

The Long Winter Episode 1: September 14th - 27th

By

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INT. PRISON - EVENING

The PRISON is half-dark and full of noise as GUARDS shepherd the hundreds of PRISONERS to their cells for LOCK-DOWN. The line of prisoners stops each time they reach a CELL, and the prisoner at the head of the line is un-cuffed and led inside. The DOOR is LOCKED before the line moves...

...CHRIS CAREY is in the middle of the line as it moves down the bank of cells. He is young, handsome, intelligent looking. He is taller than most of the other inmates, and his UNIFORM doesn't quite fit him...

...The line stops twice before Chris is at its head. He walks down the hall, flanked by two guards. They stop outside Chris' cell and un-cuff him. Chris steps inside, and looks at the guard on the left.

CHRIS

When am I getting my new uniform?

The guard SLAMS the cell door SHUT.

GUARD

Whenever you get it.

The guard turns away before Chris can reply. The line moves on. Chris watches it for a moment, then turns back into his cell...

...The cell is sparse, one bed, a toilet and a small CARDBOARD BOX. Chris looks around it silently, then goes over to the cardboard box and takes the top off of it...

...Inside the box is a PAD OF PAPER, a SAFETY PENCIL and a PACKET OF MINTS...

...Written on the cover of the pad of paper is the following:

"Property Of Castlereia Prison"

...Chris picks up the paper and pencil and sits on his bed. He looks down at the blank pad, not moving, appearing to be in deep consideration...

...Slowly, he brings the pencil down to the paper and begins to write.

CHRIS (V.O.)

Day Four on Suicide Watch. I have no television in my cell, in case I try and hang myself with the plug.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (V.O.) (cont'd)
Guards watch me eat with plastic
cutlery at mealtimes, and I get
shaved by the barber once a week.

(beat)

They gave me a safety pencil to
write with, not thinking how easily
I could sharpen it on the side of
my bed and stab myself in the neck
if I wanted.

(beat)

Five months ago, I wouldn't have
thought about a detail like that.
That still kind of freaks me out.

Chris sits up, pausing, the pencil just above the paper. He
leans in to write again.

CHRIS (V.O.)

I've thought long and hard about
what I'm about to do. Awaiting
trial for sixteen counts of Assault
and Battery, six counts of Grievous
Bodily Harm, and one count of
Attempted Murder, as well as
charges for Vandalism, Terrorism,
Disturbing the Peace and Wrongful
Imprisonment.

(beat)

I am eighteen years old.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON

The prison floor is now EMPTY, as is the exercise yard.
Guards are patrolling quietly, and the prisoners are wiling
away the time in their cells. This is all the activity that
is taking place.

CHRIS (V.O.)

I've decided to tell the truth. The
psychiatrist says he can't "grasp
my motivations" for doing the
things I'm charged with. If I told
him it wasn't me, he wouldn't grasp
that, either. He'd laugh in my
face.

A guard walks by Chris' cell, glances in, and walks on.

CUT TO:

INT. CHRIS' CELL

Chris is writing feverishly, a look of deep concentration on his face.

CHRIS (V.O.)

I know I deserve to be where I am, for my part in everything that happened. I realised that right towards the end, when innocent people started to get hurt. But I still know, still feel, that what I did was right.

(beat)

No-one gets that, though. That's the funny thing. Cops not getting the idea of justice. Makes me laugh.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP on the PAGE as Chris writes on it. The writing follows what Chris says.

CHRIS (V.O.)

Maybe it's because they don't know the whole story. They don't know about winter in Killeen...

CUT TO:

EXT. KILLEEN VOCATIONAL COLLEGE - MORNING

The SCHOOL YARD is a-buzz with activity as STUDENTS in their droves crowd in through the gate, dropped off from buses, by cars, and walking in. There is some typical school time horseplay going on. The actions of the students are watched by MS. FLYNN. She is the picture of a young schoolteacher...

...A GROUP of GIRLS stride towards Ms. Flynn, chatting and moving quickly. They divide and pass Ms. Flynn on either side. One of the girls almost HITS HER with her BAG as she does.

MS. FLYNN

Sarah, watch it!

SARAH turns turns around and walks backwards for a couple of steps.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH
Sorry, Miss!

She turns quickly and strides off, returning to the chat with her friends.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Sarah and her friends walk down the hall as other students line up outside the various DOORS stationed along the hall...

...On each door is a POSTER that says:

"WELCOME BACK STUDENTS"

There is the sound of a TEXT MESSAGE TONE from Sarah's JACKET. She takes out her PHONE and answers it, smiling. One of her friends, JACKIE, tries to look over her shoulder, and Sarah shoves her off.

SARAH
Feck off!

JACKIE
Is it Paul?

SARAH
None of your business!

Another of the girls, TRISH, elbows Sarah.

TRISH
Did you meet him?

JACKIE
She said she was gonna ride him!

Trish looks slightly disgusted at this. Jackie elbows Sarah on the other side. She stumbles slightly and turns to Jackie.

SARAH
Ah fuck's sake! I just sent that to me MA, Jackie!

All the girls LAUGH at this. They turn in a group and enter the LADIES' TOILETS.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (V.O.)

They don't know I wasn't alone.
There were three of us, and
eventually there were four of us...

Jackie, Trish, and two of the other girls go to the sinks and mirrors above them. They begin APPLYING MAKE-UP. Sarah goes to the TOILET CUBICLE. She stops for a moment, TEXTING...

...Behind her, Jackie and Trish are in conversation.

TRISH

Do you think she really did ride
Paul over the summer?

JACKIE

I dunno.
(beat)
I'd ride him.

They laugh. Sarah looks up.

SARAH

Shut up, will ya?

JACKIE

Ah, straighten your fanny-pad!

There is more laughter at this. Sarah puts the phone in her pocket and pushes in the door of the cubicle. It moves a few inches then stops. Sarah HITS HER HEAD off it. The other girls turn around at the sound, laughing at Sarah as she holds her head in pain...

...Sarah hits the door with her hand. This time, it SWINGS OPEN. Sarah looks inside, as do the other girls. Sarah's look of pain and embarrassment turns into a LOOK OF HORROR.

CHRIS (V.O.)

...But in the beginning, there was
just Darren.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Ms. Flynn is standing in the hallway amongst the waiting students. She is flipping through a CALENDAR that is posted on the NOTICEBOARD. She flips back the pages and moves to set it on the noticeboard...

(CONTINUED)

...A sudden SCREAM echoes up the hall. Startled, Ms. Flynn DROPS the calendar. She turns and RUNS towards the toilets...

...The calendar lands on the floor, the page left facing up. It is open on "SEPTEMBER". The date of the 14th is RINGED IN RED as "BACK TO SCHOOL DAY".

CUT TO:

INT. TOILETS

There is a CROWD of shocked-looking students around the cubicle as Ms. Flynn pushes her way inside. Off to the left, Sarah is in HYSTERICS, being comforted by Jackie and Trish. Ms. Flynn looks from them into the cubicle...

...DARREN, a skinny ginger boy is sitting on the toilet, DEAD. His SKIN is pale, BLUE in places. There is BLOODY VOMIT on the front of his uniform, and his EYES are ROLLED UP in his HEAD. His TONGUE is STICKING OUT...

...Ms. Flynn goes into the cubicle, moving in a jerky, nervous manner. There is a CRUNCH noise under her feet. She steps back and looks down...

...There is a broken PILL BOTTLE on the floor. Some of the pills have been crushed under her feet. Moving even more nervously, Ms. Flynn steps past the pill bottle and reaches out as if to take Darren's pulse...

...A STUDENT'S VOICE comes from behind her.

STUDENT
(desolately)
There's no point, Miss. Darren's
dead.

Ms. Flynn jumps at the sound of the voice. Her hand HITS the SIDE of Darren's FACE, and BLOOD trickles from his open MOUTH...

...Everyone in the toilet SCREAMS.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

A HUGE CROWD is gathered around the GATE of the school, either side of the AMBULANCE that is parked out front. Two POLICE CARS are parked behind it. Sarah is sitting in one of them, CRYING, being consoled by a FEMALE POLICE OFFICER. She is wrapped in a blanket. The door of the building opens...

...And two MEDICS roll out a GURNEY. On the GURNEY, the body of DARREN is strapped beneath a white blanket. There is an audible GASP from the crowd, and the sound of people CRYING...

...As the medics roll the gurney, they pass Sarah, who begins CRYING again. Her friends, standing nearby, all begin crying along with her. There are other students crying, but many of them watch on silently...

...KEVIN MUNNEY is watching silently as well. He is severe and angry looking. Beside him are MICKEY and PHIL, who are dressed similarly but look nowhere near as threatening. KEVIN glances from the gurney to Ms. Flynn, who is crying. He gives them both equal looks of DISDAIN. After a moment, he turns and WALKS OFF, followed by Mickey and Phil...

...The door of the building opens again, and SHIRLEY and GERRY, DARREN'S PARENTS, are led out by SERGEANT JOE BYRNE. They are DISTRAUGHT. SGT. BYRNE leads them to the other police car and puts them in the back...

...Slowly, the ambulance pulls out, followed by the two police cars, lights flashing, but without sirens...

...CHRIS watches as the last car passes the edge of the crowd of students and teachers. Beside him are BEN DORAN and LEE PHILIPS. Ben is the shorter of the two, but is slightly stockier. Lee is the same height as Chris, but has long dark hair and the beginnings of a beard.

LEE

How old was he, Chris?

CHRIS

Sixteen. I think.

BEN

He used to ride his bike through our garden when he was younger. My ma gave out shit to him about it.

LEE

Messed up.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Yeah.

The Ambulance and police cars disappear around the corner, and Chris, Ben and Lee turn back towards the gates. At the gate, MR. RYLAND, middle-aged and obviously the principal, raises his arms above his head.

MR. RYLAND

Attention, everyone!

Slowly, the students turn around.

MR. RYLAND

School is cancelled for today. You can wait in the auditorium for buses. Foll-

Mr. Ryland coughs, as though choked up. He clears his throat.

MR. RYLAND

Follow the teachers and stay in your groups. Thank you.

The students begin to disperse, moving in rough groups around the side of the main building. Chris Ben and Lee walk at the back of their group.

BEN

Jesus. What happens now?

CHRIS

What always happens when someone dies in the village, Ben?

Ben drops his head and doesn't reply.

LEE

Everyone's gonna get rat-arsed.

Chris, Lee and Ben walk into the school with the rest of the crowd.

FADE TO:

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A CAR is driving through the centre of the village. It's expensive-looking, classy, a politician's car...

(CONTINUED)

...Inside is COUNCILLOR JENNIFER BROWNE. She is late-30s, early 40s, with a "career woman" look about her. She is talking into a mobile phone.

COUNCILLOR BROWNE

I'm coming into the village now...Oh, god, don't ask me. The parents called for it. I think they want CLOSURE...Well that's what I said, the boy's not even buried yet.

She pauses, apparently listening. She frowns, as though tired.

COUNCILLOR BROWNE

No, I won't be staying. I know how it looks, but I've got the pre-election to...

(pause, sighs)

Right. You're right. Sure what's another meeting? They serve cold fucking coffee at all of 'em anyway. I'll talk to you tomorrow, Cyril. Bye-bye.

Councillor Brown hangs up the phone. She glances at the face of it...

...The date on the phone is "SEPTEMBER 15". She puts the phone down and rests her hand back on the steering wheel. She YAWNS.

CUT TO:

INT. MEETING ROOM

Shirley and Gerry, Mr. Ryland, Sgt. Byrne and Councillor Browne are sitting around the table at the centre of the meeting room. Pots of coffee and tea sit in the middle of the table, apparently untouched. There is silence, apparently uncomfortable...

...After a moment, Mr. Ryland sits forward, coughing slightly.

MR. RYLAND

Uh, first, I'd like to say that I'm very sorry for your loss, Shirley. Gerry.

Shirley and Gerry are silent at first. They look haggard and disconnected.

(CONTINUED)

GERRY

Thanks, Tom.

Gerry squeezes Shirley's hand. She looks down at the table. Mr. Ryland looks to Councillor Browne.

MR. RYLAND

Are you sure you want to do this now, Gerry? Should we not wait till after the funeral? Councillor Browne, you'd come back in wouldn't you?

COUNCILLOR BROWNE

(serious-sounding)

Of course I would.

Gerry and Shirley look back silently. Mr. Ryland looks to Sgt. Byrne.

SGT. BYRNE

Shirley, Gerry. The doctors' say that it was...TRANQUILISERS. He...he took about ten of them.

SHIRLEY

Oh God!

SGT. BYRNE

I'm very sorry.

GERRY

Where did he get them?

SGT. BYRNE

They weren't prescription...

SHIRLEY

Of COURSE they weren't PRESCRIPTION! I'm not a bloody FOOL!

Shirley leans against Gerry, as though weakened. Councillor Browne leans forward.

COUNCILLOR BROWNE

Please. If it's too soon for you to be talking about this, I...

GERRY

No.

Councillor Browne looks confused.

(CONTINUED)

COUNCILLOR BROWNE

Excuse me?

GERRY

We're not letting it get away on us. We want to know where he got the pills, and who he got them from.

SHIRLEY

(tearfully)

Who he got them from.

SGT. BYRNE

Gerry...

GERRY

No, Joe. No.

There is a moment of silence.

COUNCILLOR BROWNE

How can we help you?

Shirley looks up, then away from Councillor Browne. Councillor Browne has an overly intense look of sincerity and concern on her face.

SHIRLEY

Darren was a sad boy. Always. Couldn't see the bright side of anything. If he won the lotto, he'd only worry about the tax he'd have to pay, Gerry used to say.

(beat)

We did what we could with him. Humoured him. He wasn't spoiled, but we tried to make him happy. But still, still he was always sad.

Shirley looks up. Her eyes are red, rimmed with tears, but she looks more angry than sad.

SHIRLEY

None of you knew him. None of you saw the way he was. But someone did. Someone used his...his SAD WAY, and gave him the

(pause)

...the SHIT that killed him. And now he's DEAD. It's...

(CONTINUED)

Shirley is interrupted mid-sentence by the ROAR of a CAR racing outside. It is followed by the sound of another car and SIRENS. Sgt. Byrne looks towards the windows of the meeting room.

SGT. BYRNE
Joyriders. Can't fecking...

Shirley suddenly BANGS HER FIST DOWN on the TABLE.

SHIRLEY
WHY?!

Everyone looks at her silently.

SHIRLEY
Why are you chasing THEM? Why aren't you finding who KILLED OUR SON?!!!

MR. RYLAND
Shirley...

SHIRLEY
Why aren't you doing it?!! It's a small little village, you know who's in it, so why aren't you LOOKING? Eh? Are you all fucking COWARDS?!!! COWARDS! COWARDS!

Gerry grabs Shirley and hugs her. Shirley begins to sob.

GERRY
(to Shirley)
It's alright, Shirley. It's no good to shout. It's alright.
(to the others)
What's being done, Joe? That's what we want.

SGT. BYRNE
It's...

COUNCILLOR BROWNE
(interrupting)
We need to wait, Gerry. The Technical Bureau have to finish their examinations, and we need to question witnesses. I'll be bringing this up at the council meeting tomorrow, I assure you.
(pause)
Give us time. Go and grieve for your son.

SHIRLEY

They'll get away. Because you're not doing your job, they're going to get away.

Mr. Ryland leans forward.

MR. RYLAND

I'll call an assembly tomorrow at school. I'll do what I can.

Gerry nods, but doesn't look very happy...

...The sound of the JOYRIDER'S CAR can be heard outside again, once again followed by the SIRENS. It fades into the distance. There is silence.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL

Gerry and Shirley walk out of the meeting room first and down the hall at pace, followed by Mr. Ryland and Sgt. Byrne. Before either one can move, Councillor Browne pushes between them, her ear pressed to her mobile phone. She tips a wave at the other two, then strides off down the hall. Mr. Ryland and Sgt. Byrne stop at the door, half-shadowed, half-lit by the glare from the meeting room.

MR. RYLAND

Is what she said true?

Sgt. Byrne looks at Mr. Ryland.

MR. RYLAND

About the Technical Bureau and all that.

SGT. BYRNE

(sighs)

Well, we'll have to wait, alright. But...

MR. RYLAND

But that's not why she said it.

Sgt. Byrne nods, then sighs again.

SGT. BYRNE

You know the kids, Tom. Did you see anything like this coming?

(CONTINUED)

MR. RYLAND

Come on. You know yourself, you can't walk to the end of the road without meeting someone you know.

SGT. BYRNE

But the...the blow-ins. The city people.

They are silent for a moment. They begin to walk down the hall.

SGT. BYRNE

Gerry and Shirley weren't too satisfied with our performance, were they?

MR. RYLAND

You didn't give them what they want.

SGT. BYRNE

What's that?

They reach the EXIT DOOR of the building. Mr. Ryland turns and looks at Sgt. Byrne.

MR. RYLAND

Their son brought back to life.

Mr. Ryland walks off ahead of Sgt. Byrne.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

There is a HOUSE PARTY in progress, and it is particularly loud and wild. People have packed the house, and they are in various states of drunkenness...

...Through this crowd walks Ben, carrying two CUPS OF BEER. He dodges through the dancing crowd, and past a group of NECKING COUPLES on a couch near the door. He heads OUTSIDE...

...There is a large BONFIRE on the front lawn of the house. Some people are gathered around, all of them apparently smashed drunk or HIGH on something. At the centre of the group is Kevin, along with Mickey and Phil. They are throwing a BOTTLE OF VODKA up in the air, and ATTEMPTING TO DRINK what flies out of the bottle before it hits the floor...

(CONTINUED)

...As Ben passes by, Mickey tries to drink some of the vodka, nearly gets HIT IN THE HEAD, then almost FALLS INTO THE FIRE. This sends Kevin and Phil into a FIT OF LAUGHTER. The others around them also laugh. Ben gives them a disdainful glance, and walks further out on the lawn...

...Chris and Lee are standing near the wall, along with JOYCE O' CONNOR. She is young, pretty, smart-looking. Ben hands her one of the cups of beer, and follows it with a kiss.

JOYCE

Thank you.

BEN

Welcome.

Joyce grabs Ben's hand with her free one and twines her fingers with his. They look in the direction of the bonfire. Chris and Lee are already looking in that direction.

LEE

(disgusted)

Would you look at those bloody
eejits?

JOYCE

What, don't you wanna be one of the
cool people, Lee?

LEE

Joyce, you're a nice girl. So I
know you won't mind when I say I'd
rather stick a pitchfork up me
hole.

BEN

That can be arranged.

LEE

Try it.

BEN

You'd like that, wouldn't you, you
sick shit?

There is some muted laughter from everyone but Chris. Lee glances at him, and his own laughter tapers off quickly.

CHRIS

Anyone else think it's weird that
we're mourning someone who died of
an overdose by getting shit-faced?

(CONTINUED)

JOYCE
We're not shit-faced.

CHRIS
They are.

Chris gestures to Kevin and the others.

LEE
They always are. They're assholes,
man.

CHRIS
They're alive. Darren's not. How
big of assholes can they be?

LEE
I dunno, elephant-size?

Lee appears to force a laugh at this. No one else laughs.
Joyce takes a drink of her beer...

...Over at the bonfire, Kevin now appears to be telling a
story to the gathered crowd.

JOYCE
My dad says it's foreigners who
gave him the drugs.

Everyone turns to look at Joyce. She looks unnerved by this.

JOYCE
He says that they come in for
holidays on the boats, and sell
their stuff to us. Locals, I mean.
"Stupid natives" he calls us.

She looks first at Ben, then to Chris and Lee. Chris and Lee
glance at each other, and start LAUGHING.

JOYCE
It's not funny.

LEE
Jesus, Joyce.

JOYCE
What?

CHRIS
Believe me, Joyce. All those jobs
are TAKEN.

LEE

Yeah, there's no out-sourcing going on here.

JOYCE

I don't...

BEN

Come on, Liz. When was the last time you saw anyone foreign trying to sell anything around here?

Ben nods in the direction of the bonfire.

BEN

It's someone from the village. It's one of us.

Joyce lets go of Ben's hand.

JOYCE

Well if you're all so smart, why don't you go tell the cops then?

BEN

Why doesn't everyone in school do the same thing? Or anyone under the age of forty? Or anyone with two eyes?

(beat)

It's Killeen. Where ignorance is bliss.

LEE

(interrupting)

Hey, who's that guy?

Lee points off to the left...

...PAVEL KIZINSKE, tall, blocky, and Polish of features is standing awkwardly on the edge of the lawn, looking at the bonfire. He obviously doesn't know anyone around, and appears to have wandered in by accident...

...Meanwhile, Kevin is in the midst of telling his STORY in a gesture-filled drunken fashion.

KEVIN

(...Darren? DARREN starts to kiss her, and as soon as her tongue's down his throat, he starts to shake, and to...SHIVER, I thought he was gonna mess all over himself!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN (cont'd)
Lad's so nervous he's having a
PANIC ATTACK or some shit!
beat)
She looks mortified, and I'm across
the dance floor, PISSIN' MESELF
laughin' at the face Darren's
making, and...

Kevin suddenly stops, and peers across the bonfire at Pavel.
The drunken humour on his face disappears, and turns to an
ANGRY FROWN.

KEVIN
Who the fuck are you?

Pavel stands where he is, looking on nervously. Kevin drops
the vodka bottle he is holding and walks over.

KEVIN
Do you not speak English? I said
who the FUCK are you?!

Kevin covers the distance between them quickly, HANDS balled
into FISTS at his sides. Kevin's face is RED WITH ANGER.

KEVIN
What're you DOING HERE? You've no
right to be here!

One of the PARTYGOERS puts a hand on his shoulder.

PARTYGOER
Kev...

KEVIN
NO! He's no right to be here! What
are you doing here, you slimy
little foreign BASTARD!?

Kevin SHOVES Pavel.

KEVIN
Get out of here! Get out before I
tear your EYES OUT, you foreign
dirty BASTARD!

Kevin shoves him again. Pavel stumbles backward as Mickey,
Phil, and other partygoers HOLD KEVIN BACK. Kevin STRUGGLES
against them. Pavel backs away, turns, and leaves at a fast
walk.

KEVIN

You didn't know him!! You've no
fucking RIGHT you bastard! No
RIGHT! I'll kill you. FOREIGN
BASTARD!

Kevin breaks away from the people holding him back, and
storms off...

...Chris, Lee, Ben and Joyce watch silently. Chris looks at
his watch.

CHRIS

Time to go.

Chris walks off, followed by the others. As they leave the
house, a POLICE CAR arrives over the top of the hill.

CUT TO:

INT. CHRIS' CELL

Chris is sitting on his bed as a Guard walks past. The Guard
stops at the door.

GUARD

Hey! Hey!

Chris looks at him silently.

GUARD

Wanna buy some scag?

Still not speaking, Chris GIVES THE GUARD THE FINGER. The
Guard frowns, then walks off. Chris turns back to his
WRITING.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

The Auditorium is FULL with STUDENTS of all ages. They are
sitting silently, with only the occasional bout of chatter
breaking out...

...Sgt. Byrne is standing at the front of the room, looking
around silently.

CHRIS (V.O.)

If they'd just buried Darren, just
mourned him and moved on, then
things might have been different.

(CONTINUED)

Mr. Ryland steps out to the front of the room, followed by some other teachers...

...Kevin, Mickey and Phil are sitting up the back. Chris, Ben and Joyce are a few rows down. Pavel is sitting in front, far off to the side, next to a group of girls. He looks confused.

CHRIS (V.O.)

But when someone dies in a small village, that doesn't happen. It turns into a circus. And everyone gets their chance to perform.

Mr. Ryland steps forward towards the MICROPHONE STAND in the centre of the stage. He stands silent for a moment, apparently regarding the students. Mr. Ryland coughs slightly before speaking.

MR. RYLAND

Students, before the groups leave for today's memorial service, I, the staff, and Sergeant Byrne have an announcement.

(beat)

As you all know, the cause of Darren Mernagh's, uh...passing was as the result of a drug overdose. Both myself and Sergeant Byrne are appealing to anyone who might have any information as to where these drugs were purchased, or who they were purchased from to come forward, CONFIDENTIALLY, and share it with us.

Mr. Ryland pauses. The assembled students are silent.

MR. RYLAND

We want to insure that, for your well-being, this kind of thing is not allowed to continue, and any information or help you can give will help us to stop this kind of thing happening.

There is still no reply from the students. Mr. Ryland glances at Sgt. Byrne. Sgt. Byrne strides up to the microphone as Mr. Ryland stands aside.

SGT. BYRNE

This is a serious business. I understand you're all sad over the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SGT. BYRNE (cont'd)
death of your friend, but if you
don't come forward, you're only
allowing whoever gave Darren the
drugs to get away with what they
did. Help us do our jobs, and
please come forward with
information.

There is the sound of a TEXT MESSAGE TONE, followed by
MUFFLED LAUGHTER. Sgt. Byrne looks suddenly angry.

SGT. BYRNE
And I'll warn you straight away. If
I find out that anyone here is
withholding information, then
you'll be dealt with VERY SEVERELY
for obstructing this case.

Sgt. Byrne stands looking out at the crowd, still frowning.
After a moment he walks off and Mr. Ryland steps forward
again.

MR. RYLAND
Okay, can you each leave one row at
a time towards the main door...

EVERYONE gets up at the same time and crowds towards the
door. Mr. Ryland looks at them, apparently defeated.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S HOUSE

Lee is standing in the front hall, fixing his hair. He is
wearing his school uniform. He looks at himself for a
moment, then runs a final hand through his hair and steps
back from the mirror...

...To the left of the mirror is a CALENDAR reading
"SEPTEMBER 16th" on its top page. He RIPS the top page off,
balling it up in his fist, revealing the page with
"SEPTEMBER 17th". Lee drops the balled up calendar page in
the BIN as he walks back into the LIVING ROOM...

...In the living room, LEE'S PARENTS, TOM and MARY, are in
the final stages of getting ready. Tom is wearing a BLACK
SUIT, while Mary is wearing a black dress and hat, typical
funeral wear...

...Tom looks up as Lee walks in.

(CONTINUED)

TOM
Are you ready?

LEE
Yeah.

MARY
Are you sure you didn't want to go
with your friends?

LEE
Nah. Doesn't make much difference
now, anyway.

MARY
Alright.

Mary goes into the KITCHEN. Tom picks up a NEWSPAPER and
begins to flip through it.

TOM
Do you reckon it was suicide or
what?

Mary's voice comes from the kitchen.

MARY (O.S.)
Ah, sure how could you tell?

Mary walks back in, clipping an EARRING to each ear.

MARY
Alice Devereux told me that Shirley
was forever bringing Darren to
hospital. She said he had terrible
diarrhea. But Lil The Shepherd was
saying she might've brought him to
the mental hospital out in town.
You wouldn't know.

TOM
Well if that's how it was, it
wouldn't be hard to hook him on
something. Tourists'd spot that in
a second.

Lee glares slightly at his father.

LEE
What makes you think it's tourists?

TOM

Sure they come in during the summer, and you see the way they leave the place. Guards down every night breaking up fights. Tourists beating the head off one another.

MARY

Mag Moloney said her husband was attacked by two Cork men over the colour of his shirt.

LEE

(frustrated)

Yeah but that doesn't mean...

Tom puts down his paper and looks at Lee with a glare of incredulity.

TOM

Come on, Lee! You've seen the way they leave the beaches. Every summer the council have to drag the beach with a net to take out bottles and...and condoms and things. Who else'd bring that sort of thing in? Where do you think it comes from in the first place?

Mary slings her handbag over her shoulder. She seems to do this purposefully. Lee looks annoyed at them both.

MARY

Well I don't know, but I can tell you right now, if I was in charge I'd have every one of them hauled in so I knew WHO they were and WHERE they were.

Lee looks shocked at this.

LEE

What the-?

Tom and Mary look at him. Lee's face crumples with anger. He turns and walks out.

TOM

What's wrong with you?

LEE

(as he walks away)

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

TOM
Where are you going?

LEE
CAR!

The sound of Lee SLAMMING THE DOOR as he leaves can be heard.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH

The RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE, the students and teachers among them, are heading into the main doors of the church...

...Lee heads in with his parents, while Chris, Ben, Joyce and few others break off from the crowd and go around the side of the church. They turn at the end of the wall, and walk round to the back...

...There are about twenty other students out here, all chatting and talking normally. Chris, Ben and Joyce stand against the boundary wall, talking quietly amongst themselves...

...Off to one side is a group of YOUNG TEENS. They are laughing, and stumbling in places. They are passing a LARGE SOFT DRINK BOTTLE around, and taking drinks from it. One of them takes the bottle and waves it at the others.

YOUNG TEEN
Down the hatch!

He takes a large drink of it, then coughs, as though the drink is burning his throat. Lee exits through the back door of the church as this happens, and joins Joyce, Chris and Ben silently...

...Joyce, who is looking at the group of young teens, turns and JUMPS the boundary wall before storming off. Lee, Chris and Ben watch her go. Ben looks at Lee and Chris with an almost helpless look before jumping the wall himself and FOLLOWING her.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATH

Joyce is walking quickly down the path, arms folded, CRYING. Ben jogs to catch up with her and puts a hand on her shoulder.

BEN

Hey!

Joyce turns around and looks at him, tears streaming down her face.

BEN

What's wrong?

JOYCE

(sobbing)

Did you SEE what they were doing?
They just...Don't they?...I...

Joyce breaks down, HUGGING Ben tightly. Ben hugs her back, looking confused.

JOYCE

He's just a kid! I didn't...Why's
he dead? Why didn't someone do
something?

BEN

What can we do?

Joyce doesn't answer, only presses herself against Ben, crying.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH

DARREN'S COFFIN, draped in a green and white FOOTBALL JERSEY, is being brought out by the PALLBEARERS, followed by Gerry and Shirley, both in tears, then other family members and the people in the church.

CUT TO:

INT. DARREN'S PARENTS' HOUSE

A WINDOW is SMASHED...

...A HAND reaches in and opens the handle.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH

Darren's coffin is being loaded into the HEARSE.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

A group of KIDS, mid to late-teens climb in the broken window and proceed to begin ROBBING and TRASHING the KITCHEN.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD

The coffin is being carried towards a MOUND OF EARTH near the rear of the graveyard, followed by the PARISHIONERS.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

The Kids are TURNING OVER the COUCH and COFFEE TABLE. One goes to the MANTELPIECE, picks up a CANDLE-HOLDER, then SWEEPS the rest of the items off onto the floor...

...Among them is a PHOTO of Darren and his Parents.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD

The coffin is being LOWERED INTO THE GROUND. Darren's parents are CRYING LOUDLY. Beside them, the PRIEST is making a sign of the cross over the GRAVE.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE

The group of kids leave by the broken window, carrying DUFFEL BAGS. One has an ARMFUL of JEWELERY.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARREN'S PARENTS' HOUSE

CARS are pulling up outside. Shirley and Gerry get out of the first car, followed by Lee, then Tom and Mary, and other VILLAGERS. Lee steps to one side and stands waiting as Chris, Ben and Joyce approach. He walks over and stands beside them. They watch as people mill around the front door...

...Gerry opens the door of the house, and the people walk inside...

...Shirley and Gerry stop, their faces wide with shock. A WOMAN bumps into the back of them.

WOMAN

Hey! What...?

The woman stops and looks around at the TRASHED HOUSE. There is a communal GASP among the people inside the door...

...Outside, Ben, Lee, Chris and Joyce move towards the window. They look in at the destroyed house. All of them share equal looks of disbelief...

...Inside, Shirley FAINTS. She thumps to the floor.

GERRY

(frightened)

Shirley!

Gerry kneels down beside her. There are shouts of "Call an ambulance" and "Someone help her"...

...Chris turns and walks away, followed by Lee. Ben turns to follow, but Joyce pulls him back.

JOYCE

Where are you going?

BEN

Sick of this shit.

Ben pulls away from Joyce and leaves. Joyce looks shocked and saddened.

CUT TO:

Chris Ben and Lee walking down an alley in a HOUSING ESTATE, they come out the other side of the alley and onto a FOOTPATH...

(CONTINUED)

...As they do, a CAR speeds past at HIGH SPEED. The JOYRIDER CAR. It is followed a few moments later by a POLICE CAR, it's LIGHTS FLASHING, but no siren. They watch as it passes...

...Chris in particular is watching it's progress.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

The students are arriving and hanging around outside school, obviously waiting for it to open. Things appear normal, as though nothing has happened in the previous days...

...Around the back of the school, Pavel is standing by a fence, eating a sandwich. He doesn't appear to be paying much attention to anything...

...Mickey is watching him from across the yard. He is frowning at him, and looks THREATENING. After a second he walks over to Pavel and SHOVES HIM. The sandwich falls from Pavel's hand.

MICKEY

What the fuck are you doing?

Pavel looks surprised and confused.

MICKEY

What's the matter? Do you not speak English? Or do I have to give you the DOLE first?

Pavel says nothing. Mickey's frown deepens. He shoves Pavel again, knocking him against the fence. A CROWD is gathering around, looking on in the expectant way young people do when a fight is about to start...

...Mickey shoves Pavel again.

PAVEL

Leave me alone.

MICKEY

What like you left Darren alone? Darren's dead! Do you know what that means you fucking Polish RETARD?!

(CONTINUED)

PAVEL

I...

Mickey interrupts him with another shove.

MICKEY

Well? You little foreign Pole
faggot? WELL?! You want to be dead!
I'll cut your head off!

Pavel receives another shove, but just looks at Mickey.
Mickey squares up to Pavel and makes a "Fight Me" gesture
with his fists.

MICKEY

You little Polish prick! You
fuckin' queer! I'll break your
neck! COME ON!

Chris steps to the front of the crowd.

CHRIS

What's the matter Mickey? Couldn't
find a corner to wank in this
morning?

There is some laughter at this. Mickey turns on Chris, his
full fury focused on him.

MICKEY

You want a box in the face too?

CHRIS

No. I'd just like to know why you
keep calling him names for gay,
that's all.

MICKEY

Piss off!

CHRIS

Are YOU gay, Mickey?

There is a lot more laughter at this. Mickey looks angry,
getting more ready to fight.

MICKEY

Say that again and I'll...

CHRIS

What? RIDE ME? You're alright
thanks.

More laughter.

(CONTINUED)

MICKEY

Right!

Mickey moves forward as if to punch Chris. Chris stands where he is, unmoving.

CHRIS

If you hit me, I'll tell everyone you were trying to get off with the Polish lad. What'll your mam think of that, eh?

Mickey looks suddenly shocked.

MICKEY

No you won't.

CHRIS

Try it.

Mickey looks unsure. Chris is smirking. A BOY speaks up from the crowd.

BOY

Jesus, this is boring. Anyone wanna fight ME?!

There is more laughter. The Boy and another person begin MOCK-FIGHTING...

...Mickey, looking confused, jumps the fence and STORMS OFF. The crowd breaks up. Chris walks over to Pavel, who is looking at the scene with interest.

CHRIS

Dude, just so you know, you might wanna be careful around him and his mates.

PAVEL

He is the one who should be careful.

Pavel walks away, looking confused. Chris walks off as well, going around the side of a building...

...Kevin, Mickey and Phil are waiting there. Kevin PUNCHES Chris THREE TIMES in the FACE. Chris falls down. Kevin plants a foot in Chris' chest. Chris struggles briefly, but Kevin shoves him down again.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

You mind your own business,
shithead. Or you're dead.

Kevin GRABS Chris' NOSE and SQUEEZES IT. BLOOD comes between Kevin's fingers. He lets the nose go, wipes it on Chris' JUMPER and walks off. Mickey and Phil are looking at Chris, laughing. Chris sits up slowly, holding his bleeding nose gingerly.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

Ben is standing against the wall, outside a door with a plaque reading PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. Taped below the plaque is a piece of paper with the heading "SEPTEMBER 22nd Yard Duty Roster" followed by a list of names...

...The door opens, and a YOUNG STUDENT walks out. His face is RED. He looks both embarrassed and shameful. He glances at Ben, then runs off down the hall...

...Mr. Ryland comes to the door.

MR. RYLAND

Ben. Come in.

Ben stands up from the wall and enters the OFFICE. He stands up until Mr. Ryland takes his seat behind his DESK, then sits down, looking at Mr. Ryland silently. Mr. Ryland unfolds a piece of paper and looks at it.

MR. RYLAND

Just before we start, you're not in
trouble, okay?

Ben nods slightly.

MR. RYLAND

I got a phone-call this morning.
From a man named...

Mr. Ryland looks at the piece of paper.

MR. RYLAND

...Derek Kehoe.

Ben's face goes slack in a look that is part-rage, part-confusion, part-sadness. Mr. Ryland looks at Ben, a slight look of concern on his own face.

(CONTINUED)

MR. RYLAND

He said he and your mother want to meet with you. They gave me a contact number if you'd like to talk to them.

BEN

She's not my mother.

MR. RYLAND

Ben, listen for a second.

(beat)

I can't imagine what it's like in your situation...

BEN

(interrupting)

No. You can't.

Mr. Ryland doesn't answer straight away.

MR. RYLAND

I suppose the fact that he had to ring the school says a lot about your relationship.

Ben stands up.

BEN

Call Social Services and tell them I'm being harassed, will you?

MR. RYLAND

Ben, that's very serious. Is that not...?

BEN

No it isn't.

Ben turns and goes to the door.

MR. RYLAND

Ben?

Ben turns back.

MR. RYLAND

Do you...Do you want to talk to someone? Ms. Fitzgerald?

Ben looks at Mr. Ryland for a moment, as if judging him, then walks out the door. Mr. Ryland picks up the PHONE.

CUT TO:

INT. TOILETS

Chris is standing at the sink and looking in the mirror. His EYE, NOSE and LIP are HEAVILY BRUISED. Chris takes a WAD OF TOILET PAPER from the roll on the sink beside him and begins to run it under tap...

...There are BLOODY TISSUES in the sink. Chris takes the wet toilet paper, lifts it up and puts it to his EYE. He sighs, as if in pain...

...Lee's voice comes from behind him.

LEE

Who did that? City people?

Chris turns around and looks at Lee.

LEE

That's who everyone blames shit on around here, isn't it?

Lee goes over and sits against one of the sinks beside Chris. He puts his hands in his pockets and looks down at the floor. After a moment it becomes obvious that Lee is SEETHING.

LEE

That's what my dad says. Him and the whole village.

Chris SPITS BLOOD into the sink. Chris takes the lump of wet toilet paper from his face and plops it in the sink. He wipes his face tenderly with the sleeve of his jumper.

LEE

(angry)

You know what? I'm gonna go to the cops and tell them who I think dealt Darren that shit, I'm gonna...

Chris stops Lee from talking by grabbing his shoulder tightly. He looks into Lee's face and SHAKES HIS HEAD, then gestures towards the CUBICLES...

...One of the cubicles is closed. There is a FOG OF SMOKE drifting over the top of it, and the sound of MUFFLED VOICES...

...Chris leads Lee away from the toilet, leaving the bloody paper pile in the sink. They stop in the hall.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

What good'll it do, Lee? They'd find out it was you and beat the shit out of you.

LEE

How? Who's gonna tell them?

CHRIS

I...I dunno! Someone, doesn't matter. They're not gonna do anything about it anyway, you know that. So give over, okay?

LEE

(defeated)

Yeah. Seen and not heard. Yes sir, that's me.

Chris says nothing. Lee sighs. Chris stands back slightly and they walk off.

FADE TO:

INT. LEE'S HOUSE - EVENING

There is the sound of a DOORBELL. Mary comes to the head of the hall and goes to the front door and opens it. Chris, Ben and Joyce are standing there. Mary smiles.

MARY

Ah, hello there! Come ahead in!

CHRIS

Thanks.

BEN & JOYCE

(together)

Thank you.

Mary stands to one side and lets them in. Ben hands her a BOX OF CHOCOLATES. She looks delighted at them.

MARY

Oh thanks very much.

BEN

They're from Mam and Dad.

MARY

Lovely! How are they?

(CONTINUED)

BEN
They're grand.

Mary looks to Chris.

MARY
And how's your mam Chris?

CHRIS
(noncommittally)
She's not too bad.

Mary gives Chris an over-bearing look of concern, nodding sagely.

MARY
Right, right. And how are you all,
after what happened?

The three of them look at each other with similarly unsure expressions.

JOYCE
It's...it's very sad.

MARY
Yes. Yes it would be. And how are
your friends taking it? Are they
feeling terrible?

JOYCE
I, uh...

There is the sound of a DOOR OPENING UPSTAIRS. Everyone looks up. Lee is standing at the top of the landing.

LEE
Is that Chris and Ben, mam?

MARY
Yes it is!

LEE
Come on up guys.

Mary turns back to the others.

MARY
Go ahead up. Do you want tea or
anything?

BEN
Uh, no thanks.

MARY
Are you sure?

JOYCE
No thanks.

MARY
Well you know where I am if you do.

Mary turns and heads back up the hall. Ben, Joyce and Chris go up the stairs and enter LEE'S ROOM.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S ROOM - SOME TIME LATER

Everyone is scattered around the room - Lee is lying on his bed, Chris is slouching in an office chair. Ben and Joyce are sitting together on a bean-bag. There is music on. Everyone but Joyce is laughing.

LEE
(smiling)
...No shit! You actually said that?

Chris smiles.

BEN
And what'd he do?

CHRIS
He just stood there like he'd been doused in cold water.

BEN
I'll bet he did!

Ben and Lee laugh. Joyce looks a bit lost.

LEE
Jesus! And did the Polish dude thank you or anything?

CHRIS
Kinda. He said something weird and just kinda walked off.

(CONTINUED)

BEN
Still great though.

LEE
Prick.

JOYCE
Was it worth all that?

Joyce gestures at Chris' face, which is still bruised. The laughter lapses. There is a moment of silence.

LEE
You know what you should do?

Chris looks over at Lee.

LEE
You should sneak into his house and kick the shit out of him while he's in the bed.

Chris and Ben both laugh at this. Joyce doesn't appear to find it funny.

BEN
What's he gonna do? Dress up as a ninja and attack him with a set of nunchucks?
(beat)
Can you imagine him done up in black pyjamas?

LEE
Sexy!

Joyce looks annoyed at this. Chris just laughs. Lee sits up, smirking. He begins to gesture with his hands. When he speaks, he sounds jovial and animated. He seems to be doing an impression of a TV VOICEOVER MAN.

LEE
He moves through the shadows, invisible to the naked eye, waiting to strike! He is...CHRIS CAREY, The World's Fattest Ninja!!!

Chris Lee and Ben laugh at this. Joyce looks even more annoyed.

JOYCE
Jesus, can't you take anything seriously?

(CONTINUED)

Chris and Lee share a look.

JOYCE
You could get him for assault.

BEN
Who'd believe him?

JOYCE
Well...the cops.

Lee laughs shortly at this. Chris looks at Joyce evenly.

CHRIS
Do YOU really believe THAT, Joyce?

Joyce rolls her eyes.

JOYCE
Don't start on about Darren again.
It's only been a few days. It takes
time.

LEE
You don't...

Chris puts up a hand to stop Lee.

CHRIS
You're wrong.
(beat)
I mean, did you ever sit back and
look at all the shit that's
happened here that they never did
anything about?

Joyce looks at Chris sternly.

JOYCE
Like what?

CUT TO:

Kevin, Mickey and Phil selling CARTONS OF CIGARETTES to
people from the BOOT OF A CAR. They are taking in FISTFULS
OF MONEY.

LEE (V.O.)
Like Kevin Munney selling stolen
cigarettes.

(CONTINUED)

JOYCE

How do you know they were stolen?

Tom walks up and hands over some cash to Kevin. He takes it and hands him a carton of cigarettes.

LEE (V.O.)

Cause my dad buys them.

BEN (V.O.)

So does mine.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S ROOM

Ben looks from Joyce to the others.

BEN

That's not all he sells.

CHRIS

We can't prove that.

LEE

I know who uses though...

CUT TO:

A GROUP OF PEOPLE of varying ages are lined up in a PUBLIC TOILET. They appear to be divided into GROUPS OF TWO...

...They are all DOING COCAINE.

LEE (V.O.)

Moore Park.

BEN (V.O.)

(laughs)

Snows in the summer.

LEE (V.O.)

Heh-heh!

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S ROOM

Ben nods. He looks very solemn

BEN

I went in there one day to piss. I
could hear them in there, you know?
And the door opened.

CUT TO:

INT. PUBLIC TOILET

Ben is standing to the side of the cubicle, watching as the
DOOR OPENS...

...A POLICE OFFICER steps out, WIPING HIS NOSE.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S ROOM

Joyce looks shocked at this.

JOYCE

Which officer was it?

BEN

I didn't see his face. He was a
sergeant though.

CHRIS

Come on, Joyce. You know you've
seen something.

LEE

Or heard it.

Joyce looks thoughtful. The others are watching her closely.

CUT TO:

Three DRUNK MEN in the process of SETTING FIRE TO A CAR.

CUT TO:

A MONTAGE of different HOUSES being BROKEN INTO by different
BURGLARS.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

A GIRL running into a FIELD. There are other GIRLS standing at the gate. They appear to be CHEERING ON the other GIRL. The GIRL has a STICK in her hand...

...She RUNS up behind a SHEEP that is lying down nearby. She raises the stick above her head and BRINGS IT DOWN HARD...

...She begins to BEAT THE SHEEP with the stick.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S ROOM

Joyce is frowning. The others are watching, apparently vindicated, except for Chris. Chris is looking downward as if waiting for something.

JOYCE

But that's nothing MAJOR. People know each other. Give the what-do-you-call-it...the benefit of the doubt.

LEE

Well if that's small stuff, then so's assault. So why bother reporting Kevin?

JOYCE

Yeah, but...

BEN

Lee's right.

Joyce pushes herself up off the bean-bag. She looks annoyed.

JOYCE

I'm just saying! Sometimes...people look the other way on small stuff instead of ruining peoples' lives...

Chris looks up again.

CHRIS

Is that so?

Chris' tone is one of FOREBODING. It silences the room.

CHRIS

What about Alan Dwyer?

There is still silence.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS
You don't know about him, then.

JOYCE
He doesn't even live here anymore.

Chris seems to ignore this.

CHRIS
My mam used to work with him in the
tourist office. And his wife used
to collect him from work. She
said nearly every day, Alan would
make her take him to the pub.
(beat)
And the next day, she'd always have
new bruises.

Everyone is watching Chris now.

CUT TO:

INT. TOURIST OFFICE

DENISE, Chris' MOTHER, is standing behind the counter in the
lobby, leafing through a MAGAZINE...

...The DOOR of the office opens and a WOMAN, her DRESS TORN,
her FACE BRUISED, with BLOOD on her HANDS and LEGS runs into
the centre of the room and FAINTS DEAD AWAY...

...ALAN DWYER comes out of the office. His FACE is also
BLOODY. He glances at Denise. She looks frightened.

CHRIS (V.O.)
...She said she looked like a lump
of raw steak. And that she was
afraid to do anything.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S ROOM

Chris is staring at Joyce, as if in defiance.

CHRIS
The woman reported Alan. For rape.
(pause)
The cops went out to him, my mam
said. And she said two days later,
Alan quit the office and went on
holiday. The charges were dropped.

(CONTINUED)

No one says anything. Joyce's face appears to be working, like a physical representation of thought. This look suddenly mutates into a look of FURY.

JOYCE

You all think you're so SMART,
don't you? You're just a bunch of
CHILDREN!

Joyce turns and leaves Lee's room. Ben, already standing up, goes after her. Chris and Lee look at the door as it swings shut.

FADE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Chris is walking down the street, he takes a turn...

...And walks down toward the GRAVEYARD beside the church. He opens the gate and walks up the path between the graves. There is a look of focus or determination on his face. He turns up one of the aisles leading through the rows of graves, and negotiates his way past the plots. He makes another turn, walks down slightly, then stops...

...He is standing in front of a HEADSTONE. It is visible by the light coming from the streetlamps at the entrance of the graveyard. It reads:

"JOHN CAREY

Died September 23rd 1997

Missed Sadly"

...Chris stands silently looking at the grave. He pulls up his sleeve, and looks at his WATCH. The DATE on the face of the watch is "Sep 23". The time is TEN MINUTES PAST MIDNIGHT...

...There is the growing whine of an APPROACHING ENGINE, followed by the sound of a second engine, closing in behind it. Chris stands where he is, looking in the direction of the sound...

...The Joyrider Car appears at the edge of the graveyard wall, then suddenly turns right and PULLS IN at the graveyard entrance. The HEADLIGHTS splash across Chris' face. Chris ducks down behind a headstone. He looks around the edge of it towards the entrance...

(CONTINUED)

...A Police Car, its lights flashing, pulls in beside the Joyrider Car. It stops, and kills its engine. As Chris watches, OFFICER GER KENNY gets out and walks over to the Joyrider Car. Officer Kenny leans in the window...

...Chris, still crouching, moves quickly out from behind the headstone and moves onto the next row of graves. He TRIPS and FALLS, with a loud THUMP. He gets to his knees and scrambles behind another headstone, looking PANICKED, and breathing hard. Slowly, he looks around the side again...

...Officer Kenny is looking in the direction of the graveyard. He then looks around himself, and back into the window of the Joyrider Car. Chris looks out again, a look of relief on his face...

...As he watches, a HAND comes out the window of the Joyrider Car, and hands Officer Kenny an ENVELOPE. The envelope looks stuffed. Smirking, Officer Kenny slaps the envelope against his hand, then throws it in the window of his car. He leans into the window again briefly, then stands up and gets back in his car. He turns the car on, but doesn't move...

...Chris is watching, looking amazed and slightly frightened...

...The Joyrider Car roars into life and takes off back down the road. After a few moments, the police car follows...

..Chris stands up, shivering slightly, the look of amazement now spread totally across his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. JOYCE'S HOUSE

BEN'S CAR pulls up outside the house. Ben and Joyce are inside.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR

Joyce and Ben are sitting silently. Joyce appears to be sulking. Ben looks like he is waiting for something. He glances at Joyce. The silence spins out for a moment.

BEN

What time will I come over tomorrow?

(CONTINUED)

JOYCE

If you get hurt, I'm dumping you.

Ben laughs, a look of disbelief on his face.

BEN

What?

JOYCE

All this talking about...crime, Darren, the cops. You're gonna do something, aren't you?

BEN

Wh-No!

JOYCE

Don't lie to me!

BEN

I'm not lying. Or if I am I don't know, because I don't have a shagging clue what you're on about!

JOYCE

That shit about dressing up and going after Kevin? What was that then?

BEN

(laughs)

That?! It was JOKE, Joyce!

JOYCE

Yeah, so was you lot abseiling last summer. But Chris and Lee got serious, and you went along. You nearly BROKE YOUR NECK for fuck's sake.

BEN

That's different...

JOYCE

No it isn't! It's always the same with you! You make a joke, and one of them gets serious and you just do it. You're a...a sheep!

Ben grabs Joyce's shoulder. He looks angry.

BEN
Joyce! Shut up!

Joyce stops, looking like she's been slapped.

JOYCE
All the stuff about the village.
The shit you're saying. It's
dangerous...

BEN
So, what? We shouldn't be pissed
off? We're supposed to be happy
that people get away with murder,
is that it?

JOYCE
It wasn't murder.

BEN
You hugged me at the funeral and
cried and said "Why's Darren
Dead?! You remember? He's dead
because someone sold him the shit
that killed him. That's murder."
(beat)
That's MURDER.

Ben pounds the steering wheel of the car with his fist.
Joyce, looking frightened, leans over and puts a hand on his
cheek. She looks at him apologetically...

...Ben leans in to her, and he and Joyce KISS PASSIONATELY.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

The police station is small, and looking slightly messy.
There are two computers and a small kitchenette sitting on
one side of a PARTITION. On the other side is the RECEPTION
DESK...

...Sgt. Byrne is sitting at his desk, reading a newspaper.
There is a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits beside him. He
turns a page, glances at it, then folds it and turns to the
COMPUTER on his desk...

...There is an EMAIL SITE open on the computer. He looks at
the INBOX. It is empty. He grabs the MOUSE and clicks the
REFRESH BUTTON. The inbox is still empty...

(CONTINUED)

...There is the sound of a DOOR CLOSING and Officer Kenny enters the office. He is carrying a BUNCH OF ENVELOPES.

SGT. BYRNE
Any post from the Technical crowd?

OFFICER KENNY
Uh...

Kenny ruffles through the envelopes.

OFFICER KENNY
Nothing.

SGT. BYRNE
Feck's sake.

OFFICER KENNY
No. Only a few bills, a flyer
for...
(reads)
...Life insurance. And another one
of them dirty letters for Sandra
when she gets back. Should we not
do something about them?

Sgt. Byrne shrugs.

SGT. BYRNE
It's the crazy German lad.
Buttvick. I talked to him, he's
harmless.

OFFICER KENNY
I don't think Sandra thinks so.

SGT. BYRNE
You can't read half of what he
writes anyway. If he tries
anything, the two of us'll shove
him in the cell. And Sandra can
kick him in the sack.

Officer Kenny laughs at this.

OFFICER KENNY
I think she'd like that.

SGT. BYRNE
I think he would as well.

Officer Kenny laughs again, then drops the envelopes on the table. As he does, he turns as if to leave the room.

(CONTINUED)

SGT. BYRNE

Where are you off to?

OFFICER KENNY

Up to the match at the school. You coming?

Sgt. Byrne shakes his head.

SGT. BYRNE

No. I'm gonna call these technical whores and see what the craic is.

(beat)

Besides, I've no time for foreign sports.

Officer Kenny laughs again, then leaves the room. Sgt. Byrne picks up his newspaper and resumes reading...

...After a few moments there is a KNOCK from behind the partition. Sgt. Byrne puts his newspaper down and goes out into the reception...

...Gerry is standing at the counter. He looks both worried and tired. Sgt. Byrne regards Gerry with a cautious look.

SGT. BYRNE

Gerry. What can I do for you?

GERRY

Has there been anything, Joe? Any word?

SGT. BYRNE

I've been trying all day.

GERRY

You've crumbs on your shirt.

Sgt. Byrne, embarrassed-looking, wipes the BISCUIT CRUMBS from his shirt. He looks back up at Gerry.

SGT. BYRNE

They haven't finished the examinations from the scene. And no-one's coming forward. Unless you know any friends of his that might be able to tell me something, I'm stuck.

Gerry shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

GERRY

They won't say anything.

(pause)

It's Shirley. She's...she's not coping too well. If she doesn't hear something...

Sgt. Byrne says nothing.

GERRY

I saw Ger Kenny when I drove in. Is he away to the match?

SGT. BYRNE

Yes he is.

Gerry looks hurt at this. He smiles wanly.

GERRY

Life goes on eh?

Sgt. Byrne doesn't reply. Gerry leaves without saying anything. He closes the outer door. Sgt. Byrne stands where he is, looking contemplative.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

A SOCCER MATCH is underway. The sidelines are covered with CROWDS OF SUPPORTERS. Very few are cheering, most are just chatting amongst each other, or watching silently...

...Pavel is standing at the top of the field, a distance being kept between him and the main crowd. He is watching the game with interest...

...Ben and Lee are sitting on the fence at the edge of the field, watching the game impassively. After a moment, Lee chuckles.

LEE

Sheep.

BEN

It wasn't funny.

LEE

Got you some action, though, didn't it?

Ben smirks. It disappears quickly.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

She's wrecking my head, totally, man. One minute she's like "I hate the village and everything" the next it's like she's the fuckin'...MAYOR or something. You know?

LEE

Women.

BEN

Fuckin' weird.

LEE

They're great though.

BEN

Yeah.

They are silent. On the pitch, a GOAL is scored. One crowd of supporters cheers, the other boos. Lee and Ben do neither. Ben looks off to the left...

...Chris is walking up the field at speed, to where Ben and Lee are sitting.

CHRIS

(breathless)

Guys...

At that moment, Kevin, Mickey and Phil, coming the other way, shove past Chris, nearly knocking him down.

KEVIN

Watch it, bitch.

Ms. Flynn, standing nearby turns around and looks at Kevin, Mickey and Phil.

MS. FLYNN

Kevin, language!

KEVIN

Whatever.

Ms. Flynn turns reluctantly back to the game. Kevin, Mickey and Phil walk off, with Chris, Ben and Lee watching them.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL YARD

Kevin, Mickey and Phil are walking across the yard, which is all but deserted. The sounds of the soccer game can be heard in the background...

...There is the BUZZ of a phone set to VIBRATE. As he walks Kevin takes it out and opens it. There is a TEXT MESSAGE on the screen:

"Out Back."

Kevin looks up from it and walks around the back of one of the buildings. He nods at Mickey and Phil. They stop where they are, watching both sides of the building. Kevin keeps walking, jumping the small fence at the back of the building, then clambering over the DITCH on the far side. He gets down the other side...

...And is standing in the grounds of a DERELICT HOUSE. Kevin looks from the house to the entrance...

...The Joyrider Car is parked at the gate. Glancing around furtively, Kevin jogs over to the car. The WINDOW is lowered as Kevin comes to a stop at the door...

...A PACKAGE is held out the window. It is made of FOIL and is about the size of a STICK OF BUTTER. The VOICE of the UNSEEN DRIVER comes from inside the car.

UNSEEN DRIVER

Cut that with the milk powder.
There's a sale in the creamery.
Money's at the bottom of the pack.

Kevin takes the package and shoves it under his jumper.

UNSEEN DRIVER

And try to not to kill anyone this time.

Kevin frowns, looking pissed off.

KEVIN

Wasn't my fault. The little shit didn't...

UNSEEN DRIVER

(interrupting)

Shut your trap you little fuck. You don't sell shit you're not supposed to sell. Not pills. Not fags. Not a second-hand pencil. If I even hear

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

UNSEEN DRIVER (cont'd)
about it, I'll cut your sack off.
Okay?

Kevin says nothing. The window of the car goes back up, the engine is revved up, and the joyrider car roars off.

CUT TO:

Kevin walking back past the building where Mickey and Phil are standing. They follow Kevin as he walks back. Kevin looks dully angry.

PHIL
What'd you get?

Kevin suddenly turns on Phil and GRABS HIM. Phil and Mickey both look surprised.

KEVIN
None of your BUSINESS, you CUNT!
RIGHT?

PHIL
Yeah, yeah. Sure!

Kevin lets go of Phil and strides off furiously. Mickey and Phil watch him, looking confused.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

Ben, Lee and Chris are standing at the top of the field, well away from the crowd. Ben looks like he is arguing.

BEN
No.

CHRIS
All we have to do is catch him taking the money. Take a picture, record a video. Then we report it to the cops in town.

LEE
Keep it out of the village.

BEN
No.

(CONTINUED)

LEE

Jesus you're not being a sheep,
this time man. We're all in this
together.

Chris gives Lee a momentarily quizzical look. He looks back at Ben. Ben shakes his head.

BEN

No.

LEE

No one's gonna get hurt, we're just
gonna watch.

Ben shoves his hands in his pockets emphatically.

BEN

No.

CHRIS

Okay. But we're not doing anything
unless you're in too.

Ben looks away for a moment, then back at Chris. He shakes his head again and walks off. Lee and Chris turn and watch him go.

CHRIS (V.O.)

We could've stopped then. Ended it
before it started. We could've let
it go, forgotten it. Went back to
just waiting for exams to be over
so we could move away and be
gone...

CUT TO:

Ben getting out of his car and going up the walk of his house. He opens the door, dropping his SCHOOLBAG as he does, and enters the living room...

...TARA and BRIAN, BEN'S FOSTER PARENTS are sitting on the couch. Sitting on one of the armchairs is MR. WARREN. He is wearing a shirt and tie, cheap-looking slacks, and heavy spectacles. He is holding a CLIPBOARD and there is a BRIEFCASE between his knees. Stereotypical Civil Service look...

...Ben looks from Tara and Brian to Mr. Warren. There is a look of jaded recognition on his face.

(CONTINUED)

TARA
Brian, this is Mr. Warren.

Mr. Warren stands up and extends his hand toward Ben.

MR. WARREN
Hello, Ben.

Ben looks at Mr. Warren's hand, as though unsure what to do.

CHRIS (V.O.)
...But we were all angry at
something...

Ben shakes Mr. Warren's hand.

MR. WARREN
I understand your real parents want
to see you.

CUT TO:

INT. LEE'S HOUSE

Lee, Tom and Mary are at the table, in the midst of dinner. Lee is looking angrily at Tom. Tom is in the midst of talking, gesturing with his fork.

CHRIS (V.O.)
...and we all blamed it on the
village...

TOM
They think that it's lovely in
Killeen, and so they come in from
the flats, and they buy a house,
but they've no idea of what life is
like in a small village. And they
bring that, sort of, violent
attitude down WITH THEM. That's the
problem!

Mary is nodding. Lee stands up violently from the table,
knocking over his CHAIR.

LEE
You don't have a...bloody CLUE!

Lee storms out of the kitchen. Mary looks angered. She gets
up and follows him.

(CONTINUED)

MARY
Hey! Lee! Come back here THIS
instant!

There is the sound of Lee's bedroom door SLAMMING SHUT.

CUT TO:

INT. CHRIS' SITTING ROOM

Chris is standing over the couch, looking down.

CHRIS (V.O.)
...Something needed to change. We
could feel it.

ZOE, CHRIS' MOTHER, is lying on the couch in a mess of BOTTLES and SPILLED ALCOHOL. She is sprawled in the manner of someone who is seriously drunk...

...Chris reaches out and shakes Zoe's shoulder.

CHRIS
Mam?

Zoe stirs but doesn't move. Chris shakes her again. She looks up at Chris, bleary-eyed and belligerent-looking.

ZOE
(drunken whisper)
Fuck off!

CHRIS
Mam, you've gotta get to bed.

Zoe shakes her head.

ZOE
(slurred)
Don't. You little bastard. Call me
stupid again!

Chris bends down and gets his arms under Zoe. Slowly, he lifts her off the couch.

CHRIS
Mam are you okay?

ZOE
(saracastic)
Fan-TASTIC.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

I'm gonna bring you up to bed okay?

Zoe mumbles to herself, eyes rolling back in her head. Chris carries her up the stairs and towards her bedroom. As he enters the room, Zoe SLAPS CHRIS' FACE. When she speaks she sounds RESENTFUL.

ZOE

It doesn't negate the fact that you SAID IT!

Chris THROWS Zoe onto the bed. She bounces there, moaning.

ZOE

Call me...
(trails off)

Zoe's eyes close, and she appears to go to sleep. Chris turns around and RUNS FROM THE ROOM. He dashes down the stairs and out the door.

FADE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Chris, Ben and Lee are standing outside the classroom, along with several other students. Kevin, Mickey, Phil and Pavel are among them...

...One of the girls looks up, and her face is one of disbelief.

GIRL

Oh my God.

The assembled students look in the direction the girl is looking...

...Shirley is striding across the yard. Her hair is a mess, and her clothes are similarly messed up. She looks distraught, furious and depressed all at once, both in her face and in the way she walks. She stops in front of them and looks at them silently. The looks of sadness and depression leave her face, replaced by a look of RAGE.

SHIRLEY

You COWARDS!!!

(beat)

You're all cowards! You know who killed my boy, and you couldn't care less! Have none of you got a bloody fucking SPINE!?

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
Do any of you BELIEVE in
ANYTHING?!!

Shirley inhales deeply, sobbing now. Everyone appears to be stunned into silence.

SHIRLEY
No one. No one wants to stand up
for my boy. He never hurt anyone.
(beat)
FUCK YOU! ALL OF YOU! You COWARDS!
I hope you all die and that NO-ONE
CARES.

Mr. Ryland comes RUNNING up towards Shirley. He looks panicked. He puts an arm around her. Shirley leans against his shoulder and CRIES loudly.

MR. RYLAND
(soothing)
Come on Shirley. Come on.

Mr. Ryland glances at the students as he begins to lead Shirley back across the yard...

...Suddenly she TURNS BACK on the students. She is all but BLAZING with FURY. Mr. Ryland holds her tight, but is obviously struggling to hold her.

SHIRLEY
Dirty WHORES!!!

The assembled student look taken aback, particularly some of the girls. Mr. Ryland hooks an arm around Shirley's waist and leads her away. After a moment, she goes with him...

...Chris Ben and Lee look silently to each other. Below them, Kevin appears to be telling something to Mickey and Phil. They seem to be trying to suppress laughter. Pavel is watching silently.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - EVENING

Ben Chris and Lee are standing in the centre of the field, in a rough triangle. They all look serious.

BEN
If I'm gonna do this, we have to
have rules.

(CONTINUED)

LEE
No killing.

BEN
Yeah.
(beat)
And we have to be sure. Sure of who
we're after. They can't be
innocent. There's gotta be...

CHRIS
...Justice.

Lee and Ben look agreeable at this comment. There is a moment of silence.

CHRIS
So. Are we in?

Chris holds out his hand, palm-down, and looks to the others without speaking.

LEE
(sighs)
Someone's gotta do something.

Lee slaps his hand over Chris's. Ben looks at them all.

BEN
(sheep impression)
Baaaaaah!

Ben laughs a little hysterically and slaps his hand down on the others'. They break their hands away, and begin to walk back from the field...

...Each of them is smiling.

CHRIS (V.O.)
That was it. Darren's mother made
us sure. The thing that needed to
change was the village. And we were
the ones who were going to change
it. In that moment we were all sure
of ourselves, and our SELVES. Of
who we were. What we wanted.
(beat)
We all wanted justice.

Chris, Ben and Lee walk out of the football field and out of sight.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (V.O.)
We knew FUCK ALL about justice.

END EPISODE 1.