## **SETTLE FOR ME**

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I declare that this thesis is a presentation of original work and I am the sole author. This work has not previously been presented for an award at this, or any other, University. All sources are acknowledged as References.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

BARBARA (45, sharp bob haircut) and NICKY (44, sharp bob haircut) are sitting opposite each other on their own desk island. Barbara is chewing loudly. Nicky is scrolling through visa applications on her computer. She ticks the 'declined' box on five applications. This generates an automatic letter which opens in MS word. She clicks print.

TOM (25, receptionist, sharp haircut, wearing a suit) collects the documents from the printer. He takes them to the front desk, folds them and puts them into envelopes.

INT. JULIA'S HOUSE - DAY

JULIA (34), wearing dungarees and a cardigan, is sitting on the floor leaning against the front door of her terrace house, crying. There are pictures of her graduation from Sheffield University hung up on the wall, along with a cartoon sign of a cat with sunglasses that reads "Molecular biologist, because badass isn't an official job title". She has her mobile in one hand and a letter in the other.

The letter says "no right of appeal" "to be deported to the Democratic Republic of Congo."

Julia presses the numbers to call again. The phone rings, is picked up and immediately dropped. She calls again and it goes to voicemail.

A baby cries from the next room.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Nicky's phone rings, she picks up and immediately puts it back down.

INT. AGNES'S ROOM - DAY

AGNES (22, brown-hair, messy bun, multiple heavy earrings, wearing a patch covered denim jacket) is asleep in bed, lying on top of her duvet.

Agnes' room has slanted attic ceilings and a large window. It's covered in William Morris prints, various small tools and unfinished woodworking projects. There's a large desk with paper covering the workspace.

WILL (24), muscular with short brown hair, is asleep next to her.

A taxi horn beeps from the street below.

Agnes leaps out of bed. She punches Will in the arm. Will wakes up.

WILL

What, has your girlfriend come home early?

**AGNES** 

We're on a break. Get up.

Will gets out of bed.

Agnes throws his jeans at his chest. He puts them on.

WILL

We should totally have a threesome next time.

**AGNES** 

Christ, I'm bi, not a porn category. I'm so glad we didn't sleep together, you bigoted asshole.

Will rubs his eyes.

WILL

We didn't?

Agnes rushes Will down the stairs.

**AGNES** 

Bill.

WILL

It's Will.

AGNES

You nightmare of a person. I can't express to you in enough words how bored I was when I met you last night. The fact a woman drinking alone didn't ring alarm bells with you is wild to me.

Will goes to walk out the front door and Agnes grabs his shoulders to push him in the other direction, towards the garden exit.

WILL

Very classy.

Agnes walks out the front door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Agnes' parents JOHN (mid-50s, wearing cargo shorts) and FAITH (mid-60s, similar long brown hair to Agnes) are putting two large suitcases in a taxi.

Agnes opens the front door and wanders over to the taxi.

John pretends to shut the car boot on Faith's fingers. Agnes moves her hand to stop it. John and Faith both laugh.

John shuts the boot and walks back to the door with Agnes to say goodbye.

**AGNES** 

She's not going to let you get away with that. It could've hit her fingers.

JOHN

What's a few broken fingers in exchange for all of this?

John shakes his hips and wiggles his eyebrows.

**AGNES** 

Stop! That can't be my last memory of you for the next month.

JOHN

Your loss, baby.

John gives Agnes a hug.

JOHN (CONT.)

You be good ok? Stay out of trouble.

**AGNES** 

Yes, I'm an angel.

JOHN

You're an angel!

John waves and gets in the car.

Faith kisses Agnes goodbye.

FAITH

(whispering)

I've told my sisters to only speak to him in Hindi when we arrive.

**AGNES** 

(laughing)

Aren't they traveling from Scotland?

FAITH

Yes, the only Hindi they know is 'where's the toilet?'

JOHN

(shouting)

What's going on?

**AGNES** 

Nothing! Bye, love you, bye!

FAITH

Look after yourself, I love you. I'll say happy birthday to Parnani from you.

**AGNES** 

You packed the present I made for her?

FAITH

Of course I did, you're a woodworking genius. Goodbye sweetie.

**AGNES** 

Bye.

FAITH

And don't forget to water the plants.

Faith walks to the car and gets in.

She shuts the door and turns to John.

FAITH

You packed the present right?

John looks uncomfortable. Faith gasps.

JOHN

Yes! Just kidding, yes I packed it. And there was no room left for clothes so get used to these.

John slaps his cargo-short-covered knee.

FAITH

You're going to make grandma regret ever coming to England.

JOHN

I'll have you know cargo shorts are an international sensation.

Faith rolls her eyes.

John rolls down the window and shouts to Agnes.

JOHN (CONT.)

Love you, don't burn the place down.

AGNES

I'll try my best!

The taxi pulls away.

Agnes waves until the taxi is out of sight then leaps into action.

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - DAY

Agnes enters the hotel, slams the door and picks her rucksack up from the floor, slinging it over her back.

The reception area has a reception desk and a small sofa covered in a mix of cushions, newspapers and magazines. There are stairs to one side and a corridor with rooms running down the other.

The walls are covered in family portraits and are painted bright colours.

PEARL (45), the housekeeper, is locking up the cupboard under the stairs.

PEARL

Slow down Agnes.

**AGNES** 

Sorry!

Agnes sticks her tongue out.

AGNES (CONT.)

We're not all getting a month off, paid!

PEARL

I don't want you in the rooms while I'm gone sweetie. I'll know!

**AGNES** 

Would I ever?

Agnes runs up the two flights of stairs.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Barbara and Nicky are at their desks.

NICKY

We need to get these administrative removal rates up. Our numbers look terrible.

BARBARA

But we sent 20 letters yesterday.

NICKY

We've got to convert them into real deportations. The hold up is with the ones who have immigration advisors. If we can track them down and get them into a detention (MORE)

NICKY (cont'd)

centre before they manage to work on their case, we're on the home straight. For public good.

**BARBARA** 

For public good.

NICKY

And a raise.

INT. AGNES'S ROOM - DAY

Agnes opens the door to her attic room and quickly takes her laptop from her desk.

She throws the laptop into her rucksack as she bounds down the stairs.

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - DAY

Agnes crams her feet into a pair of Dr Martens and opens the front door.

She grabs an 'out for lunch' sign from the reception desk and pins it on the front door.

INT. TRAM - DAY

Agnes is sitting on a crowded tram. As more people get on, she stands up.

A member of staff is pushing down the tram through the crowds and checking tickets.

CONDUCTOR

Tickets!

Agnes shuffles further away from the conductor.

**AGNES** 

(whispered)

Damn it.

The conductor checks a ticket and nods.

Agnes doesn't take her eyes off the conductor and takes a step back.

She steps into Tom, who is standing directly behind her holding a briefcase.

**AGNES** 

Sorry, excuse me.

Agnes tries to move left.

Tom moves his briefcase, blocking her path.

Agnes is pushed up against a homeless woman who is also avoiding eye contact with the tram conductor.

Agnes turns to glare at Tom.

**AGNES** 

I said excuse me.

Tom takes a step to stop her moving any further down the tram.

**AGNES** 

What's your problem?

CONDUCTOR

(shouting)

Any more tickets, any more tickets from City Hall.

Tom reaches into his pocket and pulls out his ticket.

He waves it at the conductor.

TOM

Over here!

The conductor walks over to Tom.

Tom shows his ticket.

TOM

I actually don't think you've seen any of our passes.

Agnes avoids eye contact.

CONDUCTOR

Are you travelling together?

Agnes recoils.

AGNES

No!

CONDUCTOR

Have you got your ticket with you today ma'am?

AGNES

(disgruntled)

Can I buy one now?

CONDUCTOR

No problem.

Agnes looks at the homeless woman.

**AGNES** 

I'll get hers as well.

The tram pulls up at the stop and Agnes gets off. She puts two fingers up at Tom as the tram doors shut.

Tom looks outraged.

EXT. WORKING MEN'S CLUB - DAY

Agnes walks to a former working men's club, now a worn down community centre, and sees HENRY (40, bald, bearded, dressed in a mix of army camo and beige with painted fingernails) leaning on the brick wall smoking weed.

**AGNES** 

Henry!

HENRY

Agnes! How are you doing my love?

They hug.

**AGNES** 

I'm holding up. I saw you got the PhD?

**HENRY** 

Just about, I'm on one of those sweet zero-hour teaching contracts now.

**AGNES** 

Living the dream then?

**HENRY** 

Living the capitalist hellscape dream.

Agnes kisses her fingers like an Italian chef.

Henry stubs out his blunt on the wall.

HENRY (CONT.)

Everyone else is inside, I even procured the services of a priest.

Henry opens the door.

INT. WORKING MEN'S CLUB - DAY

Agnes and Henry walk along a corridor.

**AGNES** 

So you actually went inside a church? Is God cool with the weed?

HENRY

I don't know what you're talking about. C'est ridicule! I deny all charges.

Henry flicks the end of his blunt into a bin.

They walk through another set of double doors to a room with plastic fold-out tables and stackable chairs.

7 people are sat chatting around the table.

HENRY (CONT.)

Hello everyone, hi. I'd like you all to meet my friend Agnes, a tiny undergraduate who I know from the hallowed halls of the Glasgow School of Art.

**AGNES** 

A tiny graduate now.

HENRY

Yes congratulations, take a seat.

Agnes sits and waves at the people on either side of her.

She swings her bag off her back and it lands with a thud on the table.

HENRY (CONT.)

Welcome, my angelic activist sprites to our latest meeting. Now we are a collective but in the interest of not talking over one another, I'm happy to steer the conversation as an explorer in the misty seas of your minds. Is everyone ok with that?

Everyone in the room nods and makes noises of agreement.

HENRY (CONT.)

Fabulous. I'd also like to welcome Priest Templewood who has kindly offered to assist in our schemes.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD (70, wearing a relaxed suit) sits up.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Wonderful to meet you all.

HENRY

You may already have seen Priest Templewood, he was recently profiled in the Gay Times as the first gay priest in Sheffield.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Well, the first openly gay priest. Trust me, there are more of us.

Agnes wolf-whistles.

**HENRY** 

The first gay priest to come out and for that we are both impressed and grateful.

Priest Templewood smiles bows his head.

HENRY (CONT.)

He's here to conduct the marriages. For the benefit of our new starter Agnes I've matched up 5 kind volunteers with 5 people who need a strong family connection in the UK to help them stay here. Everyone here has been of the upmost help finding the volunteers and a mix of those in need, from refugees to immigrants. One of the people in need is with us today, hi Rain.

RAIN (21, wearing an A-line dress with a strawberry pattern) stands up straight and smiles at the group.

RAIN

Hello, yes, I'm a person in need.

**HENRY** 

Feel free to introduce yourself.

RAIN

I'm Rain, I'm a graduate on a student visa. I feel a bit weird about this because I still think the perfect girl for me is out there, but I need a visa now. So thank you guys for helping out, and thank you, Henry.

**HENRY** 

I'll have none of that, you're entitled to be here.

YASMIN (40, neat bob) leans forward.

YASMIN

Can't we just help with the visa costs?

HENRY

Rain has recieved a letter threatening her deportation, but this marriage will give her the chance to apply for a spouse visa.

**AGNES** 

11 of the people on the flight stopped by the Stanstead 15 have remained in this country, including (MORE)

AGNES (cont'd)

four victims of human trafficking. Even if you have the money, and documentation, you can be detained at any time.

HENRY

Thank you for doing your homework, we love an intellectual. The marriages are just one part of our larger direct action, along with finding lawyers, shelters and raising money for visa costs.

Priest Templewood clears his throat.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Apologies son but I'm about to make it a little more challenging. Unfortunately, I'm unable to marry the young couples in my church. We are all God's children but some of my peers don't see it that way.

HENRY

Understood.

INT. WORKING MEN'S CLUB - DAY

Yasmin and Henry are stood by a plastic fold out table getting tea and biscuits.

Agnes joins them and pours herself a tea.

YASMIN

Surely you're doing enough.

HENRY

I'll be able to sort out the venue.

YASMIN

Are you sure?

HENRY

It'll just take a while for funds to come through. A community centre would be cheapest and it would take a few months to raise enough to book it out.

**AGNES** 

Meanwhile people might get deported?

Yasmin and Henry fall silent for a few seconds.

HENRY

Yes.

**AGNES** 

Have it in The Nest.

RAIN

What's The Nest?

**AGNES** 

It's my parent's hotel. It's licensed for weddings and it's empty for the next month, they've gone to India for my Great-Grandma's birthday.

HENRY

Are you sure about this? It's dangerous.

**AGNES** 

It'll be fun.

HENRY

Agnes...

YASMIN

Go on Henry.

**HENRY** 

Fine. On your head be it.

Agnes cheers, then turns to address the rest of the room.

**AGNES** 

Remember to bring your own booze ladies.

Yasmin looks around.

YASMIN

She's joking isn't she? Isn't she?

INT. TRAVELODGE ROOM - DAY

Tom is sitting up straight on his bed reading a book. He has few belongings, only one suitcase is on the floor and clothes for the next day are folded neatly over a chair.

A window SLAMS and he jumps.

TOM

Gosh.

He continues reading.

A woman starts shouting in the corridor. He tries to ignore it, but his brow furrows.

MOT

(quietly)

Stop it please.

The woman continues to shout.

Tom slowly turns a page.

TOM

(slightly louder)

Stop.

The woman continues to shout and starts to BANG on the wall.

Tom swings his legs over the side of the bed. He is wearing socks.

TOM

(loudly)

Please stop!

Tom stands up and hears a SPLOSH sound.

He looks down and see's an inch of water covering the carpet. His room has flooded.

He screams.

There's a loud knock on the door.

HOTEL STAFF

Keep it down in there!

MOT

Sorry! I'm so sorry.

Tom pulls off one wet sock, which flies through the air and lands on his open book.

INT. TRAVELODGE RECEPTION - DAY

Tom marches to the reception at the Travelodge, his one wet sock squelching.

TOM

I'd like to issue a formal complaint. Please let me know the official procedure.

RECEPTIONIST

Room number?

TOM

42.

RECEPTIONIST

Is it anything I can help you with?

 $\mathtt{MOT}$ 

Are you a plumber? My room has flooded.

RECEPTIONIST

What?

The receptionist hurriedly walks down the corridor.

INT. TRAVELODGE CORRIDOR - DAY

The receptionist opens the door to Tom's room and sees the flooding.

He takes out his mobile and calls a plumber. His phone rings.

RECEPTIONIST

(hisses)

Why didn't you open with this?

TOM

My room is flooded and it's my fault?

RECEPTIONIST

You should've told me straight away.

MOT

This would never happen in London.

RECEPTIONIST

Just stay at another hotel, we'll pay for it. Give me your email address and phone number and we'll refund any cost you will have incurred staying somewhere-

Tom's eyes widen.

TOM

Phone number.

INT. TRAVELODGE ROOM - DAY

Tom pushes open the door to his room and rushes in. His phone is on the floor plugged into the charger and covered in flood water.

He rolls up his trousers to his knees and delicately kneels in the water, looking disgusted. He pulls the charger out of the phone and sparks fly out of the plug.

Tom leaps to his feet and hurries back to the receptionist.

INT. TRAVELODGE CORRIDOR - DAY

TOM (CONT.)

What am I meant to do -

The receptionist waves his hand to shush Tom.

RECEPTIONIST

Hello? Thank god I got through to you, there's been a flood. Right. Ok. The boiler is down the hall, hang on.

The receptionist walks off down the hall.

The woman in the next door resumes shouting.

Tom rubs his forehead and picks up his damp briefcase. He pulls out a pen.

MOT

At least tell me there's a complaints form?

INT. THE NEST - DAY

Agnes and Rain are standing in the corridor.

Agnes pats on the door and passes Rain a key.

**AGNES** 

This is your key, come and go whenever.

RAIN

Thanks for this. When's Alan arriving?

**AGNES** 

I think he said his name was Arthur? Henry told me he's coming tomorrow morning.

Rain furrows her eyebrows.

Tom enters the hotel and sees an empty reception. He clears his throat. He can see Agnes and Rain down the corridor.

Agnes doesn't hear him and continues talking to Rain.

Tom clears his throat more loudly.

Tom walks up to Agnes, taps her on the shoulder and clears his throat again.

Agnes turns around and Tom recognises her. He quickly collects himself.

MOT

Good afternoon. My name is Tom and I have been sent here as due to an emergency situation in my hotel-

AGNES

Really? How many boys do I need to kick out of this house today?

TOM

Excuse me?

**AGNES** 

Can't you see we're closed?

Agnes starts shooing Tom towards the door.

Rain backs into her room.

RAIN

I'll start unpacking then.

Rain hurriedly shuts her door.

Agnes marches Tom further down the corridor.

TOM

I don't want to be a bother but I really don't feel comfortable leaving. As a consumer I have rights!

**AGNES** 

Of course you do. The door's that way.

MOT

(speaking at a regular
volume)

Now I don't like to raise my voice but this is extraordinarily inhospitable.

AGNES

How hospitable were you feeling on the tram?

MOT

That was a completely different scenario. You were-

Tom leans in and whispers.

TOM (CONT.)

About to carry out illegal activity.

Agnes opens the door.

TOM (CONT.)

You should be thanking me. I saved you a hefty fine, which you probably wouldn't be able to afford, given the small number of guests.

**AGNES** 

We're closed. Apart from Rain, but she's not a "guest" guest.

TOM

I'll call the police.

**AGNES** 

Sure, go ahead.

TOM

Fine.

**AGNES** 

Fine.

Tom pauses.

TOM

May I borrow your phone?

Agnes' mobile starts ringing. She pulls it out of her pocket.

Tom goes to speak and Agnes raises one finger. He stops talking.

**AGNES** 

Hi? Oh hi, I wasn't expecting you to call so soon. Look I'm in the middle of something could you call back?

Tom edges towards the reception phone.

Agnes waves her hand at him and mouths 'No'.

AGNES (CONT.)

What? I had no idea. I can stay on the phone really. Are you both OK? No really I have time, don't worry. If you're sure. So I guess the birthday's off? Sorry, I know it's not funny, I just, I don't know how else to deal with it. Alright. Thanks for letting me know.

MOT

Another angry customer I assume?

AGNES

It was my mum. My great-grandma has died.

MOT

I'm so sorry.

**AGNES** 

I have to call Henry.

Agnes calls Henry.

HENRY (V.O)

Hello?

**AGNES** 

Henry? It's Agnes, hi-

Agnes take a deep breath.

AGNES (CONT.)

My great-grandma has died.

HENRY (V.O)

That's truly terrible news, is there anything I can do?

Agnes looks to Tom.

AGNES

(whispered)

Thank you, I haven't really had time to process it. Listen, my parents are getting an early flight back, so we might need to, er, put on all of the events in the next two days.

HENRY (V.O)

You want to host 5 marriages in 2 days?

AGNES

Shhh. To be honest I think I'd smash it. A priest, a couple of rings, half a bottle of vodka and we're good to go.

HENRY (V.O)

It'd be risky.

**AGNES** 

It'll be months before you can make enough money to organise an alternative venue.

Tom taps on the phone.

TOM

I wasn't joking about getting law enforcement involved. The way I've been treated as a paying customer...

HENRY (V.O)

If you got caught not only could everyone risk being taken to a detention centre, you could go to (MORE)

HENRY (V.O) (cont'd)

jail. Organising a sham marriage for the purposes of circumventing immigration controls could result in up to 15 years in prison.

TOM

I don't think anyone alive has had a more difficult morning than I.

HENRY (V.O)

You'd be seen as assisting unlawful immigration.

**AGNES** 

What do I need to do?

HENRY (V.O)

I'll let everyone know. You need to get the room set up.

**AGNES** 

Fine, no problem.

HENRY (V.O)

How's 10am tomorrow?

**AGNES** 

OK.

Agnes sees Tom pick up the phone.

AGNES (CONT.)

Henry I've got to go.

Agnes puts her mobile down and pushes it into her pocket.

Tom lifts the reception phone to his ear.

Agnes grabs the phone out of Tom's hand and slams it onto the receiver.

Tom clutches his hand to his chest as if he's been hurt.

**AGNES** 

You need to leave.

TOM

I can't leave. A branch of my company needs reception cover and they are paying me double to come to Sheffield and help. The expenses are divine.

**AGNES** 

So stay somewhere else.

TOM

I refuse. It just so happens this hotel is the only one in the area with the correct geographical feng shui.

Agnes sighs.

AGNES

I can't deal with this right now.

Agnes reaches for a key and throws it at Tom.

It hits him square on the chest and falls to the floor. He gingerly picks it up.

AGNES (CONT.)

What more do you want?

MOT

If you wouldn't mind, I'd quite like an apology.

**AGNES** 

You've got to be kidding.

Tom doesn't concede.

AGNES (CONT.)

(sarcastically)

I'm so sorry you threatened to get me arrested.

MOT

The customer is always right.

Agnes walks away.

TOM

(shouting after her))

I graciously accept your apology.

INT. THE NEST BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

The breakfast room is at the front of the house, with a large window. It's full of tables and chairs with a long table displaying a continental breakfast. The plates and bowls are mismatched but beautifully decorated.

Rain is sat alone eating on a round table. The crusts are cut off her toast and she is eating it with a knife and fork. Agnes bounds over gnawing on a pastry. Rain jumps slightly as Agnes sits down next to her.

**AGNES** 

(talking through bites)

Morning!

RAIN

Hi.

AGNES

I've left 3 keys on the desk, the rest of the people, erm, attending the events can check themselves in.

RAIN

OK. These chairs are so pretty.

Rain points to the wooden chair next to her. It has been carved in great detail with flowers and leaves.

**AGNES** 

Thanks! I made them.

Agnes points to one of the flowers.

AGNES (CONT.)

This is a cantuta flower, you find them in the Andes.

Rain traces the pattern with her fingers.

RAIN

Do you sell them?

**AGNES** 

No, they're for friends and family.

RAIN

Why?

**AGNES** 

My job is my job, my art is my art.

RAIN

You don't think people would buy them?

Agnes shrugs.

They both continue eating.

RAIN (CONT.)

I'm up first aren't I?

Rain looks down.

Agnes puts her pastry on a plate.

AGNES

Everyone arrives in half an hour.

Agnes squeezes Rain's hand.

RAIN

Henry called me last night. I'm optimistic.

**AGNES** 

You should probably go back to your room to get ready. I'll find someone else to help.

RAIN

What if he's a nightmare?

Agnes gestures for Rain to keep quiet.

**AGNES** 

I can't promise he won't be. But he agreed to come today, to help someone at risk to himself. He can't be too bad.

Rain smiles.

AGNES (CONT.)

You don't have to do this.

RAIN

I want to. I just always thought it'd be with someone I loved.

**AGNES** 

(whispered)

I have good news for you. You're getting a divorce!

Rain laughs.

AGNES (CONT.)

I've got to go set up. Will you be ok?

RAIN

Yes.

Agnes nods and leaves.

INT. SHUHADA'S CAR

Shuhada (44, wearing a relaxed dress) is driving to The Nest to get ready for her upcoming marriage.

Her SATNAV is guiding her to the hotel.

She looks in her wing mirror and sees Barbara and Nicky driving a short distance behind her.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

SHUHADA, CAROLINE (27, tattoos, on her arms and neck, short bleach hair), and ARTHUR (26, wearing glasses, a jumper and

a shirt) are standing in the hallway.

ARTHUR

Are you Rain?

**AGNES** 

I'm Agnes, nice to meet you. I'm looking after the hotel.

Arthur pushes his glasses further up his nose.

ARTHUR

You don't seem old enough.

**AGNES** 

It belongs to my parents. Have you all got your keys?

Agnes scrolls through her phone.

AGNES (CONT.)

I should have an Arthur, check, a Shuhada?

SHUHADA

Hello.

**AGNES** 

Check, Caroline?

CAROLINE

Y'alright?

AGNES

And Emily?

Agnes looks up from her phone.

EMILY (24, long black hair, fitted jeans and a designer top) appears from behind the other guests.

Agnes gasps and Emily smirks, putting up her hand.

**EMILY** 

Here Miss.

**ARTHUR** 

Where's Rain?

CAROLINE

How do we know, er, who is with who?

EMILY

Shout it from the rooftops why don't you.

**AGNES** 

We've only got 5 rooms, not everyone is staying here. Rain is in room 2.

Emily winks at Agnes.

AGNES (CONT.)

Please, go to your rooms, get settled, 1-3 are on ground floor and 3-4 are up the stairs. The fifth room is my parents, also up the stairs.

Arthur, Caroline, Shuhada and Emily head down the corridor.

Emily passes Agnes and leans in to speak.

There's one sharp knock on the front door.

EMILY

Later.

Emily walks past Agnes.

Agnes collects herself and opens the front door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Barbara and Nicky are standing on the doorstep.

BARBARA

I'm Barbara, this is Nicky.

NICKY

We'd like to ask owner of this establishment a few questions.

**AGNES** 

The owners are my parents, but they're away.

Agnes tries to shut the door.

Nicky slams her hand into it, pushing it open. Nicky and Barbara walk in.

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - DAY

Nicky pushes Agnes to one side and marches towards the reception desk.

NICKY

Do you assume responsibility for the property in their absence?

AGNES

What's the problem?

Nicky writes in her clipboard.

NICKY

We're looking for someone who is needed in a detention centre.

**AGNES** 

Where are you from?

BARBARA

Immigration enforcement.

NICKY

Your name?

**AGNES** 

Agnes Walker.

Nicky spots the empty keys rack.

NICKY

You're having a busy weekend.

**AGNES** 

We're actually shut for a wedding,

Tom comes downstairs.

TOM

Excuse me, how do I request sheets with a higher thread count?

Agnes rolls her eyes.

NICKY

I don't think you are shut.

BARBARA

We're going to need to see names and room numbers of all the guests.

**AGNES** 

Why?

NICKY

We have reason to believe that someone here is trying to avoid being deported.

Tom notices Nicky and Barbara.

MOT

Hello. Nice to meet you.

NICKY

Good to meet you too.

BARBARA

What are you doing here?

TOM

(through gritted teeth)
I'm staying here.

**AGNES** 

We have an event taking place in two hours. If you had called ahead I would've scheduled you in, but as it stands-

Nicky flicks through a notebook on the reception desk.

NICKY

Rain and Arthur, rooms 2 and 4.

BARBARA

Notice of their ceremony was approved 30 days ago.

Nicky raises an eyebrow.

NICKY

Separate rooms?

**AGNES** 

Um, yes.

TOM

I think it's nice not to see each other on the night before the wedding. Very traditional.

NICKY

Where are they staying?

**AGNES** 

I have a strong code of guest confidentiality.

NICKY

Here's the situation. We can either ask questions about the relationship now, or we can ask questions at the office, which means a 70 day wait until the ceremony can be carried out.

Agnes glares at Nicky.

**AGNES** 

2 is down the hall and 4 is upstairs.

Tom leans in and taps Nicky on the arm.

MOT

You'll have to excuse her. She has no respect for the value of any (MORE)

TOM (cont'd)

institutions, let alone the institution of marriage.

**AGNES** 

That's not to say I take the weddings here lightly.

TOM

What's authority to Agnes?

**AGNES** 

I'm sure Barbara and Nicky have to be getting on.

Nicky cocks her head at Barbara and they head down the hall.

Agnes stands still until they've gone then runs to the phone. She frantically dials.

**AGNES** 

Henry?

HENRY (V.O)

Who's speaking?

**AGNES** 

It's Agnes. We've got a problem.

Agnes looks at Tom, who is listening in.

TOM

I'll err, sort out the sheet issue later.

Tom takes a seat on a nearby chair and starts leafing through a newspaper.

**AGNES** 

(whispering)

Immigration enforcement are here and they're asking to interview the guests.

HENRY (V.O)

Stay calm. I'll drive the other 6 over now and they can take the interviews together.

**AGNES** 

Thank you! Hurry.

HENRY (V.O)

Do you have the space?

Agnes looks to the board full of empty hooks where the keys used to sit.

**AGNES** 

No.

HENRY (V.O)

Make space. However you can.

**AGNES** 

There's only 5 rooms.

**HENRY** 

There are only 5 couples.

**AGNES** 

(looking at Tom)

But-

HENRY

Agnes. Make it work.

**AGNES** 

OK. See you soon.

Agnes puts the phone down.

TOM

Are you free to discuss my thread-count?

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

The conservatory is large enough to fit 60 people and sits at the back of The Nest. The room is sparse and the sun is setting.

Arthur, Caroline and Shuhada are folding out chairs.

CAROLINE

Is this what you imagined doing on the big day?

ARTHUR

Shhh.

Arthur walks over to the door and checks it is shut. He does the same for the windows.

ARTHUR (CONT.)

In my head I'd wake up, have poached eggs, salmon and a large glass of whiskey while reading poetry. Then I'd go to the church in the village I grew up in and get married.

SHUHADA

It's a shame you have to miss out on that. Although I'm questioning your choice of whiskey for breakfast. ARTHUR

I might still have it. I don't class this as real in my head.
Marriage is about the other person and your connection.

SHUHADA

That's true.

ARTHUR

My second marriage, if I ever meet someone, will be the only one I've really had.

SHUHADA

That's a good reason for being here. Why are you getting married Caroline?

Caroline is struggling to opening a folding chair.

CAROLINE

I have a visa too, but it's personal for me.

SHUHADA

What do you mean?

Caroline's chair is stuck. She tries to pull it apart.

CAROLINE

I own a lesbian bar. Someone who used to come every single Friday stopping coming. I asked my friend where she went, and she said she'd been deported.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Nicky knocks on Rain's door.

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

ARTHUR

I'm so sorry.

CAROLINE

She was here because she wasn't safe at home. She came from a homophobic country. Sending her back was a death sentence.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Rain opens the door slightly and peeks through the crack.

RAIN

Hello? Who are you?

Nicky pushes the door open.

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

ARTHUR

Why did they do it?

CAROLINE

They didn't believe she was gay. 'Too feminine'.

ARTHUR

Christ.

CAROLINE

I was so angry.

SHUHADA

It's scary.

CAROLINE

But we're here now. And it's your wedding! It's a happy day!

Caroline's chair opens and she puts it down.

CAROLINE (CONT.)

There we go. Only the decorations to finish.

Caroline sits down.

Shuhada folds her final chair next to Arthur's.

SHUHADA

Are you nervous?

ARTHUR

Not anymore.

He looks at Caroline.

ARTHUR (CONT.)

I know I'm doing the right thing.

The doors shake and the glass panels rattle. Arthur, Shuhada and Caroline jump.

Barbara peers in from outside.

Shuhada gasps.

INT. AGNES'S ROOM - DAY

Agnes unlocks her door. Tom and Agnes enter her room.

AGNES

I wouldn't ask if it wasn't an emergency.

MOT

We made a deal.

**AGNES** 

I'll buy you the most expensive bedding I can tomorrow.

Tom almost trips over the piles of woodworking tools and books on the floor.

His hand reaches out to steady himself and he knocks over a carved table leg.

**AGNES** 

I have a studio to keep all this stuff in but I needed to make room.

Tom looks at the half-completed woodwork projects.

MOT

These are beautiful.

Agnes pulls out a spare bed from under the double.

**AGNES** 

They would be, if I ever had the time to finish them. Obviously you'll get the large bed.

Agnes gets spare sheets and a duvet from a drawer. She puts the sheet on the bed and begins to put the duvet in the cover.

AGNES (CONT.)

Do you mind?

She gestures to the duvet cover. Tom begins to help her shake it out.

ТОМ

I resent this.

Agnes shuffles round to get better footing, kicking some magazines under her bed.

MOT

Who were the women downstairs earlier? Are you in trouble?

**AGNES** 

No! No of course not. Why would you care?

MOT

I can't have another hotel establishment fall to pieces around me. One move was quite enough.

**AGNES** 

It's nothing.

She shakes the duvet more rigorously.

TOM

There's something suspicious happening. You weren't this accommodating yesterday. While I obviously prefer today's version, I can't imagine it's unprompted. What are you hiding?

**AGNES** 

Nothing.

MOT

If you don't tell me I'm going downstairs to ask.

**AGNES** 

Don't!

TOM

What's going on?

**AGNES** 

It's...

TOM

The wedding?

AGNES

No, not that. Something else. It's Emily. One of the guests, she's also my ex-girlfriend. She cheated on me and I feel weird about her being here.

Tom's eyes narrow as Agnes waits to see if he has bought her lie.

TOM

I knew it! I knew there was something.

**AGNES** 

You got me. That's the lie.

Tom gives the duvet a final shake.

MOT

I think it's done.

**AGNES** 

It's too big for the bed.

TOM

We can fix that.

Tom steps in to bring his hands to Agnes' to fold the duvet in half. He takes Agnes' two corners, their hands touching as he does so. Their faces are inches apart.

TOM

There.

Agnes looks up into his eyes.

The door opens and Henry enters.

Agnes lets go of the duvet.

**HENRY** 

Off we pop lovebirds, the rest of the party has arrived.

TOM

(flustered)

We're not-

**HENRY** 

Agnes, leave your friend. We have business to sort out.

TOM

I'll finish setting up in here.

Agnes and Henry head downstairs, leaving Tom.

INT. CONSERVATORY -DAY

Agnes waves goodbye to Henry and walks through to a large conservatory, now heavily decorated for a wedding. There are white fake flowers hanging from the walls and white carpet marking out the aisle.

Priest Templewood, MICHAEL (42, brown short hair, wearing a polo shirt), MEGHAN (30, blonde hair and a summer dress with trainers), DAN (30, wearing the apron from his cafe workplace), DUSTIN (56, long messy hair and scruffy clothes), CHARLOTTE (52, hair tied up, wearing practical clothes including a running competition t-shirt), Emily and Caroline are waiting.

AGNES

Let's be quick, obviously it's nice to meet you all but this looks suspicious. Michael, you're with Shuhada in room 1. Arthur is with Rain in room 2, they are being interviewed now. Henry is in there too, as legal representation. Charlotte and Dustin, you're both in 3. Caroline, you're with Emily in room 4.

Agnes glances up at Emily.

AGNES (CONT.)

Meghan and Dan in 5. Any questions?

Rain rushes in, looking behind her uncomfortably.

RAIN

Agnes! Agnes I need your help.

Rain looks nervously towards the door.

RAIN

(mouthing)

Arthur doesn't have a ring!

**AGNES** 

What?

RAIN

I don't know, he thought everything would be here.

EMILY

This bodes well.

**AGNES** 

Everyone get to your rooms. All the Home Office needs to take you to a dentention centre is a suspicion that you're trying to avoid deportation. They could take you at any time, so keep your documentation to hand.

Everyone leaves. Only Agnes, Rain and Priest Templewood remain.

RAIN

I need to get back, I said I needed the toilet.

AGNES

There's bound to be one in lost and found.

RAIN

Really?

**AGNES** 

Look in the box behind the reception desk.

RAIN

Thank you.

**AGNES** 

No problem, just get it quickly.

RAIN

Thanks!

Rain rushes out.

Agnes twists the old silver ring on her middle finger.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Agnes, Tom and Rain are standing outside the door looking into the conservatory. The chairs, which are set up to create an aisle, are full of the other hotel guests. Arthur is waiting under an intricately carved wooden arch.

Rain is wearing a 50s style neat wedding dress and a small pair of white gloves.

Agnes squeezes Rain's arm.

**AGNES** 

You ready?

Rain nods.

Nicky and Barbara enter.

NICKY

Just in time.

BARBARA

We're alright to go in aren't we?

**AGNES** 

I think you can understand that you're the last people Rain would want here.

BARBARA

Need I remind you, it's this or 70 days.

NICKY

Cheer up. You're marrying the love of your life remember.

RAIN

Yes.

 $\mathtt{MOT}$ 

Please, the wedding is about to begin.

Tom gestures towards the conservatory seating.

Agnes glares and Rain's eyes dart from the twins to Arthur.

NICKY

Smashing.

BARBARA

Delightful.

Barbara makes a note on her clipboard.

RAIN

What was that?

Barbara pulls her clipboard to her chest and gives a wry smile.

NICKY

Congratulations.

INT. CONSERVATORY -DAY

Nicky and Barbara enter and take a seat at the back.

BARBARA

Cheap furniture.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Agnes notices Rain's hands shaking.

**AGNES** 

Are you ok with this?

Rain's eyes are watering.

RAIN

No.

**AGNES** 

OK, OK, there's still time to back out.

MOT

Everyone gets nervous before the big day.

**AGNES** 

Sure, that's what's happening here.

RAIN

You don't understand. Marrying Arthur is fine.

 $\mathtt{TOM}$ 

What on earth could be the matter then?

RAIN

I couldn't find a ring.

**AGNES** 

What?

RAIN

It's not going to look like a real wedding.

TOM

Plenty of people have unconventional weddings. Rings are actually a symbol of female oppression. My grandmother-

**AGNES** 

(irritated)

Tom.

Tom backs away slightly.

Agnes takes Rain's hands.

**AGNES** 

Hey, hey, it's going to be alright. Stop crying, you'll ruin the makeup. Here.

Agnes takes off her ring and passes it to Rain.

RAIN

Are you sure? It looks expensive.

**AGNES** 

It's inherited, so no money lost. I want you to have it.

Rain takes the ring and turns towards the aisle.

The music begins.

**AGNES** 

Go on.

INT. CONSERVATORY -DAY

Rain walks down the aisle.

Arthur sees her and smiles.

Nicky writes on her clipboard.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Tom and Agnes watch the wedding from the doorway.

TOM

That might not have been the wisest choice.

**AGNES** 

What?

MOT

I'm not sure you should've quite gone about it in that sense.

AGNES

For god's sake, say what you mean.

MOT

I take it the ring was an heirloom.

**AGNES** 

It was my mum's, yeah.

TOM

I thought as much.

**AGNES** 

You think I'm an idiot for giving it away?

MOT

Well-

**AGNES** 

Do you?

TOM

Yes.

**AGNES** 

And I think you're a selfish coward who can't own up to his own opinions.

The music stops.

TOM

(whispered)

You may not respect me, but at least I respect myself enough to put my needs first.

**AGNES** 

Rain needed it!

MOT

What do you need Agnes?

AGNES

I need you to step off right now.

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

Nicky taps her pen.

Rain grabs Arthur's hands.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Do you Rain, take Arthur-

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Agnes balls her fists in frustration.

MOT

No one else is going to put you first, stop doing it to other people. I mean, you are sharing your own bedroom with a complete stranger so he has somewhere to stay.

**AGNES** 

Other people would put me first too.

TOM

Yes, if you're close. Not strangers! That's mad, and frankly if they tried you wouldn't want them to. Who would?

**AGNES** 

Are you really having a go at me for helping?

TOM

There are proper processes in place to look after people. No one asked you to do this.

**AGNES** 

To do what exactly? Nothing is going on!

MOT

Right.

INT. CONSERVATORY -DAY

Tom delicately sidles in and sits next to Nicky.

He whispers something to her.

Priest Templewood opens his arms as he addresses the crowd.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

It gives me great pleasure to announce that-

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

A cheer goes up from the conservatory as Arthur and Rain kiss.

The wedding guests begin filing out.

Barbara, Nicky and Tom walk out first.

Barbara and Nicky are carried out of earshot by the wave of people. Tom stays near Agnes.

TOM

Isn't marriage something to be respected? A commitment to someone for the rest of your life.

**AGNES** 

What?

TOM

Bother to prioritise your own feelings Agnes.

**AGNES** 

Prioritise this!

Agnes sticks her middle finger up at Tom.

TOM

Really? Again?

Tom looks apologetically at the passing guests.

TOM (CONT.)

Honestly, no decorum.

INT. THE NEST BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

Agnes is pulling down the blinds in the breakfast room, which is set up for a wedding disco. All the wedding guests apart from Nicky and Barbara are standing around chatting or congratulating Arthur and Rain.

Tom is standing with Dustin. He has a glass of cava in his hand, Dustin has a pint.

DUSTIN

The wedding was very nice.

MOT

Yes. Would you ever get married?

DUSTIN

I'm engaged.

MOT

Wonderful! When did you meet?

DUSTIN

Today.

MOT

When's the wedding?

DUSTIN

Tomorrow.

Arthur clinks his glass to get everyone's attention.

Dustin and Tom both turn to look at him, Tom has an incredulous expression.

ARTHUR

Thank you all for attending our wedding. Rain, I promise I will be a fantastic husband for as short a time as possible.

Rain raises her glass.

RAIN

To divorce.

The guests cheer.

Tom laughs.

MOT

He's so quirky. Where did you meet him?

DUSTIN

What?

ARTHUR

My wife is smart and funny and I hope she graduates with flying colours and gets to stay here as long as she wishes. Agnes, none of this would be possible without you giving up your beautiful hotel.

RAIN

We'd really like it if you could say a few words.

**AGNES** 

I haven't prepared anything.

Henry pushed Agnes to the front of the crowd of guests.

TOM

What's going on?

Dustin laughs nervously.

Agnes pours herself a large glass of red wine and turns to face the crowd.

**AGNES** 

What's a wedding for, really? It produces a piece of paper that's steeped in patriarchal tradition and that the government uses to reinforce an unfair system.

TOM

Here we go.

**AGNES** 

Higher divorce rates are reflective of the rise in women's rights and can only be celebrated.

ARTHUR

I hope you're going somewhere with this.

The guests laugh.

**AGNES** 

I've been cynical about every wedding I've seen in this hotel, for good reason. I've asked myself again and again, what is this for? That is until I watched Rain marry Arthur. Someone told me earlier that marriage is something to be respected.

Tom looks up.

AGNES (CONT.)

Today I see so much respect. Today this marriage has given, rather than taken away. Today was a genuinely selfless act and if that isn't love I don't know what is. Rain and Arthur. Here's to the start of the rest of your life. You both deserve the world. To Rain and Arthur.

**GUESTS** 

To Rain and Arthur!

Tom starts clapping enthusiastically, and the rest of the guests follow suit.

There's an iPod in the corner and a disco ball. Agnes walks over to the window and pulls down the last blind. She presses play on the iPod.

The guests form a circle around Rain and Arthur.

Arthur starts slow dancing with Rain.

Rain leans in and whispers to Arthur. He smiles.

ARTHUR

Can you please all come and join us so this isn't painfully awkward?

The wedding guests split into pairs to dance.

Agnes is sitting by the iPod. Tom is on the other side of the room, trying to hide the fact he's looking at her. Emily approaches Agnes and offers her hand with a bow. Agnes laughs, then scowls.

EMILY

You look beautiful. I could barely pay attention to what you were saying.

**AGNES** 

I haven't forgotten what you did.

EMILY

It was nothing. You know I never fell out of love with you.

**AGNES** 

You just fell in love with somebody else.

EMILY

C'mon Agnes, I didn't love any of them.

**AGNES** 

Them?

EMILY

You were always my number one.

Charlotte walks over to Dustin and Tom.

Tom turns to Charlotte. He nods in Agnes' direction.

MOT

Is that Emily?

CHARLOTTE

Yes.

Emily takes a step closer to Agnes.

EMILY

It's true. Don't be like that. Take my hand.

**AGNES** 

Shouldn't you be asking Caroline?

**EMILY** 

I'm asking you.

Agnes looks hesitant.

EMILY (CONT.)

I don't bite.

Agnes takes Emily's hand and stands up.

Tom walks out.

DUSTIN

We look strange not dancing.

CHARLOTTE

Come on then.

Charlotte takes Dustin's hand.

Emily and Agnes start slow dancing.

EMILY

It's great to see you again.

Emily twirls Agnes and pulls her in closer.

**AGNES** 

This doesn't mean anything.

EMILY

Of course not! I'm about to become a married woman.

Emily smirks, then twirls Agnes.

**AGNES** 

That's not what I meant.

EMILY

I'm trying my best here. How about you stop overthinking and dance with me?

**AGNES** 

OK.

Emily lifts Agnes' other hand.

EMILY

What happened to your ring? You always wear it.

AGNES

I had to give it to Rain.

EMILY

Oh ok.

**AGNES** 

I've got others.

**EMILY** 

It's no big deal.

**AGNES** 

Exactly!

EMILY

(whispered)

I never liked it anyway.

Agnes leans her head on Emily's shoulder.

**AGNES** 

Yeah.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Barbara and Nicky are sitting on metal outdoor chairs in the hotel garden. Meghan is leaning against the wall, smoking.

BARBARA

Do you think this is above board?

NICKY

I don't know. Tom offered to keep eye on things. Listen, when I was on my hols there was a rodent scare. The whole place shut down for a week.

BARBARA

Was this the one with that awful waiter who bullied you?

Meghan stands up straight.

MEGHAN

You were bullied by a waiter?

BARBARA

He purposefully didn't hear her order and asked her to repeat it.

NICKY

He looked me dead in the eyes and said 'can you please repeat your order'.

MEGHAN

There's nothing wrong with that.

NICKY

It was his tone.

BARBARA

She still gets flashbacks.

Meghan raises one eyebrow, drops her cigarette and puts it out with her black ankle boot.

**MEGHAN** 

That's enough chat for me.

Meghan walks inside.

NICKY

You're missing the point.

BARBARA

We need to find the waiter?

NICKY

I already sorted that out, he was fired the next day. We need to find a rodent here.

**BARBARA** 

How?

NICKY

It's a metaphor. I think it's time to go back and re-read those applications. If we can find something just to say that we think somethings amiss, we can bring them in.

**BARBARA** 

Out of concern of course.

NICKY

Exactly.

INT. THE NEST BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

Shuhada unhooks the blinds and light floods into the room. She unplugs the iPod.

Emily and Agnes break apart.

HENRY

We don't have much time. Everyone quickly and quietly please help clear away. I'll see you all in the conservatory in half an hour.

SHUHADA

Don't be late!

Everyone begins clearing glasses and bottles away, then leaving the room.

Henry and Priest Templewood are standing together by the door.

HENRY

Are you primed for the second union of this very sacred day?

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

I will be in 10 minutes.

HENRY

Make haste! For a joining of souls awaits.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Alright.

Priest Templewood finishes his glass of water and heads towards the toilet.

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - DAY

Barbara and Nicky are walking towards the front door.

Priest Templewood passes them.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Good morning.

Nicky scowls.

NICKY

For you maybe.

BARBARA

Nicky isn't being rude to a priest wrong? Can't God see this?

NICKY

God only cares about 3 things Barb, bake sales, intense leafleting and gay flooding.

Barbara signs the cross using her clipboard.

BARBARA

Amen.

NICKY

Let's get back. The thought of spending any more time with these people makes my skin crawl.

INT. THE NEST BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

Only Agnes and Emily are left. Agnes is clearing away the final few glasses. Emily is sitting nearby with her feet up on a side table.

Agnes tries to wipe the table.

**AGNES** 

Move your feet please.

Emily leaves her feet where they are.

Agnes tries to clean around them.

**EMILY** 

What's the situation with your boyfriend?

**AGNES** 

Sorry?

EMILY

Everyone always says never date bigirls. They all turn out to be straight.

**AGNES** 

I'm not straight. What happened to never date lesbians, they cheat on you with your housemates?

EMILY

Fair point.

Emily takes her feet off the table.

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - DAY

Tom is sitting in reception reading a newspaper. He's drinking leftover wine. Agnes is tidying up the reception area.

TOM

Did you know that most establishments have a dedicated receptionist?

**AGNES** 

Did you know that we're closed for a wedding?

Agnes walks over to Tom and takes his glass.

AGNES (CONT.)

Did you know that wine was for the guests?

Shuhada enters the corridor in a wedding dress. Agnes turns around.

**AGNES** 

You look stunning.

MOT

(coughing)

Very nice.

Tom stands up and knocks the wine glass. Wine spills on Shuhada's dress.

Agnes gasps.

SHUHADA

What on earth?

MOT

I'll be back in a second.

Tom backs away and runs towards the breakfast room.

**AGNES** 

Where are you going? I have a woman in a full-length Vivienne Westwood style taffeta gown getting married in 15 minutes.

Shuhada wails.

Tom comes back holding salt.

TOM

Are you ok? This will sort it out.

Tom tips salt on top of the stain.

SHUHADA

Thank you.

Priest Templewood enters.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Are we all ready?

Agnes brushes the salt off. The stain has gone.

**AGNES** 

Yes.

MOT

Beautiful.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

No rest for the wicked!

Shuhada claps her hands.

SHUHADA

Let's do it!

The front door opens and Nicky and Barbara enter.

NICKY

What's going on here?

Shuhada pushes down the billowing white skirt of her dress.

SHUHADA

Nothing.

BARBARA

You know, we were halfway to the office when we realised.

NICKY

We forgot to take a look at your passport.

BARBARA

You see, we recently sent a letter to someone who has the same registration as the car outside.

Agnes steps in front of Shuhada.

**AGNES** 

This is her wedding day. Haven't you interrupted enough?

NICKY

Exactly, it's your wedding day. Surely you brought some kind of identification.

SHUHADA

I did, but I don't have it with me. This doesn't have pockets.

She gestures to her dress.

BARBARA

Oh dear.

NICKY

That's a real issue for us I'm afraid.

Tom comes back down the stairs.

BARBARA

We'll have to put the wedding on hold.

MOT

What?

**AGNES** 

No!

NICKY

We've got no other choice.

MOT

I'm sure there's no point holding this one up.

**AGNES** 

She gave me her passport at reception when she checked in. It must be somewhere.

SHUHADA

I did.

NICKY

So where is it now?

**AGNES** 

I took it to make a copy for our records. For the room.

NICKY

Where is it?

**AGNES** 

I lost it.

Shuhada nods.

TOM

I can confirm. I saw her.

NICKY

Are you sure?

MOT

Nicky, listen.

**AGNES** 

Do you know each other?

Tom begins walking Nicky and Barbara towards the door.

TOM

I've seen some supreme incompetence during my stay. This is entirely unsurprising.

AGNES

It's totally like me to do something like this.

MOT

She's a clutz.

Tom opens the door.

**AGNES** 

Yep.

MOT

A total idiot.

Nicky looks Tom up and down.

NICKY

(to Shuhada)

You should sue you know. I have some very good contacts in the legal system.

BARBARA

It's always the staff.

Shuhada offers her a weak smile.

Nicky and Barbara walk out the door. Tom shuts it behind them.

SHUHADA

Thank you, thank you so much.

Shuhada heads to the conservatory.

**AGNES** 

Why did you lie?

MOT

I did see you take her passport.

**AGNES** 

Right. What happened to following the proper process?

TOM

I think I know their process well, and it's inefficient at best.

Tom begins to walk up the stairs.

**AGNES** 

Tom?

MOT

Yes?

AGNES

You don't mumble.

TOM

(mumbling)

You're not a push-over.

AGNES

What?

MOT

(shouting)

I said you're not a push-over.

Tom clasps his mouth in shock.

Agnes laughs.

INT. CONSERVATORY -DAY

Shuhada and Michael are standing facing each other. Michael puts a ring on Shuhada's finger. She does the same to Michael.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

You may now kiss the bride.

They kiss.

Agnes cheers loudly.

They walk down the aisle, and the guests throw confetti.

Shuhada picks confetti out of her hair. She then poses for a selfie with Michael.

Michael awkwardly does a thumbs up for the picture.

INT. THE NEST STAIRS - NIGHT

Agnes climbs up the stairs using her hands, concentrating hard. She is humming and it's clear she is drunk.

As she passes she bangs on the bathroom door, and one of the rooms.

**AGNES** 

(slurred)

Tom get out, I need to get ready for bed!

Agnes reaches her bedroom door. She cups her hand and whispers into the door.

AGNES (CONT.)

Tom you are quiet, like a little mouse. Hello!

She throws her body into her bedroom door and it swings open.

Tom is sitting on the bed surrounded by papers with the Home Office logo. He is wearing reading glasses and his laptop is open. He is referring to the papers and typing.

Agnes stumbles over to him.

He hurriedly shuffles the papers into a pile and slams his laptop lid down.

AGNES (CONT.)

What's that-

Agnes points, then brings her hand to her mouth to hold back sick.

Tom stands up and rushes over to her. He puts his hands on her arms to steady her.

TOM

One step at a time.

**AGNES** 

Your eyes are...

Tom's hair has fallen over his glasses. Agnes pushes it to one side.

AGNES (CONT.)

Behind glasses.

MOT

They're reading glasses.

**AGNES** 

You're not reading.

TOM

I was.

**AGNES** 

Checkmate.

Agnes hiccups.

MOT

OK, OK, come over here. Must have been a good wedding.

Tom guides her to her bed. She lays down and he places a bin next to her.

Agnes is sick in the bin.

Tom takes out his pocket square and passes it to her.

Agnes gasps.

**AGNES** 

You do not have a pocket square.

Tom takes back the square carefully, using the tip of his forefinger and thumb and places it in the bin.

TOM

Not anymore.

AGNES

You find another room to stay in, I'll ask Rain if her and Arthur can-

Agnes tries to sit up. Tom pushes her back down.

MOT

Agnes please, for once let someone else look after you.

**AGNES** 

No, no, no, you're a guest.

TOM

I am.

**AGNES** 

So you should have fresh towels.

TOM

OK.

Agnes starts to get comfortable in bed.

**AGNES** 

And pillow mints. Where can you buy pillow mints?

 $T \cap M$ 

I don't know.

**AGNES** 

Are they only in America?

Tom places the duvet on top of Agnes. He tucks her in.

He picks up his pile of papers and bends down to put them in his briefcase.

MOT

Agnes, I've been meaning to tell you something ever since I saw you make that speech at the wedding reception. I've never met anyone so concrete in the knowledge of what kindness is and even though I find you worrying to be around and dangerous with your blatant disregard for the rules I can't help but feel like I'm well, falling for you.

Tom looks back to Agnes. She is asleep.

Tom takes off his glasses and puts them away in a case. He takes off his shoes and lines them neatly up next to the pull-out bed. He gets into bed and carefully pulls the duvet up over himself, making sure it's in a straight line and doesn't crease.

He looks across to the sick bin and his nose twitches. He is uncomfortable. He retches, then immediately jumps up.

TOM (CONT.)

Nope, no, not a chance.

Tom hurriedly scrunches up his duvet and carries it out of the room.

INT. DUSTIN AND CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dustin and Charlotte are both in their room. Charlotte is propped up on the bed reading a book and Dustin is sitting by the dresser. There is a sofa by the window.

Dustin looks in the mirror and carefully cuts his hair. The dresser is covered in a layer of newspaper which catches the trimmings.

There's a knock on the door.

Tom enters.

TOM

Excuse me? Are you decent?

CHARLOTTE

Sure.

TOM

You never know, you never know.

CHARLOTTE

You here to wish us luck on the big day?

MOT

Yes, but also to ask if I could sleep on your sofa.

Dustin spins around in shock.

DUSTIN

Tom? Sleep on a sofa?

MOT

It's preferable to sleeping upstairs. On a similar note can I apologise for any noise you may have heard from the room I'm sharing with Agnes.

Charlotte raises one eyebrow.

TOM (CONT.)

No. Agnes was falling all over the place, she's drunk you see.

CHARLOTTE

Right.

Tom approaches Dustin.

TOM

What are you doing?

DUSTIN

I'm cutting my hair.

MOT

I can see that, for heavens sake Dustin, stop!

DUSTIN

But I have to get married tomorrow morning.

TOM

Scissors down please.

Dustin lowers the scissors.

Tom starts moving Dustin's head and inspecting his handiwork.

MOT

Are those kitchen scissors? This a travesty. You can't cut your own hair on your wedding day, I won't allow it.

DUSTIN

I can't pay for a hairdresser.

CHARLOTTE

You've got the money from your paintings.

MOT

Paintings?

Dustin reaches into the dresser drawer and pulls out watercolour landscapes.

DUSTIN

These are a few I did on the train here. They calm my nerves.

Tom flicks through the paintings.

TOM

They're excellent.

CHARLOTTE

He sells them on Etsy.

DUSTIN

Only some of them. The money is for  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{my}}$  family.

MOT

Is that why you're in the UK? To provide for your family?

DUSTIN

Yes.

TOM

I thought you were getting married?

CHARLOTTE

We're going to get divorced as soon as Dustin makes enough to go back and pay for somewhere they can live.

DUSTIN

I have two girls.

CHARLOTTE

They're so cute, look!

Charlotte gets off the bed and picks up a photo from Dustin's side table.

She passes it to Tom and he inspects it, smiling.

DUSTIN

OK, OK, that's enough, I don't want to get caught.

Dustin takes the photo back.

TOM

What do you get out of this marriage Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE

The chance to be a homewrecker.

She laughs.

CHARLOTTE (CONT.)

I'm mainly looking to shut my family up. I have a really nice life, the last thing I need is a husband, but still they look down on me. I've told them I'm not interested, I'm not gay, I'm not lonely, I'm just happy. Genuinely content. Oddly the most stressful part of my life is having to deal with their worries.

Charlotte punches Dustin on the shoulder.

CHARLOTTE (CONT.)

That's where this angel comes in.

MOT

Well that's commendable. But I can't stand for this. First thing (MORE)

TOM (cont'd)

tomorrow morning you're coming with me.

DUSTIN

What?

TOM

Set an alarm. We're going to get you a haircut.

DUSTIN

I-

MOT

No expense spared, it's on me.

DUSTIN

Are you sure?

TOM

Yes.

DUSTIN

Thank you.

CHARLOTTE

You've saved my wedding pictures.

TOM

It's no trouble at all. Let's get some rest, it's the big day tomorrow.

INT. AGNES'S ROOM - DAY

Agnes is sitting upright in bed wearing an oversized hoodie and drinking tea from an oversized mug.

Tom knocks on the door. Agnes clutches her head and groans.

Tom enters. He is wearing a pressed pair of trousers and a shirt with a jumper. His hair is carefully combed.

TOM

Good morning to you too.

**AGNES** 

Hey. Thanks for last night. How do you look like that? You didn't even sleep in a bed.

TOM

Don't make fun of me, you must have noticed this my most slouchy attire.

**AGNES** 

Nope.

Tom picks up his briefcase.

AGNES (CONT.)

Where are you off?

TOM

I will be going into the city centre to get a haircut for Dustin.

**AGNES** 

Sweet, I'm coming with you.

TOM

Whatever for?

**AGNES** 

A paracetamol and a Maccies.

MOT

Look sharp. I'm meeting Dustin downstairs in 5 minutes.

**AGNES** 

Make it 15?

MOT

I will meet you downstairs in 10 minutes. Beginning now.

Tom clicks a button on his watch.

Agnes puts her mug down and buries her head in the duvet to stifle her screams.

INT. DISCOUNT SHOP - DAY

Dustin, Agnes and Tom are in a discount shop. Agnes is searching for paracetamol.

MOT

Honestly I don't know why you insisted on coming in here. There's a pharmacy nearby.

**AGNES** 

It's the same stuff, I'm not paying extra.

Agnes reaches for the paracetamol.

DUSTIN

I'm going to look at the paints while you're paying. I will meet you outside if that is OK?

**AGNES** 

No problem.

Agnes and Tom walk to the cashier.

TOM

Now you are slightly more awake let's discuss last night.

**AGNES** 

No, please, I was a mess! I can barely remember it.

TOM

Of course.

Agnes approaches the till. A CASHIER (20, lanky) scans her purchase.

CASHIER

25p. Cash or card?

Agnes digs 25p out of her purse.

**AGNES** 

Thanks.

TOM

I can't believe you're going to put that in your body.

**AGNES** 

Watch me.

She claws open the paracetamol and swallows a pill.

Agnes and Tom leave the shop, walking past a SECURITY GUARD (40, bulky, wearing uniform).

Agnes leans on the wall outside. Tom shifts uncomfortably and makes a move to put his briefcase down, then, looking at the dirty floor, reconsiders.

MOT

Agnes I've got something to tell you.

**AGNES** 

Go for it.

MOT

Seeing you last night, drunk, smelling of sick, hardly able to walk -

**AGNES** 

Y'know what maybe this can wait.

Tom holds his hand up.

MOT

I-it can not.

Tom takes a step towards Agnes.

TOM (CONT.)

Seeing you last night made me realise that even at your worst I still look at you and I can't help myself from thinking-

Dustin comes running out of the shop.

He grabs Tom by the sleeve of his shirt.

DUSTIN

Run!

TOM

Excuse me?

AGNES

Go, go, go!

The security guard comes running after them.

Tom lets out a squeal.

They all run down the high street, with the security guard chasing them.

Dustin turns a corner and they follow, escaping the security guard.

Agnes laughs.

Tom wrings his hands.

MOT

There's still time to go back and explain whatever misunderstanding this is. We shouldn't have run away, it makes us look guilty.

DUSTIN

We are guilty.

MOT

'We' are expressly not.

DUSTIN

I stole some more watercolours. I was running low, it's how I get all of them.

MOT

Oh well if it's how you usually get them it's fine, fine.

DUSTIN

Usually security don't notice.

MOT

It's not fine! How are you laughing?

**AGNES** 

I think the fresh air did my hangover good.

TOM

Then it was worth it. Before sentencing us the judge will say, hey, how was the air quality? Do you feel refreshed?

DUSTIN

Please be nice.

**AGNES** 

On any other day I'd be fully on board but man, you're getting married this afternoon! You can't nick anything, it'll give them something easy to pin on you.

DUSTIN

How are they going to know?

TOM

I'll be an outcast. It's me versus the law.

**AGNES** 

CCTV.

MOT

Oh gosh, oh no. I've been recorded. I am marked forever. I'll have a permanent record.

**AGNES** 

Calm down.

MOT

I refuse!

**AGNES** 

We'll get it sorted. First things first. Getting rid of the footage.

MOT

I'm going to call the police. What if I'm implicated?

DUSTIN

No, please.

AGNES

It's gonna be fine Tom. I've got a plan.

INT. DISCOUNT SHOP - DAY

Agnes and Tom are wearing glasses and have laptop bags. They walk past the security guard and into the shop.

TOM

(hissing)

I do not feel comfortable with this.

**AGNES** 

Follow me.

They approach a cashier.

Agnes takes off her sunglasses.

AGNES (CONT.)

Hi, sorry we're back again! Are you the manager?

CASHIER

Do you want to return something?

**AGNES** 

No, no, we're here to audit the shop. We always have to start buying a token item -

Agnes holds up the paracetamol.

CASHIER

You've taken four.

TOM

(shocked)

Four?

**AGNES** 

Tom.

MOT

It's for quality assurance.

CASHIER

Melanie isn't in today but Susan is on till 3, she's assistant manager.

AGNES

That'll be fine, thanks.

Agnes and Tom walk to till 3.

MOT

(whispering)

Four?

SUSAN (32, in uniform) is standing behind the till.

AGNES

Good afternoon, I hope we're not disturbing you.

TOM

Hello.

SUSAN

What can I do for you?

**AGNES** 

We're here for the audit, Melanie asked us to come in.

SUSAN

That's so annoying, she didn't tell me.

TOM

We could leave?

Agnes shoots Tom a glare.

SUSAN

Nah it's fine, it's not your fault.

Susan walks out from behind the till.

SUSAN (CONT.)

Follow me. She's always doing this.

**AGNES** 

Don't worry about it, we'll be really quick. It's just a standard audit.

MOT

I will be auditing.

Susan unlocks the door to the backroom, a small space with files, a desk and a computer.

SUSAN

Gimme a shout when you're done.

MOT

We might have some paperwork for you to fill in.

SUSAN

Right.

Susan leaves, shutting the door to the backroom behind her.

**AGNES** 

What did you say that for?

MOT

I panicked.

**AGNES** 

You're always panicking.

Agnes starts moving the mouse on the computer.

AGNES (CONT.)

I worked in a charity shop at uni, I've got this.

TOM

What are you doing?

AGNES

Deleting the CCTV, turning off the cameras.

TOM

I will keep watch.

**AGNES** 

No need, it's done. Let's get out of here.

MOT

It's that easy?

**AGNES** 

It's not Mi6 Tom. C'mon.

Agnes and Tom leave the backroom.

They see the security guard talking to Susan and pointing at them.

Tom grabs Agnes arm and they run through the aisles.

AGNES (CONT.)

What did you do that for? He'll know we're guilty now.

The security guard follows them, knocking over displays.

He positions himself between them and the door.

MOT

We are guilty!

Agnes waves to Tom and they dart out of the 'emergency exit only' door. The alarms start going off.

The cashier puts her headphones in.

They run around to the front of the building and grab Dustin.

**AGNES** 

We're only guilty of doing a friend a favour.

DUSTIN

I'm a friend now?

TOM

And of breaking the law.

**AGNES** 

Relax.

They round a corner and Agnes and Dustin duck behind some bins.

Agnes tugs on Tom's sleeve.

AGNES (CONT.)

Get down!

TOM

I will not. It's filthy.

**AGNES** 

Get. Down.

Tom carefully lowers himself towards the ground.

The security guard appears and realises he's lost them. He kicks the bin in frustration and a disposable coffee cup falls out of the top onto Tom's head.

Coffee drips down his face.

Tom opens his mouth and Agnes lifts her finger to her lips.

The security guard walks away.

Agnes sighs with relief.

DUSTIN

Did you do it?

**AGNES** 

Yes, you're all clear.

DUSTIN

Thank you so much.

Agnes looks at Tom, who is still on the floor.

AGNES

I think he's in shock.

MOT

Take me to the salon. Now.

Agnes ruffles the coffee in his hair.

AGNES

What are you in such a rush for?

TOM

Plausible deniability.

DUSTIN

He's very smart.

**AGNES** 

A real criminal mastermind.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Tom, Dustin and Agnes enter the hair salon. MIKE (24, short black hair), the receptionist, looks up.

MIKE

Welcome to Northgate hair salon, do you have an appointment.

TOM

We do. Agnes, I'm going to leave you with Dustin if you don't mind, I have something to be getting on with.

**AGNES** 

Sure. We've got an appointment for Dustin, he's getting married today.

Tom walks out the door.

MIKE

Very nice. If you'd like to take a seat I can take Dustin over to his stylist.

DUSTIN

Thank you.

MIKE

Tell me all about the lucky lady. Where's she from?

DUSTIN

I don't know.

MIKE

Men! What are they like.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Tom is making a call.

TOM

Hello? Ah hello Paula, yes I'm here. You can see me?

Tom spins around and spots PAULA (29, dressed in a loose linen dress) walking towards him.

PAULA

Hey you.

Paula hugs Tom, Tom pats her on the shoulder.

TOM

Thank you for agreeing to this.

PAULA

I still owe you from helping with the admin when we first moved in.

MOT

On the contrary, I enjoyed it.

PAULA

You're an odd dude.

MOT

I am indebted to you for today, but don't think I took that for a compliment. How is the business moving along?

PAULA

It's doing great thanks. Have you got this guys stuff?

Tom reaches into his bag for papers.

TOM

Here you go.

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Agnes is reading an article on her phone on the sofas by the door. Dustin walks towards her and she looks up.

**AGNES** 

Wow!

Dustin's hair has been cut and restyled. His eyes start to water.

DUSTIN

I don't have words, thank you so much for this.

**AGNES** 

That's very sweet but I've just come along for the ride. I had a hangover nap on the sofa to be honest.

Tom enters the shop and the bell chimes.

TOM

Look at you! That's a really top drawer cut.

Tom walks over to the receptionist and pays.

DUSTIN

Ready for a wedding?

**AGNES** 

Perfect for a wedding.

DUSTIN

I just wish my family could see me now.

**AGNES** 

I bet they do too.

DUSTIN

It seems like a betrayal, to marry someone else, but I must. Please understand.

**AGNES** 

I'll have none of that. Your wife would be so proud of you. All of this is for her.

DUSTIN

It is.

AGNES

Let's get you married.

MOT

I have got to make a call first if you wouldn't mind.

DUSTIN

Ok.

AGNES

Be quick!

INT. ART SHOP - DAY

Tom opens the door and leads Dustin and Agnes in.

AGNES

What are we doing here?

MOT

Just look.

Tom points to the wall. Dustin's paintings are mounted and there's a display with pricing.

**AGNES** 

Oh my god.

DUSTIN

My paintings!

MOT

You can not let your works of art hide away in a drawer or on the internet of all places. People of means deserve a chance to buy them, and now they can.

AGNES

You painted these?

MOT

He did.

**AGNES** 

Woah.

DUSTIN

This is so kind, it's too much. But I can't accept.

TOM

It has very little monetary value. Really not too much at all.

DUSTIN

I can't.

AGNES

Dustin this would mean hundreds more people would get to see your work. You'd have more money to send back to your family.

DUSTIN

Don't, please.

AGNES

What's going on?

DUSTIN

I don't have a national insurance number. I've worked on a friends papers before, it's not worth it, being scared everyday.

Paula enters.

PAULA

No papers needed. I'll sell what I can and pay you in cash. If anyone asks they're mine. I'm Paula, I own the shop.

DUSTIN

I can't ask you to do that.

PAULA

You'd have to do something in return for me.

DUSTIN

Anything.

Paula hands Dustin some paints and thick papers.

PAULA

Make some more beautiful landscapes.

**AGNES** 

Say yes Dustin.

TOM

Paula is an old friend. I'd trust her with my life.

PAULA

You would?

MOT

In the right circumstances.

Dustin takes the paints.

**AGNES** 

Now can we please go home and get married, I need to get drunk again so I don't feel this hangover.

INT. THE TRAM - DAY

Dustin is admiring his paints, opening the box and checking each colour individually.

The conductor is at the far end of the tram.

CONDUCTOR

Tickets!

AGNES

What you did for Dustin today was really great.

TOM

It was nothing.

**AGNES** 

Nothing to you is a whole lot to him.

MOT

You know you can better support others if you're supporting yourself.

CONDUCTOR

Tickets!

The conductor approaches the group. He has 2 more tickets to check before reaching them.

TOM

Let's get off.

The tram pulls up to the stop by the hotel.

**AGNES** 

Really?

CONDUCTOR

Tickets?

MOT

Now! Before I change my mind.

AGNES

Ok! Dustin!

The doors open and they all get off the tram.

TOM

I didn't pay!

DUSTIN

Congrats.

TOM

Oh gosh I didn't pay.

Tom turns towards the tram which is pulling away and takes a few steps.

Tom takes out his phone.

AGNES

Do not buy a ticket online!

Tom sighs and puts his phone away.

Laughing, they walk back to the hotel.

INT. THE NEST - DAY

Charlotte is sitting in reception looking worried.

She stands up as they enter.

CHARLOTTE

She's back-

Charlotte turns around.

CHARLOTTE (CONT.)

(shouting)

Agnes is back!

Rain, Arthur, Shuhada and Henry run to reception.

RAIN

Where were you?

SHUHADA

Agnes you've got to help.

**AGNES** 

What's going on?

They look gravely at each other.

Henry puts his arm around Agnes.

HENRY

Barbara and Nicky called shortly after you left. They took Emily.

**AGNES** 

What?

HENRY

She talked back at them, they didn't like it so they took her.

HENRY

Dustin, Charlotte is waiting for you in the conservatory. We should do this quickly, if you still want to.

DUSTIN

Yes, yes.

Dustin walks towards the conservatory.

HENRY

They only need to think something is going on to bring her into a detention centre. The good news is she has the right to contact a lawyer, so she gave me a call.

RAIN

The problem is, she doesn't have a visa.

**AGNES** 

Christ.

MOT

I have to make a quick call.

Tom walks out.

**HENRY** 

Let's do our best to sort out Charlotte and Dustin before anything else happens. INT. CONSERVATORY -DAY

Dustin and Charlotte are getting married. Rainfall is pounding on the glass ceiling of the studio.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Do you Dustin, take Charlotte to be your lawfully married husband?

CHARLOTTE

I do.

Agnes and Tom sit next to each other in the congregation.

**AGNES** 

(whispering)

It feels wrong to be at a wedding while she's in trouble.

MOT

There's nothing you can do.

**AGNES** 

There must be something.

MOT

She'll be OK.

**AGNES** 

You don't know that.

MOT

Why do you care so much when she hurt you?

**AGNES** 

She's my friend.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

I now pronounce you husband and wife.

MOT

She cheated on you.

**AGNES** 

There are worse things.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

You may kiss the bride.

Dustin kisses Charlotte on the cheek.

Rain takes a picture.

Dustin and Charlotte walk out hand in hand.

Tom stands up.

TOM

That was uncalled for.

**AGNES** 

Stop being jealous.

The rest of the congregation start following Dustin and Charlotte out.

TOM

Really? You think this is jealousy?

**AGNES** 

(shouting)

Yes.

Rain starts ushering people faster.

TOM

Fine. Do what you want. Go running after a girl who cheated on you.

Tom walks out with the rest of the congregation.

**AGNES** 

Don't walk away from me!

Tom turns around. The rest of the congregation filter out leaving them alone.

TOM

What more could you possibly have to add?

**AGNES** 

Tell me it was a coincidence that Emily was arrested when you were out.

MOT

Don't do this Agnes.

**AGNES** 

Are you working with them?

MOT

Who?

AGNES

Immigration enforcement!

Tom straightens his tie.

TOM

I'm here because my hotel flooded.

AGNES

You aren't denying it.

TOM

What are you accusing me of?

**AGNES** 

I was drunk, not stupid. I saw the home office papers, the officers arriving at the hotel just after you did, how little you care that Emily has been arrested. You took a call right after you found out!

TOM

Emily, again.

**AGNES** 

It's not about Emily.

TOM

So it's about me.

AGNES

Did I ask you to stay here? No. Did I ask for your help? No. Did I ask for us to happen? Absolutely not.

TOM

You think we're happening?

AGNES

Do you work for the home office?

MOT

Yes.

**AGNES** 

I thought something was happening with someone who wasn't lying to me and putting my friends in danger.

MOT

If that's what you think of me I can't be here.

**AGNES** 

Then don't be here.

Tom waits for a second, then turns and walks out of the conservatory. Agnes kicks over some chairs and sits by the altar, holding back tears.

INT. THE NEST BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

Henry, Priest Templewood and Agnes are sitting at a table while Charlotte and Dustin dance. The rest of the congregation is loitering around the room.

Agnes has a large glass of red wine.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

What's to be done about Emily?

**HENRY** 

I'm thinking.

**AGNES** 

There must be something you can do.

**HENRY** 

Her VISA has run out but I've briefed her on what she can say. She's going to demand a lawyer, she has a right to telephone calls and she is allowed to use the internet.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Good.

**HENRY** 

The best we can do now is call off the final two weddings. We can't have any more attention drawn to the hotel.

**AGNES** 

But what about the couples?

HENRY

Caroline and Emily can't get married with Emily gone and Meghan and Dan should do it on their own time. I'm sorry Agnes. It's flirting with real danger to have any more weddings take place here.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

It looks like I'm no longer required.

HENRY

Thank you for all you've done Priest Templewood.

**AGNES** 

I've ruined everything. We wouldn't have had to do the weddings so quickly in another venue.

**HENRY** 

You did a good thing by volunteering.

AGNES

I did it because I was bored. I was so bored staying in this tiny hotel. It's my fault Emily has been taken away, it's my fault the (MORE)

AGNES (cont'd)

weddings have to stop and it's my fault Tom left.

**HENRY** 

Tom left?

**AGNES** 

I told him to go.

HENRY

You'll get through anything petal.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Forgiveness is a virtue.

**AGNES** 

I need some air.

Agnes drinks the wine in one gulp, gets up and leaves.

Charlotte and Dustin are still dancing.

CHARLOTTE

How long do we have to do this?

DUSTIN

I'm so pleased you were thinking that too.

They pull away from each other.

CHARLOTTE

You're the best husband ever.

DUSTIN

Don't joke about that.

INT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Agnes is sitting outside on the steps by the conservatory. The door opens and Emily walks through.

Agnes stares at her, dumbfounded.

**EMILY** 

Hi.

AGNES

How are you here?

EMILY

I walked in.

AGNES

Oh my god! I thought you were being detained.

**EMILY** 

I was. But I'm out now! They didn't have anything on me and Henry told me not to admit anything. Then I asked for a lawyer, which worked.

AGNES

But you're not a resident.

**EMILY** 

I know, and Agnes I'm not sure they'll make the same mistake twice. I need to get married now.

**AGNES** 

You can't. We've stopped all the weddings, Henry thinks it's too dangerous.

Emily and Agnes sit on the metal garden furniture.

EMILY

What's dangerous is being without a visa.

**AGNES** 

Even with a visa they can deport you.

**EMILY** 

You really know how to make a girl feel better.

**AGNES** 

Sorry. Henry knows the best way to navigate these things.

EMILY

Let's talk to him. It's urgent.

AGNES

Tomorrow, you were going to do it tomorrow. Caroline is still in the room you're sharing, no one told her it was cancelled so it'll be easy for it to take place. Let's do it!

Emily holds Agnes at an arms length and looks her in the eyes.

EMILY

No.

AGNES

What?

EMILY

I want to stay married.

To Caroline?

**EMILY** 

I want to feel safe. I know I've made mistakes in the past but being locked up made me realise what - and who is important to me. I love you. Agnes,

Emily gets down on one knee and pulls a ring out of her pocket.

EMILY (CONT.)

Will you marry me?

Agnes giggles.

**AGNES** 

You can't have two wives.

EMILY

I want you to marry me.

The smile drops from Agnes' face.

**AGNES** 

Oh.

**EMILY** 

Really marry me.

AGNES

Right.

**EMILY** 

Say yes.

**AGNES** 

Emily.

EMILY

Say yes.

**AGNES** 

Emily. You hurt me so much.

EMILY

C'mon. I didn't really do anything

wrong, I always wanted you.

AGNES

You were sleeping with other people. For 2 years.

EMILY

We were at uni!

It was 6 months ago.

EMILY

That's what you do at uni. Look, Agnes, they didn't mean anything.

**AGNES** 

It meant something to me.

Emily stands up and leans over Agnes.

EMILY

Forgive me. Make me a better person. You can do that.

Agnes hesitates.

**EMILY** 

Is there somebody else?

**AGNES** 

Would it matter?

Emily holds Agnes' hands.

EMILY

Agnes. I'm only a good person when I'm with you. I need this. Please.

AGNES

OK.

EMILY

Yes?

AGNES

Fine.

INT. BREAKFAST ROOM - NIGHT

Agnes walks up to the table Henry and Priest Templewood are sat at.

AGNES

Can I have a word?

INT. THE NEST HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emily is waiting for them in the hallway.

**HENRY** 

Emily!

**AGNES** 

Emily is out of jail, she's fine, the wedding is back on.

**HENRY** 

Pardon?

Agnes holds up her hand.

**AGNES** 

We're getting married.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Oh my.

HENRY

Are you sure about this? It's serious. You were arrested.

**EMILY** 

It'll be fine.

**AGNES** 

If Henry thinks it's dangerous...

**HENRY** 

It is.

**AGNES** 

Maybe we should listen.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

I wouldn't want you girls to get into trouble.

HENRY

Young love is glorious, but I implore you, please reconsider.

**EMILY** 

We're doing this. Right Agnes?

AGNES

There are only two more weddings, and this is Emily's risk. Plus I believe the reason the home office were on our backs is no longer an issue.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

What are you talking about?

AGNES

Tom was working for them.

EMILY

I knew it.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

It can't be!

Agnes nods.

So, Henry, are we back on?

**HENRY** 

I suppose it's only two weddings. We're back on.

INT. CONSERVATORY - NIGHT

Meghan and Dan are standing at the altar about to get married. All of the hotel guests are in attendance.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

You may now kiss the bride.

**MEGHAN** 

We actually planned a sort of -

Meghan and Dan fistbump.

DAN

Yeah.

**MEGHAN** 

Cool.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Why not. Meghan, Dan, you are officially husband and wife.

Emily is sitting next to Rain. Agnes is on the other side of the room with an empty seat next to her.

The guests stand up to leave and Emily shuffles to the empty seat.

AGNES

Can you not, we're about to leave.

They both stand up.

EMILY

That went smoothly. No sign of immigration's evil twins.

Agnes quickly leaves the room.

INT. BREAKFAST ROOM - NIGHT

Rain and Emily are dancing together.

Agnes is sitting with Caroline.

CAROLINE

Obviously I'm happy for you and Emily, and it's great that I don't have to get divorced before I'm 30.

You did a brave thing, offering to cover for people in real danger.

CAROLINE

Thanks. Did you know Dan's friend got deported to a country he'd never even visited?

**AGNES** 

What?

CAROLINE

Yeah, his dad was from there so they just went with that.

**AGNES** 

Christ.

CAROLINE

Maybe they lost interest this time?

**AGNES** 

Maybe.

Emily sees Agnes and leaves Rain on the dancefloor to walk over to her.

EMILY

Dance with us!

**AGNES** 

I'm not really feeling it.

CAROLINE

Go!

EMILY

Come on, it's the last wedding before we tie the knot.

Agnes rubs her stomach.

AGNES

I think I ate something funny.

EMILY

OK, whatever.

Emily goes back to Rain and continues to dance with her. Rain rests her head on Emily's shoulder.

CAROLINE

Are you OK?

**AGNES** 

I'll be fine.

Agnes gets up, walks out the breakfast room, up the stairs and into her room.

INT. AGNES'S ROOM - NIGHT

Agnes folds Tom's duvet up and puts it in a cupboard. She pushes his bed back under hers.

INT. TRAVELODGE ROOM - NIGHT

Tom is sitting at the desk in his room flicking a card for 'The Nest Hotel' between his fingers.

He starts to copy the number from the back of the card into his mobile. He stops himself before pressing call.

A woman begins shouting along the corridor. Tom stands up, walks out of his room and opens his door.

INT. TRAVELODGE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

TOM

Stop shouting or I will complain to management! I will not calm down!

Tom enters his room.

INT. TRAVELODGE ROOM - NIGHT

He paces up and down and then picks up his phone and dials.

TOM (CONT.)

Hello?

INT. AGNES'S ROOM - NIGHT

Emily knocks on the door. Agnes gets up from her bed and opens it.

EMILY

Hi fiancée.

AGNES

I wasn't feeling well.

**EMILY** 

You'll be fine. Can I come in?

Agnes opens the door wider and Emily walks in. She has to kick over the woodwork to clear a section of the floor.

EMILY (CONT.)

I bet you can't wait for all this to be over and have your room back! I don't know how you live with this tat everywhere.

**AGNES** 

It's not long now.

EMILY

I've just got a quick favour to ask ahead of our marriage.

**AGNES** 

What is it?

EMILY

I want everything to be perfect for tomorrow. Like a dream.

**AGNES** 

Me too.

**EMILY** 

I need some more money for the flowers and drinks.

**AGNES** 

Emily, come on. We've already spent so much, and anything left over Henry is putting away for any potential legal costs.

**EMILY** 

This isn't a fake wedding. It's ours and we're never going to have another one.

**AGNES** 

I'll see what I can do.

Emily squeals.

EMILY

You're wonderful, thank you for never saying no.

Emily kisses Agnes.

Agnes pulls back.

EMILY (CONT.)

And after all, what's mine is yours!

**AGNES** 

I was hoping we could wait until my parents get back. If this is the real thing I want them there.

EMILY

Sweetie, you can't change something this big last minute.

**AGNES** 

It's my parents Emily.

**EMILY** 

Everything has been arranged. I wish they could be there, but it's not possible. Now get up, the girls have something planned for you downstairs.

**AGNES** 

What?

Emily grabs Agnes' hand.

EMILY

I'm not allowed to say. I'll be in my room anyway. It's bad luck to see the bride on the wedding night.

**AGNES** 

I am the bride.

Emily laughs.

EMILY

Go on, they're waiting for you.

INT. THE NEST BREAKFAST ROOM - NIGHT

Agnes opens the door and sees Shuhada, Meghan, Caroline and Rain.

They have all dragged their duvets and pillows into the room and set up a DVD player. 6 bottles of wine are on the side table.

ALL

Surprise!

Rain runs up to Agnes.

RAIN

(singing)

Happy surprise hen party to you, happy surprise hen party to you, happy surprise hen party to Agnes.

AGNES

(laughing)

OK that's enough!

RAIN

Charlotte wanted to be here but she said she was too settled down to cope with it all. Now she's a married lady and whatnot.

SHUHADA

Rude.

How are we going to clean this up? My parents are back the day after tomorrow.

CAROLINE

Leave it to us. We're also being a bit selfish. All of the weddings happened so fast that none of us got to properly celebrate.

SHUHADA

So now we can live through you, our last single friend.

**MEGHAN** 

And while it's technically my first night as a married lady somehow I don't think Dan will miss me. I honestly saw him on grindr during our first dance.

Rain passes a bottle of wine to each of the women, unscrewing the caps.

RAIN

To Agnes!

ALL

To Agnes!

They all drink the wine. Meghan plugs her phone into a speaker and they keep drinking and dancing.

Dustin enters looking sheepish.

**MEGHAN** 

No boys allowed!

DUSTIN

Agnes?

Agnes walks to the door and ushers Dustin out of the loud room.

AGNES

Sorry about that.

DUSTIN

Do you know Tom's phone number?

**AGNES** 

No.

DUSTIN

I want to say thank you for the paintings and everything else. Three have already been sold!

That's great news. Maybe you can have a look through the guest files behind reception, people are meant to fill in contact details there.

DUSTIN

I will. Now you can get back to the women.

Dustin turns to walk away.

**AGNES** 

Dustin? What did you mean by everything else?

DUSTIN

Well, the bail and the paintings.

**AGNES** 

What bail?

DUSTIN

He didn't tell you?

**AGNES** 

Emily said they let her go after she asked for a lawyer.

DUSTIN

Tom called the Home Office and paid her bail. She's only out of the centre because of him.

Agnes looks shellshocked.

AGNES

Thanks Dustin.

Agnes goes back into the breakfast room.

INT. BREAKFAST ROOM - NIGHT

Caroline holds up a bottle of wine and stumbles towards her.

CAROLINE

Agnes!

After a few hours the women are sat on the floor watching the film Mamma Mia. The wine bottles are empty.

Rain is sitting next to Agnes texting.

**AGNES** 

(whispered)

Is everything alright?

RAIN

Not really.

Is it Arthur?

CAROLINE

What's up Rain?

Shuhada grabs Rain's phone.

SHUHADA

She's texting someone!

RAIN

I'm seeing someone. Sorry, I was. I've been trying to break it off at least until my divorce because I'm scared of anyone finding out.

Caroline grabs at the phone. Shuhada holds it out of reach.

CAROLINE

Who is it?

RAIN

It doesn't matter because I'm married.

AGNES

Not really though. This is a good thing!

RAIN

I need to keep up appearances with Arthur but it's so hard. I was with this other person last night and I was so worried the whole time that someone would see.

Agnes puts her arm around Rain.

CAROLINE

OK no, I refuse to feel sorry for you because you're dating someone you really like. It's completely unfair.

**AGNES** 

Plus I know it'll all be OK. It's not that long until you can get divorced.

RAIN

Henry says we might have to wait a bit longer now, to be sure.

**AGNES** 

You can't let the person you're meant to be with slip through your fingers.

MEGHAN

Hey, we're all in the same boat. It sucks.

SHUHADA

Apart from Caroline.

Rain turns to Agnes.

RAIN

Don't do it if there's anybody else in the picture. I wouldn't wish this on anyone.

**AGNES** 

There was someone, but I fucked it up. Me and Emily deserve each other.

Megan presses stop on the DVD player.

**MEGHAN** 

OK this is getting too sad. It's our last night of freedom!

Meghan switches one music and starts pulling people to their feet.

MEGHAN (CONT.)

Come on, come on, come on.

Meghan and Shuhada start dancing.

RAIN

(to Agnes)

What happened?

**AGNES** 

It's Tom.

Rain checks her phone again. She has a text saying 'Come to my room' and a picture of Emily as her background. She turns off her phone.

RAIN

You've got feelings for him.

AGNES

Even if I did he's gone.

RAIN

You can't get married tomorrow without telling him.

**AGNES** 

I can't tell him.

RAIN

What have you got to lose?

With Emily it's better the devil you know. I don't deserve Tom.

RAIN

Wow.

**AGNES** 

Yeah.

RAIN

Agnes. You deserve everything.

Agnes looks hesitant.

RAIN (CONT.)

Go for it. Now!

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - NIGHT

Agnes walks out of the breakfast room and into the reception. She flicks through her records and finds the information on Tom's stay.

She takes a deep breath and takes out her phone. She types in the number and dials.

**AGNES** 

Please pick up.

The phone rings.

TOM (V.O)

Hello?

Agnes puts the phone down.

Agnes starts crying. She grabs a tissue from the box on the reception, pulls herself together and marches up the stairs to Emily's room.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Tom and Paula are sitting together. Tom is drinking an elderflower gin and tonic. There are 6 empty glasses on the table.

PAULA

Who was it?

TOM

I have no idea.

INT. THE NEST STAIRS - NIGHT

Agnes pounds on the door of Emilys room. Her eyes are still red and puffy.

Emily pulls the door open.

**EMILY** 

Keep it down someone might hear - Agnes. Sorry I thought you were someone else.

**AGNES** 

I'm ready to marry you. I'm all in.

**EMILY** 

It's nice to see you.

**AGNES** 

I thought it was bad luck.

Emily pulls Agnes into her room.

EMILY

Maybe my luck is changing.

INT. PAULA'S HOUSE - DAY

Paula's house is a large loft flat, with paintings hung on the walls. Tom is asleep on her sofa. She's standing in the kitchen making breakfast.

Tom's phone rings.

Paula picks up.

PAULA

Hello?

DUSTIN (V.O)

Hi? Is Tom there? It's Dustin.

Paula walks over to Tom and shakes him awake. She passes him the phone.

DUSTIN (V.O)

Hello?

TOM

Dustin, hello.

DUSTIN (V.O)

I hope it's ok that I called, Agnes gave me your number. I wanted to say thank you for your help with my paintings.

Tom rubs sleep from his eyes.

MOT

You're welcome.

DUSTIN (V.O)

Three have already sold!

MOT

Paula let me know, I'm with her now.

DUSTIN (V.O)

OK, well just a quick call because the wedding is happening at 10.

TOM

I appreciate it. Wish Emily and Caroline the best from me.

DUSTIN (V.O)

Emily and Agnes.

TOM

Agnes?

DUSTIN (V.O)

Emily proposed after you left.

Tom is silent.

DUSTIN (V.O)

Tom? Tom?

TOM

Dustin, I have to go.

Tom puts the phone down.

PAULA

Everything OK?

INT. EMILY'S ROOM - DAY

Agnes and Emily are both in wedding dresses. Agnes is tying up the back of Emily's dress.

Rain opens the door, sees them, then pulls the door almost shut and peers through the crack.

EMILY

You could look a bit more excited. You're marrying me today.

**AGNES** 

I am.

Emily strokes Agnes' hair.

EMILY

I've been waiting for you to come back to me ever since we broke up. I knew it would happen.

AGNES

Well I'm here now.

**EMILY** 

I love you.

**AGNES** 

Me too. I should get going.

Rain shuts the door, holding back tears.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Tom is sitting at his desk, looking uncomfortable. Nicky and Barbara are typing on their computers.

Nicky presses print on 5 rejected VISA applications.

Tom picks them up from the printer and flicks through them as he is walking over to Nicky's desk.

Tom goes to pass the papers to Nicky before pausing.

TOM

Nicky-

NICKY

I'm busy.

TOM

This doesn't seem right. This person has all their documentation.

NICKY

Mistakes get made all the time.

BARBARA

All the time.

Nicky takes the papers from Tom.

MOT

But this person shouldn't be getting deported.

Nicky stamps the papers.

NICKY

Mistakes get made.

Nicky shrugs.

MOT

But this isn't a-

NICKY

Mistakes get made. Do you want to go home by 5 today?

Nicky passes Tom the papers.

NICKY (CONT.)

Send these out for me will you.

Tom takes the papers.

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

Henry and Agnes are standing under the wooden arch waiting for Emily. The conservatory is full of guests. Agnes is wearing a wedding dress.

Henry touches her forehead.

**HENRY** 

You look peaky.

**AGNES** 

It's probably the nerves.

Agnes takes a deep breath.

**HENRY** 

I can't tell you what to do. You need to ask yourself what makes you happy.

**AGNES** 

All these people are relying on me. Emily is relying on me.

HENRY

It's the rest of your life Agnes.

AGNES

I can't. I have a duty.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Tom is sitting at the reception desk furiously reading backdated applications.

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - DAY

Rain is standing in the hotel reception wearing a floor length formal dress.

Emily comes down the stairs in a wedding dress.

EMILY

Hey babe.

She twirls.

Emily rushes the last few stairs and goes in to kiss Rain. She pulls away.

RAIN

I know you're getting married to Agnes because you want to. It's not for the visa.

EMILY

None of these are for a visa, it's just to stop them deporting us for no reason.

RAIN

You know what I mean. You're in love with her.

EMILY

Hey now, you're the only one for me. Jealously doesn't suit you.

Rain crosses her arms.

EMILY (CONT.)

Babe.

RAIN

Don't try it. We're over. Done.

EMILY

We can still sleep together though, right?

RAIN

Of course we can't! You're with someone else!

**EMILY** 

Does it really matter?

RAIN

Yes. Oh my god, as if I thought you wanted to be my girlfriend. You disgust me.

EMILY

Fine! I don't need you anyway. Did you really think I'd marry Caroline, get a divorce and end up with you?

RAIN

You said if you could be with anyone it would be me.

EMILY

You were a nice distraction. Once Henry told me Agnes was sorting the weddings, I arranged to come down here. I was always planning to get her back. And it worked! She's

(MORE)

EMILY (cont'd)

waiting for me in there and we're going to get married.

RAIN

You can't treat people like this.

EMILY

Get over yourself. Yes, your feelings are hurt, but I never said we were exclusive. If you tell Agnes I'll deny everything.

RAIN

She has a right to know.

**EMILY** 

I'll say you're obsessed and bitter and in unrequited love with me.

Rain starts crying.

EMILY (CONT.)

Because it's true isn't it?

Emily laughs.

EMILY (CONT.)

Now if you don't mind, I have a wedding to attend.

Emily walks down the corridor and into the conservatory.

She sees Agnes waiting for her at the end of the aisle and smiles. Music swells as she begins to walk down the aisle.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Nicky and Barbara are working at their desks. Tom approaches them holding a coffee pot.

MOT

Coffee?

Tom pours coffee over Nicky's laptop. It SPLATTERS on the keyboard.

Nicky pushes her chair back and shrieks.

TOM

I quit.

He walks out.

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

Emily and Agnes are facing each other under the wooden arch and Agnes is picking her fingernails anxiously.

Priest Templewood is standing between them.

Dustin and Charlotte are sitting next to each other.

DUSTIN

(whispered)

They look beautiful. It's good to see friends helping friends.

Charlotte rolls her eyes.

Emily takes Agnes' hands.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

We are gathered here today to witness the union of two young women very much in love.

Charlotte leans across to Dustin.

CHARLOTTE

Agnes looks like she's going to pass out.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Do you, Emily Todd, take Agnes Walker as your lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part?

EMILY

I do.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

And do you Agnes Walker, take Emily Todd to be your lawfully wedded wife?

AGNES

I can't.

EMILY

I'll be deported if you don't.

Agnes wrings her hands, turns and runs back down the aisle.

EMILY (CONT.)

Agnes!

Before Agnes reaches the doors they open. Tom steps into the room.

EMILY (CONT.)

Agnes do you want me to be kicked out the country?

MOT

You won't be.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

Tom?

Tom walks up the aisle.

MOT

You already have a visa.

EMILY

What?

TOM

Emily, I've seen it.

**AGNES** 

Is this true?

**EMILY** 

Would you have agreed to marry me otherwise?

**AGNES** 

No! Christ Emily.

Agnes turns and walks out of the door.

EMILY

Don't you walk away from me!

**AGNES** 

You cheated on me!

**EMILY** 

What?

**AGNES** 

Goodbye!

Agnes slams the door.

Tom quietly opens the door, waving an apologetic hand to the guests, and follows her out of the hotel.

INT. THE NEST RECEPTION - DAY

Rain is sitting on the bottom step of the stairs, crying.

Caroline walks in and sees her. She sits down next to her.

Caroline puts her arm around Rain. Rain rests her head on Caroline's shoulder.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Agnes and Tom are standing outside the hotel.

TOM

So when I arrived did I see you jilting Emily?

Agnes elbows him in the arm.

**AGNES** 

When you turned up unannounced you mean?

TOM

Yes of course, that was the most shocking occurance at this ceremony.

They laugh, then Agnes' smile falters.

TOM (CONT.)

You were great in there.

AGNES

Shouldn't you be at work?

TOM

Actually I don't have a job.

AGNES

Hm?

MOT

I quit.

AGNES

Ah.

Agnes takes Tom's hand.

AGNES (CONT.)

I know about the bail. That was a very selfless thing.

They walk down the street and arrive at the tram stop.

AGNES (CONT.)

This is where we first met.

MOT

Agnes.

**AGNES** 

You're kind and generous and funny. Without you I wouldn't have felt alright asking for this back-

Agnes opens her hand. The ring she gave to Rain is resting in her palm.

AGNES (CONT.)

Rain didn't even mind. You're the neatest, most stupidly polite person I've ever met and I love that. You never make me feel backed into a corner, you give me choice and I was wrong about everything and I've missed you. You're open. You taught me to put myself first so here I am putting what I want first. And I want you.

Agnes drops to one knee.

AGNES (CONT.)

Will you marry me?

Tom smiles and puts his hand on her elbow, lifting her back up to her feet.

They kiss.

TOM

No.

**AGNES** 

No?

Tom kisses Agnes.

MOT

Absolutely not. We should go travelling though.

**AGNES** 

What?

MOT

I'm unemployed now. And then a marriage when we're 50.

**AGNES** 

For the tax break.

MOT

And to see you in a dress again. It's the smartest you've ever looked.

A tram pulls up. Agnes smiles and hugs him.

**AGNES** 

I'm going to wear a leather jacket on our wedding day.

TOM

Please no.

They both get on. The tram doors shut and it departs.

And ripped jeans.

TOM

Stop it.

Agnes kisses Tom.

**AGNES** 

And a badge 'live fast die young'.

ROLL CREDITS

INT. PUB - DAY

Emily is drinking alone. Will sits down next to her and puts his arm around her.

Emily pushes him away and shakes her head.

Will stands up.

WILL

Bitch.

INT. CONSERVATORY - DAY

Rain and Caroline are getting married. The conservatory is full of guests, including Agnes' parents.

RAIN

I do.

John wipes a tear from his eye.

JOHN

We should do weddings here more often.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

And do you, Caroline, take Rain to be your lawfully wedded wife?

John's phone BEEPS. It shows a picture of Agnes' and Tom in South America. Tom is taking the selfie and Agnes is tracing the traditional patterns on a wooden pillar.

John shows Faith the picture.

PRIEST TEMPLEWOOD

You may now kiss the bride.

END CREDITS