

WAR PAINT

Episode 1

Written by
Claire Rowlands

She nods at the large box marked FIRE PIT that GAVIN'S holding.

CARLY (CONT'D)
'Cos, you know we got the hot tub--

DAWN
Yes, you said, yeah...

CARLY
Yeah.
(beat)
How's Michael getting on with the new school?

DAWN
Oh...he's settling in, thanks.

CARLY
Aw. He's a funny one isn't he? He does make us laugh. Bless him.

DAWN is offended by this but smiles politely.

DAWN
Well I'll let you get on.

CARLY
Yeah. Bye Dawn.

GAVIN nods awkwardly without making eye contact. DAWN opens the gate and the couple continue on their way.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Imagine Dawn in a hot tub. Bless her.

5 INT. DAWN & MICHAEL'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY

DAWN steadies herself for a moment, placing her hand on her chest. Bloody Carly. She puts her keys and Sudoku book down next to a framed photo of herself and Michael: Happy smiles. Peas in a pod.

She calls upstairs -

DAWN
Michael?

No reply. She takes her coat off and heads into to the kitchen.

6 INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

MICHAEL is putting the finishing touches to his red lips. He stops suddenly - did he hear someone? He removes his earphones and listens intently for a second...no, nothing. He puts them back in and returns his attention to his make up bag.

7 INT. MICHAEL & DAWN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

DAWN
(calling up the stairs)
Love? Are you up?

No reply.

DAWN heads up the stairs slowly and steadily. She's carrying a pair of grey school trousers.

She pauses outside Michael's bedroom door, knocks and listens.

8 INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

MICHAEL is lip-synching along to the song. He has blue eyeshadow on one eyelid.

DAWN opens the door behind him. MICHAEL doesn't hear.

DAWN
Michael?

Suddenly he spots her in the mirror and spins round.

MICHAEL
Made me jump!

We see that along with his tartan pyjamas, Michael is wearing a pair of red cowboy boots.

DAWN
I've been calling you.
I'm not being seen out with you if
you're still in your pyjamas.

MICHAEL
Out where?

DAWN
I thought we were going into town
for a cup of tea and a cake?

MICHAEL

Oh! Ok. Give me a mini-minute. I'll be quick as a flash!

Michael starts to wipe the make up off.

DAWN

I've done these for you. Moved the button a bit so it should give you a bit more wiggle room. My fault for buying them at the start of the summer - boys your age are always growing.

MICHAEL

I'm probably going to be tall soon aren't I? Like my Dad.

DAWN busies herself, putting the trousers on a hanger.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Can you remember how tall he is? Like, exactly?

DAWN

Oooh, ever so tall.

She kisses him on the head.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Best friends aren't we?

MICHAEL

In the whole wide world.

DAWN smiles and heads downstairs.

EDDIE (O.C.)

You always used to say I was your best friend.

Michael looks round to see EDDIE sitting on the floor, leaning against the wall. He's eating a whole cucumber from left to right.

MICHAEL

Well I never know when you're going to show up.

EDDIE

That's nothing to do with me.

MICHAEL

Started my new school last week,
Eddie. Thought you'd be there for
that.

EDDIE shrugs.

EDDIE

Well..?

MICHAEL

Same.

EDDIE

Hmm. Predicted it didn't we?

MICHAEL

You going to come to the cafe?

EDDIE

Still not quit the cakes, ay?
Nah, not for me.

MICHAEL looks wounded.

MICHAEL

Will you be here when I get back?

EDDIE

Hard to say, Mikey. Hard to say.

9

INT. BUS - DAY

MICHAEL and DAWN sit side by side on the bus in comfortable silence. The similarity between them is striking. Same soft, round bodies, same middle aged hair cuts, same unfashionable anoraks.

The bus pauses in traffic and MICHAEL looks out of the window at a group of young people his age laughing and messing around at the side of the road.

MICHAEL's eyelids twitch and his lips start to move almost imperceptibly, as though the thoughts in his head are trying to get out.

DAWN pushes a boiled sweet into his hand. It breaks his trance. He smiles.

10

INT. CAFE - DAY

A traditional English cafe with melamine tables and net curtains.

MICHAEL and DAWN sit opposite one another. She cuts her iced bun in half and Micheal divides his chocolate eclair. A ritual. MICHAEL pours the tea.

MICHAEL

Do you want the big half or the little half?

DAWN

You pick.

MICHAEL picks up a piece of the eclair.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You'll need to let them know at school about that trip.

MICHAEL

It's alright I told Miss I'm not going.

DAWN

You know you can, if you want to?

MICHAEL

I told her it's not my cup of tea.

DAWN

And what did she say?

MICHAEL

She said you shouldn't be too hasty about deciding what's your cup of tea and what's not and sometimes you don't know what your cup of tea is until you've tried it.

DAWN

She might be right--

MICHAEL

I'd have to stay the night. And it's two motorways, I checked.

DAWN

Ok. Well I'll do a little letter and say thank very much, but not this time, thank you.

MICHAEL

Ok.

MICHAEL takes a bite of cake.

11 EXT. ROAD NEAR MICHAEL'S SCHOOL - DAY

DAWN and MICHAEL, in his school uniform, approach the corner of a residential street.

DAWN

Right. Send me a little text when you're in.
And don't forget about your banana.

MICHAEL

OK. See you later.

DAWN

If you feel wobbly then ring me.

MICHAEL nods and DAWN watches him walk away, towards school.

12 EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

MICHAEL turns a corner onto the school grounds and is faced with three boys from his year, JAY, CONNOR and MCKENZIE, they're spinning a shopping trolley round.

JAY

It's Nanna!

MICHAEL flinches and smiles.

JAY (CONT'D)

Dun't he always look like a proper Nanna!?

CONNOR and MCKENZIE laugh. MICHAEL tries to asses how he can walk past them. His eyelids twitch and he tugs at his earlobe.

CONNOR

What you doing out, Nan? You're gonna catch a chill.

MICHAEL smiles, desperate to stop any tears of panic. His voice cracks--

MICHAEL

'scuse me..

He tries to pass them but JAY pushes his foot into the back of MICHAEL's knees and he folds to the floor.

JAY

She's had a fall! Are you alright
Nan?

CONNOR

Let's get you in yer mobility
scooter, Nan. Come on...

The boys pick MICHAEL up by his arms and legs and lift him into the trolley. MICHAEL's breathing tightens but he tries to hide it with a little laugh.

JAY runs with the trolley and they pick up pace down the path. CONNOR and MCKENZIE run alongside cheering.

They round the corner so fast that the trolley tips over. Suddenly, they're face to face with IGNATIUS (or MR OBASI to them. He's 28 and the optimism that drew him to teaching is now a distant memory.)

IGNATIUS

WOAH! WHAT THE FU--

The three boys instinctively turn and run the opposite direction, hollering as they go.

MICHAEL crawls out of the trolley.

IGNATIUS (CONT'D)

What's going on Michael?

MICHAEL

I'm--I think they were just--

IGNATIUS

Get up.

IGNATIUS puts the trolley back on its wheels.

IGNATIUS (CONT'D)

Are you ok?

MICHAEL

Yeah. I'm ok. I think they were
just--

IGNATIUS

Listen, I spend my free time fine-
tuning a plot to bring those three
to a humiliating and painful end.

(MORE)

IGNATIUS (CONT'D)

Stay away from them so I don't accidentally murder you in the process too. Ok?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

Buenos días, Mr Obasi.

MICHAEL and IGNATIUS turn to see headteacher, MS ALBRIGHT (60, the sort of woman who could happily present Newsnight with 3 minutes notice) approaching.

MS ALBRIGHT

How are we this morning?

IGNATIUS

Morning Ms Albright. Yes, I think we're fine.
Are we fine, Michael?

MICHAEL

Yes thank you.

MS ALBRIGHT

No silliness I hope?

(beat)

Mr Obasi, if you could come and see me at break, please. I've hand-picked you to volunteer for something.

IGNATIUS

Erm--

MS ALBRIGHT

I'll see you in my office at 10:45.
Let's have a positive day, Michael.
(she looks at both of them)
No silliness please.

MS ALBRIGHT leaves and IGNATIUS exhales his frustration.

IGNATIUS

(to Michael)
Ok you, into registration.

He looks round and sees SHOLA, (cleverest girl in Year 9 and a social outcast) who is sitting on a wall, reading a book whilst also keeping one eye on proceedings.

IGNATIUS (CONT'D)

You too, Shola.
Let's go. We've got this.
We can do this.

IGNATIUS starts pushing the empty trolley towards the school.

(dead-pan, to Shola)
Want a lift?

SHOLA looks at him, expressionless. MICHAEL and SHOLA walk ahead, separately from one another. IGNATIUS follows.

IGNATIUS (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Happy fucking Monday.

13

INT. HISTORY DEPARTMENT - WARWICK UNIVERSITY - DAY

TOOSIE (28, super bright & effortlessly cool) is standing at the reception desk talking to DAWN.

DAWN
(with the phone to her ear)
No...he's not picking up. But he's often not in until the afternoon.

TOOSIE
He said to be here for 9:30.
He's my PhD supervisor.

DAWN
Oh right.
Have you met him before?

TOOSIE
Not in real life. I'm really nervous. Is he like he is on TV?

DAWN
Err, he's--
Why don't you have a little seat and I'll put the kettle on.

DAWN takes a packet of cakes out of her handbag and puts them on the reception desk.

CLEMENT (65, small, tweedy academic with a very high opinion of himself) sweeps into reception.

CLEMENT
Good morning, good morning!

DAWN
Morning Clement. This is Toosie Ibrahim. She's here to see you.

CLEMENT
 (turning up the charm)
 Is she indeed? Well, hello "Toosie"

CLEMENT extends his hand and TOOSIE shakes it.

TOOSIE
 It's very...I'm a big fan--

CLEMENT laughs with faux modesty.

CLEMENT
 Well.
 Shall we go through to my office?
 Perhaps Dawn might bring us through
 some coffee and a couple of her
 little cakes. Never too far from a
 stash of tuck, are you Dawn?
 Whereas Toosie...I don't get the
 impression that you're a regular at
 the biscuit tin. Am I right?

TOOSIE is wide-eyed at his inappropriateness but too shell-shocked to object. CLEMENT crashes on, oblivious...

Let's go through. I will say, I've
 been looking forward to meeting you-

TOOSIE and CLEMENT head off to his office. DAWN lifts her hand to her chest in discomfort, her blinking becomes erratic and her vision is blurred. She sits down and manages to steady herself. She doesn't like to make a scene. Even when she's on her own.

14 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

MICHAEL is sitting under a stairwell. Outside in the playground, the chaos of lunchtime roars.

He's eating a packet of crisps. An uneaten banana sits on top of his school bag.

His phone lights up with a text. MUM: 'Have you had your banana? xx'

MICHAEL types back 'Yes, I'm so full now!!!!'

IGNATIUS approaches with a cup of coffee and armful of folders and tries to unlock a classroom door. He doesn't notice MICHAEL until...

MICHAEL
 Do you need a hand, sir?

IGNATIUS looks round and sees him

IGNATIUS
Why are you sitting under there?

MICHAEL
Just wanted a bit of peace and
quiet while I eat my lunch.

IGNATIUS hands Michael the key to unlock the door.

IGNATIUS
Recovering from a big weekend?

They both enter the classroom.

MICHAEL
Yeah...with my Dad. He really
misses me so when he comes to see
me he always wants to do loads of
stuff. And I'm like 'Dad - can't we
just chill?' But he always wants to
take me places. He's so crazy. He's
always like that.

IGNATIUS
(only half-interested)
Does he live far away?

MICHAEL
I'm not really allowed to talk
about it. Because of his work.

IGNATIUS
I see. Very mysterious.

MICHAEL
If you want I can help you with any
jobs.

IGNATIUS
You can stick one of those on every
desk if you like.

Ignatius points to a pile of worksheets and MICHAEL starts to
distribute them very carefully.

MICHAEL
I've got to meet my friends in a
bit but I can do this first. I'll
probably meet up with them after
school actually anyway so I can do
this now. And any other jobs.

IGNATIUS is looking down at his phone which has lit up with a notification from a dating app: YOU HAVE A NEW MATCH

He opens it. A profile photo of smiley blonde girl wearing a whimsical headdress at a music festival.

The message reads:

Anyone ever told you that you look like Raheem Sterling? Hot!
(flames emoji)

IGNATIUS deletes the message - he's weary of this kind of racism. He's weary of dating. And teaching.

The screen now reads: NO MATCHES (sad face emoji) He tosses his phone aside and returns his attention to MICHAEL.

IGNATIUS

Ok, I'm chucking you out now. Go outside and get some Cov air into your youthful lungs.

MICHAEL

I don't mind staying and--

IGNATIUS

Out.

15

EXT. EDGE OF SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD - DAY

MICHAEL is sitting on a small wall behind a concrete unit that houses a generator - a quiet corner to hide for the rest of lunch. He's eating Fruit Pastilles and watching two year 11 girls snogging each other about 10 metres away.

Suddenly SHOLA is sitting next to him eating a FAB lolly.

MICHAEL looks worried that she's going to call him out for watching the girls but she watches too and they sit in comfortable silence. Michael chews his sweets. Shola eats her lolly.

The bell goes and the snogging girls head off.

SHOLA puts her backpack on and stands up.

SHOLA

(straight talking)

I would be willing to do this again. As long we're not seen.

MICHAEL
What d'you mean?

SHOLA
Hanging out. But things are shit
enough for both of us already. I'm
no use to you on the social
scale...and actually you'd probably
be catastrophic for me. So don't
start chatting to me in public.

She hands him her phone

SHOLA (CONT'D)
Put your number in.

Michael does as he's told.

MICHAEL
Where'd you get the lolly from?

SHOLA
I'm not at liberty to give you that
kind of information.

She walks off. Michael is delighted.

16 INT. MICHAEL & DAWN'S LOUNGE - NIGHT

Lamp light and the glow of the TV. DAWN and MICHAEL sit side
by side wearing dressing gowns. DAWN wears slippers,
MICHAEL's wearing his cowboy boots. His face is painted with
exquisite gradients of colour, metallic outlines & tiny
rhinestones. They sip mugs of tea.

The gentle chatter of TV ads plays in the background.

MICHAEL
This girl started crying really
loud in assembly today cos Mr
Foxton was doing this poem about a
graveyard and her grandma just died
last week so Miss Bowley had to
take her out and you could still
hear her from the corridor and this
other girl said that Mr Foxton
should've done a trigger warning
before he started going on about
dying.

DAWN
What's a trigger warning?

MICHAEL

You know like, "this assembly contains scenes that some viewers might find upsetting"?

DAWN

Oh right.

MICHAEL

At least that's one good thing about not having a granny or a granddad - I don't need to get upset about them dying.

DAWN

Well, that's true.

MICHAEL

Couldn't I have had some of your foster parents as my granny and granddad?

DAWN

Well it doesn't really work like that. If any of them had adopted me...but I was always moved on. I was always moved on.

MICHAEL

Were some of them nice?

DAWN

I want you to make sure you get every scrap of this off before you put your face on that pillowcase, please.

MICHAEL

Okay.

She holds his chin and admires his makeup

DAWN

It's very nice tonight by the way. You're very clever.

EDDIE (O.C.)

This is boring.

MICHAEL looks up to see him sitting in an armchair.

MICHAEL

(to Dawn)
I'll see you in the morning then.

DAWN

I thought you wanted to watch the end of this?

MICHAEL

Nah. I'm a bit tired.

DAWN

OK. Night-night then.

MICHAEL

Night-night.

EDDIE rolls his eyes and mouths 'night-night' then follows MICHAEL out of the lounge.

17

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MICHAEL sits at his dressing table, preparing to take his make up off. EDDIE sits on his bed.

MICHAEL

So are you going to start coming round again?

EDDIE

I don't get what you don't get about this. When I turn up is nothing to do with me, it's all up to you.

MICHAEL

But sometimes when I want you there you're not. Remember when I used to rub my ear? That doesn't even work now.

EDDIE

I'm not involved in the logistics.

MICHAEL

When you're not with me are you being friends with other people?

EDDIE

Mikey man, you're very needy. I don't even know why you chose me. I'm no use to you. Why couldn't you have imagined someone cool who could teach you how to be cool?

MICHAEL

But you are cool..?

EDDIE

No I'm not. Look at me. It's embarrassing. Nobody cool looks like this.

MICHAEL

(beat)

It's because I was in my Grease 2 phase wasn't I - when you first started hanging round.

EDDIE

(softening)

Well...it is a good film.

MICHAEL cheers up a little.

MICHAEL

Remember when I made you Australian for a bit? And you always used to say--

EDDIE

(exaggerated Australian accent)

FUCKIN' HELL, MATE!

MICHAEL

Yeah, that was funny wasn't it?

EDDIE

How you getting on with your swearing?

MICHAEL

I've been trying it but it just comes out wrong. A girl talked to me at school today. If she wants to be my girlfriend maybe I could practice swearing with her.

EDDIE

Your girlfriend? She's not going to want to be your girlfriend...And since when were into girls?

MICHAEL

I don't know if I'm into anybody. I don't know what I am.

EDDIE

So what's the deal with this makeup thing?

MICHAEL shrugs, embarrassed.

MICHAEL

Did you manage to find out anything
about my Dad when you were gone?

EDDIE

That's not how this works. I'm not
a private detective.

MICHAEL looks downbeat for a moment and then, laughing...

MICHAEL

(bad Australian accent)
FUCKIN' HELL MAAATE!

He looks round...but EDDIE isn't there anymore.

He adjusts the uncomfortable waist band on his pyjamas and looks down at his round stomach. There are red indentations on his skin where his clothes have been digging in. He runs his fingers over them. MICHAEL's face starts to crumple and a tear streaks his make up. He looks at himself in the mirror. Everything's shit.

18

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

The start of the school day. MICHAEL walks up to the gates. MS ALBRIGHT is monitoring the arrival of students and greeting them as they pass.

MS ALBRIGHT

Konnichiwa, Darren...looking very
smart.
And Misha! Shalom! To what do we
owe the pleasure?

MICHAEL shuffles past her hoping not to be seen.

MS ALBRIGHT (CONT'D)

Guten Tag, Michael!
Shoulders back. Today is going to
be a good day.

He smiles nervously. As he turns the corner a flying Steak Bake smashes into the side of his head and gravy slides down his face and neck. A cheer goes up from MCKENZIE who is responsible for throwing it. CONNOR is filming MICHAEL on his phone. They fall about laughing.

Groups of students pile past MICHAEL and into school. He looks up and his eyes meet SHOLA's. He tries not to cry. She opens her mouth to speak but no words come out.

She's conflicted - being friends with MICHAEL comes with too much baggage. She walks away.

19 INT. CLEMENT'S OFFICE - WARWICK UNIVERSITY - DAY

TOOSIE and CLEMENT sit in armchairs in his office.

CLEMENT

Well, I must admit, I've been rather impressed by what I've read so far.

TOOSIE

Thank you. I know nobody knows who I am but I'd love to get this work published, you know as a book? And I thought perhaps we could...collaborate and maybe--

CLEMENT

(teasing)

Oh, I see. I'm simply a leg-up on Ms Ibrahim's glittering career ladder--

TOOSIE becomes flustered

TOOSIE

No, no it's not like that.

CLEMENT

Let's see how things go shall we?

Suddenly there's a almighty crash outside the door.

20 INT. CORRIDOR - WARWICK UNIVERSITY - DAY

CLEMENT and TOOSIE open the office door to find DAWN unconscious on the floor, she's collapsed carrying a tray of coffee and cake.

TOOSIE immediately kneels down next to her.

TOOSIE

Oh God! Clement, what's her name again?!

She looks up at CLEMENT who has turned white and is standing motionless.

TOOSIE (CONT'D)

Clement! What's her name?

CLEMENT
Dawn. It's Dawn.

TOOSIE
Dawn! Dawn can you hear me?

21 INT. MATHS CLASSROOM - DAY

A lesson is in full flow.

MR NASIR
OK, we're doing well. I'm impressed
Year 9. Let's keep this momentum
up. Danny, what did you put for
number 8?

DANNY
I put 0.75

MR NASIR
Correct, well done.

DANNY
Yessss.

MR NASIR
OK, who's next..?

MR NASIR stops at MICHAEL'S desk.

MR NASIR (CONT'D)
I don't think I've taught you
before, have I?

MICHAEL
No sir.

MR NASIR
What's your name?

MICHAEL
Michael

MR NASIR consults a printed list of students

MR NASIR
And what's your last name, Michael?

MICHAEL
(quietly)
Hunter

MR NASIR
 Pardon?

MICHAEL
 Hunter

CONNOR
 (bellowing)
 What you been hunting Michael
 Hunter?!

JAY
 I reckon Michael's been hunting
 Monster Munch!

CONNOR
 Multipacks!

The class erupts into laughter apart from SHOLA who observes,
 stony-faced.

MR NASIR
 Ok, Connor, get out.

CONNOR
 ME??

MR NASIR
 Outside. Jay, when the bell goes
 you stay where you are.

JAY
 What? Ahh, man!

CONNOR bowls out of the classroom door as IGNATIUS enters. He
 looks shaken.

IGNATIUS
 Sorry, Mr Nasir - could I have
 Michael please?

MR NASIR
 Yeah of course.

MICHAEL looks confused.

IGNATIUS
 Come with me Michael, bring your
 bag and everything with you. Quick
 as you can mate.

22

EXT. HOSPITAL COURTYARD - DAY

MICHAEL and IGNATIUS are sitting on a bench in a scruffy courtyard at the hospital.

TOOSIE sits on another bench, a metre or so away, but they're unaware of their connected reason for being there.

All three look sick with worry.

TOOSIE and IGNATIUS exchange momentary polite-smile-nods of acknowledgment.

IGNATIUS talks quietly to MICHAEL.

IGNATIUS

Do you want me to go and see if I
can get you a drink from somewhere?

MICHAEL

No thank you.

Behind them, through the full length window, a nurse and a doctor talk in the corridor. The doctor points at Michael and the nurse nods gravely. They move off.

IGNATIUS

We're probably better out here,
mate. Fresh air. They'll come and
find you and have a chat with you
soon.

MICHAEL's eyelids are starting to twitch. He rocks very gently and pulls at his left earlobe.

Suddenly a middle-aged woman in a smart suit bursts out into the courtyard, she's distraught and making no sense.

CRYING WOMAN

I can't...I can't - because they
don't know...they don't know...

She's overcome with emotion and is staggering about like she's drunk.

IGNATIUS, MICHAEL and TOOSIE all look up at her nervously.

The woman stumbles into a bin near TOOSIE and then looks like she's going to fall over.

TOOSIE springs to her feet and props her up...

TOOSIE

Woah...ok, you're ok.

NURSE

She has darling. We're going to need to look after her for a bit but I've had a little chat with her and she says you're going to go home with your dad ok?

MICHAEL stares at her

MICHAEL

My Dad?

NURSE

Yeah. Stay with Dad for a bit while we get mum better.
Come in and see her. Are you ready?

MICHAEL nods.

24

INT. DAWN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

DAWN lies in bed hooked up to monitors and drips.

NURSE

Got someone to see you, Dawn.

Dawn takes off her oxygen mask

DAWN

Hello. Oh love, I'm so sorry.

MICHAEL

What's happened?

DAWN

I had a fall. I think I - I felt all dizzy and the next minute...silly aren't I?

NURSE

Have a sit down Michael. Mum's going to need a sleep soon so I'll come back and get you in a few minutes, ok?

MICHAEL sits down next to the bed and the NURSE leaves.

MICHAEL starts to cry.

DAWN

Oh my darling. Don't cry. It's going to be alright.

(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

I just need you to be brave for me
and listen for a minute.

MICHAEL

She said I'm going to my Dad's?!

DAWN tries to find her breath...

DAWN

Oh Michael...

I need...

I need you to be so brave and I
need you to keep a secret for me.

She holds his hand.

And it's a lot for you to take in
all at once but you can text me and
phone me while I'm here and I'll be
home in a few days.

MICHAEL

Is my Dad back?! How did you find
him?

DAWN

I can't have you going into care
Michael. Because there isn't anyone
else that you could go to. And I
need you near me...So if anyone
asks, we're going to have to--
Can you remember when you were
little and sometimes you'd come
into work with me for the little
party at Christmas and the
concerts?

MICHAEL nods.

And do you remember there was the
man there who always gave you a
book to take home?

MICHAEL

The man who's on the telly?

DAWN

Yes. He's sometimes on the telly.
Clement.
Well, Clement is your Dad.

MICHAEL

My Dad?

DAWN nods. This is breaking her heart.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But what's he going to say when he finds out?

DAWN

He knows darling. He's always known. But he was very busy with work and he had a lady who he already lived with and I wanted you all for myself. You were my precious boy and I just wanted you for me so I could keep you safe. And I'm sorry. I'm just so sorry.

MICHAEL can't speak.

DAWN (CONT'D)

And I know you must be so cross with me but I need you to be a good boy for me now. Because if you don't go with Clement they'll put you into care. And...so you can't tell the nurses, or your teachers or anyone, that you didn't know he was your Dad. Because that's going to set alarm bells ringing and I can't have you taken away from me Michael. I can't.

MICHAEL

Does he like me?

DAWN

He's going to love getting to know you. He..he can be a bit...old fashioned and if he seems a bit...the thing is he's a good man really. And it's only going to be a few days while they get me sorted and then we'll be back home before the weekend.

MICHAEL's face crumples, he sobs.

DAWN tries to sit up and comfort him but this causes a pain across her chest and the monitor starts to ping.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Please be brave for me Michael, I'm so sorry. You're such a good boy.

Two nurses enter and one presses a few buttons on the monitor which lessens the pinging.

NURSE

Ok, time for some rest I think Dawn. Michael why don't you come with me and we'll get you a hot chocolate from the machine and then find Dad. He's just popped to the car I think.

SENIOR NURSE

I need you to lie back, Dawn. You need to be calm.

DAWN

I need to speak to--

SENIOR NURSE

Now, you're getting yourself worked up. Everything's fine.

NURSE

Say bye to Mum, Michael. Let's go and find your Dad.

25 INT. FAMILY ROOM AT HOSPITAL - DAY

A room with armchairs and coffee table.

NURSE

Right then, you have a seat there and I'll pop your hot chocolate here. I'll go and get Dad and then you two can get off home, ok?

MICHAEL nods.

26 INT. WARD RECEPTION DESK, HOSPITAL - DAY

IGNATIUS is waiting at the desk. He's wearing a hospital gown instead of a shirt.

TOOSIE steps out of the toilets, she's wearing a hospital gown with jeans. They each hold a carrier bag containing their vomit soaked tops.

IGNATIUS

(re: the gowns)

They said we can keep these.

TOOSIE

Result.

IGNATIUS

Yeah...every cloud hey?

TOOSIE

Right, I'm going to head off.

IGNATIUS

Ok. Well, it was...nice to meet you..?

TOOSIE half laughs. IGNATIUS tries to think of something more to say.

TOOSIE

See ya.

IGNATIUS

Bye.

TOOSIE starts a call on her mobile phone and walks away.

IGNATIUS watches her leave. He'd have liked to chat to her more. Missed his chance.

TOOSIE glances back to look at him, an absent minded impulse of attraction, but he doesn't notice and he's turned to talk to the NURSE who has arrived at the desk and is looking through a file.

IGNATIUS (CONT'D)

Excuse me, I'm here with Michael Hunter. I'm his teacher. Is there any news on his mum?

NURSE

We're keeping her in so Michael's going to go home with his Dad.

IGNATIUS

Oh great, his Dad's here? That's good.

NURSE

They're just getting themselves together in the family room, do you want to go in?

IGNATIUS

Ah, no you're alright. I'll leave them to it. I'll get off.

NURSE

Ok, I'll let them know.

IGNATIUS leaves and the NURSE continues to sort the files.
CLEMENT arrives at the desk. He looks very agitated.

CLEMENT

Now, this is a little bit delicate
but...I would like to make it
clear, to you and to the rest of
your...team here that I take my
privacy very seriously.

NURSE

Right..?

CLEMENT

And I don't wish for this to come
across as a threat...but should any
details about me...or indeed my,
erm, family, reach the press, I
will know where to come for answers
and I will...take that very
seriously.

NURSE

I'm sorry?

CLEMENT

I'm not questioning your
professionalism and perhaps you've
had people in the public eye here
before, but I just wanted to make
that clear. And we'll say no more
about it.

The NURSE genuinely has no idea who he is or what he's on
about but he's starting to piss her off.

NURSE

Would you like me to take you to
Michael and then you'll be free
to...*go home*?

27

INT. DAWN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

DAWN lies in bed. The monitors beep steadily.

DAWN

(sobbing)

I'm the worst mum. I just never
knew how to tell him.

We now see that she's talking to a woman sitting next to the bed. This is DIANA. She's in her late 40s but her hair, makeup and power suit are unmistakably and overwhelmingly from the 1980s. She's smoking a cigarette, nonchalantly.

DIANA

What have I always said though,
Dawn? For years? I told you. I did
tell you.

DAWN

I thought I'd find the right moment
but it just never came.

Dawn continues to cry. Diana takes a long drag on her cigarette and thinks...

DIANA

I can't believe he's agreed to take
him.

DAWN

I threatened him. It just came out
of me. I could hear myself saying
the words.
I said I'd go to the press. Sell my
story and tell them what Britain's
favourite TV historian is really
like.

DIANA considers this...

DIANA

Britain's favourite TV historian?
I don't think it'd make front page
of The Sun, Dawn.

DAWN

The thing is I know Clement will
give him back. But if he goes into
care then---

(beat)

You don't think he'd be mean to
Michael do you?

DIANA

I don't know. You work with him.
He's mean to you.

DAWN

Maybe you could go and keep watch?
Keep an eye on him? Please, Diana.

DIANA
I'm not a ghost. Or a social
worker.

Suddenly DAWN is experiencing chest pain and a nurse places the oxygen mask over her mouth. She presses buttons on the monitor and as we pull back we see that the chair by the bed is empty and DIANA's not there.

28 INT. FAMILY ROOM AT HOSPITAL - DAY

The NURSE opens the door and smiles at MICHAEL

NURSE
Dad's here.

CLEMENT steps in.

CLEMENT
Hello Michael.

MICHAEL
Hello.

Long awkward beat.

29 EXT. HOSPITAL CARPARK - DAY

MICHAEL and CLEMENT walk through the carpark neither of them knowing what to say.

CLEMENT
Here we are, it's this blue one
here.

CLEMENT unlocks a tired, old vintage car. They both get it in.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)
Right. Home then.

MICHAEL looks at him. Is this really happening?

Then suddenly a voice from the back seat...

EDDIE
(Australian accent)
FUCKIN' HELL MATE!

END OF EPISODE.