

INT. SOMEWHERE - SOMETIME

EDDIE, 44, very much the 'Dad-Next-Door' type, is sat down.

He SCANS the room, wearing a humble smile.

Someone hands him something from off screen.

EXT. FOOTBALL PITCH - DAY

Eddie and his wife CHEER as they watch their son play football.

EDDIE (V.O.)

Me and the wife went to see our son play his first football match last week. Ended up losing 3-1, but they played well, my sons the one that scored. That's been the first real chance I've had to spend any quality time with my family recently, got this young persons music competition in a few weeks...

INT. MUSIC PRACTICE ROOM - DAY

Eddie CONDUCTS a bunch of school pupils practicing with their instruments.

EDDIE (V.O.)

...with my pupils, It feels nice, you know, actually trying to do some good with my time, the winners get to go to the nationals at the Albert Hall down in London, all expenses paid, reckon we're in with a pretty good shot if we carry on like we have and stay focussed, got some real talent in my group.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Eddie LEANS against a wall, STARING out of the bedroom window, holding a towel.

Pensive.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
I mean, admittedly my head isn't as  
together as it could be, and there  
is a part of me that thinks  
throwing myself into that just to  
keep busy isn't a great idea...  
...for obvious reasons, like I'm  
just putting off the inevitable.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Eddie SCRUBS his teeth.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
But having something to solidly  
focus on...

Eddie LATHERS shampoo into his hair.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
...it helps take my mind off this  
whole thing.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Eddie GOBBLES cereal from a bowl whilst reading a newspaper.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
Keeps me from dwelling on it...

His wife SCOTS by him with their son. Ready to take him to  
school.

EDDIE  
Honey? Before I forget, I was  
thinking of having Stewart and a  
few others round tonight. For the  
football...

JANE  
Yeah, sure! That's fine with me.

EDDIE  
Great! Have a good day

JANE  
You too, love!

MICHEAL  
Bye dad!

They THROW smiles and waves to one another

The wife and son EXIT.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Eddie CHUCKS on a coat and EXITS.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
I'm trying to stay positive...

INT. CAR - MORNING

Eddie CLIMBS in his car, STARTS it and ROLLS away.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
...but I just don't think that's  
enough.

INT. SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Eddie BUSIES himself in his classroom, carrying out various tasks;

-He TUNES a piano, listening carefully.

-He ARRANGES some sheet music on a piano stand, reading some of it as he does so.

-He PRESSES a key on a piano. MUSIC CUE.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
I always thought it was like mind  
over matter, If I could convince  
myself this thing wasn't there then  
it wasn't, but deep down, I always  
knew, there was always this nagging  
feeling at the back of my head that  
wouldn't leave, and it just got to  
the point where I couldn't ignore  
it anymore.

INT. STAFF ROOM - MORNING

Eddie MINGLES with the other Teachers.

He is clearly popular.

EDDIE (V.O.)

The first time I properly had to confront the reality of my situation, it was like my life stopped, my whole future came into question, like, this can't be happening to me. It happens to other people, but not me.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Eddie OBSERVES a couple of steaks in a frying pan.

EDDIE V.O

I remember nothing felt real, like some kind of out of body experience. I felt like I wasn't myself anymore.

His wife HOVERS in the background.

EDDIE (V.O.)

There was just this sense of detachment, and that's stayed with me...

EXT. PETROL STATION - DAY

Eddie finishes POURING petrol into his car.

EDDIE (V.O.)

...hanging over my head. Not letting me into my own life.

INT. - SHOP - DAY

Eddie DRAGS a shopping trolley round a supermarket while his wife STORMS ahead.

He see's someone he knows and NODS hello.

EDDIE (V.O.)

I mean, I spend everyday trying to hide it.

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Eddie CORRECTS pieces of schoolwork.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
 From my family, my friends. That's  
 the hardest bit.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

EDDIE (V.O.)  
 But, hiding it and not having it  
 all out in the open makes it seem  
 less real...

Eddie is with some of his friends and his son, they are all  
 GLUED to the television, STUDYING a football match.

STEWART  
 Do you fancy a round of 9 this  
 weekend, Ed?

EDDIE  
 (not having heard him)  
 What's that?

STEWART  
 Round of 9? This Sunday?

EDDIE  
 Err...this Sunday? Yeah, yeah I  
 should be able to

JOSEPH  
 Give you a chance to make up for  
 your last round, ay, Eddie?

EDDIE  
 (with a knowing smile)  
 That was just the weather...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Eddie POLISHES various bits of cutlery.

He INSPECTS each one before putting it away.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
 ...helps me keep it at a  
 distance...

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Eddie INSTRUCTS a class full of school children.

They are HANGING on his every word.

Eddie DETECTS one child in particular who appears quiet and distracted.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
 ...helps me keep up the act that  
 everything's fine...

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Eddie slowly SIPS coffee with his Wife.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
 ...so I can just try and hang onto  
 this life that little bit longer.

INT. - SCHOOL HALL - EVENING

EDDIE (V.O.)  
 Above all, I really just don't want  
 my family to suffer because of what  
 I'm going through. They don't  
 deserve that.

Eddie CHATS with the mother of one of his pupils at a Parents Evening. They get along like friends.

EDDIE  
 See, his work has always been spot  
 on in the past, but recently he's  
 been very distant in class. I've  
 known him to always be the first  
 with his hand up to answer a  
 question, and the first to  
 volunteer to play a piece, but, he  
 just seems uninterested these days

HANNAH  
 Oh, really? Well, I'll definitely  
 make sure his attitude improves!

EDDIE  
 No, no! I didn't mean that, I  
 certainly don't think he should be  
 punished in anyway. In fact, I'm  
 actually less bothered about his  
 work and more about his wellbeing.  
 Is everything OK at home?

HANNAH

Erm...yeah well, things...well, things haven't been great at home recently. Micheal's dad left a couple of months ago and he hasn't taken it particularly well, to be honest I haven't taken it particularly well either. Trying to stay on top of everything, single-handedly

EDDIE

Well, I'm sorry to hear that. How about you let my wife and I cook you and your son dinner? You come round to our house one evening, and we'll see what we can do to help out

HANNAH

Oh no, it's fine. Honestly, I wouldn't want to bother you

EDDIE

You wouldn't be. My wife always buys more food than we need, half of it usually ends up going out of date, and if I can cheer up my star pupil at the same time then its a win-win situation

HANNAH

I do think we'd both appreciate a decent meal, something a bit more substantial than waffles and beans

EDDIE

Rest assured, waffles and beans will most definitely be off the menu!

EXT. GOLF GREEN - DAY

Eddie CONCENTRATES on his swing during a game of Golf with his friends.

EDDIE (V.O.)

Maybe feeling like this is just my punishment for living a lie

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Eddie DIGS up an area of soil and POURS some seeds into it.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
For not trying harder to do  
something about it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Eddie FLIPS through a newspaper. SCANNING each page as he goes.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
Not that the thought hasn't been  
there, I just always find myself  
stuck in a cycle: you have this  
motivation to do something about it  
one second...

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Eddie opens his front door to reveal the Mother from Parents Evening standing there with her child. It's the distracted child from Eddie's class.

She is CLUTCHING an Apple Pie.

Eddie welcomes them both in.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
...and the next, it just all seems  
so pointless, like there's nothing  
you can do. That crippling sense of  
failure hits you.

INT. SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Eddie STRAIGHTENS UP his classroom with an array of menial tasks that he spends far longer on than he should do.

-LINING UP chairs

-PICKING UP rubbish

-WIPING a whiteboard

-ARRANGING pens

-STACKING books



EDDIE (V.O.)

And then you always end up feeling  
guilty cause you're just not doing  
anything about it and you know full  
well that the buck stops with you,  
you need to make the first move to  
address it. Round and round you go.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eddie's Wife ENTERTAINS the Mother as they wait for dinner to  
be served.

EDDIE (V.O.)

Going back and forth like that  
always makes me wonder what would  
be worse,

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eddie's son and her child both BATTLE each other on a game on  
the Playstation.

EDDIE (V.O.)

...being ignorant to it all, you  
know, just being blissfully  
unaware, thinking nothings wrong...

INT. SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM - AFTERNOON

Eddie ARRANGES some sheet music on a piano stand.

The door is very slightly BRUSHED open.

The distracted child PEERS in.

EDDIE (V.O.)

...or, being fully aware of it, and  
just denying it. Doing nothing.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Eddie, his Wife, his Son, the Mother and her child all sit  
round a dinner table completely PIGGING OUT on the feast  
that's been prepared.

EDDIE (V.O.)

Just carrying on like everything's  
fine.

EDDIE

(to the distracted child)  
 You know, me and your Mum were talking, and I said that you might enjoy some after school lessons, with me, you know?, to help with your piano playing. She said that you really enjoy playing it. That true?

The distracted child keeps his eyes FIXED to his plate.

HANNAH

(to the distracted child)  
 Would you like that?

The distracted child SQUIRMS in his seat for a bit.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Darling?

The distracted child gives a few 'nods'

EDDIE

(overly dramatic)  
 Oh, excellent! I've a music competition in a few weeks, so if we manage to bring out your inner Mozart by then, maybe you can come along?

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Eddie is CURLED up in bed, awake. His Wife lays next to him, sleeping.

EDDIE (V.O.)

I guess being here, speaking like this openly answers that one.

An alarm clock DINGS. Eddie REFRAINS from turning it off.

I'm not saying it doesn't help, you know, being here, knowing I'm not suffering alone.

INT. SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM - AFTERNOON

Eddie is holding an after-school, one-on-one tutoring session with the distracted child.

Eddie gradually COAXES the child out of his shell.

The two JOKE AROUND together.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
Who are struggling to find ways of  
coping, of getting by...

INT. CAR - MORNING

Eddie is CRUISING along a road.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
...but recently I realised that, in  
reality, as much as we can all try  
and search for a solution, there's  
no escaping it...

Eddie APPROACHES a school.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
...and we shouldn't need to, we  
shouldn't have to lie, we shouldn't  
have to live in fear. We should  
just accept this is who we are.

INT. SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM - AFTERNOON

Eddie and the distracted child's playfulness takes on an  
inappropriate and sexual tone.

Eddie ENCOURAGES the child to take off several items of  
clothing.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
Accept that it's a part of us and  
that we shouldn't have to change.  
That's what I'm trying to do.

Eddie proceeds to ABUSE the child.

EDDIE (V.O.)  
There's nothing wrong with us. This  
is just how we're wired. How we  
were born. It isn't a choice.

INT. NONDESCRIPT HALL - NIGHT

GUY  
Alright, thanks for sharing that  
with us, Eddie...who'd like to go  
next?

EDDIE, 44, sits in a circle surrounded by other men.