

**39 YEARS**

Written by  
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CLOSE ON -

A DISHEVELLED, UNLOVED PAMPAS GRASS PLANT  
rocking gently in the wind above an overgrown hedge of an

EXT. SMALL BUNGALOW - DAY

A semi-detached bungalow, with pebble dashed walls, in a  
quiet cul-de-sac.

A pale orange 70s Ford Escort pulls up at the kerb.

SUPERTITLE: "SOMPTING, WEST SUSSEX. 1972"

Begin CREDITS.

MUSIC -- quiet and melancholy -- plays over all the opening  
scenes.

INT. SMALL BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - DAY

On the other side of the frosted glass appears a figure. The  
door opens, and in steps an ELDERLY ESTATE AGENT, followed by  
a young couple (CAROL, early-20s and IVAN, early-30s).

A strong waft of musty air hits them. Carol pinches her nose.

The place has not been well-maintained. Every room is tired  
and dirty. We follow them into the front bedroom (small),  
bathroom (small), living room (medium), kitchen (tiny), back  
bedroom (medium), and dining room (medium) which overlooks

A LARGE UNTIDY GARDEN

Carol and Ivan exchange hopeful glances.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - DAY

Carol strips wallpaper. Peeling off one sheet reveals another  
layer. She shows Ivan who is pulling up a corner of carpet.

Ivan finds a blue carpet below the first. He shows Carol. He  
pulls up a corner of the blue carpet and finds a beige carpet  
beneath that.

Carol pulls at the second layer of wallpaper. Behind that is  
another layer of wallpaper.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ivan and Carol on deck chairs in the empty space, eating  
sandwiches. Only the back wall has been wallpapered.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Carol watches tentatively as Ivan drops a fumigating can through an open window to the front bedroom, then slams the window shut.

They watch a thick fog bellow and fill the room. Carol is a little put off by the ominous shapes of the fog. Ivan jokingly pushes her towards the window.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - DAY

Ivan opens the front door with a key and, with a small suitcase and a bag of groceries, cautiously steps on to a carpet of red and black swirls.

Carol follows him into the back bedroom.

SLOW CROSS FADE FROM THEN TO NOW

A few small framed family pictures hang by the front door. Doors and the wallpaper are painted white. The red and black carpet remains.

SUPERTITLE: "SOMPTING, WEST SUSSEX. 2011."

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - FRONT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Beside a recently been slept in single bed, are a set of MEN'S READING GLASSES on top of an open trashy paperback.

FEMALE VICAR (PRE-LAP)  
With all humility and gentleness,  
with patience...

INT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH - SOMPTING - SAME TIME

IVAN

mid 70s, sits alone, distracted. (Ivan wears two hearing aids, whenever he hugs or gets close to someone, they wail).

FEMALE VICAR (O.S.)  
...Bearing with one another in  
love, eager to maintain the unity  
of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
(pause)  
Let us offer one another a sign of  
peace.

WIDER TO REVEAL

a handful of parishioners in a large Anglo-Saxon church.

Ivan walks over to a nearby parishioner and shakes their hand.

IVAN  
Peace be with you.

PARISHIONER  
Peace be with you.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bottles of cheap perfumes and make-up on top of a white chest of drawers in front of a propped-up mirror.

The patterned blue and white duvet is pulled back on the right hand side of the double bed. The left hand side is undisturbed.

INT. LEISURE CENTRE - GROUP EXERCISE STUDIO - SAME TIME

A FITNESS INSTRUCTOR leads a Step class. CAROL, mid 60s, in the front row, follows the instructions. She's the eldest by at least ten years but has no trouble keeping up.

EXT. LEISURE CENTRE - LATER

A group of women from the class giggle and gossip as Carol exits. She glances at them but they don't notice her.

Carol gets in her VW Polo. She turns the ignition. The engine coughs and dies. She tries again; it starts.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ON THE BACK WALL  
hang three framed pictures.

The first is of a young Katherine in a graduation gown and cap.

The second is a picture of a young Ben wearing his graduation gown and holding a scroll.

The third picture is of Ben, slightly older, in his Masters graduation gown and cap.

INT. WORTHING GENERAL HOSPITAL - CHILDREN'S WARD - SAME TIME

HOLLY (7, cerebral palsy) sits in her wheelchair watching a kids show on a pink iPad. KATHERINE ADAMS (late 30s) carrying two rucksacks, places ear defenders on her daughter.

As she bends down to pick up the last bag, the contents of a rucksack (nappies, syringes, Holly's medicine) spills out on to the floor.

A TIRED FEMALE DOCTOR enters with Holly's file. Katherine looks up at her, expecting news.

INT. WORTHING GENERAL HOSPITAL - WARD DESK - LATER

Katherine, weighed down with bags, slowly pushes Holly past the nurses station.

None of the nurses notice, busy typing on their computers.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SMALL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

It's a mishmash of an abandoned male teenage bedroom and a home office. We focus on:

-- A row of CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE BOOKS beneath a raised bed

-- Titles of 80s and 90s movies handwritten on VHS TAPES

-- A tired, faded POSTER OF A 90S UK GIRL POP GROUP

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A blurred figure appears on the other side of the front door and rings the doorbell. Rings again. Silence. A key enters and the door revealing BEN (mid-30s), Ivan and Carol's son.

BEN

Hello? Anyone home?

Ivan wanders out of the front bedroom.

BEN (CONT'D)

Dad.

(he doesn't hear him)

Dad.

Ivan turns around, surprised.

IVAN

Ben!

He embraces his son in a surprising bear hug, sparking a high pitched wail from his hearing aids.

BEN

Everything okay?

IVAN

Huh?

Ben points to the front bedroom door.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah. My snoring keeps Mum up.  
Have you seen my toolbox?

BEN

Maybe in the back shed?

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ivan walks past a lit gas ring crackling on the cooker hob, slides open the door, and gingerly steps out in to the back garden.

Ben turns off the gas. He stops by the open door watching his father scramble around in the back shed.

BEN

Let me help you.

Ivan nods. Ben enters the back garden.

FADE TO BLACK

MUSIC ENDS.

End CREDITS.

EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY

Carol walks away from Ivan's parked VW. Ivan circles back to manually lock the passenger, then checks the other doors. Carol stops outside a house, waits for Ivan slowly walking towards her.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ivan shows pictures of Katherine as a baby in a tattered photo album to Ben, CHRIS (4) and Holly.

BEN

Do you have any of me as baby?

Ivan searches through the album. Finds none.

IVAN

We never took many of you. You know, first child, all excited and all that...

Ben is dejected. He picks Chris up. Chris immediately starts crying and flailing his arms and legs around. Ben puts him back down and watches him run into --

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

A narrow long kitchen. PAUL, Katherine's house-husband, mid 40s, prepares dinner, circumventing Carol (drinking a glass of wine) who's in the midst of condemning Ivan to Katherine. Katherine cuddles her baby STEVEN.

CAROL

He won't do it. He's too stubborn.

KATHERINE

Well, he's always been like that.  
Why don't you go back to the store,  
get their advice.

CAROL

That's always been his thing. I  
wouldn't know where to begin.

Paul hands Carol his mobile.

PAUL

OK, Google.

Ding! The phone lights up.

CAROL

What's this gonna do?

Paul takes his mobile back.

KATHERINE

Talk to him. Make him see sense.

CAROL

He doesn't listen to me. He doesn't  
listen to anybody.

PAUL

Take this through will you please?

Carol takes a bowl of carrots through to the dining room, passing Ivan entering the kitchen.

IVAN

(to Katherine)

Don't make me sit next to Mum,  
she's always elbowing me.

KATHERINE

Just sit somewhere else then.

IVAN

Where?

KATHERINE

Wherever you want!  
(calling to the children)  
(MORE)

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
Kids, turn that off. Lunch is  
ready.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katherine catches Ben putting on his coat by the front door.

KATHERINE  
Where you going?

BEN  
The library.  
(guilty)  
Going to see Sara.

KATHERINE  
Don't leave me with them, Ben! Mum  
and Dad haven't stopped bickering  
all morning.

BEN  
That's them. Just ignore it.

KATHERINE  
Think of others for a change.

BEN  
I'll catch up with them another  
time. Could you cover for me?

KATHERINE  
Tell them yourself.

BEN  
Kath. Please.

BACK AROUND THE DINNER TABLE

Katherine drops into her seat.

KATHERINE  
Ben wanted me to tell you he's got  
to study but he's gone to see his  
girlfriend.

CAROL  
Oh, well. Doesn't matter.

Katherine reacts to Carol's nonchalance.

INT. IVAN'S VW POLO - EVENING

Ivan drives Carol back home in silence.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BATHROOM - LATER

Ivan shuffles from his bedroom to the bathroom. The loud sound of a stream of pee hitting the bowl.

CAROL (O.S.)  
Close the door!

Ivan, still peeing, looks around at the blue and white tiles, the brown carpet, blue toilet bowl, beige basin and a cream walk-in shower. All his handiwork.

He spots water leaking from the shower head.

INT. B&Q - BATH AND SHOWER AISLE - DAY

A SALES ASSISTANT is in full commission mode, his hands animatedly gesturing. Ivan, in a bright yellow fleece, light blue grey trousers and scuffed shoes, stares vacantly past the Sales Assistant.

Ivan is being shown a modern metallic shower-head.

SALES ASSISTANT  
It's easy to install, with 9.5kw its efficient on your energy bills, offers five spray patterns, has this classy black gloss finish and a two-year warrantee. It is the ultimate showering experience, and on offer at £159.

IVAN  
How much is that one?

He points to a simple, white plastic shower head hanging in a plastic bag.

SALES ASSISTANT  
Let me see. £4.82.  
(sensing losing a sale)  
It's in our basic range. The Triton Trance is a popular choice.

IVAN  
I'll take it.

SALES ASSISTANT  
Yeah? Great.

Ivan picks up the basic shower head.

IVAN  
You've been most helpful.

The Sales Assistant, dejected, watches Ivan trundle to the front of the store. When Sales Assistant leaves, he reveals an elderly couple, holding hands, at the top of the aisle.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK GARDEN SHED - DAY

Ivan opens the double doors revealing boxes of disregarded children's books, toys, gym equipment, a filing cabinet, and an exercise ball. He rummages around, picks up a toolbox and makes his way back out.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ivan finishes attaching the new shower head to the hose.

INT. CAROL'S VW POLO - SAME TIME

Carol, driving, sings along to a pop song on the radio.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Carol's parks beside Ivan's VW. Both cars are the same blue but Carol's is slimmer with modern curves. Carol gets out, locking the car with an electronic key.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BATHROOM - DAY

Carol turns on the shower. A pathetic spray of water dribbles out.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ivan sleeps soundly in the armchair. Carol turns down the volume on the television, then switches channels.

IVAN  
(stirring)  
I was watching that.

CAROL  
I thought you were going to fix the shower.

IVAN  
I did.

CAROL  
You always do this. You--

IVAN  
Don't start, Carol. The water comes out strong enough.

CAROL  
Just for once, could you--

IVAN  
I don't want a power shower, it's a  
waste of electricity.

CAROL  
What about what I want?

IVAN  
(re: television)  
Switch it back.

Carol switches channels, throws the remote at him and storms  
out of the room.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
(shouting after her)  
This is still my house too! Mine!  
(pause)  
Don't be coming back here drunk!

A moment later the front door slams.

INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MAXINE, a 50s divorcee, wearing too much make-up, shows  
Carol, clutching her bag, into the living room. A MIDDLE AGED  
CARPENTER is finishing fixing Maxine's shelves.

CAROL  
I'm sorry. I didn't know. I'll--

MAXINE  
Oh, Kev's not staying. Again.

MIDDLE AGED CARPENTER  
Right, that should do it.

MAXINE  
Oh, Kev, you're amazing.

MIDDLE AGED CARPENTER  
I had best get back now, if that's  
okay.

Carol watches Maxine lead Kevin to the door. They kiss  
passionately. Maxine opens the door.

MAXINE  
Call me.

MIDDLE AGED CARPENTER  
I don't have your number.

The door shuts on his face.

MAXINE

Right. Let's work out how to get  
this sofa bed out.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Katherine, dressed for work, searches for her shoes. Ivan follows Katherine, unaware she is probably running late--

IVAN

She hasn't been back to the house. I don't know what to do Kath, I really don't. She's impossible. There's no respect, anymore.

KATHERINE

Maybe you should speak with her, tell her how you feel.

Dad.

KATHERINE

Dad!

IVAN

What?

Katherine finds her shoe hidden under a pile of toys and children's books.

KATHERINE

Enough.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - FRONT BEDROOM - DAY

Ivan listens to Carol closing the front door, puts his book down. Carol walks in.

IVAN

Hey.

CAROL

Hey.

IVAN

Where were you?

CAROL

I stayed with a friend.

After a pause, Carol sits at the end of the single bed. They look at each other, thinking the same thing.

INT. WORTHING TOWN HALL - COMMITTEE ROOM - DAY

Wedding guests bustle with excitement, waiting for the Bride and Groom.

INT. WORTHING TOWN HALL - SMALL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A nervous GROOM sits opposite Katherine and another REGISTRAR.

KATHERINE

Have you been through a marriage partnership before, in any other country?

NERVOUS GROOM

Yes.

KATHERINE

How did that end?

NERVOUS GROOM

Oh, I came home one night and found her in bed with someone else.

KATHERINE

I mean, divorced or widowed?

NERVOUS GROOM

Sorry. Divorced.

Katherine's mobile phone DINGS.

KATHERINE

I'm so sorry. I usually have that off.

Katherine reaches into her handbag and turns off her phone.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

Ben's students work quietly at the computers. Ben reads a dating profile on his computer. He hears the vibration of a mobile phone.

BEN

Turn your mobiles off please.

Ben realises it's his phone on his desk. He reads a text: "HI SON. CAN I COME OVER LATER? I HAVE SOMETHING SERIOUS TO TELL YOU. LOVE DAD XXX"

He glances at the class. A DISGRUNTLED STUDENT glares at him.

BEN (CONT'D)

(handing out test papers)

Okay, stop what you're doing. Don't forget to take an example paper. Your test is only in a couple of weeks. I want you to be prepared.

A SHY STUDENT takes a paper and walks away.

BEN (CONT'D)  
(Re: didn't say thanks)  
Thanks Ben.

SHY STUDENT  
(turning back)  
Thanks Ben.

INT. BEN'S FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ben sits on the edge of the sofa, clutching his mobile.

BUZZ.

Ben wanders into --

THE HALLWAY

He picks up the door entrance phone.

BEN  
Hi.

Ben presses a button and opens the front door.

He sits back down the lounge, and waits. And waits.

Unsettled he goes back to the front door. No one there. Ben paces a few steps. Finally, he hears his father panting, and then he appears taking one step at a time, with one hand holding on to the bannister.

They hug. Ivan kisses Ben on the cheek.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Come through.

Ivan follows Ben in to the LIVING ROOM and they sit on the couch next to each other.

IVAN  
I'll come to the point. Mum and me  
are getting divorced.

BEN  
Oh.

IVAN  
It's sad, I know. I didn't want to  
be telling you this, but its for  
the best.

BEN  
What happened, why now? Did you two  
have a fight?

IVAN

No. Not as such. We've been drifting for far too long and we're not happy, so we've agreed to live apart.

BEN

I knew things weren't perfect but I thought you two would just carry on.

IVAN

I know you did.

Tears form and drop. Ben quickly rubs them away.

BEN

I'm sorry Dad. How are you? Are you okay?

IVAN

Yeah, I'm fine. It's you and Katherine I feel sorry for.

BEN

Have you told Kath?

IVAN

I saw her earlier. We had an estate agent come over today to give an evaluation.

BEN

You're not staying?

IVAN

I don't have the money to pay Mum's half and no one's going to give me a mortgage at my age.

BEN

But it's our home. Where will you go?

They fall silent as if searching for the answer. Then:

BEN (CONT'D)

I'll buy it.

IVAN

No, son, you don't want to do that.

BEN

Let me speak to someone. It would be an investment for me and means you can stay where you know.

IVAN

I don't know. Will have to happen soon. We want to be gone within a month.

BEN

A month! I think it takes longer than that Dad. What's Mum going to do?

IVAN

She's got some savings and with half of the house, she'll be alright. Should be able to buy a one-bed flat somewhere. Come here.

Ivan pulls Ben into a hug.

BEN

I'm sorry.

IVAN

I know, me too.

Ben's female happy flatmate (ASTRID, 40s) and stocky boyfriend, carrying take away, catch them hugging.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - HOLLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

HOLLY

snores softly cuddling a favourite toy.

KATHERINE

watches her daughter's chest move up and down. She makes a small adjust to a camera fixed at the bottom of the bed. She exits, leaving the door slightly ajar.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS LANDING - NIGHT

Katherine quietly approaches her bedroom when she hears the sound of a woman's voice. She pauses, listens but can't quite make out the conversation.

INT. BEN'S FLAT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben lies on his double bed. Astrid knocks on the door and enters.

ASTRID

We're gonna watch a movie, if you wanna join us?

BEN

That's okay. Thanks.

ASTRID  
Everything okay?

BEN  
Yeah, fine.

She leaves.

Ben starts a new message to Katherine. He begins typing "HEY, HOW ARE YOU? DID DAD TELL YOU --" He pauses. He deletes the message, and turns off his phone.

Ben rolls over, touches the empty left side of his bed.

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Katherine gets back in on the left side of the bed next to Paul, texting on his mobile. On her bedside table, an Ipad shows a live image of Holly asleep.

KATHERINE  
She's finally settled. Who were you talking to?

PAUL  
(putting his phone away)  
No one. Was watching something.

Paul cuddles her. His hand moves towards her breasts, she removes it.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Are you okay?

KATHERINE  
I'm just tired.

PAUL  
About your parents.

KATHERINE  
Oh, yeah. I'm happy. It's a good thing.

Katherine turns over, she stares -- deep in thought.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - FRONT GARDEN - MORNING

A spade cuts hard ground.

A wooden stake is forced in to the ground. It doesn't go in. It jabs the soil again. And again, and again.

A mallet weighs heavily down forcing the post further into the ground. BAM. BAM. BAM.

A silver wire cord wraps around the sign, strangling the cement post.

A full view reveals: JACOBS and JENSONS: FOR SALE.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON - CORRIDOR - DAY

Ben passes an administrator (SARA late 20s) carrying a folder of documents, they glance at each other but say nothing.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben and Sara sit on his bed, kissing. Ben stops for a second, forces a smile. They start kissing again. Sara stops him.

BEN

What?

SARA

I don't really feel you're into this.

BEN

I am.

She leans in part way, stops. Her mouth opens, his doesn't.

SARA

What's up with you tonight?

BEN

Nothing. Sorry. It's nothing...

SARA

(reluctantly)

Go on.

BEN

My parents are separating.

SARA

Oh.

BEN

And they're selling our home.

SARA

(straining to care)

I'm sorry.

Sara kisses him, then kisses his neck. Ben closes his eyes, savouring the attention, UNTIL --

SARA (CONT'D)  
At least you didn't lose your  
childhood.

BEN  
What?

SARA  
You should feel lucky that you had  
a family as long as you did.

Ben looks at her, his disbelief mounting.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Oh my God. Are you upset?

BEN  
No.

SARA  
I was fourteen when my parents  
separated, you're nearly thirty-  
six. I'm trying to be comforting.

BEN  
Can we change the subject?

SARA  
Okay. Sorry.

They fall silent.

SARA (CONT'D)  
Do you want me to go?

Ben shakes his head no.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP OF BEN having sex behind Sara, distracted and  
disinterested.

MOMENTS LATER --

Ben puts on his trousers. He looks at the pictures of his  
parents on his chest of drawers.

Ben receives a text from Ivan: "CALL ME. SOMETHING BAD HAS  
HAPPENED. LOVE DAD XXX".

Ben dials.

BEN  
Dad, what is it, could you, like,  
for once, just call me? I thought  
it might be to do with Holly or  
Mum. Oh. I'm sorry. When? Sure.

INT./EXT. CAROL'S VW POLO - DAY

Carol drives Ben. Both are dressed in black. Carol's mobile phone PINGS with a new message.

BEN  
You've already found somewhere?

CAROL  
I told you.

BEN  
No, you haven't.

Another PING. Carol glances at her mobile.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Who's that?

CAROL  
Just a friend.

BEN  
A guy friend?

CAROL  
No. Nothing like that. Well, you never know, maybe in time, I'll remarry.

BEN  
(too soon)  
Mum.

Carol takes the turning into Worthing Crematorium. They drive slowly through a crowd of people dressed in dark colours. Some recognise Carol and glare at her.

CAROL  
You know, it's got nothing to do with how we feel about you. We don't love you any less.

BEN  
Mum, don't be so corny.

INT. WORTHING CREMATORIUM - KINGSWOOD CHAPEL - LATER

The coffin stands at the front. People are slowly filling the room. Ben takes a seat next to Katherine.

BEN  
I haven't told anyone about Mum and Dad yet, have you?

KATHERINE

It's not like anyone's going to be surprised.

BEN

Some people might. It doesn't feel real, you know?

Carol sits in front of them.

KATHERINE

(low; leaning in)

I didn't think she would come.

BEN

She knew Aunty Francine.

KATHERINE

She was Dad's sister.

BEN

Just because they're separating doesn't mean they can't be in the same room as each other.

KATHERINE

That's exactly what it means.

The organ music starts to thunder. Everyone rises.

Ben looks at Ivan sitting at the front with his relations.

EXT. THE GUN INN - BAR - DAY

Ben squeezes between people crowded around the bar, holding two plastic cups of white wine. He scans the room for Katherine.

Ben recognises a small group in front of him, he filters back into the crowd, bumping into two HEAVY-SET COUSINS.

OLDER COUSIN

We heard the news.

BEN

Did you?

YOUNGER COUSIN

Your Dad's been telling everyone.

OLDER COUSIN

So, have you decided?

BEN

On what?

YOUNGER COUSIN  
Who you're gonna live with!

They laugh. Ben smiles, finding none of this funny.

YOUNGER COUSIN (CONT'D)  
Who's gonna keep an eye on Uncle  
Ivan. He hasn't got any friends.

OLDER COUSIN  
He's got one.

Ben's not sure who she means.

OLDER COUSIN (CONT'D)  
(mimicking Ivan)  
Ben. Your bank balance is your best  
friend.

BEN  
I don't think Barclays will take  
him.

EXT. THE GUN INN - BACK ROOM - SAME TIME

Carol sits down across the table from Ivan's nieces and  
nephews.

CAROL  
Hi, Jackie.  
(to Stern-looking woman)  
Hi, Val.

The Stern-looking woman turns her back on her. The Niece  
smiles awkwardly.

EXT. THE GUN INN - BACK ROOM - LATER

Ben and Katherine watch Ivan and Carol talking and smiling  
with a table of relatives.

BEN  
How do you know that?

KATHERINE  
Cause Dad tells me these things.  
They got together because Mum  
wanted to escape Gran's clutches,  
and Dad was worried he was going to  
be left on the shelf. They spent  
forty years making each other  
unhappy.

BEN  
That's not true. They had us.

Katherine looks at her brother in disbelief.

BEN (CONT'D)

At least, he's staying put. I can't imagine other people living there, you know?

KATHERINE

They've already accepted an offer.

BEN

What do you mean? I'm gonna buy it.

KATHERINE

Dad doesn't want to stay there.

BEN

Yes, he does. It's his home.

KATHERINE

He told me he'd like to live somewhere smaller.

BEN

Well he told me he was open to me buying it.

KATHERINE

Then you should speak to him.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Ben looks up at the SOLD sign stuck in their front garden. He looks back at the bungalow opposite, the net curtains twitch.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Ivan carries a stack of old Beano Annuals, dumps them on a pile of the family's forgotten stuff.

BEN

Don't chuck those out.

IVAN

You're too old to be reading these.

BEN

They're worth a lot of money.

IVAN

These tatty things?

Ivan reenters the shed and throws out a metal Mickey Mouse Money Box full of change.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Dad! Stop!

Ben picks up the money box, the little bell inside rings.

IVAN (CONT'D)

We can't take this stuff with us,  
Ben. We won't have the space. You  
need to go through it soon.

Ben sneakily moves his annuals back into the shed.

BEN

Why not stay here? You know the  
neighbours. It's quiet, and safe.  
We've always been here.

IVAN

I don't want to be pruning and  
mowing all this anymore. It's too  
big.

BEN

I'll pay someone to come around.

IVAN

I don't need all this space.

BEN

Just wait, let me speak to the  
Mortgage guy. What's the rush?

IVAN

We want to move quick. Mum's got  
her place. And I've got a second  
viewing this afternoon on a place  
on Loose Lane.

BEN

The estate? I'll come with you.

IVAN

No need. Kath's taking me.

BEN

Kath's going?

Ben just stands there, his childhood scattered over the lawn.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (PRE-LAP)

Do you have any children?

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SMALL OFFICE - DAY

Ben paces around the room, talking on his mobile, his Mickey  
Mouse money box in the other hand.

BEN

(low)  
No children.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
And what do you do for a living?

BEN

I'm a University Lecturer.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
Good. That's good.

BEN

Well, actually, I'm a Visiting  
Lecturer. It's temporary. I get  
paid by the hour.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
How many hours a week do you teach?

BEN

Three.

Ben sits underneath the desk, rests his back against the radiator and places the money box on the carpet. It's an old childhood favourite spot where he used to play.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
And how much are you looking for?

BEN

What? Er, I don't know. Enough to  
buy my Mum out with.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
How much is the house worth?

BEN

Personally or monetarily?

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
(dryly)  
Monetarily.

BEN

Er, it's on at £230,000.

MORTGAGE ADVISOR (ON THE PHONE)  
So, basically you'll need £115,000.  
Plus fees for surveys and  
solicitors' fees. I'm sorry, Ben,  
but I don't think any of the  
providers I represent can offer you  
a mortgage. But come back to me if  
your situation changes.

EXT. CLIFTON COURT FLATS - CAR PARK - DAY

Ben and Katherine follow a few feet behind their father as they make their way through lines and lines of damp washing.

Each flat has a car parking space but nearly all of them are being used to store junk and discarded furniture.

REV. REV. REV. The engine of a blue sports car is being put to the test by a BOY-RACER.

Ivan reaches number 7A. An EIGHT-YEAR-OLD boy in shorts and a dirty white vest kicks his football against the door. THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

BEN AND KATHERINE

watch their father sit on a broken wall, deep in thought. He looks out of place against the backdrop of a dirty, run down block of flats. They look at each other. This isn't right.

JACK, a young and arrogant estate agent, pushes the Eight-Year-Old Boy out of the way.

JACK  
(quietly)  
Fuck off.

Jack unlocks the door and lets them walk in first.

INT. CLIFTON COURT FLAT - BATHROOM - DAY

Ben takes a picture with his phone of a 60's style pink, tired bathroom.

He feels something fall on his head, finds a small dark paste on his finger tips.

He slowly looks up.

Thick, green and black mould covers the whole ceiling.

A lump of plaster falls, breaks at his feet.

INT. CLIFTON COURT FLAT - SMALL LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack follows Ivan inspecting the tired looking features.

JACK  
There's been a lot of interest, but  
- I shouldn't be saying this - she  
wants a quick sell, so a cash buyer  
like you would jump the queue.

Katherine follows the cable of an overloaded 4-way plug extension connected to another, that lights the room. Katherine flicks on the light switch. Nothing.

Ben and Katherine gather behind their father.

BEN

What other one-beds do you have?

JACK

No others at this price. I do have some park homes available.

BEN

What's that?

JACK

Like a static caravan.

BEN

Yeah. No.

JACK

(to Ivan)

So? What do you think? The owner has already knocked off five-thousand. It's a steal.

IVAN

I'll take it.

BEN

Dad.

JACK

Wonderful. I'll need to take a small holding deposit. Can you swing by the office?

IVAN

I can follow you back there now.

BEN

Let's have a chat first.

JACK

I've got to get to another property now but I'll be back in the office from two. Any good.

IVAN

Two it is.

Jack leaves them to discuss.

KATHERINE

Dad.

IVAN

What? This place's cheaper than that one on Cokeham Road.

KATHERINE

This one's more expensive. You're thinking of the flat on Ball Tree Crescent.

IVAN

Am I?

Ivan looks overwhelmed.

BEN

Have you really given it any thought where you'd like to live?

Katherine picks up adverts for other properties.

KATHERINE

How about this one, in Littlehampton.

BEN

That's too far from me.

IVAN

I don't want to live in Littlehampton. I want to live here!

Ivan opens the door.

KATHERINE

It's five-thousand pounds cheaper.

Ivan stops in the doorway. That's got him thinking.

IVAN

(to Katherine)

We could take a look this afternoon?

KATHERINE

Dad, I can't. I'm busy.

BEN

I'll help you.

KATHERINE

What do you know about buying property?

Ben glares at his sister. Ivan sighs.

IVAN

(to Ben)

Fine.

EXT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ben holds a button that lowers Holly, in an electric hoist, into a bath. Katherine holds Holly's hand. Chris plays with toy cars on the floor.

KATHERINE  
 (directing Ben)  
 Okay, now turn the switch to the  
 left and it will recline the seat.

Ben turns a switch but Holly continues to be lowered into the bath.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
 No! Stop! Stop! Give it here.

Katherine snatches the controls from him.

BEN  
 I'm sorry.

KATHERINE  
 It's just easier if I do it.

Paul, with Chris' coat, enters.

PAUL  
 Come on. We're going to be late.

Chris gets up. Paul helps him put his coat on.

KATHERINE  
 Where you going?

PAUL  
 Frankie's Mum invited Chris over  
 for a play date.

KATHERINE  
 You never said.

PAUL  
 I did.

KATHERINE  
 Is it on the calendar?

PAUL  
 In red ink. We'll be back about  
 four. Okay?

Ben looks at them both, aware of an awkward tension in the room.

KATHERINE  
 Okay.

Paul leaves Katherine quietly unsettled.

BEN  
What was that about?

KATHERINE  
Nothing.

EXT. COUNCIL FLATS - SOUTH LANCING - NEXT DAY

A perky, earthy ESTATE AGENT strides towards a unkempt block of flats. Ben and Katherine struggle to keep up, Ivan trails behind.

ESTATE AGENT  
Service charge is higher than average but, I believe, the council mow the lawns and sweep the communal area. The lease is ninety-nine years.

Ben holds the Estate Agent back. Ivan trundles past them, inspecting the shabby exterior.

BEN  
What's a lease?

ESTATE AGENT  
He owns the flat but rents the land.

BEN  
And ninety-nine years, that's good?

Ben looks over at his father, kicking loose tarmac in the carpark. *His father isn't going to live that long.*

BEN (CONT'D)  
Is there room for negotiation? I don't know, like twenty-five...  
(takes another look at Ivan; thinks again)  
...Twenty years?

The Estate Agent sizes Ben up. Katherine steps in.

KATHERINE  
You have to forgive my baby brother.  
(to Ben)  
What you doing?

BEN  
What? Don't call me that.

IVAN  
(to Ben)  
Let Kath do the talking, okay?

INT. STYLISH FLAT - DAY

Colour coordinated expensive lamps, sofas and tables straight out of an IKEA catalogue. Ben watches a PUSHY ESTATE AGENT demonstrate the security system.

PUSHY ESTATE AGENT  
Press here to speak to the visitor.  
And here, operates the camera.  
Colour monitor. Totally secure.  
Included in the price.

BEN  
Hey, Dad. Take a look, shows you  
who's at the door.

IVAN  
I have one already.  
(points to window)  
It's there.

BEN  
(sarcastically)  
He'll take it.

PUSHY ESTATE AGENT  
That's great. You sure?

BEN  
One moment. Hey Dad, what do you  
think?

IVAN  
(testing the sofa)  
It could be nice once it's  
decorated.

BEN  
It's £179,000.

Ivan laughs hysterically. Pushy Estate Agent is bemused.

INT. TWO-BED FLAT - DAY

A medium size, dated but decent enough. Ben and Ivan look out to the back garden through two french doors.

BEN  
It's nice but it's two rooms, he  
can't afford this.

SOMBRE ESTATE AGENT  
(to Ben)  
Do you own a property?

BEN  
Me? No.

SOMBRE ESTATE AGENT  
Have you thought about part-ownership? You could rent it out to your father or you both could live here. It's a perfect time to buy.

BEN  
I don't think so.

IVAN  
Why not?

BEN  
The second bedroom's too small.

IVAN  
You'll take the main bedroom, it'll fit a desk.

SOMBRE ESTATE AGENT  
There you go. Could be nice pad for a couple of eligible young men.

BEN  
Let's go.

Ben goes to leave, Ivan follows him.

IVAN  
We could be roomies.

INT. ONE-BEDROOM FLAT - DAY

Katherine examines the discoloured brown wallpaper from a long-term smoker. Ben positions his father to stand by a large bay window.

BEN  
Your bed could go here. And a TV there.

IVAN  
It's just the same as the one we just saw, but it's £45,000 more.

BEN  
It's not the same, Dad. The last place didn't have its own bathroom.

IVAN

I don't want to live here.

BEN

Maybe we should look in other towns? Like, Worthing?

IVAN

Mum's moving to Worthing.

BEN

I'm not suggesting you live in the same street.

KATHERINE

Stop hassling him. He doesn't want to live in Worthing.

BEN

He can speak for himself.

IVAN

I don't want to live in Worthing.

BEN

Why not?

IVAN

Because I say so!

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - DAY

Katherine sits next to Carol, sorting through their bills. Ivan makes cup of teas and hands one to Carol.

CAROL

Thank you.

KATHERINE

(passing her bills)

Okay, so, this is what you currently pay for electricity...

(hands her another)

...Gas...

(and another)

...And water.

Carol puts on her reading glasses, takes it all in. It's overwhelming her.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

But you'll be paying less. But then

(entering digits into a calculator)

TV licence is this, and council tax, telephone and Internet, will roughly be this.

Katherine shows her mother the total. She's nervous.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

Do you know what your service charge is for your flat?

CAROL

Erm, I have it written down somewhere.

(pointing to spreadsheet column)

What's that?

IVAN

Solicitor fees, the service charge for your flat, and the removal company.

(sensing it's a lot)

I'll speak to the removal company, see if they can do us a deal, taking both of us, and whatnot.

CAROL

That would help. Thanks. I'll ask the nursery for any extra shifts. I have some savings.

KATHERINE

That's good.

Carol digs out a statement from underneath the papers.

CAROL

Here. Look.

KATHERINE

Oh. No. That's okay...

(shoving it in her face)

Oh. Okay. Well, that should help.

CAROL

Yeah?

KATHERINE

(uncomfortable)

Mmm-hmm.

The phone rings.

IVAN

(picking up)

Hello?

(to Carol)

It's for you.

Carol gets up.

CAROL

Hello?

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C.)

Is this Carol?

Carol catches Kath looking at her trying to work out who her mother is talking to, but Carol gives nothing away.

She takes the phone into --

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carol paces around her bed. The mirror and her toiletries stand on the carpet where the chest of drawers use to be.

CAROL

Who is this?

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C)

It's Greg.

CAROL

I think you have the wrong number.

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C)

Greg Harris. You're buying my flat. Or you were, until I found out you've broken the chain.

CAROL

How did you get my...we're not meant to...

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.S)

I was told everything would've gone through by now. Now I'm screwed. I've lost my place I was buying. What do you think about that?

CAROL

I am...I am sorry. But it was our buyers, they couldn't afford the deposit. But, our place is already back on and --

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C)

Too late for that luv. I'm putting the flat back on the market.

CAROL

No, please. I'm still interested.

GREG (ON THE PHONE)

Well you had better get a *fucking* move on. You've got a month. Okay?

(MORE)

GREG (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)  
(silence; firmly)  
Okay?

CAROL  
Okay. I am *really* sorry --

He hangs up.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

Carol sits back down, pretends to focus on the bills.

KATHERINE  
You okay, Mum?

CAROL  
I'm fine, honey.

INT. NEWLY BUILT ONE BEDROOM FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

An open spacious long room with a kitchenette at the far end. Freshly painted white walls and expensive brown flooring.

Katherine comes in from the balcony and meets Ivan and the SCRUFFY ESTATE AGENT, talking on his mobile.

As soon as the agent has finished his phone call Ivan grabs the estate agent's hand, vigorously shakes it. The agent pulls his hand away, delivers bad news. Halfway through explaining, he has an idea and shows them a new property on his mobile phone.

INT. SMALL ONE-BEDROOM FLAT, WORTHING - DAY

Ivan is in a dark, depressing basement flat. Katherine pushes Steven around in the pram.

Ivan sneaks glances at Katherine. Eventually she looks at him, gives her approval.

Ivan acts like an excited child, laughing and spinning around. He shakes the confused Scruffy Estate Agent's hand.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK BEDROOM - LATER

Ben's asleep on his mother's double bed. Through the window, we can see a botched attempt to pack up his belongings from the shed.

The front door slams shut waking Ben. He scrambles off the bed up as Ivan and Katherine enter the room.

IVAN  
What you doing here?

BEN

I was just...clearing out the shed.

Katherine spies the rumpled duvet.

KATHERINE

Hard work, is it?

BEN

Where've you been?

IVAN

We've been looking at some furniture for my new place, down at the Salvation Army.

BEN

What new place?

IVAN

Yeah, they accepted my offer.

BEN

Who did? Where?

IVAN

A one-bed on...

KATHERINE

Meadow Road.

BEN

(no idea)  
Meadow Road?

IVAN

It's right around the corner from Katherine.

BEN

You've bought a place in Worthing?

Ben stares at Katherine, who avoids eye contact.

BEN (CONT'D)

She can keep an eye on you then.

IVAN

(half-joking)  
And wash my dirty laundry.

Katherine gathers her breath at the thought.

BEN

(hurt)  
Congrats. Good news.

## AUTUMN 2015 IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SERIES OF SHOTS

(Every season we visit the bungalow finding more and more furniture and possessions shown in previous scenes have now been disposed of or been packed away.)

-- From inside the living room rain hits the window. Everything is in its place, apart from the mantelpiece which is missing the ornaments and clock.

-- The toiletries on the chest of drawers in the Back Bedroom. The bottles of perfume are gone.

-- The front bedroom is still a disorganised mess, but the cuddly teddy bear has disappeared.

## EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK GARDEN SHED - DAY

Ben surveys the enormous clutter of disregarded childhood toys and books. He sighs, overwhelmed.

## INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

A fridge door opens. Ben peers in at the only occupants: a tomato, margarine, and half a loaf of bread.

## INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SMALL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ben, eating his sandwich, picks up his battered Mickey Mouse money box from the windowsill. He rocks it, listening to the change and a little bell inside.

Suddenly, he hears the door open and two voices:

FRIENDLY ESTATE AGENT (O.S.)  
So it just came back on the market.

PRETENTIOUS HUSBAND (O.S.)  
What happened?

Ben panics. He scrambles to his feet, and darts across the hallway and into the back bedroom, as a FRIENDLY ESTATE AGENT and PRETENTIOUS COUPLE round the corner.

FRIENDLY ESTATE AGENT  
The buyer didn't have the deposit.  
Do you have a place to sell?

PRETENTIOUS WIFE  
We've sold it. So we can move quickly.  
(pause)  
Oh, come and look at this. Who puts carpet in the bathroom? Ugh.

## IN THE BACK BEDROOM

Hearing them come closer, Ben ducks behind the bed and shuffles under, pushing clear plastic boxes of knickknacks.

The Estate Agent and Prospective buyers enter. Ben is a foot away from the red high heels and polished brown shoes.

## PRETENTIOUS HUSBAND

I can't believe this is what we can afford.

## ESTATE AGENT

The market has shot up. This is a decent size, in a good area. You have to look past the decor.

## PRETENTIOUS HUSBAND

I'm not sure anyone can look past a black and red carpet.

## PRETENTIOUS WIFE

Why are they selling?

## ESTATE AGENT

Getting separated.

## PRETENTIOUS WOMAN

Why? Was it their awful taste in carpets?

Ben listens, in agony, unable to do anything.

## ESTATE AGENT

It's grubby but plenty of opportunity. Come see the garden.

## PRETENTIOUS WIFE

I've seen enough. I can't see myself bringing up a family here.

## PRETENTIOUS HUSBAND

Just wait, come on, we talked about this. Let's just see the garden.

They leave. Ben turns his head and comes face to face with an old photograph of him as a child and his father sitting on a farm gate, smiling, facing outwards inside a clear box.

## EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - CONTINUOUS

Ben quietly shuts the door. The Pretentious Couple's silver BMW 3 Series iPerformance Saloon is parked on the driveway. The front wheel has squashed a bush by the driveway.

Ben glares at it for a moment. He takes out his door keys. As he walks past, his key scratches off paintwork. He hears voices inside, quickly walks away.

EXT. SALVATION ARMY CHARITY SHOP - DAY

Ben and Ivan inspect a small second-hand beige settee. Ben hands his father the picture he found under his parents bed.

BEN

Wasn't this in Wales? There was that out house full of kids toys and a ping-pong table.

IVAN

Yeah, could be.

BEN

Mum and you played daily. We set up a mini-tournament.

IVAN

(vaguely remembering)

Yeah.

(remembering more)

I thought going away together would make things better, but she wasn't interested in anything I was doing. I was an annoyance. We argued more there than at home.

BEN

I don't remember.

IVAN

You were too young.

Ben sullenly takes the picture back, the memory now tainted.

EXT. MARQUIS OF GRANBY PUB - NIGHT

Drinkers in their 20s and 30s, chat and laugh outside.

INT. MARQUIS OF GRANBY PUB - SMALL DANCE FLOOR - LATER

Carol dances freely with Maxine. She's got some nifty moves. The music is loud and pumping.

MAXINE

I see you're still wearing your wedding ring.

CAROL

What?

MAXINE  
Your wedding ring.

CAROL  
Yeah. Habit, I guess.

Carol looks at reflection in the window. She fiddles with the wedding ring on her finger.

Maxine hands Carol a cocktail glass.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

MAXINE  
Not from me.

Maxine points to two SINGLE GENTLEMAN, 60s, smiling at them from the bar. Carol turns back, uncomfortable.

EXT. MARQUIS OF GRANBY - LATER

Carol watches Maxine slow dance with a YOUNG MALE DRINKER. Carol gets up, picks up her coat, and leaves.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Carol waits alone.

INT. TRAVELLING BUS - NIGHT

Carol watches a MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE hand-in-hand pay their fare and sit down close together.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Carol quietly shuts the front door, passes by snoring from Ivan's room as she tip toes back to her bedroom.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

A white Luton Van is parked on the driveway. Ivan and Carol's blue VW Polos are parked on the street.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - DAY

Ben and Katherine struggle to manoeuvre their parents grey settee through the front door. On the driveway, an UPCYCLE MAN tries to lever the settee towards him.

The telephone rings in the kitchen.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Carol stares at the ringing phone. Ivan picks it up.

IVAN

Hello, Ivan here. Oh, hello. Yes.  
Yes. I see. Oh. Right.

(listens)

I see. Okay. Well thank you for  
letting me know. Bye.

Ivan is worried. Ben and Katherine enter from the back garden, out of breath.

BEN

They'll take the sofa but they  
won't take the armchairs because  
there's no fire label.

(sensing an issue)

What's wrong?

IVAN

The home buyers report recommends  
forty-thousand pounds of major  
work.

BEN

Are you going to pay it?

CAROL

Of course he isn't.

BEN

I'm sorry, Dad.

IVAN

That'll be the third time the chain  
has broken.

CAROL

It's the fourth. The first two  
didn't have the deposit. And,  
that's right, there was this couple  
from London, who were interested  
but their car was vandalised.

BEN

(guilty)

Really?

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

The front door opens. Katherine steps into the hallway, carrying Steven, and hangs her coat on the rack. She turns around, startled to discover --

TWO ADULTS WEARING ANIMAL MASKS, sitting in the living room, with Chris and his pal, Frankie.

KATHERINE

Jesus!

Ben appears at the front door, pushing Holly in her wheelchair.

PAUL

(taking off his mask)

Sorry. I didn't mean to scare you.

You know Diane, Frankie's Mum.

Diane takes off her mask. She's a little too pretty for Katherine.

KATHERINE

Hi. Yeah. Think so. How are you?

DIANE

Good thank you. Just having some farmyard fun.

Katherine looks at Diane, unsure what to say next.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

At the front door, Paul and Chris help Frankie and Diane put on their coats.

EXT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - SAME TIME

Katherine watches Ben and Holly make sand castles in the sand pit; periodically glancing back at the house.

For the umpteenth time, Holly taps the bucket with his spade and Ben slowly pulls up the bucket to reveal a crumbling sand castle. She grins and applauds.

KATHERINE

You'll make a good dad, one day.

Ben smiles, it's not often his sister gives compliments.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

I need you to spend Christmas with Mum.

BEN

We're not going to do it together?

KATHERINE

Dad's coming to mine on Christmas Day.

BEN

He said he'd spend at home, like last year.

KATHERINE

Yeah, he told me that. He also told me he'd prefer not to be around Mum.

Ben gets up and sits next to his sister.

BEN

Why didn't he tell me this when I asked him? What about Mum, what's she gonna do?

KATHERINE

I don't know. Whatever she's got planned, I guess.

BEN

We can't leave her by herself on Christmas Day.

KATHERINE

They're separated, Ben. They can stand by their own decisions. This is what Dad wants. We all just want a quiet family Christmas together.

BEN

I'm family! What about me?

Ben is hurt.

BEN (CONT'D)

(tiny)

I'm family too.

KATHERINE

I know you are. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It's just -- Look, why don't you come here for Christmas? You'll no longer be subjected to the Queen's speech. And the kids would love to see you.

BEN

Actually, I was thinking of asking Sara to come for Christmas lunch.

KATHERINE

Really?

BEN

Why do you sound so surprised?

KATHERINE

I'm not. I just didn't know you two were that serious.

BEN

Well, we are. She understands what I'm going through with Mum and Dad. Why can't you just be happy for me?

KATHERINE

I am. I am. It's great. It's just...I don't know, you've never had many long-term girlfriends.

BEN

This one is serious, okay?

KATHERINE

Okay. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Tell her she's welcome too. It would be good to get to know her. I'm pleased for you.

EXT. TOWN STREET - DAY

Ivan's VW parked on a slope outside a row of terraced houses.

INT. IVAN'S VW POLO - CONTINUOUS

Ivan and Ben wait for the Estate Agent. Ben turns on the heating, rubs his hands together.

BEN

Kath said you don't want to spend Christmas with Mum.

IVAN

She irritates me. I wouldn't be happy. I think it's best now we're apart. To just have it like that.

BEN

You can't spend the day together?

IVAN

I prefer not to.

BEN

And that's what you want.

IVAN

Yeah, it is.

Ben considers this as rain gently bounces off the windscreen. Ivan switches the windscreen wipers on. They continue to listen to the wipers going back and forth. Then--

IVAN (CONT'D)

How's you and...  
 (forgotten her name)  
 ...Sop...

BEN

Who? Oh, Sara. Yeah, fine.

IVAN

If you want my advice, make sure you have sex before you get married. Because...to be quite truthful or blunt really, you don't know you're capacity.

BEN

Capacity?

IVAN

It was never right with Mum and me. We only had it three or four times and it dwindled to nothing.

BEN

I don't want to know.

IVAN

And it shouldn't be, it should be an expression of real love and its a beautiful thing. To us it was... Not lust, we didn't lust for each other but I suppose in a way, it was just a biological need you know?

BEN

Please stop.

IVAN

So, yeah. Definitely that. And live together. Years ago we wouldn't have done that, we thought oh no, Mum and Me "oh dear, you don't do that, its all..."

(mumbles disapprovement)

It's so silly, really. And like you and Zara.

BEN

Sara.

IVAN

That's the best thing to do really, you know? To live together. You never know what someone is like until you do.

(pause)

We never really talk like this.

BEN

No.

IVAN

It's been nice.

A Mini blasting out loud music zooms in to the space in front of them. A SLICK ESTATE AGENT jumps out. Ivan and Ben climb out of the car.

WINTER 2015 IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Empty shelves in the small office where the VHS tapes once lived.

-- In the Hallway, bare walls where all the family framed pictures have been taken down.

-- A strong gust of wind pushes the shed doors with glass windows, where Ben's possessions still sit.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Chilly, overcast Christmas Day. Ben, hands in pockets, visible breath, walks past bungalows lit up by lights and with Christmas trees on show.

Ben walks down the driveway, past the For Sale sign. The bungalow is dimly lit. No sign of Christmas lights or decorations.

Ben goes to put his key in the lock as Ivan opens the door, jacket on, on his way out.

BEN

You off already?

IVAN

Yeah, Kath said to come over at eleven.

BEN

Will I see you later?

IVAN

Sorry, Son. Cousin Alice has invited me to tea. Come here.

Ivan pulls Ben into a hug, his hearing aids whistle.

BEN

Merry Christmas, Dad.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben and Carol, with traditional roast dinners, sit around a small plastic garden table for two.

Carol offers her Christmas cracker to Ben.

CAROL  
Would you?

BEN  
Sure.

They take each end and pull. It's a weak *pfft*.

Carol hands him his present. Ben unwraps it. It's the latest Beano Annual.

CAROL  
Couldn't miss a year.

BEN  
Thanks Mum.

CAROL  
You still read them?

BEN  
Sure.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Katherine and her family sit around the table, excitedly awaiting food. Ivan sits in the middle. He puts a paper hat on Holly. Chris plays with a new toy truck. PAUL'S MOTHER and his GRANDMOTHER, are sat beside Katherine.

Paul carries a large turkey through, places it in the middle of the table. Everyone cheers.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carol snores quietly in one arm chair. Ben sits in the other, watching the end of the Queen's speech. A large gap, where the sofa used to be, separates them.

Ben gets up, wakes his mother.

BEN  
Mum. Mum. Time to go.

INT. CAROL'S VW POLO - NIGHT

Carol drives her son to Katherine and Paul's house.

CAROL

I'm more one for, like, going to a concert or for a nice meal, whereas Dad probably wouldn't want to go to anything like that. And when I do buy something I do try to look for the things I like, as well as price, but if its slightly more expensive but I like it, and I've got the money, then I'll have it. You're more like me in that respect. But Dad would look it and think No, that's ten pounds cheaper, we'll have that one.

(beat)

And it's a job just to shut him up sometimes.

BEN

(fed up)

Yeah.

CAROL

When you're talking he can interrupt you and he'll take over the conversation.

BEN

Yeah.

CAROL

Even from early days he used to annoy me doing that. Cause I remember being around some friends and um, you know, busy talking and he just came and sort of took over.

EXT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Katherine, whilst holding Steven, helps her father put on his jacket. He's in the middle of a filibuster.

IVAN

They gave me this huge card, when I left. They all signed it. I was expecting just to walk out, but there they are were. They even got the kids to sing. The card said thanks for eight years of service.

KATHERINE

Four.

She wraps his scarf around his neck. Puts his wholly hat on.

IVAN

What?

KATHERINE

You were there for four years.

She opens the door and gently guides him to the other side.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

(waving goodbye)

Bye. Give my love to Alice.

As soon as the door closes she exhales deeply. She leans against the wall, closes her eyes. A small moment to herself...

...Swiftly broken by the DOOR BELL. She opens the door to reveal Ben and Carol, with Christmas presents.

BEN

Merry Christmas!

CAROL

Merry Christmas!

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas. Come in.

EXT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Ivan walks away. The sea wind is punishing. He scans the parked row of cars for his.

He reverses direction and starts walking into the wind. He sees a navy blue car ahead, as he approaches it reveals to be a blue Mini.

Ivan turns onto a SIDE STREET. The wind picks up brutally. He stops, looks around for his car. He can't remember where he parked.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ben is playing charades with Katherine. Sara, on the other team, mimes a stiff leg to Carol. Paul and his mother play with the children. The Grandmother sleeps in a chair.

CAROL

(guessing)

Dead leg! Wooden leg!

KATHERINE

Pirates of the Caribbean!

BEN

Yes!

Ben and Katherine high-five. Ben notices Sara is thoroughly annoyed and sits beside her.

BEN (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming.

He puts her arm around her, she squirms but doesn't shrug him off.

SARA  
Anything not to be with Mum and Brian.

BEN  
I got an interview for the job at work, I told you about.

SARA  
Did you?

BEN  
Yeah. Keep your fingers crossed.

A FEW HOURS LATER

Grandmother is asleep on the settee.

Ben, sipping a beer, watches Katherine and Carol attempt to place a sleeping baby Steven in Grandmother's arms. Carol hurriedly takes a picture with a digital camera. They poorly suppress their giddy excitement.

Ben notices a small neatly wrapped present sitting under the Christmas tree, and picks it up. The gift tag reads: "TO PAUL, MERRY CHRISTMAS, LOVE DIANE."

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Paul sprays and wipes down the cooking surfaces.

BEN  
You've forgotten a gift.

Ben throws him the present.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Open it.

PAUL  
It's just a bar of soap or something. I'll open it later.

BEN  
It's Christmas Day!

PAUL  
Cut it out. Go and ask who wants soup and sausage rolls?

BEN  
(concerned)  
Sure.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - EVENING

Katherine washes her hands. She notices Ivan's aged wallet sitting between shower gel and shampoo bottles.

INT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Katherine and Carol dry the pots and pans.

KATHERINE  
 (re: Ivan's wallet)  
 I found this in the bathroom.  
 (no reaction from Carol)  
 Do you think he's getting worse?

CAROL  
 He's never had the best memory. I  
 don't know. I wouldn't worry.

KATHERINE  
 I do.

BEN  
 Me too.

They turn to see Ben, with dirty plates and cutlery.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 Who's going to look after him after  
 you move?

He puts the plates in the dishwasher.

CAROL  
 We'll still be in touch.

KATHERINE  
 You don't know that. We don't know  
 that.

CAROL  
 Of course I will.

Ben and Katherine glance at each other, worried.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Katherine's mini-van is parked on the street outside.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Four chairs sit around an empty space. Ivan, making a cup of tea, listens in on the squabbling outside.

BEN (O.S.)  
He can't cook!

KATHERINE (O.S.)  
Depends what you call cooking. You should be worried about Mum. She's never paid a bill in her life!

Ivan steps out into --

BACK GARDEN

Ben and Katherine are at opposite ends of a heavy wooden kitchen table. They work against each other, dragging or pushing the other person as they argue.

IVAN  
What's going on?

They fall silent.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
Huh? Get a move on. The guy's gonna be here any minute.

Ivan stands between them and together they shuffle to the front of the house.

KATHERINE  
(to Ivan)  
Why didn't you show up the other day? We were going to see Ms Warzinski's park home, remember?

BEN  
He doesn't want to live in a caravan. I've seen them on Lancing Seafront.

KATHERINE  
Stay out of this.

IVAN  
Ben's right. They're full of gypsies.

KATHERINE  
No, it's nothing like that. Why did you agree to go? I took time off work.

IVAN  
I don't remember agreeing.

Katherine and Ben glance knowingly at each other. They drop the table at the top of the driveway.

KATHERINE

I've noticed you've been a bit forgetful with words and names.

Ivan doesn't hear her.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

(louder)

Dad. Did you hear me? I said I've noticed you've been more forgetful lately.

IVAN

Oh, it's fine. I don't always catch what people say, that's all. Probably these hearing aids need adjusting.

He fiddles with his right hearing aid.

IVAN (CONT'D)

(to Ben and Katherine)

Say something.

Ben and Katherine silently converse.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Very funny.

BEN

(under his breath)

I told you, Mum doesn't know what she's talking about.

IVAN

What's your mother got to do with this?

Katherine scowls at her brother.

KATHERINE

It's nothing, Dad.

IVAN

(sternly)

Katherine.

Katherine looks at Ben for permission. He shrugs for her to go ahead.

KATHERINE

(clears throat)

She was...she said you're too stubborn to see the doctor, and that hell will freeze over before you go.

IVAN  
 (to Ben)  
 She said that?

Ben nods. They wander back down the drive.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
 I'm fine. I don't need any doctor.

BEN  
 I told her that. She was just saying cause we said we were worried.

IVAN  
 You were?

BEN  
 Yeah. But don't listen to Mum.

Ivan ponders, then --

IVAN  
 Can't hurt, can it? At least to stop everyone worrying.

Ben and Katherine stop still, flabbergasted, as Ivan continues ahead. Katherine puts her arm around her brother. They've played their father.

INT. JENNER PRACTICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Ben sits alone in front of a shelving unit filled with leaflets --

- "CONCERNED ABOUT LIVING ALONE? PERSONAL ALARMS"
- "ARE YOU FINDING STAIRS A STRUGGLE?"
- "BE AWARE OF CHANGES TO YOUR VISION"
- "YOUR FREE GUIDE TO PREPAID FUNERAL PLANS."

RECEPTIONIST  
 Excuse me, Sir. Hello. Yes, hi.

The RECEPTIONIST hands Ben a form.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)  
 We are missing contact details, his next of kin. Emergencies only.

Ben realises it's him. He shakily picks up the biro and adds his name, relation, and contact telephone number.

INT. JENNER PRACTICE - DOCTOR YOUNG'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DR YOUNG, an experienced, friendly, doctor makes some notes on her computer.

DR YOUNG

Thank you. And, finally, can you tell me the name and address I gave you earlier?

IVAN

Erm...six...Round...Roundtree, erm...Seven Roundtree Street.

DR YOUNG

And the name?

IVAN

Erm...sorry.

DR YOUNG

That's okay. I'll just do some numbers, bear with me.

Dr Young calculates the score. She smiles at Ivan, giving nothing away.

DR YOUNG (CONT'D)

I'd like you to make an appointment for a blood test, Mr Flint.

IVAN

Oh, okay.

DR YOUNG

If you speak to the receptionist, on your way out. And, then I'd like to see you in two weeks, when the results are back. Is that okay?

IVAN

Er, fine. Yeah.

EXT. JENNER PRACTICE - CAR PARK - DAY

Ivan slowly walks to his car, Ben catches up to him.

BEN

Dad. Dad.

Ivan is surprised to see his son.

IVAN

Ben?

BEN

What did she say?

IVAN

Who?

BEN

The doctor.

IVAN

Everything's fine. It's my hearing aids. I've got to get them fixed.

BEN

Uh-uh. Okay, well, that's good.

They walk towards the car. Ben tugs at the locked passenger door.

BEN (CONT'D)

When're you going to get central locking?

Ivan smiles wickedly across the roof of the car at Ben.

IVAN

(self-deprecating)

Oooh, that's for rich folks.

Ben waits as Ivan unlocks his door, gets in, and eventually, unlocks the passenger door.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON CAMPUS - DAY

Establishing.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Four academics, all with beards, stare at Ben, in a shirt and tie.

FILM PROFESSOR

It's quite an impressive array of qualifications. But little research outputs. You started your PhD eight years ago, could you explain why you haven't completed yet?

BEN

Sure, but first, I just want to say, thank you for selecting me. This institution is one...

(Ben's mobile rings)

I...it's I...I'm sorry.

It's Ivan.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry. It's my father.  
He only calls if it's an emergency.

FILM PROFESSOR

Well, okay. Be quick.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON - ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS

Ben talks to his father on his mobile.

BEN

That's not today...I don't know.  
It's Wednesday today, Dad. Yeah. I  
said, I would - remember? Are you  
okay? No. I can't. I know she is.  
Me too. Yeah, yeah, right now.

FILM PROFESSOR opens the office door.

FILM PROFESSOR

Benjamin?

BEN

Dad. Dad. I've got to go. I'll call  
you later. Yeah.

(low)

Love you too.

Ben heads back to the room.

INT. ONE BED FLAT - HOVE - DAY

CLOSE ON A KIDS COMPUTER GAME on a small screen.

WIDER --

Chris sits cross-legged in an empty living room playing a  
hand-held console.

A typical Victorian Hove flat: tall ceilings, decorative  
features, plenty of light.

IN THE MAIN BEDROOM

Ben and Katherine are being shown a large empty bedroom by a  
WELL-DRESSED ESTATE AGENT.

BEN

What do you think?

KATHERINE

Dad will struggle to climb two  
floors.

BEN

Not for Dad, for me. I got the job!

Katherine doesn't know what he's talking about.

BEN (CONT'D)

The full-time post, at my uni. I told you about it.

KATHERINE

Oh, yeah. That was a shoo-in though, wasn't it.

BEN

There's no special treatment, I was the best candidate on the day.

KATHERINE

(back tracking)  
Of course. Congratulations.

BEN

Maybe now, together we could buy Mum's half of the bungalow.

KATHERINE

I can't afford another mortgage.

BEN

It's not just an investment, Kath.

KATHERINE

So, what you thinking? It's a bit pricey.

BEN

You sound like Dad.

WELL-DRESSED ESTATE AGENT

If you're interested, you should get a deposit in asap. This will be gone by tomorrow.

KATHERINE

He's got a few more to see. We'll be in touch.

BEN

(to the Estate Agent)  
I'll take it.

INT./EXT. KATHERINE'S MINI VAN - DAY

Katherine wheels Holly into the back of the van. Ben sits up front, runs his hands around the steering wheel. He turns the ignition, revs the engine.

BEN

What's it like to drive?

Katherine closes the back doors, begins strapping the Holly's chair to the car.

KATHERINE

It's okay. Still getting use to parking.

Ben looks to his right. Paul and Diane climb out of a car, in an adjacent street. Ben stiffens.

Paul and Diane kiss.

Ben looks in the rear view mirror at his sister bending down.

BEN'S FOOT

slams on the accelerator.

PAUL

turns to the sound of TYRES SQUEALING. Catches Ben looking directly at him as they drive away.

Katherine falls backwards, reaches out to stop Holly's wheelchair rolling backwards. Holly's chair whacks the back door. She screams.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

Stop! Stop! She's not strapped in.

Ben quickly takes the next left corner and stops the car.

Katherine picks herself up, checks on her daughter.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)

You okay, honey?

(to Ben)

What the hell were you doing, you could have injured us or worse.

Ben turns off the ignition.

BEN

I'm sorry.

KATHERINE

You're not insured. You have no care for anybody, you moron!

INT. MARQUIS OF GRANBY PUB - BOOTH - NIGHT

MAXINE

dances closely with a guy in his late 50s on the dance floor.

CAROL

watches her, trying to avoid the direct gaze of EDDY (mid 60s), sitting opposite her.

EDDY  
How long have you known Maxine?

CAROL  
Not long. Couple of months.

EDDY  
She didn't let you know we were coming, did she?

CAROL  
No.

EDDY  
Let me make it up to you, same again?

CAROL  
It's okay. I'm gonna go.

Carol takes her handbag and swiftly exits.

INT. CAROL'S VW POLO - NIGHT

Carol turns the ignition. The engine coughs weakly and dies. She tries again. Same result. Eddy knocks on the window scaring Carol.

EDDY  
Sorry. Do you want me to take a look?

CAROL  
No need. She just needs a minute.

Eddy ignores her and lifts up the bonnet.

EDDY  
Try her again.

Carol turns the ignition. The engine coughs, sputters, and fires to life. Bill closes the bonnet.

EDDY (CONT'D)  
It's like a graveyard in there. You're gonna need someone to look a bit more closely.

CAROL  
I will. Thank you.

EDDY  
Yeah. Could be a bigger issue.

CAROL  
I hope not.

EDDY

Bring her to mine. I'll take a look. I use to own a garage.

CAROL

I wouldn't want to put you out.

EDDY

No bother, I have all the time in the world, these days.

Carol looks pained.

EDDY (CONT'D)

No bother. No bother at all.

EXT. EDDY'S HOUSE, SIDE ALLEY - DAY

Carol looks around as if keeping look out. Eddy, in overalls, works on the engine.

EDDY

That should do it.

He gets in the driver's seat, turns the ignition. It starts first time. He revs the accelerator, louder and harder than the car has ever gone. Carol winces.

EDDY (CONT'D)

You could drive her around Silverstone now.

Carol takes out ten pounds from her handbag, offers it to him.

CAROL

For your troubles.

Eddy thinks this gesture is funny but suppresses it.

EDDY

Put that away.

CAROL

Please.

EDDY

No. I didn't do it for money. Just nice to spend some time with you.

Carol panics.

CAROL

(politely)

You too. But I insist. I don't... I don't expect you to... I'm not...

EDDY

I know, I know. I get ya. Still, I won't accept payment.

CAROL

That's very generous of you.

EDDY

But how about a cup of tea?

INT. EDDY'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

It's small and dated. Carol focusses on the kettle, wishing it could boil quicker.

EDDY

So, do you go out much with Maxine?

CAROL

Now and again.

EDDY

Have you two been to the dogs? On Nevill Road.

CAROL

No. Don't think so.

EDDY

It's good fun. Place a few bets. The food's not bad. We could get a booth.

CAROL

I'm sorry. I'm married.

EDDY

Maxine said you're separated.

CAROL

We are. It's, er, it's complicated.

Eddy approaches her, rests one hand on the counter, entrapping her.

BILL

Doesn't have to be.

Eddy moves in for a kiss.

Carol watches him get closer. She's frozen.

He gently kisses her. She accepts the kiss but does nothing in return. She pushes him back.

CAROL

I have to go.

EDDY  
I'm sorry.

CAROL  
I gotta go, sorry.

INT. CAROL'S VW POLO - DAY

Carol is parked on the driveway to the bungalow.

She checks her face in the rearview mirror, and is about to get out when her mobile phone rings.

CAROL  
Hello?

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
I don't fucking believe this. Nine months, I've been waiting.

CAROL  
I'm really sorry but this isn't--

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
I don't want your apologies. You've been fucking me around for too long. And now I've --

CAROL  
Oh, just...*fuck off*.

GRUFF MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
You what?

CAROL  
You heard.

Carol hangs up.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Carol slams the front door behind her as Ivan exits his bedroom. They try to turn the corner at the same time, squashing each other to the sides.

Carol squeezes past him. Ivan shuffles in to the bathroom, pushing the door behind him but not closing it.

CAROL  
Close the door!

Ivan pulls the door wide open, the sound of a stream of pee hitting the bowl is magnified. Carol bursts into the room, stands close to Ivan, frantically trying to finish.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 When are you going to find a  
 place, uh? What's wrong with  
 you? Just buy somewhere!  
 Anywhere!

IVAN  
 What are you doing?!  
 Get out of here!  
 Get out of here!

Ben darts out from the living room, stops his mother as she  
 exits the toilet. Ivan quickly follows, struggling to zip up  
 his trousers.

BEN  
 What's going on? What's with all  
 the shouting?

CAROL  
 Nothing's happening! If it's not  
 people who don't have a deposit, or  
 changing minds, it's this one with  
 his wall ties.

IVAN  
 It was a con, there was nothing  
 wrong with them.

CAROL  
 Because you won't let them find  
 out!

IVAN  
 It was extortion.

CAROL  
 It was five-hundred pounds.

IVAN  
 This bloke wanted to knock a hole  
 in my wall!

CAROL  
 I can't keep doing this. We have to  
 be out of here in a month, he  
 doesn't have anywhere to go, and  
 now I've lost *my* flat.  
 (to Ben)  
 You're not helping him.

BEN  
 I am.

CAROL  
 Try harder. Because I swear to God,  
 if he doesn't find somewhere soon  
 the lawyers are going to have more  
 than a divorce to deal with.

BEN  
 Mum!

Carol storms in to her bedroom. Ben and Ivan look at each other, horrified.

EXT. A27 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY - DAY

Traffic whizzes past Ivan's slow VW Polo.

INT. IVAN'S VW POLO - CONTINUOUS

Ivan drives, Ben rides shotgun. Ahead are lush green, wide open fields of the South Downs.

IVAN

I grew up around here.

BEN

If you take a place here, it's going to be difficult for me to come and visit.

IVAN

Katherine drives.

BEN

What about church? You've been going there for so long.

IVAN

I'll find another one.

An exit sign reads: MILL VIEW PARK. Ivan pulls into the middle reservation.

INT./EXT. IVAN'S VW POLO - CONTINUOUS

Ben nervously watches the traffic speeding past them gently rocking the car.

They wait. And wait. Until a gap opens up. Ivan steers right, across the two lanes - but they're only just quick enough for the two cars fast approaching.

Ben closes his eyes. The car narrowly misses the bumper and enters --

MILL VIEW PARK

The VW trundles past the mobile homes near the entrance.

Ben looks out of the window. It's not what he was expecting. The Mobile Homes are modern, bright white, with small neat gardens adorning the front and rear, some with picket fencing. Gnomes, garden ornaments, and bird tables decorate many lawns. It's clean and welcoming though they see no one.

EXT. MR LONG'S PARK HOME - DAY

Ivan and Ben walk from the car to Jack (the young, arrogant, estate agent who previously tried to sell a place to Ivan), waiting for them outside a one-bedroom park home.

IVAN

He spent hundreds doing this place up but then his wife left him. He's a depressive. I think he has Bi-polo.

They follow Jack up three steps. He knocks on the door.

BEN

Bi-polar.

MR LONG, mid-50s, tired and unhappy, opens the door.

IVAN

Alright Colin. This is my son, Ben. He's come to take a look, give a fresh perspective.

MR LONG

(eager to sell)  
Hello, hello, come in, come, come.

They follow him inside into the

GALLEY KITCHEN

It's small but has colourful tiles.

MR LONG (CONT'D)

(pointing)  
Kitchen, bog, bedroom and lounge.

IN THE BATHROOM

Ivan turns on the shower. It's electric. Powerful.

IVAN

(to himself)  
I can change that.

BEDROOM

The open curtains displays the flowery wallpaper, a double bed and fitted wardrobe and chest of drawers.

IVAN (CONT'D)

He's leaving everything except the bed.

BEN

Why?

IVAN

Just wants out of here. Bad memories.

LIVING ROOM

Sunshine through windows highlights modern fixture and fittings. It's tastefully decorated (for the over 50s), if not a little too beige. It's the nicest place Ivan has been too.

Through the window, Jack chats on his mobile and smokes a cigarette. Mr Long, sits on a leather lazy boy, watching television.

Ben enters from the bedroom. Behind Mr Long's shoulder, Ben spots a folded photograph of Mr Long, hiding the other person in the picture. Ben struggles to remove his eyes from it.

BEN

This is lovely. I can't believe you want to leave such a great place.

Mr Long snorts mock laughter. Before he can respond--

IVAN (O.S.)

Ben. Come have a look at the garden.

EXT. MR LONG'S PARK HOME - BACK GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Ben walks around to find Ivan sitting by a large wooden garden table and chairs on raised decking, overlooking a large field of bright yellow rapeseed.

Ben sits next to him. They take in the peaceful scenery.

IVAN

I use to play in a field like that.

BEN

It's lovely. Think you could be happy here?

IVAN

There's no one living above or right beside me.

BEN

And everyone's fifty plus, so you know there's gonna be some wild parties. You ready for that?

IVAN

(joking)

Born ready. Probably lots of eligible widows too.

Ben responds to the idea of his father dating.

INT. TOP FLOOR UNFURNISHED FLAT - HALLWAY - MORNING

Carol looks into the living room. It's not as nice as the flat she had the offer on, it's small but light.

She steps into

THE BEDROOM

where she finds Maxine spooning GEORGE, a young, good looking, Estate Agent, lying on the carpet.

MAXINE

We're seeing if you could get a double bed in here.

CAROL

(embarrassed)

Get up.

(re: door)

Is this a wardrobe...oh.

It's a basic but modern bathroom: a shower, sink and toilet.

GEORGE

(getting up)

It has a great power shower. Let me show you.

MAXINE

Oh, naughty.

George manoeuvres to the shower unit, presses a button, and a thick powerful spray of water hits the glass side.

Carol lets water flow over her fingers.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Ugh, why would anyone want the bathroom in the bedroom?

GEORGE

Well, at least, it's not too far if you have to go in the middle of the night.

MAXINE

Not for me. I don't have that problem.

CAROL

Maxine.

MAXINE

What?

CAROL  
Could I have a word?

STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Carol gently shoves Maxine out of the door.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Could you go wait in the car?

MAXINE  
Like a child?

CAROL  
Okay, that coffee shop we past.

MAXINE  
What's your problem?  
(misreading Carol)  
You like George don't you!

CAROL  
Why do you do that? Why do you  
sexualise everything?

MAXINE  
I don't. He started it, talking  
about how "big" the bed could be.

CAROL  
That's his job.

MAXINE  
Is this about you and Eddy?

CAROL  
What?

MAXINE  
He said you blue balled him, after  
he helped fix your car. You could  
have at least jingled his keys.

CAROL  
Stop that. Nothing happened. I'm  
not like that.

MAXINE  
He said you kissed him.

CAROL  
That's not what happened.

MAXINE  
I knew it! Details. I want details.  
Was he a good kisser?

Carol reenters the flat...

MAXINE (CONT'D)  
Was it, like, slow or --

...and slams the door in her face.

BACK IN THE FLAT

Carol steps back in.

GEORGE  
Well...

CAROL  
Let's talk price.

INT. BEN'S ONE-BEDROOM FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

IN THE REFLECTION OF A COMPUTER MONITOR are two silhouette figures trying to have sex on a narrow sofa bed.

A KNOCK at the front door. They continue.

IVAN (O.S.)  
Ben. You ready?

MOMENTS LATER

Ben opens the front door very slightly to reveal his father.

BEN  
Hey. Wait in the car. I'll be down  
in a minute.

Ben closes the door. Turns back to Sara, hiding behind the bedroom door.

BEN (CONT'D)  
What you doing? It's just my  
father.

SARA  
You know what this is. I've always  
been up front with you.

BEN  
Sara, come on. I'm not suggesting  
we get married. This is becoming a  
bit of a cliché.

SARA  
What cliché?

BEN  
The child of divorce afraid of  
commitment cliché.

SARA

Whose?

BEN

(he's thrown)

Yours. Having a string of affairs with older men to replace the absent father. Classic.

Trying to be considerate, but not entirely successful --

SARA

Uh, Ben. I'm not the one with the commitment issues.

BEN

I changed my job for you, I got my own place.

SARA

I didn't ask you to do any of that.

Ben is floored, but keeps going.

BEN

Hey, I'm just trying to have a having a normal, loving relationship here. I'm not scared.

SARA

Exactly. I'm content with what this is. And you insult me by telling me I'm the one having the issue here, when you're the one desperate to be with someone - anyone - that you'll ignore they're wholly incompatible. And you know it's all about your father.

BEN

What?

SARA

You're going to end up just like him.

Socked in the stomach and winded --

BEN

You know, I can't even believe I put up with this actually. That I'm even participating is so...

SARA

Sad?

EXT. BEN'S ONE-BED FLAT - LATER

Ben watches Sara's car pull away. He walks over to his father's car and gets in.

INT. IVAN'S VW POLO - DAY

Ivan parks outside Fixations Estates Agents. He releases his seat belt. Ben stares ahead, playing Sara's comments in his mind.

IVAN

You coming?

BEN

We don't have to do everything together, Dad.

INT. FIXATIONS ESTATE AGENTS - DAY

Floor to ceiling glass walls shows slender pillars, pale smooth surfaces, little furniture and bright lighting.

Ivan sits hunched, looking older, against a wall filled entirely with green beer bottles. In his yellow fleece, and blue trousers, he very much looks out of place.

A contract slides towards him, multicoloured post-it notes point where to sign.

Jack swivels on a sleek, white chair behind a desk in front of Ivan. Jack, quizzically, observes him.

JACK

So if you just sign here and here.  
And initial every page. And we can  
get this all wrapped up for you.

Ivan spots an anomaly in the contract.

IVAN

£68,000. That's not correct...

JACK

That was your offer.

IVAN

...Was it?

JACK

Mr Long expects you to pay today  
the amount you agreed.

IVAN

But I didn't agree--

JACK  
 (talking over him)  
 We shook hands, Mr Flint. Look, let  
 me call the owner, see what if we  
 can sort all of this out.

Jack takes out his mobile phone, walks behind a partition  
 into

A SMALL KITCHENETTE

Jack chucks his phone on the counter. Flips the switch to the  
 Espresso maker.

BACK AT JACK'S DESK

Ivan waits, looking confused. He slowly gets up.

Jack, sipping an espresso, returns to his desk to see Ivan  
 walking out.

INT. IVAN'S VW POLO - CONTINUOUS

Ivan climbs in next to Ben.

BEN  
 You okay, Dad? What's wrong?

IVAN  
 I've got myself a bit muddled with  
 the price.

BEN  
 Let's go back in.

IVAN  
 No. I...just want to...

Ivan puts the key in the ignition but stares ahead.

BEN  
 Dad?

IVAN  
 You were right. I've been getting a  
 bit confused.

BEN  
 Let's get you home.

IVAN  
 I can't. Not there, not with her  
 anymore.

Ben painfully chews this over.

BEN  
Shall I take you to Katherine's?

IVAN  
(pause)  
Could I stay with you, just until I  
find somewhere...

Ben thinks about it...

BEN  
Okay.

IVAN  
Won't Sara mind?

BEN  
We broke up.

IVAN  
Do you want to talk about it?

BEN  
No.

Ivan turns the ignition, and slowly pulls away.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BATHROOM - DAY

Ben holds out a plastic bag to Carol who drops in Ivan's  
toothbrush and shaving brush.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK GARDEN SHED - DAY

Ben opens the double doors to

Nothing.

Just cobwebs and dust.

BEN  
Mum!

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SMALL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Carol walks in on Ben turning over piles of books and board  
games.

BEN  
Where's my stuff?  
(Carol looks blank)  
My books from uni. My toys. My VHS  
collection.  
(Carol shrugs)  
Jesus, Mum!

He opens and slams cupboard doors, looking high and low.

BEN (CONT'D)

Please, tell me...you've moved them somewhere.

CAROL

Don't get your knickers in a twist. Right, tell me again.

BEN

All my stuff, the stuff I was going to take with me. Where is it?

CAROL

Dad took that to the tip weeks ago.

Ben looks sick.

INT. IVAN'S VW POLO - CONTINUOUS

Ben opens the passenger door, gets in. He upends the plastic bag, spilling Ivan's underwear, wash bag, and a change of clothes on to his father's lap and footwell.

IVAN

Hey!

BEN

None of this ever meant anything to you, did it.

IVAN

What you talking about?

BEN

Was any of this real? Did you ever love her?

IVAN

Who?

BEN

(who else?)

Mum.

IVAN

I don't know. Maybe. In the beginning. It was a long time ago. I was talking to Kath about it, and she had always been saying "it's not right we're together."

BEN

Did she?

IVAN

And when she said it was affecting the grandchildren, well, I don't want that.

BEN

They're too young to know what's going on. I thought you decided to separate cause you got sent a message from God or something.

IVAN

No, it was Katherine's idea.

INT. BEN'S NEW FLAT - COMMUNAL HALLWAY - EVENING

Ben, carrying his father's bags, slowly climbs the dimly lit stairs. He rounds the corner, takes his keys out and opens the door.

He looks back at the corner. And waits. And waits.

Eventually, Ivan appears taking one step at a time. They enter the flat together.

INT. BEN'S FLAT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben, in boxers and an old T-shirt, walks into his room, brushing his teeth. He watches his father unfold a camping mat on the floor next to a sleeping bag.

INT. BEN'S FLAT - BEDROOM - LATER

Ben wakes up, needing a moment to realize where he is - on a camping mat beneath his bed where his father lies snoring.

He sits up and watches him, wondering what he is dreaming of.

He lies back down and closes his eyes.

SPRING - IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Boxes of belongings line the Hallway. Blank walls.

-- Cobwebs and dust are the only occupants of the Garden Shed.

-- Ben's Mickey Mouse money box sits on the windowsill in the Office. Rest of the room is bare.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK BEDROOM - MORNING

CAROL

lies in bed, starring up at the ceiling for the very last time.

WIDE

reveals the room is empty apart from the bed.

INT. BEN'S NEW FLAT - BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Washed and dressed, Ivan, looks into camera.

IVAN

Ben. Ben. Wake up. Hey. Wake up.

Ben, on a camping mat, groggily comes to, rubbing his eyes.

BEN

What's up, Dad? What's wrong?

IVAN

It's moving day.

BEN

What time is it?

Ivan checks the time.

IVAN

Twenty-to-six.

BEN

You going now?

IVAN

There's a lot still to pack. Can you go to Kath's first? She's got some spare boxes. I'm not gonna pay for new boxes, that's just daft.

Ben crawls out of bed.

BEN

Sure, Dad.

INT. BEN'S NEW FLAT - BATHROOM - DAY

Ben stands over the sink, brushing his teeth. He looks at the top set of false teeth floating in a glass of water.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - FRONT BEDROOM - DAY

Ivan stuffs jumpers into a black bin bag.

EXT. KATHERINE AND PAUL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben glumly holds a pile of flat cardboard boxes. Katherine avoids eye contact as she adds two more.

She helps him carry the boxes into the LIVING ROOM where Paul, in Lycra, finishes stretching.

PAUL  
I'm off for a jog.

Ben and Paul awkwardly glance at each other.

KATHERINE  
See you later.

Once Paul's left --

BEN  
Did you tell Dad he should divorce Mum?

KATHERINE  
I guess I did suggest it.

BEN  
That's our parents.

KATHERINE  
Someone had to say something.

Katherine picks up Ben's hurt by the comment.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
But, I don't know, maybe they did love each other at some point.

BEN  
No. They never did.

KATHERINE  
They should have separated when they had the chance.

Ben doesn't know what's she talking about.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
You don't know? They discussed it when we were at school but Dad didn't want anything to distract us. They just let the tension, bickering, and bitterness do that.

They hear a loud thump from Holly's bedroom. Katherine pushes Ben and runs into HOLLY'S BEDROOM.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
Holly?

Holly, unconscious, convulses and shakes in her bed.  
Katherine drops the basket, runs to her side. Ben freezes.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
Holly. Holly. You okay?

BEN  
What's wrong?

KATHERINE  
She's having a tonic-clonic.

Katherine takes out her mobile, starts her stopwatch.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
(to Holly)  
It's alright sweetheart.

BEN  
Why are you timing?

Katherine hands him her mobile.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Shall I call an ambulance?

KATHERINE  
At three minutes, then call.  
(noticing off screen)  
Oh God.

Chris, clutching his toy monkey and sucking his thumb,  
watches them. Ben picks him up.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Ben puts Chris down on the sofa.

BEN  
Let's watch some telly, yeah?

Chris nods. Ben turns on the television.

BEN (CONT'D)  
I'll be right back.

BACK IN HOLLY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ben is on the phone to the ambulance service.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Okay. Thank you.  
(to Katherine)  
They're on their way.

KATHERINE  
What's the time?

BEN  
Three-minutes, fifty seconds.

KATHERINE  
See the cabinet above her books, in  
there is a syringe of Midazolam.  
Get it for me now.

Ben opens the cabinet, grabs the syringe, and hands it to  
Katherine. Katherine breaks the seal to open the casing.

BEN  
What are you waiting for?

KATHERINE  
I can't, just...wait, we have to  
wait five minutes.

Ben studies the stopwatch intently. Thirty seconds has never  
felt so long.

Katherine strokes Holly's head.

BEN  
Five minutes.

Katherine opens Holly's mouth, squeezing the Midazolam deep  
inside.

They watch and wait.

KATHERINE  
Come on Hols. Where the fuck is  
Paul? Where's the fucking  
ambulance?

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - SAME TIME

Ivan struggles carrying a box of clothes. The bottom flaps  
open, his clothes fall on the floor. He slowly picks up a  
string vest from the grass.

Carol steps out of the bungalow.

IVAN  
Any luck?

CAROL  
No. I'll try him again.

INT. WORTHING GENERAL HOSPITAL, CHILDREN'S WARD - LATER

Katherine and Holly are in the same room as before. Katherine  
strokes Holly's sweaty brow. Ben knocks, enters, with Chris.

BEN

Hey Holly, how you doing?

Holly acknowledges him, but doesn't say anything.

KATHERINE

She's a little groggy. Just waiting for a prescription, and then we can go home.

BEN

Can I get you anything?

INT. WORTHING GENERAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Ben holds Chris up to push coins in to the vending machine, and makes a choice.

MOMENTS LATER

Ben and Katherine, holding hands with Chris, walk back to Holly's room.

Chris runs to Holly. Ben and Katherine wait outside, looking through the window as Chris tries to entertain his sister.

BEN

(takes a deep breath)  
Paul's having an affair.

KATHERINE

I know.

BEN

You do.

KATHERINE

I'm not stupid, Ben.

BEN

A guy at work said he had a great lawyer for his divorce.

KATHERINE

Okay, thanks, but maybe it won't come to that.

BEN

You can't stay with him. You deserve better than that.

KATHERINE

Thank you. I appreciate the sentiment. I do...It's just...  
(looking at her children)  
I have to think what's best for all of us.

They turn to look at a DOCTOR AT THE END OF HER SHIFT approaching them with news.

INT. WORTHING GENERAL HOSPITAL - WARD DESK - LATER

Ben, carrying a couple of bags, pushes Holly past the Nurse Station. None of the nurses look up from their computers, busy typing.

Katherine follows, carrying a plastic bag and Chris.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK BEDROOM - DAY

Carol folds towels and puts them in a box. Ivan enters.

IVAN

Carol. I'm off.

CAROL

You got everything?

IVAN

Think so. I've left my keys on the kitchen side, along with the instructions for the boiler. Don't be too much longer. We have--

CAROL

I know. I will.

IVAN

Well. Goodbye.

CAROL

Bye. See you soon.

Carol pecks Ivan on the cheek. She watches him turn and leave.

EXT. LANCING BEACH GREEN - CAR PARK - DAY

FROM HIGH ABOVE

Ivan's VW Polo sits alone. Waves crash against the shore, a few metres away.

Katherine's Mini Van leaves the road and slowly enters the car park. She parks beside

IVAN'S VW POLO

Ivan climbs out.

Ben gets out of the Mini Van.

IVAN  
I thought you'd forgotten all about  
me.

BEN  
I'm sorry, Dad.

IVAN  
What have you been?

Ben is about to say something. He doesn't.

KATHERINE  
I wasn't feeling well, Dad. Ben  
helped me look after the kids.

Ben's turns around to see his sister standing a little behind  
him.

IVAN  
You should have called.  
(to Ben)  
Come on. Let's get these things  
back to yours.

Ben takes his father's car keys from him.

BEN  
I'll drive.

IVAN  
There's road works along Shoreham  
sea front.

BEN  
I just want to make a pit stop  
somewhere first.

INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - DAY

Carols rummages, nervously, in her handbag. From the  
driveway, a gruff male voice calls in:

REMOVAL MAN (O.S)  
Ready when you are.

CAROL  
Be right out.

Carol opens a cupboard, expecting to grab a glass but it's  
bare. She runs the cold water tap, bends down to sip on the  
water. Refreshed, she takes a deep breath, and looks around  
for one final time.

HALLWAY

She glances into rooms as she walks to the front door.

Carol pauses. Takes one final glance around, before opening and closing the door, leaving us alone for a few seconds to take in the stillness.

From the driveway, the metal shutter door of the van rattles to a close. The van's engine chugs to start and pulls away.

INT. FIXATIONS ESTATE AGENTS - DAY

Jack's returns to his desk to find Ivan sitting opposite. Ben stands behind him.

JACK  
Mr Flint, what can I do for you?

BEN  
My father would like to buy the Mill View Park property.

JACK  
Great. But Mr Long wants asking price. He's had a lot of interest.

IVAN  
If you could call him again, maybe explain my situation, and how much I liked the place.

JACK  
You...you're dogged, aint ya? Okay, I'll call him. I'll do my best for ya. Do you want a beer or anything?

IVAN  
No, thank you.

AT THE SMALL KITCHENETTE

Jack chucks his phone on the counter. Flips the switch to the Espresso maker.

BACK AT JACK'S DESK

Jack returns to his desk.

JACK  
(pretending to chat on his mobile)  
Okay, thanks, will do. Bye.  
(to Ivan)  
Good news, he'll accept £65,000. I can't believe it, but he must have liked you Mr Flint. So what say you?

BEN  
That's not bad, Dad.

JACK  
Here's your logbook. This details  
all previous owners etc.

Ivan flips through the logbook.

IVAN  
Says here it was made in 1993.

JACK  
Does it?

IVAN  
You told me it was thirteen years  
old.

JACK  
(sighs)  
Mr Flint, I'm sorry but you're  
wrong. Please it's time to be  
serious. Can you do that? I have  
plenty of buyers for a property  
like this. And I've already got the  
price dropped for you.

BEN  
Come on Dad, let's go.

IVAN  
£56,000.

Jack is stunned.

BEN  
Dad.

JACK  
Mr Long won't take under asking.

IVAN  
(cutting in)  
It's older than you stipulated, and  
I know Mr Long has already left the  
property, and he wants rid of it  
asap.

BEN  
Dad, what are you doing?

JACK  
I don't think he'll accept that  
offer.

IVAN  
Well, why don't you go and call him  
and, this time, don't forget to  
turn on your phone.

JACK  
I'll see what he says.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIXATIONS ESTATE AGENTS - DAY

Ivan, excited and flushed, pushes the door open with one hand, with his other arm around Ben's shoulder. Ivan places the contract in his jacket pocket, taps it, grinning from ear to ear as they walk back to the car.

INT. CAROL'S NEW FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carol sits on the floor surrounded by a a flat-pack television shelving unit and tools. She methodically reads the instructions, whilst sipping a glass of red wine. The television also sits on the floor beside a framed picture of her mother and father.

A REMOVAL MAN carries a box labelled "BATHROOM", places it on the floor.

CAROL  
That's for the bathroom.

REMOVAL MAN  
Do ya need a hand?

CAROL  
No, I'm alright. Thank you.

Her mobile phone rings. She looks at the caller ID. It's Maxine. She lets the call go to answer phone.

Carol reaches for the Television remote control, her finger no longer wears her wedding ring, and turns on the television.

INT. IVAN'S STATIC CARAVAN - DAY

Unpacked boxes everywhere.

Ivan unwraps the gold framed picture of Ben dressed in his Masters graduation cap and gown. Smiling, he wipes a layer dust of the glass with his sleeve. He hangs the picture next to Ben and Katherine's graduation framed photographs.

Ben dumps a large black bin bag of bedding next to a stack of boxes.

BEN  
That's all of the stuff from the car.

IVAN

I can't find my jumpers. Help me look through all this, will ya. I'll be here all day otherwise.

BEN

(pause)

I have to get back.

IVAN

You helping Mum?

BEN

No.

IVAN

Could you take a look in my car?

Ben doesn't move. Silence.

BEN

(takes a deep breath)

I'm gonna need some time. For myself. To process everything.

IVAN

Now's not the time to regress, Ben. I need you.

He opens his curtains to a beautiful field of yellow rapeseed.

BEN

Is it true that you wanted to separate when we were at school?

IVAN

We talked about it, but I wouldn't do it, not then. I always hoped things would improve, they never did, and then you both went off to university, and mum and me, just carried on, hoping it would get better.

BEN

You didn't have to. You should have left.

IVAN

I never would have done that to you two. And look at you both now, all these degrees. A new job. I'm proud of you.

A moment as Ben takes this in.

BEN  
I'll go have a look.

Ben starts for the door.

IVAN  
Check the boot. They could be with  
the tea towels.

Ben nods, turns and goes out the door.

EXT. IVAN'S STATIC CARAVAN - MOMENTS LATER

Ben searches for the jumpers in the boot of Ivan's VW. He finds them and closes the boot.

A WHITE HAired GENTLEMAN, newspaper under his arm, passes the car.

BEN  
Excuse me. Hi. Sorry to trouble  
you, but would you mind taking this  
into that home there?

WHITE HAired GENTLEMAN  
Not at all.

BEN  
Thank you.

Ben gets in his father's car, turns the ignition and drives slowly out down the road.

At the entrance he takes a left on to the dual carriage way.

INT./EXT. IVAN'S VW POLO - DAY

Ben drives up to and on to the Bridge Road roundabout. He passes the sign for "LITTLEHAMPTON" and takes the north road to "SOMPTING".

INT./EXT. IVAN'S VW POLO - DAY

Ben drives along Cokeham Road, looking at the familiar houses and shops.

EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Ben parks outside on the street. He climbs out and cautiously approaches, checking for onlookers. The bungalow, like the rest of the street, is still and quiet.

He listens for movement on the other side of the door, then slowly slides his key into the lock.

## INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben tiptoes a few feet, stops and listens to the eerie silence. No one is home. The bungalow is bare, a shell of it's former self. Ben turns right into --

## FRONT BEDROOM

Where a thick line of dust outlines where Ivan's single bed was. Ben opens a cupboard, remembering what was once there.

BEN

Goodbye Kath's room (Answers back  
in different voice) Goodbye Ben.

## LIVING ROOM

Ben stares at the discoloured lines where the pictures used to hang. Ben has an idea, takes out his phone, and begins recording.

BEN (CONT'D)

Goodbye Living Room. Goodbye Ben.

## HALLWAY

Ben, still recording, walks towards us and into --

## KITCHEN

Ben films the clean and empty kitchen cabinets and space where the table used to sit. He opens the fridge, completely empty - the familiar loaf of bread has now gone.

BEN (CONT'D)

Goodbye Kitchen. Goodbye Ben.

## BACK BEDROOM

The saddest room of all. With no double bed, the fixed bedside tables seem further apart.

BEN (CONT'D)

Goodbye Parents Room. Goodbye Ben.

## EXT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Ben strolls around the garden, filming and taking a visual memory of each section.

## INT. IVAN AND CAROL'S BUNGALOW - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A cabinet door opens, empty and unclean.

Ben lowers his mobile, remembering...

FLASHBACK - BATHROOM - YEARS LATER

BEN, AGE 13, dressed for bed, watches a much younger IVAN apply shaving soap to his face with a nylon brush.

IVAN  
Promise me something.

BEN  
What?

IVAN  
Wait until you're married before  
you have sex.

BEN  
Okay.

Ivan places the shaving brush and soap back in the cabinet shelf.

## BACK TO PRESENT

Ben stares at the empty, stained cabinet shelf.

## SMALL OFFICE

Ben, gloomy, sits down against the radiator. Beside him is his Mickey Mouse money box. He picks it up, the bell inside twinkles along with the loose change.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Goodbye room. Goodbye B--

The front door opens. Ben jumps to his feet.

FEMALE FIRST TIME OWNER (O.S)  
What you doing?

BUTCH WOMAN (O.S)  
I'm going to carry you.

They stumble and fall, burst out laughing. Ben panics. There is nowhere to hide.

FEMALE FIRST TIME OWNER (O.S)  
I can't believe we're finally in.

BUTCH WOMAN (O.S)  
I'm calling Dad.  
(a beat)  
Hey Dad. We're in!

BUTCH WOMAN steps into the room, her back to Ben, petrified.

BUTCH WOMAN (CONT'D)  
(on her mobile phone)  
Yeah. Feels smaller than I  
remembered.

She goes to the window and looks out.

BUTCH WOMAN (CONT'D)  
Garden still looks big.

In an act of proud ownership, her fingertips brush the tired wallpaper, moving forwards until reaching the words, freshly etched into the wallpaper:

"39 YEARS"

She turns around.

Ben's gone.

CUT TO BLACK.