

Friendship

By

Mark Hickman

Mark Hickman
23 Sivilla Road
Kilnhurst
Rotherham
South Yorkshire
S64 5TY

+44 (0)7515 398301
mark@ultimacomputers.co.uk

FADE IN:

EXT. SOUTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL ESTATE - DAY

HOLLY, 14, AMANDA, 14 and CINDY, 14 all dressed in school uniforms are violently attacking BECKY, 14. Becky is wearing a different school uniform to the other three girls. The sleeve of her blazer is ripped and her nose is bloodied.

KAREN(O.S.)
(shouts)
Oi!

The three girls stop their attack and spin around towards the direction of the shout. They see KAREN, 16 running towards them.

Karen is wearing the same uniform as Holly, Amanda and Cindy. Their faces show an expression of fear as they recognise her.

Karen reaches the four girls and swings her fist at Holly. The punch lands clean on Holly's jaw, knocking her to the ground.

Amanda and Cindy jump on Karen, they pull her to the ground. All three begin rolling around on the floor, punching, scratching and pulling hair.

Becky grabs hold of Amanda by the hair, pulling her off Karen before punching her in her stomach.

The fight continues. Becky and Karen manage to get the better of the three girls who admit defeat by running away.

Becky and Karen stand, bent double gasping for breath. Their faces are bloodied and bruised.

KAREN
(out of breath)
You OK?

BECKY
(out of breath)
I think so.

Becky takes hold of the ripped sleeve of her blazer and pulls it back up her arm.

BECKY
My mum is going to kill me when
she sees this though.

Karen looks at the blazer and begins to laugh.

BECKY
 You should've let them finish me
 off.

Becky starts laughing too.

BECKY
 I'm Becky by the way.

KAREN
 I'm Karen.

BECKY
 I know. I saw you at Matthew
 Wilson's party last week.

KAREN
 I don't remember. I was wasted.

Both girls burst into laughter again.

INT. UPPER DECK OF A BUS - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: SIX YEARS LATER

Becky and Karen climb the stairs of the bus giggling and laughing.

Becky has long blonde hair, a slim athletic figure and is very attractive. Karen has short black hair and whilst still attractive is more plain looking than Becky with a slim but more curvy figure.

The girls are dressed up for a night out. Both wearing short skirts, low cut tops, chunky high heeled shoes, lots of make up and carrying small clutch bags.

They take a seat near the back of the bus.

BECKY
 Go on then, lets have another
 look.

Karen raises her left hand and offers it to Becky. Becky takes hold of it and pulls the diamond on Karen's ring finger closer to her face.

BECKY
 (sighing)
 Awww. It's beautiful, must have
 cost him a packet?

KAREN
 I know, I can't believe I'm gonna
 be Mrs Sidebottom.

Becky starts to giggle

BECKY
Sidebottom!

KAREN
Shut up you bitch. I think it's
sweet.

Becky tries her best to keep a straight face.

BECKY
Yes Kaz, you're right it is.

Both girls look at each other and burst into laughter.

INT. TRENDY TOWN CENTRE BAR - NIGHT

The bar is full of people and loud dance music is in the background. Becky is leaning over the bar with a twenty pound note in her hand. Karen is stood next to her with her back against the bar looking out across the room.

BARMAN 1 approaches Becky.

BARMAN 1
(shouts)
Yes love?

BECKY
(shouts)
Two double Vodkas please darlin'.

As Karen scans the bar she recognises someone she knows and her face breaks into a smile.

TOM, 23, a tall, very muscular man walks over to Karen. As he approaches her Karen reaches up, puts her arms around him and gives him a peck on the cheek.

TOM
Hiya Kaz.

KAREN
Hiya Babe.

TOM
I hear he's popped the question?

KAREN
Yeah, I can't believe it.

Karen glances down lovingly at her engagement ring.

TOM
I'm really pleased for you both.

KAREN

Awww, thanks Tom. Who you down with?

TOM

Just a few of the lads from work.

Becky turns around from the bar and hands a drink to Karen. Becky looks up at Tom and smiles.

KAREN

This is Becky, and Becky, this is Tom.

BECKY

Hi.

Tom gives Becky a long look up and down and settles his gaze on her cleavage.

TOM

A'right love.

Becky sees Tom staring at her breasts and shakes her head.

BECKY

(sarcastically)

Err, yeah I'm great thanks.

TOM

Anyway, I was on my way for a slash, I'm burstin'. See you ladies later.

Tom walks off towards the toilets and the two girls turn back towards the bar.

BECKY

Who was that?

KAREN

He's one of Chris' mates from the gym.

BECKY

Fucking pervert couldn't stop staring at my tits.

Becky uses her upper arms to push her breasts together, and looks down at them.

BECKY

Can't blame him though, they are fantastic.

KAREN

Tart!

Becky holds up her glass and smiles. Karen does the same chinking them together in a toast.

BECKY

Here's to the future Mrs
Sidebottom.

Both girls knock back the drinks in one, slam the glasses down on the bar..

KAREN

(shouts to Barman 1)
Oi mate. Same again.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Karen and Becky in different bars, different drinks, necking shots and slamming the glasses on the bar, dancing, laughing and giggling.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Becky and Karen are sat on a long curved seat around a table with two bottles of alcopops on it. They are both laughing. The music is very loud.

PHIL, 25 and DAN, 23 walk up to the table. Phil sits down next to Becky, and Dan next to Karen.

To make themselves heard over the music the two men lean in close to the girls and start talking into their ears.

The girls have to do the same to reply, speaking into the men's ears. The music is too loud to hear the conversations.

Across the room Tom is staring at the Becky and Karen sitting, chatting and laughing with Phil and Dan.

Becky brings her hand up to Phil's face starts to kiss him. They passionately begin to snog on the seats. Karen looks across at them, smiles and rolls her eyes.

Dan leans over and says something in Karen's ear and puts his hand on the top of her leg. Karen moves his hand leans in and says something in his ear, she then shows him the engagement ring stands up and walks off.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE A TAXI COMPANY - NIGHT

A queue of people stands on the street, GRAHAM, 56 is standing at the front of the queue. He is wearing a florescent jacket and is holding a clipboard.

Karen is standing in the queue alone. She is shivering and rubbing her arms to try and keep warm. Two men at the front, holding pizza boxes, drunkenly stumble into a taxi.

Graham looks up from his clipboard towards Karen.

GRAHAM

Next one's yours love.

Karen looks at Graham and nods. She looks around the street with a look of concern on her face. She then looks at Graham.

KAREN

I'll be back in two minutes mate.

Karen turns around and walks away from the queue.

KAREN

(muttering)

Fuckin' ell Becky.

EXT. A DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Karen walks into the alley. Breathless moans and groans can be heard. As Karen gets closer she sees Becky having sex with Phil.

Becky has her back to the wall and Phil is stood up in front of her with his trousers around his ankles. Becky has her arms around his neck and is holding a small lacy g-string in one hand and her small clutch bag in the other.

Becky looks up and sees Karen.

BECKY

(mouths)

What?

Karen points to her watch.

KAREN

(mouths)

Taxi.

Becky looks at Karen and shrugs her shoulders, as if to say 'what can I do?'. As Phil continues to thrust away and groan in drunken pleasure.

Karen stamps her feet.

KAREN
(mouths angrily)
Come on.

Becky rolls her eyes at Karen. She fiddles with the catch on her bag behind Phil's head, eventually opening it. She screws up the g-string and pushes it into the bag then closes it.

Placing both hands on Phil's shoulders she begins to push.

BECKY
Sorry love I've gotta go.

She continues to push Phil who stumbles backwards and falls over.

Karen laughs.

Becky stands there for a second and looks at him on the floor.

KAREN
Quick, c'mon.

Karen holds out her hand, Becky grabs it and both girls run off back towards the taxi queue.

Phil tries to stand up to chase them but the alcohol he has consumed and his trousers round his ankles mean he falls straight back down again.

PHIL
(shouts)
Fuckin Bitch!

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE A TAXI COMPANY
[PLEASEINSERT\PRERENDERUNICODE{ÅÅ\$}INTOPREAMBLE] NIGHT

Karen and Becky run past the queue of people towards a waiting taxi and as they get there Graham opens the back door and they jump into the back seat.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Out of breath Karen and Becky collapse into fits of laughter on the back seat of the taxi as it pulls away from the queue.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

The taxi pulls up.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Becky leans over and gives Karen a hug.

KAREN

I'll see you tomorrow then hun?

BECKY

Yeah about oneish.

Becky takes a ten pound note out of her purse and gives it to Karen.

Becky climbs out of the taxi.

BECKY

See you later bird.

KAREN

(smiling)

See you later, TART.

Becky, smiling, holds up her middle finger and walks backwards for a couple of steps before turning and walking off towards the door of her flat. Karen smiles and shakes her head as the taxi pulls away.

INT. LANDING OUTSIDE BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Becky climbs the last few stairs onto the landing and fumbles in her clutch bag for her key. She finds the key and puts it into the lock of her door, turns it and drunkenly stumbles into her flat.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Becky closes the door behind her and switches on the light in the hallway. She is very drunk and has to hold onto the wall to take her shoes off, almost falling over.

She walks into the kitchen switches on the light, picks up a cordless kettle and fills it up at the sink. She places it back on it's base and switches it on. She opens a cupboard, takes out a loaf of bread, removes two slices, places them in the toaster and switches that on too.

Becky then walks into the bedroom, switches on the light and throws her bag on the bed. She clumsily starts removing her clothes and putting them in a laundry basket.

She removes her bra and puts that in the basket too. She picks up her bag off the bed and takes out her g-string. A smile breaks out across her face as she holds it out over the basket and lets go.

She then picks up a large nightshirt with a teddy bear on the front and slips it on.

Becky walks into the living room, picks up the remote control, switches on the TV and flops face down on the sofa, her glazed eyes looking at the screen.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

The Kettle comes to the boil in the kitchen and clicks off. A couple of seconds later the toaster pops out two slices of toast.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Laying on the sofa Becky's eyes slowly start to close.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The taxi pulls up outside Karen's house.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Karen is asleep on the back seat.

TAXI DRIVER
That'll be twenty two fifty love.

Karen wakes up with a start. She hands over the ten pound note Becky gave her that she is still holding. Then steps out of the taxi.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Karen starts looking in her bag for the rest of the money and passes it to the taxi driver.

TAXI DRIVER
Cheers love, goodnight.

KAREN
(half whispers)
Thanks a lot, goodnight.

Karen starts walking towards her house as the taxi pulls away. She gets to the front door and starts to look in her bag for her key.

She finds the key and slowly puts it in the lock and tries to turn it without making any noise. The door slowly opens and she creeps in.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Karen slowly walks across the dark kitchen, but halfway across, she stubs her toe on something. She bites her lip and winces in pain.

KAREN

Fuck!

Karen enters the hallway and tries her best to remove her shoes in the dark without making a noise or falling over.

Karen walks into the living room. As she walks through the doorway a clenched fist flies through the air and connects on her face with a sickening thud.

A second vicious punch lands squarely in Karen's stomach, bending her over double. CHRIS, 26 a huge man with a very muscular physique, grabs hold of Karen's hair. He straightens her up and pulls her face close to his. His eyes are filled with rage.

CHRIS

(angrily, spits)

You fuckin' slag. Did you really think I wouldn't find out?

Karen is hysterically crying with pain and fear. Her make-up is running down her face.

KAREN

(trembling)

But Chris I haven't done anything. I prom...

Karen's protests enrage Chris more.

CHRIS

You fuckin' lying bitch.

Chris swings another huge punch into Karen's face. Sending her flying across the room. She lands face down on the sofa.

Karen looks up to see Chris towering over her then her eyes slowly close as she loses consciousness.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - DAY

Becky is still asleep on the sofa, a LOUD NOISE FROM THE TV wakes Becky. Her eyes open wide and she sits up on the sofa. The hangover kicks in, she flops back in the sofa holding her head.

BECKY
(groaning)
Never again.

Becky switches off the TV stands up and shuffles into the kitchen.

Becky walks up to the toaster removes the two slices of toast and throws them in the bin. She takes out another two slices of bread from the loaf that is still on the worktop, puts them in the toaster and switches it on.

She then opens the fridge and takes out a carton of orange juice. She opens it and begins to gulp it down. As she's drinking she looks at the clock on the wall. It says 12:15. Becky almost chokes on the juice and spits it out all over the floor.

BECKY
Fuck! Karen.

Becky runs out of the kitchen towards the bedroom.

EXT. OUTSIDE A COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

It is a hot summer afternoon. Karen is sitting at one of the tables, she is wearing jeans a t-shirt and sunglasses. Two coffee cups are on the table in front of her.

Becky approaches the table, she is wearing a flowing summer dress and also has sunglasses on.

BECKY
Sorry I'm late Kaz.

KAREN
It's alright, I've not been here long. I got you a Cappuccino.

Becky sits down at the table.

BECKY
Cheers babe. God my head hurts.
I'm never drinking again.

Karen smiles.

BECKY

I can't believe I shagged that bloke last night. Why didn't you stop me?

KAREN

I tried, but he was the love of your life, apparently!

BECKY

Oh my god. What a minger.

Becky bursts into laughter. Karen just smiles again and takes a sip of her coffee.

BECKY

You OK hun?

KAREN

Yeah I'm fine, just a bit hungover.

BECKY

Tell me about it. Shopping is the last thing I feel like doing. But I really need something to wear for my interview tomorrow. I really need to get this job. I can't live off my dad forever. Thanks for coming to help me pick something.

KAREN

I'll make sure you look fabulous, Darling.

INT. COFFEE SHOP TOILETS - DAY

Becky and Karen enter the toilets.

BECKY

I'm burstin for a pee.

Karen walks up to the sinks and Becky enters the first cubical and closes the door.

Karen looks through the mirror towards the cubical to check Becky has closed the door. She removes her sunglasses and puts them down next to the sink revealing a black and bloodshot eye. She leans forward to examine it in the mirror.

The door to Becky's cubical opens.

BECKY

Why is there never any bloody paper?

Karen jumps, she scrambles to pick up her sunglasses. It's too late, Becky has seen her eye.

Karen hangs her head, trying to hide her face.

BECKY

Fuckin' hell Kaz. What happened?

Becky moves over to the mirror and puts her hand on Karen's chin and raises her head to examine her eye closer.

KAREN

Oh it's nothing. I slipped on the stairs last night when I was pissed.

BECKY

BOLLOCKS! Did fuckin' Chris do this?

Karen turns away and hangs her head again.

KAREN

It was my fault.

BECKY

So you walked into his fist?

KAREN

I never should have been flirting with that bloke.

BECKY

Oh rite. So because you talked to some guy, he has the rite to beat you up?

KAREN

(sharply)

Look. We've sorted it this morning, he's apologised and he's promised it'll never happen again. He just gets a bit jealous sometimes.

BECKY

(sarcastically)

Didn't he say that last time?

Tears fill up in Karen's eyes.

KAREN
Just fuck off Becks.

Karen turns, picks up her sunglasses and storms out of the toilets. Becky puts her hand on her forehead, runs it through her hair and sighs.

BECKY
(regretfully)
Kaz, Look, I'm sorry.

It's too late Karen has left the toilet. Becky puts both hands on the sink and looks at her reflection in the mirror.

BECKY
Well done Becks, you handled that well.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Becky is laid in bed with her mobile phone in her hand. She is typing out a text message.

TEXT MESSAGE:
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS
AFTERNOON KAZ. I JUST WORRY
ABOUT YOU HUN. FRIENDS AGAIN?
BIG HUG AND KISS. BECKS XXX

Becky puts her phone down on the bedside table and reaches over to switch off her bedside lamp.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CAR PARK - MORNING

A ten year old Vauxhall Tigra pulls into one of the parking spaces. Becky gets out of the car and begins to walk across the car park.

She is wearing a pair of black stockings, an expensive looking pair of high heels, a very smart navy blue knee length skirt, a matching jacket and a white blouse with navy blue neck scarf. Her hair is swept back and tied up in a neat bun.

She approaches a tired looking office building. As she reaches the main gate her mobile phone in her navy blue handbag beeps. Becky stops walking, takes out her phone and looks at the screen.

TEXT MESSAGE:
I'M REALLY SORRY TOO BECKS.
OF COURSE WE'RE STILL FRIENDS.
GUD LUCK WITH THE INTERVIEW.
LUV YOU LOADS. KAZ XXX

A huge smile breaks out on Becky's face. She takes a deep breath to compose herself, looks up at the office building and continues to walk towards it. She passes a sign that reads: PETERSON'S CONSTRUCTION (HEAD OFFICE)

INT. PETERSON'S CONSTRUCTION

Becky is sat in a shabby looking hallway. At the end of the hall is the entrance to the building and KATIE, 19 is sat behind a desk. Next to Becky sits BRIAN, a geeky looking man in his early twenties. There is an awkward silence between them. Brian turns his head and looks at Becky. She looks at him and he smiles nervously, Becky smiles back. Brian gestures as though he is going to say something but nothing comes out and he just drops his head and looks at the floor. A door opens, HOWARD, 56 a balding, overweight man wearing a disheveled brown suit, steps out into the hallway. He looks at Brian.

HOWARD
You must be Brian?

BRIAN
Yes Sir.

HOWARD
Please, call me Howard.

Howard shifts his gaze to Becky.

HOWARD
And you must be.....

Howard pauses as he eyes Becky up and down.

HOWARD
...Rebecca.

BECKY
Yes Howard, nice to meet you, and please call me Becky.

HOWARD
Right chaps, here's the plan. We've narrowed it down to you two. Myself and Mr Peterson will be interviewing you. He should be here in about five minutes. In the meantime if you could fill out these forms while you wait.

Howard passes them both a piece of paper that he has been holding.

HOWARD
Would either of you like a drink?

BRIAN
A glass of water please.

BECKY
Water will be fine for me too.

HOWARD
(shouts)
Katie!

Becky and Brian jump in there seats. Howard turns round and looks down the hall at Katie.

HOWARD
Can we get Becky and errr...

BRIAN
Brian.

HOWARD
...Brian a glass of water please.

KATIE
Yes Howard.

Katie gets up out of her chair, walks around her desk and enters one of the rooms off the hallway.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky and Brian are still sat in the hallway. Two glasses of water are on the small table between their two chairs. Brian is busy writing on the form Howard gave him.

Becky is tapping her pen on the arm of her chair. She strains her neck to look at Brian's form. Under the qualifications section he has a long list of A's and B's with A-levels and a degree in business studies.

Brian looks up and spots Becky looking at his form, he turns away as much as he can in his chair, shielding the form from her. Becky looks back at her own form, a much shorter list of C's and D's and a HNC in book keeping and payroll.

Becky stands up, puts her form on the chair and walks into the ladies toilets, a door on the opposite side of the hallway.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - LADIES TOILETS

Becky walks up to the sink and looks at herself in the mirror.

BECKY

You really need this job.

She sighs and lifts up her hands to her hair and pulls out the clip holding it so neatly. She shakes her head and lets her long blonde hair fall down over her shoulders and back.

She then slips off her shoes, hitches up her skirt and pulls down the black tights to reveal her legs. She then removes her jacket, pulls off the scarf and opens the top three buttons of her blouse.

She reaches inside her bra with alternate hands and hunches up each of her breasts to enhance her cleavage. Reaching into her bag she removes her lip gloss and re-applies it in the mirror.

She takes one last look at herself in the mirror, doing a little twist to check out her back and bottom. Picking up her jacket and bag, she slips her feet back in her shoes and struts out of the toilets.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky exits the toilets and walks straight into RICHARD PETERSON, 29 a slim good looking man wearing an immaculate designer suit and tie. The files he's carrying fly out of his hand and fall all over the floor.

BECKY

SHIT!

RICHARD

Sorry, excuse me.

They both bend down and start picking up the papers on the floor.

BECKY

God, I'm so sorry, I'm such a clumsy idiot.

RICHARD

No, please it was my fault I wasn't looking where I was going.

Becky and Richard look at each other, smile and then start to laugh. They finish picking up the papers and stand up.

RICHARD

I'm Richard.

Richard offers his hand for Becky to shake. Becky takes it in hers and begins to shake.

BECKY

Richard Peterson? As in, owner of Peterson's Construction?

RICHARD

Well technically my dad owns the place. I just run it for him.

BECKY

Right, Well I'm Becky and I was here for the payroll job, but I guess there is no point now, I'll just be on my way.

RICHARD

(laughing)

Nonsense Becky, you take a seat and we'll give you a call in a sec.

Richard opens the door to Howard's office and walks in. As soon as the door closes the smile drops from Becky's face and she looks to the heavens as if praying for the ground to open up and swallow her.

INT. PIZZA RESTAURANT - LATE MORNING

Becky, still wearing her interview outfit, walks into the virtually empty restaurant and approaches the bar. PETE, 18 a waiter, is standing behind it.

BECKY

Hi Pete, is Karen here?

PETE

Hi Becky, yeah just a sec.

Pete walks to the kitchen door, opens it and looks inside.

PETE

Karen...

(pause)

...Becky's here.

Pete returns to the bar and smiles at Becky. The door to the kitchen opens and Karen pokes her head around. She is wearing a white chef's jacket and a white elasticated hat.

The black eye is still visible but looks much better. She smiles at Becky as if checking that they are both friends again. Becky smiles back reassuringly.

KAREN

I've got my break in a couple of minutes. Sit down and I'll be over in a sec.

INT. PIZZA RESTAURANT - DAY

Becky is sat in one of the booths, Karen approaches and sits down opposite her.

KAREN

How did it go then?

BECKY

Apart from nearly knocking the boss on his arse, yeah it went pretty well.

KAREN

So do you reckon you've got it?

BECKY

I dunno, there was this other guy there who was a lot more qualified. But I flashed a bit of cleavage so I reckon that pretty much evened it out.

KAREN

(laughing)

You are such a tart.

Becky's mobile starts to ring. Becky fumbles in her bag, pulls it out and looks at the screen.

BECKY

Shit it's them. They can't have made a decision already?

Becky continues staring at the screen.

KAREN

Answer it then.

Becky presses the accept button and puts the phone to her ear.

BECKY

Hello.

BECKY

(pause)

Hello Howard, yes I'm fine thanks, how are you?

BECKY
 (pause)
 Yes

BECKY
 (pause)
 Yes

BECKY
 (pause)
 OK Howard, well thanks a lot for
 letting me know so quickly.

BECKY
 (pause)
 Yes, you too, goodbye.

Becky hangs up her phone and puts it on the table. She looks up at Karen.

KAREN
 Well?

BECKY
 I start next Monday.

Both girls look at each other and start to scream. They jump up from the table and start jumping up and down hugging each other.

EXT. GROUNDS OF A LARGE MANOR HOUSE - DAY

Wedding guests are milling around the entrance of the house. Everyone is smartly dressed. Chris and Tom are standing at the edge of the driveway. They are both dressed in morning suites with cravats and buttonholes. They are both holding pints of lager.

A 1940's Rolls Royce is ambling up the driveway towards the house.

INT. 1940'S ROLLS ROYCE - DAY

Becky is sat in the back with CLAIRE, 15. They are both wearing bridesmaid dresses and holding bouquets of flowers. Sitting across from them is JUNE, 42. June is wearing a yellow outfit with a matching hat. She has a tissue and is wiping tears from her eyes.

JUNE
 I can't believe my little Karen
 is getting married.

CLAIRE

Bloody hell mum, you're not supposed to cry until the ceremony.

EXT. GROUNDS OF A LARGE MANOR HOUSE - DAY

The Rolls Royce pulls up. The driver gets out of the car and opens the rear door. He offers his hand and Becky and Claire use it to step out. June takes his hand and gets out also.

DRIVER

(to June)

Right, I better go back and get the lady of the moment.

JUNE

Thank you, and make sure you get her here in one piece.

The driver smiles and gets back into the car. The engine of the Rolls Royce starts, it turns around and slowly chugs off back up the driveway.

Becky and Claire walk towards the house. As they walk past Chris and Tom, both men look them up and down.

CHRIS

You ladies look stunning.

CLAIRE

(giggling)

Awww, thanks Chris you don't scrub up bad yourself.

Becky just gives a small smile but says nothing as the two girls continue to walk.

INT. OLD MANOR HOUSE - DAY

Chris is standing outside a door with a disabled toilets badge on it. The lock clunks and the door opens. Becky walks out of the door and jumps when she sees Chris standing in front of her.

BECKY

(startled)

Oh, Hi Chris.

CHRIS

I meant what I said you know. You do look great in that dress.

BECKY
(uncomfortably)
Thanks Chris.

Becky starts to walk away but Chris puts his hand on the wall blocking Becky's path.

CHRIS
You know you've always wanted me
Becky.

BECKY
It's your wedding day. You're
marrying my best friend.

Chris glances at the door Becky has just exited.

CHRIS
I'm not married yet. How about we
slip back in there for ten
minutes.

Becky pushes Chris' arm away.

BECKY
Drop dead Chris.

Becky starts to walk away but Chris grabs hold of her, pins her to the wall and puts his face millimeters away from hers. He reaches down and puts his hand between her knees.

CHRIS
Maybe later then.

He raises his hand up the inside of Beck's leg, lifting her dress.

Becky pushes Chris off her and runs off down the hall. As she runs away Chris starts to laugh.

INT. OLD MANOR HOUSE - DAY

Forty five wedding guests are sat in rows in a lavishly decorated room. Chris and Tom are sat on the front row. A REGISTRAR is sat behind a desk at the front facing the guests. Soft music is playing in the background.

The registrar stands.

REGISTRAR
Ladies and gentlemen could you
all please rise for the entrance
of the bride.

Everyone in the room stands up and the double doors at the rear of the room swing open.

A heavily pregnant Karen and DAVID, 45 Karen's father walk through the doors followed by Becky and Claire.

Chris looks back up the aisle at Karen and smiles. Karen smiles back as she and the bridal party reach the front of the room and stop.

REGISTRAR

Ladies and gentlemen please take
your seats.

As the registrar begins the ceremony tears begin to well up in Becky's eyes until a single tear begins to roll down her face.

REGISTRAR

If anyone knows of any lawful
impediment why these two should
not be joined in holy matrimony.
Let them speak now or forever
hold their peace.

As a low chuckle of laughter rumbles around the room. Chris glances up over Karen's shoulder at Becky with an evil stare that then breaks out into a smile. Becky wipes the tear from her face with a tissue and glares back at Chris.

INT. OLD MANOR HOUSE - NIGHT

The rows of seating have been cleared and replaced by a dance floor at one end of the room and group of tables and chairs at the other. A DJ is standing behind a set of decks in the corner of the room playing Cheesy 80's pop. The room is fairly dark with disco lights flashing. Karen is dancing on the dance floor with her mum and sister.

There are more guests now, filling the dance floor and tables. Becky is sat alone slumped at one of the tables. She has her head resting on her hand. An almost empty bottle and a half full glass of red wine are on the table.

Becky picks up the glass and slugs back it's entire contents. She then reaches for the bottle and pours the remaining contents into the glass.

As she is about to raise the glass to her mouth again a hand reaches from behind her and Chris grabs her arm.

CHRIS

Don't you think you've had
enough?

BECKY

(drunkenly)
Take your filthy fuckin' hands
off me.

CHRIS

I think it's time you went home.
We don't want you saying
something you'll regret.

BECKY

I said....

Becky stands up and pushes Chris.

BECKY

...get off me.

Becky's push has no effect on Chris' huge frame. But instead causes Becky to stumble backwards and fall over her chair. As she is falling she grabs onto the table, bringing it, the bottle and glass full of wine to the floor with her.

Everyone in the room stops and looks around at Becky. Karen walks over, stands beside Chris and looks down at Becky.

KAREN

What the fuck is going on?

CHRIS

I think Becky has had too much to drink.

Becky staggers back to her feet.

BECKY

No I haven't, your filthy husband can't keep his hands to himself.

Karen looks at Chris.

KAREN

Chris?

CHRIS

(laughing)

Look babe, she's pissed up and made some crack about you being pregnant and how I must not be getting any, then she throws herself at me. When I told her to back off she gets all violent and starts pushing me.

BECKY

(crying)

You fucking liar.

Chris takes hold of Karen and looks sincerely into her eyes.

CHRIS

You and this baby mean the world to me I'd never do anything to risk losing you. I think she's jealous.

Karen turns to look at Becky.

KAREN

That's it, isn't it? You just can't stand the fact that I've found someone who loves me and you can't hold on to a man for more than five minutes.

BECKY

(angrily)

So I guess all the black eyes he gives you are a sign of affection are they?

KAREN

You fuckin bitch.

Karen swings at Becky and slaps her hard around the face. Becky lifts her hands up and clutches her face in pain.

A gasp rings out around the room.

The music stops playing.

Becky lowers her hands, and with tears in her eyes looks at Karen.

Karen scowls back at her.

Becky turns and walks out of the room, slamming the door behind her.

Chris takes hold of Karen again. She turns to him and begins to sob into his chest. He kisses her head then begins to smile.

INT. PETERSON'S CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky is sitting behind her desk in an office. Howard is also in the office sitting at his desk writing.

Becky is looking at her computer screen. Her eyes are red and teary. On the screen is a photo-sharing website, she is clicking through photos of Karen's wedding.

There is a hatch in the wall of the office that leads out into the corridor. DENNIS, 49, walks up the corridor and pokes his head through the hatch. He is wearing decorators overalls covered in paint splashes.

DENNIS
A'right Becky love.

Becky jumps, grabs a tissue and wipes her eyes.

Dennis nods his head at Howard.

DENNIS
Howard.

Howard doesn't look up, he just carries on working.

HOWARD
Dennis.

Becky stands up and walks over to the hatch.

BECKY
Morning Dennis, You got a time
sheet for me?

DENNIS
I sure have.

Dennis takes a folded piece of paper out of his pocket. He unfolds it and hands it to Becky. She takes it and puts it in the "in" tray on her desk.

BECKY
I get it to five fifty for last
week Dennis? Does that sound
about right?

DENNIS
Whatever you say, I leave the
adding up to you.

Becky walks over to a safe in the corner of the room. She bends down, enters a pin number on the keypad and opens the door.

Becky takes out an envelope, closes the safe, walks over to the hatch and hands it to Dennis.

DENNIS
Cheers love, I'm off to the pub
now to spend it.

BECKY
Don't get too drunk.

DENNIS
I'll try not too. See you later
sweetheart.

BECKY

See you next week Dennis.

Dennis nods his head to Howard again.

DENNIS

Howard.

Howard still doesn't look up.

HOWARD

Dennis.

Dennis turns and walks off down the corridor.

INT. PETERSON'S CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky is sitting on the front of the reception desk with her hands around a mug of coffee. Katie is sitting behind the desk, she is on the phone.

KATIE

(into phone)

Yes Mr. Godson.

KATIE

(into phone)

Yes Mr. Godson.

KATIE

(into phone)

Of course Mr. Godson.

Katie looks up at Becky and rolls her eyes. Becky laughs and takes a sip of the coffee.

KATIE

(into phone)

Yes Mr. Godson, like I said he's in a meeting. As soon as he is free I'll get him to call you straight away.

KATIE

(into phone)

Yes Mr. Godson, OK bye bye then.

Katie hangs up the phone and scowls at it.

KATIE

Wanker!

Katie looks up at at Becky and they both start to laugh.

KATIE

So what you wearing tonight for Stuarts leaving party?

BECKY

Oh, I don't think I'm gonna go.

KATIE

Fuck that babes, you gotta come.

KATIE

(pause)

Look it's been three weeks now, if that bitch doesn't want to speak to you after what that prick did then fuck her. You gotta snap out of it.

BECKY

I guess you're right.

Richard walks through the entrance, approaches the reception desk and stands next to Becky.

RICHARD

Afternoon ladies, any messages Katie?

KATIE

Mr. Godson has called three times.

RICHARD

Wanker.

KATIE

Can you call him back.

RICHARD

Will do. Anything else?

KATIE

Yes, tell Becky she has to come to the party tonight.

Richard looks at Becky.

RICHARD

Becky, apparently, you have to come to the party tonight.

BECKY

OK, OK, I'll come.

Richard walks away from the desk.

KATIE

Thank you Richard.

RICHARD

See you tonight girls. By the way, drinks are on me.

Katie giggles with excitement. She stands up, walks around the desk and puts her arm around Becky.

KATIE

As your new, self appointed best friend I'm gonna make sure we have a great night tonight.

BECKY

Why do I feel I'm going to regret this.

EXT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

A set of dog traps are on the track with six greyhounds in them ready to run.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM (O.S.)

The hare is on the move.

The fake hare starts it's run around the outside of the track. As it passes the traps they open and the dogs set off chasing it.

INT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

Becky and Katie are standing at the front of the bar looking out of the panoramic window that stretches the whole length of the home straight.

Both girls are holding betting slips. They are jumping up and down and cheering their dog.

As the race draws to a close both girls realise their dogs aren't going to win and their excitement disapates.

Once the race finishes both girls look at each other and in unison rip up their slips.

KATIE

Bugger!

BECKY

Exactly!

(pause)

Drink?

INT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

Becky is standing at the bar waiting to be served. Richard walks over and stands next to her.

BECKY
Do you want a drink?

RICHARD
I thought I said the drinks were
on me?

BECKY
You've been buying them all
night. Let me get you one.

RICHARD
OK, I'll have an orange juice.
I've got a meeting in the
morning.

BARMAN 2 walks over to take Becky's order.

BARMAN 2
What can I get you?

BECKY
Can I have two Smirnoff Ices, two
double Vodkas and an orange
juice.

INT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

Katie is still looking out of the window onto the dog track. Becky and Richard approach from behind her carrying the drinks.

BECKY
Here you go babes.

Becky passes one of the bottles and one of the double vodkas to Katie.

Katie takes the vodka and downs it in one.

KATIE
Right, I'm gonna have number five
in this next race, cos it's just
had a shit and I reckon that's
gonna make him lighter, so he'll
run faster. What you havin hun?

BECKY
(laughing)
Well I guess I'll have to have
number five too.

KATIE

What about you Richard?

Richard takes a five pound note out of his pocket and hands it to Katie.

RICHARD

With logic like that how can it lose.

Katie takes the money from Richard and with a very proud smile on her face hurries off to the betting booth. As she walks away Becky shakes her head at Katie and smiles.

RICHARD

Haven't seen that for a while.

BECKY

What?

RICHARD

You smiling.

BECKY

I know, sorry if I've been a bit of a cow at work recently.

RICHARD

You haven't at all. But you do look much nicer when you smile.

Becky smiles again, blushes and takes a sip of her vodka.

INT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

Becky, Katie and Richard are all standing at the window looking out at the track. All three of them are holding a betting slip. They are all excitedly cheering on dog number five.

EXT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

The six dogs in the race are flying down the home straight. At the finish line dog number five just finishes in front of the rest.

INT. DOG RACING TRACK - NIGHT

Becky, Katie and Richard all explode into a huge cheer. Becky and Katie throw their arms around each other and jump up and down with joy. Becky then turns to Richard and excitedly puts her arms around him and they begin to hug.

As Becky retreats from the embrace they stare into each others eyes. Then they look away from each other in awkward embarrassment.

Katie sees the moment Richard and Becky share and smiles to herself.

KATIE

We need to celebrate our victory.
More drinks.

Katie hurries off to the bar.

Becky and Richard look at each other again and smile.

LATER.

Katie is sat slumped over a table her head resting on her arm. Becky is sat next to her rubbing her back. Richard walks over to the table.

RICHARD

Is she OK?

BECKY

Well she's gonna have one hell of
a headache in the morning but
she'll be OK.

Katie lifts her head and looks at Becky.

KATIE

I funk'in' luv you Becks.

She then drops her head back on her arm. Becky starts rubbing her back again.

BECKY

I know you do babe.

BECKY

(to Richard)

I think she needs to go. Can you
call us a cab? I'll make sure she
gets home OK.

RICHARD

It's OK I've brought the car I'll
take you both home.

BECKY

Thanks Richard.

INT. KATIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

In the house there is a front door with stained glass pictures of flowers on it.

The doorbell rings.

BARRY, 42, Katie's dad, walks up to the door and opens it. On the other side is Becky and Richard between them with an arm round each of them is Katie she is asleep with her head drooped.

RICHARD

Hi.

(pause)

Hello Mr Stanley, I'm Richard Peterson, Katie's boss. She's had a little too much to drink so myself and Becky here....

Becky smiles politely at Barry.

RICHARD

...thought we'd make sure she got home safely.

Barry chuckles and shakes his head.

BARRY

Well thanks very much you two.

Barry turns his head and looks back inside the house.

BARRY

(shouts)

Sandra, put the kettle on love. I think our Katie needs a coffee.

Barry's shout wakes Katie and she looks up and sees her father.

KATIE

Dadeee.

Katie staggers across the doorway, reaches up, puts her arms around Barry and rests her head on his chest.

BARRY

Well looks like I've got her from here. Thanks again you two, Goodnight.

BECKY

Goodnight.

RICHARD

Goodnight.

Barry shuffles Katie into the house and closes the door.

Richard and Becky look at each other and start to laugh.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Richard's BMW pulls up outside Becky's flat.

EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE TO BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Richard and Becky walk up to the door. They turn to each other and smile.

BECKY

Thank you so much for bringing us home.

RICHARD

It was my pleasure.

BECKY

Would you like to come up for a coffee?

RICHARD

I better not, important meeting in the morning and all that. Got an early start.

BECKY

OK then, well I've had a great time tonight. Goodnight Richard.

RICHARD

Goodnight Becky.

Neither of them move, they stand there looking into each others eyes.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

The door to Beck's flat bursts open, Becky and Richard bundle through it. They are excitedly and passionately kissing each other. Becky kicks the door closed. This causes her to stumble, she loses her balance, grabs onto Richard and both of them fall onto the floor.

They both lay on their backs on the floor laughing. They glance over to each other and as their eyes meet their laughter fades.

Richard leans over, slowly and tenderly he starts to kiss Becky.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - MORNING

Richard and Becky are laid asleep in Becky's bed. Richard is laid on his back and Becky's arm and leg are draped over him and her head is on his chest.

Richards mobile phone on the bedside table begins to beep. Richard opens his eyes, he reaches over and switches off the beeping. He picks up the phone to look at the time.

He looks down at Becky, who is still asleep. He leans down and kisses her forehead. Slowly moving Becky off him he slides out of the bed.

Standing up Richard slowly starts getting dressed.

BECKY (O.S.)

You trying to sneak out on me?

Richard turns around and sees Becky smiling up at him from the bed.

RICHARD

I was trying not to wake you.
I've gotta go to this stupid
meeting.

BECKY

What time is it?

RICHARD

You don't want to know.

BECKY

Do you really have to go?
Wouldn't you rather stay here
with me?

Becky pulls back the duvet, revealing her naked body to Richard. Richard leans over and kisses her.

RICHARD

There is nowhere else I would
rather be right now. But I really
do have to go. I tell you what,
you go back to sleep, I'll go to
my meeting. Then I'll come back
here, pick you up and take you
for lunch.

BECKY

That's a date.

Richard bends over and kisses Becky once more before getting up and leaving the room.

Becky lays back in her bed looking up at the ceiling with a huge smile on her face.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky is in her office, she is putting stationary and a petty cash box away in her drawer. Howard is sitting at his desk entering figures into a spreadsheet on his computer. Becky closes her draw and locks it. She stands up, picks up her jacket from the back of her chair and puts it over her arm.

BECKY

Right Howard I'm off I'll see you
in the morning.

HOWARD

Goodnight Becky love.

Becky leaves the office and starts walking down the corridor. She stops outside one of the doors, knocks on it and walks in.

Once inside Becky closes the door behind and leans with her back against it.

BECKY

I just thought I'd call in and
say goodnight Mr Peterson.

Richard is sitting behind his desk. He stands up and walks towards Becky. As he reaches her, he puts his hands on either side of her body and they slowly begin to kiss. Still embracing her Richard breaks the kiss.

RICHARD

Are we still on for tonight?

BECKY

Of course, where are you taking
me?

RICHARD

There's this little Italian place
I know in Derbyshire, you'll love
it.

BECKY

Sounds great, what time do you
want me?

RICHARD

I'll pick you up about seven?

BECKY

I'd better get home and make
myself look beautiful.

RICHARD

You couldn't possibly look any more beautiful than you already do.

Becky giggles. Richard drops his head and starts to laugh with embarrassment.

RICHARD

That was really cheesy, wasn't it?

BECKY

Yeah it was, but it was also kinda sweet. I'll forgive you.

Becky reaches up and gives Richard a peck on the cheek.

BECKY

Right I'll see you at seven. Don't be late. Stop working and go home.

RICHARD

I've just got to finish reading this surveyors report then I will, promise.

Becky turns, opens the door and walks out of Richard's office.

She carries on her journey down the corridor, past an empty reception desk and out through the entrance.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CAR PARK - DAY

Becky walks out of Petersons Construction and starts heading across the virtually deserted car park to her car. Next to her Vauxhall Tigra is a white transit van. As Becky reaches her car the door of the van opens and Chris steps out.

Becky stops.

CHRIS

Hello Becky.

BECKY

Is it Karen? Is she OK? Is it the baby?

CHRIS

(smiling)

No they're both fine. Great in fact. How's the job going?

BECKY
(nervously)
What do you want Chris?

CHRIS
I just want a little chat.

BECKY
I've got nothing to say to you.

CHRIS
Let's say I've got a business
proposition for you. Why don't we
step into my office...

Chris glances at his van.

CHRIS
...and we'll talk about it.

Becky starts walking again towards her car. She gets to the door and starts trying to open it.

Chris grabs her from behind, spins her around and pins her against the car.

CHRIS
(angrily)
I said get in the fucking van.

Chris's expression turns from anger to a smile.

CHRIS
Please.

Becky looks around the empty car park.

Chris opens the passenger door of his van and still holding on to Becky's arm he maneuvers her into the passenger seat.

He then walks around the front of the van, watching Becky all the time. He opens the drivers door and gets in.

INT. CHRIS' VAN - DAY

Chris takes a cigarette packet and lighter out of his pocket. He opens the packet and offers a cigarette to Becky. She shakes her head.

CHRIS
You don't mind if I do?

BECKY
No.

Chris takes a cigarette out of the packet and lights it.

CHRIS

Now like I was saying, I've got a business proposition for you.

Chris looks at Becky as if waiting for her to say something but she stays quiet.

CHRIS

Anyway, here's what I've been thinking. This place where you work they employ a lot of sub-contractors, builders, joiners plasterers and of course plumbers like me.

BECKY

Look Chris, Karen asked me to ask Mr Peterson when I first started if there was any work going for you, and I did. But we have a contract with a plumbing company and all the work goes to them.

CHRIS

I know, Karen told me. But I'm not looking for a job. No, I don't intend to lift a finger.

BECKY

What do you mean?

CHRIS

I mean Becky, it's your job to pay these subbies. Isn't it?

BECKY

Yes.

CHRIS

So, I give you some of my blank invoices, you fill them in, put them through the system and then pay me the money.

BECKY

(laughing)

You're crazy. Even if I did do it, which I'm not, it'd never work.

Chris looks at Becky with an evil glare.

CHRIS

I'm sure a clever girl like you could make it work. Plus, you wouldn't want any harm to come to Karen or our lovely new bouncing baby.

BECKY
(angrily)
If you harm one hair on either of
their...

Chris reaches over and grabs Becky's hair and pulls her towards him.

CHRIS
You'll do what?

Becky is trembling with fear. Chris brings up his other hand with the cigarette in it and strokes Becky's face.

CHRIS
Now you have a good think about
what I've said and I'll be in
touch.

BECKY
You can do what you want to me.
I've told you I'm not doing it.

CHRIS
Oh you will, you will. Now get
out.

Chris let's go of Becky's hair. She jumps for the door, opens it and scrambles out of the van.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CAR PARK - DAY

The engine of the transit van starts up and it screeches away. Leaving Becky standing next to her car. She shakily opens the drivers door and gets in.

INT BECKY'S CAR - DAY

Becky puts the key in the ignition but does not turn it. She puts both hands on the steering wheel then lowers her head to it and starts to cry.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - EVENING

Becky is sitting in the living room. She is holding her mobile phone and scrolling through her address book. She finds the name she is looking for, presses send and puts the phone to her ear.

BECKY
Hi Richard, it's me.

RICHARD (V.O.)

Hi sweetie, I was just about to set off to come get you, are you ready?

BECKY

That's why I'm calling. Sorry Richard but I'm not feeling well, I'm going to have to give it a miss tonight.

RICHARD (V.O.)

Are you OK? Do you want me to come round, can I bring you anything?

BECKY

No thanks, that's sweet of you, but I think I'm just gonna go to bed. Maybe we could go out tomorrow night?

RICHARD (V.O.)

Tomorrow sounds good but if you're still not feeling well I'll bring you some of my mums tomato soup.

Becky Smiles.

RICHARD (V.O.)

And speaking as your boss for a minute, have the day off tomorrow, I'm sure Howard can cope for one day without you.

BECKY

OK Richard, thank you. I'll ring you tomorrow.

RICHARD (V.O.)

OK, hope you're feeling better soon. Goodnight.

BECKY

Night.

Becky hangs up her phone and then starts scrolling through her address book again. She stops at Karen, presses the call button and raises the phone to her ear.

TELEPHONE ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The number you have dialled has not been recognised, please check and try again. The number you have dialled has not been recognised....

Becky takes the phone from her ear and looks at the screen.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Becky and Richard are sitting opposite each other, they are holding hands across the table.

RICHARD

Are you sure you are feeling better?

BECKY

Yes I'm fine now, thanks for letting me have the day off though.

RICHARD

There has to be some perks to sleeping with the boss.

BECKY

Oh I can think of a few more.

RICHARD

Can you now?

Becky and Richard smile at each other.

Becky's phone starts to ring in her bag.

BECKY

Shit! Sorry, I should've turned it off.

RICHARD

That's OK answer it.

Becky takes the phone out of her bag and answers it.

BECKY

(into phone)
Hello.

SISTER GREEN (V.O.)

Hello, is that Rebecca Taylor?

BECKY

(into phone)
Yes.

SISTER GREEN (V.O.)

This is sister Green from Rotherham Hospital. Your friend Karen is here. Now she's alright, there's nothing to worry about,

SISTER GREEN (V.O.)
but she has had an accident and
has asked me to call you.

BECKY
(into phone)
Oh my god! I'll be right there.

Becky hangs up the phone and looks at Richard.

RICHARD
What's happened?

BECKY
Karen has had some sort of
accident and is in the Hospital.
I've got to go.

Becky stands up and start walking away from the table

RICHARD
Wait, I'll come with you.

Richard stands up, and takes his wallet out of his pocket.
He takes some money out, leaves it on the table and
follows Becky out of the restaurant.

INT. ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Becky and Richard hurriedly walk up to the reception desk.
A middle aged female RECEPTIONIST is sitting behind it.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I help you?

BECKY
Yes we're here to see Karen
Higgins.
(pause)
Sidebottom! Sorry, Karen
Sidebottom she was brought in
earlier tonight I think.

Receptionist begins to tap away at the keyboard of the
computer in front of her.

Beck watches her anxiously. Richard puts his arm around
her.

RECEPTIONIST
Yes, she's in ward B1. Up the
stairs and it's the first
corridor on the left.

BECKY

Thank you.

INT. ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Becky and Richard emerge from a door to the stairway and are standing on a landing in the hospital. Off the landing are several corridors.

BECKY

Thank you for coming with me, but do you mind if I go and see her by myself?

RICHARD

Of course not, I'll wait here.

BECKY

No, you go home I'll be fine I'll get a taxi home.

RICHARD

No, you go down there and be there for your friend and I'll be here for you when you get back.

BECKY

Honestly I'll be fine.

RICHARD

Look those chairs over there look really comfy, I'm sure the coffee in that machine will be delicious and I haven't caught up with..

Richard picks up a magazine from a nearby table.
.. errr knitting and crochet magazine for months.

Becky laughs.

BECKY

I'm not going to talk you out of this am I.

Ricard kisses Becky on the forehead

RICHARD

No you're not, now go see your friend.

BECKY

Thank you.

Becky turns and walks down the corridor marked B1.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

There is a knock on the hospital room door.

KAREN (O.S.)

Come in.

The door opens and Becky slowly pokes her head around it. She looks towards the bed and smiles.

Karen is lying in the bed, her face is badly bruised and she has her arm in a plaster cast.

KAREN

Hiya Becks.

Becky starts crying, runs towards the bed and puts her arms around Karen.

Karen winces in pain.

KAREN

Careful babes I'm a bit tender.

Becky wipes away the tears from her eyes.

BECKY

Oh shit, sorry.

Becky sits down in a chair by the side of Karen's bed.

BECKY

What happened Kaz?

KAREN

I fell down the stairs like a numpty. I've always been a clumsy oaf.

BECKY

You fell down the?...

Becky stops mid sentence and shakes her head.

BECKY

Never mind. Are you OK?

KAREN

Oh yeah I'm fine. I've bust my wrist and a few bruises but other than that I'm fine. They've said I've got to stay in overnight cos I've banged my head. But I can go home tomorrow.

BECKY

Thank god I was really worried.

KAREN

I'm a tough nut me.

BECKY

Look Kaz I'm really sorry about what happened at the wedding, you know I would never...

Karen interrupts Becky.

KAREN

Shhh... Look I don't want to talk about that. You're here now and that's all that matters.

Becky smiles and takes hold of Karen's hand.

KAREN

Tell you what though Beck's it is great being married. Chris is great.

Becky moves uncomfortably in her chair and tries her best to maintain a smile.

There is another knock at the door and June walks through carrying baby BEN in her arms.

JUNE

Hiya love, this little boy want's to see his mummy. Oh hiya Becky love, how are you?

KAREN

(smiling)

Becky there is someone I'd like you to meet.

June walks over to Becky and passes Ben to her.

KAREN

Becky this is Ben, and Ben this is your aunty Becky.

Becky takes hold of Ben and leans back in the chair.

Becky begins to cry again.

BECKY

Awww Kaz he's beautiful.

INT. ROTHERHAM HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Becky walks back out of the corridor onto the landing. As he sees her Richard stands up and walks towards her.

RICHARD

Is she OK?

BECKY

Yeah she's fine, a broken wrist and a few bruises. Nothing that won't mend.

RICHARD

That's good news then. So how are you?

BECKY

I'm fine, I just want to go home.

Richards puts his arms around Becky, pulls her close and gives her a big hug.

Behind them the door to the stairway opens and Chris comes through it. He stands there for a second watching Becky and Richard's embrace. He then starts to walk towards them.

CHRIS

Becky.

Richard and Becky break their hug and turn towards Chris.

CHRIS

Hiya Becky love, I just nipped home to get her some spare clothes. You been in to see her yet?

Becky just nods her head. The three of them stand there for a few seconds in silence.

CHRIS

(to Richard)

Hi I'm Chris, I'm Karen's husband.

RICHARD

Richard Peterson.

CHRIS

I thought I recognised you. Peteroson's construction right? Where Becky works?

RICHARD
That's right.

CHRIS
I've worked on a couple of job's
that you're company has been
involved with. I've seen you
on-site a couple of times.

RICHARD
Oh right, and what do you do
Chris?

CHRIS
I'm a plumber. I thought Becky
had told you about me and asked
if you had any work going?

Richard looks at Becky, but she doesn't look back, she is
staring at the floor.

RICHARD
Oh yeah... That's right I think
she has mentioned you. But
unfortunately we're in contract
with Jacksons. If anything does
come up though I'll give you a
call.

CHRIS
Well that's really nice of you
Richard. Right I better go see my
wife. Nice to meet you.

RICHARD
You too, Chris.

CHRIS
See you later Becky.

Becky just nods again pushes past Chris and starts walking
towards the door to the stairs.

RICHARD
Becky wait.

Richard glances back at Chris and then starts to follow
Becky.

Chris watches the two of them enter the staircase and then
begins to smile.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Becky and Richard are standing with their arms around each other by the front door of Becky's flat.

BECKY

Thank you for being there for me tonight, it meant a lot. Sorry about ruining our date though.

RICHARD

Don't be silly, your friend needed you and you had to go. That's what friends are for. Besides we can have lots more dates in the future. I hope?

BECKY

I'll hold you to that.

RICHARD

You better. Right I'll leave you to get some sleep. See you in the morning.

Richard leans in and he and Becky begin to Kiss.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Chris is sitting in his van watching the front door to Becky's flat.

Richard comes out of the door crosses the street and gets into his car.

As Richard's car pulls away, Chris gets out of his van and walks towards the door.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Becky is in her bedroom, she is sitting on the bed taking out her earrings. There is a knock on the front door. Becky smiles, stands up and starts to walk into the hallway.

As she gets to the door she reaches up to unlock it.

BECKY

You just can't resist me can you.

Becky opens the door and the smile on her face turns to shock when she sees Chris standing there.

CHRIS

Hello Becky.

BECKY
What do you want?

CHRIS
That's no way to speak to your
new business partner.

BECKY
Just leave me alone Chris.

Becky tries to close the door, but Chris puts his large boot in the way, stopping it closing. He forces the door open and enters the flat. He pushes past Becky and walks into the kitchen. Becky follows him.

BECKY
(trying to sound brave and
not show her fear)
Chris, get out of my flat now.

CHRIS
Nice place you've got here Becky.

BECKY
What do you want Chris?

CHRIS
I was wondering if you had
considered my proposal?

BECKY
I've told you I'm not doing it.

CHRIS
That is a shame. I guess Karen
might just have to have another
accident.

BECKY
You bastard! I knew you'd done
that to her.

CHRIS
Next time it might be more than a
few bruises.

BECKY
(shouts)
You broke her wrist.

Chris grabs hold of Becky's arm.

CHRIS
I'll do more than that, if you
don't do what I tell you. Plus it
should be even easier for you now
you're shagging the boss.

BECKY
(starting to cry)
Chris, I can't do it.

CHRIS
Yes you can, and if you don't
maybe I'll go and pay lover boy a
visit too.

BECKY
(crying)
No, please don't.

Chris reaches into the inside pocket of his jacket and
takes out an invoice pad.

CHRIS
All you have to do is fill in a
couple of these invoices, get
your new boyfriend OK them and
pay me the cash.

BECKY
(crying)
Please Chris.

CHRIS
Oh yeah, and this is just our
little secret. Don't be doing
anything silly like telling the
police or Karen, because I think
you know what'll happen if you
do.

Chris pulls on Becky's arm to drag her closer to him. He
looks into her eyes.

CHRIS
Do we have a deal?

Becky, crying and shaking with fear looks back at Chris
and nods her head.

CHRIS
I can't hear you.

BECKY
Yes.

Chris lets go of Becky's arm and she drops to her knees
and starts to sob. He drops the pad next to her.

CHRIS
I'll text you with the amount.

Chris walks out of the flat, leaving Becky crying on the
floor.

INT. PETERSON'S CONSTRUCTION - MORNING

Becky is sitting in at her desk. She is blankly staring in a daydream.

Her mobile phone bleeps and startles her. She picks it up and looks at the screen.

TEXT MESSAGE:

450

Becky deletes the message.

She takes a deep breath and stands up.

BECKY
Just nipping to the loo Howard.

HOWARD
OK.

Becky picks up her hand bag and walks out of the office.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - LADIES TOILETS - DAY

Becky walks into a cubical and sits down on the toilet.

She takes the invoice pad and a pen out of her bag and starts to fill it in.

The door to the toilets swings open. Becky freezes. Katie enters the toilets.

KATIE
Hiya Becks, only me.

BECKY
(pause)
Oh hiya.

KATIE
You OK?

BECKY
Yeah I'm fine.

KATIE
(looking in the mirror)
C'mon then how's it going with you and Richard.

BECKY
Yeah it's going great.

KATIE

I think he's falling for you.

BECKY

Don't be silly, we're just having a bit of fun.

KATIE

(applying lipstick)

Yeah right. I've seen the way you two look at each other.

Becky stays quiet and looks down at the pad.

KATIE

(walking out of toilets)

Right, I look gorgeous again, see you in a bit.

BECKY

See ya.

Katie walks back out of the toilet.

Becky sits there for a second, then she stuffs the pad and pen back in her hand bag and stands up.

She reaches for the lock on the cubical door, but just as she is about to unlock it she stops.

Becky sits back down, takes out the pad and pen again and continues writing.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - RICHARDS OFFICE - DAY

Richard is sitting behind his desk. There is knock on the door.

RICHARD

Come in.

Becky enters the office.

RICHARD

Hey you.

BECKY

Hi Richard, I've got some invoices for you to OK and a cheque to sign.

RICHARD

And I thought you'd just come to see me.

Becky smiles and puts the pile of papers on Richards desk.

Richard starts thumbing through them. As he is about to get to the one Becky has filled in she spins the chair around and sits on his lap.

BECKY

How about you come round to mine tonight? We could get a pizza, stick on a DVD and snuggle up on the sofa?

RICHARD

Now that sounds like an offer I can't refuse.

BECKY

Good.

Becky leans over and kisses Richard. She then stands up and Richard turns back to the pile of papers.

He picks up a pen from his desk and signs the cheque.

Becky picks up the pile of papers.

RICHARD

I'll see you tonight then.

BECKY

(smiling)

Yes you will.

Becky walks out of the office.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

On the other side of Richards office door, Becky leans with her back against it. She looks down at the papers in her hand then puts her head back on the door and looks up at the ceiling.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky is sitting in her office with Howard, a cash tin is sitting on the desk in front of her.

Becky stands up, picks up the cash tin and walks over to the safe. She bends down, enters the pin number and opens the safe door.

She places the tin inside the safe, then glances over her shoulder at Howard. He is looking at his computer screen with a confused look on his face.

Becky takes a brown envelope out of the safe, closes the door and returns to her desk.

She picks up her hand bag and slips the envelope in.

BECKY
I'm off now Howard, see you in
the morning.

HOWARD
Goodnight.

Becky walks out of the office, then quickly begins to walk down the corridor to the main entrance.

HOWARD (O.S.)
(shouts sharply)
Becky.

Becky stops dead, a look of horror on her face. She regains her composure and turns.

Howard is standing in the corridor holding Becky's coat.

HOWARD
You've forgot your coat.

Becky walks back up to Howard and takes her coat from him.

BECKY
Thank you Howard.

She then turns and as she walks away she sighs a huge sigh of relief.

HOWARD
Goodnight Becky.

BECKY
Night Howard.

INT. CHRIS' VAN - DAY

Chris is sitting in the drivers seat smoking a cigarette. The passenger door opens and Becky gets in.

Chris looks across at Becky.

CHRIS
Well?

Becky takes the envelope out of her bag and gives it to Chris. Chris smiles and takes the envelope off Becky.

He opens the envelope and flicks through the cash. He takes out a few of the notes and offers them back to Becky.

Becky rolls her eyes in disgust.

BECKY
I don't want it.

CHRIS
Suit yourself.

Chris puts the notes back in the envelope.

CHRIS
I'll text you with the next
amount next week.

BECKY
Next week? I'm not doing this
again.

CHRIS
Oh I think you will or I might
just have to make a phone call to
Mr Peterson.

BECKY
You bastard.

Chris laughs.

CHRIS
Now get out.

Becky opens the passenger door and gets out of the van.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Becky and Karen are walking through the park. Karen is pushing Ben in a pram, he is visibly a couple of months older.

BECKY
So how's being a mum treating
you?

KAREN
Awww Becks it's great, hard work
but it's fantastic.

Becky looks down at Ben in the pram.

BECKY
He's a little cutie, I could just
eat him up.

KAREN
What about you? How's it going
with Richard?

BECKY
Yeah it's going well, he's great.

KAREN
Not to mention loaded, you want
to bag him quick.

BECKY
I wouldn't care if he was broke.

KAREN
Oh my god you are in love.

BECKY
Shut up.

KAREN
You are, you're blushing.

Becky just smiles and looks down at her feet.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - NIGHT

Becky and Richard are laid in Becky's bed.

RICHARD
I think we should go away
somewhere.

BECKY
A holiday?

RICHARD
Yeah, why not.

BECKY
Where?

RICHARD
Do you like skiing?

BECKY
I've never been.

RICHARD
My dad has a lodge in the alps.

BECKY
Really?

RICHARD
Yes, big log fire and everything.

BECKY
Oh my god that sounds fantastic.
when can we go?

RICHARD
How about next month?

BECKY
Yeah great, awww you're so good
to me.

Becky flings her arms around Richard, puts her head on his chest and squeezes him tight. A huge smile on her face.

RICHARD
That's because I love you.

The smile drops from Beckys face. Tears start to well up in her eyes.

Richard looks down at Becky.

RICHARD
You OK?

BECKY
I love you too.

Becky closes her eyes and squeezes Richard hard.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky is sitting in her office alone. Her mobile phone beeps on her desk. Becky stares at it for a few seconds before picking it up and reading the text message.

TEXT MESSAGE:

1250

Becky slams her phone back down on the desk. She glares at her phone for a few seconds before picking it back up and starts typing a reply.

INT. CHRIS' VAN - DAY

Chris is sitting in the drivers seat his mobile phone beeps on the dashboard of his van. He leans over, pics up the phone and reads the text message.

TEXT MESSAGE:

IM NOT DOING THIS ANYMORE
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANOTHER
PENNY.

Chris puts his phone back on the dashboard and looks over to the passenger seat.

CHRIS

She says she's not paying up anymore.

Karen is sitting in the passenger seat.

KAREN

(angrily)

Fuckin' bitch.

(pause)

Right, plan B.

Karen leans over and picks up Chris' phone, she takes a business card out of her pocket. Looking at the card she starts dialing a number.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Becky is sitting alone in her office, she has the phone her ear. Richard opens the door and puts his head round it. Becky looks up and smiles at him. Richard's face looks solem.

BECKY

I'm on hold.

RICHARD

(seriously)

Can I see you in my office for minute?

The smile drops from Becky's face.

BECKY

Of course, I'll be right there.

Richard closes the door.

INT. PETERSONS CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Richard is sitting in his office, behind his desk.

There is a knock at the door.

RICHARD

Come in.

Becky opens the door and enters Richards office.

BECKY

(nervously)

Hi.

RICHARD

Sit down.

Becky takes a seat at the other side of Richards desk.

RICHARD

Why Becky?

Becky says nothing, but hangs her head.

RICHARD

Oh my god, you really did it.

(pause)

When I got the phone call this morning I didn't believe it for a second. I thought someone was playing a sick joke.

BECKY

(sobbing)

I'm so sorry Richard.

RICHARD

Even when I started checking the invoices and found that they were in your handwriting I still couldn't believe it. But you really did it didn't you?

Becky nods her head, still not able to look at Richard.

RICHARD

You could've just asked if you needed money. I would have given you anything, you know I would.

BECKY

It's not what you think, please let me explain.

RICHARD

(shouts)

Explain. You stole thousands of pounds from me Becky, how can you explain that.

BECKY

But I didn't.....

RICHARD

Get out. Clear your things and get out.

BECKY

But.... but I love you.

Richard laughs.

RICHARD

Love? I can't bear to look at you. I never want to see you again.

Becky stands up and slowly walks out of the office. Leaving Richard alone. He leans forward over his desk, puts his head in his hands and starts to sob.

A few seconds later he lifts his head from his hands and uses them to wipe the tears from his face and shakes his head to clear it.

Richard picks up the phone and begins to dial a number.

He sits and waits for someone to answer at the other end.

RICHARD

Hello yes, I'd like to report a crime.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - DAY

Becky opens the front door and enters her flat. Her makeup is smudged from crying. She closes the door and leans her back against it.

Starting to cry, she slides down the door and sits on the floor with her head on her knees.

INT. LANDING OUTSIDE BECKY'S FLAT - DAY

A hand knocks on the door to Becky's flat.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - DAY

Becky raises her head from her knees. She wipes her eyes and nose with her wrist.

She stands up and opens the door. On the other side of the door is a smiling Karen.

As she see's Becky the smile drops from Karens face.

Becky reaches out her arms, hugging Karen tightly she begins to sob.

INT. BECKY'S FLAT - DAY

Becky and Karen are sitting at the kitchen table. Becky has a tissue and is wiping tears from her face.

KAREN

What's wrong hun? What's this all about?

BECKY

Richard has fired me and said he never wants to see me again.

KAREN

Why?

BECKY

I've been stealing money from the company.

Becky puts her head in her hands. Karen smiles.

KAREN

Stealing?

BECKY

There is something I need to tell you.

KAREN

What?

BECKY

It was Chris?

KAREN

What was?

BECKY

He made me do it. He blackmailed me. He said he would hurt you and Ben if I didn't. I know you won't believe me but it's the truth.

KAREN

I believe you Becks.

BECKY

(confused)

You do?

KAREN

I believe you because it was my idea.

BECKY

(confused)

What? I don't understand?

KAREN

It was me who phoned Richard this morning.

BECKY

But...

(pause)

I don't...

(pause)

Why?

KAREN

Why? You know why?

BECKY

No. I don't what have I done.

KAREN

Chris told me. He told me all about you.

BECKY

Chris?

KAREN

Yes, after you ruined my wedding, you remember that? He told me that night, all about how you had been throwing yourself at him for weeks trying to get him to leave me.

BECKY

What? That's not true.

KAREN

You just couldn't be happy for me could you? You couldn't let me have him to myself. Ever since we were kids it's always been the same, you've always wanted all the men didn't you? You just couldn't let me have this one. You had to try and take him.

BECKY

But I didn't, I would never do that to you. He's lying to you can't you see that?

There is a knock on the door to Becky's flat.

Becky sighs in exasperation and walks to the door to her flat and opens it. On the other side of the door stand POLICE OFFICER 1 and POLICE OFFICER 2.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Becky Taylor?

BECKY
(scared)
Yes.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Becky Taylor, I am arresting you
on suspicion of theft from
Peterson's Construction Limited.
You do not have to say anything.
But it may harm your defence if
you do not mention when
questioned something which you
later rely on in court. Anything
you do say may be given in
evidence. Do you understand?

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY

Chris is sitting in the living room watching TV. Karen
enters the house and walks into the living room.

KAREN
We might have a problem.

CHRIS
What?

KAREN
He's called the old bill.

CHRIS
Peterson?

KAREN
Who else?

CHRIS
(laughing)
I didn't see that coming.

KAREN
What if she tells them about us?

CHRIS
We just deny it.

KAREN
What about the invoice book?

CHRIS
We just say it went missing, she
must have stolen it.

KAREN
Do you think they'll buy it?

CHRIS

Of course they will, plus they
can't prove otherwise. Now come
here.

Karen walks over to Chris and straddles him on the sofa.
They begin to kiss passionately.

Chris grabs hold of Karen's head and begins to push it
downwards towards his crotch.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Becky is standing in the dock, the JUDGE looks up from a
piece of paper and stares at Becky.

JUDGE

Becky Taylor, you have been found
guilty of theft. I hereby
sentence you to 6 months in
prison.

Becky breaks down and starts to cry. Karen is sitting in
the gallery, she smiles.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY

Karen enters the house through the front door. Music is
playing upstairs.

KAREN

(shouts)
Chris?

Karen walks into the hallway and looks up the stairs.

KAREN

(shouts)
Chris?

Karen starts walking up the stairs. She hears Ben crying.

She reaches the top of the stairs and walks into Ben's
bedroom.

KAREN

Hey you, is daddy ignoring you?

Karen bends over and lifts Ben out of his cot. She carries
him across the landing and heads for her and Chris'
bedroom, where the music is coming from.

KAREN

Chris? She got sent down...

Karen opens the door to the bedroom.

KAREN

... six months. I thought she...

As she enters the bedroom Karen stops with a look of horror on her face.

Claire is on the bed, naked on all fours. Chris is pulling her head back with her hair and thrusting hard behind her.

They stop and both turn to look at Karen.

Tears well up in Karen's eyes. She turns and runs out of the bedroom, still holding Ben in her arms.

She runs down the stairs and out of the front door slamming it behind her.

LATER.

Chris is in the bathroom taking a shower, the front door slams.

Chris turns off the shower, steps out and begins to dry himself with a towel.

Karen walks into the bedroom. She takes a suitcase from the top of the wardrobe, opens it and starts throwing clothes in.

Chris enters the bedroom. He is wearing just a pair of boxer shorts.

CHRIS

Where's Ben?

KAREN

(angily)

He's at my mums.

CHRIS

What are you doing?

KAREN

What do you think I'm doing? I'm leaving you, and I'm taking Ben with me.

CHRIS

No you're not, you're not taking him away from me.

KAREN

You were fucking my sister Chris, in our bed. What did you expect me to do? I'm going and you'll never see either of us again.

Chris swings his fist and punches Karen in the face. Karen drops to the floor.

Chris kneels down on top of her and starts punching her in the face.

INT. PRISON - DAY

Becky is being led down a long corridor by a GUARD. They stop outside one of the cells.

The guard unlocks the cell door and opens it. He gestures for Becky to enter the cell. She looks up at him then slowly walks into the cell.

The guard slams the door shut behind her and locks it.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Chris is sitting in the living room on the sofa, he has a cigarette in one hand and a can of lager in the other.

There is a knock on the front door. Chris stands up, walks to the front door and opens it.

Tom is standing on the other side of the door holding a six pack of lager.

CHRIS

Come in pal.

TOM

Cheers mate.

Tom enters the house, he breaks one of the lagers away from the rest and hands them to Chris. Chris walks into the kitchen and puts the five cans in the fridge.

CHRIS

Do you want a glass?

TOM

Yeah cheers.

Chris reaches into one of the cupboards, takes out a pint glass and hands it to Tom.

Both men walk into the living room, and sit down on the sofa.

TOM

What time is kick off?

CHRIS
Half seven I think.

TOM
C'mon England.

Chris smiles and takes a sip of his lager.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Karen is sitting on the floor in the corner of her bedroom. Her face is bloodied and bruised, her clothes are torn and blood stained. She is clutching a photo frame to her chest.

She begins to cry. She lowers the photo frame from her chest and looks down at it.

The photo frame contains a photograph of Becky smiling up at her.

Karen strokes Becky's face in the photo with a shaky finger.

KAREN
I'm so sorry Becks.

She clutches the photo frame back to her chest and begins to sob uncontrollably.

FADE OUT.

THE END