

GRIEFCASE

by

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Pilot - "If There's Anything I Can Do"

Content warning: suicide

1 INT. LIVING ROOM, STUDENT HOUSE - DAY

IZZY PALUSKI (20, mousey brown wispy hair, slight build) stares vacantly at her reflection in a full-length mirror, wearing a smart black bodycon dress and black ballet pumps. JOHNNY ADLER (20, a mass of curly hair framing a strong jawline) studies her like a Renaissance portrait.

JOHNNY

It's good. Business, but a little bit party. You've got a waist, but you're not shouting about it. Like if Hilary Clinton released a range at Boohoo.com.

(pause)

You're gonna have to leave sooner or later, you know.

Izzy nods. She calmly gathers her things, knocks back what looks like a painkiller, and shuts the front door behind her.

2 INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Enlarged on an easel: a photo of Johnny smiling broadly. Below the picture: "CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JONATHAN ADLER, 27th April 2002 - 10th April 2023".

PRIEST

It is with great sadness and loving memory that we gather here to mourn the loss of Johnny Adler. A beloved son, brother, nephew, cousin, and friend to many...

The congregation is a mix of well-to-do religious types, and flamboyant, artsy people in their early/mid-20s.

Izzy sits alone on the back row, hugging her rucksack. The label is replaced with:

TITLES: GRIEFCASE

Her behaviour is getting increasingly erratic. She stares down wide-eyed at a spot on the pew in front of her, silently but relentlessly tapping her hand on her leg.

3 EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCHYARD - DAY

Johnny's friends and family give Izzy a fleeting, tight-lipped smile. She's painfully aware that no-one wants to talk to her. No-one apart from..

LIESL (early 20s, wearing a black, feather-trimmed poncho and high stiletto boots). She hobbles towards Izzy with a warm grimace and a cigarette hanging out of her mouth. They hug.

LIESL

Well, this is fucking horrible
isn't it?

IZZY

Took the words right out my mouth.

LIESL

I've seen his Mum. She was nice.
Doesn't seem angry with anyone.

IZZY

She's avoided eye contact with me
so far.

LIESL

If it needs to be said, what
happened was not your fault. You
know that, right?

Izzy shrugs, unable to stay still.

IZZY

Liesl. This stuff you gave me is
incredible. I'm absolutely buzzing.

LIESL

Ok, try not to look like you're
enjoying yourself too much, yeah?

IZZY

No, but like... life is a journey,
and death the final adventure, you
know?

LIESL

How much did you take?

IZZY

You only gave me one pill!

LIESL

How much of the pill, though?

IZZY

Well... All of it?

LIESL
 Fucking hell! Right.
 (holding Izzy's swaying
 arms down by her sides)
 You know how I'm always telling you
 to be less of a wallflower? Today,
 be more.

4 INT. SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM - DAY

Izzy stands restlessly and alone at the wake with a mini
 sausage roll in one hand and a tea in the other.

A trio of beautiful drama students appear: patronising TABBY,
 intense LULU, and dippy MARTHA.

TABBY
 Hiii Izzy.

IZZY
 Oh. Yes, hello.

TABBY
 I'm Tabby, this is Martha and Lulu.
 We were on Johnny's course.

IZZY
 Yeah, I know who you are.

TABBY
 You do? Why, did he talk about us?

IZZY
 Yes.

TABBY
 Ahh, that's so lovely. We were so
 sorry to hear what happened.

IZZY
 Yeah, it's a significant bummer.

MARTHA
 My dog died earlier this year.
 (pause)
 Do you know why Johnny did it? Was
 he mentally ill?

Liesl appears.

IZZY

No, the coroner said he just slipped on a banana skin and fell right on an upturned razor. A tragic accident.

LIESL

No one had any idea. It's completely pulled the rug from under our feet.

LULU

I guess it was just his time.

IZZY

He was 20 years old. It was not his *time*, you fucking bint.

LIESL

(quietly)

Iz. Stop it.

TABBY

I'm so sorry for your loss. Let us know if there's anything we can do.

Izzy pulls a sarcastic smile.

LIESL

Thank you, that's really kind.

LULU

He's in a better place now.

IZZY

Is he? I reckon he's just dead!

LIESL

Ok, let's get you some more tea.

TABBY

So why did Johnny talk about me, was it about a particular production, or...?

LIESL

Nice to see you, thanks for coming.

Liesl drags Izzy away and gets her a tea.

LIESL (CONT'D)

Don't be a dick, they're just trying to be nice.

Izzy sips obediently as Liesl enthusiastically greets JOHNNY'S UNCLE (50s), much to Izzy's confusion.

Also standing alone nearby is ALEX (early 20s, good-looking drama student).

IZZY

Oh! I know you! You're Sexy Alex.

Alex isn't quite sure what to say to that.

IZZY (CONT'D)

I'm Izzy, Johnny's flatmate.

ALEX

Yeah, I remember you. Think we met at a pre-drinks or something.

IZZY

Johnny fancied the pants off you, you know.

His expression suggests that he did indeed know.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Gosh, you are very handsome aren't you?

She strokes his face. He looks uncomfortable.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Lovely soft features. You'd have made a beautiful couple. Sorry, that was a weird thing to say. What are you meant to say to that? Ha! Um, I'm going to get a tea.

ALEX

Maybe a decaf this time? I'm really sorry for your loss. Let me know if there's anything I can do.

Izzy gets herself another tea for something to do, and now has one in each hand. She bounds up to Liesl again.

IZZY

(rapping a la LMFAO)

"Shots, shots, shots shots shots shots, everybodaay!"

She shots her tea, sipping from alternate cups. People are starting to stare.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Why am I so thirsty?

Liesl takes the second tea from her hand.

LIESL

Put that down there. No more than one pint of fluid per hour, you hear me?

IZZY

I'm sorry, I *cannot* control what is coming out of my mouth.

LIESL

This hot mess look really doesn't suit you. Shall we get this open casket out the way?

IZZY

The... the what?

LIESL

Dunno *why* they decided to do that. Creepy as shit if you ask me.

IZZY

You mean he's just in there? Right now?

LIESL

Didn't his Mum tell you?

KATHERINE ADLER (50s, black, smartly dressed) stands smiling weakly and chatting to other guests. She sees Izzy and her smile vanishes, before she walks off.

IZZY

Oh, yeah, actually I think she did mention it. You know me, brain like a sieve.

(to the rhythm of
Sisqó's 'Thong Song')

"Brain like a sieve, sieve, sieve."
Sieve. Sieeeve. You know when you keep saying a word and it just becomes a sound that loses all meaning? Sieve sieve sieve sieve/

LIESL

/Do you want me to come in with you? Or you don't have to go in at all if you don't want.

IZZY
No, I will. It's just...

LIESL
Yeah. I know.

They head towards the frosted glass double doors.

IZZY
... Sssieve.

5 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Johnny lies in his coffin, looking serene and straight-faced in a white shirt and black suit trousers. Izzy stares at him before stepping away and taking a deep breath.

IZZY
Yep, that's creepy as shit.

She notices a few people waiting behind her.

LIESL
We can come back in a bit if you want.

IZZY
Sure. Maybe.
(peering closer at him)
Hey, Johnny boy.

Izzy leans in and kisses his cheek. This totally weirds her out, and she yelps.

LIESL
What the fuck?

IZZY
Oh, it was cold and gross, and/

/She starts manically wiping her mouth.

LIESL
You never kissed him while he was *alive*.

IZZY
Well there was that one time, when he pretended to be straight for a week 'cause he thought Sexy Alex might be more likely to fancy him. Remember?

LIESL

Oh yeah. That was funny.

Pause, as they both reminisce for a moment.

IZZY

No one tells you how to behave at these things! I've never been to a funeral before.

LIESL

I'm pretty sure not getting off with the corpse is the bare minimum.

IZZY

Oh god, have I got dead person bacteria all over my mouth now? Is this how you get parasites? Am I gonna start vomitting up worms?! I don't like worms! Worms. *Wooorms*. Worms worms worms worms...

Izzy makes a loud grossed out noise and hops around, as Katherine comes in to see what all the commotion is. There's an awkward silence.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Hello, Katherine.

Katherine is silent.

LIESL

Sorry Kat, it was just a bit of a shock.

Izzy gives Liesl an expression that says "Kat?!" Katherine leaves without a word.

IZZY

Brilliant.

LIESL

She's just lost her son. Give her time.

IZZY

Since when were you on "Kat" terms with her? Do you talk to her?

Liesl doesn't reply and leaves. Izzy brings herself to look at Johnny for longer, as CAROLE (50s, spiky but warm, wearing layers of unusual necklaces) appears behind her.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Sorry. You go.

CAROLE

I've never seen him look so serious.

Izzy gives her a little acknowledging smile.

CAROLE (CONT'D)

I'm Carole. Johnny took my anthropology module.

IZZY

Oh right, yes! He loved that class. I'm Izzy, I was his flatmate. And...

(trailing off)

Best friend.

CAROLE

I'm so sorry for your loss, Izzy.

Pause.

IZZY

Aren't you going to ask if there's anything you can do?

CAROLE

No. What could I possibly do? You don't even know me.

IZZY

Thank you. That's the first sensible thing anyone's said all day.

CAROLE

Grief's enough of a cunt as it is without all the frilly patronisation.

IZZY

(taking an instant liking to her)

And that's the second!

(pause)

Who have you lost?

CAROLE

Oh, the usual suspects. Goldfish, grandparents. And then my, er, daughter.

IZZY

Oh my gosh. I'm so sorry.

(pause)

How do you... You know, *do this*?
I'm not comparing my grief to
yours. But I feel like I've been
landed with a massive bag full of
bricks and I have to lug it around
with me for the rest of my life.

CAROLE

Well, it's a case of getting *used*
to it, not getting *over* it. And you
build a new normal around your
loss. Or something. Apparently.

IZZY

How long ago did it happen?

CAROLE

Er... Just over four years. She was
twenty-two.

IZZY

It's not fair. Life's so unfair.

CAROLE

Yep. Wait til you hear about death!

(pause)

Are you religious, Izzy?

IZZY

No.

CAROLE

Good. God can't save you, only
people can.

They look silently at Johnny a moment longer.

CAROLE (CONT'D)

For what it's worth, I am truly
sorry for your loss. I liked Johnny
a lot.

On seeing Izzy's hopeless expression, she gets a bit of scrap
paper out her bag, scribbles a number and some words, and
passes it to Izzy.

CAROLE (CONT'D)

If and when you're ready, you might
find it useful to come along to
this.

IZZY

What is it?

CAROLE

Grief is isolating. Particularly suicide grief - very confusing cocktail of emotions. It helps to talk to other people that get it.

IZZY

Your daughter killed herself?

Carole nods silently.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Is this like a support group?

CAROLE

... Essentially, yeah!

IZZY

That's really kind, but I'm not sure group therapy is my thing.

CAROLE

It's not like normal support groups. We take a more... Holistic approach. I don't know how I'd have got through Holly's death without it.

IZZY

Yeah?

CAROLE

Yeah! Anyway, think about it. Wednesday nights.

Carole leaves, and Johnny's eyes bolt open.

JOHNNY

Isn't she amazing?! All her lectures were like that. All wisdom and ponchos and middle-distance gazes. We wanted her to adopt us.

He shuffles up excitedly in his coffin and stares after Carole adoringly, before spotting someone else through the open double doors.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Ohmygod. Remember I told you about that neighbour who's on a "register", and that's all anyone knows? That's him! In the brown jacket and peado aviators. What do you reckon? The middle-aged bint on his arm suggests the victim was overage, but those glasses scream "lock me up and throw away the key!" Thanks for that weird fucking kiss, by the way. At least yours was fresh, if a little Twinings-infused. Tell Aunty Linda if she's planning on doing that again to start flossing. Bitch nearly killed me again.

Johnny retches. Lulu and Martha come in and put on a dramatic display of shrieks and sobs in the corner.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Oh god, who invited them?

Lulu makes the sign of the cross, looking up to the sky forlornly. Johnny peers around them.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

OhmyGOD, Sexy Alex came! YES!! I knew it, he wants me so bad.

IZZY

Well he's a bit late.

JOHNNY

Now why couldn't Sexy Alex have come and kissed me? Always Aunty Linda, never Sexy Alex. Send him in, tell him it's the done thing.

He lies back and pouts expectantly. In the living room, Johnny's uncle clears his throat loudly and taps a fork on his glass. Johnny jumps out of his coffin.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Oh! More about me! This is so fun. It's such a shame people can't be alive for their own funerals. I guess that's what weddings are for, right?

JOHNNY'S UNCLE

Hi everyone, and thank you all for coming.

Johnny now stands louchely in a more "him", snazzily patterned suit and a shirt unbuttoned to his midriff; an Academy Award in one hand and a cocktail in the other.

JOHNNY'S UNCLE (CONT'D)

Now, what can I say about our Johnny? Our larger-than-life ball of energy, who made us laugh every single day.

Johnny laughs loudly and mock-humbly, batting away the attention as if to say "oh stop it", but actually loving it.

Izzy phases out of the speech as the gravity of the day starts to dawn on her, and when she looks back at Johnny, he's lying lifelessly in his bland suit in his coffin as before.

6 EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - EVENING

Izzy leaves the wake, and spots Alex loitering by the gate.

IZZY

Alex! Hey!

ALEX

Oh. You again.

IZZY

... Would you have? You know, *gone there*? If he'd behaved normally. Was he ever in with a chance?

ALEX

Johnny was great. If I were that way inclined, he'd be my first port of call.

IZZY

You're... You're not gay?

ALEX

'Fraid not.

Izzy's hit by a wave of sadness.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

IZZY

Yes.

(pause)

No. No, not remotely.

ALEX

Shall we go to the pub? I dunno
what the fuck you've taken today,
but you look like you need
supervision.

Izzy glances back at the house where Johnny is at the window,
jaw on the floor, mouthing "what the fuck?!" - more amused
than angry. He does a lewd gesture. Izzy snaps out of it.

7

INT. PUB - EVENING

Alex brings two drinks back to the table where Izzy is
waiting.

ALEX

How's the head?

IZZY

Improving.

ALEX

And how's your heart?

IZZY

... What a beautiful question.

ALEX

I mean literally how is it, is it
still racing from the drugs?

IZZY

Oh, yes, right. No?

They sip their drinks in silence for a moment.

ALEX

No one really pays attention to the
friends of people that die, do
they?

IZZY

No. Fucking parents - stealing the
limelight, making it all about
them.

Alex laughs.

MONTAGE: As the drinks flow and the ice breaks, the vibe
shifts. Alex and Izzy sit a bit closer together, his hand
brushes hers, etc.

8 EXT. PUB - EVENING

ALEX
I live around the corner.

IZZY
(nervously)
... That's nice.

Alex starts walking off. Izzy stares after him.

ALEX
Well? Are you coming?
(pause)
If that's not a weird thing to say
after a funeral.

IZZY
That is definitely a weird thing to
say after a funeral.

He looks at her with an expression Johnny could only have dreamt of (and did dream of several times, to be fair). Izzy slowly walks towards him.

9 INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Alex dozes as Izzy stares, wide awake, up at the ceiling.

She checks her phone, which is plugged into Alex's charger, and sees several messages and missed calls from Liesl. The latest says: "Where the fuck are you?? Let me know you're ok"

Izzy types: "Sorry, battery died."

She deletes "died" and replaces it with "ran out".

10 EXT. COVENTRY TRAIN STATION - EVENING

Izzy runs to catch a slowing train just in time, scarf trailing on the floor behind her.

11 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - EVENING

Izzy finds a seat, stares at her dishevelled reflection in the train window, and puts her head in her hands in despair.

She gets her phone out and it's already out of battery again.

MARTHA
Izzy! Hey!

Izzy looks up to see Martha opposite, and her heart sinks.

IZZY

Oh, um, hi.

MARTHA

How are you holding up?

IZZY

Oh, you know, trying to process the crushing reality that the person I'm closest to in the world is currently dead in a box.

MARTHA

Oh he won't be in a box any more - he's been cremated, so now he's just a pile of ashes.

IZZY

Right. Cool.

MARTHA

It was so upsetting when Tim got cremated. 'Cause then it's like it's real, you know? Like, they were dead before, but at least they still existed, there was something physically to grieve.

IZZY

(surprised by this
perceptive statement)

Yeah, that's exactly it! I'm sorry, who was Tim to you?

MARTHA

My dog.

IZZY

Oh. Yes, of course.

Izzy goes back to staring out of the window.

12

EXT. SELLY OAK TRAIN STATION - EVENING

MARTHA

Well, here we are! Well done for getting through today with such... Such class.

- 13 INT. IZZY'S KITCHEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)
Izzy pops the not-a-painkiller in her kitchen.
- 14 EXT. SELLY OAK TRAIN STATION - EVENING (PRESENT)
MARTHA
I mean it.
- 15 INT. SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)
Izzy manically bops her head at the wake, chugging tea from both hands.
- 16 EXT. SELLY OAK TRAIN STATION - EVENING (PRESENT)
MARTHA
I can only imagine how *hard* today was for you.
- 17 INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING (FLASHBACK)
Alex and Izzy go at it hammer and tongs.
- 18 EXT. SELLY OAK TRAIN STATION - EVENING (PRESENT)
IZZY
Mmm.
MARTHA
Just let me know if there's anything I can do, ok?
IZZY
Actually, my phone's... out of battery, is there any chance you could book me an Uber home?
MARTHA
Aww, I'm afraid I'm being really careful with my pennies these days.
IZZY
Oh, I'll pay you back - it's not far, it'd be like, five q/
MARTHA
/Why don't you get a black cab?

IZZY

Cause... This is Selly Oak, there aren't any black/

MARTHA

/Sorry, I've got to dash actually, I'm cooking for Mika tonight. It's our three-monthiversary.

IZZY

Ahh, is it? Lovely.

MARTHA

But you take care of yourself, yeah?

They go their separate ways.

19 INT. HALLWAY, STUDENT HOUSE - EVENING

Izzy wearily shuts the front door and pauses at the Wall of Shame. Among the many drunken, ridiculous photos, we see one of Izzy and Johnny with a large group of friends at a table. The photo comes to life in a:

20 INT. HUGE, BUSY STUDENT PUB - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Fresher's Week, open mic night. A MALE STUDENT finishes off a soulful piano ballad to moderate clapping. JOHNNY 1 (18, rugby lad) speaks up:

JOHNNY 1

Hey, Johnny 2.

JOHNNY (ADLER)

Stop fucking calling me that!

JOHNNY 1

Johnny 2, Johnny 2. I'll let you be Johnny 1 if you...

Johnny 1 looks out the window, and sees some swans on the lake.

JOHNNY 1 (CONT'D)

If you get up on stage and say:
"I'm Johnny 1 and I fucked a swan".

The others burst into laughter, no one thinking he'll do it, and carry on their own conversations. However Johnny (Adler) holds his gaze, slowly stands up and makes his way towards the stage.

The others in the group notice what he's doing, and shriek with laughter.

COMPÈRE

 Aaand that was Noah D'Arcy with his piano cover of...

 (peering at his notes)

 "Wet Ass Pussy" by Cardi B! Did someone leave their cat out in the rain?

The COMPÈRE (40s, trying his best) looks around for a laugh he doesn't get. Johnny interrupts and takes the microphone.

JOHNNY

 Sorry, so sorry.

 (speaking slowly into the mic)

 Hi... I'm Johnny 1, and I fucked a swan.

The room goes completely silent. Johnny takes a little bow, and dignifiedly climbs back down off the stage. Slowly people start to laugh and cheer, and eventually Johnny climbs back on stage and takes another bow to rapturous applause and laughter.

JOHNNY 2 (FORMERLY 1)

 Johnny 1. I respectfully stand down.

Johnny takes his seat back once he's had enough attention.

FRIEND

 How are you not embarrassed?

JOHNNY

 If I'm gonna die young, I won't waste what time I have left in the shackles of shame.

Everyone is thrown by this sudden darkness, but if anything they laugh more. Johnny shrugs and smiles serenely. Izzy has clocked his strange comment and doesn't let it slide like the others.

JOHNNY 2

 I think this moment needs a commemorative selfie. To Johnny 1, our new supreme ruler, who fucked a swan!

The group raise their glasses and grin or pull stupid faces for a picture: the picture on the Wall of Shame...

21 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING (PRESENT)

... That Izzy is now standing in front of again in real time. She goes through to the kitchen.

22 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

They don't own a vase, so sympathy flowers are in pint glasses, the sink, pans, and a spaghetti jar, with the spaghetti loose on the counter next to it.

She leans on the counter and starts to sob.

JOHNNY

And what time do you call this?

Izzy turns round to see Johnny, still in his funeral clothing, standing hands on hips in the kitchen doorway.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You shagged him, didn't you?

Izzy stares silently at him, lost for words with guilt.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(face morphing into a wide grin)

I knew it! You sick bitch, I LOVE it. And you're high. I leave you alone for two weeks and you go from straight-laced Mum friend to Lindsay fucking Lohan. You put the fun in funeral. How was he?

IZZY

Why are you so cheerful? Do you have any idea of the sheer fucking scale of the damage you've caused?

JOHNNY

You just pulled the love of my life at my own funeral, the least you can do is give me the gory, horny details.

IZZY

Your family will never recover from this. Ever, ever, ever. You absolute selfish piece of...

Izzy wrestles him to the ground, holding him by the scruff of his collar. He easily fends her off.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Stop *smirking!*

JOHNNY

Hun, have you had your caffeine hit today?

IZZY

I spent two hours at your wake. I'm so full of weak, lukewarm tea I keep burping up mouthfuls of it.

JOHNNY

Right, something stronger then.

Izzy releases him. Johnny gets out a bottle of wine.

IZZY

You know he's straight, right?

JOHNNY

So is spaghetti 'til it gets wet, babe.

He searches for an empty glass or mug to no avail, and sips straight from the bottle.

IZZY

Did you not think to check that detail before obsessing over him for three years?

Johnny looks at the clock.

JOHNNY

Oh my god, babe.

IZZY

What?

JOHNNY

It's eight-thirty! It's Monday night!

IZZY

I'm just trying to say, you didn't exactly help yourself did you?

JOHNNY

Quick, get the remote!

23

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

They share wine from the bottle in cold silence as the *University Challenge* teams introduce themselves.

JOHNNY

Ahh, there he is, the man himself.
Waiting for me at heaven's gates.

We see JEREMY PAXMAN on their tiny TV. Johnny reaches out his hands to greet him as if Paxo were God himself.

IZZY

Shouldn't we have one night off the Paxo thirst out of respect?

JOHNNY

Why? This is what I would have wanted.

(pause)

You just know he'd treat you right, don't you.

IZZY

Fucking hell.

JOHNNY

He'd stroll into the bedroom after a long day's filming, throw his tie on the antique chair, one-handedly unbutton his Charles Tyrwhitt shirt and wearily say:

JEREMY PAXMAN

(in the programme)

"Well, we all know the rules by now, so let's just get on with it."

JOHNNY

And I'd say yes, Jeremy. Let's.

IZZY

Could you not have stayed alive for Paxo?

JOHNNY

I'm sorry?

IZZY

Or St Catherine's Verrier, who I'm finding strangely alluring despite the dodgy jumper...

Johnny peers at the TV with interest. Izzy stands up.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Or Sexy Alex, who yes, I just fucked after your funeral while high on drugs. I'm sorry. Or any of the other Sexy Alexes you'd yet to meet!

JOHNNY

You know I can't answer that.

(pause)

But let me know if there's anything I can do.

Izzy glares at him, and slams the kitchen door in his face.

24

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The next morning, we see a figure banging on the front door through the glass. Izzy shuffles downstairs and opens it. Her mother, MOIRA PALUSKI (50s, petite, brown bob, tight-lipped) stands there looking disapproving.

MOIRA

You've really got to get that doorbell fixed.

IZZY

Yeah. I've actually been a bit preoccupied recently, Mum.

Moira barges her way in.

MOIRA

Were you still in bed?! It's three in the afternoon!

IZZY

What's the point of getting up?

MOIRA

You know, life!

(pause)

And the bins need taking out.

Moira looks in horror at the state of the kitchen.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

It would have been nice if you'd done the washing up.

Izzy can't contain it any longer. Her eyes well up. Moira notices - and you can see there's someone in there who wants to be sympathetic and help, but has absolutely no idea how.

MOIRA (CONT'D)

Now what's the matter?! Johnny
wasn't your... *boyfriend*... Was he?

IZZY

Well, no, but/

MOIRA

/Oh. Well, I think I'm going to
stay for a few days.

Moira wrinkles her nose at a now mouldy bunch of flowers in a Pringles can. Izzy's expression says "please, no", but she's secretly relieved not to be on her own any longer.

Moira gets to the washing up and Izzy stomps upstairs.

25 INT. IZZY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Izzy and Johnny share a knowing look as they listen to the varied "ow!"s, "for goodness' sake!"s and "disgusting!"s coming from Moira downstairs. Izzy picks Carole's note up from her bedside cabinet and Googles the address.

26 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Moira's version of caring might not look like most parents', but there's no denying the lift of a clean kitchen.

Izzy stomps back downstairs, fully dressed with shoes and her Griefcase on.

MOIRA

Where are you going?

IZZY

Out.

MOIRA

And when will you be back?

IZZY

Later.

JOHNNY

Please don't leave me with her.

Johnny scuttles along behind and slams the door behind them. Moira stands there helplessly and indignantly, with yellow washing up gloves on and a few bubbles stuck in her hair.

27 INT. COMMUNITY HALL FOYER - EVENING

Ten or so people mill around, some in small groups, including: KABIR (30s, camp, regrettable plastic surgery), LUCY (blonde, 40s, a bit frumpy), SUZIE (60s, long grey hair, slightly spaced out, thick Somerset accent) and Carole.

They eye an attractive male newbie, SAM (40s).

LUCY

If it was his wife, I shotgun.

KABIR

If it was his husband, he's mine.

Izzy nervously walks in with Johnny in imaginary tow, and Carole makes a beeline for her as they all head in.

CAROLE

Izzy! So glad you could make it.

28 INT. COMMUNITY HALL ROOM - EVENING

OSIRIS (male, 50s) sits calmly staring at the floor, an absent smile on his face. Izzy takes a chair and joins the circle of about 30 growing around him.

As Izzy looks around, she does a double take as she sees Johnny's Mum Katherine across the room. She stares to try and catch her eye but Katherine won't look at her.

Once everyone is seated, Carole closes the door, giving a reciprocated smile and wave to Katherine, and bowing to Osiris on her way back. He calmly smiles and nods back at her.

Osiris speaks with a genuine, earnest tone - positive yet calming.

OSIRIS

Welcome, everyone. It's lovely to see you all, as well as a few new faces.

JOHNNY

My bad...

Izzy gives a little nod and a smile, but Katherine keeps staring at the floor.

OSIRIS

My name is Osiris, but most people call me Os. Shall we get started?

While Osiris puts a meditative chant on the speaker, everyone else pulls out a necklace from under their clothing with the same unusual symbol as one of Carole's from the funeral. Most are bronze in colour; Lucy's and a few others are silver, but Carole's and Suzie's are gold.

Everyone then holds hands. Johnny is offended when no one takes his. Osiris sits back down.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

And so we recite our five
commandments, before a brief
meditative period.

Everyone closes their eyes, so after sharing a quick quizzical look, Izzy and Johnny do the same.

The newbies don't know the commandments yet so they sit and listen, vaguely mumbling along.

ALL

We vow to treat others with the
kindness and compassion that we
deserve ourselves.

(pause)

We acknowledge that our souls are
broken by grief.

(pause)

We vow to repent for failing our
loved ones so that we will be
reunited in the afterlife.

Izzy and Johnny's eyes open sharply. They give each other a concerned look and stop trying to mumble along.

JOHNNY

Um...

Katherine's eyes are still firmly shut, and she grips the hands of the people either side of her.

ALL

We believe that a power greater
than ourselves can bring us to
eternal justice.

(pause)

And we vow to honour and obey our
leader at all times.

Even Katherine opens her eyes at that and looks around, catching Izzy's eye for a second, before firmly shutting them again. Johnny bursts out laughing, but Izzy's not finding it funny any more.

JOHNNY

Ok, babe? Run.

The rest of the group remain silent with their eyes closed.

Izzy picks up her Griefcase and creeps towards the door as quietly as she can muster.

Johnny stops next to his Mum, watching as she sits there in silent concentration, tears streaming down her face. He falls to his knees in front of her and takes her hands, looking back at Izzy.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Wait. We can't just leave her here.

Izzy pauses, conflicted. She scans the room at all these vulnerable, grieving people, and back at Johnny. They nod at each other and she sits back down. Everyone opens their eyes.

OSIRIS

And now to our new members!

Osiris gets four bronze necklaces from the table and approaches Sam, who is sitting right next to him.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Now, what's your name?

SAM

Sam.

OSIRIS

Sam. Do you accept the five commandments and give yourself fully to the process of enlightenment?

SAM

I... Do?

Osiris places a bronze necklace around his neck and kisses his forehead. He moves towards another new man (COLIN, 50s, bumbling, nervous).

OSIRIS

And what's your name?

SECOND NEW MAN

Colin.

OSIRIS

Colin. Do you accept the five commandments and give yourself fully to the process of enlightenment?

COLIN

Er, thank you so much, but I'm not sure this is for me. Sorry.

Osiris calmly gestures towards the door, still smiling, as Colin tries not to literally run out the door. Izzy and Johnny look at each other again - there's still time..

Osiris approaches Katherine and looks at her expectantly.

KATHERINE

Katherine.

OSIRIS

Katherine. Do you accept the five commandments and give yourself fully to the process of enlightenment?

KATHERINE

(through tears)

I do.

Osiris proudly places a bronze necklace around her neck and kisses her forehead, wiping tears from her face. Izzy and Johnny watch helplessly.

Osiris slowly and ominously floats towards IZZY.

IZZY

(reluctantly)

Izzy.

OSIRIS

Izzy. Do you accept the five commandments and give yourself fully to the process of enlightenment?

Izzy's heart races. She stares at Osiris, trying to gauge what's going on behind those enigmatic eyes; then at a silently weeping Katherine; and back at Osiris again.

IZZY

I do.

Osiris puts a bronze medal around her neck and kisses her forehead, much to her discomfort.

Now the formalities are over, it starts to look like something resembling a normal grief support group. There's quiet conversation and laughter, people start sipping from their teas and nibbling on biscuits.

OSIRIS

So. We normally start by introducing ourselves and saying who we lost, before we introduce our guest speaker.

Osiris nods at a smartly dressed man holding a copy of "A Grief Observed" by C.S. Lewis, and then gestures to newbie Sam.

OSIRIS (CONT'D)

Perhaps you could start us off.

SAM

Erm, hi everyone. I'm Sam, and I lost my wife six months ago.

Lucy looks smugly at Kabir, who does the tiniest disappointed shake of his head.

29

INT. COMMUNITY HALL ROOM - EVENING

The meeting has ended. Suzie is going round with a money box. Carole approaches Izzy.

CAROLE

All the stuff at the beginning's a bit funny I know, but I think it's really helpful to be around people that get it, isn't it?

IZZY

Yeah, of course.

SUZIE

We're a family here!

Izzy is shocked to see Carole put £100 in notes in the money box. Suzie holds it out to Izzy.

IZZY

I'm sorry, I didn't bring any cash!

SUZIE

That's alright, my love. Next time. It's just for the room hire. And, you know, to please the gods.

(MORE)

SUZIE (CONT'D)

(on seeing Izzy's
expression)

I'm only joking, love. But you
know.

(stuffing an extra
tenner in)

Can't do any harm, can it.

31 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Saturday morning. Izzy comes downstairs to an immaculate house, with Moira reading The Telegraph from her makeshift bed on the sofa.

Izzy turns the TV on to BBC Breakfast and goes to make herself something to eat. Moira purses her lips disapprovingly at the noise.

32 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

This is the first day since Johnny's death that Izzy's felt just bad rather than awful, and she's decided to run with it, quietly singing "Born This Way" by Lady Gaga as Johnny vogues along in the corner.

She comes back through with her cereal to the local news segment on TV.

REPORTER

Colin Fry was last seen boarding the 6:15 train from Sutton Coldfield to Birmingham New Street on Wednesday night, and did not return home. It's not yet clear where he spent his evening.

A picture of Colin who escaped from the support group appears on the screen.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

Any members of the public with any information regarding his whereabouts are encouraged to call 111.

Izzy's eyes widen.

END OF EPISODE.