll stick it? Bet you don't.

Meph pauses before replying and looks away for a moment.

MEPH

Can I see her then?

TANYA

No... Not yet. Maybe. If you keep it up. The work I mean.

MEPH

I will.

TANYA

Still see that idiot Steven?

MEPH

No. Not for a while now.

She studies him closely.

TANYA

Still drinking and stuff?

MEPH

No.

TANYA

Bloody liar!

Meph steps closer to the door, Tanya moves partly behind it. Meph eases the tension with a smile.

MEPH

I'm not lying. I've had enough of it... I'm not happy.

TANYA

Like I should give a shit!

MEPH

Just let me see her will ya?

Tanya rests her head against the door for a moment as she thinks.

TANYA

Call Wednesday, but hang up if Rosie answers. I don't want you speaking to her until I say so.

(beat)

And I'd want maintenance money!

MEPH

How much?

TANYA

I don't know, tell you Wednesday. Now piss off. She'll be up soon. She hates getting up early. Like you. Lazy bastard.

A smile stretches across Meph's face as Tanya closes the door. At the gate Meph looks back and catches Rosie peeping out. Meph waves to her but she whips the curtains shut.

#### **INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

The room is quiet and lit only by the light off a small bedside lamp. Meph is perched on the end of his bed, his phone in hand. He keys in a number and waits for it to connect...

KATHY (V.O.)

Hello-

MEPH

(into phone)

I'll see him.

KATHY (V.O.)

Ah that's great... When are you free?

Meph catches his reflection in a mirror and stares at himself for a moment.



MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Tomorrow.

KATHY (V.O.)  
 Where?

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Tell him I'll meet him at that  
 cafe on Mill Road. Terry's  
 something or other. He'll know  
 the one. I'll be there at eight.

KATHY (V.O.)  
 Alright, I'll call him now. And,  
 Gavin... Thanks.

Meph hangs up and drops the phone on the bed, walks over to the sink, fills the kettle, looks down and notices his hand is shaking.

**INT. TREVOR'S TEA AND BUNS COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT**

Typical working mens' greasy spoon that plays host to a mixture of the local community. But not that mixed, mostly white, fat and balding. A thick ambience of chat and the clanging of cutlery on plates fills the air. Meph is sat beside a window watching the main door closely as faces come and go.

A SCRUFFY MAN enters and approaches the til to order from the WAITER. He then turns and surveys the room, spots Meph and walks over to him with his right hand out-stretched.

SCRUFFY MAN  
 Hello, son. You alright?

Meph stands and acknowledges him with a nod, then sits without shaking his hand.

MEPH  
 Alright, Phil?

PHIL  
 You're looking good. Been keeping well then?

MEPH  
 I'm doing alright. You look like shit.

Only the ambience of the room between them as car lights zip past outside.

MEPH  
 Been back long?

PHIL

(clears throat)

A week or so.

(after a pause, nervous)

Kathy's doing OK ain't she? Her Mike got nearly eight grand comp' pay out for falling off a fucking ladder at work. The twat! He still works there too. And now she's acting all posh. Even gets her milk delivered to the door instead of going to Tesco like every cunt does. She hasn't offered me a penny though.

Phil nervously rubs his brow line.

PHIL

She says you ain't been going to visit her.

MEPH

Not for a while. Had a lot on.

PHIL

That's good. Good to keep busy, that's what I always say.

MEPH

Do ya?

Meph, looking bored, watches the passersby outside the window.

PHIL

Well anyway, I... I suppose she told you the bad news?

MEPH

The bad news?

The Waiter places Phil's coffee on the table.

PHIL

You thirsty? I'll get you a coffee.

MEPH

No.

PHIL

You hungry?

MEPH

No.

PHIL

Sure?

MEPH

Yeah.

PHIL

Right, cheers. Sure you don't want-

MEPH

I'm alright...thanks.

Meph climbs to his feet.

MEPH

I'm going for a piss.

PHIL

You coming back?

**INT. TREVOR'S TEA AND BUNS COFFEE SHOP - TOILET - NIGHT**

Meph washes his hands then splashes his face with water.

**INT. TREVOR'S TEA AND BUNS COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT**

Meph slumps down back into his seat.

PHIL

Kathy said you're working now?

MEPH

Yeah. Nothing fancy. Just packing at Mike's factory.

PHIL

You're not with Tanya anymore then. What about the kid, still see her?

Meph turns his attention to a couple of blokes playing cards near by.

PHIL

Anyway, at least you got a job. Most people round here just sit and wait for hand outs.

MEPH

Look, I better shoot off. I got a few things to do.

PHIL

Yeah? I guess I'll be off as well then. Let me go pay first.

Meph stands and heads for the door. Phil climbs to his feet and approaches the counter but accidentally nudges a FAT BLOKE (40's) who's wider than he is tall. The Fat Bloke turns to Phil looking angry, but on seeing Phil his expression softens.

FAT BLOKE  
Phil? Where ya been fucking been  
so long?

Meph turns and leaves.

**EXT. OUTSIDE TREVOR'S TEA AND BUNS COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT**

Meph steps out into the street then looks back in at Phil who joins him seconds later.

MEPH  
Like being back then?

Phil nods then turns back and playfully sticks his fingers up at the Fat Bloke. Meph starts to walk away and Phil hurries to catch him.

PHIL  
He used to play for Cambridge  
United. Wouldn't think it to look  
at him would ya?

Meph looks away, bored, tired.

PHIL  
You free tomorrow night, wanna go  
for a pint?

MEPH  
Nah.

PHIL  
What you up to?

MEPH  
Got a few things to sort out.

PHIL  
Day after that then?

MEPH  
Erm, busy again.

PHIL  
You're busy nowadays... Day after  
that-

MEPH  
Ah fuck it. Tomorrow then. Where?

PHIL  
The Crab and Eel... Same time?

MEPH  
Alright.

A moments hesitance before they shake hands and part their separate ways.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph closes the door behind him and heads straight to the sink, fills a glass and downs it. Seconds later there's a heavy knock on the door.

MEPH  
Who the fuck's that?

STEVEN (O.S.)  
It's me. C'mon mate open up!

Meph opens the door.

MEPH  
How'd you know I was here?

STEVEN  
Word gets around. Can I come in?

Meph nods reluctantly. Steven steps in and accidentally clatters a bag full of booze on the door frame. Meph glances down at the bag then looks Steven in the eye.

STEVEN  
Want one?

MEPH  
I'm trying to lay off it.

STEVEN  
Good luck with it! Mind if I sit down?

MEPH  
There's only the bed to sit on.

Steven shrugs his shoulders and plonks himself down on the bed. Meph struggles to hide his annoyance.

STEVEN  
Don't mind me coming here do ya?  
Been weird not having ya round,  
mate.

Meph props himself against the sink and glances over at the clock.

STEVEN (CONT)

I've been knocking about with Mickey instead. Don't think you know him that well do ya? He's a fuckin' laugh though. You'd like him.

MEPH

(irritated)

Not with him tonight then?

STEVEN

Gonna be. Meeting him soon. Sure you don't want a drink? I've got plenty.

MEPH

No, ta.

Steven raises to his feet.

STEVEN

Mate. I know we haven't being seeing eye to eye recently... But you couldn't you lend me a few quid could ya?

MEPH

I can't, Steve. I'm low myself. What about asking your brother?

STEVEN

Andrew? He won't give me anything 'cos he's a tight cunt. Just forty quid, Meph?

Meph looks away as he considers it.

MEPH

I can't, I've gotta give Tanya money if I wanna see my girl.

STEVEN

Yeah? That's good innit? But c'mon, Meph. Just for a day or two.

MEPH

Alright. But You gotta do me a favor then.

Steven nods.

MEPH

Don't come here unless it's to pay me back.

STEVEN  
You serious?

MEPH  
If Tanya knows I've seen ya she  
won't let me see me see Rosie.

STEVEN  
If that's what ya want... Not  
forever though is it?

Meph pulls out forty quid from a kitchen draw and hands it  
to Steven.

MEPH  
I better get it back?

STEVEN  
Next week. I promise.

MEPH  
You just said two days!

STEVEN  
Yeah I know, I'm jus' pulling yer  
leg. Well I better shoot off.  
Take it easy won't ya mate?

Steven grabs his bag and makes his way to the door.

STEVEN  
Good luck with Tanya. Still a  
fuckin' bitch I bet?

Steven opens the door, smirks, nods and leaves.

**INT. FACTORY - CORRIDOR - CLOCKING-IN MACHINE - DAY**

Meph clocks in for his shift. From along the corridor Clair  
waves over to him then approaches.

MEPH  
You alright?

CLAIR  
Yes. You look sad, are you OK?

MEPH  
Yeah, I'm fine. Just a bit  
knackered. Your friends put you  
up to this?

CLAIR  
No. I just thought you looked  
sad.

Meph smiles softly.

**EXT. FACTORY - FORECOURT - DAY**

Clair is sat on the front of a metal trolley, giggling like a kid as Meph pushes her along narrowly avoiding various shelves and heavy machinery. THREE CO-WORKERS look on with contempt.

**INT./EXT. NEWSAGENTS - DAY**

Rosie thumbs through a kids science magazine, unaware that outside Meph is watching her through the store window. She puts the science magazine down then picks up a magazine with the image of a man hugging a young girl on the cover.

**EXT. OUTSIDE THE CRAB AND EEL PUB - NIGHT**

Drizzle and street light reflects off the pavement. Meph is wearing a brand new pair of (Reebok Classic) trainers and appears irritable as he stands staring at the entrance to the pub. A YOUNG COUPLE with touchy hands walk towards the pub's entrance.

MEPH  
(to Couple)  
Excuse me, mate.

The couple stop walking and slide their hands into their pockets.

MEPH (CONT)  
Do me a favour and tell the bloke  
by the fag machine that Gavin's  
outside will ya?

YOUNG MAN  
Yeah alright. Garry was it? I'll  
let him know.

MEPH  
Cheers... And it's Gavin.

Moments later Phil staggers out red faced and drunk.

PHIL  
Alright, Garry? Didn't think you  
were gonna turn up! Not coming in  
for a pint?

Meph shakes his head.

PHIL  
Come on let me get ya one!

MEPH  
I'm alright, thanks. Mind if we  
just walk instead?



Phil nods then longingly looks back at the pub.

**EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT**

They walk slowly. Phil's eyes scan shop displays whilst Meph looks mostly at the ground.

**EXT. RIVER SIDE PATHWAY - NIGHT**

The guys are sat on a bench. Phil looks more relaxed than on their first meeting whilst Meph, feeling the cold, pulls his jacket tight against his body.

MEPH

If your liver's fucked why ya  
still drinking?

Phil's tightens up as he considers his reply.

PHIL

It's not the booze that's doing  
the harm... Ain't you gonna ask  
why I'm back?.

Meph looks away.

PHIL

I came back 'cos I wanted to see  
you and Kathy. I've got things I  
wanna clear up.

Meph turns to face Phil, shakes his head then turns away again.

PHIL

When you're in my situation it  
makes you think differently. You  
realize you gotta sort things out  
while you still can... I know  
I've done wrong, Meph.

From out of the darkness a cyclist hurtles past and the bike's light illuminates their faces for a moment.

MEPH

Spoke to Kathy about it?

PHIL

Yeah.

MEPH

It's gotta be from the booze.

PHIL

Nah. It's just one of those  
things I reckon.

(MORE)

PHIL (cont'd)  
 (beat)  
 I like your trainers. They new?

Meph sighs, looks into the distance.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph presses his phone to his ear and waits anxiously for an answer...

TANYA (V.O.)  
 Hello.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 It's me.

A moment of silence.

TANYA (V.O.)  
 You can see her.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Yeah?

TANYA (V.O.)  
 I want forty quid a week.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Forty quid? But I'm nearly skint.

TANYA (V.O.)  
 Forty pound, Meph! I don't give a shit if your skint. If you want to see her you gotta bloody well pay for it! Otherwise you can fu-

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 OK, OK... I'll get it.  
 (pause)  
 When can I see her?

Silence and crackle.

TANYA (V.O.)  
 Saturday.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Have you told her about me?

TANYA (V.O.)  
 She ain't stupid, she know's who you are!...

(MORE)

TANYA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 And I still want my money even if  
 she doesn't wanna speak to ya.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 OK.

TANYA (V.O.)  
 You can come at lunch time.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Can I get her something?

TANYA (V.O.)  
 If you want.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 What's she in to?

TANYA (V.O.)  
 She likes stars.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Stars? Alright then. Cheers,  
 Tanya.

TANYA (V.O.)  
 Wait, Meph... You know what this  
 means don't ya? You can't just  
 walk in and out of her life when  
 it suits ya.

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 Yeah... I know.

Meph hangs up, chucks the phone on the bed and thrashes his arms in the air with excitement then goes to the sink, crouches down and pulls out a small wad of notes, counts it.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph washes his face, brushes his teeth, check himself in the mirror.

**INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY**

Meph glances over several multi-colored books on astrology and picks up the brightest one.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY**

Meph checks his reflection in the window then knocks the door. The sound of a lock clanging, the door opens to show Tanya wearing her usual scowl.

MEPH  
You alright?

She looks down at his shoes, smirks.

TANYA  
Nice trainers. Got my money then?

Meph reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small wad of notes.

Tanya's eyes light up as Meph plops the money into her hand.

MEPH  
Is she here?

TANYA  
Of course she is. She's in the garden... Good luck.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY**

Meph is stood at the kitchen door looking out at Rosie in the garden. She is sat on a small plastic chair facing away. He studies her petite frame trying to read the situation but she gives nothing away.

Meph takes the book out from under his jacket, clutches it tightly, opens the door, steps out and slowly walks towards her.

MEPH  
Hello, Rosie.

Her shoulders droop slightly.

MEPH  
You alright?

He circles around to her right, she turns to her left. He steps closer but she raises to her feet and shoots off to the back gate, opens it and runs over to a small park out back.

MEPH  
Rosie!

Behind him he can hear laughter. He turns to see Tanya delighting at the unfolding drama.

TANYA  
Not easy is it?

Meph shakes his head.

TANYA  
Didn't think she'd be happy to  
see you did ya?

Meph looks over to see Rosie perched on a wall with her  
back to the house.

TANYA  
You better go.

MEPH  
Can I see her again?

Meph places the book on Rosie's plastic chair and turns to  
leave.

TANYA  
Don't give up so quick next time.  
(beat)  
And don't forget my money!

Meph pauses, nods and leaves.

**INT. GREASY-SPOON RESTURANT - NIGHT**

Phil scoffs down a bacon-buttie covering his chin with  
grease and ketchup. Meph is sat opposite.

PHIL  
How'd it go earlier?

MEPH  
Not great.

PHIL  
Gotta expect that I suppose.

Phil slurps down the last of his drink.

PHIL  
She looking alright?

MEPH  
Beautiful. Dunno where she gets  
her looks. Definitely not Tanya!  
(beat)  
I'm seeing her again soon.

PHIL  
Yeah? Tha's good.

Meph sits back on the chair legs, looks down and notices Phil's wearing a new pair of (Reebok Classic) trainers.

MEPH  
New trainers?

PHIL  
Yeah. Nice ain't they!

A WAITRESS approaches holding a damp cloth.

WAITRESS  
Mind if I give your table a wipe boys?

Phil smiles, gives her a nod and leans back.

WAITRESS  
How's the food?

PHIL  
Lovely!

The Waitress smiles at Phil and moves on to the next table.

MEPH  
Think she liked you!

PHIL  
I wish. See the tits on it?  
Lovely.

Meph smiles and turns his attention to the passing traffic outside. Drizzle starts to pepper the window.

PHIL  
Son... I know it's a lot to ask,  
but could I stay at yours?  
(off Meph's look)  
Jus' for a bit!

MEPH  
I dunno about that. There ain't  
much room there as it is, and I  
got a lot of work on.

PHIL  
It wouldn't be for long. I feel  
like I'm getting in the way at  
Kathy's. I could kip on the floor  
if you're short of space?

Outside the drizzle becomes rain.

MEPH  
Fuckin' hell... You put me in it  
ain't ya?

PHIL  
Sorry, mate. But I'm a bit  
desperate.

MEPH  
Fuck it, OK. But no boozing  
there. Not in front of me.

Phil nods submissively.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Phil dumps his bag on the floor then looks up to meet  
Meph's eye line.

PHIL  
Only if you're sure?

MEPH  
It's just for a bit right?

PHIL  
Bloody hope not!

They share a chuckle.

MEPH  
Well at least you ain't got much.  
Another pair of socks in here and  
the place might look cramped!

PHIL  
I do need a new jacket now you  
mention it. This one's fucked,  
look. Fraying all round the  
sleeve.

MEPH  
Maybe tonight I'll show you where  
you could get a newer one. Can't  
guarantee it though. Luck of the  
draw what's there.

PHIL  
Beggars can't be choosers huh?

Meph throws a glance down at Phil's new trainers.

MEPH  
How are ya for money?

Phil shakes his head and looks away.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - DAY**

Rosie is sat on a patch of grass with an assortment of small rocks laid out in front of her. Meph is crouching with his back against the wall.

MEPH

Like rocks do ya?

He coughs nervously.

MEPH

What about stones... and trees and stuff? I liked fishing when I was a kid. Weren't any good at it but still.

No response.

MEPH

Did you like that book I left for ya? Your mum said you like stars!

He kicks his legs out and sits.

MEPH

Have you liked stars long?

She turns slightly, almost facing him.

ROSIE

Not those kind of stars.

MEPH

Eh? What was that?

He stands and moves closer.

MEPH

Go on, say that again.

Meph glances back towards the house then edges closer to Rosie and crouches down.

MEPH

What sign are you then?

ROSIE

I don't like it! I don't like the book!

She stands up and quickly walks into the kitchen SLAMMING the door behind her. Meph stands looking deflated.



**EXT. RECYCLING BINS - NIGHT**

Meph and Phil share the same cigarette as Phil occasionally reaches into the clothing bank, pulls out various items of clothing, and dumps the clothing on the ground.

MEPH

She spoke today. Good to hear her speak.

PHIL

Well that's good!

Phil pulls out what looks like a jacket and starts to examine it.

PHIL

What she say?

MEPH

Not sure. She only said one thing. Sounded nice though.

Phil nods along as he tries on the jacket.

PHIL

Progress though ain't it? You were never a talker either!

MEPH

Like you'd know!

PHIL

We ain't so different.

Meph sucks hard on the remainder of the fag then flicks it away.

MEPH

I ain't nothing like you.

(beat)

I'm off. I've gotta collect some money. I'll see you back at the van.

PHIL

Wait...

(holds up a jacket)

What do you think of this? It's Addidas!

Meph nods approval and leaves.

**EXT. HIGH STREET - NIGHT**

Passing by an off-licence Meph turns his head to face the passing traffic and quickens his pace to a jog.

**EXT. SQUAT - NIGHT**

Meph taps loudly on the door and peeps through the letter-box.

Moments pass and he moves around to the kitchen window at the rear of the house.

The squat appears devoid of life.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph and Phil lie cramped up and head to toe in bed.

Phil's snoring keeps Meph awake. Meph pulls hard on the duvet but it holds fast, jammed under Phil's belly.

**INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY**

Meph scans a selection of music CDs and picks up a Spice Girls album.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - FRONT-ROOM - DAY**

Meph watches Rosie asleep on a couch. Tanya creeps up from behind.

TANYA  
I'm surprised with ya.

MEPH  
What about?

TANYA  
Didn't think you'd keep coming.

Meph passes her a small wad of notes.

MEPH  
There's an extra twenty in there.  
Buy her something pretty.

TANYA  
What, Rosie? Look at her. She's a bloody tom-boy.

A smile flickers across his face.

MEPH  
Still, get her something nice.

Tanya feigns a nod.

TANYA  
Want me to wake her?

MEPH

Nah, let her sleep. Can I stay  
for a bit?

TANYA

If you make yourself useful. The  
back gate's bugged. You could  
fix it.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - DAY**

Meph bangs away at the gate with a hammer. He pauses to  
look behind and sees Rosie watching him from the kitchen  
window. She cups her hands against the window and blows  
causing it to fog up...

Then using her finger she writes Aries into the fog patch  
and runs off.

Meph smiles, stands, and makes for the door but just as he  
reaches for the handle Tanya opens the door and steps out.

TANYA

These fuckin' heels are killing  
me!  
(looking past him)  
That gate done then? Doesn't look  
it.

Meph turns back to face the gate.

MEPH

Nah, not yet.

TANYA

The council were meant to fix it  
but they never came. Useless they  
are.

Meph walks back to the gate and Tanya follows.

MEPH

Where did ya go?

TANYA

What, today?

MEPH

No, no I mean... the last four  
years. This wasn't the first time  
I tried to find Rosie you know?

TANYA

I know. My mum said you went to  
hers asking for us. She said you  
were pissed up though.

TANYA

So how come you don't see that Steven anymore then?

MEPH

Haven't seen him for a while now. I told him I wanted to see Rosie again but he didn't wanna hear it. Dunno why it bothered him so much.

TANYA

You were always different around him. I never liked him, he's a wanker. My mum always used to say he was dodgy even when we were kids.

Tanya pulls out a packet of fags and offers Meph one. He accepts and they light up sharing the same match.

MEPH

So come then, where were ya all that time?

TANYA

I went to stay with my dad for a bit. Living in a village did my head in though so I got a job in Bedford doing reception work. It was nice, I liked it. But had to leave when I got pregnant.

MEPH

Pregnant?

TANYA

Yeah, I lost it though.

MEPH

Fuckin' hell, I'm sorry... How?

TANYA

Dunno, we never knew why. Jus' wasn't meant to be I suppose.

(beat)

You can keep coming here. But if you bring trouble, or if you see that wanker, Steven, then that's it. I'm ending it. You got it?

Meph bows his head submissively.

TANYA

Good. You better. Anyway, keep trying. She'll warm to ya. She did with my ex until he hit her.

(MORE)

TANYA (cont'd)  
Fucking cunt. Kicking my  
daughter.

MEPH  
Who was he?

TANYA  
Calm down, Meph! He's gone now.  
He was in the army. Bastard.

Meph turns away and stares into the distance, visibly  
angry.

MEPH  
I'll rip his fucking head off!

TANYA  
Oh, that's sweet... But it's too  
late now innit? He's been gone  
three years. You should have been  
there when it mattered!

MEPH  
Was that how you lost the baby?

TANYA  
No, Meph. It wasn't his. Besides,  
he couldn't even get it up when  
it mattered 'cos he was always  
pissed!

Silence broken by the occasional expulsion of smoke.

TANYA  
Want something to eat?

MEPH  
Really?

TANYA  
It's only gonna be fish fingers  
and oven chips so don't get too  
excited.

MEPH  
I love that stuff. Mind if I pop  
to the bog first though?

Tanya nods and Meph marches over to the kitchen door,  
pauses, and reads what Rosie had wrote on the window.

MEPH  
What's Aries mean?

TANYA  
It's a star sign? Why?

MEPH  
Nothing, it doesn't matter.

Meph suppresses a smile and enters the house.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - LANDING - DAY**

Meph pauses on coming out of the toilet and looks towards Rosie's bedroom door.

He creeps over and presses his ear to it.

MEPH  
(to Rosie)  
All the best people are Aries.  
It's in the Guinness Book of  
Records so it must be true.

He knocks the door lightly.

MEPH  
Do you like the Spice girls? I  
bet you do.

Meph takes the CD from his jacket pocket and places it on the floor beside the door.

MEPH  
There's something out here for  
ya. Wanna come and get it?

Silence.

Meph sighs then trots down the stairs.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER**

Meph gets back to working on the gate. Seconds later the sound of pop music can be heard blasting from Rosie's window. Only it isn't the Spice Girls.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Soiled pots and pans in the sink, on the kitchen work-top a TV Is on with the sound muted. The clanging of cutlery and glass. Tanya is sitting at the head of the table. Meph and Rosie are sat facing each other. Rosie is playing with her food.

TANYA  
How you finding the job then?

MEPH  
Good.

TANYA  
Who'd have thought?

Meph laughs nervously then coughs to clear his throat.

MEPH  
How's school, Rosie?

Rosie continues to play with her food and refuses to look up.

TANYA  
She said anything to you yet?

Meph shakes his head.

TANYA  
Her teacher reckons she's one of  
the smartest in her class.  
(to Rosie)  
Ain't ya?

Rosie looks down to her lap.

TANYA (CONT)  
Ain't ya, Rosie? Smartest in the  
class?

Rosie nods lamely.

MEPH  
So you didn't like the book?

Rosie rubs her hands nervously under the table.

TANYA  
(to Rosie)  
C'mon, answer him.

ROSIE  
No.

TANYA  
What?

ROSIE  
No. I didn't like it.

A smile flashes across Meph's face.

MEPH  
How come?

ROSIE  
I don't like Astrology. I like  
Astronomy.

MEPH

What's the difference?

Rosie glances up for a split second.

ROSIE

One is real and the other is made up.

MEPH

I thought they were the same thing.

ROSIE

You can't see the future through a telescope. Only the past.

TANYA

(to Meph)

Don't start her on that stuff or she'll never shut up! She should be like the other girls and get a bloody boyfriend!

Meph shoots a disapproving look at Tanya.

MEPH

I wanna know what she means.

(to Rosie)

Go on, tell us about it. We wanna learn don't we, tanya?

Tanya sighs, raises to her feet and goes over to the sink to fill a glass. Rosie's gaze raises slightly as she peels her chin from her chest. She fixes her eyes on Meph's plate.

ROSIE

When you look at the stars you see the past. It took the light years and years to get here. Even the light from the Sun took time to reach us.

MEPH

Fucking hell, I never-

TANYA

Oi!... We don't swear in this house!

(to Rosie)

Do we?

ROSIE

I don't... Not sure about you.

TANYA

You little Cow!



As Tanya sits the three share a chuckle... The chuckle quietens to a silence.

MEPH  
Your cooking's improved.

TANYA  
That's what happens when you're  
alone with a kid and no money.

Meph glances over at the muted TV then back at Tanya.

MEPH  
I can help wash up if you want?

TANYA  
Too bloody right. I expected you  
too!

Rosie throws a disapproving look at Tanya.

TANYA  
Bloody isn't a swear word! Is it?

Meph and Rosie's eyes meet and they giggle shyly.

TANYA  
Look what I've done. I've gone  
and made you two friends.

Rosie's giggle ends abruptly and her gaze drops downward once more.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Meph scrubs away at the dishes as Tanya finishes the last of her drink.

TANYA  
She's warming to ya. Bloody sod.  
You always get what you want with  
girls.

Meph's smiles... The smile fades.

MEPH  
My dad's back.

Tanya turns to face Meph.

MEPH  
Reckons he's ill.

TANYA  
Do you believe him?

MEPH

Nah. He still drinks all the time.

Meph places a clean dish in the rack.

MEPH

He's staying at mine now. Farts all night long. He Puked in the sink too. Dirty bastard.

TANYA

Dirty bastard.

MEPH

I suppose everyone deserves another chance though innit?

Tanya looks at her watch.

TANYA

It's late... You can kip on the couch if you want? Last bus has probably gone already.

Meph pauses and looks at his bare wrist as if expecting a watch to appear.

MEPH

If you're sure?

TANYA

I'll go and grab the sleeping bag.

MEPH

Alright, cheers.

TANYA

Probably stinks of shit though.

MEPH

How come?

TANYA

Because it used to be yours!

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - FRONT-ROOM - NIGHT**

The room is lit by the green light from the fish tank. Meph lie awake, staring at a framed picture of Rosie.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

Meph groggily staggers in as Tanya clears away the last of the breakfast bowls.

TANYA  
Sleep alright?

TANYA  
(off Meph's yawn)  
Got cornflakes or coco pops if  
you're hungry. You'll have to  
help yourself though. I've gotta  
go to work.

MEPH  
Didn't know you were working.

TANYA  
Just some cash in hand stuff. You  
alright to let yourself out?

Meph nods and Tanya grabs her purse then chucks it in her  
handbag.

TANYA  
I'm getting my hair done later.  
(beat)  
You can pick Rosie up from school  
if you like?

MEPH  
Really?... Yeah, I'd love to!

TANYA  
Alright. She doesn't know your  
gonna be there but I'm sure  
you'll ease her nerves.

Tanya opens the door.

TANYA  
Oh and, Meph.

MEPH  
Yeah?

TANYA  
(playful)  
Twat!

Tanya leaves closing the door behind her.

#### **EXT. SCHOOL GATES - DAY**

A LOLLYPOP LADY surrounded by GIGGLY KIDS steps out onto  
the road and stops traffic. Meph is leant against a metal  
railing holding a plastic bag containing a football.

Rosie and a young INDIAN GIRL approach the gate. Rosie  
notices Meph, pauses and clutches her friend's arm.

MEPH  
Hello, little lady. You alright?

INDIAN GIRL  
(to Rosie)  
Do you know him?

ROSIE  
He's my mum's friend.

MEPH  
(miffed)  
Rosie.

ROSIE  
Does mum know you're here?

MEPH  
It was her idea. I thought you  
might wanna go for a kick about  
in the park.

ROSIE  
(to friend)  
It's OK, I'll walk with you  
tomorrow.

The girls part with a smile. Meph and Rosie start walking  
side by side...

MEPH  
How was school?

ROSIE  
What time's my mum gonna be home?

MEPH  
She didn't say. Not too long I  
guess.  
(beat)  
I had fun last night. Maybe I  
could eat at yours more often?

Cars pass-by packed full of KIDS with their faces pressed  
to windows.

MEPH  
I bet your friend likes the Spice  
Girls?

ROSIE  
Why?

MEPH  
Because she's Indian.

ROSIE  
I don't understand.

MEPH  
 Spice Girls-Spicy-Curry. Pakis  
 love curry don't they?

Rosie pauses mid step and looks Meph straight in the eye.

ROSIE  
 Your a dickhead!

Meph stops, stunned.

MEPH  
 What do you call me that for?

Rosie turns on her heels and walks away at speed.

MEPH  
 Wait, wait... I didn't mean it, I  
 was just kidding!

Meph jogs a step ahead of Rosie.

MEPH  
 Sorry, Rosie. C'mon please. Just  
 wait... Please.

Rosie's pace slows then comes to a halt as a tear trickles  
 down her cheek. They stand facing each other.

MEPH  
 I'm sorry, Rosie. Honestly I  
 didn't mean it, I was just  
 messing about.

Meph bends down bringing his face closer to hers.

MEPH  
 Let me make it up to ya. Come on,  
 I'll take you to the park and  
 we'll have a kick-about... What  
 do ya reckon?

Rosie pulls a tissue from her sleeve and rubs her eyes.

ROSIE  
 Don't tell mum I swore.

Meph smiles and they begin to walk side by side...only this  
 time nearer to each other.

**EXT. PATHWAY TO PARK - DAY**

Huge oak trees arch over a long path dotted with benches  
 and bins. The distance between Meph and Rosie remains  
 constant as they walk looking up only to glance at passing  
 cyclists.

**EXT. PARK - DAY**

A couple of dozen KIDS loiter around crooked goal posts.

Meph and Rosie walk by them...and keep walking till there's only greenery ahead.

**EXT. MOTORWAY - OVERHEAD PASS - DAY**

A narrow bridge stretches over a dual carriageway. Cars whiz by underneath before disappearing in the distance. Meph and Rosie are sat side by side with their legs dangling over the edge.

MEPH

I came here years ago with your  
mum.

A passing lorry honking its horn. Neither react. Meph leans back onto his elbows, then lays...

Rosie stars into the distance for several seconds then lays back and lets her arms fall by her sides where her hands almost touch Meph's.

They lay close enough to be aware enough of each others distance...and neither of them notice as the ball escapes from the plastic bag and rolls away.

**EXT. MOTORWAY - OVERHEAD PASS - DAY**

From above the they look like amputees, legless below the knees. With their backs to the ground they gaze up at the sky. Rosie lifts her arm and points toward the sky.

ROSIE

The one near the horizon. I think  
that's Mars.

MEPH

I'm sorry I wasn't there.

Rosie lowers her arm and rests it on her stomach.

ROSIE

An astronaut wants to go there in  
twenty-twenty.

MEPH

I always thought of you.

Meph turns his head to Rosie but she looks away.

**EXT. MOTORWAY - OVERHEAD PASS - DAY**

They stand, brush them selves off and walk towards the bottom of the bridge where Meph spots the football amongst the grass.

MEPH

I forgot about that ball... Wait,  
how the fuck did it get here?

Rosie throws him a disapproving look, then smiles.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - NIGHT**

Tanya is leant against the door frame with a fag in her hand, eyeing them as they approach.

TANYA

Sure you're late enough?

Rosie slips past Tanya and into the house.

MEPH

See ya, Rosie.

TANYA

I didn't mean you could have her  
all fuckin' day.  
(to Rosie)  
Go on...upstairs!

Rosie throws Meph a quick wave before dashing off.

MEPH

Sorry, Tanya. Didn't mean to be  
so long.

Tanya puffs away, studying him closely.

TANYA

Yeah, OK.  
(shakes her head)  
You can come Sunday if you want?

MEPH

Yeah, definitely. See you then,  
then.

Meph tries to hide his relief as they part with a smile.

**EXT. RAILWAY TRACKS - NIGHT**

The railway track and its support beams are lit only by the cast off light of nearby houses and the occasional passing train.

Meph and Phil are sat on the track, dragging on the same cigarette and picking stones from the treads of their identical trainers.

MEPH

Where were ya all those years?

PHIL

All around. Leeds. Coventry.  
Before here Norwich. I had a  
labouring job there.

Phil pulls a flask from his jacket pocket, takes a swig and pushes the flask at Meph.

MEPH

Nah, thanks.

Phil buries the flask back in his jacket and throws the remainder of the fag away.

PHIL

Work going alright?

Meph nods and lights up another fag.

MEPH

Gonna stick around then?

PHIL

Haven't got much choice. I'm  
pretty much broke. I'll pop along  
to the job-center tomorrow and  
see what they have.

Meph passes the fag to Phil.

PHIL

I ain't got anywhere else to go  
anyway.

**INT. FACTORY - CANTEEN - DAY**

Meph is using his trolley to help Clair move a vending machine.

CLAIR

Let's just leave it here. My arms  
are hurting.

MEPH

You're the boss.

CLAIR

Do you help your wife with things  
like you help me with?



Meph laughs.

MEPH

I ain't married. I don't think there's a woman alive who'd marry me.

CLAIR

I would.

MEPH

(blushing)  
You're a sweet little thing.  
(playfully)  
If only I was ten years younger huh?

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph is alone, fag in hand. Curtains drawn. A commercial radio station fills the air with crackle and commercials. A bang at the door startles Meph from his near slumber.

MEPH

Who the fuck's that?

STEVEN

It's me mate. Let me in will ya?

Meph throws on a T-shirt, switches off the radio and opens the door. Steven is stood beside MICKY (22).

MEPH

(to Steven but looking at Micky)  
Who's he?

STEVEN

Him? Micky. Thought you knew him!

Micky leans forward with his right arm outstretched.

MICKY

Watcha, Meph. Steve's told me all about ya. Says you're a fuckin' mental!

Meph gives a firm handshake as Steven squeezes himself past Meph. Seconds later Micky follows.

MEPH

(sarcastic)  
Come in won't ya?  
(to Steven)  
Got my money then?

STEVEN

That's what I wanted to talk to ya about. Wanna fag? Have a pack.

Steven chucks a pack onto Meph's bed.

STEVEN (CONT)

Micky knows someone who works in co-op. Sorted us out as cheaply as free.

MEPH

So why you here then?

STEVEN

(looks around the room)  
Fucking hell this place is a dump. What happened to the cleaner?

MEPH

My old man's moved in.

STEVEN

Didn't expect that. Been a while innit. Work going alright?

MEPH

Yeah.

STEVEN

How long you got this place for th-

MEPH

Less of the bullocks, Steven. Have you got my money or what?

STEVEN

I did have but my fucking brother took it off me.

(looks at Micky)

Didn't he?

Micky nods sheepishly.

STEVEN

The cunt reckons I owed him it.

Micky plops himself down on the end of Meph's bed.

MEPH

(to Micky, sarcastic)

Sit down wont ya? Make yourself comfortable.

MICKY

Cheers, Meph.

STEVEN

(to Meph)

Mate, I know it looks like I'm taking the piss but I need to ask for a favor.

Meph's brows furrow. Micky quickly climbs to his feet.

MICKY

Got an ash tray, Meph?

Meph points to the window then gestures for a fag from Micky. Mickey quickly hands him one.

STEVEN

It's my brother... He told me I need to get ya to fight at his next show or he'll kick my head in!

MEPH

Wha's that gotta do with me? Not my problem is it?

STEVEN

Yeah I know. But my back is to the wall, mate. I've got no one else to turn to-

MEPH

(nods at Micky)

You've got him!

STEVEN

He's useless! My brother's dead fuckin' serious this time.

(beat)

We've always looked out for each other before ain't we?

Meph takes a moment to collect his thoughts.

MEPH

I can't get in trouble. Not now. I'm done with the fighting.

STEVEN

But I've already spoke to him. He said he'll pay ya a grand for it!

Meph lights up and paces the room. Silence and shifty eyes.

STEVEN

Can we go outside for a sec? Just you and me, Gav. It's too stuffy in here!

Meph nods and they make their way to the door.

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - NIGHT**

They stand looking out at the surrounding fields. City lights flicker in the distance.

MEPH

Can I trust him in there?

Meph peeps through a window into the caravan.

STEVEN

Yeah, Mickey's alright.

Meph takes one last toke on his fag and flicks it away.

STEVEN

Sorry to come round and ask ya like this. I didn't have any other option though. I really need your help, Meph.

MEPH

I dunno. I wanna help ya but I've got too much to lose. If Tanya finds out I'm fucked!

STEVEN

How's she gonna know? I ain't gonna tell anyone.

MEPH

Word gets around... or if I get hurt, she'll know then.

STEVEN

You won't get hurt. Just train hard for it.

MEPH

When is it?

STEVEN

Day after next.

MEPH

You're fucking joking!... How can I get ready before that?

STEVEN

Gav, you're like a horse. You'll be fine.

MEPH

Bullocks! I ain't trained in ages. I wouldn't last thirty seconds.

Meph looks out at the city in the distance, Steven copies.

MEPH  
Give us a fag?

Steven rummages through his pockets nervously.

STEVEN  
They're inside.

Meph sighs and turns away.

MEPH  
Alright, fuck it, I'll do it!

STEVEN  
Ah cheers, Meph!

MEPH  
But I'm only doing it for the  
money... And, Steve-

STEVEN  
Yeah?

MEPH  
I swear if you ask me to do  
anything like this again, I'll  
fuckin' end ya!

Steven nods submissively. The sound of a draw shutting emanates from the van. Meph rushes over to the caravan door, opens it and sees Micky looking through a draw. Meph rushes in, grabs Micky by the hair and drags him out.

MEPH  
What the fuck you doing ya cunt?

Meph throws Micky to the ground and puts the boot in. Micky curls up, covering his head with his arms.

MICKY  
I weren't doing anything!

Meph puts another kick in. Steven grabs Meph and pulls him off but Meph shakes himself loose. Steven jumps between them.

MEPH  
Get the fuck out of my way!

Steven raises his palms to Meph.

STEVEN  
(calming tone)  
OK, Meph, It's alright... Just  
chill out, yeah! C'mon mate it's  
me... We got a history remember?  
Just relax... C'mon relax.

Meph goes to side-step Steven but Steven continues to shield Micky.

STEVEN  
Relax, mate. Just chill yeah?.

Meph breathes in deeply. Spits in Micky's direction.

MEPH  
(to Steven)  
Go on, fuck off!... And don't bring that cunt here again.

STEVEN  
OK, Gav... I'm sorry, mate. I wont bring him again.

Meph walks back to the caravan.

STEVEN  
You still gonna do the fight though yeah?

Meph enters the caravan and SLAMS the DOOR behind him.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph's wedges his feet under the base of his bed and performs sit-ups.

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph shadow boxes and uses the reflection from one of the caravan's windows to monitor his form.

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - DOORSTEP - DAY**

Meph is sat staring into the middle distance, his T-shirt soaked through with sweat.

**EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT**

Meph and Steven wait beside a phone box. Speakers on wheels hurtle by, drum and base blurting out. A bashed up Ford Transit pulls up to the curb. The guys climb in the back and the van disappears off into the night.

**INT. BACK OF VAN - NIGHT**

Other than a small light that flickers on and off the back the van is almost pitch black.

STEVEN  
This usually how it goes?

MEPH  
Sometimes. Not the first time  
I've known fuck all about who I'm  
fighting or-

DRIVER (O.S.)  
That light working in there?

STEVEN  
Nah, mate. Sort it will ya?

A loud BANG and the light stays off.

**INT. WAREHOUSE - BACK OF VAN - NIGHT**

Meph and Steven wait anxiously. Muffled shouting and the sound of the British anthem. The van's doors swing wide open, blinding white light rushes in and they cover their eyes with their hands.

**INT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - WAREHOUSE - NIGHT**

Meph and Steven climb out and are immediately surrounded by a mass of white face and bomber jackets. The warehouse is draped with Union Jacks and posters that read: 'BRITON NEEDS YOU!'.  
A MAN (33) in a leather jacket swaggers over to them.

STEVEN  
(to MAN)  
Alright, Andrew?

Andrew ignores Steven and looks Meph up and down.

ANDREW  
(to Meph)  
Heard you're a bit handy. Don't  
look much to me. Still though,  
easy one for you tonight.

MEPH  
When am I on?

ANDREW  
When are ya ready?

Meph takes his jacket off.

MEPH  
When ever he is!

Andrew looks Meph straight in the eye.

ANDREW

Don't hang about do ya? I like that... He's warmed up already. C'mon and follow me then, Rocky.

MEPH

Just hands or all in?

Andrew shrugs his shoulders then walks Meph through the CROWD and to the door of a large metal container. Meph stands looking into its blackened hull. In its furthest corner a young INDIAN MAN with a bloodied face cowers with his back to the wall. Meph turns to face Andrew and looks him in the eye.

MEPH

I'm not having anything to do with this shit!

ANDREW

C'mon, Meph. Smash the fucking Paki and give 'em what they come for!

MEPH

Fuck off. I'm not doing this. It ain't right.

Andrew steps forward and leans closer to Meph.

ANDREW

Look you fucking cunt, if you don't smash that fucking Punjab in, this lot will smash you in!

Meph looks over to Steven but Steven melts back into the crowd.

Meph turns to face the container and his expression morphs from fear to anger. He charges forward.

A fist repeatedly slams into a face. Knuckles tearing deeper with each strike.

**INT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - WAREHOUSE - TOILET - NIGHT**

Meph stands alone with blood streaming from his hand.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph props himself against the sink and washes his hand with tap water.



**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - DAY**

Meph (wearing goalie gloves) is sat on a small plastic chair. Rosie is sat on the ground opposite with her rock collection laid out between them.

ROSIE

(picks up a rock)

This is Amethyst, it's my favorite.

(points to another rock)

And that one is Quarts.

MEPH

The same as what's in a watch?

ROSIE

I don't know. Maybe.

Meph points to an aqua coloured rock.

MEPH

What's that one called?

ROSIE

Aqua Marine.

MEPH

Like water?

ROSIE

I'm surprised you know what aqua is!

MEPH

I can read you cheeky lump! And when I'm on the bog I always read what ingredients are in shampoo. And that's what it has in it!

They share a giggle as Tanya approaches from the kitchen.

TANYA

Hello lovers.

(looks at Meph's gloves)

What you got them on for?

Meph freezes.

ROSIE

Were gonna play football out the back. Aren't we, Meph?

MEPH

Yeah... Yeah, c'mon then.

Tanya watches them as they trot away.

**EXT. SMALL PARK AT BACK OF HOUSE - DAY**

ROSIE  
Why are you them?

MEPH  
I cut my hand. Thought these  
might stop the bleeding.

ROSIE  
Mum says you used to fight for  
money.

MEPH  
(nods sheepishly)  
You don't have to call me Meph  
you know? You can call me-

ROSIE  
I forgot the ball. Wait here.

Rosie turns back to the house and dashes off. Meph releases the glove's velcro strap, takes it off and looks down at his hand. Rosie springs up from behind but freezes at the sight of his hand.

ROSIE  
That's not from a cut!

MEPH  
I wanted to get a bit more money  
than what I'm getting at the  
factory so I could buy you  
something nice.

She smiles to herself.

ROSIE  
No football then?

MEPH  
Next time.

She looks down, disappointed.

MEPH  
Anyway I better get going. I've  
gotta meet my dad.  
(beat)  
Maybe you could meet him soon. Or  
maybe not. Your mum's not keen on  
him. Neither was I, but he looks  
like he's trying to sort himself  
out... And I reckon everyone  
deserves another chance.

ROSIE  
I guess.

MEPH

Your mum gave me a chance. Only seemed right to give him one.

Rosie smiles and looks at his hand.

ROSIE

If the gloves hurt too much you don't have to wear them again. Just don't go back inside. I'll tell mum you had to go.

(points to a pathway)

You can go that way instead. It takes you back to the main road.

MEPH

Look at you, my little partner in crime!

Meph starts off down the pathway, pauses and flashes a smile back at Rosie. She smiles then darts off.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph is sat on his bed with his phone pressed to his ear.

MEPH

(into phone)

...Tanya. The reason I called was 'cos I wanted to ask for a favor.

TANYA (V.O.)

What?

MEPH

(into phone)

Can I take Rosie to Yarmouth. Just for a couple of days?

TANYA (V.O.)

Fuck off I wouldn't let you have her that long!

(after a pause)

You can have her for a day.

MEPH

(into phone)

A day is good.

TANYA (V.O.)

And not so far away either.

MEPH

(into phone)

Alright.

TANYA (V.O.)  
 Anyway that ain't even a favor is  
 it?

MEPH  
 (into phone)  
 I guess not, no. How about I take  
 her to Norfolk?

TANYA (V.O.)  
 Yeah, alright. You gotta be back  
 by nine though!

**INT. MOTORWAY - CAR - DAY**

Meph is at the wheel, Rosie peers out at the passing  
 landscape of fields and hills

ROSIE  
 It stinks in here!

She pinches her nose and makes a wafting motion.

MEPH  
 Nah it don't, that's just the  
 smell of nature.

Rosie playfully furrows her brows and crosses her arms as  
 if angry.

ROSIE  
 Smells like pooh.

MEPH  
 It is. Well, in a way. It's  
 manure innit?

ROSIE  
 It's your feet!

MEPH  
 Oi! Haven't you got some homework  
 to do? Your mum said you had.

ROSIE  
 I've done it already.

MEPH  
 Yeah?

ROSIE  
 Yeah!

MEPH  
 When?... No actually, what was it  
 then?

ROSIE  
I had to revise the alphabet.

MEPH  
Easy!

ROSIE  
In French.

MEPH  
Still easy.

ROSIE  
Do you even know it in English?

MEPH  
Yeah.

ROSIE  
Go on then!

MEPH  
I will then.

ROSIE  
Go on then!

MEPH  
I know the letters of the  
alphabet, just not so sure about  
the order.

Rosie bursts into a drum role of giggles.

MEPH  
Wanna stick your head of the  
window?

She nods enthusiastically.

MEPH  
Wind your window down then, but  
Tell me if there's something  
coming. Your mum would kill me if  
we lost your head!

Her laughter is almost drown out by the rushing wind.

**EXT. HOLKHAM BEACH - DAY**

Miles of sand and sporadic patches of grass.

They amble along slowly, Meph kicking up sand and Rosie  
looking over the occasional pebble.

**EXT. OUTSIDE FISH AND CHIP SHOP - BENCH - DAY**

They sit beside each other eating chips. Both use one hand to eat with and the other to keep the paper from blowing away.

**EXT. PIER - DUSK**

They hug their jackets as they look out at the ocean.

ROSIE  
Mum said she left you.

Meph nods.

ROSIE  
Why?

MEPH  
Because I was never around much.  
I'd disappear for days. After a  
while she'd had enough and booted  
me out. When I went back, you  
were both gone. I tried to find  
you but no one knew where she'd  
taken you.

Rosie looks down at the braking waves.

MEPH  
You didn't see me on the bus that  
time then?

ROSIE  
What bus?

MEPH  
Don't worry about it, I'm just  
making things up.  
(off Rosie's confused  
expression)  
We all used to hang about in the  
same group. There was a load of  
us. Did she tell you that?

Rosie shakes her head.

MEPH  
She did well to sort herself out.  
I think getting pregnant helped.  
She did try to help me too but I  
just threw it back in her face.

ROSIE  
Didn't you love us?

Meph reaches over to pinch Rosie's cheek but she leans back and pushes his hand away. Meph looks away, rubs his nose, tries again. Again she pushes his hand away, but this time more aggressively.

ROSIE

Fuck off!

Rosie turns and quickly walks back along the pier towards the beach. Meph follows.

**INT. CAR - NIGHT**

Meph at the wheel, and beside him, Rosie curled up on the seat, asleep.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - NIGHT**

Meph carries Rosie with her head resting on his shoulder.

TANYA

Sleeps heavy don't she? Come in  
and lay her down on the couch.  
I'll get her blanket.

Meph enters the house.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - FRONT-ROOM - NIGHT**

Meph watches Tanya tuck Rosie in from the door way.

TANYA

Have fun then?

MEPH

Yeah. Listen, Tanya. I just wanna  
say-

TANYA

It's alright, Meph. Don't worry  
about it. Wanna fag?

MEPH

Nah. I better get going.

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph climbs over the low wire-mesh fencing and sees that the caravan door has been smashed. He legs it over and surveys the damage.

The sound of a cupboard door closing comes from inside the caravan. Meph charges in with his fists clenched.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Phil is sitting on the bed, eyeing over their possessions that have been strewn across the floor. What little had occupied the room has been over turned.

MEPH

When the fuck did this happen?

PHIL

I dunno! I only got here five minutes ago.

MEPH

Fuck! Fuck!  
(scans the room)  
What's gone?

PHIL

I dunno. Nothing. Nothing of mine.

MEPH

Go to the far side of the field and see if any cunt is hanging around there! If ya see anyone, shout and I'll come.

Phil leaves. Meph opens the cupboard under the sink, reaches in, feels around.

MEPH

The fucking cunts!

Phil runs back in.

PHIL

What is it, Gav? You alright?

MEPH

No I'm not fucking alright! I had ninety quid in here and now those fucker's have got it.

Meph walks back to the main door and Phil Follows closely behind.

MEPH

It was Steven and Mickey. I'm gonna tear their fucking heads off!

PHIL

I'll help ya, son.

Meph acknowledges Phil with a nod then looks at the damage. Meph notices that the door had been kicked out from the inside.



MEPH

Wait a sec. If they got in through the door, why's the damage on the inside?

PHIL

What do ya mean?

Meph points to the dent in the door.

PHIL

Maybe they came in through the window.

Meph goes over to the window. It's still closed, and even after he opens it, the gap would be too small for a person to fit through.

MEPH

Steven's skinny, but he ain't that fuckin' skinny. And why would he close it after he got in.

PHIL

So no one could hear him?

MEPH

We're in a field, Phil. Who the fuck is gonna hear him out here?

PHIL

I see your point.

MEPH

Where were ya before I came back?

PHIL

Wha... Pub. I was at the pub.

MEPH

You alright for money now then? I Thought you said you were broke.

PHIL

It was just for a treat.

MEPH

Yeah, treat for what?

PHIL

Nothing. Just a treat.

Meph expression hardens, he takes a step closer to Phil.

MEPH

What's in your pockets?

PHIL  
Nothing... Fags.

MEPH  
What else?

PHIL  
Nothing else.

Phil's face goes white.

MEPH  
Let me see.

PHIL  
C'mon, Gav. What you trying to say?

MEPH  
I think its fucking obvious what I'm saying! Show me what's in your fucking pockets... Now!

Phil turns his pockets out; nothing but fags and a few coins that drop to the floor. Meph pauses for a moment then passes Phil and sits on the bed.

MEPH  
Sorry, Phil... I didn't mean it but I needed the money for Rosie.

Phil nods, crouches to pick up his coins. Meph scans the room and spots Phil's bag beside the door. Meph grabs the bag and empties it's contents on to the bed...

Nothing in it but an empty bottle, an empty wallet, and a square looking sock containing the ninety pound.

Meph pulls out the money from the sock then sits on the bed, stunned. Phil anxiously paws at his shirt collar.

PHIL  
I'm sorry, Gav. I needed it to for your auntie. I owe her hundreds.

MEPH  
Go.

PHIL  
Gav, C'mon mate. There it is, no harm done, yeah?

MEPH  
Go... Now... Before I can't stop myself.

PHIL  
Gav, please. I'm sorry, son.  
Please.

MEPH  
Never come near me again or I'll  
fuckin' end ya.

Phil looks down, turns and leaves the caravan.

Meph sits alone staring at the wall. Then stands and charges out...

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Tackles Phil to the ground and starts laying into him. Phil tries to cover his face but gets knocked out after a flurry of punches get through.

Meph stands, looks down at Phil, spits on him, drags him across the field and leaves him nearer the road.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph is sat on the end his bed, his head buried in his hands.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - DAY**

Meph leans a girls bike (with a sticker the reads: 'STAR-CRUZER' on the frame) against the plastic chair in the center of the garden, puts his gloves back on, knocks on the kitchen door, turns and runs to hide behind the fence.

Rosie opens the door and her eyes immediately fix on the bike. She runs over to it barefooted and climbs on.

MEPH  
(jumps out)  
Boo!

She doesn't even notice him as she starts pulling on the brakes.

MEPH  
Do ya like it?

ROSIE  
Huh?

MEPH  
Like it?

ROSIE  
Yeah it's cool. Is it for me?

MEPH  
Who else is it gonna be for?

Rosie turns the handle bars and to and fro.

ROSIE  
Thanks, Meph.

MEPH  
It's not the one I wanted to get  
ya. Couldn't afford that one yet.  
I'll get you it soon though.

ROSIE  
No don't. This one is awesome! I  
like the sticker. Thanks, Meph.  
Mega thanks!

Meph opens the gate and Rosie speeds past. Tanya looks on  
from the kitchen door.

MEPH  
(to Rosie)  
You forgot your shoes!

TANYA  
Meph.

MEPH  
Tanya. Didn't see you there.

TANYA  
Come inside. I want to ask you  
something.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

MEPH  
Everything OK?

TANYA  
I bumped into Steven the other  
day.

MEPH  
Yeah. Didn't think you'd wanna  
speak with him.

TANYA  
Take your gloves off.

MEPH  
Why?

TANYA  
Take them off. Let me see your  
hands.

Meph pulls the left glove off.

TANYA  
And the other one.

He reluctantly pulls off the right glove. She coldly stares at his hand.

TANYA  
I told you didn't I? I fucking told you what would happen if you started fighting again!

MEPH  
Hang on a--

TANYA  
No, Meph. You fucking hang on!

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY**

Rosie watches Meph and Tanya arguing. Their voices muffled by the window.

Seconds later Meph bursts through the back door and walks straight past Rosie. Tanya follows.

TANYA  
Don't you fucking dare come back, you cunt!

MEPH  
Fuck off, Tanya!

TANYA  
I'll have you done in you fucking wanker! Cunt!

Meph slams the gate behind him and walks off.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph rummages through a draw and pulls out a vegetable knife.

**EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT**

Meph running, his face contorting with a mixture of fatigue and anger...

**EXT. HOUSING ESTATE - OUTSIDE SQUAT - NIGHT**

Meph slows to a halt. Gasps for breath.

**INT. SQUAT - NIGHT**

Meph waits hidden behind the living room door. His forehead glistening with sweat in what little light there is in the room.

The sound of a window being opened followed by a single muffled voice. The voice becomes clearer...

STEVEN  
(into phone)  
...Fella, yeah if you're nearby  
come over... Alright. In a bit.

The silence is punctuated by the occasional bump and clang. In the dark Steven resembles a shadow, featureless and black. He enters the living room and lights a cigarette. The lighter briefly illuminates the room...

And from the black Meph charges at Steven, grabs him by the throat and rams his head against the wall. Steven releases a pathetic squeal as Meph pushes his thumb deep into Steven's eye.

MEPH  
You Fuck... I'm gonna fuckin'  
kill ya!

Steven retaliates by pushing at Meph's face and forcing him back a step into the darkness of the room.

In the black; the sound of shuffling feet, furniture breaking and the guttural sound of violence.

Meph forces Steven back into the light of the doorway and tightens his grip on Steven's throat, then reaches into his pocket and pulls out the knife. The blade reflects what little light there is in the room.

Steven squirms and gasps for air as Meph's presses the knife against Steven's throat. Steven freezes, his eyes fix on Meph's face. Meph pushes his face into Steven's and Steven starts hyperventilating.

Meph  
Gimme a reason not to end ya!

Meph eases his grip on Steven's neck just enough to allow him to speak.

STEVEN  
I dunno what... What you're on  
about, mate. What have I done?

Meph presses the knife deeper, draws blood.

MEPH

You know what did you fuck...  
Telling Tanya about the fight!

STEVEN

Meph. Meph, Mate, I never meant  
to... Ya gotta believe me, it  
just sort of slipped out ya know?  
She didn't even look bothered...  
Honestly, Meph. I never meant to  
cause-

Meph screams out and head-butts into Steven in the face.  
Steven's unconscious body slumps to the ground. Blood  
gushing from his nose, mouth and neck.

Meph looks down at the misshapen wreck, spits on it and  
disappears into the darkness.

**EXT. SQUAT - GARDEN - NIGHT**

Meph pauses on hearing a CAR and crouches behind a bush.  
Seconds later Andrew and Mickey pass by as they walk to the  
rear of the squat.

**EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT**

Light from a zebra crossing flickers on and off and drizzle  
falls lightly on the ground. Other than Meph, the streets  
are devoid of life.

Meph walks with his hands buried deep in his pockets.

**EXT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT**

Meph slumps against a large metal bin and drops a bottle of  
whisky to the ground.

**EXT. TOY-STORE WINDOW - NIGHT**

Meph stands with his head pressing against the window of a  
toy-store.

**EXT. PARK BENCH - DAWN**

Meph is sat alone, staring into the distance, lost in  
thought.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph leans over the sink, empties his guts.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

A muted TV flickers away showing two fat people arguing in front of a live audience. Meph is unshaven, he's watching the TV but he's looking through it. He's holding a can of cider and beside his feet are several more cans; all empty.

**INT. FACTORY - FORECOURT - DAY**

From a distance Meph is being spoken to by an irate looking SUPERIOR. Their words drowned out by the machines. The Superior walks off leaving Meph alone by a trolley. Meph drops his helmet in the trolley and leaves.

**EXT. MOTORWAY - OVERHEAD PASS - DAY**

Meph sits with his legs hanging over the edge and a half-full bottle of whisky clasped tightly in his hand.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph hands his TV to a shell-suit wearing FAT MAN (40).

FAT MAN

Has it got a remote?

Meph shakes his head.

FAT MAN

How about fifteen then?

Meph stares at the FAT MAN coldly and the FAT MAN hands Meph twenty pounds.

**INT. CARAVAN - TOILET - NIGHT**

Meph is slumped over the toilet retching up sick. He then collapses beside it.

**EXT. NEWSAGENTS - DAY**

Meph crouches behind a wall. He watches Rosie as she walk past then follows her from a distance.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - DOORSTEP - DAY**

Rosie opens the door, steps half-way in, pauses, looks back and sees Meph nearby. Their eyes meet.

TANYA

C'mon Rosie, You're letting the cold air in!



Rosie closes the door.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Other than a sleeping bag in the corner the caravan is almost empty. Meph, now bearded, is asleep. A knock at the door wakes him. Meph gets out of bed and staggers over to the window and looks out.

MEPH

Who's that?

Silence.

MEPH

Who the fuck's out that?

TANYA

It's me, calm down.

Meph goes to the door and opens it. Tanya invites herself in.

TANYA

Stinks in here. Where's your telly?

MEPH

Sold it.

TANYA

Yeah, your job not paying you enough?

MEPH

They had to let me go.

TANYA

Oh, right. Been keeping alright otherwise?

MEPH

Wha's it look like?  
(off Tanya's reaction)  
Rosie OK?

TANYA

She got in trouble at school the other day for fighting. Sticking up for you her teacher said.

MEPH

She OK?

Tanya nods...

TANYA

This fucking area. Nothing stays secret.

(beat)

Anyway I'm having a BBQ this weekend. For Rosie's tenth. You can come if you want.

Meph lifts his head.

MEPH

Yeah, of course.

Tanya sees the cans on the floor.

TANYA

See you're drinking again then?

Meph nods. Tanya SIGHS, leans against the sink.

TANYA

You can't keep going back to that shit, Meph!

MEPH

I'll sort it... What time does it start?

TANYA

Ten. But I don't want you coming until after eleven. I don't want the other parents seeing you.

They stand staring at each other for a moment before Tanya makes her way for the door.

TANYA

She's missed you.

**INT. CARAVAN - DAY**

Meph tidies the caravan, filling a bin-liner with empty bottles and cans. One of the cans hasn't been finished. He stares at it for a few seconds then goes to the sink and pours it away.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - DAY**

Rosie's party is in full swing; music, a small bouncy castle, BOYS fighting BOYS and a FAT BOY poking fun at GIRLS. Meph stands alone in the corner of the garden watching Rosie with her friends. Rosie continually throws him glances, clearly happy to have him there.

The KIDS form a semi-orderly queue to collect a piece of the birthday cake. Rosie sneaks away from the group and approaches Meph.

MEPH  
Having fun?

ROSIE  
Yeah... I'm glad you came.

MEPH  
Thanks. Your mum says you've been a bit sad recently. Not because of anyone I know is it?

ROSIE  
(smiles shyly)  
Probably not anyone you know.

Meph smiles.

MEPH  
Got any good prezzies?

Rosie glances back at the group, then smiles as she shakes her head.

ROSIE  
Mum got me a necklace.

MEPH  
Necklace? Ah she's beat me to it!

He pulls out a small box-shaped present from his pocket and hands it to her.

She immediately tears off the wrapping-paper revealing a small blue box, opens it and pulls a out a silver necklace, then pretends she likes it by pressing it against her chest.

ROSIE  
Thanks, Meph. It's really nice.

MEPH  
Bloody liar! Look back in the box, underneath the padding.

Rosie pulls out the padding and finds two tickets to the science museum. She struggles to contain her excitement.

ROSIE  
Ah cool, thanks. It's wicked!  
When can we go?

MEPH  
Whenever you want.

ROSIE

Tomorrow!

MEPH

We'd have to clear it with your mum first, but that might be a bit too soon for her I think.

She smiles warmly.

MEPH

You can chuck the necklace away if you like? Or give it to Tanya, she likes that kind of tat.

Rosie glances back to the KIDS then gives Meph's arm a squeeze.

**EXT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - BACK-GARDEN - DAY**

Other than a few stragglers the party has all but died down. Meph and Rosie are sat beside a table covered in empty plastic cups and mushed up cake.

MEPH

Your mum did a good job today didn't she?

ROSIE

I suppose. These kids aren't nice to me at school though. They only came because of her. They're her friend's kids.

MEPH

Well at least it wasn't just me here.

ROSIE

I wouldn't have minded.

Meph looks away, smiling. Rosie blushes.

ROSIE

Wanna dance?

MEPH

Nah, I'm no good at it. You go ahead though, I'll watch ya!

ROSIE

Please, that would be the best present!

It's Meph's turn to blush.

ROSIE

Please?

MEPH

Ah bugger it... A quick one then.

Rosie grabs Meph by the hand and leads him to a grassy patch where she starts to twist and bounce. Meph wobbles from side to side.

**INT. TANYA AND ROSIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Meph helps Tanya put away the last of the clean dishes.

MEPH

You did good today. I think she enjoyed herself.

TANYA

You looked like you enjoyed yourself more than she did!

Meph washes his hands and Tanya lights a cigarette.

TANYA

You stopped drinking yet?

MEPH

Yeah.

TANYA

Really?

She studies him closely.

TANYA

How is it you can just stop now when you never could before?

MEPH

Never had a proper reason to before did I? But I do have now.  
(beat)  
For Rosie.

Tanya looks away, sighs.

TANYA

She's been here ten years!

**EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY**

Meph and Rosie walk side by side just inches from each other. The hustle and bustle of suits and shopping bags keep them from talking.

Rosie pulls down on Meph's arm and gestures to a girls' fashion store with an assortment of revealing clothes on display.

ROSIE  
Do you think they looks nice?

MEPH  
Couldn't see you in that. More  
your mum's style.

ROSIE  
All the girls dress like that at  
school.

MEPH  
Fu... Don't worry about them.  
You're better than they are.

Meph walks Rosie nearer the shop window and out of the way of the passing shoppers.

MEPH  
Just do what makes you happy  
yeah? Don't Worry about what  
others think.

Meph bends at the knees so that he's face to face with Rosie. Rosie tries to turn away but Meph gently pulls her back to him.

MEPH  
You're nothing like the other  
kids round here. You're better  
then they are. I dunno why but  
you just are!

ROSIE  
Mum never says anything like  
that.

**INT. LARGE SUPERMARKET - DAY**

Rows and rows of various bright colors and plastic wrapped things. Rosie leads Meph by the arm to a section containing stationery goods.

ROSIE  
This is where I got them last  
time.

She eagerly fingers through a selection of felt-tipped pens and picks up a pack.

ROSIE  
See!

MEPH

Well have those then if that's  
what you're after?

ROSIE

Thanks, Meph.

MEPH

You don't have to keep calling me  
that you know?

She smiles.

ROSIE

I'll draw you a picture of the  
solar system if you like? Did you  
know that people used to think we  
were in the center of it?

Meph smiles and shrugs his shoulders.

MEPH

Draw a picture for your mum as  
well then. She'd like that I bet.

ROSIE

She says I'm good at drawing but  
never puts them up.

MEPH

Really? That's a bit crap.

ROSIE

She says I'm too old. But she  
never put them up when I was  
younger.

Meph shakes his head disapprovingly.

#### **INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Meph is standing beside a small camping heater warming  
beans in a saucepan. Rosie is drawing.

MEPH

Let me have that one when you've  
finished won't ya?. I'll stick it  
on the wall somewhere.

Rosie smiles, nods.

MEPH

And don't forget to put your  
signature on it so then I could  
sell it when you're famous!

Rosie giggles.

Meph starts stirring the beans again then pauses on hearing a car outside. Its headlights stream through into the dimly lit caravan. Meph drops the spoon, looks at Rosie then goes to the window.

Meph's POV: A fogged up window, and outside two lights against the black.

The sound of car doors slamming shut. Rosie looks at Meph with fear in her eyes.

MEPH

Stay there!

Her hands clench up, scrunching up her drawing.

A loud bang on the door. Meph grabs a knife from the draw and edges closer to the door.

Smash... the door is almost torn from its hinges knocking Meph back to the sink and causing him to drop the knife. Andrew, Steven and Micky charge in and start laying into him.

Meph covers up, climbs to his feet and starts swinging punches. He catches Micky clean on the jaw and drops him. Andrew pulls half a pool cue from his jacket and cracks it across Meph's back. Meph falls to his knees and Steven kicks him in the face, grabs his head and rams his head against a cupboard.

ANDREW

Not so fuckin' hard now, are ya?!

Meph grabs Steven's leg and bites hard. Steven CRIES out in pain, grabs the knife from the floor and digs it into Meph's back. Meph lets out a cry then pushes Steven back to the bed and he crashes down beside Rosie. Rosie screams out in fear.

Meph climbs to his feet and reaches around for the knife in his back. Andrew sneaks up from behind and smashes the pool cue over Meph's head. Meph drops. Unconscious.

Rosie curls up in the corner, screaming. Steven climbs to his feet and limps over to Andrew.

STEVEN

What the fuck do we do now?

ANDREW

Take her outside!

Mickey rises to his feet, rubbing his jaw.

MICKY

What's going on?



ANDREW

Get out!

Micky staggers out as Andrew crouches beside Meph.

ANDREW

You messed with the wrong fuckin' family, Rocky.

(looks over his shoulder)

I ain't keen on Steven but no cunt's gonna make a fool of me. If you fuck with my family and I don't do anything what are people gonna think of me, eh?

Andrew stands, kicks Meph in the face, leaves.

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Andrew forces the door shut, turns to Steven.

ANDREW

Burn the fucker to the ground!

STEVEN

Wha?

ANDREW

Set the fuckin' thing on fire.

MICKY

You can't do that.

ANDREW

Do it!

STEVEN

He's right, you can't set it on fire... Meph's still in there.

Rosie screams out and bites Steven's hand.

STEVEN

Arrrrgh!... Ya fuckin' bitch.

He lets go and she runs back to the caravan then bangs on the door.

ROSIE

Meph!... Meph!

ANDREW

Grab her you fuckin' idiot.

Andrew pulls a lighter from his pocket and walks back to the caravan.

Steven grabs Rosie and pulls her back from the caravan, she starts kicking and screaming. Andrew reaches his arm through an open window and sets fire to the netting then steps back and watches as the fire builds.

Mickey wipes his brow, looks at Andrew and Steven.

MICKY

I don't want anything to do with this... I ain't going down for murder!

Mickey looks Steven in the eye. Steven looks away. Mickey shakes his head, turns and legs it into the dark. Rosie tries to struggle free but Steven tightens his grip.

STEVEN

We better get going... The rozzers are gonna be here soon!

Andrew nods and turns towards the car.

STEVEN

What shall I do with her?

Andrew shrugs his shoulders then looks back at Rosie as she fights to get loose.

ANDREW

Leave her.

Steven throws her to the ground then jogs to over to the car.

Andrew and Steven pause before getting into the car and look back at the fire which is now almost engulfing the entire roof of the caravan. Rosie climbs to her feet and runs to the caravan then starts banging on its side.

ROSIE

Meph!... Wake up!... Wake up!

In the b.g. Andrew and Steven leaving in the car.

Rosie tries to pull open the door. She grabs the handle with both hands and wedges her foot against the paneling, pulls hard... the door tears open sending her crashing back to the ground. She gets up, runs to the doorway and crawls in.

**INT. CARAVAN - NIGHT**

She covers her mouth and crawls over to Meph, shakes him.

ROSIE

Wake up!... Wake up, Dad!

Meph's hand twitches.

ROSIE  
C'mon, Dad... C'mon wake up!

She grabs his arm and pulls it. His eyes open and he looks at her. Rosie crawls towards the door with Meph following just behind. They reach the door gasping for air and crawl out.

**EXT. FIELD - CARAVAN - NIGHT**

Rosie climbs to her feet then helps Meph up. They stagger a half dozen feet further from the caravan before Meph slows and collapses.

Meph motionless, blood pours from his head but his eyes never close; they remain fixed on Rosie as she screams out.

She ceases shouting and crouches beside him, sobs quietly.

The sound of a distant siren and then silence until...

OVER BLACK:

P.A. SYSTEM  
Could DR. Jeffries report to the  
front desk please. Dr. Jeffries  
to the front desk.

**INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY (ONE MONTH LATER)**

Meph is sat up in bed, he has large scar on the side of his head though he's clean shaven and looks healthier. Softer. Rosie is beside him, brushing his hair and being careful not to go near the scar. Tanya is looking on from the doorway.

TANYA  
You ready, sweetheart?

ROSIE  
Yeah.  
(to Meph)  
See you Tomorrow?

He nods.

ROSIE  
Our museum tickets are gonna  
expire soon.

MEPH  
How about we go when they let me  
out?

Rosie smiles and stands.

MEPH

Got another drawing for me then?

Rosie reaches into her bag and pulls out a picture.

**EXT. BLUE BUS-STOP - DAY**

Meph and Rosie are sat beside each other with their shoulders touching. A set of crutches have been propped against the seat beside Meph. An OLD LADY arrives, scans the time table, turns to them...

OLD LADY

Has the number five been yet?

Rosie hops off the bench then goes over and stands beside the Old Lady.

ROSIE

(looks at timetable)

It should be here soon... Maybe five minutes.

The Old Lady looks at Rosie and smiles to her. Meph watches, smiles proudly.

**FADE OUT.**