PLATFORM / CORNER

2 short films

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN SUBURBS - TRAM PLATFORM - NIGHT

A woman speaks into a phone as she walks towards the platform. CAITLIN PRICE (24) wears a thick DISTINCTIVE COAT, practical trousers and flat shoes.

Near the end of the platform is a STRANGE GIRL (14) in thin t-shirt and shorts.

CAITLIN (into phone) They can't help it Phil, it just happens - because they're old - I'm sorry - Don't be like that - please Phil don't say that - I'll be home soon - I promise - I love you - of course I do - yes -

The young girl looks over at Caitlin, then walks up to her.

CAITLIN (CONT'D) (into phone) (lowers voice) Yes - I will - I'll prove it to you - I will -

STRANGE GIRL Please, can you help?

CAITLIN Not now, okay? (into phone) It's no-one - Some stupid girl that's all - No don't come down there's no need - the tram's due -Phil? Phil?

Her phone goes dead.

CAITLIN Oh no. No no no. No. Oh god he'll be mad -

STRANGE GIRL Please Miss -

CAITLIN (CONT'D) (ignores her) - he'll be so mad -

The tram lights appear in the distance. Caitlin looks at her phone, then back at the car-park - then at the tram. She frowns, bites her lip. Then she fumbles for her purse.

STRANGE GIRL But I need to get the tram. CAITLIN Can't you just leave me alone?

STRANGE GIRL Please? It's the last one.

CAITLIN

I don't have any money.

Caitlin drops a her purse - change spills out.

The tram is close. Caitlin drops to her knees and scrambles for the coins.

STRANGE GIRL I had to leave. My step-dad, he's he's not nice miss. But he wants me back miss, and I can't go back.

CAITLIN (snaps) We've all got problems!

The strange girl looks Caitlin in the eye, then turns -

- steps in front of the tram with a THUD.

The tram doors HISS open.

Caitlin stares at where the girl was, wide-eyed.

The tram driver stares at Caitlin.

Beat.

The tram driver shrugs and the doors HISS close.

The movement startles Caitlin. She waves at the tram, runs to the edge of the platform.

CAITLIN

No! Stop!

It pulls away.

CAITLIN

Hey! Stop!

One or two PEOPLE stare at her through the windows. The tram disappears into the dark.

Caitlin looks down at the tracks - nothing.

She stares. She gets her phone out - still dead.

CAITLIN This isn't happening. Caitlin steps back and turns the other way. The strange girl is in the way, wearing SCHOOL SPORTS KIT.

Caitlin looks around. The platform is empty. No sign of the strange girl.

CAITLIN

What the hell?

She steps back, and bumps into the strange girl dressed as a NURSE.

Caitlin panics - tries to get off the platform, but at every turn the strange girl blocks her way in DIFFERENT CLOTHES.

The effect is of Caitlin being on a platform crowded with people, but only one of which is visible at each moment.

CAITLIN No please! Don't do this to me. I'm sorry! My boyfriend - he's - I was scared - he's going to be so angry -

The strange girl appears RIGHT IN FRONT of Caitlin. The girl's wearing the same clothes and DISTINCTIVE COAT as Caitlin, and looks her direct in the eyes:

STRANGE GIRL We've all got problems.

Caitlin SCREAMS.

EXT. TOWN SUBURBS - TRAM PLATFORM - DAY

Early morning. The day's first tram approaches.

Caitlin's DISTINCTIVE COAT flaps, torn, on the edge of the platform.

FADE OUT

TITLE - PART 2: "CORNER"

FADE IN:

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - HIV SUPPORT GROUP - DAY

WENDELL FRANKS (22), gaunt and dressed in second hand clothes, sits in a circle with the group leader TONY (30) and FOUR OTHER PEOPLE.

WENDELL

They gave me a flat, because of the illness, which is good but - I don't know the area. Don't know anyone round here.

TONY You know us now, Wendell. What was it led you here?

WENDELL I - I don't know what to say -

TONY It's difficult. Maybe start with how you got infected?

WENDELL That's just it - I'm not sure. It was a couple of years ago.

TONY Share with us.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - ALLEY - NIGHT

Wendell - before he got AIDS - stands in the shadow of an alley which leads off from a street.

JAMAL (18) walks up and Wendell steps forward.

WENDELL

Bruv.

JAMAL You in business?

WENDELL What you looking for?

JAMAL

Ten bag. But not if it's that shit you had last night.

WENDELL Nah man, this is sound.

JAMAL

I had to see that cunt Doyle in the end. Can't believe you had the front to try and sell that shit.

WENDELL What can I do bruv?

JAMAL

You shift any?

WENDELL Petey took a bag.

JAMAL He's a proper scag-head.

WENDELL

He asked for a kit and I picked a pin off the ground, right there - and he took it.

JAMAL He'd jack piss if he thought it had gear in.

WENDELL Safe man. Laters.

Jamal walks away down the street.

Wendell turns back to the alley - PETEY (24) stands there.

WENDELL Shit. Petey. Where did you come from man?

Petey doesn't move.

WENDELL You want a ten bag. Good shit this is, I promise. You want a bag?

Petey stares at him.

WENDELL Where's the money then eh? Cash Petey, no fucking about. This is proper stuff yeah.

Petey pulls a needle from the hoody's pouch, holds it out.

WENDELL That baggy last night - don't take it personal bruv. It's business yeah?

Petey stands with the needle held out, doesn't move.

WENDELL It kept you going didn't it, got you through the night bruv?

He holds the bag out. Petey ignores him.

WENDELL Tell you what Petey, take it man. Take it. On me, coz like - you and me. Take it yeah? WENDELL Look maybe this is a sign for you to think about turning the corner. That's what this is - when you this low bruv, it's time to make the change. Yeah?

He takes the needle from Petey, puts it in his pocket, looks up - Petey has vanished.

WENDELL Fucking smack heads.

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE - ALLEY - NIGHT

Jamal walks up the street to Wendell.

JAMAL

Bumped into Kelly man, she's after a ten bag an all. Fucking hell, she told me about Petey.

WENDELL

Petey?

JAMAL That shit must have been better than you thought.

WENDELL What you talking about bruv?

JAMAL He died man. Last night.

WENDELL

But he was - no -

JAMAL

Yeah. Kelly and Gav found him this morning. He'd not even finished shooting one, there was still gear in the pin hanging out his arm.

Wendell reaches in his pocket, then snatches his hand away -

WENDELL

Ah! Shit!

- looks at his thumb with a frown. With his other hand he pulls out the needle he took from Petey.

JAMAL You got that ten bag or what? Kelly's proper gadging out, and I could do with a shag. INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - HIV SUPPORT GROUP - DAY

WENDELL They told me because of the drug use and that, my suppressors haven't worked.

One by one the group gets up, makes ready to leave. Only Wendell stays in his chair.

TONY

That's a - uh - interesting story but time's almost -

WENDELL Which is why I was grateful to find the group. I've got no-one else to turn to now -

TONY The meeting is - uh -

Wendell looks around the room.

WENDELL - and you understand. Don't you?

Only Tony is left.

TONY Look. Wendell. This group is about people getting the support they deserve -

WENDELL

Thank-you.

TONY (interrupts) - but I really don't think it's appropriate for you. Yeah?

WENDELL

But -

TONY Find somewhere else. But good luck. You know. With everything.

Tony picks up his coat and leaves.

FADE OUT