SUPER:

“I confess I have yet to learn that a lesson of the purest good may not be drawn from the vilest evil.” Charles Dickens – Oliver Twist

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN, CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

CARL WEBSTER(40's), glasses, tweed suit, eats breakfast at the kitchen table with his wife, ANITA (40), and their young son, EDWARD (7).

Anita finishes and grabs her car keys.

ANITA
Got to see a man about a dog.

Edward giggles. Anita gives Carl a huge kiss on the lips causing Edward to GROAN and look away -- shielding his eyes. Anita hugs and kisses, Edward.

ANITA
You be a good boy for your daddy at school today.

Anita heads out of the house.

INT. CARL'S CAR, TRAVELLING - DAY

Carl drives with Edward in the passenger seat and turns into the

SCHOOL CAR PARK, ST HUMPHREY'S JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

where he parks up.

CARL
Here we are.

EDWARD
Thanks Dad.

Edward climbs out of the car.
Carl watches as he runs over to play with his friends in the school playground.

EXT. SCHOOL CAR PARK

Carl gets out, struggling to balance a pile of school books while he locks the car.

He smiles and nods at a couple of COLLEAGUES on the way in.

INT. CORRIDOR, ST HUMPHREY'S - DAY

Carl heads into an empty CLASSROOM

where he writes the words, "OLIVER TWIST", on the blackboard.

Through the large window we can see the

EXT. PLAYGROUND, ST HUMPHREY'S

STACEY PEARCE (24), trainers, tight jeans, skinny, common as muck, strides along, barging past other parents with her son Robin Pearce (7), in tow.

SARAH (27), doesn't see her coming.

    STACEY
    I hear you've been hunting after my Billy.

Sarah looks nervous -- all of the other parents turn to watch, eager for the drama.

    SARAH
    Oh, Hi Stace'.

Stacey pushes her.

    STACEY
    You stay the fuck away from my Billy.

    SARAH
    I'm not interested in your tramp of a boyfriend.
The crowd coos -- egging it on.

STACEY

SARAH
I don't want to argue, Stace'. I couldn't give a fuck about your man.

Stacey slaps Sarah hard across the face. The crowd coos darkly. Some giggles.

INT. CLASSROOM

Carl looks through the window, sees the crowd and Stacey, her face red with rage.

He sighs and heads outside.

EXT. PLAYGROUND

Stacey grabs Sarah by the hair and delivers a couple of punches to her face.

Carl splits them up, holding onto Stacey's arms. Sarah stands back.

SARAH
She attacked me.

CARL
OK. Shall we call the police?

Stacey stares at Sarah. Sarah looks away from her nervously.

SARAH
No, it's just over something silly.

CARL
(to Stacey)
You going to be good?

STACEY
Yes sir, I'll be a good girl.

Stacey bats her eyelashes. He lets go, trying to hide his distaste.
CARL
Right. I don't even want to know what this is about. Just please keep your arguments off school grounds in future.

The parents cheer as Carl walks back into the building.

INT. CLASSROOM – DAY
Carl sits at his desk checking out his laptop while the children draw their favourite Oliver Twist character.

A couple of the children are throwing little bits of paper at Robin.

CARL
Stop that please.

The children stop throwing the paper. Carl and Edward exchange a glance.

INT. HALLWAY, STACEY'S FLAT - DAY
Stacey arrives home and pauses to close the door behind her.

The flat is scruffy, no carpets on the floor, furniture in disrepair, walls dirty.

LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT
BILLY DYKE (30), scruffy, stained clothing, medium build, three week old beard, sits on a worn settee, watching an old TV whilst smoking heroin from some silver foil.

BILLY
That you, Stace?

HALLWAY, STACEY'S FLAT
Stacey removes her coat and places it neatly onto a pile of coats that are on the floor in the hallway.

STACEY
Yeah it's me. I bet you've hammered that already aint ya.
LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT

Billy laughs as she walks in, revealing stained and blackened teeth.

BILLY
I've only just started, look.

Billy shows her the foil.

STACEY
I can see where you've run the lines you lying bastard.

BILLY
Yeah, but still plenty left, Stace. Good deal off yer man.

STACEY
Give us it here then.

Stacey takes the foil and lighter, plonks herself down on the settee and chases a line.

BILLY
That better?

STACEY
Yeah.

Stacey relaxes as the first line kicks in.

The front door knocks. Billy looks at Stacey, but she is out of it, so he gets up, heads into the HALLWAY

and opens the door. An old guy in a suit, GERALD, stands in front of him. Gerald seems surprised to see Billy.

GERALD
Ah, terribly sorry. I think I have the wrong address.

Gerald makes to walk away.

BILLY
Hold up mate.

Gerald turns back.
GERALD
Do I have the right address? I'm looking for Stacey?

BILLY
Yes, this is the right place mate. Come in and shut the door behind you.

Billy walks off through the hallway.

BILLY
(shouting)
Stace? Stace?

STACEY (OS)
Yeah?

BILLY
Customer.

STACEY (OS)
Fuck's sake. It's a bit early innit?

BILLY
Just ignore her mate. Here.

Billy shows Gerald into the

MAIN BEDROOM

which is plushly decorated. Nice bed with velvet sheets, shag-pile carpet, everything clean.

Gerald is clearly surprised. This is noted by Billy.

BILLY
Nice innit mate. We call this the shag pad. Just make yourself comfy and she'll be right with you.

GERALD
Yes, very nice thank you.

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - LATER

Billy, unperturbed, sits and smokes heroin while he can hear the grunts and groans of Stacey and Gerald having sex in the bedroom.
INT. STAFF ROOM, ST HUMPHREY'S - DAY

Carl finishes making a coffee and sits to join his friend and colleague, SUZANNE ROGERS (40's).

CARL
I just don't know what to do about it.

SUZANNE
Social services are involved already so there's not much else we can do.

CARL
It's just wrong. His mother was fighting again in the playground this morning.

SUZANNE
Oh god.

CARL
Yeah, which doesn't help with his social interaction with the other children.

SUZANNE
I can imagine.

CARL
They're getting to an age now where they realise how the world works.

SUZANNE
Don't beat yourself up over it, Carl. There isn't anything you can do.

CARL
I know. It's just so frustrating.

SUZANNE
What about Edward? He's in your class this year isn't he?
CARL
Yes. Unfortunately, Edward is Robin's only friend, and I suspect that is purely down to my influence. I'm pretty sure if I weren't there that Edward would join the bullies.

SUZANNE
Surely not?

Carl regrets what he has said.

CARL
OK, maybe not. Edward is a good kid. Only a few turn into bullies.

SUZANNE
It's terrible what goes on, but it's the law of the jungle. Eat or be eaten.

Carl chuckles.

CARL
Yeah, that's about right with this place.

Carl and Suzanne both take a drink.

CARL
So what about you? How's Mike?

Suzanne fiddles with the wedding ring on her finger.

SUZANNE
He's over the worst of it now, should hopefully make a full recovery.

CARL
That's great news. Holiday planned?

SUZANNE
Oh yes. A well deserved break.

INT. GYM HALL, ST HUMPHREY'S - DAY

The children are running around in their shorts and plimsolls. Carl notices that Robin has bruises on his back.
CARL
Robin, could you come here please.

Edward looks on as Robin walks over to Carl. Carl checks out Robin's back and sees a lot of bruises.

CARL
How did you get those?

ROBIN
I fell over.

CARL
Fell over? Where?

ROBIN
At home.

Carl sighs and pauses for a while, staring at him.

CARL
OK Robin, off you go.

INT. MAIN BEDROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - DAY

Gerald finishes dressing and sits on the edge of the bed to put on his shoes.

STACEY
Could you do me a favour, Gerald?

GERALD
Of course I can dear. What is it?

STACEY
If that bastard asks how much, tell him forty.

GERALD
Forty?

STACEY
Yeah. He'll spend it all on crack otherwise. My little Robbie needs some shoes.

GERALD
Say no more. I'll tell him forty.

There is sixty pounds in twenties on the bedside table. Stacey snatches one of the notes and hides it underneath the mattress.
INT. HALLWAY, STACEY'S FLAT

Gerald jumps slightly as he steps out and sees Billy standing right outside the door. Gerald smiles at him awkwardly.

    BILLY
    Any good?

    GERALD
    Yes, thank you. I admire the quality control you have around here.

    BILLY
    Huh?

    GERALD
    Doesn't matter. It was very pleasant, thank you.

    BILLY
    How much did she charge you?

    GERALD
    Forty pounds.

Billy looks at him sceptically.

    BILLY
    Forty?

    GERALD
    Yes. I'll certainly come back again at that price.

Billy sneers.

    BILLY
    OK mate. No need to be so smarmy about it. Go on then, fuck off.

Gerald looks at him strangely and hesitates for a second before heading to the front door. Billy follows, opening it for him.

MAIN BEDROOM, STACEY'S FLAT

Stacey looks up nervously as Billy enters the room.

    BILLY
    He was all right, eh?
STACEY
Yeah, good man.

BILLY
Is that why you only charged him forty?

STACEY
Yeah well, I'm not as good looking as I used to be.

BILLY
Are you mad? You're as gorgeous as ever, more gorgeous. C'mere.

Billy climbs onto the bed and embraces her.

STACEY
You always know the right things to say.

Billy kisses her on the lips but she pulls away.

BILLY
What's wrong?

STACEY
Let me take a bath and brush my...

BILLY
Oh... right.

Stacey gets up heads into the BATHROOM turns on the bath taps and undresses.

INT. BEDROOM
Billy searches, checks under the bed, under the pillow, lifts the mattress.

He finds the twenty pound note and puts it in his pocket.

INT. HEAD MISTRESS' OFFICE, ST HUMPHREY'S - DAY
MIRIAM FARMER (40's), stern, is sitting at her desk going through notes. Carl enters.
CARL
Just wondering if you're liaising
with the Robin Pearce case?

HEAD
Pearce? Your class?

CARL
That's correct.

HEAD
Yes I believe I am. Why?

CARL
He has bruises all over his back
and legs.

HEAD
What type of bruises?

CARL
I don't know. Like he's been
lashed with a belt or something.

HEAD
Did you ask him?

CARL
He said he fell at home.

HEAD
I'll pass it on, but there isn't
much to go on.

CARL
What about the bruises?

HEAD
He said he fell. Children fall,
fight with their siblings,
etcetera.

CARL
He's an only child. He also,
clearly, hasn't just fallen.

HEAD
Carl. If only it was as simple as
you want it to be. It isn't.

Carl sighs.
CARL
I'm sorry. It's just hard to watch. He's a bright kid.

HEAD
I will pass on your concerns, but that is the best I can do.

INT. MAIN BEDROOM, STACEY'S FLAT – DAY

Stacey enters wrapped in a towel.

Billy slaps her across the face. The towel falls and she bends to pick it up, wrapping it back around her quickly.

BILLY
Why did you lie to me?

STACEY
What do you mean, Billy? I don't know what you mean. Please calm...

Billy slaps her again and kicks at her legs.

BILLY
Don't fucking lie to me, you know I fucking hate that shit.

Stacey holds her hands out placatingly. Looks at the twenty pound note in Billy's hand.

STACEY
I saved it for little Robbie.

BILLY
Robin? What for?

STACEY
He needs shoes.

BILLY
For twenty fucking quid?

STACEY
That's how much it costs for a decent pair. At least that much. We spend at least twice that on crack every day.

BILLY
I don't believe you.
STACEY
Well, what else would I need it for?

BILLY
I dunno. Some bloke.

Stacey laughs.

STACEY
Some bloke? I'm never out of your sight, Billy. All I ever do is go up the school and back, maybe pop to the shops. I don't have time.

BILLY
Of course you get time. Somebody at the school.

STACEY
Billy, you're losing it. I don't get time at the school. I love you, Billy.

BILLY
OK, well I'm going up the school today. If you've got a fancy man up there, I'll know right away.

STACEY
I haven't got a fancy man. What about Robin's shoes? I wanted to buy them today.

BILLY
I'll get them.

Stacey stares at him doubtfully.

STACEY
He needs a decent pair.

BILLY
I said... I'll get them.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The bell rings signalling the end of the day. Carl sighs tiredly.
CARL
Everybody stand and straighten out your chairs please.

The children stand and push in their chairs. Carl looks out of the window at the parents queuing up in the playground to collect their kids.

CARL
You all ready to go home?

KIDS
Yes!

Carl leads the class to the

MAIN DOOR

where the parents are waiting just outside.

Carl stands at the door, ushering out the children as he recognises the parents.

EXT. PLAYGROUND

Billy stands, eyes glazed, staring at Carl.

BILLY
Oi. You got Robin in there?

CARL
Are you his dad?

BILLY
Do I look like his dad?

CARL
I don't know, I've never met him.

BILLY
You wouldn't want to mate.

CARL
Wouldn't I?

BILLY
No.

Carl looks at Billy strangely for a few seconds before realising he is on drugs.
CARL
OK... so, you want Robin.

BILLY
I just told you that, mate.

CARL
Can I have your name please?

BILLY
What do you want my name for?

CARL
You could be anybody. I'm sure you appreciate...

BILLY
I'm not just anybody though am I. Robin! Come on mate, this bloke's a dick.

Robin runs past Carl and stands next to Billy.

ROBIN
Bye, Mr Webster.

BILLY
If I was just anybody then he wouldn't come to me would he?

CARL
I suppose not, no.

BILLY
So you asked me my name just to be a cunt then.

CARL
I'm sorry?

BILLY
Glad to hear it. Come on Robbie, this cunt has had enough.

Carl looks after them as they walk away, perplexed.

INT. CARL’S CAR, TRAVELLING - DAY

Carl drives home with Edward in the passenger seat.
CARL
Good to see you taking care of Robin.

EDWARD
You asked me to.

CARL
Yes, well. It's still nice to see. I wouldn't want you to turn out like some of those other kids.

Edward sighs and looks out of the window.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

Carl and Edward walk in from outside.

CARL
Right, we have a couple of hours before the showing.

EDWARD
What showing?

CARL
The new Batman film.

EDWARD
Yes!

Edward pumps the air excitedly.

CARL
OK, first we need to get some dinner. Your mother is running late.

EDWARD
Pizza!

CARL
Well no, we don't really have time. I was thinking more... sandwich!

Edward groans.
EXT. SHOPPING ARCADE – DAY

Billy takes Robin into a charity shop, looks at a few battered pairs of shoes. Selects a pair and gets Robin to try them on.

BILLY
What do you think?

ROBIN
They're a bit loose.

BILLY
Plenty of room to grow into them then.

Robin looks up at him, too frightened to disagree.

BILLY
That's a good kid. Come on let's pay for them.

Billy takes the shoes to the till where an OLD LADY is waiting to serve them.

BILLY
How much for these, love?

The Old Lady turns the shoes over and looks at the soles.

OLD LADY
Two pound fifty, please dear.

Billy hands over the twenty pound note, collects his change and then heads out of the shop.

BILLY
Come on then, let's get you home.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE – NIGHT

Anita finally gets in. Carl and Edward are ready to go.

ANITA
Sorry I'm late.

CARL
No problem, we still have ten minutes.
ANITA
OK, I'll be ready in five.

Carl raises his eyebrows to Edward making him giggle.

ANITA
You may laugh. We'll see, we'll see.

Anita rushes around getting ready.

EDWARD
Robin wants to see Batman.

CARL
I doubt his parents ever take him anywhere, Edward. It's a shame.

EDWARD
Yeah.

ANITA
What is?

Anita is ready to go.

CARL
Wow, that was fast.

ANITA
Told ya. What were you talking about? What's a shame?

Carl, Anita and Edward head out to the car.

CARL
Just this kid in our class at school.

Anita looks at him expectantly as they climb into Carl's car.

ANITA
Tell me about it on the way.

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Billy walks in with Robin in tow.

Stacey is chasing some heroin along the foil and stops to grin at them, obviously very high.
BILLY
Fuck me, you look smacked off it.
Give us that here.

Billy takes the foil and sits down, chases some heroin.

Robin stares at them for a while then heads into the

KITCHEN

which is disgusting, filthy, clothes piled up next to an ancient washing machine.

Robin shifts over a pile of clothes and stands on them to open the upper cupboards that are mostly bare aside from a few packs of instant noodles.

He grabs a pack and then fills up the old kettle, switching it on.

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - MOMENTS LATER

Robin walks in, eating the noodles from a saucepan, both Billy and Stacey are spaced out on the settee. Billy looks at him through his drug haze.

BILLY
What the fuck have you got there?

Robin ignores him.

BILLY
Oi, you little prick. I'm talking to you.

Stacey looks up.

STACEY
It's just noodles.

BILLY
They're my fucking noodles.

STACEY
They cost eight pence a pack and there are a few packs in there.
BILLY
He's your son, not mine. You fucking feed him. Little prick, stealing my noodles.

STACEY
(to Robin)
Just go and sit in your room love.

Robin heads into

ROBIN'S BEDROOM

Sheets hang where curtains should be and the room is dirty. A bare light bulb flickers on and off as Robin sits down on an old, filthy mattress. He picks up a book from the floor, "Oliver Twist".

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - LATER

Billy and Stacey are smoking crack.

BILLY
We're running out.

Stacey looks at him suspiciously.

STACEY
And?

BILLY
You got any punters coming around later?

STACEY
No I haven't.

Billy takes another hit, passing the pipe to Stacey.

BILLY
You fancy going out tonight?

STACEY
No. I don't like doing it like that. We've got the advert in the paper running. Let's just take it as it comes.

Billy explodes.
BILLY
Fuck's sake.

STACEY
What's wrong? We haven't even run out yet, and we got the brown to come down with later.

Stacey holds her hands out defensively as Billy storms towards her.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - CONTINUOUS

Robin stops reading as he hears slaps from the living room. Stacey cries out.

BILLY (OS)
What fucking use are you then?
Fucking bitch!

Robin takes the empty saucepan and carries it into the KITCHEN.

He drops the pan into the sink and puts some water in it from the tap then heads into the HALLWAY.

Stacey appears with a bruise on her eye.

ROBIN
Mom?

STACEY
Don't worry baby, mommy has to go out for a while, OK?

Robin nods his head.

ROBIN
Can I come?

STACEY
No, I'm sorry. Not this time.

Robin watches as Stacey leaves the flat then walks into the
LIVING ROOM

Billy is sitting on the settee, smoking from the crack pipe. Robin turns over to a cartoon and sits in front of it on the floor.

EXT. CINEMA – NIGHT

Carl, Anita and Edward stand outside the cinema, eyes shining.

    CARL
    Well that was good.

    ANITA
    What did you think, Edward?

    EDWARD
    It was amazing! I loved it.

    CARL
    Now I just need to remember where I parked the car

    ANITA
    That's what I'm here for.

Carl reaches over and kisses her cheek as they walk briskly past a sign, "CAR PARK".

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Coronation Street is on the television when the front door knocks.

Billy is smoking some heroin while Robin is sitting in front of the TV.

    BILLY
    Go and answer that will ya mate, probably your mom.

Billy sneers after Robin as he gets up and walks obediently into the

HALLWAY

and opens the front door. A tall gentleman, PETE(50's), in a fine cut suit is just getting ready to knock again.
He smiles broadly at Robin and bends to his level, reaching out a hand to stroke his cheek.

Robin senses something isn't quite right and recoils. Pete removes his hand, still smiling.

PETE
Why hello there. You're a good looking young man. Are your parents home?

ROBIN
No, just...

BILLY
What do you want mate?

Pete looks past Robin and stands back to full height.

PETE
Oh, hello. I take it you're the man of the house.

Pete walks in, holding out his hand, Billy shakes it.

BILLY
Hold up mate, I didn't say you could come in.

PETE
Well, I didn't think you'd like your neighbours hearing our business.

BILLY
Don't give a fuck, mate.

PETE
Quite. Well I do. Shall we?

Pete points ahead and after a brief stand off, Billy relents, leading them into the

LIVING ROOM

Pete surveys the state of the living room and looks for a place to sit.

PETE
May I?
BILLY
Go ahead mate.

Pete sits down and scornfully surveys the drug paraphernalia on the table.

BILLY
If you're here to see Stacey she may not be back for an hour or so.

PETE
I believe I may have a proposition for you.

BILLY
What sort of proposition?

PETE
One that could make you a lot of money.

BILLY
What do you mean?

Pete looks at Robin and licks his lips.

PETE
Is he your son?

BILLY
No. Thank fuck. The little prick pisses me off.

PETE
There are people that would pay a lot of money for something like that.

BILLY
What do you mean?

PETE
Everything in this world has a price.

Pete pointedly looks at Robin and Billy follows his gaze.

BILLY
You mean?

PETE
Quite.
BILLY
No way. That's fucking disgusting, what do you take me for?

PETE
We're talking a couple of thousand pounds.

Billy swallows.

BILLY
Grand? Two grand?

PETE
Perhaps even more. How old is he, five, six?

BILLY
Seven.

PETE
Seven. Yes I can see three thousand being a realistic figure.

Billy chews it over.

BILLY
No. I think you better leave. If Stacey heard you talking like this she'd kill you on the spot.

PETE
She would never have to know. Nobody would.

BILLY
No, I think you better leave. Stacey will be back in a bit.

Pete pulls a card out of his wallet and places it on the table.

PETE
If you change your mind.

BILLY
I won't mate. Now fuck off.

Pete smiles and stands up, eyes leering at Robin.
INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Carl is taking his class when he notices two female SOCIAL WORKERS, in suits, walk into the building.

CARL
Just keep reading from your books until I get back, please.

Carl hurries out of the classroom and into the CORRIDOR approaches the two ladies.

CARL
Hi, are you Robin Pearce's social workers?

VICKY SUMMERS(20's), hair severely tied back, appraises him.

VICKY
Yes we are.

CARL
I'm Carl, Carl Webster.

VICKY
Robin's teacher, yes we know who you are. What can I do for you?

CARL
I'm really worried about his welfare. It seems like every week he is coming to school with fresh bruises.

VICKY
Has he actually said anything to you?

CARL
Only the usual falling down the stairs crap. Ah, sorry, forgive my language.

VICKY
Unless he specifically tells you that he is being abused then it isn't wise to make assumptions.
CARL
I just wish there was more I could do. Wouldn't he be better off in care?

VICKY
I'm sorry Mr Webster, but, if you don't mind, we have some things to do.

CARL
Of course.

Carl steps to one side and allows them to carry on their way.

EXT. PLAYGROUND – DAY

It's playtime and a group of children have Robin cornered, pointing and laughing at his shoes. One of the shoes has split at the front and his toes are hanging out of a holey sock.

Carl hurries over and moves the children out of the way.

CARL
Come with me Robin.

Carl leads Robin out of the playground, to the jeers of the other children, and into the school building.

INT. CLASSROOM – DAY

Carl takes the shoes out of the box and hands them to Robin. Robin's eyes light up, and a grin stretches from ear to ear. Then he shakes his head.

CARL
I bought these a couple of days ago. I know I shouldn't, but nobody is taking care of you Robin.

ROBIN
I can't take them, Mr Webster.

CARL
Your shoes are ruined. Just take these and I'll collect the money from your parents later. If that's what you're worried about.
Robin hesitates for a second longer and then takes the shoes.

CARL
Here, these too.

Carl hands him a pair of socks. As Robin takes off his shoes Carl sees that his feet are covered in dirt. Carl frowns.

The rest of the kids start pouring into the class. Edward looks at Carl strangely, taking note of Robin's new shoes. Carl smiles.

CARL
Right then class, settle down please.

INT. CARL'S CAR, TRAVELLING - DAY

Edward looks thoughtful.

EDWARD
Why did you buy Robin some shoes?

CARL
I'm getting the money back from his mom and dad later.

EDWARD
The other kids know what you're doing. It makes them want to pick on him more.

Carl pulls up outside their house.

CARL
I'm getting the money back later. Tell the bullies that.

Edward sighs.

INT. HALLWAY, STACEY'S FLAT - DAY

Billy walks in with Robin, just as a customer is leaving the bedroom. Billy presses himself up against the wall so the customer can get past.

BILLY
Have a nice time, mate?
The customer looks at Billy, then at Robin and exits the flat quickly. Billy walks on through to the living room. Robin stops and walks into the

MAIN BEDROOM

Stacey is sitting on the bed crying, blood pouring from her nose.

ROBIN
Mom!

Robin runs into her arms. Billy follows in soon after, tin foil in his hand.

BILLY
What's up?

Stacey looks at him, showing a battered and bloodied face.

BILLY
Did he pay?

Stacey shakes her head.

BILLY
Fucking cunt!

Billy runs out of the room.

EXT. CAR PARK, TOWER BLOCK - DAY

Billy arrives to see the customer leaving in his car.

BILLY
You fucking bastard!

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

Carl is sitting on the settee with a lap full of his students' homework books, marking them.

Anita grabs her bag. Edward is in his karate suit.

ANITA
Keep an eye on the dinner for me, just taking Edward.
CARL
OK. I'll see you in a bit.

Anita reaches over and kisses Carl on the cheek before leaving.

CARL (CONT.)
Drive carefully.

INT. ANITA'S CAR, TRAVELLING - DAY
Anita drives while Edward sits in the passenger seat, playing a hand-held video game.

INT. VAN, TRAVELLING - DAY
A DRUNK MAN driving a van erratically. Narrowly misses some pedestrians at a zebra crossing.

EXT. JUNCTION - DAY
Anita stops at a junction, pulls out.

Suddenly the van smashes into the front wing of Anita's car, spinning it around completely. People hurry over to the scene.

The Drunk staggers out of his van, tries to run away and falls over. Members of the public restrain him, prevent him from escaping.

A pedestrian pulls out her phone.

INT. ANITA'S CAR
Anita is slumped over the steering wheel, blood is slowly pouring out of her mouth. Edward is lying back in his seat, not moving.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - DAY
Carl listens to classical music while sipping bourbon and marking homework books. A thought suddenly occurs to him and he gets up, heading into the
KITCHEN

checks the roast, then lifts the lid on the potatoes and prods them with a fork.

EXT. ACCIDENT SCENE – DAY

The fire, police and ambulance services are in attendance.

Two POLICE OFFICERS escort the Drunk driver into a police car.

The fire service are busy cutting Anita and Edward from the car.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE – DAY

Carl settles down to marking homework on the sofa, turning up the music.

EXT. ACCIDENT SCENE – DAY

Anita and Edward are stretchered into an ambulance. The ambulance races away.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE – DAY

Carl finishes the last of the homework books and glances over at the time. He heads into the

KITCHEN

taking out his mobile and dialing a number on the way. He turns down the oven and then waits with the phone pressed to his ear. It rings out, going to answer machine. He rings it again.

EXT. ACCIDENT SCENE – DAY

A police officer picks up Anita's ringing mobile and places it into a plastic evidence bag.
EXT. HOSPITAL – DAY

The ambulance pulls up outside the hospital. The back doors on the ambulance fly open, the paramedics are in full emergency mode. One of them is using a defibrillator on Edward.

INT. KITCHEN, CARL'S HOUSE – DAY

Carl turns the oven off completely. Stands and thinks, glances at the clock on the kitchen wall. His mobile phone rings off screen. Carl rushes into the

LIVING ROOM

and picks it up.

   CARL

   Hello?

He listens for a few seconds.

   CARL

   Oh my God. Which hospital?

Carl glances around, spying his car keys on the coffee table, jacket hanging over the back of the sofa. Carl hangs up.

INT. CARL'S CAR, TRAVELLING - DAY

Carl waits at a red light and makes sure it is clear before jumping it. Accelerating away.

INT. RECEPTION DESK, HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Carl finishes speaking with a nurse at the desk and sits down in the

WAITING AREA

A clock on the wall accelerates a couple of hours and a DOCTOR somberly approaches Carl.

   DOCTOR

   Mr Webster? Carl?

Carl looks up at him, he can tell already it's going to be bad news.
DOCTOR

I'm sorry...

Carl stands but his legs give way, the Doctor grabs him, eases him back into the chair. Tears stream from his face.

DOCTOR (CONT.)

There was nothing we could do. I'm sorry.

CARL

Both of them?

The Doctor nods, Carl's mouth opens and closes as though trying to speak but no words come out.

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Stacey and Billy are on the sofa with MALIQ. Robin is on the floor watching TV. Maliq pulls a bag containing wraps of heroin and cocaine out of his pocket. Billy's eyes grow wide. Maliq looks at him and grins.

MALIQ

You like that, Billy?

BILLY

You know I do.

MALIQ

And you want to sub what?

BILLY

(licks his lips)

Two wraps of each, mate. Just two wraps of each.

Maliq makes a big deal out of selecting four wraps from the bag and placing them on the table. Billy looks down at them hungrily.

MALIQ

You know I've got to charge interest? When you paying me?

BILLY

Tuesday Maliq, I swear. How much interest do you want?
Maliq plays around with the wraps on the table. Lining them up and then rearranging them again. Leans back on the settee, pushing his waist out.

    MALIQ
    Suck my cock.

Billy looks at him quizzically, then laughs as though Maliq is telling a joke.

    MALIQ
    You heard me.

    BILLY
    What do you mean?

    MALIQ
    English is my second language not yours. Suck my cock.

Billy frowns and nods at Stacey.

    BILLY
    Stace...

    MALIQ
    Nah, not her.

Billy looks at him in horror.

    MALIQ
    You. You do it.

    BILLY
    Come on Maliq. Stop fucking around.

    MALIQ
    I'm not fucking around.

Billy looks in horror at Stacey and she can barely stifle her grin. Maliq undoes his jeans. Billy gulps and moves in closer to Maliq's groin.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE – NIGHT

Carl drops his keys onto the coffee table and collapses, fully clothed, onto the settee. Tears well up in his eyes and he pushes himself into the sofa crying loudly.
INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - MORNING

Carl sits up on the sofa as sunlight pours through the window, his face is red and he is all cried out.

He pours himself a very large bourbon, drinks it back like a cup of tea.

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT – DAY

Stacey, Billy and Robin are sitting in the flat with Vicky and her colleague. No drugs are in sight but both Billy and Stacey are obviously high on heroin. Billy is gouching and not paying attention to anything. Stacey keeps lovingly scratching her own arm.

VICKY
So, can we have a look at Robin's room?
   (to Robin)
   Want to show us your room, Robin?

Robin stares at her blankly.

STACEY
It's being decorated at the moment. We can show you next time.

VICKY
We'll have to see it now. For our records.

STACEY
OK, but there really isn't much to see.

Stacey leads them into

ROBIN'S BEDROOM

Vicky surveys the sparse, dirty appearance.

STACEY
It's going to be lovely when we've finished. I know it looks terrible now...

Vicky scowls.

VICKY
You said that last time, Stacey.
STACEY
Oh yeah. Well we've had a nightmare getting the right paint. We'll get it done soon.

VICKY
We?

STACEY
Me and Billy. He's here to stay now.

Vicky nods, clearly struggling to keep her opinions to herself.

VICKY
Getting married?

STACEY
Maybe one day. Once we've cleaned ourselves up.

VICKY
You sure you're not just a bad influence on each other?

Stacey stares at her blankly.

STACEY
What are you trying to say?

Vicky shakes it off.

VICKY
Doesn't matter. Just make sure you get his bedroom cleaned up.

STACEY
Will do.

VICKY
Keeping off the drugs?

STACEY
(nervously)
Yeah. I just take methadone, what I get off the doctor.

VICKY
OK. Is he cutting you down?
STACEY
Not yet. But it's better than buying the shit off the street.

Vicky wrinkles her nose in disgust and turns to her colleague.

VICKY
Right then. I think we've seen enough.

Her colleague agrees with a nod of the head. Stacey walks them to the front door and sees them out.

Closing the door with relief after them she heads back into the

LIVING ROOM

and sits down on the sofa.

STACEY
Thank fuck for that.

BILLY
Thought the bitches were never going to leave.

Billy loads up the crack pipe.

STACEY
Let us have first blast on that, Billy.

BILLY
Fuck off. It's not my fault you have those bitches round, I'm gagging for a hit.

STACEY
(playfully)
Selfish.

Billy laughs.

STACEY
We better get Robin's room done for the next time they visit or we could end up losing him. Horrible places those children's homes.
Robin smiles and sits himself down in front of the tiny television.

    ROBIN
    I love you mom.

Stacey takes the crack pipe and hits it while she speaks.

    STACEY
    I love you too darling... mommy loves you too.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carl hangs his black suit on the curtain rail and brushes it down. He needs a shave and has been drinking.

He pours himself another drink and sits down on the sofa, presses a button on the remote control and the TV springs into life.

INSERT TV

Carl, Anita and Edward are celebrating Edward's fifth birthday. They are sitting around a table, Edward has a huge cake in front of him and he spits all over the cake as he tries to blow the candles out.

    CARL
    (playfully)
    Ugh! That's disgusting!

Edward giggles joyously. Anita and Carl laugh too as Anita helps Edward finally blow out the candles.

BACK TO SCENE.

Tears stream down Carl's face while he watches.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - MORNING

Carl is asleep on the sofa when he is rudely woken by banging on the front door.

Carl staggers over and opens the front door. Daylight causes him to shield his eyes. Suzanne stands at the door.
SUZANNE
Oh my God. Get in here.

Suzanne waves to the car outside to indicate for it to wait and she steps inside the house.

SUZANNE
You poor thing. Come on. You have to hold it together.

CARL
I know. I know. It's just so hard.

Carl has tears in his eyes but fights it, not allowing himself to cry.

SUZANNE
I know. I know. Come here.

Suzanne hugs Carl.

SUZANNE
Now come on. We have to get you cleaned up.

EXT. STREET, OUTSIDE CARL'S HOUSE – DAY

Carl and Suzanne emerge from the house. Carl has had a shave and looks a little better in his suit. Carl somberly gets into the car.

EXT. FUNERAL – DAY

Mourners stand around the graveside as the extra large coffin is lowered in. Several people are there including Anita's MOM and DAD.

Anita's Mom is gently crying, along with other mourners, as the VICAR finishes reading the sermon.

VICAR
We therefore commit Anita and Edward's bodies to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life.

Carl throws two roses onto the coffin. Several people, including Mom and Dad, throw a handful of soil.
INT. LIVING ROOM, SUZANNE'S HOUSE - DAY

Several mourners are gathered for the wake. Anita's Mom and Dad are mingling respectfully, accepting condolences gracefully.

Carl is sitting on his own, drinking too much. Suzanne approaches him.

SUZANNE
Hey, how you holding up?

CARL
OK.

SUZANNE
You sure you're going to be OK for work next week? Seems a little early to me.

CARL
No choice. I need the money, and life goes on, right.

Suzanne smiles at him sympathetically, reaches out a hand and takes the drink from him.

SUZANNE
This isn't helping.

CARL
I know, you're right.

SUZANNE
Shall I make you a coffee?

CARL
Yes. OK. Coffee sounds good.

CARL
Thanks Sue.

Suzanne heads into the kitchen. Carl smiles weakly at a few well-wishers. Anita's Mom walks over, a little drunk.

MOM
Carl. I must say, the choice not to use a single casket was a mistake. You should have let me handle it, like I suggested.
CARL
They would have wanted to be buried together.

MOM
Well that's understandable, but in the same casket?

CARL
It was designed to fit two, and what does it matter anyway? They're dead. Not coming back.

Carl stands up angrily.

CARL
You've never liked me, have you? Go on, just admit it.

Mom sways on her feet.

CARL
This is just another excuse to moan about me. How I'm not doing right by your daughter. Go on, admit it, admit to everybody here how much you hate me.

MOM
I don't hate you, I've never hated you.

CARL
Bullshit!

Anita's Mom jumps at the profanity.

DAD
Now Carl. I think you ought to calm down.

CARL
I've had enough. I need to be on my own.

Carl storms out of the house, slamming the door, just as Suzanne returns holding the coffee.

SUZANNE
Carl?

Suzanne looks for somewhere to place the coffee and then hurries to the front door, opening it.
EXT. CARL'S HOUSE – DAY

Suzanne pulls the car to a stop and they walk into the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE

Carl pours himself a drink.

    CARL
    Drink?

    SUZANNE
    No thanks, I've got to drive back in a while. You shouldn't either.

    CARL
    Oh well. Nobody to impress, here.

Suzanne laughs.

    CARL
    Present company excepted.

Carl switches some music on and dances around the living room.

    SUZANNE
    OK, well this is weird.

Suzanne laughs and suddenly Carl passes out, hitting his head against the coffee table on the way down.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD – DAY

Carl wakes up. Suzanne is by the bed. He looks at her and smiles.

    CARL
    What happened?

    SUZANNE
    You passed out.

    CARL
    Really?

    SUZANNE
    Yep. Apparently it isn't anything serious.
CARL
That's a relief.

SUZANNE
Luckily it was your head.

Suzanne smiles sympathetically, Carl does so weakly.

SUZANNE
You had me worried.

CARL
I'm lucky. You're a good friend.

SUZANNE
You'd do the same for me.

Suzanne squeezes his arm.

SUZANNE
I have to go to work. I've brought you some grapes. Ring me later, you can pop around for dinner... if you like?

CARL
Thanks. I'll give you a call.

SUZANNE
See ya.

CARL
Ta-ta.

As Suzanne leaves a DOCTOR walks over to Carl's bed.

DOCTOR
Good to see you awake. How do you feel?

CARL
Fine. What went wrong?

DOCTOR
You needed sleep. Your body shut itself down. You've been asleep for twenty-six hours.

CARL
Twenty-six?
DOCTOR
That's why you feel so much better now. Your body has regenerated itself.

CARL
I feel better than I've felt in a while.

DOCTOR
That's good. I can prescribe you something to help you sleep if you like?

CARL
No, thank you Doctor. I prefer to go without drugs if I can.

DOCTOR
Very sensible. However they can help. If you have trouble sleeping this can lead to other problems with mental function.

CARL
I'm fine, Doctor. I'll just stay in control of the drinking.

EXT./INT. SUZANNE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carl turns up at the front door clutching a bottle of wine. He's clean shaven and looking fresh in a nicely pressed suit. Suzanne takes the bottle from him and Carl steps inside.

SUZANNE
Look at you. I did say this was an informal evening.

CARL
I thought I'd put a bit of effort in. Too much?

SUZANNE
No, not at all. You look very dapper.

Carl smiles and walks through to the
LIVING ROOM

Suzanne's husband MIKE (40's) is there ready to greet him.

MIKE

Carl.

They shake hands.

MIKE (CONT.)

It's good to see you again. How are you? Suzanne told me about the hospital. They sure it isn't anything serious?

Suzanne enters the room.

SUZANNE

Mike, give him chance to take a breath. he's only just got here.

Carl chuckles.

CARL

It's OK. No, it isn't anything serious, just me drinking too much. Luckily I hit my head, anywhere else and it could have been life threatening.

Mike laughs.

SUZANNE

So, shall we crack open this lovely bottle of wine Carl brought around for us?

MIKE

I'm up for that. I'll get the glasses.

Suzanne and Mike head into the kitchen.

Carl sighs and rubs his face with his hands, taking a seat on the sofa, clearly trying to keep it together.

Mike enters with two glasses and hands one to Carl. Suzanne walks in drinking from her own glass.

SUZANNE

How does everyone want their steak?
MIKE
You know me, honey.

SUZANNE
Yes, I do. Carl?

CARL
Well done, please.

INT. LIVING ROOM, STACEY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Stacey is on the sofa smoking heroin from tin foil while Billy is kneeling on the floor providing oral sex to Maliq. Maliq looks up at the ceiling.

MALIQ
Oh yeah. That's it. You dirty cunt. Oh, you white bastard. You white fucking cunt!

Maliq ejaculates into Billy's mouth. Billy stands up gagging and runs into the bathroom.

Maliq does himself up while Billy can be heard washing out his mouth in the bathroom and stands to leave.

MALIQ
Love to stay and chat longer ladies. Ta-ta.

STACEY
Tirra Maliq.

Maliq walks into the

HALLWAY

and raps on Robin's bedroom door.

MALIQ
See ya mate.

ROBIN'S BEDROOM

Robin lying on his mattress, reading Oliver Twist.

ROBIN
See ya Maliq.
INT. DINING ROOM, SUZANNE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carl, Suzanne and Mike are sitting at the table, eating their meal. Carl is looking extremely drunk. Mike looks at him with concern as Carl pours himself another glass of wine -- spilling some of it on the table.

MIKE
Hey Carl. Don't you think you should calm down? That's your fifth glass.

CARL
Piss off Mike.

Mike and Suzanne exchange worried glances.

MIKE
Now Carl...

CARL
What Mike? All night it's been like this, being careful what you say. Why don't you just say what you really think?

MIKE
I can assure you...

CARL
Oh, just fuck off.

SUZANNE
Carl! How dare you speak to Mike like that.

Carl stands up.

CARL
You can fuck off too, Suzanne.

Suzanne gasps and Mike stands up aggressively. Suzanne pushes Mike into the KITCHEN

Suzanne holds onto Mike's arms attempting to placate him.
MIKE
He needs a good kick in the teeth.

They hear the front door SLAM. Suzanne hurries into the

HALLWAY
and opens the front door. Carl is already driving away. Mike joins her.

MIKE
Is he driving?

SUZANNE
Yes.

MIKE
Right.

Mike heads into the

LIVING ROOM
and picks up the phone, ready to dial. Suzanne follows him in.

SUZANNE
What are you doing?

MIKE
I'm calling the police.

SUZANNE
Are you mad? He'll get into trouble.

MIKE
And what if he seriously hurts somebody? Kills them?

Mike allows her to grab the phone from him.

SUZANNE
You can't do that. He's our friend.

MIKE
He's a prick.
INT./EXT. CARL'S CAR – TRAVELLING – NIGHT

Carl runs a red light and attracts the attention of a police car.

The police car follows him as Carl swerves the car to and fro. The police put on their sirens and Carl finally sees them.

    CARL
    Oh god.

Carl pulls over and waits for the OFFICER to walk up to his car and tap the window.

Carl takes a deep breath and winds it down.

    OFFICER
    Could you step out of the car please, sir.

    CARL
    What for?

    OFFICER
    I have reason to believe you've been drinking, sir. I'd like to administer a road-side test. Could you step out of the car, please.

Carl gets out of the car and the Officer gives him a drink test.

    OFFICER
    Just keep blowing into that, until I stay stop.

Carl puts the tube into his mouth and blows hard.

    OFFICER
    Keep going, keep going... and, stop.

The Officer pulls the breathalyser back to check the reading. Carl fails and the Officer places a hand on his shoulder.

INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM, STACEY'S FLAT – NIGHT

Stacey pokes her head around Robin's bedroom door, he's fast asleep. She looks at Billy who is standing behind her in the hallway.
STACEY
Ah, look at him. He's fast asleep.

Billy doesn't look.

BILLY
Yeah.

STACEY
Fell asleep reading his little book, look.

Billy doesn't look and carries on into the main bedroom.

BILLY
You coming, or what? I've got a stiffy here that needs sorting.

Stacey flicks off the light in Robin's bedroom.

STACEY
(whispering)
Night, night, little Robin.

BILLY (OS)
Come on Stacey!

INT. POLICE STATION – CUSTODY DESK – DAY

Carl is standing in front of the custody desk, the custody SERGEANT busy filling out paperwork. The Sergeant slides the paperwork around for Carl to peruse, handing him the pen.

SERGEANT
Right, sign here, here, here and there.

Carl signs the paperwork.

SERGEANT
We're on the fast track system now. You're in court next week, quarter to three. Here

The Sergeant pushes the sheet with the court date on it over to him.

SERGEANT
that's your copy.
Carl takes the sheet and folds it up.

**CARL**
What's going to happen to me?
Could I go to prison?

**SERGEANT**
Yes you could go to prison. Most likely though you'll get a large fine and banned from driving for a year.

**CARL**
Should I get a solicitor?

**SERGEANT**
Not much point, but if you have money to spare then you can do whatever you like.

**CARL**
OK, thanks.

**SERGEANT**
Right, park yourself down there and I'll get somebody to see you out in a bit.

Carl looks behind him, sees a wooden bench, sits down.

**EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND – MORNING**

Stacey is dropping Robin off at school with other parents gathered in the playground. Miriam is there to collect Carl's class. Stacey approaches her.

**STACEY**
So when's he back then?

**MIRIAM**
If you're talking about Mr Webster, he will be back tomorrow.

Stacey does a brief mental calculation.

**STACEY**
Bit soon, innit?
MIRIAM
That isn't for the likes of you... or I, to say. Mr Webster is a professional. He knows what he is doing.

Stacey looks at her doubtfully.

EXT. STREET, OUTSIDE POLICE STATION – DAY

Looking disheveled, Carl walks away from the police station. He searches in his pockets for change, counts it and then stands waiting at a bus stop.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND – DAY

The kids are playing. Robin is cornered by a group of CLASSMATES, taunting him.

CLASSMATES
Edward's dead, Edward's dead!

CLASSMATE #1
Who's going to protect you now, little Robin?

CLASSMATES
Edward's dead, Edward's dead!

Classmate #1 punches Robin in the face. Robin gets angry and throws himself into Classmate #1. They topple onto the floor, fighting.

CLASSMATES
Fight, fight, fight, fight!

Miriam breaks them up, dragging them both into the school building with her.

INT. MIRIAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Miriam takes a seat behind her desk while Robin and Classmate #1 stand the other side looking nervous.

MIRIAM
Well?

The two children stare at her in fear.
MIRIAM
I will not have children fighting in my school.

CLASSMATE #1
Robin started it, Miss.

ROBIN
That's not true.

MIRIAM
I don't care who started it. Just make sure that it doesn't happen again or next time, I won't be so nice.

CLASSMATE #1
Yes, Miss.

ROBIN
Yes, Miss.

MIRIAM
Now, get back to your classrooms.

Myriam shakes her head as the children leave.

INT. LIVING ROOM, CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

The curtains are all pulled over giving it the appearance of night. Old family videos play silently on the DVD player.

Carl listens to music while lying down on the sofa. His eyes keep drifting towards a bottle of whiskey sitting on the table.

He waits for a few moments longer and gets up, pours himself a glass. He pauses with glass in hand before quickly knocking it back.

SUPER: END OF PART 1

FADE OUT