

Tuff 2 Luv
by
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EXT. TOPPS TILES. OLD KENT ROAD RETAIL PARK - DAY

The world is suffused with rose pink light. People ripple past accompanied by the patter of rain against plastic.

Beneath a sheet of pink plastic sheeting Shane (29, thin face, warm brown eyes) shelters from the shower. Curled beside him is Binny, his tiny excuse for a dog. On his lap is a battered ukulele.

Shane's breath blooms against the plastic as he counts coins into piles. He tuts and sighs. Binny turns her trembly head and gazes at him.

Shane looks up. The rain has stopped. He puts the money in his pocket and peers out from under the plastic.

He pushes the plastic back and he and Binny blink in the hard light of the Old Kent Road after a summer shower.

He stands up and stretches. He walks over to the window of Topps Tiles and peers in.

A handwritten sign taped to the window says 'We are aware of the pigeon.'

In the reflection he sees a moped approaching and looks round.

The moped stops at the kerb. The rider, (Lee, 28) keeps his helmet on.

LEE

Pigeon still there?

Shane nods towards the window. Inside the vast empty space a tagged racing pigeon struts across the vast concrete floor.

Lee shakes his head.

LEE (CONT'D)

Cruel ain't they? Just cos it's a fucking pigeon.

SHANE

Yeah, they wouldn't treat it like that if it was an owl.

LEE

Or a swan.

Shane gives Lee a sideways look. They both gaze at the window for a moment. Lee snaps out of it first.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEE (CONT'D)

Yeah so I'm away for a few days
so I need to sort you out by
four.

Shane is taken aback.

SHANE

How many days?

LEE

Dunno mate.

SHANE

Cos, you know ... I'm a bit
short...

Lee's face becomes expressionless, as if a switch has
flicked off.

SHANE (CONT'D)

It's been raining for days.
Nobody's been coming out.

Lee doesn't seem to be listening. Shane sighs.

SHANE (CONT'D)

By four? Today?

LEE

Yeah. Or there's always Chewy.

Shane shudders.

SHANE

Right. Four.

LEE

See ya later.

But Lee doesn't go. Shane looks at him, confused, as if
he's missed something. Lee grins foolishly inside his
crash helmet.

LEE (CONT'D)

I'm going to Milan.

Shane sees that Lee is expecting further enquiries.

SHANE

What for?

LEE

To see someone.

SHANE

What, like a woman?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LEE

Yeah. Emiliana.

Lee is still smiling.

SHANE

That's...nice.

Lee and Shane smile and nod about how nice it is. Lee laughs, so does Shane. Lee sighs happily.

LEE

Yeah, it's really nice.

Shane clears his throat.

SHANE

I was just thinking ... about me being a bit short and that ...

Lee's smile gives way to a blank stare.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Never mind.

Lee kickstarts the moped and peels away.

INT. SRI PRAGA MINI MART. OLD KENT ROAD - DAY

Two tough looking children Misty (a round faced 11 with a plastered down fringe and spanglely hair clips) and Teddy (6 with a bristly crop) are in the queue at the Sri Praga Mini Mart.

Misty's eyes are level with the raised counter. When they reach the front Misty holds out a fifty pound note.

MISTY

One Kinder Egg and a bottle of tequila.

SHOP MAN

Kinder Egg yes, tequila no.

Misty's mouth drops open with outrage.

MISTY

Why?

SHOP MAN

No more tequila. You're minors you can't buy alcohol.

TEDDY

We're not miners!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

The other one always lets us buy it!

He shakes his head at them.

SHOP MAN

Not any more. Tell mum she has to come and buy it herself.

TEDDY

She can't.

SHOP MAN

Why not?

MISTY

She's drunk.

The children get the giggles. The man waits for them to stop.

SHOP MAN

Very nice. Thank you. You still want the Kinder Egg?

MISTY

Nah.

TEDDY

But I wanted...

MISTY

Come on!

Outside the shop the Misty produces a Kinder Egg from her pocket and hands it to a delighted Teddy.

EXT. NEW CROSS. OLD KENT ROAD RETAIL PARK - DAY

From his spot outside Topps Tiles Shane watches two children, Misty and Teddy, approach a man outside the giant supermarket.

The man shakes his head. Next they approach an elderly man who can't get away from them quickly enough.

The children drape themselves dejectedly over the bollards outside the supermarket, then they notice Shane.

They consult for a while then haul themselves up off the bollards and walk over.

Shane sees them coming and directs his attention to his ukulele. The children arrive and stand there looking at him. Shane ignores them but they don't go away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE

What do you want?

MISTY

That dog's really old isn't it?
I can tell because his beak's
grey.

SHANE

She's not old, she's six.

MISTY

That's forty two in dog years.

SHANE

No it's not, it's thirty.

MISTY

No it's not. It's forty two. Six
times seven is forty two.

SHANE

But a human year is five dog
years.

MISTY

No it's not, it's seven.

Shane is about to continue arguing but stops himself.

SHANE

What do you want?

Misty and Teddy look at each other.

MISTY

Are you an alkie?

TEDDY

D'you want a Special Brew?

Shane is outraged.

SHANE

No!

MISTY

If you buy us a bottle of
Tequila you can have a can of
Special Brew.

SHANE

I don't want a can of Special
Brew!

Misty opens her hand and the tightly folded fifty
unfolds like origami.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE (CONT'D)

Who's it for?

MISTY

Our mum.

TEDDY

And Pim.

Shane purses his lips.

SHANE

Alright. I'll get it.

He puts his hand out for the money.

MISTY

I'm coming with you.

Shane nods towards Teddy.

SHANE

You can't leave him on his own.

MISTY

But he can come too.

SHANE

I need someone to mind my dog
don't I?

Misty looks at him through narrowed eyes.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Just mind my dog alright. I'll
be back in a minute.

Shane takes the money and walks towards the giant
supermarket.

TEDDY

What if he runs off?

Misty keeps Shane fixed in her sights.

MISTY

He won't run off.

Shane swivels off course and sprints towards the car
park exit.

TEDDY

He's running off!

Shane whistles. Binny darts through Teddy's arms and
flies towards him.

MISTY

Oi!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Misty charges across the car park after Shane. Shane shouts without looking back at them.

SHANE

I'll pay it back!

Teddy stares with his mouth open then snaps out of it and takes off after Misty.

EXT. OLD KENT ROAD - DAY

Misty and Teddy pelt down the Old Kent Road after Shane.

As Shane throws a glance back he trips on a paving stone and almost goes over.

MISTY

Get him! Get the money!

Misty and Teddy run after him weaving in and out of the people on the street. Then suddenly Shane is gone, vanished.

The kids look in all the shops; the betting shop, the hairdressers, the Somali cafe. Misty chews the edge of her sleeve. Teddy trails after her.

They give up and sit in a couple of mobility scooters outside the White Hart. Misty clicks a switch on and off. Teddy bangs his head lightly on the steering wheel.

TEDDY

Mum's gonna to kill you.

MISTY

Maybe she won't kill me cos Pim's there.

TEDDY

Probably she'll kill you even worser.

Shane peeps round of the door of the Chinese Medicine Shop. Teddy sees him.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

There he is!

Shane looks shocked at the incredible volume of Teddy's voice. He legs it down the street.

Misty and Teddy leap off the scooters and run after him.

Binny stops abruptly outside King Rooster and snuffles a fried chicken box.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The kids skid to a stop. Shane throws a glance back.

SHANE

Binny!

Binny licks the box, her eyes closed in ecstasy.

Teddy and Misty look at Binny then at each other. They creep towards her.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Binny! Binny! Come here!

Misty comes within inches of Binny. She reaches her hands around her then whips her up.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Put her down!

MISTY

Give us our money!

Shane, out of breath, fifty gripped in his hand, stares at the kids. Binny gazes from Misty's arms.

He starts towards them. The kids walk backwards.

SHANE

Come on, let her go, she's old.

MISTY

When you give us our money.

SHANE

I'll pay it back. I've just borrowed it.

MISTY

Well we're borrowing this dog then.

Shane stops, sighs.

SHANE

Look ... I know it don't make it any better but I hate myself for this.

TEDDY

And we hate you an' all!

Misty glares at Shane.

MISTY (CONT'D)

If you ever wanna see him again you better give us our money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE

Her. And I will give it to you,
I will...later.

TEDDY

Mum's gonna kill us!

SHANE

I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.

Shane backs away.

Teddy looks at Misty, urging her to do something. Misty looks panicked.

MISTY

Tomorrow then! Outside King
Rooster at...

TEDDY

Midnight!

MISTY

(To Teddy)
No! That's too late fool.

The children whisper to each other.

TEDDY

Midday!

MISTY

Yeah. Midday.

TEDDY

And you better be here with our
money or there's gonna be
something bad!

MISTY

Yeah. Really bad.

SHANE

Honest, I wouldn't normally do
this... it's just it's been but
raining for days...

The children stand in the street with Binny as Shane disappears backwards into the trickle of passers by.

EXT. KID'S HOUSE - DAY

Misty and Teddy walk along a shabby Victorian Terrace off the Old Kent Road.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They swerve round leggy hedges as they pass house after house sealed with metal shutters and daubed with graffiti. Some squatters unscrew a metal door shutter as the kids pass by.

They arrive at a house with a peeling blue door. Music pulses inside. A flowerpot of faded kids's windmills vibrates on the window ledge.

Misty bites her lip and opens the door. Music pours over them.

Inside, the walls are stripped of paper. Takeaway leaflets and unopened mail cascade across the bare floorboards.

Music and voices come from the front room. The children look at each other and open the door.

Amber (25, very pretty, Misty and Teddy's mother) is rolling a joint and talking to Pim (33, Dutch, droopy moustache, long dark blonde hair).

On the sideboard is an empty bottle of tequila, a bong and a lump of cannabis.

Amber is slightly under the influence. Her huge blue eyes glitter with excitement and tequila.

AMBER

I want 'em to be independent
Pim. I don't want 'em molded
into little citizens, know what
I mean?

In the armchair Pim smiles and nods his head wisely.

Amber sees Teddy and Misty in the doorway, her eyes light up.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Whassup my babies? Get the ta-
kill-ya?

Teddy begins to edge away from Misty.

MISTY

We went to the shop right, and
he said they ain't gonna sell us
no more tequila right, so we
asked all these people outside
Sainsbury's and they all said no
right, so then this one alkie
goes OK but Teddy had to look
after his dog right, so we give
him the money and he run off and
we run after him and we got his
dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Teddy points a Binny.

TEDDY

That's the dog.

Amber looks at Binny then at Teddy and Misty. They shift about as they wait for the verdict.

Amber puts her joint down. She stands up and pulls Misty and Teddy over to the sofa, sits them down on either side of her. She puts her arms around them.

AMBER

Ain't they beautiful?

Misty and Teddy exchange a suspicious look. Pim nods and smiles mildly. When Amber looks away he makes a slight face to himself.

Amber looks at one, then the other

AMBER (CONT'D)

Guess where?

Misty's brow wrinkles.

MISTY

What?

AMBER

No, not 'what', where.

Misty frowns, confused.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Where. Guess where.

TEDDY

Loch Ness!

AMBER

No, Thailand!

Teddy starts bounce up and down.

TEDDY

Toyland?

AMBER

No, Thailand.

Teddy stops bouncing.

MISTY

Are we gonna go there?

AMBER

I am. Can you believe it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MISTY

No.

AMBER

Pim's gonna buy a bar! We just gotta go and sort some stuff out, then you can come over.

Misty is crestfallen. Teddy looks confused.

MISTY

Who's going to look after us?

AMBER

Check it out! We're gonna live in a bar!

Pim nods and smiles from his armchair.

MISTY

Who's going to look after us?

AMBER

We'll do a really big shop and leave you plenty of money. We'll only be away a few a days.

MISTY

How many days?

Amber looks at Pim.

AMBER

I don't know, seven, ten?

PIM

Twenty, twenty four.

Amber looks over at Pim.

AMBER

We'll do a really big shop won't we babe?

Pim nods.

AMBER (CONT'D)

We'll get meals for every single day. You can just shove them in the microwave, how easy is that?

Amber begins to bounce on the sofa in excitement. The children, straight faced and miserable, are bounced alongside her.

AMBER (CONT'D)

We're gonna have our own bar! Whoo hoo!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Misty frees herself from Amber's embrace and runs out of the room.

Upstairs a door slams.

INT. LEE'S PARKED CAR - NIGHT

Lee's car is parked in a residential street.

Shane counts out his money. Lee is smoking a joint.

LEE

One of the things I like about
Emiliana is her eyes. They're so
... expressive.

Shane looks at Lee expressionlessly.

LEE (CONT'D)

It's like they speak. They
laugh, they tease... I just find
her interesting all the time.

Lee looks at Shane.

LEE (CONT'D)

I never really believed in love
and all that shit before this.

Shane hands the fifty to Lee. Lee holds it up and tears the silver strip to check it's real. He reaches his hand under the seat.

A woman walks by with kids Misty and Teddy's age, Shane looks but it's not them.

LEE (CONT'D)

... and I like how they live
there. They eat nice, they dress
nice, they don't drink too much
and get fucking silly.

Shane doesn't look happy. Lee catches his expression.

LEE (CONT'D)

What?

SHANE

Nothing.

Lee opens the window and flicks the joint out. He counts out some wraps of heroin and passes them to Shane.

LEE

Yeah...it'd be nice to do
things nice you know? Maybe even
have a kid and shit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They look at each other. Shane tucks the wraps away in his back pocket. Lee looks at him.

LEE (CONT'D)

Ever had Risotto Alla Milanese?

Shane opens the door.

SHANE

Yes. Hundreds of times.

INT. SHANE'S HOSTEL BEDROOM - NIGHT

The hostel room is cramped and contains only two thin beds and two cabinets. On one of the cabinets there is one photograph of a boxer holding up a prize belt, and another of a smiling old lady.

Shane's hair is wet from the shower. He sprays deodorant under his arms.

He looks at his face in a small mirror screwed to the wall. He turns his face from side, examining it. He tries a smile but it doesn't take.

Frothy, his room mate, (35, unhealthy, blind in one eye, used to be the boxer in the picture) suddenly appears behind him, in the mirror, grinning.

FROTHY

Too late. I seen ya.

Shane ignores him.

FROTHY (CONT'D)

Fuck's sake! It's stinks like a fucking queer brothel in here!

SHANE

It is a queer brothel when you're not here.

FROTHY

Wouldn't put it past you, you cunt.

Frothy crouches down and pulls a pair of knitted sheep slippers from under the bed. He puts them on.

Shane picks up his ukulele.

SHANE

Frothy...

FROTHY

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shane starts to play a blues number 'I'm too far gone to turn around'.

SHANE

If I reach out to you
Like a child would do
Darling, don't let me down...

Frothy leans away as if Shane has a deadly virus.

Shane steps towards him.

FROTHY

Fuck off you cunt!

SHANE

And I need you so...

Frothy tears the ukulele out of Shane's hand and snaps the neck off.

Shane stares aghast at his ukulele. His nostrils flare with emotion.

He snatches the deodorant and aims it at Frothy's Nan's photo.

Frothy grabs at his legs and they crash to the ground, deodorant spraying everywhere.

EXT. NEW CROSS - GIANT SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - NIGHT

Shane is sitting in his usual spot. He's got a black eye.

He's nodding out. His head droops forward then he snaps it up and blows a note into a plastic harmonica before it dips down again.

People walk to and from the supermarket. Trolleys rumble past. Heels clip along. Voices ebb and flow.

Behind him, in the closed tile superstore, the trapped pigeon sits quietly.

Now and again someone stops to give him some change.

He looks down at one point and sees that a coffee and a sandwich have materialised beside him.

SHANE

Oh.

Shane puts his hand out to pet Binny, but she isn't there.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Oh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He becomes aware of a middle aged Irish woman leaning down talking to him.

IRISH WOMAN

...and people used to say
'Leopards don't change their
spots' and all of that and I
used to say 'Maybe so but he's
not a fecking leopard is he?'

The woman pushes a tenner into Shane's hand and closes his fingers around it. She holds his hand tightly as if she doesn't want to let go.

INT. GIANT SUPERMARKET - DAY

Amber, Misty and Teddy are in the supermarket pushing a large trolley.

Teddy runs off and comes back loaded up with Magnum Ice Creams, crisps and chocolate. He dumps them in the trolley before running off, wild eyed, for more.

Amber stands in the ready meals aisle frowning.

AMBER

One for lunch and one for
dinner, for fourteen days that's
what?

MISTY

Twenty eight.

AMBER

And two twenty eights are what?

MISTY

Fifty six.

AMBER

So how many will fit in the
freezer, realistically?

MISTY

Ten.

AMBER

Right ...

Amber scoops her long dark hair up into a knot on the top of her head, she looks gorgeous.

At the end of the aisle a young man slows and gazes at her.

Misty looks at her mother too, at her thick dark hair, her slim wrists jangling with bangles, her slender figure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Misty directs a malevolent glare at the young man. He hurries away.

Amber sighs at the complications of organising ready meals.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Let me just see if they've got of any of that St. Tropez tan stuff.

Misty wheels the trolley to the tinned food section and puts a couple of tins of beans in.

Teddy dumps a huge family sized bag of crisps into the trolley.

Misty takes them out of the trolley and shoves them onto a nearby shelf.

Teddy grabs them and puts them back in.

Misty pulls at the bag. It bursts spilling crisps everywhere.

Misty hits Teddy hard on the ear.

MISTY

We need proper food too. Don't you remember last time?

Teddy shakes his head. His mouth is clamped shut. His eyes fill up.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Well you're lucky. Go and get some fake milk.

When Teddy opens his mouth he hyperventilates. He shut his mouth and breaths through his nose.

Misty looks guilty.

MISTY (CONT'D)

I suppose we should get some crisps. What flavour d'you want?

Teddy tries to speak and hyperventilates again. He waits a moment.

TEDDY

Prawn.

Misty does a robot walk in the direction of the crisps.

MISTY

Target. Prawn. Target. Prawn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Teddy giggles and hyperventilates at the same time. He hurries after her doing the same walk.

TEDDY

Must find prawn.

EXT. GIANT SUPERMARKET - DAY

Amber and Misty push an overfilled trolley out of the supermarket. Teddy walks alongside picking up things that drop out as it veers from side to side.

They push the trolley through the car park to where Pim is sitting in a Fiat smoking a joint.

Amber and the kids load the boot then push the trolley away so it spins into a bush.

As they drive past Shane the kids hold Binny up at the window.

Shane scrambles up in shock and watches the car drive away.

The kids and Amber laugh. Pim nods sagely.

AMBER

Serve him fucking right.

INT. HOSTEL OFFICE - DAY

Shane at a hostel worker's desk using the phone. The curly wire is stretched across a pile of files.

His leans his head on his hand as he listens to someone on the line.

Marte, a Danish hostel worker sits on the other side of the desk filling in a form.

SHANE

(on the phone)

I told you, I already called them. (listens) No... it went bust didn't it.

Shane listens and shakes his head in exasperation.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I know it's only a pigeon but it's a pigeon I've noticed isn't it?

Marte looks up at him. He listens again. His outrage increases.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE (CONT'D)

Well, what's the manager's name?

He grabs a pen off the desk.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Yeah. Go on. C,h,u,k,w,u,n,e
r,e,o,w,u,s,u, are you taking
the ... aarrghh!

He slams the phone down and puts his head in his hand.

EXT. OLD KENT ROAD - DAY

Misty and Teddy walk Binny to the ransom meeting.

MISTY

Wait behind Lidl till I give you
the sign.

Teddy and Binny hide behind Lidl. Misty waits at the
meeting point, her eyes scan the road.

Teddy comes back over.

TEDDY

If he doesn't come shall we keep
her?

MISTY

Go back!

Teddy goes back behind Lidl.

Shane still doesn't arrive.

Teddy comes back over again.

TEDDY

What should we rename her, Megan
or Widget?

MISTY

Go. Back!

Teddy runs back to Lidl.

Misty sees Shane approach. He stops a few feet away.

SHANE

Where's my dog?

MISTY

Where's my money?

Shane holds out some notes. Misty approaches cautiously
and plucks them out of his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY (CONT'D)

This is only thirty!

SHANE

I'll give you the rest tomorrow.
I need Binny. People give more
if you've got a cute dog.

MISTY

Hello? She's not even cute.

SHANE

Can I see her?

MISTY

Am I a fool?

He shakes his head as if he's at the end of his tether.

SHANE

Look, I'm getting bored with
this now.

Misty is furious.

MIST

Well you shouldn't of stole our
money then should you? Rank
alkie tramp!

Shane is startled and offended.

SHANE

I'm not an alkie ... and I'm not
a tramp. I'm a partially trained
chef. And musician.

MISTY

Well I wouldn't eat nothing you
touched!

SHANE

Well I wouldn't touch nothing
you was gonna eat!

They stare each other out coldly. Then Misty's face
crumples. She turns away.

Shane, surprised, tries to see her face.

She spins away form him and wipes her eyes.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I will get you the rest of the
money...

MISTY

I don't even care!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE

Well, whatever it is, you know...it'll be alright.

MISTY

(Sarcastically)

How do you know?

SHANE

Cos, you know...things sort themselves out and that...

MISTY

So now you're some kind of loser life coach?

SHANE

You're not a total loser.

MISTY

I meant you.

Shane looks stung. He looks at the ground and exhales.

SHANE

I've been called a lot of things in my time but 'Loser life coach'...

He shakes his head in faux disbelief.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I can't believe it. After all my partial chef training ... I'm just a 'loser life coach'.

Misty fights a smile. Shane smiles.

SHANE (CONT'D)

See...

Misty kills the smile and glares at him.

MISTY

Tomorrow. Same time.

Shane nods.

MISTY (CONT'D)

And I want all the money or I'll bust your ass!

Shane begins to walk away.

SHANE

Bust my ass ... I'll bust your ass!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MISTY

Whatever...ralkie.

SHANE

Not even a word.

MISTY

Rank and Alkie ...ralkie.

SHANE

Yeah, yeah, yeah...

As Shane walks away he glances back to see Teddy and Binny emerge like Munchkins from behind Lidl.

EXT. TOPPS TILES, OLD KENT ROAD RETAIL PARK -DAY

Shane is leaning against the window of Topps Tiles with his face pressed against the glass. He is looking at the pigeon.

INT. THE KIDS BEDROOM - DAY

Misty and Teddy are in their bedroom. Their bedding could do with a wash.

Misty is leaning over the top bunk bed talking to Teddy who is on the bottom bunk with Binny.

They are enacting an encounter between a Barbie (representing Cheryl Cole from X-Factor) and a Wolverine action figure.

MISTY AS CHERYL COLE

And what would it mean to ya if ya won X factor today?

TEDDY AS WOLVERINE

Nothing.

MISTY

No! Say, 'It would mean everything to me Cheryl'

TEDDY AS WOLVERINE

It would mean nothing to me Cheryl.

MISTY AS CHERYL COLE

And what are ya gonna sing for us today pet?

TEDDY AS WOLVERINE

Nothing.

INT. HOSTEL - DAY

Shane is lying on his bed reading a comic.

The door opens. Frothy enters. His eyelids are heavy and his movements slow.

Shane stops reading and watches him. Frothy pointedly ignores him.

Frothy puts his knitted sheep slippers on with slight difficulty. He unlocks his cabinet and takes out a cardboard box with an image of a portable DVD player on the side.

He removes the DVD player, unfurls the neatly folded cable and plugs it in.

He crouches to look at a selection of DVD's in his cabinet. As he does so a fold of twenties falls from his back pocket.

Shane spots the money then looks back at his comic.

Frothy selects a 'Friends' DVD and puts it in his player.

He lies back on his bed with the DVD player balanced on his chest and his headphones in.

Frothy watches the little screen for a few minutes. Then he laughs very, very loudly. Then he laughs again, and again, and again.

Shane watches him, almost wincing at his laughter, then he gets out of bed and walks out, gently kicking the fold of money towards the door as he goes.

INT. THE KIDS BEDROOM - DAY

Misty is arranging her hair ornaments in the top bunk and Teddy is in the bottom looking at a comic. The door opens and Amber comes in and sits down on the bunk with Teddy. She holds a plump envelope in her hands.

AMBER

OK. Where's your mum?

TEDDY

In the bath. On the phone!

Amber looks at Misty.

AMBER

(Sullenly)

In the toilet. In bed, got flu.
At the supermarket. Putting the washing out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEDDY

Gone next door. At the
laundrette!

AMBER

What d'you do before going to
bed?

TEDDY

Turn everything off! Brush my
teeth and my tongue!

MISTY

Lock the door.

AMBER

Who d'you call if something goes
wrong?

Teddy glances at his mother then turns a page of his
comic casually.

TEDDY

Dad?

MISTY

AMBER

No!

No!

Misty and Amber stare at Teddy in shock.

AMBER

You do not call him T-Bag. Ever.

TEDDY

Well, who then?

AMBER

Me! Call me! I'll still have my
mobile won't I? It's not like
I'm going to the other side of
the world!

TEDDY

Oh.

Amber looks at Teddy and shakes her head in
exasperation. She exchanges a look with Misty.

Amber hands the envelope to Misty. Misty opens it. It's
full of twenties. Teddy's eyes nearly pop out.

AMBER

Put it somewhere safe.

TEDDY

Can I buy a lizard?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

	AMBER		MISTY
No.		No.	

AMBER

Now look at me.

They look at her.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Do not waste it.

TEDDY

A lizard isn't a waste.

AMBER

Because if you do there won't be
any more.

INT. HOSTEL - DAY

Frothy is being blocked from attacking Shane by Steve the hostel worker. Frothy is crying and foaming at the mouth.

Office furniture is upended and paperwork scattered over the floor. Blood trickles from Shane's nose.

Marte stands with the phone in her hand.

FROTHY

I know it was him! He's a
thieving cunt! I'm gonna fucking
do you hard you cuuuunt!

SHANE

(To Steve)

I don't know what he's going on
about!

STEVE

(To Frothy)

You're both going to have to
leave.

SHANE

What?!

STEVE

You first. Go and get your
stuff.

SHANE

Are you serious?

MARTE

You both know the rules.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE

But I haven't done anything!

FROTHY

You lying cunt!

INT. SHANE'S ROOM. HOSTEL-DAY

Shane opens his cabinet, gathers his possessions and shoves them into his hold-all.

Frothy can be heard shouting with increasing fury downstairs. There is the sound of something smashing.

Shane walks down downstairs to the exit where Marte holds the door open for him.

There is the sound of an approaching siren.

MARTE

Shane. I want to ask you something... is it true you sold Binny?

Shane is shocked. He turns back.

SHANE

No!

MARTE

Where is she then?

SHANE

Some kids have got her. They're holding her hostage.

Marte gives him an unimpressed look.

MARTE

Could it possibly be time to sort your life out Shane?

SHANE

Er...Yes?

MARTE

Good.

He walks out the door. He turns and looks at Marte.

SHANE

Marty...

MARTE

Marte.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE

Do you want to go out on a date
with me?

In the background, Frothy's screaming reaches a
crescendo.

Marte looks at Shane for a longish moment.

MARTE

No.

The hostel door closes on Shane just as the police pull
up outside.

INT. KID'S HOUSE - DAY

Amber and the kids are sitting on the stairs.

Amber is dressed in frayed shorts and a tie dye t-
shirt. Her legs are St. Tropez brown as are Misty's,
after a fashion.

Pim carries an enormous rucksack to the front door. He
turns to the kids and makes a low key salute. They just
look at him.

AMBER

See you there in ten babe.

Pim nods, hauls the rucksack onto his back and goes
out. The door closes behind him.

PIM O.O.V

What a beautiful morning.

BARBARA O.O.V

So far, yes.

Misty clutches her stomach nervously. Teddy clings to
his mother's arm.

AMBER

You know where the first aid box
is?

They nod.

AMBER (CONT'D)

And keep out of her way.

She gestures towards the door. They nod.

AMBER (CONT'D)

And watch out for yourselves
when you're bringing the rat
back to that alkie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY
He's not an alkie.

TEDDY
He's not an alkie.

Amber kisses her children. Teddy starts to cry. Misty sits folded in on herself.

AMBER (CONT'D)
Don't cry! I'll be back soon,
won't I?

Teddy nods.

AMBER (CONT'D)
Love you don't I?

Teddy nods.

Amber opens the door. She is holding her purse in her hand just as if she really is popping to the shops.

She stands in the doorway for a moment and looks at Misty and Teddy on the stairs. They look back at her, bereft. She blows them a kiss.

AMBER (CONT'D)
Just going down the Spar.

Amber winks at them and closes the door.

EXT. KID'S HOUSE. DAY

In the front garden of the house next door Barbara (79, and bent over with arthritis) cleans her mobility scooter with soapy water.

AMBER
Alright Barbara?

Barbara cranes her neck painfully to look at Amber then nods.

Amber saunters down the road. Barbara looks at her shorts with alarm.

INT. KID'S HOUSE - DAY

The children continue to sit on the stairs. Misty puts her arm round a sobbing Teddy and pulls him into a hug.

EXT. OLD KENT ROAD - DAY

Shane waits outside King Rooster.

He watches the road expectantly.

He sticks his head round the door of take away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE

Got the time mate?

KING ROOSTER MAN

Twelve forty.

Shane returns to his position outside. Puts his bag on the pavement and sits on it.

INT. KIDS HOUSE - DAY

Pop music blasts out from the stereo.

Teddy, face flushed, chocolate bar in hand, leaps between the sofa and armchairs. Back and forth, faster and faster.

Binny runs to and fro barking crazily.

Misty, dressed in Amber's clothes, sits on the floor and watches Teddy. Beside her is a pint of coke, a steak bake and a salad bowl overflowing with crisps.

MISTY

Shape!

Teddy makes a star shape in midair.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Shape!

Teddy makes a 'running man' shape in midair.

EXR. KID'S HOUSE - DAY

Barbara rings on the bell. No answer. She clatters the letter box. She bends down painfully and opens the letter box. Music blasts out.

BARBARA

Turn. It. Down!

EXT. OLD KENT ROAD - NIGHT

It's evening rush hour and people pour on and off of buses.

Shane walks along the Old Kent Road. His hold-all is slung over one shoulder.

Shane walks past evangelical churches, Afro-Caribbean Barbers and North African coffee shops filled with men.

INT. KIDS HOUSE - NIGHT

The children and Binny are in Amber's room sitting on her double bed eating beans on toast.

There are chocolate wrappers, fizzy drink bottles and DVD cases everywhere. Teddy bounces up and down on the bed.

TEDDY

Next! Next! Next!

Misty looks at some of the DVD covers.

MISTY

What about... Paranormal Activity?

TEDDY

What is it?!

MISTY

Dunno. Activity that's paranormal or whate...

TEDDY

Yes! Yes! Yes!

EXT. TOPPS TILES, RETAIL PARK -NIGHT

Shane sits outside Topps Tiles. His head nods forward gently.

INT. KIDS HOUSE - NIGHT

The kids stare at the TV screen in wide eyed terror as the flickering lights of 'Paranormal Activity' pass over their faces.

The room seems to be pulsing closer and closer. They scream.

Misty spins round on the bed. She flaps wildly at an invisible spectre.

She flings the sheets off the bed. A plate flies into the air, hits the wall and smashes.

Teddy falls off the bed and gets tangled up in a pile of clothes. He screams continuously.

Binny runs terrified out of the room.

There is an strong insistent banging on the wall.

Misty and Teddy stare at each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEDDY

What is it?!

MISTY

I don't know!

They stare at the wall and listen. The sound has stopped.

The banging starts again. Teddy backs blindly out of the room.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Run!

They run and stumble down the stairs and stuff their feet into trainers. Misty hurries to open the locks on the door.

TEDDY

Hurry up!

Misty flings the door open and they run out into the street.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Barbara is in her nightgown and bed jacket. She bashes the wall with an old fashioned boxing glove.

EXT. TOPPS TILES, RETAIL PARK -NIGHT

Shane makes odd half hearted sound on his plastic harmonium. He hears the sound of running and stops.

Misty and Teddy round the corner and stop in front of him. They stop to catch their breath.

SHANE

What's wrong?

MISTY

Nothing.

Shane looks at them suspiciously.

SHANE

Oh yeah, thanks for blowing me out today.

MISTY

Got the money?

SHANE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

Come on then.

Shane looks confused.

SHANE

Why didn't you just bring her
with you?

Misty and Teddy exchange a look. They consult for a moment, whispering to each other. They glance at Shane, whisper some more, then nod.

MISTY

(Shouting)

D'you want her or not?!

SHANE

Yeah alright, keep your hair on!

Bemused, Shane gets up and follows them up the road.

EXT. KIDS HOUSE - NIGHT

When they get to the door Misty hands Shane the door key. He looks from Misty to Teddy to the door.

SHANE

What's going on?

MISTY

Nothing.

SHANE

It's a set up isn't it?

MISTY

No.

As he raises the key to the door the kids take several steps back.

SHANE

There's someone dead in there
isn't there?

MISTY

No.

Shane pushes the key back into Misty's hand.

SHANE

Just get my dog and we're quits.

MISTY

I'm scared.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE

Of what?

It takes Misty a moment to spit it out.

MISTY

Paranormal activity

SHANE

What?

MISTY

Paranormal activity!

Shane gives Misty a sceptical look and takes the key off her.

He raises it to the door. A crash comes from inside. He steps back and looks at the kids, they're terrified.

Standing as far away as possible, Shane unlocks the door and pushes it open with his foot.

They wait outside for a moment, watching and listening.

Step by step they enter the house. They look around in the dark.

There's a creak. They freeze and look towards it.

Suddenly a small, fast, dark shape ... Binny, hurtles down the stairs towards them and there is a pandemonium of screaming.

INT/EXT KID'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM/HALL/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shane walks around the living room. He takes everything in; the unpapered walls, the washing baskets of clothes, rizla papers, the unopened bills.

Poking from a pile of mail he notices a buff envelope with the corner of a twenty visible in the window. He looks away quickly.

SHANE

No, there's no paranormal activity in here.

The kids follow him upstairs to their bedroom.

Again Shane turns around in the small room. He looks under the bed.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Nothing paranormal here either.
Apart from the smell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

What smell!?

SHANE

Only kidding.

MISTY

Nothing paranormal?

SHANE

No.

TEDDY

How d'you know?

SHANE

It's a gift.

They walk out to the landing. Shane glances towards Amber's room.

TEDDY

That's mum's room. She's got flu. She's on the phone, in bed.

MISTY

I'll just see if she's OK.

TEDDY

I'll see too.

Misty goes into the room and Teddy follows her.

TEDDY O.O.V

Want a Lemsip cos you've got flu?

There's the muffled sound of an angry voice.

TEDDY O.O.V (CONT'D)

Ouch!

Shane runs downstairs.

He picks up the buff envelope and looks at the notes.

He stands there with the envelope in his hand.

He stares at Teddy's action figures on the mantelpiece.

He puts the envelope back intact.

There is the sound of the kids running downstairs.

Shane turns back, whips the envelope from its hiding place and shoves it in his pocket.

The kids enter the room, he tries to look casual.

INT.KID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shane stands at the front door.

Binny noodles about by his feet.

Misty is unlocking the many locks. Teddy sits on the stairs watching.

SHANE

Say goodbye Binny.

TEDDY

(Under his breath)

Widget.

Misty looks at Binny with concern.

MISTY

She's ill. You better stay here.

SHANE

She doesn't look ill.

MISTY

The lock's broken.

Shane tries the lock. It disengages easily.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Oh.

Shane opens the door.

SHANE

Right.

Shane opens the door. Misty looks panicked.

MISTY

Don't you think you should stay here ... if you're a homeless tramp?

SHANE

I'm not a tramp and anyway, I wouldn't be right.

He steps outside.

MISTY

Mum said you can. Mum said you can sleep on the sofa.

SHANE

I'd better get going.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shane hangs in the doorway for a moment then half waves and leaves, pulling the door behind him.

The children sit on the stairs and look at the closed door.

EXT. KID'S STREET - NIGHT

Shane hurries through the drizzle.

His guilty expression soon clears to become fixed and expressionless.

He pulls a piece of paper from his pocket and goes into a phone box.

INT.KID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Teddy lies awake in Amber's bed. Misty switches the light off and gets in. It's very dark. There's a noise outside.

TEDDY

What's that!

Misty sits up, frightened.

MISTY

Cats.

TEDDY

It's too dark.

Misty gets out of bed, puts the bedside lamp on then gets back in.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

It's too bright.

Misty gets out of bed again, finds a t-shirt, drapes it over the bedside lamp and gets back in.

EXT. STREET CORNER OFF OLD KENT ROAD. NIGHT

Shane waits at a corner of the Old Kent Road.

He walks up and down and scans the road. He pushes his wet hair out of his eyes.

He crosses the road to a phone box and makes a call.

SHANE

Gem, it's Shane. I've been outside Carpet Rite for forty minutes. It's raining and I've got my dog with me so ...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE (CONT'D)
 you know...it's freezing out
 here mate.

Shane walks out and looks up and down the road.

INT. STAIRWELL, ESTATE - NIGHT

Shane exits a small lift onto a landing with a flickering fluorescent light.

He rings the doorbell of one of the flats. The door opens on a chain. A man's face (Chewy, he's 30 but looks 50) appears. His mouth works constantly as he unlatches the chain.

CHEWY
 Ain't seen you in a bit.

He glances at Binny.

CHEWY (CONT'D)
 Pet hair, remember?

SHANE
 Oh yeah.

Shane makes Binny sit then follows Chewy inside.

There's a dirty corner sofa, a small portable TV and a table covered in Rizlas, ashtrays and other detritus.

Sitting in the 'v' of the sofa, is Frothy.

Shane stops in his tracks. Frothy looks right at him.

Frothy explodes out of the sofa and jumps at Shane, knocking him to the floor, winding him.

FROTHY
 Give me my money!

Frothy shoves in hands into all of Shane's pockets.

He pulls out the envelope and laughs with delight.

Shane grabs Frothy's wrists and won't let go.

Frothy pushes his elbow onto Shane's neck and leans down.

Shane starts to rasp. His face goes brick red.

Suddenly there is an electric crackle and Frothy is convulsing on top of Shane.

Shane turns his head away in revulsion as Frothy spasms and froths on top of him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shane pushes Frothy off and, gasping, scrambles up and grabs the envelope.

Chewy is standing over Frothy holding a sci-fi plastic stun gun.

Shane stares at Chewy. Chewy chews and looks at the envelope in Shane's hand, takes a step towards him.

SHANE

I'll just be off then.

Shane backs out of the door and turns and runs down the stairs with Binny behind him.

He descends floor after floor. As he turns each corner he sees his reflection in the black windows opposite.

He slows and looks at his reflection as he passes it. Then, he stops altogether. He stares at himself, his shadowed eye sockets, his wet hair.

He snaps out of it and continues, Binny skittering after him.

EXT. OLD KENT ROAD - NIGHT

Shane walks along the Old Kent Road. He sees a young black man in a dark hooded jacket who walks, hands deep in pockets, with a gangster roll. Shane hesitates for a second then he fixes a smile on.

SHANE

Gem!

Gem looks round, gives Shane a filthy look and keeps walking. Shane jogs after him.

GEM

Get the fuck away from me man!

Gem gobs emphatically on the pavement and keeps moving.

.

GEM (CONT'D)

...waste my fucking time.

SHANE

(keeping it down)

I waited for over an hour.

GEM

Didn't you hear what I fuckin' said geez? Fuck off 'fore I cut you ...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shane stops and Gem moves away briskly. Shane stands in the rain, thoughts racing over his face. He makes after Gem again, scared but desperate.

SHANE

Look, I know ...

Gem spins round and rushes Shane backwards along the street until he stumbles and falls onto his backside. Gem looks down at him with disgust. He spits.

GEM

Fucking junkies man.

Gem walks off. Shane takes his hand out of a puddle, his faced etched with misery.

INT. CAB OFFICE - OLD KENT ROAD - NIGHT

In the back room of a cab office Shane, wet and miserable, hands some notes to a Turkish man. The man hands Shane back a tenner.

CONTROLLER O.O.V

Where the fuck you at Ahmad?
Over.

AHMAD O.O.V

Just pulling up outside the
Coach and Horses. Over.

INT. CAB OFFICE TOILET - NIGHT

Shane ducks into a grimy toilet with a busted lock and fixes up his gear. He injects himself and slumps back eyes closed on the toilet.

There's a knock on the door.

CAB DRIVER

Come on hurry up. I need to
shit. I need to shit now!

Shane closes his eyes.

INT - CAB OFFICE. NIGHT

In the empty waiting room Shane checks the money. He notices, in the hard strip lighting, that there's a note in the envelope.

He reads it. It says, 'Don't buy lizards. See u soon, Mum xxx.'

Shane looks up and catches his reflection in the window.

INT.KID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A curl of smoke rises from the t-shirt draped over Amber's bedside lamp. Misty frowns and turns in her sleep. Teddy is out for the count.

EXT. STREET. NIGHT

Shane walks along the street, he's still a bit out of it. He finds himself caught in the middle of a large family as it spills onto the pavement after a get together.

Car doors open and shut, sleeping toddlers are carried past. Family members walk round him with foil wrapped leftovers and carrier bags.

MUM

Call me when you get in!

SON IN LAW

Giss a kiss!

DAUGHTER 1

See ya later!

Then the last car door slams. The ones staying behind head indoors and Shane is left alone in the street.

EXT. KIDS STREET - NIGHT

Shane takes the envelope out of his pocket.

He opens the letter box and starts to push it through.

He pauses and sniffs. He looks through the letter box. He sees a haze of smoke. He bangs on the door.

From somewhere inside comes the muffled sound of Teddy and Misty arguing.

Shane rattles the letter box and knocks on the door.

Misty appears at the top of the stairs. She runs down followed by Teddy. Misty opens the door with the chain still on.

SHANE

What's that smoke?

TEDDY

I can't find my Wolverine.

SHANE

Open the door!

Misty opens the door, it takes ages.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shane pulls Misty and Teddy outside.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Go next door and call 999.

MISTY
(Terrified)
No!

SHANE
Just do it will ya!

MISTY
No!

SHANE
Oh for fuck's sake...

Shane charges in and runs up the stairs.

Smoke creeps from Amber's room. Shane runs in and sees the t-shirt burning on the lamp and the smouldering curtain.

EXT. KID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Misty and Teddy stand by the front door looking in. Shane has vanished. Teddy rubs his arm over his stinging eyes. They watch the stairs.

A minute later there's still no sign of Shane. Misty begins bounce up and down on her toes, her eyes scan the stairs.

Shane charges down the stairs and runs out to the kitchen.

He bounds back upstairs with a basin in his hand.

INT. KID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shane runs into Amber's room with the basin and throws water onto the duvet again and again until it's sodden. He spends a couple of minutes trying to loosen the window then forces it open.

The kids walk in and look at the at the blackened wall and the flakes of floating ash.

They're stunned into silence. Misty's lip wobbles, her eyes fill up.

SHANE
Look...don't cry, it'll be ...

MISTY
I'm not crying!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEDDY

Mum's gonna kill you Misty.

As they argue Shane walks down the stairs to the front room.

MISTY O.O.V

I don't even care!

TEDDY O.O.V

Where the hell is my Wolverine?!

Shane wipes his hands then takes the buff envelope from his pocket. He replaces it in the magazine. Then he thinks, takes it out and removes a twenty pound note and shoves it in his pocket.

INT. KID'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Teddy kneels on the floor and feeds cheese puffs to Binny. He scratches her head and kisses her. Shane stands at the sink washing soot off his hands.

SHANE

(softly)

Where's your mum Teddy?

TEDDY

At the launderette.

SHANE

No, she isn't.

TEDDY

Yes she is.

SHANE

She's not isn't she?

TEDDY

No. Yes.

SHANE

Well ... she's not in bed with flu and she's not at the launderette so ...

Teddy strokes Binny gently.

TEDDY

She is.

SHANE

What about your dad? Where's he?

Teddy clamps his mouth shut. A tear drops onto Binny. Shane turns round and looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE (CONT'D)

Are you on your own?

Teddy starts to hyperventilate. Shane comes over and crouches down by him.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Listen mate...

TEDDY

I don't want to go into care! I don't want to be split up!

Misty appears in the kitchen doorway. She stares at Teddy and Shane.

SHANE

Look I'm not gonna grass. But just tell me what's going on!

MISTY

She's gone away!

TEDDY

To Toyland.

SHANE

Is that a place?

MISTY

Thailand.

SHANE

On holiday?

TEDDY

We're gonna live in a bar.

SHANE

So when's she's coming back?

Misty shrugs. Her face crumples.

SHANE (CONT'D)

But she's coming back right?

Tears run down Misty's face, she clamps her mouth shut. She takes a deep breath. She nods.

SHANE (CONT'D)

So everything's gonna be alright then isn't it?

Misty nods.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Alright, lets keep it together till your mum comes back then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Misty and Teddy nod.

TEDDY

Cos I don't wanna be split up.

INT. KID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Teddy and Misty are both sitting on Teddy's bunk in their pyjamas. They are exhausted. Teddy is walking his severely melted Wolverine around very slowly.

Rummaging sounds come from the landing.

SHANE O.O.V

But where in the airing cupboard?

MISTY

Blue laundry bag!

SHANE

I already looked there!

Teddy has a thought, Wolverine stops.

TEDDY

(Whispering)

What if he's a paedofrile?

MISTY

He isn't.

TEDDY

How d'you know?

MISTY

Because paedofriles are always really, really nice to you.

They look at each other with expressions of distaste.

TEDDY

Rank.

Misty laughs.

There's the sound of boxes falling out of the hall cupboard.

Misty makes an 'L' sign and mouths the word 'Loser' to Teddy.

Shane comes in with an armful of sheets. He hands some to both Misty and Teddy. Misty climbs up to the top bunk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

How come you're even bothered
about sheets if you're a tramp?

SHANE

Does this shirt look like
something a tramp would wear?

MISTY

Yes.

Shane tuts and cuts her a look. Teddy crawls across his bed the corner of the sheet clutched in his hand. He tucks it in the far corner then falls asleep on top of it. Shane chucks a duvet over him.

Misty climbs halfway up the ladder and tucks her sheet in. Shane hands up a duvet.

SHANE

Listen, can you stop calling me
a tramp, a rank alkie and worst
of all; a 'ralkie'?

MISTY

Why?

SHANE

Because it's damaging my self
esteem.

Misty wrinkles her nose.

MISTY

Is it?

SHANE

Well how would you like it if I
called you a rank alkie?

MISTY

I'm only 11 so...

SHANE

Well, you can get sick of being
called names. If you ever become
an addict you'll see.

MISTY

(getting sleepy)
I don't wanna be a addict.

SHANE

Good... I've decided to quit
too.

MISTY

Mm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE

Yep, I'm going to be normal and
buy shelves and go on holiday
...

Shane tucks in a bit of the duvet that's hanging down.

SHANE (CONT'D)

... look out for you two till
your mum gets back.

A snore comes from Misty's bunk.

Shane cocks his head and looks at her face. He leaves
the room and pulls the broken door to.

Misty opens her eyes and looks at the door then pulls
the duvet up to her chin.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Downstairs Shane lies on the sofa and pulls an old
blanket over himself. He stares at the ceiling until he
too falls asleep.

EXT. TOPPS TILES, RETAIL PARK - DAWN

Shane hauls an old gas cannister out of a skip.

He crosses the deserted retail park with the cannister
in his arms.

He swings the cannister and takes a short run at the
window of Topps Tiles. As the cannister hits the
window the glass splinters into a round web of cracks.

An alarm starts ringing.

He pushes his foot against the cracked glass and it
collapses inwards leaving a large hole.

He kicks glass away, crouches down and climbs inside.

He walks towards the pigeon then scoops it up in his
hands and climbs back out of the hole.

Shane jogs out of the retail park holding the pigeon in
both hands.

INT. KID'S HOUSE - DAY

Misty and Teddy stand in the doorway to the front room.
On the sofa there's a pile of neatly folded bedding.
They walk in and look around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEDDY

He's gone!

They go into the kitchen. There's a cardboard box on the table. A hand written note on top of the box says 'Look after me'.

A scratching noise comes from inside the box.

Misty and Teddy look at each other.

Using two spatulas Misty lifts the flaps on the top of the box. They look inside.

In the box, looking up at them amid a scatter of uncooked rice and a jam jar lid of water, is the pigeon. Teddy looks like he might explode with excitement.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

(Bellows)

Oh my days!

INT. DRUG ASSESSMENT CENTRE - DAY

Shane sits in a small office with drug and alcohol information posters on the wall.

He holds a polystyrene cup of coffee. He is cut, bruised and tired.

A woman in her early 30's, Harriet, sits opposite him in an office style easy chair. She's filling out a form. Shane glances at her legs. She notices. He looks at his cup.

HARRIET

So why have you decided to stop just now Shane?

SHANE

I don't wanna lose my looks.

He half laughs. There's a long pause. Harriet just looks at him. He stops smiling and shifts in his seat.

SHANE (CONT'D)

And because I want to have a better life ... do things.

Harriet nods and looks at him as if waiting for him to say more.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Sometimes I think I might die.

Harriet makes an 'mmm' sound and makes a note.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRIET

OK...we can start the assessment process; get the tests out of the way. Then we can work out a daily dose and care plan ... start to get you stabilised. It'll take a few days to get things up and running so cut back in the meantime but don't just stop though, OK?

Shane nods.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

You've taken the first step. Well done.

Shane nods.

EXT. OLD KENT ROAD - DAY

Shane walks along the Old Kent Road. He looks at 'normal' people; shopping, talking, waiting for buses,.

He can't help but see the addicts too. Walking quickly in pairs, heading intently towards wherever the drug is. Hanging around at meeting points, smoking fiercely, watching the road for their dealer. A dealer looks at him in recognition, Shane looks away.

INT. KIDS HOUSE - DAY

There's a knock at the door. Misty runs to the door and looks through the peephole. It's Barbara.

BARBARA O.O.V

Hello?

Misty opens the door but leaves the chain on.

BARBARA

Is your mum in?

MISTY

No.

BARBARA

Because I need to talk to her about the noise.

MISTY

OK. I'll tell her.

Misty begins to shut the door. Barbara sniffs. She looks alarmed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

Have you had a fire?

Misty frowns as if trying to remember. She shakes her head.

MISTY

No.

Barbara looks at her suspiciously. Misty closes the door. The letter box flips open.

BARBARA

I'll call back later.

INT/EXT.KID'S HOUSE - DAY

Teddy and Misty sit at the front window and watch the corner. They are chewing gum vigorously.

A man walks round the corner. Teddy sits up and looks. It isn't Shane, it's some man with one eye and angry body language. Teddy slumps down again. A short while later Shane rounds the corner.

TEDDY

There he is!

Teddy runs out and opens the door and waits for him.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Come on!

At the door Teddy grabs Shane's arm and drags him straight through the kitchen and out to the back garden.

EXT.KID'S HOUSE. GARDEN -DAY

The garden is gloriously overgrown. Roses clamber everywhere; on the walls, up the huge old tree and over the rickety shed at the bottom of the garden. Shane looks around in amazement.

TEDDY

Look!

The pigeon sits inside a precarious hutch-like structure made from an old fire guard and bits of wood. Teddy's melted Wolverine action figure stands beside it.

Shane crouches down and has a look, nodding appreciatively at the 'craftsmanship'. Misty opens and closes a little door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TEDDY (CONT'D)

See, there's a door. He can go out if he wants.

SHANE

But why would he want to leave a house like this?

Teddy is almost bursting with pride.

TEDDY

It's not that good.

SHANE

Are you kidding me?

Teddy squirms with pleasure. Misty demonstrates the door again.

TEDDY

I'm gonna keep him.

Shane nods.

SHANE

What you gonna call him?

TEDDY

Baked Bean or Tigra.

Shane nods. Teddy gets back to work on the pigeon house with renewed enthusiasm.

Shane sits down on the overgrown grass.

He looks up at the sun coming through the leaves.

Shane lays back in the grass, closes his eyes and listens to the sound of Teddy's tinkering.

INT. KID'S HOUSE.AMBER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Pop tunes play on the radio.

Shane and Misty swoosh a handfuls of damp kitchen paper across the soot blackened wall but all he seems to do is smear the soot further.

He throws the blackened tissue into a nearly full bin bag and rips more off the roll. He stands back and looks at the wall.

SHANE

Well, It's better than it was.

Misty looks at him as if he's an idiot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

No it isn't. It's worse. It's all everywhere now!

SHANE

It looks worse but it's actually better.

MISTY

Whatever.

SHANE

No, not 'whatever'. All that stuff in the bin was on the wall but now it's in the bin, so it's better.

MISTY

No it isn't! Mum's gonna kill me!

Shane looks annoyed, he tuts and shakes his head.

SHANE

(Under his breath)
She nearly did.

Misty glares at him. Shane looks innocent.

SHANE (CONT'D)

What?!

MISTY

How did she nearly kill me? Go on! How did she nearly kill me if she's not even here?

Misty scowls at Shane with pure attitude.

SHANE

She nearly killed you because she's not even here.

Misty sneers.

MISTY

Whatever.

Shane looks at her, he's getting annoyed.

SHANE

No, not 'whatever'! You two could be dead right now and she wouldn't even know ... wouldn't even make it to the funeral!

Misty looks tearful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE (CONT'D)

She's out of order fucking off
like that.

MISTY

Just cos she ain't some little
citizen! She's a free spirit!

Shane scoffs and flings a ball of kitchen paper at the
bin bag.

SHANE

Whatever!

Misty glares at him. He glares back.

MISTY

Get out!

Shane just stands there and looks at her. Misty
launches herself at him and hits him in the chest.
Shane grimaces, it hurts.

MISTY (CONT'D)

You don't even live here, you're
not even no one. Get out!

Shane puts his hands in the air and lets Misty hit him
again and again with all her strength. He winces as
her small hard fists make contact.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Get out!

Misty pushes Shane towards of the door.

Teddy runs up the stairs and stops abruptly on the
landing. He watches Misty open mouthed.

SHANE

I can't leave you on your own.

MISTY

It ain't even up to you!

SHANE

Alright! Stop shoving me! I'm
going.

Shane walks down the stairs muttering.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Come on Binny! We're going.

TEDDY

What's going on?

Misty ignores him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Is he a paedofrile then?

INT. KIDS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Misty sits on the sofa and flicks through TV stations. The TV is way too loud. Teddy stands in the middle of the room and eats crisps mechanically out of a huge bag.

TEDDY

My mouth's sore.

MISTY

Stop eating crisps then fool.

TEDDY

I can't.

Misty gets up and grabs the bag of crisps out of his hands. Teddy grabs at the bag and they fight over it.

The doorbell rings. They freeze mid struggle. There's the sound of the letter box opening.

BARBARA O.O.V

Hello!

The kids look at each other.

BARBARA O.O.V (CONT'D)

It's Barbara!

The kids stay in position.

BARBARA O.O.V (CONT'D)

Amber?

They look at each other.

BARBARA O.O.V (CONT'D)

Amber? ...I'd rather speak to you about the noise than the council but if you won't even give me the time of day...

After a minute or so the letter box clatters shut and the kids break position. The crisps drop to the floor.

Teddy looks at Misty for a solution. She tips her head back and groans.

MISTY

Arsebollocks!

Misty walks out to the garden. Teddy follows. They walk through the long grass and under the dipping roses to the shed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She knocks on the door. A bolt slides inside the shed. The door opens. Shane comes to the door like a respectable householder.

SHANE

Yes? Can I help you?

INT. KID'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - DAY

Misty looks in the fridge. Shane comes in with a bin bag of sooty tissue.

SHANE

It looks a lot better.

Misty ignores him and opens the freezer. She looks inside then takes out two frozen meals and puts them on the table.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Sorry I upset you alright?

She shuts the freezer door, then looks at Shane as if making a decision.

She sighs, opens the freezer again, takes out another frozen meal and puts it on the table with the other two.

Misty and Shane look at the three ready meals.

Shane picks up the last ready meal and puts it back in the freezer. Misty looks insulted.

He picks up the other two frozen meals and shoves them back in the freezer too. Misty looks interested.

Shane opens a cupboard, looks inside and takes out a dusty packet of spaghetti. He slaps it on the table and looks at Misty expectantly.

Misty thinks, then she opens the fridge, takes out a few tomatoes out and holds them up. Shane nods and takes them to the sink.

Teddy comes in from the garden with Baked Bean's saucer.

SHANE (CONT'D)

(to misty)

Find us a saucepan.

Misty looks in a cupboard.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Don't suppose you got any capers?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Misty looks at him and scoffs.

MISTY

No.

TEDDY

We don't eat animals in this house.

SHANE

Capers aren't animals.

TEDDY

They are animals, they're birds.

SHANE

No they're not.

TEDDY

So how come they got beaks then?

Shane turns the tap off and looks round at him.

SHANE

Excuse me but I'm a partially trained chef; I've cooked literally millions of capers and none of them have had beaks.

They stare each other out for a minute. Teddy turns away first and fills Baked Bean's saucer with water.

Shane puts the tomatoes on the table and starts to chop. Teddy walks out to the garden.

TEDDY

(under his breath)
Murderer.

INT. KIDS HOUSE KITCHEN - EVENING

Plates covered with the remains of spaghetti with tomato sauce sit on the table.

The sound of Shane playing his harmonica drifts in through the open door back door.

At the back of the garden the kids are cutting roses.

EXT. BARBARA'S GARDEN - EVENING

Barbara washes her dinner plate and gazes out of her kitchen window.

The sound of a harmonica comes from somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She pauses with her hands in the water and listens, intrigued. Then she dries her hands, goes out into the garden and settles herself in a plastic garden chair and listens.

EXT. KIDS HOUSE.GARDEN - EVENING

Misty and Teddy are choosing roses to cut. The bottom half of Teddy's face is orange with tomato sauce.

Shane sits in the grass next to Baked Bean's hutch reading a leaflet about methadone.

Misty checks a rose Teddy's selected.

MISTY

That's too open.

Misty finds another nearby that's still has tightly curled petals like flower shop rose.

MISTY (CONT'D)

What about this one?

TEDDY

I want to choose it myself!

Teddy finds one then puts his hand out for the scissors.

MISTY

Don't cut it too short.

Teddy cuts a rose awkwardly and hands it to Misty who puts it with the others.

MISTY (CONT'D)

That's a good one.

TEDDY

Yeah.

Misty pushes the rose up under her nose and inhales.

MISTY

Smells like perfume.

TEDDY

Yeah.

EXT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Misty and Teddy stand on Barbara's doorstep holding a huge bunch of roses. Shane waits on Amber's path.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Through the textured glass of the window Barbara's distorted shape can be seen making its way slowly towards the front door.

TEDDY

She's coming!

Barbara stops at the door.

BARBARA O.O.V

Yes?

MISTY

It's Misty and Teddy.

Barbara opens the door. She is wearing an apron and a pair of knitted sheep slippers.

Teddy and Misty hold the roses out together.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Sorry about the noise
Barbara.

TEDDY

Sorry about the noise.

Barbara is taken aback. She stands there looking at the roses. She notices Shane. He makes a small salute.

SHANE

I'm Shane, I'm minding the kids
while Amber's away.

Barbara looks him over and nods.

AMBER

Oh.

She takes the roses carefully.

BARBARA

I don't think I've got a big
enough vase. I'll have to use
two I expect.

She looks at the roses then at the kids.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

(To Misty)

D'you remember, you used to come
through the gap in the fence to
see me when you were little?

Misty shakes her head. Teddy jumps off the step. Misty follows him to the gate.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Thank you for the roses.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MISTY

S'alright.

TEDDY

See ya!

Barbara watches them walk round to their own house. She looks at the roses again, examining the flowers, then closes her door and commences the long walk back down the hall.

INT. KID'S HOUSE.BATHROOM - NIGHT

The light is off and the window open. Birds sing outside.

Shane sits on the toilet with his belt hanging loosely from his arm and the syringe sticking out of his skin. He is nodding forward gently.

The door opens. Shane looks up. Teddy is standing there in his pyjamas.

Teddy stares at the syringe.

Shane hurries to put his paraphernalia away quickly but his movements are clumsy. He knocks the syringe onto the bathroom floor where it pierces the floorboard near Teddy's foot.

SHANE

Ted..

Teddy closes the door quickly. His footsteps hurry away and his bedroom door can be heard closing.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Fuck.

INT. KID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Teddy climbs out of his bunk bed and pads down the stairs in his bare feet. He picks up the phone in the hall and begins to dial a number on a piece of paper.

EXT. KID'S HOUSE/GARDEN - MORNING CONTINUOUS

It's a glorious morning. In the garden the kitchen table is laid for breakfast. Shane sits at the table drinking a coffee. He doesn't look well.

He sees someone in the kitchen.

SHANE

Out here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Teddy, eyes swollen with sleep, pads through the long grass towards Baked Bean's house holding a wobbling saucer of water.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Want some cornflakes?

Teddy doesn't answer. He arranges the pigeon's water then sits at the table and pulls a bowl towards him. Shane pushes the cereal box over and looks at Teddy.

There's a burst of bird song from the tree. Teddy looks up.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Sorry if I scared you last night.

Teddy pours cereal into his bowl.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Because...that won't happen again right?

Teddy nods and eats his cereal.

SHANE (CONT'D)

My methadone prescription starts today so

Teddy chews.

TEDDY

Mum used to take that. She didn't have a prescription though.

The letter box clatters. Misty charges down the stairs to see what's come through the door but it's just leaflets.

She stomps out to the garden and slumps down at the table. She gives Shane a hostile glare.

SHANE

There's this film called 'The Exorcist'... you wouldn't have seen it but...

TEDDY

We have seen it.

SHANE

Right ...

Shane looks at Misty who is now glaring meanly at Baked Bean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE (CONT'D)

What?

MISTY

Nothing.

SHANE

Don't do that 'nothing' thing.
What's wrong.

MISTY

Nothing!

They sit silently for a moment.

Shane drinks his coffee and steals glances at Misty's thunder-like face.

The letter box clattering again. Misty goes back inside.

SHANE

Did you tell her about last night?

TEDDY

No.

SHANE

Then how come she's in such a bad mood?

Teddy shrugs.

Misty comes back out and slumps at the table again. Teddy watches her as he eats his cereal.

TEDDY

Oh yeah ... Happy Birthday Misty.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

Shane collects his prescription. The pharmacist has come round from behind the counter to talk to him.

PHARMACIST

Same time every day OK?

Shane looks inside the bag and nods.

PHARMACIST (CONT'D)

A lot of people mix with some orange juice or something like that...

Shane opens the bag. Takes out a little measuring cup.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHARMACIST (CONT'D)

If you could just ...

Shane pours the methadone in and downs it.

PHARMACIST (CONT'D)

... in future, if you could
just...

SHANE

Cheers. See you tomorrow.

Shane leaves the pharmacy.

Outside the kids are leaning against the wall in the sunshine. Misty has a small spangled handbag across her body and Teddy is wearing a t-shirt with the slogan 'Do I look like a f*%king people person?'

SHANE (CONT'D)

Ready?

The three of them walk along the road. Shane looks slightly stoned. Binny trots alongside sniffing at fried chicken boxes.

Teddy stops, fishes in his backpack and pulls out a sandwich wrapped in cling film. He begins to unwrap it.

Shane and Misty look back.

MISTY

He's gonna eat his packed lunch!

SHANE

Put it back!

TEDDY

I was only looking!

INT. TRAIN OUT OF LONDON. DAY

Teddy, Misty and Shane gaze out of the train window. Every time Teddy sees a cow he yells 'cow' as if the first time he's seen one.

TEDDY

Cow!

Misty is really looking at the countryside, taking everything in.

She sees a castle, she sits up straighter, her eyes sparkle. She looks at Shane. He raises his eyebrows in acknowledgement. She can't help but smile.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Horse!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A couple sitting across the carriage move to another part of the train.

EXT. ROMNEY STATION - DAY

Shane and the kids are outside the station. The air shimmers in the late morning sun.

SHANE

Ready?

Misty wrinkles her nose.

MISTY

What's that smell?

SHANE

Fresh air.

TEDDY

Am I gonna see a mole?

SHANE

Not with the amount of noise you make.

Shane and Binny take the path leading away from the station and within five minutes they're in the countryside.

TEDDY

Can I have my sandwich now?

SHANE

No!

MISTY

No!

They walk along a old lane bordered with brambly hedgerows. Misty picks a handful of foxgloves. Here and there they stop and pick a blackberry.

A bird rustles in a hawthorn nearby and Misty screams. Teddy and Shane laugh.

Misty stomps off ahead in a strop.

They climb over stiles and wander through a gnarly untended orchard.

They head uphill trudging through the long grass. Teddy runs up the hill ahead of Misty and Shane then rolls down the hill past them.

At the top of the hill they stand and look down at Kent. A breeze ruffles them gently.

SHANE

What d'you reckon?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

Yeah s'alright.

TEDDY

Can I have my sandwich now?

They sit down and open their sandwiches. Shane points at the sky.

SHANE

(With a mouth full
of sandwich)

Peregrine Falcon.

The kids watch it fly out of sight. Teddy hums and wiggles his feet as he chews.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Wanna see where I used to play
when I was a kid?

MISTY

No.

TEDDY

Nah.

EXT. RIVERSIDE. ROMNEY - DAY

In the river the kids mess around on a knackered rope swing.

Misty supports Teddy as he struggles to hang on. Teddy screams and Misty laughs. Binny runs up and down the bank and barks.

Shane watches them from the bank. He seems lost in his thoughts.

Teddy slides off the swing and falls into the water. He wades to the bank.

TEDDY

That's a shit swing!

SHANE

Shit swinger more like.

Shane jumps up and scrambles down the bank.

He pulls the swing in and tests it. He holds the rope taut and grips it with his legs.

He swings out over the river. The branch cracks and Shane drops into the water.

Teddy is delighted, he throws himself around laughing and slapping the water. Shane stands up and splashes him. Misty wades over and flings water from an old plastic bottle.

EXT. RIVERSIDE. ROMNEY - DAY

The ate afternoon is sultry and close. The kids paddle quietly and poke the river bed with sticks.

Shane stands up and puts his plimsoles on.

SHANE

Back in a minute. Stay here OK.

The kids watch him walk up a lightly wooded embankment. He weaves his way through the trees and down the other side.

Below is the back view of a small house with peeling whitewash, a broken washing machine and a small chicken run with a few hens in.

Shane edges sideways down the slope. A woman in her late fifties comes to the back door with a bowl of scraps for the hens. Shane stops. He stares at the woman.

TEDDY O.O.V

Shaaane!

Shane winces. Teddy's voice is perfectly clear and extremely loud. The woman looks up. She sees Shane. She lifts her glasses to her eyes.

TEDDY O.O.V (CONT'D)

Don't forget to wipe your buuum!

The woman's hand flies to her mouth drops to her heart.

HELEN

Shane?

Shane looks like trapped rat.

SHANE

Er...

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Shane sits in an armchair in the front room. He looks around, at the furniture, the pictures on the wall, the ornaments.

From out the back comes the sound of the kids playing with the chickens.

Helen comes in with two mugs of tea.

HELEN

...yes it was the definitely the end of August you came.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She hands a mug to Shane and sits in the other armchair.

HELEN (CONT'D)
And you were here till November
of '96.

Shane nods.

Helen gives him a sympathetic look.

HELEN (CONT'D)
I was really sorry you couldn't
stay.

Shane tries to smile but can't.

HELEN (CONT'D)
If Bob hadn't gone so suddenly
I'm sure things would've been
different...

Shane nods. They sit for a moment. She smiles.

SHANE
You were a lovely little lad.
Bob thought you were great.

Shane looks at his mug.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Naughty though.

HELEN
Not as bad as some... and it was
only to be expected really.

Shane holds on to his cup as if it's keeping him afloat.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Would have been more worried if
you weren't.

Teddy walks in with an egg in his hands. His smile is so big his eyes are almost squeezed shut.

TEDDY
It's warm.

After Shane has verified with a nod that the egg is warm Teddy walks out back again. Helen smiles indulgently and they sit silently for a moment.

HELEN
You haven't seen anything of
your dad?

Shane shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SHANE

No.

Helen nods.

HELEN

Can't say I blame you love.

There's a pause.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Would you like to see some photos?

Shane look surprised. He sits up straighter. He nods.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Helen and Shane sit on the sofa together. She flicks through a big photo album. She points to a boy in a photograph.

HELEN

That's you isn't it?

Shane looks hard at the boy.

SHANE

No.

HELEN

Oh.

She turns the album's stiff pages.

HELEN (CONT'D)

There you are, that's you.

Shane looks, brow furrowed.

SHANE

No ... that's some other kid.

She flicks through some more. Points again.

HELEN

Ah, here we go.

SHANE

Um... that's a black kid.

Helen laughs and pushes him lightly

HELEN

I'm only teasing, here you go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There are tons of photos of Shane age 13; Shane sitting on a wall. Shane sulking on a tractor. Shane practising guitar with Bob. Shane with Helen's daughter Sandy.

Helen pulls the cellophane back and removes a photo of Shane with her, Bob and Sandy.

HELEN (CONT'D)

You keep that one.

Helen watches him examine the photo.

SHANE

I was happy when I was here.

Helen reaches out and squeezes his hand.

HELEN

And you'll have a lot more happy times with those two.

Misty screams in the garden.

SHANE

Yeah. They're great...my two.

Out the front there's the sound of a car pulling up. Helen looks up. A car door slams. A toddler shouts.

Helen stands up.

HELEN

There's Sandy now!

Helen goes to open the front door. Shane hears them talking. He looks uncomfortable.

He gets up and walks out the back.

SHANE

Come on, we gotta go.

Shane scrambles a small way up the slope then he puts his hand out. Misty grabs it and pulls Teddy up behind her. Binny runs behind them.

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - DAY

Shane, Binny and the kids stand on the platform and look down the line for the train.

TEDDY

There it is!

The train approaches the station.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A woman (Sandy, 29, Helen's daughter) runs over the railway bridge to the London platform. She's almost out of breath.

SANDY

Shane!

Shane looks cornered.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Wait!

She holds up a guitar case as she flies down the steps. The train begins to pull in. Breathless, Sandy reaches Shane and hands him the guitar case.

Sandy smiles, bends over and catches her breath.

SANDY (CONT'D)

It was Dad's.

Shane looks at the guitar case.

SHANE

Oh...

SANDY

Come back soon yeah?

SHANE

Yeah.

The kids and Binny get on the train. They wait nervously in the doorway for Shane.

TEDDY

Shane, come on!

Shane steps onto the train. The doors nearly shut on the guitar. Sandy laughs and waves as the train pulls away.

INT. TRAIN TO LONDON - EVENING

Shane stares at the guitar case on his lap. He's sweating, he doesn't look well.

Teddy and Misty sit in the adjacent seats.

TEDDY

How many colours in a rainbow?

Misty ignores him and looks out the window.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

How many colours in one and a half rainbows?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

How many colours in a black eye?

Teddy thinks.

EXT. KID'S HOUSE - EVENING

Teddy leans against Shane as they walk up the path to the house. He looks sunburned, grubby and content.

Misty takes the door key from her spanglely bag. As she puts it into the lock the door flies open.

A stocky man with mean features (Gary, 30) stands in the doorway.

He looks Shane up and down. Teddy takes a step away from Shane.

GARY

Gonna tell me what you're doing
with my FUCKING KIDS you junkie
CUNT?

Shane is lost for words.

MISTY

(barely more than a
whisper)
We've been to Kent.

GARY

Was I speaking to you?!

Misty clutches her spanglely bag to her chest.

GARY (CONT'D)

Get indoors!

Gary glares at Misty. She runs into the house and up the stairs. Teddy looks up at Gary wide eyed.

GARY (CONT'D)

You an' all!

Teddy's lip wobbles. He walks round Gary towards the door.

Shane looks at Gary with contempt.

GARY (CONT'D)

Now fuck off.

Gary turns towards the door. Upstairs Misty's face appears at the window.

SHANE

Why don't you fuck off?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gary turns back to Shane. He glances up and down the street to see if anyone's around then he punches him in the face. The guitar case drops to the ground.

TEDDY

No!

Misty watches the scene below. Shane clutches his nose and staggers back. Blood drips through his fingers. Shane straightens up. He looks sick. He glances at Teddy who is standing terrified in the doorway.

SHANE

Don't worry. I'm alright.

He looks back at Gary, disgusted at him.

SHANE (CONT'D)

(In a low voice)

There's a little boy standing there, or don't you care about that ...'Dad'?

Gary glares at him, steps forward, his breathing ragged.

GARY

No.

SHANE

(To Teddy)

Go inside mate.

Teddy runs into the house and up the stairs.

Gary lunges forward and punches Shane again. Shane falls to the ground. Gary stamps on him, puts the boot into his ribs and kicks him in the head. He stamps on the guitar case a couple of times, kicks it into the street then walks into the house and slams the door.

Shane lies curled on the path. A line of blood trickles a slow path down to the pavement.

He can hear Gary yelling at the kids in the house.

GARY O.O.V

Don't you fucking look at me like that!

Shane hears a door open. He sees a blurred pair of knitted sheep coming up the path towards him. Suddenly a sheep kicks him in the stomach.

FROTHY

Give me my money!

Shane rolls over groaning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Barbara hurries after Frothy and grabs Frothy's arm.

BARBARA
Colin! Stop that!

FROTHY
He stole my money!

BARBARA O.O.V
Just get back inside.

FROTHY
He's a thieving junkie!

Barbara loses her patience.

BARBARA
Well so are you Colin!

Frothy gasps as if he's been struck, he shrugs her off and steps back. His eyes are full of tears.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
You've stolen my money plenty of times.

FROTHY
I have not!

Barbara reaches her arthritic hand down to Shane.

BARBARA
(To Frothy)
You must think my head buttons up the back.

Shane takes her hand and tries to pull himself up but nearly pulls Barbara over.

Frothy watches Barbara struggle for a while then with an anguished growl he pushes her aside and hauls Shane onto his feet as if he's as light as a doll.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Thank you Colin.

INT. KID'S HOUSE.BEDROOM. NIGHT

Misty and Teddy both sit in Teddy's bunk listening to the sounds from downstairs.

It sounds like there's a crazy party going on. There's fast aggressive music and shrieks of female laughter.

TEDDY
What if we run away?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MISTY

But how will mum know where we
are?

They think about this.

The door crashes open. A woman (Nat, 27) comes in.
She's off her head on coke.

NAT

Knock knock who's there Nat's
there!

She sits down heavily on the bed next to the kids. The
whole bed creaks and tilts.

NAT (CONT'D)

What's your names again? I heard
youse lot was dumped by your
mum. I think that is well out of
order. I feel well sorry for you
as it goes.

MISTY

(mumbles)
She hasn't dumped us.

NAT

Least you got a dad like Gary.
He is well nice.

Misty and Teddy look at Nat with blank stares.

NAT (CONT'D)

I'm not being funny but has he
said anything about me? Has he
said he likes me and that?

MISTY

Yes, he said 'Karen's hot'.

NAT

You mean 'Nat'.

MISTY

Karen.

Nat looks at her.

NAT

But my name's Nat.

The music changes.

NAT (CONT'D)

Oh my God I love this one!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Nat shrieks and lunges out of the bunk bed. She charges out of the room singing.

The bunk bed creaks then collapses to one side on top of the children. Teddy shrieks.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shane sits on Barbara's sofa. She dabs hydrogen peroxide to his cuts.

Frothy stands in the background eating a massive cheese sandwich. He looks quite cheery. Binny sits at his feet watching the sandwich.

Shane winces.

FROTHY
(with a full mouth)
Ooh. That must really, really hurt. Ooh.

Barbara stands back to assess her repair work. She shakes her head and tuts at the state of him.

BARBARA
I really thought we'd seen the last of that ...

She searches for a word strong enough.

BARBARA (CONT'D)
... that... bastard.

FROTHY
Language Nan!

She bends down and tries to untie Shane's laces with her arthritic fingers. She looks over to Frothy for assistance. He scoffs.

FROTHY (CONT'D)
No way.

Barbara gives him a look.

FROTHY (CONT'D)
No!

She continues to look at him.

FROTHY (CONT'D)
Naaan!

She keep looking at him.

He storms over and unties Shane's laces as roughly as he can manage. Shane winces.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Barbara slides the plimsoles off Shane's feet.

BARBARA

And...who did you say you are to
Amber ... was it a relative?

Shane sighs.

SHANE

I'm nobody.

FROTHY

(under his breath)
You can say that again.

Barbara huffs.

BARBARA

She certainly makes people feel
like that.

SHANE

No, I mean I don't know her.

She stands with his plimsoles in her hands. Bits of
wheat and grass seed trickle onto the carpet.

BARBARA

But you said...

SHANE

She went on holiday and left
them 'em alone ... and that's
when I met them.

Barbara stares at him in shock.

BARBARA

I'll have to call someone.

SHANE

No! I said I'd look after 'em
till she come back... I
promised.

FROTHY

Who d'you think you are, 'Daddy
Day Care'?

Frothy laughs. Barbara gives him a warning look.

BARBARA

I'm sure you had the best
intentions, but that's hardly a
promise you can keep...

Next door the volume of the music goes right up. Nat
shrieks, Gary laughs. Barbara looks at the wall.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A framed photograph of a boxer vibrates with the pounding bass.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

... especially not with that creature hanging around. By rights we should call the police.

Shane looks distressed and angry. His nose starts bleeding again.

SHANE

If we call the police they'll go straight into care! I promised I was gonna look after them and I am.

FROTHY

Yeah, you're doing a great job so far.

BARBARA

Colin!

SHANE

I'll have to think of something.

BARBARA

I'm sorry...but I really think we have to call someone. If anything happened to those children...

INT. KID'S HOUSE.BATHROOM - NIGHT

Misty and Teddy are in the bathroom. The noise and chaos continue downstairs.

Misty is holding Teddy's hand under the tap. Blood flows into the stream of water from a cut across the backs of his fingers. His eyes are red and swollen from crying.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shane lies on the sofa in the dark with a blanket clutched round him. He shivers and sweats. Barbara brings in another blanket and tucks it round him.

Shane reaches out for Barbara's hand.

SHANE

Thanks.

Barbara nods. She pauses, wanting to say more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

You can thank me by giving Colin his money back. How would that be?

Shane nods.

SHANE

OK

Barbara smiles.

BARBARA

Believe it or not used to be a lovely little lad.

Shane smiles back.

SHANE

I can believe that.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shane lies awake on the sofa. The music pounds through the wall from Amber's place. Nat and Gary laugh and shriek and pound up and down the stairs.

INT. KID'S HOUSE - MORNING

The kids peek into Amber's room. Nat and Gary are sprawled half naked across the bed. The kids look grossed out.

MISTY

Rank.

They creep downstairs. Cans, fag butts and kebab meat are strewn everywhere.

INT.KIDS HOUSE - MORNING

Misty gets the breakfast things and Teddy fills a saucer with water. Misty tries to open the back door but it's locked and the key is gone. Teddy turns to Misty.

TEDDY

I wish Shane was still here.

MISTY

Well he's not is he.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE.FRONT ROOM - MORNING

Shane sits on the sofa with a blanket around his shoulders, his legs twitch. On Barbara's TV a couple of morning TV presenters discuss 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Shane watches the little clock on the TV, it's 8.01am...8.02am...8.03am.

INT. KID'S ROOM - DAY

The broken pieces of bunk bed are piled in the corner and the mattresses are laid side by side. Teddy and Misty lie on their mattresses and eat cornflakes. Teddy has a small bandage around his hand.

Through the crack in the door Misty watches a severely hungover Nat dry her hair with Amber's hair dryer.

MISTY

I know you called him T-Bag.

Teddy's cornflakes pause en route to his mouth but he says nothing.

Nat struggles to attach a hairpiece to the back of her head.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Do you know what I wanna be when I grow up?

TEDDY

What?

MISTY

Not Nat.

Teddy looks at her.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Knock knock!

TEDDY

Who's there?

MISTY

Not Nat.

TEDDY

Karen.

They laugh.

Nat attaches some dangling earrings and her look is complete.

Gary appears behind her, a beer in his hand and a fag between his lips.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He uses his free hand to squeeze Nat's breast. Nat flicks her hair back and admires their joint reflection in the mirror. Gary puts the can down and squeezes her other breast. Cigarette ash drops onto her hair.

Misty pushes the door to and turns away.

MISTY

Don't ever call him again OK?

TEDDY

OK.

EXT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - DAY

Barbara helps Shane onto her mobility scooter. He eases himself onto the seat with a grimace. Barbara places an orange 1970's mac around his shoulders. All in all, it's not a good look.

She stands back and watches Shane drone along the pavement.

EXT. STREET - DAY

A moped zips along the road towards Shane. The driver clocks him as he passes and does a u-turn. He drives past, overtakes him and stops a little way ahead.

Lee pushes his visor up and watches Shane approach, his shoulders shake with laughter.

Shane isn't going to stop. Lee frowns, offended.

LEE

Shane!

Shane stops.

Lee takes a long look; takes in the bruises, the mac, the scooter, the sweats. He shakes his head in wonder.

LEE (CONT'D)

I don't know where to start.

Shane just looks at him. Lee laughs.

SHANE

How's Emiliana?

The laughter stops.

LEE

Fine...probably.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE

Not gonna live in Milan now
then?

Lee wrinkles his nose.

LEE

Fascists really Italians, ain't
they? ...

Lee ponders the fascism of Italians.

LEE (CONT'D)

Anyway, fuck that, I was
wondering where you was, I been
looking for you.

Shane looks at him, looks away.

SHANE

I'm on a script now.

Lee is shocked.

LEE

I only been away a few fucking
days!

SHANE

I've been thinking about it for
a while.

Lee shakes his head.

LEE

I'd like to say you look well on
it but...

Shane looks away. His face suddenly as blank as if a
switch has been flicked off. He begins to move away.

Lee calls after him.

LEE (CONT'D)

If you need a top up or
whatever... you got my number
alright.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

Shane waits in the pharmacy. The other customers cast
furtive glances at him when he's not looking.

The pharmacist comes out with Shane's methadone. Shane
necks it there and then.

EXT.STREET - DAY

Shane drives back to Barbara's in the mobility scooter. He looks a bit stoned.

He passes Frothy in the street. He's carrying a metal panel down the street with the help of one of the squatters. Shane stops.

SHANE

What are you doing?

EXT.STREET - DAY

Shane drives along the street. Frothy stands on the back of the mobility scooter holding the metal panel.

INT.KID'S BEDROOM - DAY

Misty and Teddy sit in their bedroom holding pillows over their ears. Now and then the muffled sounds of sex break through. They grimace in disgust.

EXT. KID'S STREET - DAY

Gary and Nat leave the house and shut the door.

Gary has combed water through his hair and Nat has heels on that are so high her ankles wobble as she walks down the street.

INT. KID'S HOUSE. DAY

The kids watch Gary and Nat disappear down the road.

MISTY

Come on.

They down the stairs to the front door.

Half way down they freeze. There are people outside the door, their shapes visible through the textured glass.

Misty and Teddy look at each other, their eyes wide with fear. Teddy's starts to tremble.

EXT. KIDS STREET - EVENING

Gary and a woman who is not Nat (Bonita 26) walk along the street towards the house. Gary has his arm round Bonita's waist.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BONITA

...and you know that's not even
her real hair don't ya?

GARY

Whose is it then?

BONITA

Some bald chick in China.

Bonita and Gary laugh.

GARY

Got a bit of banter ain't ya?

Bonita flicks her hair back.

BONITA

Yeah, that a problem for you?

He gives her a long look.

GARY

Long as you ain't all talk.

Suddenly Gary's arm drops from Bonita's waist and he
walks ahead rapidly. Bonita looks confused.

BONITA

Because I don't have to do it!

Gary stops in the middle of the pavement and stares at
the kids house, dumbfounded.

Bonita catches up with him.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What is it?

GARY

What the fuck!

BONITA

What?

He gestures wildly at the house.

There are metal security shutters on the door and
windows.

GARY

What the fuck!

He tests the shutter on the window. He tries to look
through. He tries the shutter on the door.

GARY (CONT'D)

I don't fucking believe it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BONITA

What's going on?

Gary ignores her. He paces up and down in front of the house with a shocked look on his face.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What's going on?

GARY

Shut up!

Bonita looks offended.

BONITA

I was just aski...

He turns on her.

GARY

Shut up you stupid bitch.

Bonita is outraged.

BONITA

How dare you talk to me like that!

Gary ignores her. He tugs at a shutter and tries to peer down the side.

Bonita storms off.

Barbara's door opens. She stands in her doorway.

BARBARA

Social services came, with the police.

Gary spins round.

GARY

What?

BARBARA

A social worker and the police came. They took the children away with them.

Gary gapes at her.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

They said can you call them.

She holds out a piece of paper. He ignores it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GARY

But I've got stuff in there.
I've got a fridge full beers in
there!

Gary looks at Barbara's door.

GARY (CONT'D)

I'll have to get in round the
back.

Barbara starts to shut her front door. Gary leaps over the wall. As he gets to Barbara's door it slams in his face.

Gary beats on the door. There's no response. He takes a deep breath, composes himself.

GARY (CONT'D)

If you could just let me pop
round the back...

BARBARA

I've called the police.

GARY

You fucking old cow! I'll
fucking kill you!

He kicks at Barbara's door again and again.

GARY (CONT'D)

Open the door!

He grabs Barbara's bin, empties the contents on her doorstep and flings the bin at the door.

He backs out into the street glaring at Amber's house. He paces up and down for a while then spits and stalks off up the street swearing and muttering and kicking bins.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - DAY

Barbara, Misty and Teddy sit together in silence on Barbara's sofa. They watch the door wide eyed.

Shane limps in.

SHANE

He's gone!

TEDDY

Good.

Barbara exhales with relief.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

D'you know, I'm quite proud of
Colin. He's finally using his
head instead of his fists.

EXT. STREET - DAY

As Gary turns the corner Frothy is waiting there,
blocking his path. Frothy bounces on his toes, his
fists close up to his face. Gary frowns, trying to work
out who he is.

GARY

What's your fucking problem?

Frothy jabs the air just in front of Gary's face,
retreats briefly then moves forward with a flurry of
jabs, uppercuts and crosses.

Gary smiles and puts his fists up. He's more than ready
for a fight.

INT. BARB'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Shane sits at her kitchen table and tunes Bob's guitar.
The table is covered with tools; power drill, ratchet,
screw removers etc.

Barbara washes up.

SHANE

Thought I might take 'em to the
zoo so Teddy can see a mole. And
the movies. And I wanna take em
to the seaside while it's still
hot.

Shane strums a chord. The sound reverberates through
the room.

SHANE (CONT'D)

D'you think they'll have moles
at the zoo?

BARBARA

I expect they have everything...
I suppose you only play that
'techno music'?

Shane laughs begins to strum an upbeat tune. Barbara
turns and listens with her tea towel in her hands.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE.FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

The kids and Binny lounge on Barbara's dated sofa and watch X-Factor on Barbara's equally dated TV. There are empty ice cream bowls on the coffee table.

MISTY

Rank!

They both crack up at someone on X Factor. They hear the sound of the guitar from the kitchen.

TEDDY

Shut up! We're trying to watch X-Factor in here!

EXT.KID'S STREET - NIGHT

Amber walks up the street. She struggles under the weight of a heavy rucksack. She looks exhausted and thinner than when she left. As she nears her house her face cracks into a smile of anticipation.

As she gets closer she notices the shutters. She pauses then continues walking. Outside the house she drops the rucksack off her back and stares, appalled, at the sealed up house.

She walks up the path. She stops and stares at the door.

She notices one of the faded kids windmills on the ground. She picks it up. Her hands start to shake violently. Her eyes fill up. She spins round wildly and shouts.

AMBER

Misty! Teddy!

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE.KITCHEN - NIGHT

Shane is trying to wrestle the guitar away from Teddy who is laughing like crazy. Barbara puts the plates away.

SHANE

No! Not if you're gonna be stupid.

TEDDY

No! I need to learn it to go on X-Factor!

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE.FRONT ROOM. NIGHT

Misty lies on the sofa. The flicking lights of X-Factor playing over her. Teddy charges in and throws himself onto the sofa next to her.

Outside there's a sound. Misty sits up and turns the TV down. Teddy listens too.

Misty shakes her head and turns the TV back up but she hears something again; a shout or cry.

Misty gets up and walks along the hall to the front door. Teddy follows. Misty looks through the spy hole.

MISTY

It's mum!

Misty pulls the door open but it's on the chain. She shut it and fumbles with the chain.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Mum!

EXT. KID'S STREET - NIGHT

The door opens Misty and Teddy run out. Amber looks up. She sobs and holds her arms open.

Misty and Teddy run at her. Fall on top of her. Amber hyperventilates as she tries to speak.

AMBER

I didn't know ... where you
...were!

TEDDY

We were only in Barbara's!

Amber looks confused.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Shane is playing through his repertoire of songs. Barbara is sitting at the table with a bottle of single malt at her elbow. She sips from a small glass and taps her foot.

EXT. KID'S STREET - NIGHT

Amber and the kids sit on the doorstep. Amber frowns slightly as she tries to take in the bombardment of news.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER

So who's that playing the guitar now?

MISTY

Shane. He can play loads of songs.

AMBER

Who's Shane?

TEDDY

Shane! We nicked his dog remember?

AMBER

The alkie?

MISTY

He's not an alkie!

TEDDY

He's not an alkie!

MISTY

He's actually a partially trained chef.

TEDDY

And musician.

AMBER

Right.

TEDDY

We went on a day trip to a river and I had a blackberry.

MISTY

And dad beat the shit out of him.

Amber puts her head in her hands.

TEDDY

And we nearly got burned to death in a fire.

Amber turns her head slightly to look at him, scared to hear more.

They look at her. Misty looks serious but anxious too.

MISTY

Mum...if you ever leave us again I'm calling 999.

Amber nods.

MISTY (CONT'D)

O.K.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MISTY (CONT'D)

I mean it!

TEDDY

I don't!

AMBER

I won't do it again. I'm sorry.
I promise I won't do it again.

INT. BARBARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Teddy pull Amber along the hall towards the kitchen.
Amber looks scared.

AMBER

I dunno, she's gonna be well
angry.

TEDDY

Come on Mummy!

Teddy and Misty pull Amber along the hall to the
kitchen. Shane's sound of Shane's guitar fills the
hall.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Shane!

Barbara stands up and knocks her sherry over. Shane
stops playing.

Misty and Teddy stand on each side of Amber.

AMBER

Hiya.

Shane and Barbara stare at her for a long moment.

BARBARA

You're back.

MISTY

Yeah. Sorry. I was...

Suddenly Amber's face cracks. She puts her hand over
her mouth. She laughs then looks like she's going to
cry. Shane pulls a kitchen chair out for her. She sits
down.

Teddy leans against her and brushes her hair from her
face. Misty leans her head against her shoulder. Amber
takes deep breaths.

Barbara and Shane look at her, stunned, waiting for her
to speak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBER

Thanks for ... you know...

SHANE

Do you know you're lucky you haven't been arrested?

Amber nods.

SHANE (CONT'D)

And you're lucky the kids are still here...in one piece...each.

Amber nods.

BARBARA

I'll put the kettle on.

Amber sniffs and glances at the bottle of scotch.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Or if you'd prefer a small scotch.

Barbara rolls her eyes and fetches another glass. Amber knocks it back in one.

AMBER

(to Shane)

Sorry about...

She gestures to his cuts and bruises.

SHANE

Well, you should have seen the other guy...there wasn't a mark on him.

Amber almost laughs. There's a long silence.

Shane looks at the three of them, Teddy, Misty and Amber. They look back at him, like a living portrait. Misty smiles and breaks the illusion. Shane smiles back at her, winks, then looks away, gutted.

He looks down at his guitar to hide his expression. He picks out one or two notes. Barbara sits down next to him.

Teddy and Misty are both telling Amber different things at the same time. She looks shattered.

A tear drops onto Shane's guitar. Only Barbara notices. She wipes it away quickly with her hanky and pats his arm.

BARBARA

Stay here tonight Shane.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Shane nods.

SHANE

Thanks, I'll start looking for
my own place tomorrow.

BARBARA

(To Shane)

Weren't you just saying
something about the zoo?

Teddy looks round. His face lights up.

TEDDY

Oh My Days! I wanna see a mole
so bad.

Shane nearly laughs.

MISTY

(Under her voice)

And a caper.

SHANE

S'pose we could.

TEDDY

Oh my days! I forgot! Baked
Bean!

Shane stands up with his guitar. He begins to pick out
the tune of 'I'm Like a Bird'. Teddy herds Amber
towards the back door and they all walk through the gap
in the fence.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

He's still there!

THE END.