

'Village'

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by

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"VILLAGE"

FADE IN:

1. EXT. A FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION.

A pair of bare feet walk through the undergrowth in a beautiful, lush forest. The feet belong to EVE (30s). She is heavily pregnant. Eve hears the sound of a group of women singing, but cannot make out the words or exactly where the sound is coming from. She tries to follow the sound and finds herself in a clearing, under some trees. She walks over to a huge ancient tree and spots a carving of a circular labyrinth on the trunk. She touches it and breathes deeply. It feels like the forest breathes with her.

SNAP TO:

2. INT. A MATERNITY UNIT WAITING ROOM. 3PM.

Machines beep. Eve opens her eyes.

A line of pregnant women sit on chairs, with Eve in the centre.

The woman next to Eve is CHESKA (30s, well dressed, perfectly made up Insta-mum). Cheska is on her phone, scrolling on social media. Her phone suddenly blares out as a video plays. Eve looks over her shoulder at the phone.

INFLUENCER

(V/O)

Here's everything I'm getting for my baby's nursery. We start with the cot, changing table, bouncer and nursing chair -

Cheska silences her phone, embarrassed to be making noise in a quiet space.

CHESKA

Sorry.

Cheska continues scrolling. Eve looks away from the phone and closes her eyes, attempting to return to the forest in her imagination. A MIDWIFE opens the door.

MIDWIFE

Eve?

Eve opens her eyes, grabs her bag and maternity notes follows the midwife into the consulting room.

3. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT - SAME DAY. 3.45pm

A very small London flat full of moving boxes and items strewn everywhere. A laptop balances on a pile of boxes in front of the sofa. ASA (30s) navigates the chaos of the flat, whilst on the phone.

ASA
(on phone)
All OK?

EXT. A BUSY LONDON STREET - SAME TIME

Eve walks briskly down the street, laden with bags, balancing the phone between her ear and shoulder.

EVE
(on the phone)
Yep, fine. How are you getting on?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ASA
(on the phone)
I've managed to angle my laptop away from all the chaos so no-one can accuse me of packing instead of working from home.

EVE
(on the phone)
Have you heard from the lettings agent?

ASA
(on the phone)
Nothing.

EVE
(on the phone)
What are they playing at?! I'll call them.

Eve is distracted and nearly walks into a tired and hollow looking WOMAN WITH A TODDLER in a buggy.

EVE (CONT'D)
Shit. Sorry.

The woman holds her gaze for a second before storming off. Eve watches her go.

ASA
 (on the phone)
 Eve?

Eve is approaching a coffee shop.

EVE
 (on the phone)
 Got to go. I'll see you tonight.

4. INT. A COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

A busy London coffee shop. ZORA (30s, chic, confident) sits on a high stool at a window seat with an espresso, reading a book. Eve clumsily comes over, with too many bags and too pregnant for such a small space.

EVE
 Sorry, sorry. My appointment was late...

Zora closes her book and smiles, she hugs Eve.

ZORA
 Give me those.

Zora takes Eve's bags and pops them under high table as Eve awkwardly clambers up on to the stool.

ZORA (CONT'D)
 Is Asa packing?

EVE
 It's a nightmare.

ZORA
 Remind me to make sure I'm too pregnant to help if Lauren and I ever move house.

Eve has picked up Zora's espresso and is taking a tiny sip.

ZORA (CONT'D)
 Do you want one?

EVE
 Better not.

Eve looks at the menu behind the counter.

EVE (CONT'D)

What else have they got? I'll just get a tea.

Eve goes to get up, again, she is awkward on the high stool with her huge pregnant belly. Zora stops her.

ZORA

I'll get it.

Zora goes to the counter. Eve gets out her phone and checks her emails. She deletes a few marketing emails - one from a maternity clothes company with the subject heading 'sharp dressing for the office right until your due date' and another from a company selling baby gear, with the subject '3 weeks to go! Eve, have you got everything on your checklist?'

Zora is at the counter, she spins round to Eve.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Do you want milk?

Eve looks up and nods, then goes back to her emails. The third email down is from Compton Barrett, Eve and Asa's lettings agents. She opens it. It reads 'Dear Eve and Asa, We regret to inform you that the landlord of the property you were hoping to rent has now decided to sell. Therefore he can no longer honour the rental agreement previously discussed...'

The email continues, but Eve puts her phone face down on the table. She barely breathes. Zora brings the tea over.

ZORA (CONT'D)

You don't want sugar, do you?

Eve doesn't respond.

Eve grabs her bags and goes to leave the coffee shop. Zora calls after her, confused.

EVE

Sorry.

ZORA

Eve? Are you ok? Eve?

5. INT. A TUBE CARRIAGE. 4.10PM.

Doors to a tube carriage open and Eve steps on. Both priority seats are taken up by men on their phones who don't look up to notice Eve is there. She reaches her arm out toward the handrail, as her hand touches the metal of the rail...

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION.

Eve is back in the forest, but she is now 11 years old, and her young hands are delicately tracing the shape of the labyrinth carved into the huge tree. Eve hears the voice of her younger self calling her in the distance.

YOUNG EVE
(v/o, distant and
muffled, as if under
water)

Excuse me.

SNAP TO:

INT. A TUBE CARRIAGE. 4.11PM.

An elderly lady from one of the other seats on the tube is looking up at Eve.

ELDERLY LADY
Excuse me.

Eve snaps out of her reverie.

ELDERLY LADY (CONT'D)
Do you want to sit down?

EVE
I'm OK.

The elderly lady nods and smiles, sitting back in her seat again.

EVE (CONT'D)
Thank you.

6. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. 4.45PM.

Eve bursts through the door with her bags. Asa is packing items into boxes whilst a Zoom call runs on his laptop in the background. Asa is wearing bluetooth headphones.

EVE
You haven't checked your emails,
have you?

Asa signals to her to quieten down. He goes to his laptop.

Asa presses a button to mute himself and takes out one of his earphones.

ASA
What is it?

EVE
Check your emails.

Asa opens up his emails. He clicks on the Compton Barrett email and reads silently.

ASA
Shit.

EVE
What the hell are we going to do?
We're supposed to be moving next
week.

ASA
He's just decided he wants to sell?

EVE
That's what they said.

Asa is already writing an email to the lettings agent.

EVE (CONT'D)
Asa. What are you doing?

Asa is still typing.

ASA
I'm telling them they can't do
this.

EVE
He's not going to change his mind.

ASA
Then I'll tell them we're not
moving out of this place.

EVE
No.

He ignores her.

EVE (CONT'D)

Asa!

She closes his laptop shut on his fingers.

EVE (CONT'D)

I'm not staying here.

ASA

Where else are we going to go?

EVE

Anywhere. I don't know. My mum's.

ASA

That's 6 hours away!

Asa is opening his laptop again.

EVE

Let's look for something else then.

ASA

We haven't got time to wander round 16 flats with hundreds of other desperate couples, Eve. You're having a baby.

EVE

I know.

ASA

Any day now.

Asa is typing the email again.

EVE

I know.

ASA

So I need to get a roof over our head, and if that means staying here then -

EVE

I can't do it here. I need space. I can't -

Eve is interrupted by a big sensation in her stomach. Her knees buckle a little and she grabs on to the table to keep herself upright.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION

Young Eve's fingers are still connected to the labyrinth carved into the tree. Suddenly there is a thud and the forest floor seems to pulse and vibrate. Young Eve disconnects from the tree and spins round with a start.

CUT TO:

INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. MOMENTS LATER.

Asa has left his laptop and is now standing behind Eve.

ASA

OK?

Eve nods, straightens up again and steadies herself.

EVE

I think so.

ASA

Are you sure?

Eve nods

ASA (CONT'D)

I'm going to sort something for us.
Alright?

Eve nods. He puts his arms around her.

7. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. THE NEXT MORNING. 7.05AM.

Eve blearily opens the bedroom door to find Asa already working on something on his laptop. He is still in yesterday's clothes and looks like he hasn't been to bed.

EVE

What are you doing?

ASA

I've booked 2 viewings for this morning and I'm doing a virtual one this afternoon.

EVE

Have you even been to bed?

Asa closes his laptop and jumps up, grabbing his keys. He heads to the front door.

ASA

I better get to this first one. The agent said it's not gone live on the website yet.

Asa goes to kiss Eve on the forehead and then heads toward the door.

EVE

Alright. But sleep, please. At some point. OK?

Asa is gone, the door closes behind him.

8. INT. THE TUBE. 8.13AM.

Eve is standing on a packed tube train. Everyone around her is looking on their phones, she glances at the adverts above the seats. A huge house with a swimming pool looks back at her, with the tagline 'ENTER NOW AND WIN YOUR £3 MILLION POUND FOREVER HOME'.

The doors of the tube open and she gets off.

She steps off the tube and looks down the platform. She sees the Woman with the Toddler from yesterday. They are part-way down the platform and the woman is struggling to get the toddler into the buggy. Eve stops for a second and watches from a distance, as the busy morning rush hour continues around her. The Woman with the Toddler shoots a look at Eve, who feels instantly uncomfortable and walks on with the rest of the crowd.

9. INT. EVE'S OFFICE. THE RECEPTION AREA. 8.17AM.

Eve walks into her office - a busy London branding and design agency. AL, the receptionist sits behind the desk.

AL

Morning.

Eve walks past the reception desk, aiming to continue up the stairs to her office. She shouts back at AL.

EVE

Morning!

AL

You've got deliveries again.

Eve turns on her heel as Al piles up 3 or 4 parcels from different delivery companies on to the reception desk.

AL (CONT'D)
Can you sign for them?

Al passes Eve a clipboard to sign the parcels out.

AL (CONT'D)
Baby stuff?

EVE

Eve nods, she goes to pick up the parcels.

AL
Oh just be careful with that bottom one, it's a bit...

Eve picks up all 4 parcels.

AL (CONT'D)
...heavy.

Eve has already gone. She shouts back.

EVE
Thanks, Al!

10. INT. EVE'S OFFICE. 8.18AM.

Eve dumps the parcels down on her desk on an open plan floor of a creative looking office. None of her colleagues are in yet, just a few people populate the floor and a cleaner is finishing up mopping on a desk nearby.

Eve drops down into her office chair and turns on her computer. As it's loading, she opens one of the parcels, it's a set of newborn baby grows. She picks up the first one and holds it up, trying to imagine a baby inside it. She looks around the office to check no-one is looking, then she gently cradles it to her chest and closes her eyes.

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION.

The soft fabric of the baby grow against her face becomes the bark of the tree, as Eve is back in her forest, gently embracing the big tree. She breathes.

SNAP TO:

INT. EVE'S OFFICE. SECONDS LATER.

Eve's phone dings, she looks down at it. It's a text from Asa which reads 'JUST DONE THE FIRST VIEWING, TERRIBLE MOULD EVERYWHERE. NO GO. FINGERS CROSSED THE NEXT ONE'S BETTER.' Eve sighs and puts her phone on silent, turning it face down so she can't see anymore incoming messages.

She picks up the rest of the baby grows, a few leaflets drop out of the parcel. One is for a mother and baby fitness app to help 'get your body back in 12 weeks'. Another is advertising a babysitting app, and a third has an image of a circular labyrinth on it. She absent mindedly moves the leaflets to one side. She looks up across the office floor and sees RAFIA (late forties, glam, no nonsense), Eve's line manager.

Rafia is walking towards Eve's desk, smiling.

RAFIA

Shall we?

Eve looks momentarily confused. Rafia has left Eve's desk and is already walking toward her own office in the corner.

RAFIA (CONT'D)

We have your handover chat scheduled for this morning. You haven't forgotten?

She had. Eve jumps up gathering her things, she fumbles and follows Rafia.

11. INT. RAFIA'S OFFICE. 10 MINUTES LATER.

Rafia and Eve sit on two leather arm chairs around a coffee table in Rafia's office. Her desk is on the other side of the room, it's organised and tidy, with two framed photographs of her 12 and 14 year old children smiling back at her.

RAFIA

Just take all the drugs. Don't be a hero. I mean, what's the point? I said to my then-husband, 'if I spent my twenties snorting my wages up my nose, I'm definitely not going to turn down a bit of pethidine on the tax payer now.'

Eve laughs politely.

RAFIA (CONT'D)

No, but seriously. Whatever you need, just shout.

(MORE)

RAFIA (CONT'D)

HR will be in touch about your KIT days and all of that crap but don't feel obliged to do a single thing unless you want to. I mean, you might want to. I was on my laptop before they'd even finished my stitches. Both times! But that's up to you. No pressure. You take your time.

EVE

Thank you.

RAFIA

So, handover-wise, Matthew will start shadowing you as of next week, keep updating the paperwork and it should be smooth sailing. And don't forget to do your out of office on your last day, which is...

EVE

Next Friday.

Al the receptionist appears, waves and knocks at the glass door to Rafia's office.

RAFIA

(signalling to Al to
come in)

Perfect.

Al enters.

AL

Sorry to interrupt. Rafia, your 9 o'clock is here.

Rafia stands and goes to the doorway of the office.

RAFIA

Lovely. Thank you.

Al leaves. Rafia holds the door open for Eve.

RAFIA (CONT'D)

Enjoy your last few days of sleep.

Eve laughs nervously. Rafia speeds on ahead, leaving Eve trailing through the office back to her desk.

Eve walks slowly, taking it all in - this place she has spent so much time and now will be leaving for a while. The office is busier now, but nobody looks up from their phones, laptops or conversations. It's like she's starting to become invisible.

She sits back down at her desk and turns her phone over. It reads 'ASA - 4 missed calls'. She takes a deep breath and calls him back.

EVE
(on the phone)
Hiya. Sorry I was in a meeting.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION.

EXT. OUTSIDE A NEW BUILD BLOCK OF FLATS, LONDON. SAME TIME.

Asa is standing outside a block of flats, dotted around him are 6 other potential candidates for the flat. They are all waiting for the agent to arrive. Amongst the potential candidates is the Woman with the Toddler. She struggles to keep her child occupied whilst she is waiting.

ASA
(on the phone)
What the hell have you been ordering?

EVE
(on the phone)
What?

Eve opens up her emails on her work computer and tries to find an email from a delivery company.

ASA
(on the phone)
I've just had a call from a delivery guy standing outside our flat with 7 boxes.

She finds the email.

EVE
(on the phone)
Oh no. It's the pram.

ASA
(on the phone)
In seven boxes?

EVE
(on the phone)
Must be.

ASA
(on the phone)
Well, I can't take it. I'm outside
this second viewing.

EVE
(on the phone)
I'll sort it. How does the second
place look?

Asa looks up at the flat. The building looks really nice. The doors open and a smiling couple exit the building with a pram.

ASA
(on the phone)
Kind of perfect.

An estate agent in a mini pulls up outside the flat. All the potential buyers look toward the mini. An 18 year old boy in a suit climbs out.

ASA (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
I better go, the agent's here.

EVE
(on the phone)
Let me know what it's like. I love
you.

The estate agent walks toward the building doors and Asa absent mindedly hangs up the phone.

ESTATE AGENT
If you all want to follow me.

Asa pushes in front of the Woman with the Toddler to follow the estate agent inside first.

12. INT. EVE'S OFFICE. EVE'S DESK. LUNCHTIME.

Eve has been out to grab a sandwich for lunch and returns to her desk to find it's been decorated with 'Mama-to-be' baby shower decorations. A group of Eve's colleagues, including Rafia stand around her desk.

RAFIA
Surprise!

Eve isn't thrilled but doesn't want to appear rude.

EVE

Oh wow!

Eve spins round to see Al walking up behind her with a cake with candles on. Eve goes to blow out the candles, Rafia is taking a photo. Eve inhales. As she blows out...

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION.

Eve blows out through her lips. She is in a group of women, in the forest, she's giving birth.

SNAP TO:

INT. EVE'S OFFICE. EVE'S DESK. AN HOUR LATER.

Eve sits working amongst the baby shower decorations. Her colleagues have gone. She is wearing a party hat and 'Mama-to-be' sash as she sits, blankly working on her computer.

She absent mindedly reaches out and stuffs a few crumbs of cake into her mouth.

Rafia walks past Eve's desk holding half a bottle of champagne.

RAFIA

You sure you don't want to take this home to Asa?

EVE

It's OK. He's not really been drinking whilst I'm pregnant.

RAFIA

He's a sweetheart. Don't work too late, alright?

Rafia smiles professionally but without meaning. She walks down the stairs toward reception. Eve takes off her party hat and carries on working.

12. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. SAME DAY. 7.30PM.

Eve opens the door to the flat, carrying all the parcels that arrived at her office earlier. She heaves through the door and sets the parcels down on the table.

Asa comes out of the bedroom looking pleased with himself.

EVE

What...?

Asa reaches into the bedroom and wheels out the pram, fully assembled.

EVE (CONT'D)

Oh my God I forgot to call the delivery guy.

ASA

Lucky no-one stole it then.

EVE

It's brilliant. Well done.

Eve notices some other bits on the table, accessories for the pram, instructions and then some more leaflets advertising car seats. Amongst the leaflets is another one with the labyrinth logo on it, just like the one she found earlier falling out of the baby grow pack. She doesn't really notice it.

ASA

That's not all.

Asa opens his laptop which is sitting on the table.

ASA (CONT'D)

Want to see our new flat?

Eve shoots a look at him

EVE

What?!

Asa hits a button and scrolls through images of the amazing looking new build flat he viewed earlier.

EVE (CONT'D)

This is ours?

ASA

It will be. There were 4 people wanting it, so it was going to the highest bidder. I told the estate agent I'd give him £500 to tell me what the best bid was.

Asa scrolls through another photo he took which features the estate agent lurking in the corner on his phone. Asa points him out.

ASA (CONT'D)

There he is. Manchild in a suit.
500 quid richer now.

But Eve is looking at someone else in the photo - she sees the Woman with the Toddler in the corner of the photo.

EVE

(pointing her out)
Who's that?

ASA

Some woman with a mental kid, she was looking at the flat.

Asa goes to the kitchen.

ASA (CONT'D)

But she's not going to get it now!

Asa brings out 2 glasses and a bottle of champagne.

ASA (CONT'D)

It's ours!

He pours Eve a tiny shot of champagne and a full glass for himself.

Eve looks at Asa quietly, takes the glass, has a small drink.

SNAP TO:

INT. A HOSPITAL WARD. MATERNITY UNIT. EVE'S IMAGINATION.

Eve is in a hospital ward in a gown. Machines beep aggressively around her. She pulls a plastic water cup away from her mouth. She is in intense pain.

SNAP TO:

13. INT. EVE AND ASA'S BEDROOM. THAT NIGHT. 2.20AM.

Eve wakes up from a nightmare gasping for breath. She sits up. She looks to her side. Asa isn't there.

14. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. SECONDS LATER.

Eve opens the bedroom door and sees Asa packing silently and methodically. He doesn't notice her. She retreats quietly back into the bedroom.

15. INT. EVE AND ASA'S BEDROOM. THE NEXT MORNING. 7.00AM.

Eve's alarm goes off. She wakes. She looks next to her. Asa is not there.

16. INT.EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve opens the bedroom door and Asa is sitting on the sofa amongst boxes. He looks straight ahead. Broken.

EVE

You OK?

ASA

It's gone. The flat's gone. They said someone submitted a higher bid.

Eve sits next to him on the sofa and puts her arms around him.

EVE

You need to go to bed.

He doesn't move.

ASA

I don't know what to do.

EVE

Asa. Come on.

He gets up and walks hollowly into the bedroom. He closes the door behind him.

Eve goes and gets her phone from the table. She realizes it's out of battery and goes to the wall to plug it in. As she turns round she sees the pile of accessories from the pram on the table, including the stash of leaflets. She notices the labyrinth picture, and pulls that leaflet out. She looks at it closely this time. It reads 'VILLAGE - your brand new, affordable new-build community. 2,3 and 4 bedroom homes available to rent now. Easy access to London. Last few units remaining.'

Eve notices a QR code on the back of the leaflet, she gets her phone out and scans it. A video opens up and starts playing on her phone.

WOMAN'S VOICEOVER

(v/o)

'At the Village, we're building a small and intimate community of 40 to 50 homes, perfect for young families.'

Eve watches the video play. It's a marketing video of what the developers want the Village to look like, it looks idyllic. Lots of open space, people walking their dogs, coffee in hand. New parents pushing prams, friends meeting up, people doing yoga in the park, children playing in a wooden play area set in a meadow of wildflowers.

WOMAN'S VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

(v/o)

'Our aim in building the Village, is to create not only housing, but to create a community. We have lots of open spaces, a community cafe, restaurants, a wellbeing hub complete with free Community Member's gym, swimming pool and even our own wild swimming area. But the Village's main purpose, is to create a safe and healthy, inspiring environment where young families can grow up together, because we know it takes a Village to raise a child. We have on-site baby and toddler groups every day, 3 different nurseries, forest schools and when it's time for your little one to spread their wings, an eco-shuttle bus to the nearest primary school.'

Eve raises her eyebrows, impressed.

WOMAN'S VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

(v/o)

Click the link below to look through our brochure and to find the Community Member application form. If you feel like our Village could be for you, we'd love to welcome you home.'

The woman on the video signs off with a smile and the screen flashes the labyrinth logo with 'VILLAGE' written underneath. The video is done.

Eve scrolls to the bottom of the site and clicks a link to their Instagram page.

She sees the photos of families raising happy looking children in the outdoors. She smiles. She scrolls down. Images of outdoor yoga classes on communal greens and of the wild swimming area.

She puts her phone down and finds a pen. She writes a single shape down on the VILLAGE leaflet: '?'

She goes to Asa's laptop and minimizes the pictures of the flat they just lost. She gently closes the laptop and leaves the VILLAGE leaflet on the top.

17. INT. THE TUBE. 8.45AM.

Eve is standing up on the tube. Men in suits sit in the priority seats, not noticing her again. She gazes at the people on the tube carriage. In front of her, someone opens up a newspaper. She looks over their shoulder and sees an advert for an interior decorating company, featuring a woman sitting in a nursing chair, feeding a baby in a beautiful nursery. The tube lights dim and the woman in the picture suddenly becomes Eve, staring back at herself. Eve tries to get a closer look, but the person folds up the newspaper and leaves the tube.

18. INT. EVE'S OFFICE. RECEPTION AREA. 9.13AM.

Eve walks into her office, past Al on reception.

AL
Happy Friday!

Eve is speeding past reception.

EVE
You too!

AL
Oh Eve, there's someone -

Too late, Eve's already halfway up the stairs to her office.

19. INT. EVE'S OFFICE. EVE'S DESK. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve walks through the open plan office to find MATTHEW (nice but weasel-y, late 30s) sitting at her desk. She is slightly taken aback.

EVE
...hi?

He looks up and smiles warmly. He stands.

MATTHEW
Eve, hi. I'm Matthew.

EVE
Hi Matthew.

MATTHEW
Let me get you a chair.

Matthew grabs a second chair for Eve to sit in, he sits back in Eve's chair.

EVE
I didn't realize you were starting today?

MATTHEW
Oh, Rafia texted me and said you might want a bit of extra help.

EVE
Did she?

MATTHEW
So here I am.

Matthew smiles.

EVE
Ok.

Eve is suddenly conscious of her messy desk, full of personal items. She starts to tidy things.

Eve gathers some personal items; baby scan photos, a list of her appointment dates and finally, the leaflet for the Village, which she treats with a different care, gently sliding it into her bag.

EVE (CONT'D)
Sorry, if I'd have known I would have cleared you a bit of space.

MATTHEW
It's fine. Morning, Rafia.

Eve looks up, Rafia is at the desk.

RAFIA
The dream team has assembled.

EVE
Apparently so!

RAFIA

Eve, why don't you go and grab
yourself a herbal tea or something
and I'll get Matthew logged in.
Show him the basics.

Eve doesn't want to but feels pressured to get out of her
chair.

EVE

Ok.

Eve picks up her bag and puts the personal items in. Rafia
sits in the chair Eve just vacated.

MATTHEW

(smiling again)

Take your time. We're all covered
here.

Eve nods and turns to walk off. She's not comfortable with
this.

18. INT. EVE'S OFFICE. A TOILET CUBICLE. 10 MINUTES LATER.

Eve sits on a closed toilet seat sitting with a herbal tea.
She is on the phone to Asa.

EVE

(on the phone)

Did you sleep?

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. SAME TIME.

Asa sitting at his laptop amongst the boxes again. The
VILLAGE website is on his laptop screen. He scrolls through
images.

ASA

(on the phone)

Yep.

Eve smiles.

EVE

(on the phone)

Did you find my note?

Asa picks up the Village leaflet.

ASA
(on the phone)
Yeah.

EVE
(on the phone)
What do you think?

ASA
(on the phone)
I think if they don't list the
prices anywhere, then we probably
can't afford it.

Eve takes a sip of herbal tea and gags, she stands up and
spits it out into the loo.

ASA (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Eve? You ok?

EVE
(on the phone)
Just drinking a herbal tea.

ASA
(on the phone)
You don't like herbal tea.

EVE
(on the phone)
I know.

Asa shakes his head. An email pings up on his laptop, he's
instantly interested. It's from the Village. It reads 'RE:
Your Enquiry. Dear Asa and Eve, welcome to the Village. Thank
you for filling out our Community Member application form...

EVE (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Asa?

ASA
(on the phone)
Mmmhmm?

He continues reading. 'If you'd like to explore the Village
further, we have availability this evening...'

EVE
(on the phone)
Are you there?

ASA
(on the phone)
What are you doing after work
today?

20. INT. A LONDON TRAIN STATION. THAT EVENING. 6.35PM.

Eve and Asa look up at a Departures board at the train station, confused.

ASA
Six forty two. Platform 17.

Eve looks to find Platform 17, it's way down the other end of the station. Asa starts walking towards it, reaching back for Eve to take his hand.

EVE
I can't run.

They speed up a little, Eve is trying to keep up with Asa as they traverse the busy commuter station.

Eve notices Cheska, the woman who was sitting next to her in the maternity unit. She's walking ahead of them. Cheska gets to the barriers of Platform 17 and taps her phone at the gate.

21. INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE. MINUTES LATER.

Eve and Asa sit opposite each other on a busy train. Cheska sits further down the train, not noticing Eve.

Eve leans to one side and looks down the aisle at Cheska, who sits stroking her bump as she looks out the window. Eve smiles.

22. INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE. 55 MINUTES LATER.

The train is emptier now and Eve is asleep.

TRAIN ANNOUNCER
(v/o)
The next station is Darley-on-
Thames.

Asa leans over to gently wake Eve.

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION

Eve is standing at the side of a group of women, who loudly sing and dance in a clearing in the woods. One of them is Cheska, she turns round and beckons Eve to join them.

SNAP TO:

INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE. MOMENTS LATER.

The train is stopping. Eve opens her eyes and gets up to get off the train with Asa. She notices Cheska standing by the doors. Cheska presses the button, the doors open and she is gone.

23. INT. DARLEY-ON-THAMES STATION. MOMENTS LATER.

A commuter belt station. Drab and beige. Some teenagers play music from their phones loudly. A few men with suitcases carry them down the stairs and exit through the doors.

Eve and Asa are walking down the stairs into the main station. Eve sees the VILLAGE sign in the distance above the exit, with glossy, well branded writing in a slick font. It stands out against the rest of the dull and dated station. It says 'Let us take you home to our Village.' Cheska is in the distance following the arrow on the Village sign, she leaves through the automatic doors and turns left.

24. EXT. OUTSIDE THE STATION. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve and Asa walk round the corner to see a large coach outside with the Village's branding on the side. As Eve and Asa approach, the door to the coach opens mysteriously.

Asa looks at Eve and gestures for her to go up the stairs on to the shuttle bus.

Eve climbs the stairs.

25. INT. THE SHUTTLE BUS. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve walks down the aisle of the shuttle bus. Calming lo-fi beats are playing from the speakers. Each seat has an arm rest with a bottle of still and a bottle of sparkling water. Kids toys and books are neatly stored in the backs of the seats. Halfway down the bus is a mini kitchen with sterilizing facilities for bottles. All around them, couples chat, groups of Mums sit with happy looking babies. Eve is infatuated with what she is seeing. She looks around for Cheska but can't see her anywhere.

Asa finds 2 seats together.

ASA

Eve?

She turns to him and he gestures to the two chairs. She goes to sit with him.

26. INT. THE SHUTTLE BUS. MINUTES LATER.

The bus drives through open countryside. Nothing can be seen for miles around. Everyone inside the bus seems happy. Eve looks out of the window and breathes deeply.

27. INT. THE SHUTTLE BUS. 10 MINUTES LATER.

The shuttle takes a sharp left down a narrow lane, then drives in between two large standing stones with the labyrinth carved into them. Eve and Asa look out the window. Eve looks down the aisle of the bus and sees a big sign which reads 'VILLAGE - welcome home.'

28. EXT. VILLAGE ENTRANCE. MINUTES LATER.

The entrance to the grounds of the Village is idyllic. Large trees, a rack of electric bikes on charge, people walking with families and dogs. There are no cars other than the shuttle bus.

The shuttle bus has parked and people are getting off. A Village staff member (known as a Village Keeper) is efficiently grabbing the buggies and prams from the hold of the shuttle bus, and putting them up with ease. He is dressed in a green polo shirt and green cargo shorts, with a green cap on featuring the 'VILLAGE' logo. Families, couples and individuals walk off into the grounds of the Village.

Eve and Asa step off the bus. They look around, not totally sure where to go. The Village Keeper notices them.

VILLAGE KEEPER 1

Are you visiting?

ASA

Yes. Here for a look around.

VILLAGE KEEPER 1

Welcome. Head down that path and you'll find the welcome team in the office on your left.

EVE

Thanks.

Eve and Asa walk away from the bus and down the path through the trees. They can't believe what they are seeing.

Asa is very keen on the place, but almost doesn't want to get his hopes up, he looks at Eve, trying to play it cool.

ASA

What are you thinking?

Eve laughs. She thinks it's incredible.

EVE

We're definitely not in Kansas anymore.

Eve and Asa arrive at the Welcome office. A wooden office, almost like a ranger's hut, with beautiful leather arm chairs and an expensive coffee machine. A big sign that says 'Welcome' hangs above the door. The 'o' of 'welcome' is the labyrinth shape.

The door swings open before Eve and Asa. They look at each other and step inside.

29. INT. VILLAGE. WELCOME OFFICE. MINUTES LATER.

MIA (mid 30s) sits behind the desk in the Village Welcome Office. Eve and Asa sit on the other side. There is a brochure for the Village on the table.

Behind the desk on the wall, is the labyrinth shape, made out of tiny houses that are pinned on to the wall each time a home is rented out. There are two little house pins at the side.

MIA

You're definitely here at the right time.

Eve and Asa listen, hopefully. Mia picks up one of the little house pins.

MIA (CONT'D)

Our final 2 bedroom home has found it's family this morning...

Mia gently places the little house pin into the labyrinth shape.

MIA (CONT'D)

We only have 1 more home left before our Village will be complete.

Mia opens the brochure and turns to the page with the map.

ASA
I'm hoping it's another 2 bed.

Mia looks crestfallen, apologetic.

MIA
It isn't I'm afraid. It's a 3
bedroom house.

Eve looks at Asa. He deflates.

ASA
There is no way we will be able to
afford that.

MIA
Our pricing structure operates on a
sliding scale. Building the right
community is more important to us
than profit margins.

Eve frowns in disbelief.

MIA (CONT'D)
Once we have the applications in
from potential Community Members,
we put it to a vote, and everyone
in the Village gets a say.

Mia smiles.

MIA (CONT'D)
We think we're the only
neighbourhood left in the country
where you actually can chose your
neighbours.

Mia smiles.

Would you still like to have a
look?

Eve and Asa look at each other - they may as well.

EVE
Yes.

Mia points to a unit on the map, in the furthest corner of
the Village. To the back of it appears to be a sea of green
on the map.

MIA

This is the home we're talking about. It's at the furthest point in the Village and to the back of the house, you'll be surrounded by forest.

Eve is still listening but she starts to hear the sound of the women singing and the soundscape of the forest as Mia is speaking.

You'll have beautiful views, and because we're an intimate community, nothing is ever too far away here. You're about a 7 minute walk from the amenities.

ASA

That sounds pretty good.

Asa looks at Eve.

Eve?

The forest sound stops. Eve nods.

MIA

I could show you the house now if you like?

Asa looks at Eve, she nods.

30. EXT. VILLAGE. THE GROUNDS. MINUTES LATER.

Mia walks Asa and Eve through the Village. It's early evening now on a warm summer Friday, and the place has an idyllic relaxed energy. Couples walk hand in hand, the occasional jogger goes by, parents with kids on their shoulders, lots of young families and couples with babies.

Occasionally, men in the Village Keeper uniform and cap walk by.

They walk past a communal green where a group of friends are enjoying a picnic, eating pizza together.

MIA

(smiling)

We like to fire up the pizza oven.

Asa looks at Eve with wide eyed excitement.

Eve notices another Village Keeper walking by, carrying a tool box. He looks at Eve, smiles and gives her a wave. She waves back, slightly confused.

EVE

Do those guys all work here?

MIA

Yes, those are our Village Keepers. They maintain all the communal spaces, take out your bins, and they also maintain the properties too, so if you ever have any issues, there's always someone to help.

EVE

That sounds great.

ASA

...is that all rolled into like, a service fee, or...

A young toddler runs past them. Mia smiles and waves to her.

MIA

Hi Darcey!

The little girl runs off. Mia and Asa carry on walking, Eve looks back at the man with the tool box, he bends down to pick up a stray empty crisp packet in the road and puts it in a bin.

31. EXT. VILLAGE. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE. MINUTES LATER.

Eve, Asa and Mia stand outside a 3 bedroom house on the outskirts of the Village. It backs on to a forest. Other houses are dotted around, they all look identical. Modern, with an eco-friendly minimalist look.

MIA

You'll notice none of the houses have driveways. We're a car free community. It's better for the environment and it's safer for all the young children who live here. We have regular shuttle buses every 15 minutes that will take you into nearby Darley-on-Thames via the train station. But mostly everything you need can be found in the Village. It's been designed to be self sufficient.

Mia smiles and gestures to show them into the house. She notices a stray old 90s looking thin plastic bag on the lawn outside the house, she casually picks it up and scrunches it into her pocket.

MIA (CONT'D)

After you.

She smiles and stands at the side of the front door as Eve steps in, followed by Asa.

32. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. DOWNSTAIRS.

The house is bright, airy and open plan. A sitting room with 2 comfy looking sofas leads into a large kitchen with rustic looking dining table, situated next to huge bifold door which look out into the garden, and then the forest.

EVE

Oh wow. It's huge.

Mia smiles.

MIA

All bills and service charges are included in the rental price. And all of our homes are very energy efficient, which is why we manage to keep our prices so competitive.

Eve walks over to a shelf by the sofa, there is a digital photo frame with pictures of Eve and Asa. The photos keep changing, showing Eve and Asa at various points in their history. Eve picks up the photo frame, slightly uncomfortable.

MIA (CONT'D)

Shall we head upstairs?

33. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. UPSTAIRS.

Asa and Eve step up on to the landing, another bright and airy space. Mia follows them.

MIA

Straight ahead is the bathroom.

Asa steps into the bathroom followed by Eve.

34. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. BATHROOM.

Asa and Eve step into a beautifully decorated olive green bathroom, complete with plants, a large walk in shower and a roll top bath at the end. Above the bath are a row of huge windows.

MIA

Go ahead and open the windows.

Asa opens the windows, they fold back on each other to reveal the woods that the house backs on to.

MIA (CONT'D)

That's my favourite thing about this place.

Mia goes to leave.

Let's take a look at where you'll be sleeping.

Mia leaves the doorway of the bathroom and Asa follows her. Eve walks over to the open windows and sticks her head out, she closes her eyes and breathes in.

ASA

(off camera)

Eve, come and see this!

35. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. BEDROOM 1.

Eve pokes her head around the door and finds Asa lying on the bed, looking up through a skylight on the ceiling. Mia watches on, smiling.

ASA

This is amazing.

MIA

All our Village Community Members are encouraged to explore our holistic living practices, so you'll notice that we don't have any plug sockets upstairs. All lamps and lighting are operated through the main electrical systems. It's so you're not tempted to charge your phone next to your bed at night. We all know how that can inhibit restorative sleep.

EVE

Totally.

MIA

There's another double room next door to this one, just a little smaller, but I'm sure you'd like to see the nursery?

Mia leaves the bedroom. As soon as her back is turned, Asa smiles in disbelief at Eve. She smiles back.

36. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. THE NURSERY.

The doorway of a beautifully decorated nursery. All calming colours, natural fabrics and calming atmosphere.

Eve is the first one to step in to the room. She is immediately quietly amazed and emotional. Eve puts her handbag down on the floor. She suddenly knows this is her home. Asa follows, and smiles and exhales as he walks in. Mia stays in the doorway, allowing Asa and Eve to explore.

Eve goes over to the cot, and hanging over the side is the same baby grow she picked out of her parcel and held to her chest the other day. She touches it.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK IMAGE OF EVE HOLDING THE BABY GROW TO HER CHEST IN HER OFFICE.

CUT TO:

BACK IN THE NURSERY.

ASA

What do you think?

Eve shakes her head in disbelief.

EVE

It's incredible.

Mia appears at the doorway.

MIA

We have been using this home as a show house, but we won't need the furniture back so if you're interested, we can offer it fully furnished.

Eve touches the cot and smiles, and then notices a baby monitor plugged directly into the a wall, without a plug.

EVE

How does the monitor work if there's no plug?

MIA

It's all through the mains system. Again, much better for you and for baby to have minimal technology in your sleep spaces. The monitor screen is plugged in to a regular plug downstairs.

37. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. DOWNSTAIRS.

Eve and Asa step down the final few stairs into the living room. Mia follows them.

MIA

Feel free to have another look down here. Check out the outside space. I'm just going to pop outside and make a few calls.

Mia heads outside the front door and can be seen through the window outside on her phone.

EVE

What do you think?

ASA

I...

EVE

It's amazing, isn't it?

ASA

I can't quite believe it.

Mia can be seen through the window on the phone. She speaks a little more passionately now, and pulls the old plastic bag she found on the lawn out of her pocket and appears to look at it closely before stuffing it back in her pocket.

EVE

There's just so much more space.

Eve is looking at the digital photo frame again which flashes up with more photos of Eve and Asa's life up til now.

EVE (CONT'D)

Where did they get all these?

ASA
Social media probably.

A photo pops up of Eve and Asa cuddling in bed together.

EVE
What, even this one? Bit weird.

Something catches Eve's eye and she looks out of the window. She suddenly sees Cheska walking past the house with a yoga mat rolled up under her arm.

Eve is about to mention it, then Mia comes back in.

MIA
Shall I walk you back to the office?

ASA
Sure.

EVE
Actually, sorry I just realized I left my bag upstairs. Can you give me a sec?

Eve leaves to get her bag.

38. INT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. THE NURSERY.

Eve walks back into the nursery and picks up her bag. She looks around and takes a moment by herself in there.

She notices something carved into the head of the wooden cot. She walks over to it. It's the labyrinth. She gently touches it with her fingers.

She hears the noise of a newborn baby crying.

Eve looks out of the window of the nursery and sees a couple outside. The woman is carrying a brand new baby in her arms, and the man has his arm around her. They are followed by one of the Village Keepers in his green uniform, who carries their bags and helps them get into the house.

The woman looks up and sees Eve through the window. Eve is momentarily taken aback, but the woman smiles warmly (maybe too warmly) and waves before proudly entering her new home with her brand new baby for the first time.

39. EXT. VILLAGE. THE HOUSE. MOMENTS LATER.

Asa and Mia are outside the house, the door is open. Eve steps through the door and Mia closes it and locks it behind her.

They walk back through the Village. It's slightly darker outside now, but still gently buzzing with wholesome family life.

MIA

How are we feeling?

Asa takes Eve's hand as they walk together.

ASA

We like it a lot.

Mia smiles.

MIA

The nice thing is because we're a new build community, nobody is from here, so everyone is starting from scratch together. Our first Community Members moved in about 6 months ago.

Eve, Asa and Mia walk past a group of friends laughing and joking together.

MIA (CONT'D)

So all of these connections have blossomed since then. We know how important it is for young families to have a community around them. We all live so far away from each other nowadays. It can make parenting so much more isolating. But we don't think it has to be that way.

Eve watches two young Mums with buggies walking past and chatting happily. They smile at Eve. She smiles back.

EVE

(smiling)

It's really nice.

MIA

The land surrounding the development is all protected, so there won't be any more building.

ASA

So we'd definitely keep that forest view?

Eve, Asa and Mia have arrived back at the Welcome office.

MIA

(smiling)

I can guarantee it.

ASA

Thank you so much for showing us around.

MIA

Of course. And look, I think you'd fit in really well here, but the Community really like enthusiasm. Now our viewing has completed, you'll be sent an email. If you want to apply to join the Village and move in to that home, then click the link in the email. It'll forward all your application forms to the Community and they'll inform you of their decision soon.

Eve looks at Asa

EVE

Have we done the application forms?

Asa nods.

ASA

I did them earlier.

Mia unlocks the Welcome Office door. In the distance somewhere, there's a very faint sound of a recording of a meditation bell that rings out across the Village. Neither Eve, Asa or Mia seem to notice it.

MIA

Excellent. If you have any more questions -

ASA

- just about the cost.

MIA

Of course. Just write down your combined income on your application form, and from there we will take 25% of that as what you could afford.

ASA

Right.

MIA

But remember, it's not just about money here. We're building a big family.

She smiles brightly, then notices a shuttle bus arriving in the drop off area.

MIA (CONT'D)

Oh good timing. There's a shuttle just arriving now. Have a good think and let's chat tomorrow.

ASA

We will. Thanks.

EVE

Thank you.

MIA

Safe journey back!

The door to the office shuts and Mia is gone.

40. INT. SHUTTLE BUS. THAT NIGHT. 8.35PM.

Eve and Asa sit on a near-empty shuttle bus holding hands, silently thinking about where they've just been. Eve looks out of the window at the vast open fields that surround them.

The shuttle bus drives through nearby Darley-on-Thames, a completely nondescript and fairly run down town. Eve looks out the window.

41. EXT. DARLEY-ON-THAMES STATION. SAME NIGHT. 8.45PM.

The shuttle bus pulls into Darley-on-Thames station. The Village Keeper driving the bus steps off and stands by the luggage hold in case anyone needs anything. Eve and Asa step off the bus and walk into the station.

42. EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM. MINUTES LATER.

Eve and Asa step on to the train platform. Eve suddenly hears the noise of an instagram video playing.

INFLUENCER

(v/o)

Here's everything I'm doing to prepare for birth. Number 1, I'm getting as much sleep as I can...

Eve looks down the platform and sees Cheska sitting on a bench watching the video on her phone.

EVE

I sat next to her in the maternity unit the other day.

Asa looks at Cheska.

ASA

What, her?

EVE

Yep.

ASA

She was at the unit in London?

EVE

Mmhmm.

Eve is halfway down the platform, walking toward Cheska.

Cheska looks up at Eve, vaguely recognises her. She turns her phone off.

EVE (CONT'D)

Hi.

CHESKA

...hi?

Suddenly it's clear that the influencer videos Cheska has been watching are her own, it's only when we hear her voice, that we realize it's the same voice as in the videos.

EVE

I think I sat with you the other day. At St Mary's?

CHESKA

Oh, no way!

Asa has joined them.

EVE

This is Asa, my partner.

Eve signals Asa. Cheska gets up to greet Asa.

CHESKA

Hi.

ASA

Hiya.

EVE

Were you at the Village?

CHESKA

Yeah. We just moved about 2 months ago.

EVE

What's it like?

CHESKA

It's amazing.

Cheska smiles

CHESKA (CONT'D)

I was a bit worried at first, it's a bit further away than we wanted. But it's easy enough to head back and see friends. And obviously all my midwife's appointments are still at St Mary's, as you know...what's your name?

EVE

Eve.

Cheska melts into a massive grin.

CHESKA

Oh my Goddd, that's what this little one will be called.

She rubs her belly. The train is arriving.

CHESKA (CONT'D)

Seriously though, it's the best move we've made.

(MORE)

CHESKA (CONT'D)

Quality of life is so much better
than what we had, and you do
totally make friends really easily.
I know it sounds a bit twee but it
genuinely is like a little village.

The train doors open. Cheska is not getting on. Asa and Eve
move toward the train. Asa looks at Cheska, confused.

ASA

Are you..?

CHESKA

Oh, no, I just got back from
London. I'm heading back to the
Village.

Eve frowns, confused.

Asa is pulling Eve on to the train.

ASA

Well it's really nice to meet you.

CHESKA

You too.

Cheska smiles like Mia.

ASA

See you soon, maybe.

CHESKA

Hope so!

The train doors close and the train leaves, Cheska waves from
the platform. Asa goes to sit down but Eve stays looking out
of the window of the train, watching Cheska waving. Once
she's almost out of sight, Eve sees Cheska drop the wave and
instantly go back to her phone again.

43. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. SAME NIGHT. 9.45PM.

The door to the flat is unlocked, and Asa and Eve pour
through the door, dumping bags on the floor. Asa heads
straight to his laptop. Eve heads straight for the fridge.
She eats various random things she can find in there whilst
Asa opens his emails.

EVE

That view! I still can't get over
it.

ASA

Alright I've got the email here.

Eve comes over to look over his shoulder. He scrolls down. Under the particulars of the house they saw, there is a button that says 'CLICK HERE TO MOVE IN. JOIN THE VILLAGE'

EVE

Oh. Is there no option to review the application forms?

ASA

I can't see one...

Asa scrolls looking for a way of doing this, nothing.

EVE

Do you remember what you put?

ASA

Yeah I think so -

EVE

Did you make us sound cool? Exciting?

ASA

I can't remember Eve, I'd only just woken up.

Eve sits down next to him.

EVE

I guess we just have to hope they choose us then.

ASA

So we're doing this? I'm clicking the link? You're sure?

Eve nods.

EVE

That's our house. I can feel it.

ASA

OK. Then here we go.

Asa clicks the link. The page turns to the image of the labyrinth and 2 little dots which trace the shape of it. Some text at the bottom reads 'Eve and Asa, thank you for your application. The Community will let you know soon if you have been selected to join the Village.'

44. INT. EVE'S DREAM: VILLAGE. THE HOUSE.

Eve is dreaming. She's back in the house, and it has become Eve and Asa's home with their child. In her dream, it's her baby's first birthday and they're all in the big open plan downstairs area. Eve sits on the floor with her one year old on her lap. Asa comes in with a birthday cake. The room is full of friends singing 'Happy Birthday'. Cheska is amongst the group, as is Zora. Just as the song reaches the end Eve starts to wander upstairs alone, leaving her child and the group. They don't notice her get up and leave, and continue to sing as if she is still there. She walks up the stairs and sees movement across the doorway in the nursery. She looks inside and the Woman with the Toddler is there, hollow and tired as always. She has her toddler in the buggy upstairs and the carpet is now covered in mud and leaves. In the dream, Eve speaks to the woman.

EVE

What are you doing in my house?

The woman just stares back, not answering. Eve looks at the floor, the mud from the buggy is spreading over the carpet.

EVE (CONT'D)

Can you clean that up please? We don't bring buggies upstairs.

The woman stares back, silently pushing the buggy forward and back. The mud keeps spreading, until the carpet is no longer visible and the floor looks like the forest floor. Eve looks down at her feet.

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION

Eve looks up and she's in the forest. She sees the group of women ahead in the clearing. Cheska is among them. Cheska turns round to Eve and beckons her to join them.

The sound of an alarm.

45. INT. EVE AND ASA'S BEDROOM. 7AM. THE NEXT DAY.

The alarm goes off. Eve wakes up. She looks at Asa's side of the bed. He's not there.

46. INT. EVE AND ASA'S FLAT. MOMENTS LATER.

Asa sits at the table on his laptop. Eve opens the door from the bedroom and looks at him.

EVE

Have they got back to you yet?

Asa shakes his head. Eve takes a deep breath. Asa shuts his laptop.

ASA

Go and get dressed. Let's forget about all this for the day.

EVE

I can't stop thinking about it.

ASA

Get showered. Go on. I'm taking you for breakfast.

47. INT. LONDON CAFE. SAME DAY. 10AM.

A large bohemian London cafe. Zora sits at a large corner table with her girlfriend LAUREN (late 30s). The door to the cafe opens and Eve and Asa come in. Zora jumps up.

ZORA

Surprise!!! Here they are!

Eve is pleasantly surprised, she hugs Zora. Lauren waves to Asa. Eve hugs Lauren. Asa sits down and Zora squeezes Asa's shoulder as she heads to the bar to order.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Drinks? Asa, coffee?

Asa nods.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Evie?

Eve nods.

EVE

Just a single shot.

Zora gives a thumbs up as she heads to the bar. Eve and Asa settle into their chairs.

EVE (CONT'D)

Ahh. I'm glad it's the weekend.

LAUREN

Zora said you guys have had quite a week.

Eve nods.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Its awful people doing that to you last minute. As if you haven't got enough to think about.

EVE

I know.

LAUREN

So are you staying put or..

Eve shakes her head.

EVE

Dunno. We might have a plan. We're having a day off from talking about it, aren't we?

Asa nods.

Zora returns.

LAUREN

We have our own news.

Eve looks interested.

Lauren raises her left hand and shows off an engagement ring.

EVE

Oh my God!

ASA

Ah that's brilliant!

Eve and Asa jump up and hug Zora and Lauren.

LAUREN

She finally asked the question.

Eve smiles at Zora.

EVE

Zora's finally been tamed.

A waitress comes over with coffees for Eve and Asa, and 2 bloody Marys for Zora and Lauren. She sets the drinks down.

EVE (CONT'D)

Cheers to you two!

The group 'cheers' their drinks. Eve stands up from her chair, uncomfortable.

ASA

Are you OK?

EVE

Yeah it's just the chair.

LAUREN

Do you want to sit here?

EVE

I'm OK. I'm just going to get some air.

Eve heads toward the door of the cafe. The others watch after her, but stay seated.

48. EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAFE. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve is standing outside the cafe on her phone, wistfully looking at the Village instagram. Zora comes out to join her, with her bloody Mary.

ZORA

You OK?

EVE

Yeah just...pregnant stuff.

ZORA

I'm sorry about the flat.

EVE

It's OK. We might have found another. I'm supposed to be having a day off from thinking about it but I can't stop.

Eve shows Zora her phone.

ZORA

Where's Darley-on-Thames?

EVE

Not too far. About an hour away.

ZORA

An hour?!

EVE

I know but you should see this place, Zora.

Zora scrolls and looks at the pictures.

ZORA

It looks amazing. But you get lost if you leave Zone 3. Have you been to see it?

Eve nods.

ZORA (CONT'D)

And you like it there?

Eve nods.

ZORA (CONT'D)

Then let's see. If it's for you -

EVE

- it won't pass you by.

Zora leans her back to the wall next to Eve. Zora's hand reaches for Eve's just like it did when they were teenagers. They stand together watching the world go by.

49. INT. THE CAFE. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve and Zora head back to the table. Eve sits down. Asa puts his hand on her leg. She looks at him, she nods as if to tell him she's OK.

Lauren and Zora's drinks are now empty.

The waitress turns up with 4 huge sharing dishes of brunch. The group make approving noises. Eve looks at the waitress.

EVE

Can we get 2 refills for the brides to be?!

The waitress smiles.

WAITRESS

Coming right up!

50. INT. THE CAFE. AN HOUR LATER.

Eve, Zora and Lauren laugh and joke. Asa smiles, and discreetly checks his emails to see if there has been a response from the Village. Nothing yet.

51. EXT. THE CAFE. AN HOUR LATER.

Eve and Asa, Zora and Lauren leave the cafe and stand outside. Lauren and Zora are both a little drunk.

EVE

I'm so happy for you both

LAUREN

We're happy for you too! You guys are going to be the best parents. I would love it if you were my parents.

(to ZORA)

Can you imagine if they were your parents?

Eve and Asa smile. Eve and Zora hug.

ZORA

Phone me if anything happens, OK.

Eve nods. Zora and Lauren start to walk one way and Eve and Asa start to walk another.

Asa and Eve keep walking. Eve seems lighter.

Lauren and Zora disappear into the distance.

ASA

It's nice to see you having fun.

Eve smiles.

EVE

I had a really nice time.

They walk happily down the road, enjoying the day off in their familiar neighbourhood.

Asa's phone starts ringing. He looks at it. Doesn't answer.

EVE (CONT'D)

Who is it?

ASA

Some random number.

EVE

Answer it.

ASA

It's probably spam.

EVE

It could be them.

Asa's phone stops ringing. They start walking again and Eve's phone starts to ring. She pulls it out of her back and looks at it, confused.

EVE (CONT'D)

Same number...

Eve answers.

EVE (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

Hello?

ESTATE AGENT

(off camera)

Hi, is that Eve?

Eve stops Asa dead in the street, thinking this is the call.

EVE

(on the phone)

Yes?

ESTATE AGENT

(off camera)

Hi this is Darren from Compton Barrett.

EVE

(on the phone)

Right.

She puts him on speaker phone. Eve and Asa listen.

ESTATE AGENT

(off camera)

We just wanted to let you know the new tenants move in next Saturday at 10am. So in order to have the flat professionally cleaned, we'll need you to vacate the property on Thursday if that's alright?

ASA

(speaking into the phone)

This coming Thursday?

ESTATE AGENT

(off camera)

Yeah...I mean hopefully that's alright. It's only a few days earlier than you were -

Asa grabs the phone.

ASA

(aggressively speaking
into the phone)

Wow. My partner is due to have a baby any day and you think it's fine to just kick us out? You guys really are completely devoid of all morals aren't you.

ESTATE AGENT

(off camera, not sensing
Asa's tone)

And how are you finding your onward search? We have a couple of properties -

Asa hangs up the phone. Eve looks at him.

EVE

What are you doing?

ASA

I can't listen to these pricks anymore.

EVE

But what if the other place doesn't work? We need somewhere, if we have to be out by Thursday then -

Asa wraps his arms around her, she stops.

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE FOREST IN EVE'S IMAGINATION.

Eve is under water. Asa's arms have become the tendrils of a plant in the water which she is stuck in, she's trying to kick her feet and move her arms to swim to the surface and gasp for air, but she is stuck.

SNAP TO:

EXT. THE STREET. MOMENTS LATER.

Eve gently breaks free of Asa's embrace. He looks at her. She half smiles. They walk.

52. INT. THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE EVE AND ASA'S HOUSE. AN HOUR LATER.

Eve and Asa walk up the stairs to find 2 suitcases outside their door. They are confused.

Asa unlocks the front door. Eve moves closer to the suitcases and sees there are cardboard tags on the handles.

ASA

Did you order these?

Eve shakes her head.

Shall I see if they're for next door?

EVE

I can ask. Let me just sit down a sec. I will not miss those stairs.

Asa has gone into the flat already.

Eve follows him inside and sits at the table. Asa has already opened his laptop. Asa's phone rings. He answers.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

INT. VILLAGE. WELCOME OFFICE. SAME TIME.

Mia sits behind the desk in the Welcome Office. The labyrinth on the wall made of the little house pins is now nearly complete, only one house remains. Mia holds the pin of the remaining tiny house, she toys with it with her fingers as she talks on the phone.

MIA

(on the phone)

Asa, hi there, it's Mia from the Village.

Asa signals to Eve that it's the call they have been waiting for.

ASA

(on the phone)

Hi, Mia.

MIA

(on the phone)

I wanted to let you know that we had 4 applications for the house you viewed.

Asa puts the phone on to speaker phone

ASA
(on the phone)
Right.

MIA
(on the phone)
And after reviewing all of the applications, the Community have selected you and Eve to join the village.

Eve silently screams in excitement.

ASA
(on the phone)
That's brilliant!

MIA
(on the phone)
You'll notice the little suitcases we sent to your door. If you fill them with your most immediate possessions, one of the Village Keepers will be along to collect them later today.

ASA
(on the phone)
Today?

MIA
(on the phone)
We're aware you need to vacate your current property by Thursday -

EVE
(on the phone)
How did you know that?

MIA
(on the phone)
So, if you fill those two suitcases with your essentials, then the Village Keepers will come and do the rest of the move for you.

EVE
(on the phone)
I can't believe this. Honestly, thank you so much.

MIA
 (on the phone, smiling)
 The Community are delighted to have
 you join the Village...

Eve laughs, she looks at Asa.

MIA (CONT'D)
 (on the phone)
 ...if you'd still like to join us?

ASA
 (on the phone)
 Yes!

EVE
 (on the phone)
 - yes!

MIA
 (on the phone)
 Excellent. I'll organise the
 logistics and we'll look forward to
 welcoming you soon.

Mia hangs up abruptly before Asa and Eve can say goodbye.

Asa and Eve look at each other. Eve squeals with joy and hugs Asa.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE. WELCOME OFFICE.

Mia puts the phone on to the receiver. Her smile instantly drops. Mia stands up and adds the little pin of the final house to the labyrinth shape above the desk. The community is complete and the labyrinth is too.

CHESKA
 (off camera)
 Are they coming?

Mia turns. Cheska is in the doorway. Mia nods.

Cheska smiles, then gets out her phone. Mia stands to one side as Cheska takes a photo of the completed labyrinth of houses above the desk.

She shows it to Mia, Mia nods and leaves the office. Cheska hits 'post' and posts the photo to social media. Cheska reaches underneath the back of her tshirt and unhooks something. Her pregnant belly comes off in her hand, revealing her flat stomach underneath.

She hangs up the fake pregnant belly on a hook on the back of the door and turns to take a long look at the completed labyrinth.

END OF EPISODE.