

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

1 EXT. BISHOP'S STREET - DAY 7 1

Drone high over Bishop's Street, London NW1. Over this we hear -

LINGLEY (O.S.)

...I just find it rather hard to square Juliet Cooper's description of their relationship with what Prentice told me.

2 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CANTEEN - DAY 7 2

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

JESS, SUNNY, LINGLEY, WILLETS and BOULTING sat round a table in the canteen.

JESS

Ditto the bar manager.

LINGLEY

(nods)

Ditto her.

SUNNY

I mean...husbands and wives are allowed to have different political opinions.

WILLETS

(frowns)

No way.

LINGLEY

(grins)

But *that* diametrically opposed?

JESS

Although we're assuming Juliet's who she says *she* is.

LINGLEY

I'm just asking if maybe this was a toxic marriage, *perhaps* violent, perhaps *coercive*...that finally imploded.

JESS

And where are we on his girlfriend?

LINGLEY

So our Melinda, is Melinda *Ricci*?

On the others, some frowns of low level recognition. Then -

WILLETS

As in *Peachy Ricci*?

LINGLEY

(nods)

Had a column in the Mail a few years back, she's a sort of...B-tech Katie Hopkins, now working for a cable channel.

SUNNY

And you think they met through this forum Cooper set up?

LINGLEY

'UK United' yeah, Cooper's in the background of the viral video about the retweet.

SUNNY

Do we have an address for her?

LINGLEY

So I just spoke to an HR guy at BNC, her current employers - they're based in Docklands, but she dials in her contribution from her home about ten miles west of Cork?

JESS

(standing)

Okay contact their regional Garda and see if they can get local plod to set up a Zoom with her. Check if they have anything on her on their systems too.

LINGLEY

(standing)

Sure.

JESS

(exiting, with Sunny)

And as much background as you can find before we speak to her please.

3

INT. BISHOP'S STREET - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 7

3

Back in interview with MARTY, JESS, ROWE and SUNNY. Duty brief present.

JESS

So you mentioned your dad earlier,
Marty.

MARTY

(fingers starting to
flicker)
Yes I mentioned my dad earlier.

JESS

I'm guessing he's always been a big
support to you?

MARTY

He has yes.

JESS

So I'm wondering...did maybe your
dad go and speak to Mr Cooper about
the money?

And MARTY starts to rock harder.

ROWE

You okay Marty?

MARTY

I'm fine thank you for asking.

JESS

Did he go and speak to Gerry for
you?

MARTY

No he never went to see Gerry.

SUNNY

You seem a bit upset by the
question.

ROWE

Marty?

MARTY

Well, he *couldn't* go and see Gerry
could he.

SUNNY

Why not?

ROWE

I think we should probably take a
little break.

MARTY

Because he was dead, because Gerry
made him die.

Oh.

4 INT. JULIET'S HOUSE - SPITALFIELDS - DAY 7

4

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

A bag packed by the front door but a row developing between
TAYLOR and JULIET.

TAYLOR

Why am I even *at* that school,
you're meant to be a fucking
socialist for chrissakes.

JULIET

Please Taylor, not this, not again,
we'll miss your train and -

TAYLOR

- I *loathe* it there. I loathe
everything it stands for and you
should too...

And she pushes past her mother, angrily grabs her bags and
heads out of the door.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

...or is *that* all a lie as well.

JULIET struggling, and then she follows.

5 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 7

5

MARTY and JESS, SUNNY, and ROWE in the interview room. MARTY
calmer now. Duty brief still present.

MARTY

...Gerry said that the vaccines
were a plot to control us, that
they contained micro-transmitters,
and that we shouldn't take them.

SUNNY

(wow)

When did he say that?

MARTY

Whenever I went to see him to get
my money.

Okay. A beat, then -

SUNNY

So did he tell you not to take it?

MARTY

Yes he told me not to take it.

A beat. Then -

SUNNY

Did he suggest your parents
shouldn't take it too?

A beat. Marty's head falls. Then -

MARTY

No he didn't do that.

Rocking. Deep confusion. Tears near.

MARTY (CONT'D)

I did that.

And we see acres of pain suddenly open up.

SUNNY

(gently)

But maybe you told your mum and dad
not to take it...because of what
he'd said to you?

MARTY

Yes.

SUNNY

And did they listen to you?

A beat.

MARTY

They were offered the vaccine at
the end of January and they refused
it.

A beat.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Dad got Covid on February 2nd and was admitted to Dover Royal Hospital a week later with severe respiratory difficulties.

A beat.

MARTY (CONT'D)

On February the 19th he passed away. All on his Jack Jones. Thomas Henry Baines was 76.

A beat.

SUNNY

I'm so sorry for your loss.

JESS

We both are, Marty.

MARTY

He had a good innings as they say.

A beat.

JESS

So on top of the money, now you had the awful tragedy of your dad dying.

MARTY

Yes this is correct.

JESS

And how did you feel about Gerry at *this* point?

MARTY

No good crying over spilt milk.

What? A beat.

JESS

Were you not angry with him?

And he is rocking back and forth.

JESS (CONT'D)

Because I'm wondering if maybe...if maybe you arranged to see him somewhere, on the 24th?

A beat, then -

MARTY

No.

A beat, she looks at ALISON, who is looking at MARTY. SUNNY takes over.

SUNNY

Not to tell him about your dad? And *because* you were angry?

MARTY

No.

JESS

Maybe you rowed, maybe he pushed you again, and it all got out of control?

MARTY

No.

A beat, and then -

JESS

Marty -

And ROWE puts up a hand to stop her, looks to the brief, who nods, and then -

ROWE

- yeah I think he's answered your questions, so unless you have any evidence you haven't mentioned, I think we should bring this to a close.

And JESS nods. Absolutely fair enough.

6 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CORRIDOR - DAY 7

6

SUNNY watching MARTY walking away down the corridor with ROWE, as JESS comes out of the interview room.

JESS

Let's RUI him for now and do some more background on that arrest..
(checks her watch)
...we need to head.

And then they are heading out towards the car park doors.

7 EXT. PUB - KINHIDE - DAY 7 7
Establisher of a pub in Kinhide.

8 INT. PUB - KINHIDE - DAY 7 8
And here is MELINDA, sitting in a booth, drinking wine and making notes in a notebook for a Mel's minute.

And then across the street she sees JOSEPH KANE, a local Garda (who is a friend of PATRICK's) pulling up in his car (having seen her distinctive green Figaro parked outside).

SLOW-MO

KANE getting out of his car. Close on MELINDA. The 'knock on the door'.

End SLOW-MO

And then he is walking in to the pub, looking for her, and then walking over.

KANE
Hey Mel.

MELINDA
(smiles)
Hey Joseph, how are you?

KANE
Good thanks, you?

MELINDA
Fine.

KANE
And how's your man doing?

MELINDA
(nods)
Slow and steady.

KANE
(nods, then -)
Father Ryan being very supportive I hear.

MELINDA
(a beat, then)
How can I help you, Joseph?

KANE

Had a call this morning from a police officer in London, wanting to speak to you as a possible witness in a murder investigation?

And she does incredibly well to not look too freaked by that.

MELINDA

Wow. The murder of whom?

KANE

A man called Gerard Cooper?

MELINDA

(nods, 'appalled')

I knew Gerry, he went missing a few years back.

KANE

Just before you came over here they said.

MELINDA

Right.

KANE

They asked if you could make yourself available for a Zoom tomorrow at four?

MELINDA

(thinks, then)

Yeah I can do that.

KANE

So just drop by the station, we'll get everything set up our end, and I'll sit in with you.

MELINDA

(surprised, smiles)

I mean...do I need a lawyer?

KANE

Entirely up to you. See you tomorrow.

And he turns to go, and then stops, his back to her.

KANE (CONT'D)

'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

(MORE)

KANE (CONT'D)

But take heart, I have overcome the world'.

(a beat, then, his back still to her -)

John 16 33, always worth a read.

And he walks out. And she finally breathes, clearly utterly petrified now.

9 EXT. COASTAL ROAD - DAY 7

9

And JESS's car now speeding along the North Devon Coastal road towards Barnstaple as we hear -

SUNNY (O.S.)

Murray's just forwarded me an email from the lettings agency.

10 INT. JESS'S CAR - DAY 7

10

JESS and SUNNY in the car. SUNNY reading from his phone.

SUNNY

So the lettings agent thinks *police* were called to the dispute she told him about.

JESS

So this guy Asif would remember that too, no?

And out.

11 INT. SAM AND ASIF'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY 7

11

And here is HASSAN, in the sitting room of SAM's house, speaking to a bloke called MARK.

ASIF is sitting on a seat by the window onto the street, as MARK shows HASSAN his wares on the sitting room coffee table.

MARK

...and these are absolute top quality, from the same factory that makes the genuine article.

HASSAN

And how much is the passport?

MARK

The passport, driving licence and national insurance card, we can do for 7K, and for that we also offer finance options, depending on how you want to pay...

And then ASIF's attention is suddenly taken by a car pulling up outside the house.

And MARK and HASSAN's voices fade into the background.

Slow-mo

JESS and SUNNY getting out of their car. Close on ASIF. The knock on the door.

End slow-mo

And in an instant ASIF stands and turns to the others.

ASIF

Out the back now, *now!!*

And even as the knock sounds, MARK has scooped everything up and is grabbing HASSAN and hurrying him out of the sitting room, through into the kitchen and out of the kitchen door, where him and HASSAN run to the back of the garden and climb over the fence.

All this takes no more than 10 or 15 seconds, and as they disappear, a cool as a cucumber finally walks to the door and opens it. *

Hi. *

JESS

Hi, Syed? *

Yes. *

JESS

(Badging him)

D.C.I. Jess James and D.I. Sunil Khan, have you got five minutes for a quick chat. *

(smiles)

Er, yes, maybe, about what please?

JESS

It's in connection with a murder investigation, we think you might have known the victim?

(frowns, 'wow')

Who was the victim?

JESS

Could we come in?

A beat, then realising compliance is probably a smarter move, he steps aside.

Please do.

12

EXT. BEACH - DEAL - DAY 7

12

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

With MARTY, pacing, clearly very distressed, his phone held in front of him, a voice talking at him.

VOICE (O.S.)

...it's the fucking Matrix buddy, they're trying to shut your voice down 'cos you're a strong man, so what do you need to do?

MARTY

'I need to be one step ahead of them man'.

VOICE (O.S.)

Be ahead or be dead, dude, be ahead or be dead.

And MARTY nods and clicks off. And then takes his blister pack of pills from his pocket, and pops out one, then two, and then a *third* and puts them all in his mouth.

MARTY

Ahead or be dead. Ahead or be dead. Ahead or be dead. Dude.

And we go high above him, as he walks at huge pace down the beach, one arm aloft and fluttering, clearly a million thoughts are running through his very troubled head.

End of part one

Part two

13 INT. SAM AND 'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY 7 13 *

On SUNNY sliding a photo of GERRY COOPER across the coffee table to . *

SUNNY

This is him. Name of Gerard Cooper.

Close on . *

FLASHBACK

Vicks vapour rub. Close up on a screaming mouth. A life jacket (to be done on beach). A saline drip.

End of FLASHBACK

He looks at the photo long and hard, like the memory does not come easily, and then finally nods. *

Yes, I think I remember him. *

SUNNY

Okay. And what do you think was your connection to him? *

I work as a translator. Back then I did a lot of work for tenants whose rent was paid by the council. As I recall, he was a landlord. *

SUNNY

Which council was this? *

Tower Hamlets. *

SUNNY

Okay, and can you remember specifically what period you might have encountered Mr Cooper? *

I'd have to check. *

SUNNY

Roughly?

*

('thinks' then -)
I think the early part of the pandemic, the first year, I have a vague recollection of some Covid related issues.

SUNNY

So 2020. And d'you have any recollection of what he was like?

*

I mean...I probably met dozens of landlords over the three or four years I was in London.

SUNNY

Oh okay...
(checks notes)
...because the agency who managed his portfolio said he was quite tricky.

*

Did they.
('how much do they know')

SUNNY

You don't remember that?

*

(thinks, then)
I think...he wasn't brilliant at maintaining his properties.

SUNNY

(nods)
The agency said that. Anything else?

*

(realising this copper knows a lot more than he is letting on)
He could be... quite aggressive.

SUNNY

With you?

*

With the tenants, who obviously were often... pretty vulnerable people.

SUNNY

And aggressive physically?

I never saw that.

SUNNY

Because the agent gave us details on several cases, where disputes had blown up, and in one particular case, a family of asylum seekers, from Herat, where a dispute had got violent. Their records suggest you were their translator.

Which family?

JESS

(reading)

The Dowari family?

And he feigns to recall, and fails.

As I say, I dealt with many dozens of cases, lots of them were fractious.

SUNNY

So the police were called with this one - it was a dispute about a chronic damp problem...

(reading off the email)

...the family had a toddler and a newborn, and it was making them all sick?

Again he shakes his head.

The police getting involved wasn't that rare, sadly.

JESS

Okay, quite a distinctive case, but no memory of that at all?

ASIF

They kind of all merged in to one, sorry.

JESS

No worries, and when do you think
might have been the last time you
saw Mr Cooper?

ASIF

My contract with the council ended
in September 2020, so not after
that.

JESS

Right.

They both make notes, then SUNNY looks up.

SUNNY

D'you mind me asking what *your*
nationality is, Asif?

ASIF

I hope very soon to be British.

SUNNY

(smiles)

Oh - well good for you, and
welcome, it can be a fabulous
country.

ASIF

It certainly can, and thank you.

SUNNY

And before that, where are you
from?

ASIF

Afghanistan.

SUNNY

Okay.

(makes notes, then)

So that must have been tough,
seeing your fellow countrymen and
women, vulnerable people often,
being mistreated by this man.

ASIF

Of course.

SUNNY

Did it make *you* angry?

A beat, and then he smiles. Knows what the implication is.

ASIF

If I got angry every time I saw a
refugee treated badly I'd live in a
permanent state of rage, D.I. Khan.

A beat, and SUNNY smiles.

SUNNY

Thank you for your time.

And out.

14 EXT. SAM AND ASIF'S HOUSE - DAY 7

14

SUNNY and JESS walking away from SAM and ASIF's house, ASIF at the door, watching them go, when his eye is drawn right, and he sees SAM getting out of his car on the other side of the road, and now walking over.

SAM

Who was that?

ASIF

(turning to go back in,
effortless lie)
Social services wanting some gen on
a client.

SAM

(buys it)
Can we talk please?

ASIF

Sure.

And he follows ASIF in, as we go to JESS and SUNNY getting into their car.

JESS

We need more details on this Dowari
case.

And they get in to her car.

15 INT. SAM AND ASIF'S HOUSE - DAY 7

15

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

SAM and ASIF standing in the kitchen. The atmosphere tense as fuck.

SAM

So if Hassan moves out after he comes home from work today, and if you minimise your future contact with him...I'm happy to move on.

ASIF

And if I don't agree to that.

SAM

(wearily)

Why do you immediately try to make this in to a conflict?

ASIF

Says the man who's just given me an ultimatum.

SAM

It's not an -

ASIF

- no. You're not holding a gun to my head because I did right by a man who saved your life on at least two occasions.

SAM

Asif -

ASIF

- and you know what really winds me up? It's that you think you *can* do this.

SAM

Do *what*?

ASIF

Just *tell* me how it's going to be. You don't even consider the idea of finding another way through.

SAM

Are we not doing exactly that right now?

ASIF

You telling me what's going to happen? Not really, Sam. So I'll play by the same rules. No. Fuck off. Hassan's not going anywhere.

Wow.

SAM

But...but this is my house.

ASIF

(shrugs)

So call the police.

And he walks out and we hear the front door slam. Out on SAM.
Stunned.

16 EXT. JESS'S HOUSE - NIGHT 7

16

Establisher.

JESS (O.S.)

I mean...I never *really* believed
him anyway...

17 INT. JESS'S HOUSE - NIGHT 7

17

JESS with her mum. The kids watching TV in the sitting room.
And KATE nods. Cos neither did she really.

JESS

...but there *was*...just enough
ambiguity to make me think we could
still... get through it. Except
now...

A beat.

JESS (CONT'D)

...'cos I mean if he could have
done *that*, he could do *anything*.

And her mum of course cannot disagree with that.

KATE

So?

On JESS. She nods.

JESS

So.

Because that is the sixty four thousand dollar question. And
she looks up at her mum.

JESS (CONT'D)

What do I do?

And out on KATE. How to answer that?

End of Day 7

18 EXT. BISHOP'S STREET - DAY 8 18

New day - Day 8

Establisher.

WILLETS (O.S.)

So digging in to the detail on Marty Baines' caution and it gets interesting.

19 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CID - DAY 8 19

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

A briefing, the whole team present.

WILLETS

In 2016 he started a foundation course in computer programming at South Central University, but eight months in, he was asked to leave after he'd started to regularly pick the locks of the rooms of fellow students in his halls and enter their rooms.

JESS

Jesus.

WILLETS

He wasn't stealing anything, they were just coming back from the pub at night to find him sitting on their beds in their rooms.

SUNNY

Male or female?

WILLETS

Both.

BOULTING

Not at all scary.

SUNNY

How many times did this happen?

WILLETS

The university weren't really sure. Some students thought they might have left their doors unlocked so treated it more like him wandering in uninvited and didn't report it. But there were three formal cases.

JESS

Was there ever any violence?

WILLETS

Not from him, and not from any of the students, until the last incident.

JESS

Which was?

WILLETS

So one bloke came back from the pub, pissed up, to find Marty in his room, and kind of lost it - called him all kinds of shit, which ended with Marty trying to strangle him.

SUNNY

(frowns)

Like *properly* strangle him?

WILLETS

(nods)

He had to be pulled away by the guy's friends. It took three of them apparently.

JESS

Wow.

SUNNY

How come he only got a caution?

WILLETS

The student didn't want to pursue anything, he admitted to the investigating officer that he'd used...

(reading)

...'inappropriate language about disability'...

(looking back up)

...and he was scared it'd be brought up in court.

SUNNY

And do we know why Marty was doing this?

WILLETS

He said he'd just wanted a friend to talk to.

One or two of them wincing at the awful sadness of that.

BOULTING

In terms of any potential link to violence, might be worth feeding in here I've just received the evidence list for the assault on Cooper in his pub car park?

JESS

Oh yeah, and what we got?

BOULTING

Well it includes Cooper's sweatshirt which they took DNA off, so we have material for comparison.

JESS

(smiles)

Nice one, thanks Murray...

(to Lingley)

...so Melinda Ricci, tell me stuff.

20

EXT. ROAD - KINHIDE - DAY 8

20

High above a familiar Figaro driving along the quiet country road from her house into Kinhide, as we hear -

LINGLEY (O.S.)

Born in 1978, in a small market town in Surrey, went to a local Catholic girls' school, got decent As, went to Rochester uni to study marketing, and then enlisted in the navy. Served for four years but left in 2005 after a disciplinary issue involving a fellow officer. A Fellow *Muslim* officer.

And now we are down close on MELINDA, in her car, as she pulls in to the police station.

21 INT. POLICE STATION - KINHIDE - DAY 8 21

MELINDA walking into the local police station, as we hear -

LINGLEY (O.S.)

She then started her own 'green beauty' business, which gained the attention of some red tops following an advertising campaign she herself featured in.

We will see JOSEPH KANE, at the far end of an open plan office, spot her and start to walk over.

LINGLEY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

After the 2008 crash the company went bankrupt, she lost her home, and had to rent, and it was a bad experience with an Asian landlord, prompting an online rant which gained half a million views, that got her an invitation to write an article for the Mail. This went down so well it led to a weekly column.

KANE

We're just through here.

And she starts to follow him.

22 INT. BISHOP STREET - CID - JESS'S OFFICE - DAY 8 22

With the team. SUNNY looking up now from making notes.

SUNNY

What sort of column?

LINGLEY

Opinions. Of which she had lots.

SUNNY

On?

LINGLEY

(handing out photo-copied sheets of the articles)
So recurring themes were immigration, benefit cheats, the EU, anti-abortion stuff, arming the police, all as self styled 'Sister Mel.'

And we are looking at a picture of her wearing a nun's head-dress.

SUNNY
(half a smile)
She wasn't a nun though right?

LINGLEY
(wryly)
She'd spent six months in a Convent
in Wicklow in 2009.

JESS
And the column ran from when to
when?

LINGLEY
The Mail column ran from 2015 to
2020, but she also wrote for pretty
much every red top and started
popping up on breakfast TV guest
spots.

JESS
And when was the Johnson retweet
post?

LINGLEY
Oct 2016.

SUNNY
And do we know why she moved to
Ireland?

LINGLEY
Nope, just that she went there in
2021.

JESS
Okay, thanks, Fran.
(standing, to Sunny)
Shall we?

And the pair are heading out.

23 INT. JULIET'S HOUSE - DAY 8

23

JULIET walking into her house to see TAYLOR's suitcase and
schoolbag back by the front door.

JULIET
(to herself)
Jesus.

And she walks on through into the kitchen, to see her daughter, her back to her, staring out of the window, eating a bowl of cereal.

JULIET (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

TAYLOR
Eating cereal.

JULIET
(irritably)
What are you doing *here*?

A beat, then -

TAYLOR
I didn't want to go back.

JULIET
(ffs)
You *have* to go back.

TAYLOR
I really don't.

JULIET
Yes, you do. If you still hate it at the end of this year, then we can talk about moving you, but right now, I just -

TAYLOR
- was it you?

And she turns to face her mother. Anguish wrought all over her face.

JULIET
Was *what* me?

And TAYLOR puts the bowl down. Holds her eye. Does she say it? Then -

TAYLOR
Who killed Dad?

And JULIET is utterly speechless.

JULIET
What?

TAYLOR
Was it?

JULIET
How could you even *ask* me that?

TAYLOR
You haven't said 'no'.

And JULIET holds her eye. And then very deliberately says -

JULIET
No, it wasn't me.

A beat.

TAYLOR
You don't seem that sure.

JULIET
I'm very sure, I'm just in shock
that you could even *think* that. No.
No. A thousand times 'no'.

A beat, then -

TAYLOR
Have you told the police about the
row that night?

Which knocks JULIET back.

JULIET
What row?

TAYLOR
D'you think I don't remember? I
remember it *all*. And very clearly,
Mum.

A beat, and then finally JULIET manages to compose herself.

JULIET
It *was* just one of our rows okay?
Nothing more. I would *never* have
hurt your father, Tay, *never*.

And TAYLOR looking slightly more convinced now. And JULIET
walks slowly forward now.

JULIET (CONT'D)
But. I do want you to promise me
something.

TAYLOR
What?

Something much more vulnerable in TAYLOR now, we see the 14 year old kid in her, and the defiance seems to have evaporated to be replaced by need.

JULIET

I want you to promise me...that you'll never mention the row, or in fact any of the others, to the police.

TAYLOR

Why?

JULIET

Because they will almost certainly come to all the wrong conclusions and...it's just not worth it.

A beat.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Will you promise me that?

A long beat. And then finally -

TAYLOR

There's something I never told you.

And out.

End of part two

Part three

24 INT. BISHOP STREET - CID - DAY 8

24

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

LINGLEY at her desk scrolling through the old Twitter (or equivalent) feed of @GerryCooper1972 (still up, four years later).

And we will catch sight of *lots* of invective. *Rather than seeing this on the computer screen, we might experiment with playing the tweets on the actual screen.*

Tweeter 'why don't you just say it out loud mate - you don't like foreigners'.

Gerry's reply 'why don't you go and knit a latte you lefty prick.'

Tweeter 'State of this anti-vax gammon!'

Gerry's reply 'says man with cartoon child as his avatar. Nonce.'

Tweeter 'How's Brexit going for you mate?'

Gerry's reply 'loving blocking the libtards today'

Tweeter 'drank in this fat racist's pub last week, it's as rancid as you'd imagine the inside of his head would be'

Gerry's reply 'you'd know rancid, I mean I assume your a tranny but maybe you are actually a woman??'

Tweeter 'it's 'you're'.

Gerry's reply 'Fuck off pedo.'

Tweeter 'I literally know where you live you fucking tool'.

Gerry's reply 'Pop in, let's have a chat'

On LINGLEY. Wow.

25 INT. KINHIDE POLICE STATION/INT. BISHOP'S STREET - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 8

MELINDA sitting in a small office with JOSEPH KANE, in front of a laptop connected by Zoom to SUNNY and JESS.

We cut between the two police stations.

JESS

So thanks for taking the time to speak to us.

MELINDA

No problem at all.

JESS

Can I dive straight in, Melinda, and ask you how you knew Mr Cooper?

MELINDA

Sure...

FLASHBACK

A fist connecting with a face. A bunch of flowers. A hymnal. Handcuffs.

End of FLASHBACK.

MELINDA (CONT'D)
...I met him initially at a
political thing he'd started?

JESS
This was 'UK United'?

Which throws her. That they already know this.

MELINDA
Yes.

JESS
So when was that exactly?

MELINDA
That would have been...late 2015 I
guess.

JESS
Okay. And you hit it off straight
away?

MELINDA
(she shrugs)
Yeah, kind of. We shared a similar
outlook on the world, a sense of
humour, neither of us were afraid
to call it as we saw it.

JESS
And so you became...*friends*, would
you say?

MELINDA
Yes. Briefly.

JESS
Briefly?

MELINDA
We ran into each other a few times
over the next few months, I think I
might have had a lunch with him
once.

JESS
Right. So it didn't develop into
anything more?

MELINDA
(frowns)
Like what?

JESS

Like...a romantic relationship.

MELINDA

No.

They make notes. Then -

JESS

Because we spoke to a witness who suggested it did.

MELINDA

(frowns)

What witness?

JESS

An old friend of his, who ran in to you both in a pub in Aldgate in 2020?

Fuck.

MELINDA

Well that was *then*.

SUNNY

Sorry, I'm confused, are you saying you *did* have a relationship with him or you didn't?

MELINDA

I *did*, yes, but a very brief one, just not when you were saying.

JESS

My question didn't really specify a timeframe, but that's fine, so spell it out nice and clearly for us, when did you two get together?

MELINDA

(tiny beat)

It was in the summer of 2020, just as things were opening up again.

JESS

And when you say 'brief'?

MELINDA

A few weeks, two months at the most.

SUNNY

Did his wife know about this?

MELINDA

(frowns, odd question)

I've no idea.

SUNNY

But you think you weren't seeing him in February 2021?

MELINDA

No.

JESS

But you were still living in the UK at this point?

MELINDA

Yes.

SUNNY

So when exactly did you move to Ireland?

MELINDA

Early March 2021.

SUNNY

Okay. So just a couple of weeks after he disappeared.

MELINDA

Well I obviously had no idea about that.

SUNNY

You didn't know he'd gone missing.

MELINDA

(lie)

No.

SUNNY

When did you find out?

MELINDA

(lie)

A mutual friend told me a few months later.

SUNNY

How?

MELINDA
(thrown, think fast)
Er...they messaged me I think.

SUNNY
Can you forward that to us?

MELINDA
It actually might have been a call.

SUNNY
Maybe we'll come back to that. And
what prompted that move? To
Ireland?

MELINDA
(a tiny hesitation)
I used to come here on holiday when
I was a kid, my dad was born
here...I was feeling a bit burned
out in London. Then I was offered
the job with BNC which I could do
from anywhere so...change as good
as a rest.

Do we buy that?

SUNNY
And so when do you think was the
last time you might have seen him?

On MELINDA. Thinking 'hard'.

MELINDA
Maybe October/November 2020.

SUNNY
This was as your relationship was
coming to an end?

MELINDA
Yes.

JESS
And how *did* it end?

MELINDA
Oh, it just... fizzled out really.

Lie.

JESS
No rows?

MELINDA

No.

JESS

No fights?

MELINDA

(too quick)

No.

JESS

We have a fair amount of evidence to suggest he *could* get violent.

MELINDA

(shrugs)

Not with me.

(lie)

SUNNY

Okay. And were you aware of anyone you came into contact with, through him, who you think might have wanted to do him harm?

MELINDA

No. But like I said, I didn't actually know him that well, our lives were not that intertwined.

SUNNY

And if we needed to know where you were on 24th February 2021, d'you think you'd be able to provide us with that information?

MELINDA

I could try.

SUNNY

Any proof will do.

MELINDA

Sure.

SUNNY

You obviously have our email.

MELINDA

I do.

And they both look up now, done.

JESS

Anything else you'd like to add,
anything else you think might be
relevant?

Thinks, then -

MELINDA

No.

JESS

Okay, thanks so much for your time.

MELINDA

You're welcome, have a nice day.

And they both click off.

And we stay on MELINDA, in the background JOSEPH KANE looking
at her. And both of them know that did not go well.

In London, JESS staring at the screen, then turns to SUNNY.

JESS

So he was violent to her yeah?

SUNNY

Hundred percent.

And out.

26 OMITTED 26

27 EXT. MELINDA'S HOUSE - DAY 8 27

Establisher.

28 INT. MELINDA'S HOUSE - MELINDA'S BEDROOM - DAY 8 28

MELINDA in her bedroom, in a cupboard, yanking out a
cardboard box full of files, papers, and then a stack of old
diaries.

And she pulls a handful of them out, flicking back until she
finds 2021.

And then she opens it, quickly thumbing through the pages
until she comes to February, and then through to the page to
the 24th, and there, written very clearly in biro, just
'Gerry'.

On MELINDA's face. Which expression can be distilled in to simply 'Fuck'.

29 EXT. MELINDA'S HOUSE - DAY 8 29

And in the back garden, in the basin of a barbecue, MELINDA watching the diary burn.

End of Day 8

29A EXT. FARM BUILDING - DAY 9 29A

New Day - Day 9

HASSAN in a crop packing area of the farm where he is working, when suddenly a door flies open and a load of men and women in hi-vis jackets and lanyards are swarming in to the room.

IE OFFICIAL

Okay can everyone please stop what they're doing...

Everyone swinging round in shock.

IE OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

...and stay exactly where they are. We are officers of the Immigration Enforcement agency, and we believe some of you working here today may be doing so illegally...

And out.

30 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CID - JESS'S OFFICE - DAY 9 30

The team in JESS'S office in a briefing as SUNNY walks in from his desk.

SUNNY

Melinda Ricci just emailed, can't find her diary for that year.

JESS

(dry)
No way.

LINGLEY

Just calling it as she sees it.

JESS
(grins, then)
Sorry Murray, carry on.

BOULTING
So Martin Baines' phone records show multiple calls to a landline with the same address as the Three Crowns pub. Also multiple text messages to a 'Gerry', very angry and threatening in nature, though interestingly, they don't stop after the 24th.

JESS
('hmmm')
Right.

SUNNY
Which you'd also do though, if you wanted to cover your tracks?

BOULTING
Fair point.

JESS
But listen, we obviously need to take a swab from him for the assault in the car park, can we get someone down there?

LINGLEY
I can sort.

JESS
And where are we with *Cooper's* records.

WILLETS
I've looked at a fair amount of his open source stuff, he used a number of platforms, Parler, Reddit and obviously Twitter.

JESS
X.

WILLETS
X.

JESS
And?

WILLETS

Endless fights on 'X', very aggressive and hate speechy from him, and perhaps more significantly, to him.

SUNNY

Physical threats to him?

WILLETS

Dozens that I've found so far. Including death threats.

SUNNY

And these rows were about?

WILLETS

Everything you'd expect from what we're now learning about him. Immigration, lockdown, grooming gangs, vaccines, it's gammon bingo.

SUNNY

'You can't say that'.

LINGLEY

(grins)

Emails and text records have also just arrived, I'm getting them all printed up. Triangulation I'm still waiting on.

JESS

Man I would love to have been a fly on the wall in their house?

And SUNNY looks up.

SUNNY

Well the daughter was.

And all eyes turn to him.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I mean if this *is* some sort of... coercive... toxic marriage thing that blew up...

(looks at Fran, her idea)

...she'd have witnessed it wouldn't she.

BOULTING

She'd certainly have seen *something*.

A beat as they all debate this internally. Then -

SUNNY

I wonder if her school would let us
speak to her there?

On JESS. A beat, then she shrugs -

JESS

Why don't we call 'em.

31 INT. UNIVERSITY - JULIET'S OFFICE - DAY 9

31

JULIET sitting in her office at university, staring at her laptop, but not working, deep in troubled thought, when there is a knock on the door, and she looks up to see MERRICK's head appear.

JULIET

Hey.

MERRICK

(tentatively walking in)
Just wondered if you got my email?

JULIET

Er, no, sorry, been a bit...what
did it say?

MERRICK

(awkwardly)
The board want a meeting, they
think they have a solution.

JULIET

What solution?

A beat, then -

MERRICK

Obviously you're aware funding's on
the floor for the next five years
anyway so...basically... they want
to offer you early retirement.

Is he fucking joking? And out.

32 INT. TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL - DAY 9

32

BOULTING with a Tower Hamlets council officer, who has a file of paperwork open in front of him.

FALLON

Asif was a lovely guy, couldn't do enough for people.

BOULTING

And I presume that includes the Dowari family?

FALLON

Absolutely. In fact I ran into him a few months after he stopped working for us, and he told me he was still in contact with them, still helping them, all pro bono.

Wow. Interesting. BOULTING making notes.

BOULTING

And did you personally ever see him interact with Gerard Cooper?

FALLON

A few times, yes.

BOULTING

And how was he with him?

FALLON

Always incredibly polite, very quietly spoken, very diplomatic.

BOULTING

So he never got wound up by him?

FALLON

Not to his face, no.

BOULTING

How d'you mean not to his face?

FALLON

I gave him a lift to another rental one time, it was on my way back to the office, and he said back in his country, in his village, people like Cooper got dealt with.

BOULTING looks up.

BOULTING

What do you think he meant by that?

FALLON

I dunno, I just remember there was something in his eyes as he said it that... sent a chill down my spine.

BOULTING

(Oh. Then -)

And the Dowaris, could I speak to *them*?

FALLON

If you can find them, we moved them from Cooper's flat to another in January 2021, and then a few weeks after that they just... upped and left one night, completely dropped out the system.

BOULTING

Specifically when did they disappear?

FALLON checking his notes, then -

FALLON

(reading)

28th February 2021.

Interesting date. BOULTING digesting and making notes. Then he looks up -

BOULTING

Can you give me that *last* address then please?

And out on him as FALLON turns to his computer.

33 EXT. STREET - TOWER HAMLETS/INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CID - DAY 9

BOULTING walking away, with his phone pressed to his ear. LINGLEY on the phone in the office.

BOULTING

For elimination purposes, I really think we should be swabbing Asif Syed.

34 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CANTEEN - DAY 9

34

PBS ALT TO BE SHOT

SUNNY and JESS, side by side, going through print outs of texts, phone records, emails etc, lots of which are highlighted with a marker.

SUNNY

...so these are texts from 2019, and these from 2020, and you don't have to read too many of them to realise they were already clearly in a relationship at this point.

JESS

(reading)

'At work and can't stop replaying last night, getting hard just thinking about you. G xxx'.

SUNNY

Last of the great charmers, so that's Feb 2020.

JESS

(reading another)

'Eurostar full, how about we fly?'

(another)

'J and T away with her mum for the weekend, shall we play???'...

(checks date)

...April 2019.

SUNNY

There are emails between them going back to late 2018, which is when the relationship seemed to start.

JESS

So she's flat out lied.

SUNNY

(nods)

And then it all starts to go a bit sour end of 2020. My guess is he knew not to write *too* much down, but I *did* find these three messages.

And he slides her over a sheet.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

These are just his side obviously, and are from mid November through 'til early February.

JESS

'Do not ignore me, Mel, or you will regret it'.

SUNNY

(pointing to another)
Then that one there.

JESS

'Mel call me, we can still discuss the amount, I am open to discussion.'

SUNNY

And this is the last one, sent by him on the 9th Feb.

JESS

'If you make me lose everything I have ever worked for I swear to God I will fuck you up.'

A beat, and then she looks up. Shrugs.

JESS (CONT'D)

So these are blackmail threats.

SUNNY

From a man we already know is violent.

A beat as they both digest. Then -

SUNNY (CONT'D)

D'you think they could have met?

JESS

Who?

SUNNY

Melinda and Juliet?

JESS

Wow.

SUNNY

Just a thought.

Fuck. A beat, then -

JESS

Okay one of us needs to go over there and it can't be me.

Said almost before she realised.

JESS (CONT'D)

Sorry -

SUNNY

- no that's -

JESS

- it's just... I've still got stuff going on at home Sunny and -

SUNNY

- you really don't have to explain.

JESS

Sorry. I know we both... 'shared' before but... to be honest it's so damn complicated I wouldn't even know where to start.

SUNNY

No worries at all.

(he stands, a beat)

But also... here any time if you do ever...

(need an ear)

JESS

Thank you. Seriously. Thank you.

And he puts a hand briefly on her arm, and then he walks out. And we stay on her, having a private moment.

And then cut back to SUNNY, as he spots LEANNE on the other side of the room at a table with someone, her back to SUNNY.

SUNNY

Lee?

And she swings round to see him.

LEANNE

(brightly)

Hey, how you doing?

SUNNY

Yeah all good, did you get my message?

LEANNE

I did, really sorry, been mad busy but... yeah I'll call you?

SUNNY

Yeah, no rush. Just....yeah.

LEANNE

(nods)

Speak soon then.

And he nods. Slightly awkward. Then -

SUNNY

(to the other guy)

Sorry to interrupt.

And then he walks out. And we are with him. Was that...a cold shoulder?

End of part three

Part four

35

INT. MARTY'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY 9

35

MARTY and his mum, in the sitting room, as LINGLEY asks him for a swab. MARTY stimming and rocking.

LINGLEY

It'll take ten seconds.

MARTY

Alison said she had to be here if you spoke to me, where's Alison?

LINGLEY

I didn't want to get her all the way down here just for a swab, Marty.

DOT

Come on, love, help the young lady out.

And his hands are flapping, and he is clearly very distressed. And then -

MARTY

Okee-dokey pig in a pokey.

And he opens his mouth and LINGLEY starts to prepare the swab equipment.

LINGLEY

Just give me a minute.

But MARTY simply remains in the middle of the room, mouth agape, fingers fluttering. And out.

36 INT. SAM AND ASIF'S HOUSE - DAY 9

36

ASIF cooking in the kitchen, the sound of the front door opening. ASIF stops and turns to see the kitchen door, and then SAM walks in. And he stands there, eyes down...awkward as hell.

SAM

Hey.

ASIF

(flat)

Hey.

SAM

(a beat)

Hassan not here?

ASIF

Not back from work yet.

SAM's eyes down. And for the first time, we sense contrition.

SAM

Listen...I've been thinking about everything you said...

A beat.

SAM (CONT'D)

...and I'm sorry. I really am.

And now he *does* look up.

SAM (CONT'D)

You cope so well, you're so strong, that...I forget what you've been through. But in truth I can't begin to imagine what it must have been like and...I do *completely* understand your anger...

On ASIF, a sudden choke of emotion. Which breaks SAM's heart and he moves slowly towards him.

SAM (CONT'D)

...and so I *do* want to try to help and -

And then suddenly there is a very insistent banging on the door.

ASIF swings round (is this the police again?). And SAM sees ASIF's fear, but then turns and walks to the front door and opens it.

To reveal the same immigration officer we saw at the IE raid, with two uniformed police officers behind him.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hello?

IE OFFICIAL

(badging him)

'Evening, Sir, is this your home?

SAM

It is, yes.

IE OFFICIAL

You're Samuel Collet?

SAM

Yes.

IE OFFICIAL

Mr Collet my name is Officer Hughes from the Immigration Enforcement unit, I have a warrant to search these premises...

(holding it up)

...under section S28D of the Immigration Act 1971, with regard to information gained on an earlier raid today. Are we okay to come in please?

And a stunned SAM stands for a moment in silence.

SAM

Er...yes, sure.

And then he stands aside dumbly, as the officials walk in to his house, and ASIF appears, clearly also shocked and appalled.

37

INT. HEATHROW - DAY 9

37

CU on SUNNY, small suitcase in tow, being given his passport back by a Heathrow CHECK-IN OFFICER.

CHECK-IN OFFICER
Thank you, have a nice flight.

38 EXT. WHITNEY MARSH - DAY 9 38

High above the marshes, a twitcher (SUSAN), tripod and camera and binos cases slung over her shoulders, walking along the path that fringes the marsh, when she slows, and then stops.

And down at her level now, we see *why*.

She is looking at the yellow board and something is pricking her interest.

39 EXT. MARTY'S HOUSE - DAY 9 39

DOREEN banging on the door, because her key does not seem to be able to open the front door.

DOREEN
(through the letterbox)
Why have you locked the door,
Marty?

A beat. Nothing.

DOREEN (CONT'D)
I just want to see Mum, sweetheart,
please let me in.

A beat.

DOREEN (CONT'D)
Marty are you in there?

Nothing.

DOREEN (CONT'D)
Marty let me in please, it's very
important I need to see Mum's okay.

Nothing.

DOREEN (CONT'D)
If you don't let me in, I will have
to call the police.

Nothing. And then she pulls her mobile phone out and starts to dial a number as she walks back to look up at the top window.

40 INT. MARTY'S HOUSE - MARTY'S BEDROOM - DAY 9 40

Where through a crack in his curtains, MARTY watches her, before turning back to his bedroom, fingers fluttering, and grabbing his blister of Sertraline.

And now he pops one into his mouth, and then a second and then a third.

41 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - CID - JESS'S OFFICE/INT. BENBOROUGH 41 HOUSE SCHOOL - DAY 9

JESS on the phone to the school.

JESS

...it would just be a general chat really, about the events that led to her father's disappearance.

BUXTON

Right.

JESS

Which, as I say, for a *number* of reasons, we'd prefer to do without her mum present.

BUXTON

Is she...I mean...has Mrs Cooper been...arrested for anything?

JESS

No.

(a beat, then)

Not yet.

That 'yet' doing a lot of heavy lifting. BOULTING appearing at her door. She signals 'one second'.

BUXTON

I'll need to take some advice on this, can I call you right back?

JESS

Asap please, bye now.

And she looks up at BOULTING.

BOULTING

Sorry to disturb, guv, but Juliet Cooper's downstairs? She wants to speak to you.

On JESS. WTF?

42 INT. BISHOP'S STREET - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 9

42

JULIET sitting with JESS.

JULIET

Yesterday morning, my daughter told me that a week or so before her dad went missing, she'd come home from school, to find a young man who'd worked for Gerry, in our flat.

A beat.

JULIET (CONT'D)

He'd obviously broken in somehow, and I was still at work, Gerry was out at meetings, meaning Taylor was alone with him.

JESS

Did *she* know him?

JULIET

Yes, she'd chatted to him when he'd worked downstairs, but she said he was very agitated and very angry.

JESS

About?

JULIET

Her dad. Maybe me a bit. And he'd told her that he wanted to hurt her dad, like he thought Gerry had hurt *him*.

JESS

How old was Taylor?

JULIET

Ten.

JESS

Oh my God that must have been terrifying for her.

JULIET

It was.

JESS

And so what happened?

JULIET

Well, she managed to convince him that hurting her dad would be a bad idea, and that it would really upset her. He said he didn't want to do that, so then she made him a glass of squash, they chatted for a bit more, and then after twenty minutes or so, he just left.

JESS

And why's she never told you this before?

JULIET

She hadn't wanted to get him into trouble, she liked him, and felt sorry for him...

(she shrugs)

...as do I. Hence my slowness in telling you this. I know he went through a very tough time in the pandemic.

Do we believe that?

JESS

So did she remember his name?

JULIET

She did. And it was Marty. Marty Baines.

And out on JESS.

43 INT. MARTY'S HOUSE - DAY 9

43

Close on a door being splintered open.

And then it flies open and in to the house come police, one in to the sitting room, one heading for the bedrooms, one for the kitchen, DOREEN behind them all.

And almost immediately we hear a -

OFFICER (O.S.)

Here!!

And she walks quickly through into the kitchen, to see a kitchen window open and ... and DOT slumped forward in her wheelchair, unresponsive. On the floor a broken mug of half drunk hot chocolate.

DOREEN

Oh no.

OFFICER

(in to his radio)

Medical assistance required
urgently please.

OFFICER 2

(appearing)

No-one in either of the bedrooms.

Even as his colleague starts to check DOT for a pulse.

DOREEN

(kneeling)

Dot? Dot can you hear me?? *Dot?*

But nothing.

44

EXT. DEAL HIGH STREET - DAY 9

44

High above the tiny figure of MARTY, rucksack on his back,
running away.

End of episode four.