

Laurie and George Episode 1

by
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1 INT.GEORGE'S BEDROOM - DAY 1

The bedroom walls are covered in science posters; the periodic table, insect classification charts etc. Propped on a music stand is an open Kung Fu book. George (12, small, glasses, school uniform) practices blocking moves that don't look very effective. After each move he stops to consult the book, squinting at the small diagrams.

2 EXT. SOUTHWARK STREET - DAY 2

Laurie (34) pounds along the pavement in her jogging gear. She runs up to her house, a boring new build, and gets her key out. The lock is sticky, she turns the key and kicks the door at the same time. The door flies open.

3 INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS 3

Laurie runs upstairs. She passes George's open bedroom door.

LAURIE

I'm just having a quick shower!

George doesn't answer. Laurie looks in.

GEORGE

Can you come here a second.

LAURIE

I haven't got time.

GEORGE

Please! Just a second.

Laurie sighs and goes into George's bedroom.

George arranges Laurie's hands. He hits them with Kung Fu strikes.

LAURIE

Look George, if someone attacks you they're not going to come at you very slowly with immobile hands are they?

GEORGE

Attack me then. Go on.

Laurie tuts. She very gently 'attacks' George. He is unable to block her. She takes his hands in hers.

(CONTINUED)

LAURIE

Your deadly weapon is your brain
George, not your Wing Ping Kung Fu
skills.

GEORGE

Wing Chun Kung Fu. What you just
said is racist.

LAURIE

No it isn't. Go and have some
cornflakes.

George is in the passenger seat next to Laurie.

LAURIE

If anyone starts on you don't do
Kung Fu on them. Go straight to
the head.

George's hands shake on his school bag. Laurie gives him
a worried glance.

LAURIE

I'm serious George.

GEORGE

Is dad still coming to the
meeting?

LAURIE

I'm picking him up as soon as I've
dropped you off ... then we can
put an end to this crap.

George makes furtive Kung Fu moves while gazing out of
the window.

LAURIE

George.

George stops.

They arrive at the school. George scans the area.

LAURIE

Want me to see you in?

George shakes his head and gets out.

LAURIE

I'll be back in a bit OK?
George nods.

4 CONTINUED:

4

LAURIE

Love you.

George walks towards the school. Laurie watches from the car. A couple of much bigger boys appear and begin to walk after George. They shout something at him. George jumps and looks round.

LAURIE

(To herself)

Little bastards.

Laurie gets out and starts towards George but a gaggle of sixth form girls surround him. They shoot filthy looks at the bigger boys. They walk George into the school.

5 INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

5

Laurie waits by the barriers. Passengers trickle through. She glances at the clock. It's 9.15. She makes a call.

LAURIE

Where are you? We've got to be at the school in thirty minutes. If you're going to be much longer call me.

More passengers arrive but not Laurie's husband. An attractive woman (Elin 30) blonde hair hippy/boho style glides through the barriers. Laurie glances at her then looks away. When she looks back the woman is standing right in front of her. Elin looks at Laurie with critical interest.

LAURIE

Yes?

ELIN

Laurie?

Laurie is confused.

LAURIE

Yes?

ELIN

I'm here on John's behalf.

LAURIE

What, my John?

ELIN

No. My John.

LAURIE

What?

(CONTINUED)

ELIN

John and I have been lovers for some time now Laurie and we've taken the decision to move into the commitment zone.

Laurie frowns, perplexed.

LAURIE

Riiight... should I be laughing?

ELIN

Perhaps you should take responsibility for choosing a congruent reaction.

Laurie is completely perplexed.

LAURIE

Look, I don't know who you are but haven't got the time for this ...

Elin holds an envelope out to Laurie.

Laurie turns her back on Elin and calls John's number. A phone rings in Elin's bag. Elin answers it brightly.

ELIN

Hello, John and Elin's phone.

Laurie stares at her, the phone still held against her ear.

Elin holds out the envelope again. Laurie glares at her then snatches it and looks inside. There's a stack of money. She looks up at Elin in shock. There are documents inside too. She pulls them out. She scans them. She looks as if she's going to pass out.

LAURIE

What the fuck is this?!

ELIN

Please vacate my house in the next four weeks.

Laurie gapes at her.

LAURIE

What do you mean 'your house'?!

ELIN

And don't try to contact John while he's transitioning. You've deformed his psyche enough.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

LAURIE

Right. I've had enough of you, you'd better get out of my face right now because I about to lose my fucking rag ...

ELIN

I am obliged to warn you Laurie that I am trained in martial arts and I will defend myself...

Laurie takes a step towards Elin. Elin's fist flies out and Laurie takes several viper like strikes to the face. Too late Laurie tries one of George's ineffective blocking moves.

Mission completed, Elin pulls her bag up on her shoulder and beeps through the barriers with her oyster card.

Laurie clutches her face. She watches Elin's departing back through her fingers.

LAURIE

What about George?!

Elin keeps walking.

LAURIE

(shouts)

What about George?!

6 PINT. HEADMISTRESSES OFFICE - DAY

6

George and Laurie sit opposite Mrs Powell the headmistress. They have three black eyes in a row. Laurie looks completely numb.

They listen to a recording George made of a group of boys shouting vicious abuse at him.

RECORDED VOICE 1

Go on keep crying and see me knock your eyes inside your snitch head!

There's the sound of a scuffle, stamping and something breaking.

There's nasty, whooping laughter.

RECORDED VOICE 2

Should'a gone Specsavers!

More laughter.

Mrs Powell shifts in her seat and scratches at a rash spreading across her throat. She tries to turn it off but turns it up instead. The abuse escalates. She pushes the phone over to George.

(CONTINUED)

MRS POWELL

Turn if off please.

RECORDED VOICE 1

He ain't gonna need no fucking
Specsavers!

GEORGE

Leave me alone!

RECORDED VOICE 2

How comes you're so fucking
moist?!

George slowly slides it across the table.

MRS POWELL

Turn it off please! Now!

George turns it off. There is a long silence. Mrs Powell takes a moment to gather herself.

MRS POWELL

First of all; and let me be very
clear about this; it's not
acceptable to record other
students without their knowledge
and permission.

George looks at the table. Mrs Powell turns to Laurie. Laurie stares at the envelope in her bag.

MRS POWELL

There are procedures and protocols
for addressing student/student
aggression and this sort of
unauthorised intervention can
jeopardise the entire mediation
process!

Laurie drags her gaze away from the envelope and looks at Mrs Powell as if she's speaking in Martian.

MRS POWELL

After our last meeting I thought
we were on the same page with
this?

Laurie seems to come to. She looks at Mrs Powell as if she's in pain.

LAURIE

What?

7 EXT. HEADMISTRESSES OFFICE - DAY

7

Laurie and George leave the office. Raymond Raisin, who at 14 is the size of a large man, waits outside. His face is entirely concealed within his hood into which he feeds hot wings from a King Rooster box. As George passes Raymond makes a gun with his hand and pretends to blow George's head off.

Laurie glares at Raymond in disgust and guides George out of the main doors.

Mrs Powell's door opens. She comes out for Raymond Raisin.

MRS POWELL

Come in please Raymond.

RAYMOND RAISIN

Whassup bruv?

MRS POWELL

My name is Mrs Powell not 'bruv'.
Why is your hood up?

RAYMOND RAISIN

Cold 'ead innit.

Raymond stands up and fist bumps Mrs Powell with a huge greasy paw. Mrs Powell's hand flies to her rash.

8 INT. LAURIE'S CAR - DAY

8

Laurie and George drive home in silence.

9 INT. LAURIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

9

Laurie is in her bedroom. She drags John's coats and jackets out of the wardrobe and flings on the bed. She searches the pockets. She empties his bedroom drawers onto the bed too.

George watches her from the doorway.

GEORGE

What's going on?

LAURIE

That's what I'm trying to find out.

GEORGE

Where's dad?

(CONTINUED)

LAURIE

I don't know.

GEORGE

Is he coming back?

LAURIE

I don't know.

GEORGE

Why do you keep saying you don't know?

Laurie looks at him.

LAURIE

Because I don't know!

GEORGE

Why don't you...

LAURIE

Just shut up George! Please!

Laurie works her way through John's papers. She scans letters and documents then drops them onto a pile on the floor.

She takes John's books from the shelf, shakes them out and throws them into the pile. They are all self development books, 'Hypnotise Your Way to Success', 'The Man Within the Man'. A photograph of an unsmiling Elin drops out of the pages of a book called 'Heal Your Deformed Life' by Elin Toov-Olofsdottor.

Laurie steps back from the photograph as if it's on fire then she snatches up the book and looks at the back; another unsmiling photograph of Elin. She turns to the dedication page, it reads 'To John, whose life is currently deformed.' Laurie flings the book at the wall.

LAURIE

Bastards!

George makes beans on toast. He nearly cuts his hand off with the breadknife and drops beans on the floor.

He looks through the open door at Laurie. She is staring at the computer screen with crazy eyes.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 12

George takes two plates of beans on toast to the dining table.

Laurie can't tear her eyes away the computer screen. She shakes her head in disbelief.

George eats quietly.

LAURIE
(under her breath)
Oh my God ... you bastard. You
piece of shit bastard!

George puts his knife and fork down and goes upstairs to his room.

13 INT. GEORGE'S ROOM - DAY 13

George sits at his desk. He looks at a brilliant scrap of butterfly's wing under his microscope.

His phone beeps. It's voicemail message.

VOICEMAIL - A YOUNG GIRL
Hey George...

In the background there is muffled laughter.

VOICEMAIL - A GIRL
...just passing on a message; when
you come in tomorrow YOU ARE SO
DEAD YOU FUCKING SNITCH!

George shoves the phone into a drawer.

He turns back to his microscope.

He hears the phone vibrate in the drawer.

The colours of the butterfly wing blur as a tear drops into the eyepiece.

14 INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE - DAY 14

George comes downstairs in his 'Geniuses of Science' pyjamas.

Laurie is still on the computer in her nightdress. Her eyes are bloodshot and swollen. She glances at George.

LAURIE
Hurry up and get ready for school.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

I'm not going.

LAURIE

Yes you are. Go and get changed.

GEORGE

No I'm not.

LAURIE

Yes you are!

She looks at him. Her eyes are red and intense. His eyes fill up. His lip wobbles.

LAURIE

(yells)
We do not let people walk over us
George!

She picks up a pen holder and flings it across the room where it hits the opposite wall.

George stares at her, open mouthed, then goes back upstairs.

Laurie turns back to the computer. She clicks on another email. It has an attachment. It's a photo of Elin and John on a skiing holiday. She shakes her head in disbelief.

George sits at his computer. He stares at the screen for a long moment then types the words, 'Suicide Note.' Then he writes:

'Dear Mother, I have decided to ...

He checks the online thesaurus.

...annihilate myself. I hope you are not too...

He checks the online thesaurus.

...discombobulated at the...

He checks the online thesaurus.

... cessation of my actuality. Love George.

Tears course down his face. He types 'Last Will and Testament'.

15 CONTINUED:

15

To my mother Laurie Ann Milton I leave my Garrett Ace 150 metal detector with accessories, my National Geographic microscope set, my salt plate tectonics model, my set of geological rock hammers ...

16 INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

16

Laurie looks, open mouthed, at picture after picture of John and Elin on ski lift, drinking schnapps, throwing snowballs ... Elin is unsmiling in all of the photographs while John wears a huge gummy grin.

17 INT. GEORGE'S ROOM

17

George pulls the sheets from his bed and fashions them into a noose. He throws it over the top of the door and hooks it round the doorknob on the other side. He pulls a chair over to the door and climbs on to it.

18 INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - DAY

18

Laurie hears a crash coming from George's room. She glances up then looks back at the computer.

She is looking at a picture of John and Elin eating fondue together. Laurie laughs crazily.

LAURIE

Fondue?! You bastards...

She glances towards the stairs again.

LAURIE

George?

No answer. She turns back to the computer then looks at the door again. She gets up and goes upstairs to George's room. She sees the sheet tied round the outside door handle. She looks at it and frowns for a moment, confused.

LAURIE

George!

She pushes the door. It's stuck. She shoves it open. George is on the floor, on the other side of the door. The toppled chair is beside him and the rest of the noose still round his neck.

LAURIE

George!

(CONTINUED)

She grabs George and checks frantically that he's in one piece. She pulls him to her and hugs him fiercely. George sobs.

GEORGE

Don't make me go back.

Laurie can't speak. She shakes her head. They sit there for a long while. Laurie's tears soak into the shoulder of George's Geniuses of Science pyjamas.

LAURIE

You're never going back there.

Laurie shakes her head again; with sadness and then with disgust. Her eyes begin to flash with anger. The more she thinks about it the angrier she gets. Suddenly she gets up. She tugs George to his feet.

LAURIE

Come on.

GEORGE

Where are we going?

LAURIE

To school.

Laurie pulls George after her. He still has the noose round his neck.

GEORGE

But you just said I never have to go back there!

In the next door garden Laurie's elderly neighbour Mrs Martin is taking her rubbish out.

She stops and watches George and Laurie walk to the car. George has a noose round his neck.

George and Laurie get into the car and roar away. Mrs Martin stares after them.

Laurie pulls George into Mrs Powell's office.

She pulls the noose off over George's head and chucks it at Mrs Powell. It hits her in the face. She jumps up.

LAURIE

What's the protocol for this?

MRS POWELL

If we can just calm down...

LAURIE

No! We can't! My son just tried to
...

Laurie is choked, she can't speak. She clamps her hand over her mouth.

GEORGE

Annihilate myself?

Laurie pulls herself together. Laurie takes a breath.

LAURIE

...annihilate himself because you
won't do anything to protect him!

Mrs Powell struggles to think of something to say.

MRS POWELL

Mrs Milton... the Raisin family
... it's extremely complex. There
are multiple issues to take into
account. We can't just...

LAURIE

Can't just what? Look after
children in your care? Well you've
got one less to worry about now
because George is never coming
back and you can all FUCK THE FUCK
OFF!

GEORGE

Hurray!

George and Laurie leave the school. As they walk out to the car Raymond Raisin and a couple of his gang follow them. Raymond Raisin picks up a handful of gravel and throws it at them.

Laurie pulls George along. Raymond Raisin picks up a stone and throws it. It hits George on the back of the head.

Laurie turns and marches up to Raymond Raisin. He squares up to her. Laurie smacks him across the head. Raymond and his friends gasp with shock.

Laurie grabs George's arm and they run to the car.

21 CONTINUED: 21

Raymond pushes his hood off and glares after them, breathing hard through his nostrils.

22 EXT. MCDONALD'S DRIVE IN - DAY 22

George holds his noose and a Happy Meal bag in his lap. Laurie sits with her head on the steering wheel.

23 INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE. KITCHEN- DAY 23

Laurie is on the phone to someone. She has a list of schools and a pen. George sits and watches her.

LAURIE

So when will you have a place?

She listens.

LAURIE

And this is important... do you have any members of the Raisin family at the school?

She listens.

LAURIE

Madison-Blue Raisin?

George looks alarmed.

LAURIE

Forget it.

She slams the phone down and crosses out a name on the list. She looks at George thoughtfully.

LAURIE

Do you want to be home schooled by me?

George looks appalled.

GEORGE

But you don't know the first thing about science subjects!

LAURIE

OK... well maybe I can...

GEORGE

You don't even know the periodic table!

LAURIE

Alright George...

GEORGE

I'd be surprised if you could even do the simplest of arithmeti...

LAURIE

Alright!

24 INT LAURIE'S HOUSE.LIVING ROOM - DAY

24

George and Laurie are on the sofa wrapped up in duvets. They are watching daytime TV and eating rice pudding.

George flicks through the channels.

Two over made up women examine ugly Labradorite earrings.

JANE

... and that's what the Eskimo's believed.

CAROL

That's an incredible story Jane, but looking at these exquisite Labradorite earrings I can ... hahaha...I can believe it.

George scoffs in disbelief.

GEORGE

They're not even going to mention that it's the main constituent of anorthosite.

Laurie scoffs too.

LAURIE

Yeah... whatever that is.

George flicks through the channels. They come across the old black and white movie 'Goodbye Mr Chips'.

On the screen an elderly school master talks to a young pupil. They both have plummy old fashioned accents.

MR CHIPS

So you're a stinker eh?

STUDENT

A stinker sir?

MR CHIPS

A new boy, that's what we call them here, Stinkers...

George's hand remains poised with the remote control then relaxes and sinks down to rest on the duvet.

25 INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - LATER

25

The credits roll on Mr Chips. Laurie and George have tears rolling down their faces.

GEORGE

I wish I could travel back in time
and go to a school like that.

LAURIE

So do I.

Laurie's gaze travels away from George to the fat envelope tucked into the bookshelf.

26 EXT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. DULWICH - DAY

26

Laurie and George walk up a broad drive towards an imposing spread of Victorian buildings. They are dressed their best clothes and their black eyes are now a faded purple and yellow.

INT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL - DAY

George and Laurie sit on an ancient oak settle in a grand wood panelled hall. They look around them in awe.

A good looking man (Mr Bailey, 37, looks like Hugh Grant when he was still cute) sticks his head round the corner.

The second Laurie and Mr Bailey see each other there's a crackle of electricity between them. For a moment they stare at each other.

MR BAILEY

Mrs Milton and George?

Laurie stands and extends her hand. Mr Bailey takes it. It's a moment before he shakes it.

MR BAILEY

How do you do?

LAURIE

(in a voice like
Joanna Lumley)

How do you do?

George looks at her aghast. Laurie avoids catching his eye. Mr Bailey extends his hand to George.

MR BAILEY

Good to meet you George. I've asked one of our students to give you the tour. I expect you're keen to see our science facilities?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

George nods.

George and Laurie follow Mr Bailey along a panelled corridor.

GEORGE
(hisses at Laurie)
Why are you doing that voice?

LAURIE
I don't know! It just came out.

GEORGE
Well stop it coming out please!

LAURIE
Alright, alright.

Mr Bailey holds a door open.

LAURIE
(a la Joanna Lumley)
Thank you.

George pokes Laurie in the side. She veers out of his way.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

They enter a comfortable office with a large window to find Chukwunonso, a tubby African student, waiting for them.

MR BAILEY
George. This is Chukwunonso. He's going to give you a tour of the school.

Chukwunonso shakes hands vigorously with George.

CHUKWUNONSO
(Cheerfully)
I had an uncle George.

George doesn't know what to say. Chukwunonso hurries to fill the silence.

CHUKWUNONSO
He drowned in a mine pit.

Mr Bailey looks alarmed. So does George.

CHUKWUNONSO
He was a pervert.

(CONTINUED)

MR BAILEY

Right then!

Mr Bailey swivels Chukwunonso round and pushes him towards the door.

MR BAILEY

Off you go and show George the lay of the land.

George follows. He glances back over his shoulder at Laurie who stands in the centre of the room looking awkward.

The door closes on Chukwunonso and George.

Mr Bailey turns back to Laurie who instantly adopts a poised expression.

MR BAILEY

Lapsang Suchong?

Laurie looks blank.

MR BAILEY

Oolong?

LAURIE

Oolong.

They just look at each other, confused. Mr Bailey snaps out of it and gestures to the window seat.

MR BAILEY

Take a pew.

LAURIE

(a la Joanna Lumley)
Thank you Mr...

MR BAILEY

Matt, please. Call me Matt.

LAURIE

Thank you Mr Matt, I mean Matt.

She sits in the window seat. She arranges her legs elegantly. She has very nice legs. Mr Bailey sits on his desk and tries not to look at them, he fails.

MR BAILEY

Ah, right, yes, I was going to start by telling you something about the school ethos.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

Outside, on the other side of the lawn three boys the ringleader of whom is Toby Bridges (12) hold a third smaller boy upside down and shake the change out of his pockets.

28 EXT. LAURIE'S HOUSE - DAY

28

Three men in hooded sweatshirts cluster round George and Laurie's back door. One of the men kicks at the lock with extreme violence. The door flies open. The men glance around then slip inside.

29 INT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. HALL - DAY

29

Laurie waits in the wood panelled hall. George's new school uniform is draped over her arm.

Through the window she watches Chukwunonso and George walk across the grass talking animatedly.

Mr Bailey comes out of another office. He's holding a sheet of paper. He hands it to Laurie.

MR BAILEY

This is just to give you an idea.
You'll get a proper invoice in
the next day or so.

She looks at the sheet of paper. Colour drains from her face. Mr Bailey looks concerned.

MR BAILEY

George stands an excellent chance
of a full scholarship next
academic year. That's only a term
away...

Laurie waves away his concern and laughs with a touch of hysteria.

LAURIE

It's fine...fine.

George and Chukwunonso enter the polished hallway. George spots the uniform over Laurie's arm. Laurie smiles at him. George looks, wide eyed, from Laurie to Mr Bailey.

MR BAILEY

So... I'll see you for double
maths on Monday then George. How
are your quadratic equations?

George punches the air. Chukwunonso jumps up and down.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

GEORGE

Yes!

30 INT. LAURIE'S CAR - DAY

30

Laurie and George drive home. George talks non stop.

GEORGE

So then he said he wanted me to spread the nickname Chuck because you can't spread your own nickname and he's entering the Cambridge science fair so I'm going to enter my salt plate tectonics model. And, Oh my God! There's a fossil club! D'you think it'll freak them out when they find out I've got my own rock hammers?

31 EXT. LAURIE'S STREET - DAY

31

Laurie and George's street is blocked by fire engines. Laurie parks. They walk towards their house with growing trepidation.

They are stopped by a fireman before they can get too near. Their house is on fire.

Someone brings a kitchen chair. Laurie drops down into it, her face completely white.

LAURIE

Oh no.

George watches in shock as a giant plume of black smoke spreads across the sky.

Laurie's phone rings. It's John's number. Laurie fumbles to answer. It's Elin. Laurie holds the phone away from her ear.

ELIN

(Shrieking)

What have you done to my house?!

In the background John tries to placate her.

JOHN

Darling, please, you're going to make yourself ill.

ELIN

Monster!

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Laurie looks sick. She hangs up. George stands beside her, shaken. He puts his small hand on her shoulder.

Laurie remembers something. She puts her head in her hands

LAURIE

Oh my God...the money.

32 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. LAURIE'S OLD ROOM - EVENING

32

Sharon, (58, small and neat with highlights, wearing a red velour leisure suit) sets up a zed bed beside Laurie's old single bed.

Laurie, in a leisure suit identical to Sharon's, takes a bedsheet from the chest of drawers and walks round to the far side of the single bed.

Sharon takes up the other edge of the sheet and they shake it up into the air so it billows between them.

SHARON

I want to ask you a question and I want you to answer honestly.

LAURIE

(suspiciously)
What?

SHARON

Did you burn that house down?

Laurie snatches the sheet back down and stares at her, outraged.

LAURIE

No!

SHARON

Alright. Just checking.

Laurie tucks the sheet in with sharp jabs. She fixes her mother with an accusatory glare.

LAURIE

I can't believe you think I'm an arsonist.

SHARON

Alright. Keep your hair on ... I was only asking.

Sharon stuffs a pillow into a pillow case.

(CONTINUED)

George comes in and flings himself face down onto the zed bed. He's also wearing a red velour leisure suit. He mumbles into the pillow.

GEORGE

My samples; gone. My data; gone.
My salt plate tectonics model;
gone.

SHARON

Oh well. You can get more samples
can't you?

George sits up and looks at Sharon aghast.

GEORGE

Nan! I'm telling you my life's
work has been destroyed.

Sharon sighs.

SHARON

I get that George, but you are
only twelve mate!

George gets up, runs out of the room and slams the door. Sharon sees Laurie looking at her with arms folded. Sharon throws a pillow down.

SHARON

What?

Laurie is in the under the stairs snug. Sharon's fancy Victorian phone is pressed to her ear. Her bank card is in her hand.

LAURIE

Hello! Yes. I'm still here.

She listens intently. Little by little she deflates.

LAURIE

Right, OK ... I thought I'd
probably be turned down but ...
you know.

She continues to listen but without interest.

LAURIE

No, nothing else thanks. Bye.

She puts the phone down and sits gazing into space for a long moment.

She looks at a number on her pad and picks up the receiver and dials.

Sharon sweeps her way out into the hall with the broom. Laurie turns away from her slightly. Sharon tries to hear her conversation.

LAURIE

(quietly)

Hello. I wonder if you can help me, I want to enquire about becoming a medical guinea pig. In trials?

The other person can't hear her.

LAURIE

(a little louder)

A medical guinea pig. A medical guinea pig.

Laurie rolls her eyes.

LAURIE

(loud)

A guinea pig! I want to be a guinea pig!

Sharon stops sweeping and stares at her in disgust.

The radio is tuned to 'Magic FM'.

George gets cutlery from the drawer.

Outside, in the garden, Laurie jogs past the kitchen window, crying.

Sharon cuts quiche and arranges salad onto plates.

George puts the cutlery out on the table.

George brings the condiments over to the table.

Laurie jogs past the window again, still crying.

Sharon carries the plates to the table. She and George sit.

Laurie comes in. She sits down and puts her head on the table, still crying. Sharon tuts.

Head still on the table, Laurie picks up some lettuce and pushes it into her mouth. Sharon tuts again.

Laurie's mobile vibrates on the table. She pulls it towards her. She looks at it and sits bolt upright. Sharon and George look at her. Laurie resets her face.

LAURIE
(Joanna Lumley's
voice)
Hello.

Sharon and George look at each other and back to Laurie. Laurie gets up and walks towards the door.

LAURIE
(Joanna Lumley's
voice)
Matt, how lovely to hear from you.

Sharon puts her knife and fork down and stares after her open mouthed.

SHARON
Who's that?

GEORGE
My house master.

Sharon looks at him, confused.

SHARON
Who?

GEORGE
At my school.

LAURIE
But why's she doing that voice?

GEORGE
Cos she's pretending to be posh.

SHARON
Why's she pretending to be posh?

GEORGE
Cos of my new school.

SHARON
What new school?!

GEORGE
Hold on a minute.

George runs out of the kitchen and can be heard pounding up the stairs. Sharon holds on.

LAURIE O.S.

... so yes, it's all been pretty ghastly. Anyway, we'd love to come, I'm sure it'll cheer us both up.

George pounds back down the stairs and appears in the kitchen doorway in his stiff new uniform including little peaked cap.

George twirls around.

GEORGE

(impression from
Goodbye Mr Chips)

I'm a proper little stinker!

Sharon looks at him open mouthed.

Laurie washes up. Outside, through the kitchen window, Sharon smokes a fag. She talks to Laurie through the window.

SHARON

So how you gonna pay for it?

LAURIE

They said he might get a scholarship next year.

SHARON

So how are you gonna pay for it this year?

Laurie continues washing. Sharon shakes her head.

SHARON

You shouldn't be promising him things he can't have!

Laurie picks up the hand spray rinser and sprays the plates.

SHARON

And how's he s'posed to fit in with all them horrible little winners?!

LAURIE

It's better than horrible little losers! And at least he won't get beaten up!

35 CONTINUED:

35

SHARON

Not physically!

Laurie sprays the window so Sharon's face is obscured.

36 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

36

A radio talk show about retail theft plays quietly in the background.

Laurie sits at the table, her head leaning on one hand, a glass of whiskey held in the other. She's a bit drunk.

George's uniform hangs a kitchen cabinet. Laurie gazes at it then picks up her mobile and calls John. It goes to voicemail.

LAURIE

John, listen ... it's about George. He's got a place at a private school and he can get a scholarship next year but... well I need four grand ... he needs four grand ... just for this year. Call me OK?

She put the phone down on the table and looks at it.

After a few moments it rings. She snatches it up.

ELIN

(shrieks)

ARE. YOU. CLINICALLY. INSANE?!

Laurie shrieks back at her.

LAURIE

ARRRGGGHHHH!

She slams the phone down. She puts her head in her hands.

Sharon is standing in the doorway in her dressing gown looking at Laurie.

She walks across the kitchen and puts the kettle on.

SHARON

D'you know what your problem is?

Laurie looks at her.

LAURIE

No.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

SHARON

Well find out and bloody well deal
with it.

37 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. BATHROOM - MORNING

37

Laurie looks hungover. She rifles through Sharon's
cosmetics. She chooses a lipstick and puts some on.

The mirrored door of the bathroom cabinet pops open. She
closes it.

She ties a silk scarf round her neck then discards it.
The door pops open again. She closes it.

She twists her hair up then takes it down. She puts the
scarf back on.

The door pops open. Laurie screams and whacks it shut
again and again with the side of her fist until all of
the contents have fallen into the sink.

She closes her eyes until she is calm. When she leaves
the bathroom.

George and Sharon are standing outside.

LAURIE

I'm going to the bank.

38 EXT. PARADE OF SHOPS - EDGEWARE ROAD. DAY

38

Laurie rings the buzzer on a door beside a betting shop.
The door clicks open. Laurie walks up the stairs. On the
first floor landing a woman (Karen, 40's nicely dressed)
waits.

KAREN

Emily?

Laurie nods. Karen gestures to the door. Laurie walks
into a furnished flat. Karen closes the door and looks at
Laurie. She smiles and makes a twirling gesture with her
finger. Laurie turns around awkwardly. Karen inspects
her.

KAREN

Nice and trim aren't you? D'you
work out?

LAURIE

I run.

Karen frowns slightly.

(CONTINUED)

KAREN

Not that young though are you?

Laurie doesn't know what to say.

KAREN

That's not a problem though. They don't all want the young ones. Some of the mature clients find them intimidating.

Again, Laurie doesn't know what to say.

KAREN

Let me tell you how it works; agency commission is 30% per appointment and is payable at the end of the week.

Laurie nods.

KAREN

Do you want to start straight away?

Laurie nods. Karen takes a slip of paper and writes an address out.

KAREN

Be nice to him, he's a regular.

Laurie sits in a window seat. She looks at the slip of paper. She watches a group of school kids around George's age walk by laughing and talking. She puts the piece of paper in her bag and leaves.

Laurie walks along a long thickly carpeted hall. She looks at door numbers 232, 234, 236. She stops and looks at 236. She exhales slowly. She closes her eyes.

LAURIE

(mutters to herself)
Just get it over with.

As she raises her hand to knock her phone rings. She answers it. It's George. He's very excited.

GEORGE

Did we take the metal detector out of the boot?!

40 CONTINUED:

40

She thinks.

Laurie

I don't know. I don't think so.

George

Whoop whoop!

George rings off. Laurie turns the phone off and puts it into her bag.

For a moment Laurie just stands there. Then she looks at the door again, takes a deep breath and knocks.

41 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. DAY

41

Sharon is in the kitchen washing up. She looks out through the window. George is in the garden waving the metal detector over the tiny lawn. He looks round at Sharon and waves, smiling.

Sharon nods and smiles and waves back at George.

Sharon

(Mutters)

God help us.

42 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

42

There's the sound of a lock turning on the other side of door 236. The door opens. A man, Lester (79, bald and toady) opens the door. His voice is cracked and quavery.

Lester

Ahh, the lovely Emily.

His sticky gaze travels over Laurie. He adjusts the crotch of his trousers and moves aside to allow her to enter the apartment.

43 INT. LESTER'S APARTMENT - DAY

43

Lester's flat is well furnished but not flashy.

Stacks of legal files sit on a desk. On top of all of these is an envelope. He picks it up and hands it to Laurie.

She peeks inside, there are five fifty pound notes. She puts the envelope in her bag.

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

I don't like to be rushed Emily so
I hope you're not going to say
you're in a hurry.

LAURIE

Actually I am in a bit of...

LESTER

Kindly undress to your lingerie.
You may leave your clothes on that
chair.

Laurie undresses awkwardly while Lester watches her.

When she is in her underwear Lester shuffles to an open
door and gestures for Laurie to enter.

Laurie walks, like a condemned prisoner, towards the
bedroom door. She tries to cover her bum with her hands.
She stops, shocked, in the doorway.

A large woman with bleached hair, matted extensions and
cheap sexy lingerie lies very unsexily on the bed reading
a Russian copy of 'OK Magazine' and eating Jaffa Cakes.

She looks at Laurie without acknowledging her. Laurie
takes a couple of steps back. Lester looks annoyed.

LESTER

You're not going to start playing
silly buggers are you Emily? I
expressly told her; 'don't send
anyone who's going to start
playing silly buggers'.

Laurie looks as if she might cry.

LESTER

Ivanka's been looking forward to
this. She's feeling very sexy.

Ivanka looks at Lester with an expression of dull scorn.
She rolls her eyes and looks back at her magazine. The
look of loathing evaporates. She reaches for a Jaffa
Cake. Lester's voice becomes thin and trembly.

LESTER

Ivanka's feeling very wet and very
sexy!

Laurie spins round in panic as Lester closes the door.

LESTER

Ivanka wants me to see her being
made love to by another lady!

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

Ivanka farts loudly on the bed.

Laurie charges for the door and pushes Lester out of the way. He totters to one side and falls onto a clothes basket. Ivanka laughs. Laurie yanks the door open and rushes out. She dresses as quickly as possible. Lester barks at her as if she's a naughty child

LESTER

Emily! Come back here and do as I tell you!

Laurie can hear Ivanka laughing as she grabs her bag and runs for the door.

44 EXT. SLOANE ST. DAY

44

Laurie walks along Sloane Street in a daze.

She passes designer clothes shops whose windows are populated by angular high fashion dummies.

She stops and stares for some moments into the window of Chanel.

45 INT. CHANEL STORE - DAY

45

Laurie hovers in the doorway of Chanel for a moment then walks in.

She stares at the bags, small quilted and super expensive.

She picks up a small lambskin bag and examines it, turning it over in her hands. She strokes its soft surface.

She picks up five more bags, shoves them in her handbag and walks briskly towards the exit.

A loud jangling alarm goes off. Everyone looks round but Laurie is already gone.

She sprints along Sloane Street. She hears shouts behind her but doesn't look back.

She starts taking turns, left, right, left, a look of shock in her eyes.

She walks into a McDonald's and heads for the lavatory.

46 INT. MCDONALD'S - DAY

46

Laurie sits down on the toilet. She is shaking violently.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

46

She hears the door open. She looks up and holds her breath. Someone goes into the other toilet and urinates. She breathes again.

She wipes sweat from her lip and puts her head between her knees until she can breathe normally.

47

INT. TUBE TRAIN - DAY

47

Laurie is on the tube. As the near empty train judders along she stares at her distorted reflection with disbelief.

48

INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. DAY

48

Laurie lets herself in and runs upstairs to her room.

Laurie empties the bags onto the bed and looks at them. She hears footsteps and shoves the bags into a drawer.

George sticks his head round the door.

GEORGE

It was in the boot.

LAURIE

Oh brilliant! How lucky is that?

Laurie gets her velour leisure suit out of a drawer.

GEORGE

If someone had a pacemaker my metal detector could stop their heart. Did you know that?

LAURIE

No.

GEORGE

I'd only use it if they attacked first though.

LAURIE

That's very fair of you.

GEORGE

I'm going back out now.

LAURIE

OK. Good luck.

George begins to close the door.

LAURIE

George!

(CONTINUED)

George sticks his head back round the door.

LAURIE

It's good about the metal detector
isn't it?

George smiles and nods. Laurie smiles back.

George runs back downstairs.

Laurie collapses onto the bed and pulls a pillow over her
face. She lies there for a long moment.

SHARON O.S.

Laurie! It's the police.

Laurie sits bolt upright.

LAURIE

Shit.

Sharon is waiting at the bottom of the stairs. She points
to the living room.

Laurie walks in. A police detective stands in the middle
of her room checking her mobile. She looks up. Laurie
stares at her, scared.

DI JONES

Mrs Milton?

Laurie nods.

DI JONES

I'm DI Jones.

Laurie nods and waits for more.

DI JONES

I'm here about the fire.

Laurie exhales. She sits down. DI Jones sits down too and
gets her notebook out.

DI JONES

It's been confirmed as arson; the
fire investigation team think it
was started with lighter fuel or
something like that.

LAURIE

Oh.

DI JONES

Do you know of anyone who means
you or your family harm?

LAURIE

Well ... I have had a fall out
with a kid at my son's school.

DI Jones makes a note.

DI JONES

What's the child's name?

LAURIE

Raymond Raisin.

DI Jones looks up sharply at the name Raisin.

DI JONES

What happened?

LAURIE

He'd been bullying my son so ...
well, I sort of hit him.

DI Jones winces. There's a pause.

DI JONES

You hit one of the little Raisins?

Laurie nods.

DI JONES

Do any of the Raisin family know
where you're staying?

Laurie shakes her head. DI Jones gives her a serious
look.

DI JONES

Make sure you keep it that way, at
least for now.

Laurie nods and sinks down into the chair.

Laurie sits at the computer. She is trying to set up an
Ebay account. She's confused. She looks around for
George.

LAURIE

George!

50 CONTINUED:

50

She gets up and goes out to the kitchen. George is still in the garden metal detecting. There are hundreds of small holes in the lawn.

Laurie

George...come here a sec.

51 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. LATER

51

Laurie is sitting at the computer. George and Sharon crowd around her looking at the screen.

Laurie

Stop crowding me!

Sharon

Look what is it you're actually wanting to sell?

Laurie

That's irrelevant.

Sharon

You have to describe it in that box there. Go on, type it in now.

Laurie

Stop telling me what to do!

George

(reading instructions)
'Description of item'. What's the item?

Sharon

Yeah, what is it?

George

Because you have literally no belongings.

Sharon

You'd better not selling nothing of mine!

Laurie

Go. Away!

52 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE - EVENING

52

Laurie and George are dressed up and ready to go out.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

LAURIE

(To Sharon)

Sure you don't want to come?

Sharon looks sceptical.

SHARON

And watch a bunch of little
Fauntleroy's leaping around? No
thanks.

53 INT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

53

George and Laurie weave their way through a throng of
loud, excited middle class parents. They look around them
as if passing through a land of strange exotic creatures.

They chairs sit a few rows back from the stage. A woman
and her family appear next to them.

MRS BRIDGES

Would you mind shuffling along.

George and Laurie shuffle along as Mrs Bridges, Mr
Bridges, and sons Toby and Sebastian shuffle along beside
them. Somehow George and Laurie find themselves expelled
at the end of the row. The Bridges family settle into the
seats. Laurie stares at Mrs Bridges indignantly but she's
busy looking in her bag for a sweet.

LAURIE

Did you see that?!

George grabs her hand and pulls her to the back where
they can stand.

LAURIE

(under her breath)

Cow.

Laurie glares at the back of Mrs Bridges head.

The auditorium darkens and a chain gang of young pink
cheeked boys appears on the stage. The orchestra strikes
up. The chain gang sings the opening number of Les
Miserables.

CHAIN GANG

Look down, look down,
Don't look 'em in the eye.
Look down, look down.
You're here until you die.

54 INT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT 54

Laurie stares dead eyed at the stage as dozens of pink cheeked revolutionaries run about and shoot muskets over the barricades. George's face, however, is lit with excitement.

55 INT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. AUDITORIUM - LATER 55

Laurie gazes at the ceiling in total boredom as a bunch of pink cheek boys dressed in fancy dresses and face powder leap around and sing.

MS AND MME THENARDIER

Ain't it a laugh?
Ain't it treat?
Hob-Nobbin' here,
with the elite?

Laurie feels someone standing close behind her. She looks round. It's Mr Bailey. He smiles at her. She turns back and looks at the stage but she can feel his breath on her neck. He moves closer, so close that his body is almost touching hers. A flush rises in her cheeks. The raucous sounds from stage recede and all Laurie can hear is his breath next to her ear.

56 INT. SOUTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. AUDITORIUM - LATER 56

George is almost in rhapsodies as the full cast sing the finale. Finally, the curtain goes down. George claps like a wild thing. Mr Bailey leans into Laurie's ear.

MR BAILEY

Did you enjoy it?

LAURIE

(forgetting to do her
Joanna Lumley voice)
Yeah, well...you know...it's
pretty hot in here.

Mr Bailey is taken aback at the sound of Laurie's actual voice.

Laurie realises what she's done.

LAURIE

(A la Joanna Lumley)
But it was frightfully good.
Wasn't it George?

George glares at her.

Chuck taps George on the shoulder. He is dressed in rags.

(CONTINUED)

CHUCK

How was I?

GEORGE

Great! What were you?

CHUCK

'Whore 2' and 'Onlooker'. Come on
let's go and get a 'Fruit Bastille
Smoothie'.

George and Chuck weave through the crowd towards a
smoothie stall manned by poxy serfs.

MR BAILEY

(to Laurie)

Can we talk?

Laurie nods and follows Mr Bailey to a small classroom.

He turns the light on and closes the door.

He turns and looks at Laurie.

MR BAILEY

Actually, I wanted to ask how you
are.

Laurie tries to smile. She shrugs.

Mr Bailey puts his hand on her shoulder.

MR BAILEY

Sounds like you've had the most
awful time of it recently.

Laurie nods. Mr Bailey looks at her with great sympathy.
Tears well up in Laurie's eyes. Mr Bailey searches his
pockets for a tissue. He dabs gently at the her tears.

MR BAILEY

If there's anything I can do to
help...

She looks up at him gratefully. Their eyes engage, the
look goes on for far too long.

LAURIE

Well...

Suddenly she kisses him and in an instant they're all
over each other like a hot rash.

57 INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT 57

George and Chuck are in the queue at the smoothie stand. George counts his money. He hasn't got enough. He runs over to the door Laurie and Mr Bailey went through. He tries to open it, it's locked.

GEORGE

Mum?

He taps at the door. There's no answer. There's a small window at the top of the door. He jumps up and tries to look through but it's a couple of inches too high to see properly.

INTERIOR. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

As Laurie and Mr Bailey have passionate and rather rough sex against a desk. The top of George's head keeps appearing at the small window.

58 EXT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - NIGHT 58

George wanders off to find a chair then he pulls it over to the door. He climbs up and looks through. Mr Bailey and Laurie are standing talking. They turn and walk towards the door. Mr Bailey opens the door to find George standing on a chair looking through the window.

GEORGE

Can I have a pound?

Laurie looks at Mr Bailey in shock. He pats his pockets nervously.

59 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. NIGHT. CONTINUOUS 59

Laurie lies in bed and stares at the ceiling thinking.

She looks across to George's zed bed. He's fast asleep. She turns over and closes her eyes.

60 LAURIE'S DREAM. 60

Laurie, dressed in her red velour leisure suit, runs towards a cliff edge. She is pursued by Ivanka and Lester.

In the dream Lester and Ivanka are moving very fast. Every now and then Ivanka stops to nibble her Jaffa Cake. Lester falls over and gets back up again. Ivanka laughs.

(CONTINUED)

LESTER

Emily! Come back! Ivanka is
feeling very sexy!

Laurie reaches the cliff edge. She looks back. Ivanka and Lester are gaining on her. Laurie looks into the dark abyss below.

GEORGE

Mum?

Laurie's eyes flicker open.

GEORGE

Mum?

Laurie looks over at George who is sitting up in bed.

LAURIE

What?

GEORGE

Are you sad about dad?

Laurie thinks.

LAURIE

Go back to sleep.

GEORGE

Mum?

LAURIE

What?!

GEORGE

D'you think everything's going to
be OK?

LAURIE

Yes babe. Everything's going to be
OK. One hundred percent.

George smiles and lies down on his zed bed. Laurie stares at the ceiling and sighs.

George walks into South London Collegiate School in his new uniform. Laurie leans against the car and watches him with pride. He turns and smiles and waves before he goes in. Laurie smiles and waves, her eyes fill up, she blows him a kiss.

62 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. DAY 62

Laurie lets herself in. There's a letter on the mat. She opens it. It's the invoice from the school. She looks at the total. She owes them £4560. She looks sick.

63 EXT. PARK - DAY 63

Laurie runs through the park in her velour leisure suit, negotiating bull terriers and clusters of drinkers.

Her phone beeps. She stops and reads the message. It's an Ebay notification. One of the bags has sold for £400! She jumps up and down and punches the air. She runs on with renewed energy. The phone beeps again. She leaps in the air again and whoops. The phone beeps again.

LAURIE

Whoo hoo!

A trio of drinkers on a bench stop arguing and watch Laurie with suspicion.

64 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 64

George's class are working away, heads bent over their maths books. George looks around him. The only sounds are breathing and pens scratching on paper. He sighs happily and gets back to his quadratic equations with enthusiasm.

65 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE - EVENING 65

Sharon is watching a squirrel through the kitchen window. Laurie's phone rings. Sharon picks it up.

SHARON

Hello?

She listens.

SHARON

She's on the toilet.

She listens.

SHARON

Alright, I'll tell her.

Sharon hangs up.

Laurie comes into the kitchen. Her hair is wet from the shower.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Some posh bloke called. I said
you were having a poo.

Laurie gives her a filthy look, grabs the phone and
dials.

LAURIE

(As a breathy Joanna
Lumley)

Hi Matt, it's me, Laurie.

She listens.

LAURIE

Yes, she's the cleaner.

Sharon makes furious gestures at Laurie.

LAURIE

She's got learning difficulties.

Sharon's mouth drops open in outrage. She listens.

LAURIE

Exactly, so I can't really let her
go.

SHARON

(shouts)

You horrible cow!

LAURIE

Yes, that was her.

Sharon picks up a sausage dog shaped draft excluder and
bashes Laurie round the head with it.

LAURIE

Tomorrow then. Bye.

Laurie snaps the phone shut and smiles at Sharon.

Sharon attacks her again with the sausage dog.

George and a few of his new classmates hang out in the
quad at break. George plays his recording of Raymond
Raisin and his gang. They listen, thrilled and
fascinated.

MILO

Oh. My. God. That is like sooo
chav!

ORLANDO

What does 'shanked' mean?!

MILO

What did you do?!

George turns the recording off with a world weary air.

GEORGE

Kung Fu.

Suddenly George's hands fly about in flurry of Kung Fu moves.

GEORGE

Wing Chun Kung Fu.

They all look at him in awe, except Toby Bridges who watches George with a cold, evaluating stare.

TOBY

So how come you ran away then if you're so tough?

CRISPIAN

Yeeaah, how come you ran away?

Everyone looks at George. There's a moment's silence. George struggles to think of an answer.

GEORGE

Because...

CHUCK

Because he's not a fool! Obviously he's going to pick them off one by one!

MILO

Obviously!

ORLANDO

God Toby, you're so naive.

Toby gives George a filthy look. George avoids his gaze.

At the table Sharon and George unwrap fish and chips and share them out onto plates. Laurie gets the cutlery.

GEORGE

So then we did two whole hours of quadratic equations!

67 CONTINUED:

67

SHARON

What are they when they're at home?

GEORGE

Well... just for example ...

George grabs a pen and begins to write on the fish and chip paper.

GEORGE

If you rewrite $x^2 + 6x$ as a square plus another term, then the coefficient of x is 6. Dividing 6 by 2 and squaring it gives 9 therefore: $x^2 + 6x = (x^2 + 6x + 9) - 9 = (x + 3)^2 - 9$.

Sharon and Laurie look at the chip paper with incomprehension. George smiles, spears several chips and shoves them into his mouth.

68 INT. SHARON'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

68

At the kitchen table Laurie wraps the last of the Chanel bags into a neat parcel.

On the table is the piece of paper with George's quadratic equation written in it. She flips it over and does her own sums on the back: $\pounds 4,560 - \pounds 1800 = \pounds 2,760$.

She looks at the invoice from the school. She chews her pen and frowns, thinking.

69 INT. VIDEO MONITORING ROOM. HARVEY NICHOLLS - DAY

69

Sean (40, nice face, ex army) sits before a double row of monitors and eats a sandwich. All of the monitors are trained on the shop floor apart from the one he's looking at; that one shows Bear Grylls climbing into the stomach of a dead sheep.

On one of the other monitors a female customer catches Sean's attention. It's Laurie. His sandwich pauses in mid air. He moves in a little closer to look at her.

70 INT. HARVEY NICHOLLS - DAY

70

As Laurie looks at the blouses the security camera turns and tracks her with a robotic whirr.

71 INT. VIDEO MONITORING ROOM. HARVEY NICHOLLS - DAY 71

On the monitor Laurie looks nervous, vulnerable and determined. Sean can't take his eyes off her.

72 INT. HARVEY NICHOLLS - DAY 72

Laurie picks up a blouse. She looks around. She starts to slip it in her bag. A shop assistant walks by. Laurie jumps visibly then throws the blouse on the floor.

73 INT. VIDEO MONITORING ROOM - DAY 73

Sean laughs to himself at Laurie's terrible shoplifting skills. His sandwich now sits abandoned on the desk.

74 EXT. KENT COAST - DAY 74

A group of children climb over a rocky beach. They wear walking boots, hard hats, safety glasses and waterproof jackets, apart from George who is wearing his school uniform (and a hard hat). Their leader is Mr Price.

As they scramble over the rocks George and Chuck devise a rap about fossils.

CHUCK

Harder than Hammerite!

GEORGE

Ancient like an ammonite!

CHUCK

Solid as a rock,

CHUCK

Like my rock hard ...

GEORGE

Like my rock hard ...

They mime the word 'cock' behind Mr Price's back.

75 INT. HARVEY NICHOLLS CHANGING ROOMS - DAY 75

Laurie enters the cubicle with two dresses and gets a numbered tag from the attendant.

Once inside she hangs the dresses from a hook in the wall and pulls three Givenchy blouses from her bag.

She takes the first blouse, grips its security tag between a pairs of pliers and bends each side of the tag down. After a protracted struggle the bottom part of the tag comes off.

(CONTINUED)

- 75 CONTINUED: 75
- She repeats the process with two other blouses then puts them back in her bag.
- She walks out of the changing room and hands the dresses and the tag back to the changing room attendant.
- 76 INT. VIDEO MONITORING ROOM - DAY 76
- Sean's chair is empty. On one of the monitoring screens Laurie steps off the escalator and walks towards the exit.
- 77 INT. HARVEY NICHOLLS - DAY 77
- Laurie's heart pounds as she nears the security pillars flanking the exit. Her eyes are wide, her breath shallow. She walks through the pillars. There's no alarm. Laurie looks surprised and pauses for a second then she turns and walks away from the shop quickly. A man steps out in front of her.
- SEAN
Can you step back inside the store
for a moment please miss?
- 78 EXT. KENT COAST - DAY 78
- Mr Price stops and looks around.
- MR PRICE
OK, this looks like a good spot.
- The children get to work, looking at likely stones and rocks. They work away with their hammers like industrious little miners.
- 79 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 79
- Laurie sits opposite Sean. She looks forlorn and defeated. They look in silence at the stolen blouses, the pliers, and the other contents of Laurie's bag that are spread out on the table between them. Sean picks up the pliers and examines them.
- SEAN
B & Q?
- LAURIE
(In a small voice)
Wickes.

(CONTINUED)

Sean nods and puts them down. There's a long silence during which Sean looks at Laurie, taking in her features, her hair... Laurie looks up at him and he remembers what he's there for.

SEAN

Anything you'd like to say?

LAURIE

What d'you mean?

SEAN

Is there anything you'd like to say about why you did it?

LAURIE

Would it make any difference?

SEAN

I haven't called the police yet.

Laurie touches the tiny buttons on the Givenchy blouse. For a moment she seems to be looking for the right words.

LAURIE

My husband left me. He went on a 'training event' and never came back.

Sean's eyes light up for an instant.

LAURIE

And my son was being bullied so badly at school and ...

She puts her head in her hands and groans.

LAURIE

... and it's all a total mess.

Sean nods slowly, looking at her.

Laurie looks up. Her eyes are full of tears.

LAURIE

Am I going to be arrested?

SEAN

No. Not if you go out on a date with me.

Laurie is shocked.

LAURIE

What?

SEAN

I'd like you to go out on a date
with me.

LAURIE

Isn't that a bit ... unethical?

SEAN

Yes. It's highly unethical.

LAURIE

Oh.

He nods towards the Givenchy blouse.

SEAN

You could wear that if you liked.

Laurie stares at him, unnerved.

SEAN

But you don't have to, I mean,
it's up to you. You could go and
pick something else ...

Laurie doesn't know what to say for a moment.

LAURIE

No...no, this one's ... nice.

Sean stands up. He walks round the desk and pulls her
chair out for her. He can't stop smiling.

Laurie's mobile buzzes on the table. The display says
'Matt.' Laurie throws it into her bag and stands up.

SEAN

Pick you up tomorrow at seven
then?

Laurie picks up her pliers and puts them in her bag,
slightly embarrassed.

LAURIE

Um...OK. Seven then.

Sean smiles and opens the door for her. She smiles back
uncertainly and walks out, slightly bewildered.

The fossil club scour the rocks for fossils.

Up on a high rock Toby finds a small but perfect
ammonite.

TOBY

Ammonite!

Crispian clenches his fist in triumph.

CRISPIAN

Yeah, go Tobes!

Mr Price looks up at Toby and nods his approval.

MR PRICE

Well done Toby.

George and Chuck look up too. Toby smirks down at them.

81 INT. MATT'S HOUSE - DAY

81

Laurie and Matt lie side by side in bed. They have just had sex.

MATT

The thing about Annabel is that she was fundamentally dishonest.

LAURIE

(Fake posh voice)
Really?

MATT

Yes, about everything. For example, I asked her if she liked Britten and she said 'I love Britten' then when I played War Requiem she said 'What's this shit? I want to listen to the Lady Gaga.' I was so upset I was physically sick.

LAURIE

Really?

Matt ponders Annabel's crimes for a moment. He looks at Laurie.

MATT

What do you think about Britten?

There's a long pause. She looks at him. He looks raffishly gorgeous.

He brushes a strand of hair from her eyes and watches her face for her answer.

LAURIE

Er...

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

81

Laurie wrinkles her nose.

MATT

I get it. Not a fan. But at least
you're honest about it!

82 EXT. KENT COAST - DAY

82

George whacks a large rock, it splits in two. His eyes
nearly pop out.

GEORGE

(screams)

GIANT AMMONITE!

Everyone in the fossil club runs over and crowds around
him cheering, including Crispian.

From his rock Toby glares down his eyes flinty under the
rim of his hard hat.

TOBY

I am so going to have you, you
little chav shit.

END OF EPISODE 1