

## ACT I

Opening montage of 60's Blackpool. Happy families. Paddling on the beach. Candy floss. Rides. Birds eye view of the Promenade and Piers. Pull back to show a picture frame and reveal a small office with a desk and an old, bald, fat man we'll call KING PIMP sat behind it. He's waiting impatiently and smoking a cigar. He looks through his office window across a sea of slot machines and arcade games. Outside a couple of kids are playing a toy grabber game. A woman in her late 30's (AMY) comes into frame talking to her friend on her mobile phone. She sounds hopeful and ends her phone call. She enters the arcade, as she does the LAUGHING MAN machine starts laughing all on it's own spooking the kids.

Inside his office KING PIMP watches Amy approach and sits back into his studded red leather chair. Amy enters and is seated and they offer small talk until King Pimp gets to the reason for the meeting. Amy's numbers haven't been good and she's been missing her targets for months. What can she do? King Pimp suggests running the GAUNTLET which Amy sees as certain death.

On her way home she passes groups of guys in Blackpool for stag dos. She tries her best to hook one - but nothing. Johnny (50s) a local nobody is lead against a wall watching. When Amy passes he asks how much for a blow job. Amy is aloof at first, but needs the money. Down an alleyway Johnny assaults her after failing to get an erection. He walks off and moments after Amy (stunned) follows. After her a short Humpty Dumpty character half appears in the street light. Nearing her home Amy chances upon a homeless man on spice, he's out of it so she carefully relieves him of the remaining drugs he possesses.

Returning home she greets her pet dog and goes for a shower. She looks at herself in the mirror, takes a retractable knife from her bag and holds it to her wrist - she can't do it. The next afternoon (2pm) Amy's alarm wakes her and her dog is barking to go out. She walks down a couple of flights of stairs and let's her dog out into a backyard, She retrieves her mail from her mail box and on the way back up to her flat she has an argument with a neighbour about her dog and why SHE'S allowed pets. Back in her flat she opens her mail a letter from the Job Centre and after some debate with herself, she takes some of the drugs she stole and heads out.

In town she enters a grim looking pub. Her friend Debra is there with a group of ne'er-do-wells. They talk about Amy's situation. Debra 'matter of factly' says she should have married and gotten out of the game. Debra married a punter who treats her like shit and Amy and he have an argument although he can't touch her as she is one of KING PIMP'S girls.

At the JOB CENTRE, Amy is called over to a desk area where a cheery jobsworth asks her to sit. They discuss Amy's limited options and what she wants to do with her life. He's outraged when Amy tries it on with him. Outside Debra is waiting and tells her there's a new girl at the shop they shoplift from. Amy enters the shop as NANCY the shop assistant is putting out an expensive pair of shoes. They swap pleasantries and Amy asks if she's new, the shop assistant confirms this and explains that she's on a trial and if one more thing gets stolen she's fired. Debra walks in and greets them both. Amy now reluctantly distracts Nancy while Debra steals the expensive new shoes. Debra leaves the shop and calls Amy's phone prompting Amy to make her excuses to leave. The shop assistant notices the missing shoes and distraught calls over a security guard / picks up her phone.

Amy and Debra are smugly looking at the shoes when a security guard comes chasing after them. They both run and eventually split up with Debra taking the item. Amy runs past one of the MONSTERS who is street performing - it turns and watches her keenly. Amy is pursued until she bumps into CHRIS. Amy doesn't recognise him. The security guard has caught up now and shouts 'CHRIS' to grab her. Amy realises it's her old boyfriend Chris and asks him for help. Chris stands in between the guard and Amy asks what she's done. The guard says she's a thief. Chris asks what's she stolen? how much was it. Amy protests saying she didn't steal anything - A technicality. Chris offers to pay and hands Guard £100 from a pile he takes from his jacket. Out of breath and flabbergasted the guard takes the money asking why he's putting his neck out for a thieving whore? Chris defends Amy squaring up to the guard asking him to apologise. Confused the guard steps back,

apologises and walks away. Chris invites Amy into his restaurant.

Inside the restaurant Amy becomes defensive and advises Chris that this is all a misunderstanding, if he hadn't have got in her way and that she can take of herself. Chris surmises that Amy's still hanging around with Debra, questions her character. She always got her into trouble. Chris pours Amy a stiff drink on the house - she knocks it back in one. They make small talk asking each other what they've been up to. Fact is she doesn't want to be in anyone else's debt. Debra makes her excuses to leave. Chris asks to see her again. Debra says she doesn't think it's a good idea.

## ACT II

On a tram on her way home Amy looks at her sad reflection. A call from Debra snaps her back to reality. Debra's relieved they BOTH got away. Amy asks if Debra still has the shoes, but she tells Amy she stashed them and when she went back for them they'd gone. They argue a little but it's cut short when another call comes through for Amy. She answers and it's the Job Centre jobs worth regarding an interview and he'll send her the address. Amy gets off the tram and heads to her flat when The LAUGHING MAN and INFANT CLOWN confront Amy advising her that her pimp still needs an answer.

Walking into flats she's confronted by her neighbour again who's angry that she's left the dog in the back yard all day. Running her dog on the beach the next day, Amy stops and sits on a sea wall. She suddenly finds herself in shadow when a badly beaten Johnny turns up blaming her for the way he looks. Amy protests saying she had nothing to do with it, that she's being watched by KING PIMP, although he's got what he deserved. At that he becomes threatening and thankfully for Amy Chris turns up on his daily run making Johnny back off. Amy complains to Chris that he'll just make things worse for her, her reminder pops up for her INTERVIEW.

Amy arrives at the address for her interview and is mortified to find out it's at the shop she's stolen from. She's met by the manageress and passes Nancy the shop assistant who asks if she knows her and that she looks familiar - although Amy has smartened herself up for the interview. The door to the interview office shuts. CUT TO Amy slams her money down on the bar and asks for a shot of vodka. Then asks for a diet coke. She turns and walks over to Debra who's sat at her usual table. Debra asks why Amy's 'done up' and Amy tells her she's had an interview. Debra laughs at her - you working etc. and that she'll never be able to pay KING PIMP off on shop assistant money. A lady passes who thanks Debra for the shoes, Amy realises they are the shoes they stole and gives Debra some grief before walking out.

Amy bursts into Chris's restaurant and tells him he was right about Debra. Chris seats Debra and gets her a drink. Ha asks her if she eaten and they have a meal together. They talk about their lives - not going into too much detail. As the evening ends Chris dismisses his staff. Then TOPSY TURVY arrive asking Amy for her answer - Chris and Amy fight them. \*The 3 MONSTERS have upside down heads. When they are placed one way they are happy/amiable/agreeable and when placed another way are angry/violent/destructive. TOPSY TURVY talk agreeably at first wanting a resolution to the problem - but when they don't get the answer they want take a hold of their heads and turn them upside down so that the ANGRY personality takes over and fights Chris and Amy. Eventually Chris and Amy manage to separate the heads from the bodies of the 3 monsters stopping them. Chris asks what answer did they want, Amy replies that she doesn't want to involve him, he asks can he at least have her number (or gives her a menu with the restaurant number on).

The next day Amy is sat on the beach with her dog Ozzy. Who's going to look after you if I run the Gauntlet. She reaches in her bag and pulls out the menu and calls the number. She apologises to Chris who asks to see her again. Amy invites Chris to her flat. On his way up he meets the neighbour who makes a comment. Neighbour, you must be special, she doesn't normally bring her work home. Chris offers Amy a job working for him as a waitress. You just want to see me in a waitress uniform. Chris:- is that so wrong? They kiss / have sex.

Chris gets out of bed opens the curtains and comments on the view - this place must've cost you - Amy says she doesn't own it? Amy receives phone call at home offered job in shop. Chris is proud / happy for her. She looks through her wardrobe and sees that they're all slutty clothes. Better go shopping. Chris offers her some money, Amy is insulted - she has her own money.

In town she crosses paths with LONG NECK JOKER who backs her up against a wall / window, bobbing his monstrous joker face into hers. She manages to break away and runs off. She hides in a clothes shop and watches him pass. In the shop she tries some new clothes on. She looks in a mirror and she looks professional. Dissolve to: Amy starts her new job as a shop assistant. Nancy is SURE she recognises her. Later that day, Debra walks in to try shop lifting and realises that Amy works there! Nancy realises NOW that oh yes she knows Amy and gets her fired.

Amy calls Chris. Chris is walking Amy home, Amy says her past always catches up with her. Chris bluntly questions why she's still friends with Debra. Chris repeats his job offer but Amy declines politely. Chris insults her saying it can't be worse than working as a shop assistant & beggars can't be choosers. Amy explodes - saying she used to be on loads of money. And reveals that she was a prostitute. Disgusted Chris turns to storm off when LAUGHING MAN grabs him and knocks him out. INFANT CLOWN scares Amy who runs down a back street, but slowly comes back when HUMPTY forces her back with his TEETH BARED. LAUGHING MAN grabs her / knocks her out.

Amy wakes in King Pimp's office who advises her that her time is up and he needs an answer. Amy exclaims that she's dead either way so he might as well kill her now and get it over with no more games. King Pimp says that things have changed, and shows her that they also have Chris now. Show Chris on a monitor in another room. If she doesn't run he dies too! Although Amy thinks their relationship will be over she doesn't want him dead. Leaving the pier Amy talks to one of the upside down face monsters who's escorting her out. He reveals King Pimp saved them from a fun house fire and killing her is nothing personal and that she should find ways to slow them down. Inside Pimp's office King Pimp is on the phone, telling people - The Gauntlet's on! Amy goes to see Security Guard as he seems to know Chris. Asks what his skill set was. Security Guard replies He was a crack shot Sniper. More kills than coronavirus. Security Guard says she does seem to be helping him but asks Amy not to break his heart. Amy asks him for a favour (to break Chris out) as she knows she's being watched.

### ACT III

Amy goes home as she knows she's being watched. She turns on the news and there's an article featuring next weeks fun run. Amy, Perfect. Amy sets up a fake fun run page and sends it out for people to share. She sets the run's date for tomorrow. Next she googles Fun House fire. Security guard breaks Chris out. LONG NECK JOKER's head springs out of a dark corner and kills him. Chris is pursued after his escape and goes to his restaurant to grab his rifle. He calls Amy and they make up. Amy tells him that she'll leave her flat unlocked tomorrow.

Amy is at the race line. Her phone rings - it's King Pimp who reminds her of the race rules. Amy ends the call. A man approaches in a running vest and shorts, he's annoyed that the race date has been brought forward and that the starting line was somewhere else last year. The race starts. The MONSTERS are confused when they see all the runners heading towards them as they can't see which one is Amy. Amy runs for her life as the monsters try to stop her.

Chris starts picking off the MONSTERS with his rifle and anyone else crazy enough to try and stop Amy. People in local betting shops are going crazy betting on the race. The police notice the rifle shots and head to apprehend Chris. But when they arrive at Amy's flat Chris is nowhere to be found.

Debra stops Amy. A wrecking ball controlled by INFANT CLOWN swings in between them. Says she's sorry for all the pain she's caused her and if she could go back she would as Amy would have had a great life. When

Debra finishes LAUGHING CLOWN appears to kill Amy. Debra intercedes and pushes them both into the path of the wrecking ball.

Amy reaches North Pier. However one obstacle is left - INFANT CLOWN. Amy looks at him and boots him into the sea. SHE'S WON THE RACE. In King Pimp's office he's ecstatic that the race has made him a small fortune. He assures Amy that her debt to him is wiped clean and even offers to share some of the winnings. Amy declines wanting nothing more to do with King Pimp. King Pimp is offended, but Amy reveals her winning hand when she tells King Pimp she knows that HE started the fun house Fire. He threatens Amy but it's too late as his office chair swivels round revealing INFANT CLOWN drying his hair with a flannel. Amy leaves and the other monsters enter the office to finish King Pimp off. Amy turns to TOPSY TURVY who nods respectfully. He takes his head off and flips it 180 pulling it back onto his neck.

Amy is wearing marigolds, washing dishes in Chris's restaurant. Chris walks in pushing a dish trolley. They talk about their future together. Chris closes the door obscuring them both and Humpty walks into shot guarding the kitchen entrance. The camera inches closer to the door and Humpty bares his teeth and lunges forward.