

Front Line: Cambridge

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAMBRIDGE. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY.

A CYCLIST passes by the entrance to King's College.

A swan drifts along the backs of Trinity College.

A group of TOURISTS punt along the river.

VOICEOVER

Cambridge, England. A city better known for its high IQs than its high crime rates.

A BIG-ISSUE seller outside Sainsbury's.

VOICEOVER

Tasked with keeping its streets safe are Cambridge's very finest police constable support officers. Cambridge's last line of defence.

A DRUNKEN YOB urinates on the Diana Memorial.

EXT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CAR PARK - DAY

An unmarked police car pulls up as several police vans leave.

VOICEOVER

But with the threat of funding cuts looming over them, their task has become that much harder.

CHARLIE (PRE-LAP)

Boys, girls, calm yourselves.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Raised voices highlight the fractious atmosphere as Chief Inspector CHARLES 'CHARLIE' SUTCLIFFE, 50, raises a hand to calm the OFFICERS.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm disappointed too. But we all knew cuts to our funding could--

Voices raise again, cutting Charlie off mid-sentence.

Police Constable Support Officer (PCSO) NIGEL THOMPSON, 35, British-Jamaican, stands and puffs out his chest.

NIGEL

I'll take it from here, Chief.

Nigel elbows Charlie aside before he can answer.

NIGEL
(Obama-like)
People, people. We are all here
today with one singular goal; and
that, fellow officers, is to serve.

PCSO PAUL SUTTON, 25, waves around a copy of *The Guardian*.

PAUL
How will this impact those in the
same communities who've been
promised placements?

NIGEL
All placements that have been
offered will be honoured. You have
our--

Charlie squeezes in-between Nigel and the podium.

CHARLIE
We can't make any guarantees I'm
afraid. But as soon as I know,
you'll--

Charlie and Nigel jostle for the podium. Nigel gets the upper
hand.

NIGEL
It's a fluid situation, Sutton.
Changing constantly.

Charlie wedges his leg between Nigel and the podium.

CHARLIE
They'll be no promises made. But--

NIGEL
We can only *promise* you no promises
at this stage.

CHARLIE
No promises at all. We'll just--

NIGEL
We should ask not what the force
can do for us; but what we can do
for the force.

PAUL
Would this effect our leafleting
campaign highlighting the need for
disabled access to public spaces?

Nigel shoehorns himself between Charlie's leg and the podium.

NIGEL

At the end of the day, Sutton, it's not about us--

PAUL

I know, that's why I'm--

NIGEL

It's about the people out there, the people we serve. I hope that answers your question.

Nigel waits for an applause that doesn't come, then finally concedes to the podium to Charlie.

CHARLIE

Thank you, Nigel, great job. We'd be lost without you.

PAUL

I'm compelled to inform you that attacks on those in Cambridge's LGBTQQIAAP community have gone up nearly 4%.

CHARLIE

I have no idea how to answer that.
(glances at clock)
OK, let's wrap this up. As you all leave I need you to consult the board outside. I've assigned you all a new partner for the time being. So, have fun and play ni--

BOOM!

A door at the far side of the room swings open and slams against the wall.

Heads turn as PCSO LORENZO SPASSKI, 40, British-American, swaggers in.

LORENZO

Yo, Chief! Wassup with the early start?

CHARLIE

It was always an 8.15 start, Spasski. Thompson would have briefed you.

Nigel suppresses a smile.

LORENZO

Thompson, you motherfucker! Why did you tell me 8.30? Not cool, man!

A clock behind Lorenzo clearly shows it's 8.45.

INT. TALKING HEAD. CHIEF INSPECTOR CHARLES SUTCLIFFE

CHARLIE

I did see it going better. But the changes I've made are based on each officer's star signs, so I'm sure each pairing will be fully compatible.

(thinks for a moment)

You're an Aries aren't you?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Erm, no. Capri--

CHARLIE

Capricorn! I could tell. I'm never wrong with this kind of thing.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CORRIDOR - DAY

As the officers file out, Lorenzo pushes his way through the group and squares up to Nigel.

LORENZO

Hey, dickwad! I'm your senior officer here. Pull a stunt like that again and I'll end you!

Lorenzo evils him, turns, struts away.

Nigel shakes his head in disbelief, heads to the board and stands beside Police Constable (PC) KAREN BLACK, 30.

KAREN

I can't believe it, I'm mentoring Paul Sutton. He's such a fucking woman.

NIGEL

It's not who we're with that counts, Kaz, it's who we are.

Nigel looks at the board and runs his finger down the list.

NIGEL

Oh fuck off! Where's the Chief?

The list shows Nigel has been paired with Lorenzo.

INT. TALKING HEAD. PCSO LORENZO SPASSKI

LORENZO

Sure, some people have a problem with how I bring it. But I'm not gonna change who I am for anybody.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Charlie lines up tarot cards on his desk, pauses, looks up and sees Nigel at the door.

CHARLIE

How strange. It was like my sixth-sense told me someone was there.

NIGEL

Have you got a minute, Chief?

CHARLIE

Nigel, of course. Entrée. So, what do I owe the pleasure?

NIGEL

I'm here about Spasski.

CHARLIE

Yes, what about him? I can see you two being a good pairing.

NIGEL

Not at all, Chief. I can't work with him, he's too unprofessional.

CHARLIE

That's interesting, but not a complete surprise.

Charlie turns over a number of tarot cards until one showing conflict appears.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The cards are never wrong.
(considers the cards)
Pop yourself down over there.

Charlie gestures to a small two-seater couch in the corner.

Nigel sits followed by Charlie a moment later.

NIGEL

Oh, you're sitting here too.

Charlie shuffles closer.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

And so close.

CHARLIE

Isn't it great to get the chance to catch up? So rare nowadays.

Charlie rests a hand on Nigel's shoulder.

CHARLIE

Ooh, I'm sensing a blockage in your chakras. How are you feeling?

NIGEL

Fine. I'm fine.

VOICEOVER (PRE-LAP)

Whilst PCSO Thompson discusses official police business, it's time to catch up with PC Karen Black at the training centre.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. TRAINING CENTRE - DAY

NOTE: PCs NICK DAVIS, 40, and TOM EJIOFOR, 35, British-Nigerian, are shown with their faces blurred to protect their identities during their interview.

KAREN

Just to be clear, we have to keep their identities concealed for security reasons, OK.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Understood. Though it'd be great if you guys could take us through some of your weaponry.

NICK

Yeah, no problem.

Nick unclips his Taser and holds it closer to the camera.

NICK (CONT'D)

This is an X26 Taser. It can momentarily incapacitate an offender so we can then get close enough to restrain them and remove any weapons they might have. Ideal for close range, or somebody with a machete.

Lorenzo slides into shot and tries to kiss Karen's cheek.

Karen pushes his face away.

LORENZO

You weren't doing that last night, baby.

Lorenzo tries to high-five Tom. Tom ignores him.

KAREN

Piss off, Spasski.

LORENZO
Davis, looking good, hombre.

NICK
Huh? Fuck off, Spasski, you fucking
tool!

LORENZO
Ha! Good one. Banter!

Lorenzo tenses up as Nick whips out a gun from his holster.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Charlie returns to his desk and rummages through a drawer.
Nigel waits apprehensively.

CHARLIE
Ah! Here it is.

Takes out a blue crystal.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Take this and hold it whilst we
talk. It's very calming.

Charlie's hand appears to linger as he passes it to Nigel.

CHARLIE
Can you feel it working?

NIGEL
(politely)
Yes. That's better.

CHARLIE
So what's that naughty Spasski been
doing now? You can open up to me,
Nigel.

Charlie momentarily loses himself in Nigel's eyes.

Nigel averts his gaze and looks at the floor.

NIGEL
Well to start with I think he might
have anger management issues. Just
this morning he--

CHARLIE
Is he being a bit rough with my
Nigel? I don't believe he could
push a big strong guy like you
around.

Slowly pats Nigel's knee.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Are you sure this is just about
Spasski?

NIGEL
Sorry, what?

CHARLIE
I think we both know. I noticed it
this morning at the debrief when
you were physical with me. One sec,
let me just put these on.

Charlie reaches up to a shelf behind their seat. His groin
centimetres from Nigel's face.

Charlie lights some incense sticks and wafts them around.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
They help you to relax and be
truthful.

Charlie breathes in deeply.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Oh, Nigel. That's great, really
hits the spot.

Nigel sits quietly, seemingly trapped.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
(exhaling)
It's been a while since I've done
this.

A small cough breaks the 'moment'.

Paul stands at the door looking at the Charlie's back.

CHARLIE
Not now, Sutton. We're busy!

Nigel's head pops out to the side.

NIGEL
Sutton! Is that the time? I better
get going.

Nigel slides out from under Charlie, springs to his feet and
heads for the door.

CHARLIE
I'll see what I can do about
Spasski. And remember, my door is
always open.

NIGEL
Great. Thanks.

Nigel hurries Paul out.

PAUL
But... but I--

NIGEL
(under his breath)
Not now, Sutton.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Nigel and Paul walk in awkward silence.

Paul reaches into his bag and passes Nigel an LGBTQQIAAP leaflet.

PAUL
I'm here If you ever need to talk.

Paul turns and enters the staff canteen.

Nigel looks dumbfounded as he's left holding the leaflet.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. TRAINING CENTRE - DAY

VOICEOVER
Back at the training centre, we're about to be shown just how much force, the force is... packing.

Nick angles his gun to camera.

NICK
This is a Glock 17. A self-loading pistol that carries a ten round magazine. We carry a further ten round--

Lorenzo reaches for the gun but Nick pulls it back and slips it into its holster.

LORENZO
Ever put a cap in someone's ass?

TOM
We only use weapons as a last resort.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
And when that happens, is it shoot to kill, or shoot to stop?

NICK
It's very much shoot to stop. But, when we shoot, in most cases we kill.

LORENZO

I'm sure Officer Ejiofor will tell you it's like the Wild West out there at times!

TOM

That's a myth really. People watch the movies and think you can shoot a weapon out of... Wait, did he just use my fucking--

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Lorenzo, would you have any reservations about shooting a criminal?

LORENZO

Oh hell no!

Lorenzo shapes his hand like a gun, points at the camera... and motions a gun shot.

LORENZO

YIPPEE KAY-AY MOTHERFU--

EXT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. HOLDING CELLS - DAY

NOTE: Tom and Nick's faces are now shown; all attempts at concealing their identities having been ruined by Lorenzo.

Tom packs a prisoner's belongings into a zip-bag as he talks.

TOM

PCSOs are useless. I'd happily swap them all for one proper officer.

NICK

Same. They're just a cheap way to get boots on the ground.

TOM

And make the government look tough on crime. It's all politics.

NICK

Exactly. Back in the Army I had to put up with idiots from the T.A., now I've got these muppets to deal with.

TOM

Still, the good news is if they don't hit their targets in the following weeks, they'll get cut.

NICK

Thank fuck.

(to Tom)

Wanna go see what the muppets are
up to?

TOM

Yeah. Maybe Karen will be there.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Nigel places pictures of Malcolm X and Mahatma Gandhi (Ben Kingsley version) side-by-side, steps back and admires them.

Paul enters, sees the picture of Gandhi and drops his bag of leaflets.

PAUL

Who put that up?

NIGEL

Me. Why?

PAUL

Oh, you did. I... I thought...
sorry, didn't realise it was you.
Doesn't matter.

(picking up his leaflets)
They're inspirational aren't they?

NIGEL

Definitely. What I don't know about
the pair of them isn't worth
writing about.

Both nod in agreement.

KAREN

Sorry to chip in, Nige. But I'm
pretty sure that's not Gandhi.

Paul flashes a look at Karen.

NIGEL

And I suppose that isn't Malcolm X
either, Kaz?

Nigel takes her silence as confirmation that it must also be Gandhi and gives her a wink.

VOICEOVER

Despite the possibility of staffing
cuts, PCSO Thompson is keen to make
sure that those new to the force
still receive adequate training.

Nigel peaks at his notes, steps on to the podium, looks out as if to address a large audience, and begins:

NIGEL
Thank you all for coming, thank
you.

His expectant audience is made up of just one NEW RECRUIT, whose muffled cough breaks the silence.

Lorenzo enters the room. Late.

NIGEL
Take a seat, Spasski.

Lorenzo ignores Nigel, spins a chair, sits next to the new recruit, and stares at him with needless intensity.

Tom and Nick discretely slip into the room and watch from the back.

NIGEL
You're probably nervous, but our
role as PCSOs often mean facing
difficult situations.

TOM
Like fixing a puncture?

NICK
Or should you use Tampax or a
tampon?

KAREN
They're the same thing, dick head.
Carry on, Nige.

Nigel glances at his notes, then without missing a beat:

NIGEL
For instance, what would you do if
you had to arrest your own mother?

NEW RECRUIT
Call for backup I suppose.

Lorenzo shakes his head disapprovingly.

LORENZO
Pop quiz, rookie. You come across
something big going down. They're
packing heat. What do you do; call
for backup, or go black ops and
take them out?

NEW RECRUIT
Neither, probably.

Tom and Nick fight to stifle their laughter.

LORENZO

Dead wrong, pal... dead wrong. When
you ride with the bike cops...

(taps his badge)

You ride with the best of the best.
No retreat, no surrender... Balls
to the wall, baby.

Lorenzo stands, pulls out his imaginary gun, aims at the new
recruit, pretends to shoot him in the head...

turns to Nigel, makes another killshot...

finally turns to Karen, points from groin to breast...

and eventually settles his sights on her face.

LORENZO

The money shot.

Tom and Nick look at each other in disbelief. "WTF?"

KAREN

Wha? Piss off you--

NIGEL

Thank you, Officer Spasski.
(to his audience)

I want you to know we're a team.
And whilst we're here, there's a
meeting taking place out there on
the mean streets of Cambridge,
where some of the city's most
notorious criminals prowl.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CITY. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

THE BICYCLE BANDIDO (mid-teens, chavy) kicks in a bike wheel.

NIGEL (CONT'D)(V.O.)

Such as The Bicycle Bandido and his
gang of merry bike thieves.

The Bicycle Bandido shares a spliff with friends.

NIGEL (CONT'D)(V.O.)

I know how they think. You've got
to do the same.

The Bicycle Bandido spray-paints a dick on a wall.

NIGEL (CONT'D)(V.O.)

I want them to know we're onto
them.

The Bicycle Bandido steals a bike from the "La Cantina" restaurant and rides off.

NIGEL (CONT'D)(V.O.)
And that if they choose to continue their criminal activities, we're behind them 100%!

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Nigel turns to step off the podium.

TOM
I'm gonna stop you there, Neil.

NIGEL
Nigel.

TOM
To point out that if you do come across any gangs members, as PCSOs, you don't have the authority to actually arrest them.

NEW RECRUIT
Oh that's shit. Is that true, Neil?

NIGEL
Nigel. And don't listen to him, of course we--

NICK
Yeah, a citizen's arrest, like an old woman!

Tom and Nick laugh at the PCSOs.

NEW RECRUIT
I might give all this a miss then.

NIGEL
Yeah, well last in, first out. We didn't want you anyway.

TOM
(to recruit)
Don't worry, mate, we'll give you some details about the real police.
(to Nigel)
Neil, how many arrests have you made? Roughly.

NIGEL
I don't have actual figures to hand.

TOM

Shouldn't be too hard to count to zero.

NIGEL

Right, that's it. Meeting over. Everybody out.

NICK

What, the PCSOs gonna make us?

LORENZO

Damn right we will!

Lorenzo launches a flying kick at Nick.

LORENZO

FWATAAAAAT!!!!

Lorenzo lands short of his target, looks at Nick.

Nick rugby tackles Lorenzo to the floor and raises a fist to punch him.

Nigel and Tom break them up.

LORENZO

You motherfucker!

NIGEL

Cool it, Lorenzo!

NICK

You're a dead man, Spasski!

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

VOICEOVER

With tensions running high, Chief Inspector Sutcliffe is forced to step in and offer some sagely advice.

Tom, Nigel, Nick and Lorenzo are sat shoulder-to-shoulder on the two-seater couch, holding Charlie's calming crystals.

Charlie straddles a chair and sits opposite.

CHARLIE

Boys. I know it's hard working in such close, sweaty proximity to each other, what with all the testosterone and such. But we have to pull together and work as a team here. Our trousers are around our ankles. And not in the good way.

Tom, Nigel, Nick share a look of concern. Lorenzo nods along. Charlie scoots closer, rubs each of the officers' legs. They tense up and squirm.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So, I'm going to ask you to look at the man beside you. Really look into his eyes, and say, we're a team. We are a team. And I'm sorry.

Quick as a flash, they all do as ordered:

TOM/NIGEL/NICK/LORENZO

(to each other)

We are a team. Sorry.

(to Charlie)

Can we go now? Please.

CHARLIE

Such progress. A little unexpected, but it's great you're on the same frequency. Now off you go and play--

Tom, Nigel, Nick and Lorenzo bolt for the door.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

NICK

This isn't over, you fucking tit!

LORENZO

Bring it!

Nick and Lorenzo go nose-to-nose.

TOM

Come on, Nick. These idiots aren't worth it.

NIGEL

No, you're the idiots.

Tom and Nick shake their heads at Nigel's lame comeback and walk off.

LORENZO

Yeah, you better walk off!

Nick turns back, ready to charge. Tom grabs him, pulls him away.

TOM

Come on, Nick. They're not worth the hassle.

LORENZO
(to Nigel)
Pussies.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL LIBRARY. ENTRANCE - DAY

VOICEOVER
Although PCSOs are unarmed, they
often face dangerous situations.
It's time to check up on PCSO
Thompson at the local library as we
continue our day on the beat.

Nigel addresses the camera directly as he walks.

NIGEL
We've been called in to deal with
reported disorderly behaviour. So
let's take it nice and easy once
we're in there, just in case.

INT. CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL LIBRARY. CHECKOUT KIOSK - DAY

Nigel approaches a disgruntled looking LIBRARIAN.

LIBRARIAN
Glad you're here, officer.

NIGEL
Just doing my job. Where are they?

LIBRARIAN
Last I heard, they were throwing
toilet roll at people in the
toilets. Little bastards.

Lorenzo slips into shot and rolls up his sleeves.

LORENZO
Hey, take it down a notch there,
poindexter! Let's keep it cool.

Lorenzo whips out an L.A.P.D. nightstick and surveys the
area.

NIGEL
Spasski, put that away! We're not
authorised to use those!

Lorenzo spins the nightstick around his hand in casual
defiance, drops it, quickly picks it up and packs it away to
mask his embarrassment.

INT. CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL LIBRARY. TOILET AREA - DAY

Nigel emerges from a disabled toilet with TWO YOUTHS in tow. Both are dressed in Sports Direct's latest range.

NIGEL

Lads, we've had a report of disorderly behaviour. There's a number of witnesses. So, we're gonna have to ask you to leave.

YOUTH #1

Fuck off! We haven't done anything!

Lorenzo grabs YOUTH #1'S shirt and pushes him against a wall.

LORENZO

You better scram, or shit's gonna get real nasty!

NIGEL

Lorenzo!

YOUTH #2

Get off him, you fuckin' prick. You ain't even proper coppers!

LORENZO

I dare you to say that again, punk.

YOUTH #2

You. Ain't. A. Proper. *Pig*.

The youths laugh.

LORENZO

You just entered the danger zone!

Nigel jumps in-between them as kicks starts to fly.

NIGEL

(to Lorenzo)

Enough! What is wrong with you?

Lorenzo glowers at Nigel, then gives YOUTH #2 the evil eye as he backs off.

NIGEL

Look, we're going to take you in unless you leave.

YOUTH #1

What you on about, dickhead? We ain't done anything and besides, you're not even allowed to arrest us.

NIGEL

That's not true. Why do people keep saying that?

YOUTH #1

Arrest us then, innit.

YOUTH #2

Yeah, go on then, dicksplash. Arrest us if you can.

NIGEL

I can. I just want to give you the chance to walk away first.

YOUTH #1

We're not fussed if you nick us.

YOUTH #2

Ain't gotta go back to school then, innit. So go on then.

NIGEL

I will, but I'm gonna give you one more chance first.

YOUTH #1

Don't worry about it, just arrest us, innit.

NIGEL

Look, don't push me or I *will* arrest you!

Tom and Nick swoop in.

TOM

What do we have here then, ladies?

NIGEL

Oh not you two again. It's nothing, I'm on top of it.

YOUTH #1

He reckons he's gonna arrest us.

NICK

What, with his invisible handcuffs?

Tom, Nick, and the youths laugh at Nigel and Lorenzo.

LORENZO

You don't need handcuffs when you have a goddamn nightstick, bitches!

Lorenzo pulls out his nightstick and waves it in Nick's direction.

NICK

What the *fuck* are you doing with that!!!

Nigel freezes as Nick pulls out his Taser and uses it on Lorenzo.

Lorenzo flops over. Shakes violently on the floor.

Nick drives his knee into Lorenzo's face as Tom handcuffs him.

The youths double over in laughter.

INT. TALKING HEAD. PCSO LORENZO SPASSKI

LORENZO

What happened earlier wasn't ideal, but it comes with the territory. Still, before those assholes cheap-shotted me, I liked how Thompson operated. I'd be happy to have him as my wingman from now on.

INT. TALKING HEAD. PCSO NIGEL THOMPSON

NIGEL

The good news is I heard from the Chief, and I only have to work with Spasski for the rest of the day. So let's just forget this ever happened and move on.

INT. ARBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE. MAIN HALL - DAY

A range of ethnic minorities mingle freely.

Nigel tucks into some Chinese food.

A flustered-looking ASIAN MAN exits the kitchen and sits near Nigel.

NIGEL

Your cooking is delicious.

ASIAN MAN

I didn't cook it, he did.

Nods to a WHITE COMMUNITY WORKER.

NIGEL

Sorry, my mistake. I just thought--

ASIAN MAN

You just thought what?

NIGEL

Err, erm, that, well, that--

Lorenzo strolls over holding a bowl of noodles.

LORENZO

Loving your food, my man, keep it coming.

ASIAN MAN

Unbelievable!

LORENZO

You're not wrong, pal.

Lorenzo gives the asian man a respectful bow.

The Asian man looks at Lorenzo in disbelief then storms off.

LORENZO

They make the best cooks, don't they, bro?

Nigel looks away, pretends he didn't hear the question.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

So, guys, is it important to meet with local minority groups?

LORENZO

Hey it don't matter if you're white, black, yellow, Muslim, whatever; we're all the same in the end.

Before Nigel can respond a COMMUNITY WORKER waves him over.

INT. ARBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE. CORRIDOR - DAY

Nigel is standing beside a door marked 'meeting room'.

NIGEL

I'm about to speak to a chap about some thefts I've been investigating in the area. He's a bit camera-shy, so I'll have to catch up with you guys in a bit.

EXT. ARBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE. CAR PARK - DAY

Lorenzo casually leans against a wall as he talks to the camera.

LORENZO

I may look like I'm chillaxed, but I'm always ready to take the pedal to the metal.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

OK, great. Could you show us some of your moves?

Lorenzo sizes up members of the crew, avoids several larger MEN eager to volunteer and grabs a young, female RUNNER, pulls her into shot and stands her opposite him.

LORENZO

So, the standard thing is to slap on the cuffs and read them their rights, yadda-yadda-yadda.

(drops into combat stance)

But I usually throw in some Bruce Lee shit. FWATAAAAT!

(punches near her face)

It can drop the biggest of men.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

And would this be as effective for female officers?

LORENZO

I guess. But if it was down to me, it'd be a guys' only job. Think about it. John McClane. Man. Columbo. Man. Tango and Cash. Men.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

What about Miss Marple, Cagney and Lacey, Jessica Fletcher?

LORENZO

Who? Anyway da bitches just get in the way. Plus they always get all emotional and moody. Take Karen for example. She's had it in for me ever since I dumped her fat ass.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Is that so?

LORENZO

Don't hate the player, hate the game.

INT. TALKING HEAD. PC KAREN BLACK

KAREN

Fuck off! I definitely didn't go out with him. He's a dick!

(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

When I first joined, I thought he was like, not bad looking, so I let him buy me a drink, but that's it.

EXT. ARBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE. CAR PARK - DAY

The runner shifts anxiously, not wanting to be there.

LORENZO

Grab my wrist. Go on, grab it.

She reluctantly grabs his wrist.

LORENZO

Not that wrist. This wrist.

She switches wrists.

LORENZO

No, here. Like a random grab.

As soon as she grabs his wrist, Lorenzo counter grabs her wrist and applies a wrist lock, forcing her to her knees.

RUNNER

Owww! Get off me, you dick!

Lorenzo loosens his grip and helps her back up, makes sure his biceps are flexed and on show for the camera.

The runner massages her wrist as she gives Lorenzo the evils.

LORENZO

Hey, is this going out live?

Karen and Paul approach.

Karen visibly stifles a yawn as Paul talks about social injustice. Again.

LORENZO

Hey, ladies.

Karen gives a tired nod.

PAUL

I'm relaxed about my gender, so say what you like.

Karen elbows Paul as a WHITE TEEN and a BLACK TEEN approach.

KAREN

I know these two. Had some bother with them a couple of days ago. Look sharp, alright.

INT. TALKING HEAD. PCSO PAUL SUTTON

PAUL

Clearly, the police have a poor reputation when dealing with minorities. But I view everyone as equal. In many ways I'd say I'm colour blind.

EXT. ARBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE. CAR PARK - DAY

BLACK TEEN

You got sick moves, man. Can ya teach me something?

LORENZO

No can do, buddy. Too dangerous.
(nods to community centre)
Not your scene in there?

BLACK TEEN

Nah, boring innit.

KAREN

What you up to today, guys?

WHITE TEEN

I ain't sayin' nuttin' to you.

White teen tuts and puts on his music.

LORENZO

What you listening to, blud? Jay-Z, Diddy, the Tinchy?

WHITE TEEN

Bieber.

Both teens laugh.

LORENZO

Oh yeah, pure underground, bredrin.

Lorenzo goes to bump fist...

White teen pulls his hand out of his pocket to push Lorenzo's hand away and accidentally drops a small bag of weed.

White teen turns to leg it, Karen tackles him to the ground.

Lorenzo quickly grabs hold of black teen and bear hugs him.

KAREN

Sutton! Call it in.

Paul fumbles with his radio.

PAUL
Support car needed. 2 male
suspects. One white, approximately
17 years old. One erm, erm--

KAREN
He's black!

Paul winces.

PAUL
I don't think you can say that now,
Karen. I believe it's person of
colour, but I'll check.

Turns to black teen.

PAUL
How would you describe your
background?

Lorenzo erupts, pins black teen down.

LORENZO
Give me the goddamn radio! Fuck!

Paul sheepishly hands over his radio.

LORENZO
Support car needed. 2 male perps,
possible drug gang. Get here asap!

INT. TALKING HEAD. PCSO LORENZO SPASSKI

LORENZO
Rookies like Sutton try to do
everything by the book. Try not to
offend anyone. Not me. I don't care
about colour. All people are guilty
until proven innocent. That's
equality.

EXT. ARBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE. CAR PARK - DAY

Nigel approaches as the teens are bundled into the back of a
squad car.

NIGEL
(to camera)
Great news. I've got a lead on a
notorious bike thief I've nicknamed
The Bicycle Bandido. Mainly on
account of several bikes he'd taken
from 'La Cantina', a local Mexican
restaurant.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
He sounds like a real outlaw.

NIGEL
He is. So fingers crossed that if I
can get him behind bars, all this
talk of staffing cuts will finally
get dropped.

Lorenzo slides up behind Nigel and puts his hand on Nigel's
shoulder.

LORENZO
Let's take him down, partner!

NIGEL
(looking at Lorenzo's hand)
Although some may still have to
lose their jobs.

EXT. QUAYSIDE - DAY

TOURISTS mingle amongst STUDENTS and river punt TOUTS.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
With your work, would you say it's
often a matter of the waiting game?

NIGEL
In this job, patience is a virtue.

Nigel looks into the middle-distance in a sage-like manner.

Lorenzo lifts his top to wipe his brow as two Italian FEMALE
STUDENTS walk by.

LORENZO
Hola, chicas!

They pause, looking at him quizzically...

Lorenzo approaches them to work his 'magic', ignores his
walkie-talkie as it starts to blare out.

LORENZO
Probably one of my bitches.

Nigel takes up the call, turns away from the camera.

One of the female students opens a map.

FEMALE STUDENT
(pointing at map)
Can you tell--

LORENZO
For you, babe, anything.

Lorenzo winks at the camera, pulls out a pen, writes down his number, hands it back to the baffled-looking students.

NIGEL

Lorenzo, the call was about a bike theft. Jesus Green. Let's go.

LORENZO

Adios, ladies. Call me.

In perfect unison Nigel and Lorenzo climb on their bikes and cycle away at speed.

INT. TALKING HEAD. PCSO NIGEL THOMPSON

NIGEL

Lorenzo's reluctance to take the call was inexcusable, and just one of many complaints I'll be putting in my report to the Chief.

INT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. HOLDING CELLS - DAY

Karen fills out paperwork as Paul sees to the arrested teens.

VOICEOVER

In today's ever changing world, staying up to date on what is acceptable terminology can be a challenge for some policemen. And women.

KAREN

(to herself)

Two males. one 16, one 17.

(to Sutton)

How are we meant to write his ethnicity then?

PAUL

I believe person of colour should suffice.

KAREN

Got ya. Coloured.

PAUL

No! Not coloured. Are you a Nazi?

KAREN

What's the difference between person of colour and coloured? Sounds like the same thing to me.

BLACK TEEN

I'm right here you know.

PAUL

One is hugely offensive, the other isn't. How do you not see that?

BLACK TEEN

Why don't you ask me what I think?

KAREN

I still don't get it.

PAUL

It's not that complicated, Karen.
(sighs)
Person of colour is their--

BLACK TEEN

Oi, mate. Why don't you stop mansplaining stuff to her and ask me what I think?

KAREN

Yeah, what do you prefer?

BLACK TEEN

Neither. Person of colour? What colour? It sounds stupid.

KAREN

Got ya. What's mansplaining?

BLACK TEEN

It's when a guy talks down to a girl like she's thick.

KAREN

You're right, he was doing that.

PAUL

No, no, no, that's not what I was doing.

BLACK TEEN

You're well sexist, mate.

PAUL

No, no, you're both wrong. I wasn't mansplaining cos I don't think men are better than women. If anything I think it's the other way around. And you do prefer person of colour. You all do!

BLACK TEEN

We all do?

KAREN

So women are better than men? Isn't that still a bit sexist?

Paul goes pale, reaches out for something to support him and flops to his knees.

WHITE TEEN
(laughing)
Batty boy! Batty boy! Batty boy!

EXT. JESUS GREEN. ICE CREAM KIOSK - DAY

An angry CYCLE COURIER waving a sawn-off bike lock postures up to Nigel and Lorenzo.

VOICEOVER
As Cambridge's heatwave rises;
so does its crime. Wave.

CYCLE COURIER
What took you so long? A minute earlier and you'd have him already!

LORENZO
Whoa cool it, hotwheels. We got here as soon as we could!

NIGEL
Which way did he go?

The cycle courier points at The Bicycle Bandido speeding away in the distance.

LORENZO
Let's roll out, partner!

NIGEL
(to camera)
Just try and keep up.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

The Bicycle Bandido disappears into the warehouse.

Nigel and Lorenzo pull up on their bikes, breathless.

NIGEL
OK, we got him now. I know how these guys think, so let's take it nice and easy.

LORENZO
You guys go ahead, I'll catch you up in a sec.

Nigel leads us over to the warehouse's front entrance, crouches at the door and peaks in.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Wow! My heart is pounding.

NIGEL
Welcome to my world.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
What do we do now?

NIGEL
He's in there, like a caged animal
with its back to the wall.

Nigel nods to door with a sign marked 'entrance'.

NIGEL (CONT'D)
If it gets heavy, you lot get out
asap, OK?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
OK.

Lorenzo arrives with his face covered in boot polish.

LORENZO
We use the dark inside as our
friend, you got me?

Lorenzo grabs at the camera and fumbles around for a switch.

LORENZO
This thing got night vision?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Erm, no, I don't think--

LORENZO
Gonna do it in post, huh? Nice. You
guys ready for this?
(ignoring any reactions)
It's go time!

We follow Nigel as he creeps in through the front door.

A few feet away, Lorenzo struggles to climb in through an
open window.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE. ROOM ONE - CONTINUOUS

They edge their way further into the darkened warehouse, then
pause to turn on their torches.

Lorenzo approaches the camera, puts his finger to his lips.

LORENZO
(loudly)
Keep quiet and you keep alive!

Lorenzo shines his torchlight into the camera to drive home the message.

NIGEL

Wait a second. We might be on to something bigger than I first thought.

Nigel shines his torchlight at a used condom on the ground beside an empty can of cider.

NIGEL

Could be evidence of a prostitution ring, or even human trafficking.

Points to a pile of white powder, wets finger and tastes.

NIGEL

It's coke. Pure Colombian.

Lorenzo dabs his finger in and has a taste.

LORENZO

Unadulterated. The real deal.

Neither officers notice a Sherbet dip packet with identical powder nearby.

They whip around in reaction to a clanging sound coming from the adjacent room.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE. ROOM TWO - CONTINUOUS

They charge in, ready for action:

NIGEL

It's the police. Come out with your hands up!

LORENZO

Freeze, punk. You've got five seconds to comply before we open fire!

Tom and Nick appear from behind a storage container.

TOM

It's us, you idiots!

NIGEL

You two, again?

NICK

Hey, bikecocks why don't you leave the real policing to us?

A sudden burst of light streams in from the far end of the room as The Bicycle Bandido opens a door.

THE BICYCLE BANDIDO

Oi!

They all look over to see The Bicycle Bandido mooning them.

THE BICYCLE BANDIDO

Later, pigs!

The Bicycle Bandido slips out and slams the door shut.

TOM

Get him!

NIGEL

GO! GO! GO!

LORENZO

Let's do this, partner!

NICK

He's mine!

Lorenzo and Nick sprint side-by-side for the door.

Lorenzo trips Nick up and he goes down heavy.

LORENZO

It's Lorenzo time!

Lorenzo grits his teeth and dives through a glass window.

Nigel runs a few metres, stops, falls to the ground.

NIGEL

Hamstring! Hamstring!

Tom rams full speed into the door. Bounces off, clutches his shoulder in agony.

TOM

Fuck!

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - SHORTLY AFTER

Tom, Nick, and Nigel stumble out into the light, look down and see Lorenzo on the ground, in pain and bleeding heavily.

LORENZO

Man down! Man down!

NIGEL

Where did he go?

Lorenzo points to the other side of the street.

Karen drives her knee into The Bicycle Bandido's spine as she handcuffs him.

PAUL

You go, girl! I knew you'd get him.

Nigel helps Lorenzo to his feet.

Nigel, Nick, Tom, and Lorenzo stagger over to Karen.

KAREN

Look at the state of you lot.

PAUL

Ha! The Bandido was brought down by an actual female police woman. In your face sexism!

KAREN

Calm down, Sutton.

PAUL

You should have seen her. He pushed me over but Karen was like, "oh no you don't", and she took him down.

KAREN

The important thing is we got him working as a team.

NIGEL

That's right.

TOM

What team? We're not a team.

Tom and Nick evil Nigel and Lorenzo.

NICK

You fucking muppets. We had him until you showed up!

Nigel looks away sheepishly.

TOM

You two are an embarrassment to the force.

LORENZO

Your ass is mine!

Lorenzo lunges forward but crumbles to the concrete.

Nick looks down at Lorenzo. Shakes his head.

NICK

C'mon, Tom. Let's get out of here.

Tom and Nick climb on their motorbikes and speed off in a cloud of dust.

EXT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION. CAR PARK - NIGHT

Nigel opens his car door, climbs in.

NIGEL

I'd probably agree that today
hasn't been one of our best days.
But it was great to see the team
finally come together.

Lorenzo slips into shot, opens Nigel's passenger-side door.

LORENZO

Shotgun.

Nigel floors it and drives off.

Lorenzo poses as if nothing happened.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Erm, tell me, Lorenzo. What do you
like most about being an officer?

LORENZO

It's the unknown, it suits me.
(points to one-way road)
See, to you that's just a road.
To me, it's a journey waiting to
happen.

Lorenzo hops on his bike and rides into oncoming traffic.

EXT. PARKSIDE POLICE STATION - NIGHT

The two youths arrested earlier at the library pass through the entrance and make offensive gestures to the camera.

VOICEOVER

The troublesome teens were released
without charge.

The two teens arrested at the community centre follow moments later.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Whilst the duo arrested for
possession of a Class-C drug were
released with a warning.
The Bicycle Bandido was later
released with a caution.
We can be confident he won't be
reoffending anytime soon.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

VOICEOVER

As the city's residents bed down
for the night, they can sleep safe
in the knowledge that with the
PCSOs ever vigilant, they're in
safe hands.

FADE OUT.