

DEATH AT A FUNERAL

by
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SHOOTING SCRIPT
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CUT TO:

BLACK.

1 EXT. FRONT PORCH OF HOUSE - DAY 1

MCU of DANIEL, thirties, dressed in a black suit and black tie. An attractive man but looking worse for wear with grief. He looks straight ahead with a somber expression as O.C. we hear the sounds of car doors opening and closing, footsteps on gravel, car doors being unlatched and opened.

CAMERA CUTS to over Daniel's shoulder onto FOUR UNDERTAKERS a few feet in front of him pulling a COFFIN out of a hearse.

We are still BEHIND DANIEL as we see him turn and indicate the front entrance behind him.

DANIEL

Just through there. Straight ahead,
then to the left.

The four men cross camera left to right carrying the coffin past Daniel and into the house. Daniel turns into his own MCU and stands there looking past camera at the coffin moving away from him.

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 2

The living room has been prepared for the funeral service, with several rows of chairs laid out.

The four undertakers enter and lay the coffin on a raised platform. Daniel has followed them into the room.

UNDERTAKER 1

Would you like to, er...

Daniel nods his assent, and the undertaker begins to open the coffin for Daniel to take a look.

There's a dramatic moment as Daniel moves to the coffin and braces himself for what he's about to see.

The coffin opens and Daniel stares long and hard at the body before finally speaking.

DANIEL

Er... Who's this?

UNDERTAKER

Pardon me?

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

That's... not my father.

The undertaker peers into the coffin.

UNDERTAKER 1

Oh shit, we've taken the wrong one.

The other undertakers look dreadfully embarrassed. They close the coffin and lift it off the platform.

UNDERTAKER 1(CONT'D)

Really sorry about that, sir. We'll go back and get him.

The undertakers pick up the coffin and shuffle out awkwardly.

Daniel stares after them, absolutely incredulous.

DANIEL

(to himself)

Jesus...

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - DAY-EXTREME WIDE SHOT.

MUSIC

The undertakers emerge from the front door and put the COFFIN back in the hearse.

They close the doors and, get in the car, start the engine, and, with the caterers looking on, spray gravel as they take off a bit too fast for a hearse.

TITLE CARD: **DEATH AT A FUNERAL**

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

MUSIC ENDS somewhere in the beginning of this scene.

Daniel enters the bedroom. His wife, JANE, also thirties, attractive in a homey way is busy getting herself dressed in a black outfit. Daniel stands looking dumbfounded.

DANIEL

They brought the wrong coffin. Can you believe that?

JANE

You're joking.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

It's a good job I checked otherwise we'd have been having a service for some random member of the public... I mean what kind of Mickey Mouse business are these people running!

JANE

It's OK.

DANIEL

There's just so much to worry about, you know? I mean Mum's in a state, Robert's clearly not gonna do anything to help, assuming he gets here at all! Plus this eulogy is just awful.

JANE

Oh come on Daniel. I'm sure it's not awful.

DANIEL

Yes it is... They're all gonna be thinking "why isn't Robert doing the eulogy? He's such a great writer"... Maybe I should just let him do it.

JANE

Why should he? He hasn't even been in the country. Besides, you're every bit as good a writer as your brother, if not better.

DANIEL

Yeah, a great writer who hasn't finished a single piece of work.

JANE

It is finished. You just need to let someone read it.

JANE (CONT'D)

Things'll be OK Daniel. We'll get the funeral over with, then we can focus on moving out and starting our lives properly.

Daniel looks a little awkward, and gets up and heads to the connecting bathroom.

JANE (CONT'D)

You did call them didn't you?

(CONTINUED)

Silence from Daniel in the next room.

JANE (CONT'D)

Daniel?... You did put the down
payment on the house-

DANIEL (O.C.)

Oh, what do you want me to do? I've
had everything going on.

JANE

I understand that Daniel. But if you
don't put down the deposit, we'll end
up losing it.

DANIEL (O.C.)

I know. I'll sort it out I promise.

Jane looks frustrated.

5 EXT. MOTOR WAY - DAY - WIDE SHOT. 5

CAR traveling up motorway.

6 INT. HOWARD'S CAR - MOVING - DAY 6

HOWARD, short, stout and somewhat unfortunate looking with the
appearance of someone who carries the worries of the world on
his shoulders, is driving.

His friend, JUSTIN, by contrast tall, good looking, with a laid
back, carefree demeanour rides in the passenger seat.

Both are around thirty years old and wearing funeral attire,
although Howard's neurotic, bespectacled appearance contrasts
with Justin's long-haired, wealthy musician look.

HOWARD

I hate funerals, don't you?

No response.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

So depressing... Death and
everything... don't you think?...
Justin?

Still no response.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Justin?

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN

They're alright.

HOWARD

Alright? How can you possibly think they're "alright"?

(beat)

I don't know why you're even coming to the funeral. Did you even meet Daniel's father?

JUSTIN

No.

Justin lights a cigarette.

HOWARD

Can you at least open the window if you're gonna smoke.

Justin opens the window very slightly.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I'd rather not get your cancer thanks, I've got enough problems of my own to deal with.

JUSTIN

(dubious)

Yeah? What problems?

HOWARD

I told you... About the discolouration on my hand?

JUSTIN

Oh that...

HOWARD

Look at it.

Howard pulls up his sleeve and makes Justin look at his wrist, but he doesn't take a great deal of interest.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

It's fucked!... I'm fucked!

Howard continues to drive. Justin carries on smoking.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Why are you coming anyway? It's not because of Martha is it?

(CONTINUED)

Justin's silence speaks volumes.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
(disapprovingly)
Oh, Justin-

7 EXT. LONDON. DAY. 7

WIDE SHOT of car driving in London.

8 INT. MARTHA'S CAR - MOVING - DAY 8

MARTHA and SIMON, also around thirty, are driving along wearing funeral attire. Martha is very attractive but with a feisty quality. Simon is a little anxious looking. He keeps his eyes firmly on the road as he drives along.

MARTHA
How are you feeling?

SIMON
Not too bad thanks Martha... A bit nervous...

MARTHA
About seeing my Dad?

SIMON
I just don't think I've ever been quite so openly hated by anyone before.

MARTHA
Oh, he just hates everyone, you mustn't take it to heart... You need to relax with him, you act so nervous when he's around.

SIMON
I can't help it. He puts me on edge.

MARTHA
Well, he's gonna be more concerned that his sister's husband has just died anyway. He won't be focused on you.

SIMON
You know I'm really not sure I made the right choice by coming.

MARTHA

Well, if it makes you feel any better you didn't have a choice. You're engaged now. You have to do things like this. Anyway, I'm sure when my Dad hears we're getting married, then he'll start to learn to accept you.

SIMON

You sure about that? I don't really see Victor as the accepting type.

MARTHA

He'll come round... don't worry so much.

Martha takes his hand. They exchange a look and Simon takes his eyes off the road for just a brief moment. Suddenly there's a loud, sustained BEEP!!! Simon screeches to a halt. They come to a stop just avoiding another car. Everyone's OK.

DRIVER

Oi, you fucking idiot, why don't you watch where you're going?

MARTHA

We're on our way to a funeral, you wanker! Don't you have any respect?

Martha looks at Simon who's almost shaking with fear.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

Simon is hyperventilating.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

OK. Calm dwn. Deep breaths.

Martha strokes his arm to try and make him feel better.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jane is putting her shoes on.

DANIEL

I'm gonna go down... Hopefully they've managed to bring the right coffin this time.

(CONTINUED)

JANE

OK. And you'd better check on the seating. Make sure there's enough room for Uncle Alfie.

DANIEL

Oh shit.

Daniel walks over and picks up the phone.

JANE

Oh Daniel, you didn't forget about Uncle Alfie. He'll be sitting in the street.

10 INT. HOWARD'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

10

Howard and Justin are still driving on motorway. Howard's still taking cursory glances at the discolouration on his arm.

JUSTIN

How did he die anyway? Daniel's Dad?

HOWARD

He choked on an orange peel. Can you believe that?

Justin looks at Howard strangely.

JUSTIN

Are you taking the piss?

HOWARD

No. Why?

JUSTIN

There are certain indulgent practices involving oranges. Don't you know that?

HOWARD

What practices?

The Mobile phone rings. Howard has to lean right over to get the phone from the glove compartment. Justin does nothing to help. Howard puts it to his ear.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Hello?... Yes mate. How are you doing? Right... No of course not, it's absolutely fine. Not a problem at all.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD (CONT'D)
I'm more than happy to... OK. See you soon. Absolutely. Bye.

Howard puts the phone down angrily.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
Shit!

JUSTIN
What's the matter?

HOWARD
Get the A-Z out. We have to go and pick up Daniel's Uncle Alfie.

JUSTIN
Why do we have to?

HOWARD
What do you want me to do? You don't argue with someone whose father's just died... They ask you to do something, you do it. It's like they have an automatic pass... a "death pass".

11 EXT. WIDE SHOT OF MOTORWAY - DAY 11

We see Howard's car exiting off the motorway.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 12

The undertakers are placing the coffin on the stand. Daniel approaches.

The undertaker nervously lifts the lid and Daniel looks inside.

UNDERTAKER 1
(respectful)
So is this er.. your father, sir?

A beat.

DANIEL
(solemn)
Yes it is...

The undertaker gently closes the lid and all four undertakers quietly head off.

Daniel looks up and sees that his mother, SANDRA (65), is walking over towards the coffin.

Sandra is clearly drained and tired, but with enough grace to have made herself look respectable. She's staring vacantly at the coffin. Daniel put his arm round her shoulder. The atmosphere is solemn.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Are you alright mum?

SANDRA

I just don't know what I'm going to do without him...What have I got to live for now?

DANIEL

Don't be silly. You've got your family, your friends.

Daniel sees Jane enter the living room.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Me and Jane...and Robert.

SANDRA

Where is Robert? Have you heard from him?

DANIEL

His plane was due to land at 10...
Don't worry I'm sure he'll be here.

Jane arrives next to them. She puts her hand on the coffin.

JANE

Hi Sandra. How are you feeling?

SANDRA

Don't put your hand there dear, you'll leave smudge marks.

Jane removes her hand and throws Daniel a glance.

13 EXT. LONDON - TROY'S APARTMENT - DAY 13

The exterior of a student apartment. Martha and Simon are walking up the stairs to the front door.

14 INT. TROY'S APARTMENT - SAME 14

Troy, twenties, scruffy but in a youthful, cool way, is half dressed in his funeral outfit. He's leaning over a table, holding a pair of tweezers, sorting through some pills and putting them on a piece of paper. A joint smokes in the ashtray.

(CONTINUED)

Troy holds a cordless phone to his ear, talking as he's sorting the pills.

TROY

I'll get them to you this evening...
 No can do this afternoon. I've got a funeral... Yeah, my uncle died...
 Yeah, tragic... I'm telling you mate this is really powerful stuff, you should really only take half... Trust me, they are going to blow your fucking head off...

The door bell rings.

TROY (CONT'D)

I've gotta go, my sister's here...
 I'll take them with me and drop by after the funeral, OK? Catch you later. Bye.

He looks around the desk for an appropriate bottle from the many available, and finds one with a label that says:

"VALIUM"

He pours out the remaining pills into a nearby bin, takes the piece of paper with the pills on and pours them into the Valium bottle.

15

EXT. LONDON - TROY'S APARTMENT - SAME

15

Martha rings the front door bell again. She looks at Simon who's still looking a little pale.

MARTHA

How are you feeling?

SIMON

A bit shaky.

After a moment, Troy opens the door, not wearing any trousers.

TROY

Hey, how's it going?

MARTHA

You're not ready? Come on Troy. We're gonna be late.

TROY

I'll be two minutes.

(CONTINUED)

Martha and Simon follow Troy into the flat.

TROY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You guys OK?

MARTHA
Yeah. Simon's a bit shaken up.
We just had some asshole driver
almost ram us off the road.

TROY
Really? Fucking bastards. Make
yourselves comfy. I've just got to put
my trousers on and I'm done.

Troy heads off to the bathroom and closes the door. Martha and Simon head into the living room, which is an absolute mess with pill bottles everywhere.

Martha goes off into the kitchen to get some water.

SIMON
(to Martha)
What are these pills all over the
place?

MARTHA
Troy's studying to be a pharmacist.

Martha comes back and spots the bottle of Valium on the table and picks it up.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Here. Have one of these... It'll calm
you down.

SIMON
You sure?

MARTHA
Absolutely. It's just Valium. I used
to take them all the time... It'll
make you feel better, honestly.

Simon takes the pill and swallows it with some water.

Troy walks in, now with his trousers on.

TROY
Ready.

Simon and Martha leave, Troy surreptitiously picks up the Valium bottle, puts it in his pocket, then follows them out.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

WIDE SHOT of the front of the house. A black SEDAN has pulled up. The passenger door is opened and a man emerges. He is in his thirties, very slick and successful looking, charming and larger than life. This is ROBERT. The chauffeur has gone to the boot and puts Robert's luggage on the ground next to him. Robert gives him a tip. The chauffeur acknowledges the tip before getting back in the car as Robert stands there just looking at the house in which he was raised.

INT/EXT. ENTRY WAY - SAME TIME

CAMERA is in the entry way now shooting outside. The SEDAN is exiting leaving ROBERT standing looking at the house and property. We see countryside behind him in the distance. Then ROBERT moves slowly towards CAMERA and through the front doorway As CAMERA PULLS BACK with him.

ROBERT

Hello! Hello!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Robert enters the living room.

SANDRA

Robert!

Sandra goes to Robert and practically fling her arms around him. Daniel looks a bit lost in the background with Jane.

Robert finally manages to disengage from his mother, and walks over and hugs both Daniel and Jane.

ROBERT

(to Daniel and Jane)

How are you doing?

DANIEL

OK.

They break off the hug.

SANDRA

How was the flight?

ROBERT

Great... There was a lot of turbulence though which was a bit worrying... I guess that's the thing about first class. It doesn't matter how much you paid for your ticket, if the plane crashes then you're all gonna end up d-
... er...

Robert realizes his faux pas.

This is too much for Sandra who just bursts into tears and rushes off.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Oh shit.

JANE

I'll make sure she's OK.

Jane heads off after Sandra. Daniel gives Robert a weary look.

19

INT. MARTHA'S CAR - MOVING - LEAVING LONDON - DAY

19

Martha is now driving, Simon is sitting in the passenger seat looking a little spaced out, with Troy in the back.

Troy leans forward.

TROY

So, poor old Uncle Sidney...

MARTHA

Yeah.

TROY

Did you ever meet Uncle Sidney, Simon?

There's no response. Simon looks distantly out the window.

TROY (CONT'D)

Simon?

SIMON

Was there a dog in here just now?

Martha looks at Simon very strangely.

MARTHA

What?

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

I'm sure there was a dog in here.

A beat.

MARTHA

What the hell are you talking about?

Simon goes quiet and just goes back to looking out the window. Martha looks confused. Troy looks curious.

20 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

20

Robert and Daniel stand awkwardly close to the coffin. Robert has taken a moment to register that his DAD is actually in there. Then he recovers...

ROBERT

Well, this is bloody grim isn't it?

DANIEL

It's not supposed to be fun Robert.

ROBERT

I know, but Jesus... I feel like my heart's been wrenched out of my rib cage. It's awful.

DANIEL

Well, that's grief for you.

ROBERT

This is why I prefer not to have close relationships... There's too much emotion involved.

Daniel gives his brother a disparaging look.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

It's weird being back here. I feel so out of it.

DANIEL

That's what comes from living in a different country. You lose touch.

ROBERT

Well, I'm just glad you're gonna be around to look after mum.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Not for long... Jane and I are moving out.

ROBERT

(sarcastic)

Great. So what are you gonna do with mum? Stick her in a home?

DANIEL

Well, actually I was thinking... maybe you could take her to New York with you.

ROBERT

Don't be ridiculous, I can't take her to New York. What am I gonna do with her? Take her to parties? She'd hate it.... No, she's better off with you and Jane, believe me.

DANIEL

But we've already decided. We're putting a deposit on a house... Which reminds me, I'm gonna need that money.

ROBERT

What money?

DANIEL

The money for the funeral... You agreed to pay half.

ROBERT

Did I?

DANIEL

Yes.

ROBERT

Oh right.

DANIEL

So?

ROBERT

Well I don't have it on me Daniel. I'll get it to you in a few months. I'm due an advance in October-

DANIEL

I can't wait a few months! I need it now!

ROBERT

Well, that's not gonna happen is it? I'm totally skint.

DANIEL

What do you mean you're skint? You're a successful novelist. You've got a swanky New York apartment.

ROBERT

And do you have any idea how much it costs for the upkeep?... Besides which I just had to lay out a fortune for the flight over here. Do you know what they're charging for first class nowadays? It's a disgrace.

Daniel looks at Robert in despair.

21

INT. HOWARD'S CAR / EXT. STREET - DAY

21

Howard is driving along looking out for Uncle Alfie, until they finally see an old man dressed in a black suit sitting in a wheelchair on the pavement.

HOWARD

Is that him?

JUSTIN

Jesus Howard, you didn't tell me the guy was gonna be in a wheelchair.

HOWARD

I didn't know.

JUSTIN

What's he doing?

UNCLE ALFIE, an elderly man in a wheelchair appears to be shouting at passers-by on the street and poking at them with his cane. It's clear that the man's a bit insane.

A nurse is sitting on a bench supposedly caring for Alfie, but instead is engrossed in a magazine.

Howard winds down his window tentatively and addresses the nurse.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

Excuse me. We're here to collect Alfie.

NURSE

Thank god for that.

The nurse walks off leaving Howard and Justin looking miffed, and Uncle Alfie in his wheelchair on the pavement.

UNCLE ALFIE

Where the fuck have you been? You're late!

22

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

22

A few mourners are arriving. Robert is still standing with Daniel. He looks at the mourners coming through.

ROBERT

Who are all these people anyway? I don't even recognize any of them.

Robert sees PETER, a four foot six man, standing over by the entrance.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Who the hell is that guy?

DANIEL

I have no idea. Maybe a friend of Dad's from work or something... So, you're telling me I'm gonna have to pay for the whole funeral?

ROBERT

Well, I can't draw money out of thin air Daniel.

DANIEL

Oh Jesus fucking Christ.

Reverend suddenly appears.

REVEREND

Daniel, how's everything going?

DANIEL

Fine, thank you. We're just waiting for everyone to arrive, then we can get going. I know you're in a hurry...

(CONTINUED)

REVEREND

Great. Thank you.

The Reverend stands there looking like he's waiting to be introduced to Robert.

DANIEL

Sorry. Have you met my brother Robert?

REVEREND

Ah, the writer, of course. It's a pleasure to meet you. I've read several of your novels.

ROBERT

Oh, really?

Daniel is irritated.

REVEREND

(to Daniel)

You must be very proud of your brother.

DANIEL

Oh yes, very proud.

REVEREND

(to Robert)

And will you be making the eulogy today?

ROBERT

No. Daniel will be doing the eulogy.

The Reverend tries his best not to look disappointed.

REVEREND

Great... Well, I'll just make sure I have everything I need.

He walks off.

DANIEL

Look, I think you should just do the eulogy. Everyone's expecting you to do it. I'll probably mess the whole thing up anyway.

ROBERT

Don't be silly. You'll be fine.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR, Sandra's brother, a middle aged doctor, approaches Daniel and Robert.

VICTOR
Hello Robert.

ROBERT
Uncle Victor.

They greet each other in a manly way.

23

INT. MARTHA'S CAR - MOVING - IN THE COUNTRY - DAY

23

Martha is driving. She's still a bit concerned about Simon, who is listening intently to the radio, and nodding his head enthusiastically to the beat.

SIMON
What is this song? It's absolutely brilliant!

Martha gives Simon a funny look.

MARTHA
Simon, are you feeling alright?

Simon starts touching his face.

Troy leans forward and puts his head round to the window side of Martha's chair and speaks quietly to her.

TROY
Martha, is Simon normally like this?

MARTHA
What the hell do you think?

Troy looks concerned.

24

INT. HOWARD'S CAR - MOVING - IN THE COUNTRY - DAY

24

Howard is driving. Justin is in the passenger seat. Uncle Alfie shouts from the back.

ALFIE
Why don't you slow down! You're going too fast! Why do you people have to drive so fast?

HOWARD
I'm driving at thirty miles per hour.

ALFIE

What?

HOWARD

I'm going at thirty miles per hour.

ALFIE

Speak up! I can't hear you!

Howard turns his head so he can shout to Uncle Alfie.

HOWARD

(shouts)

I'm going at thirty!

Howard gets a whack on the arm from Alfie's cane.

ALFIE

Watch the road you bloody fool. You'll get us all killed!

Howard winces and clutches his hurt arm. Howard and Justin realize they're dealing with a maniac.

25

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

25

More mourners have arrived, wearing black and looking appropriately sad. Everyone speaks in hushed, sad tones.

Victor is standing with Robert and Daniel.

VICTOR

So, how's it going in New York? Any new books coming out?

ROBERT

One coming out at Christmas actually.

VICTOR

Good stuff... And what's all this I hear about you not doing the eulogy?

ROBERT

That's right. Daniel's going to do the eulogy.

VICTOR

That's a damn shame... I mean, I'm sure you'll be good Daniel. It's just what with Robert being the writer of the family...

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Yeah. Excuse me.

Daniel walks off towards Jane, who is doing her bit to welcome the mourners.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Every single bloody person wants Robert to do the eulogy. He was my father too, wasn't he? I'm just as entitled to do the bloody eulogy!

JANE

Of course you are. And it's going to be the best bloody eulogy anyone's ever heard.

Two mourners walk past, oblivious to their proximity to Daniel and Jane.

MOURNER 1

Did you hear? Apparently Robert won't be doing the eulogy?

MOURNER 2

What a shame. He's such a wonderful writer...

26 INT. HOWARD'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

26

Uncle Alfie is asleep in the back. Howard is looking for a parking space, but there doesn't seem to be anything available. A catering truck and a flower van are taking up a lot of space.

HOWARD

There's absolutely nowhere to park.

Then the small flower delivery van pulls out. Justin points out the newly empty space.

JUSTIN

Why don't you just park there?

HOWARD

I'll never fit in there.

JUSTIN

Of course you will. It's huge. Don't be a pussy.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

You really think I can make it in there?

JUSTIN

Of course.

HOWARD

Alright.

Just as he's about to drive in, another car takes it.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

What the hell?-

JUSTIN

For god's sake Howard, why didn't you just park?

The other car contains Troy, Simon and Martha. Howard winds down his window.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Hey look, it's Martha.

HOWARD

(to Martha)

I was actually about to park there.

Martha gets out of the car.

MARTHA

Yeah, well I'm sorry Howard, but I'm late for my uncle's funeral.

JUSTIN

Hi Martha.

MARTHA

Hi Justin.

HOWARD

Well, what do you think we're doing here? We haven't come to read the gas meter.

MARTHA

Are you a relative?

HOWARD

Well, no, but-

(CONTINUED)

The Flower Delivery VAN has been waiting to move forward. Its driver now beeps the horn.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
 Alright! Hang on a minute.

Martha, Simon and Troy walk off and head towards the house. Justin watches them go.

JUSTIN
 Did you see that?... She barely even looked at me.

Howard turns round and looks at Uncle Alfie.

HOWARD
 Oh my god. I've got Uncle Alfie in the car. How could I forget to say that I've got Uncle Alfie.

Justin has other concerns.

The VAN...a few yards in front of him...beeps again.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
 (to the van in front)
 Yeah, alright!! Keep your hair on!

JUSTIN
 ... She barely even looked.

Howard, now highly irritated, is forced to drive backwards down the long road he drove up while passing all the parked cars on the side.

27

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

27

Simon, Martha and Troy are walking down the driveway where there are various people mingling.

SIMON
 It's very green here isn't it?...
 Green.. Very green... Very... green.

Martha takes Simon to the side.

MARTHA
 Simon, what the hell is the matter with you?

SIMON
 What do you mean?

MARTHA

All this talking about phantom dogs
and things being "green"... what's
going on?

SIMON

I don't know.

Simon wanders off, leaving Martha with Troy.

MARTHA

Something's not right... I think it
must be the Valium.

Troy is shocked.

TROY

Valium?!

MARTHA

I gave him a Valium in your flat. I
think he's just not used to it.

TROY

Oh right.

Troy's face reveals his realization of what's happened. He puts
his fist in his mouth.

28

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

28

Victor enters and goes up to Sandra, who is standing with Daniel
and Jane.

VICTOR

How are you feeling sis?

SANDRA

Just very sad. He was a wonderful
husband, wasn't he? So attentive. So
devoted.

Jane gives Sandra a comforting stroke of the shoulder.

JANE

Can I get you a cup of tea or anything
Sandra?

SANDRA

Tea can do many things Jane, but it
can't bring back the dead.

(CONTINUED)

Sandra walks off, all upset. Jane feels like shit. Everyone looks awkward.

VICTOR

(to Jane)

You just can't say anything when they're in this state... At least you two are here, so she won't be on her own.

Victor heads off. Jane turns to Daniel.

JANE

Daniel. Did you sort out the money with your brother?

DANIEL

Er... Yeah, all sorted.

JANE

Right. So are you gonna call them?

DANIEL

Definitely.

Jane is irritated that Daniel's not more forthcoming.

JANE

Why don't you just give me the number. I'll do it.

DANIEL

No, it's alright. I'll do it later.

JANE

But it might have gone later... Do you understand Daniel that if I have to continue living in this house I'll end up going insane. Is that what you want?

Daniel's looking around the room and catches eye contact with Peter, the four foot six inch man, who seems to be staring straight at him. Daniel finds this awkward and distracting.

DANIEL

Jane, don't make it obvious, but that guy standing by the wall. Do you recognize him at all?

JANE

What?

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

There's something about him. He keeps looking at me... It's starting to creep me out a bit.

JANE

Are you listening to me Daniel?... We need to put the down payment on that house. Before it's too late!

Daniel looks miffed as Jane storms off.

We see Peter standing alone at the other side of the room. He raises his eyebrows to Daniel.

29 EXT. LONG ROAD WITH PARKED CARS - DAY

29

Howard's car is almost at the corner still being forced backwards by the flower van. We see that Justin is thinking about something.

JUSTIN

Stop the car Howard.

HOWARD

What?

JUSTIN

Stop the car. I have to speak to her. I have to speak to Martha.

Howard reluctantly stops the car. Justin gets out.

HOWARD

What about Uncle Alfie?... I need help with Uncle Alfie!

It's too late. Justin has gone. He starts the trek up the road.

The van in front of Howard honks the horn. Alfie wakes up.

ALFIE

What's going on here? Where are we?!... We're going to be late!

Alfie hits him on the arm with his cane.

HOWARD

Ow! Can you please stop doing that?!

The van keeps beeping. Howard backs up.

30 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

30

Daniel, looking nervous, is in a corner reading through the eulogy.

DANIEL

(Whispering to himself)

"My father was an exceptional man"...

The Reverend comes over.

REVEREND

I really think we should be calling everyone in now to start the service. Really, I'm only supposed to be here until three.

DANIEL

Sure. Can we just wait five minutes for my Uncle Alfie. We shouldn't really start without him if possible.

REVEREND

...Of course.

As the Reverend walks away, Daniel again sees Peter through the doorway standing in the background, peering at him, seeming to be slightly closer this time. Again, he raises his eyebrows to Daniel, who responds with an uneasy smile.

31 EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

31

Victor comes over to greet his daughter and son.

MARTHA

Hi Dad. How you doing?

VICTOR

Not too bad.

Martha kisses him.

TROY

Hi Dad.

VICTOR

Hi Troy. You missing university today?

TROY

Oh, a bit. Not to worry though. I'll catch up.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

I know. I'm not worried about you.

Victor looks pointedly at Martha. Martha is irritated.

MARTHA

How's Aunt Sandra?

VICTOR

She's bearing up.

Victor looks over and sees Simon examining a bush. He gives Martha a look.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

So you brought whatsisface along I see.

MARTHA

His name's Simon. And yes, of course I brought him along. He's my boyfriend. Anyway, I don't know why you've got such a problem with him. If you gave him half a chance you'd realize that he's actually a highly intelligent, able and successful young man.

Simon wanders over to join them holding a leaf in his hand.

SIMON

(to Martha)

Look... Isn't it beautiful?

Simon's staring at it in fascination. Martha's embarrassed.

MARTHA

Simon, you remember my Dad, don't you?

Simon looks up and sees Victor standing there. He's immediately nervous.

SIMON

Oh hi... I'm so sorry about... the death and everything.

Victor looks at him strangely. Troy looks concerned.

VICTOR

Yeah.

(to Martha and Troy)

I'll see you after the service.

(CONTINUED)

Victor heads off. Martha doesn't think it went very well.

TROY

Martha, can I speak to you for a minute?

Troy takes Martha's arm with some urgency and takes her off to the side.

MARTHA

What? What is it?!

TROY

OK. I have to tell you something, and I'll warn you in advance that you're not gonna like it.

32 INT. STUDY - DAY

32

Daniel's pacing and practicing his eulogy, trying his best to concentrate amid the growing throng of people he sees through the doorway.

DANIEL

"My father was an exceptional man..."

Robert approaches, and shakes his sleeve.

ROBERT

My god, that Katie's grown up a bit hasn't she?

KATIE, twenty and attractive, can be seen through the doorway.

DANIEL

What?

ROBERT

Katie. She was like a little girl when I left, and now she's... you know. She's fit.

Daniel looks distastefully at his brother.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I might go and have a chat with her.

DANIEL

Yeah, why don't you do that.

Robert heads off towards the girl. Daniel once again catches eye contact with Peter, who now looks like he has edged even closer.

Martha is standing next to Troy, with Simon just off at a distance making strange contorted expressions with his face. Other people are starting to notice him and think he's slightly odd.

Martha is looking at Troy in absolute shock.

MARTHA

What did you just say?

TROY

I said, that the Valium you gave to Simon wasn't actually Valium. It's a hallucinogenic concoction. You know. Stuff like acid, mescaline.. Ketamine...

MARTHA

This isn't funny Troy.

TROY

I'm not being funny. Look at him, he's off his tits!

They look at Simon, who is indeed looking around him with eyes wide as saucers.

MARTHA

You absolute little twat. What the hell are you doing leaving this stuff around your flat?!

TROY

I didn't know someone was gonna take it did I? Who just goes into someone else's flat and takes random pills?

MARTHA

They were in a Valium bottle!

Martha looks over at Simon who's squatting beside a garden sculpture looking fascinated.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Fuck, Troy! What the hell am I meant to do? Should I tell him?

TROY

No, don't do that. It'll just freak him out completely...

(MORE)

33

CONTINUED:

33

TROY (CONT'D)

I think we should just keep a very close eye on him, and make sure he doesn't get out of control... And don't let him spend too long talking to one person.

34

EXT. ROAD - DAY

34

Howard is struggling to get Alfie out of the car and into the wheelchair.

ALFIE

What are you doing?! Don't do that, you'll break it!.. Come on!

Alfie bangs his cane on the floor impatiently.

35

INT. STUDY- DAY

35

Daniel is standing, still nervously rehearsing his eulogy. Peter, the mysterious guest, suddenly appears at the doorway.

PETER

Hi there.

Daniel looks up at him, surprised and apprehensive.

PETER (CONT'D)

I was really sorry to hear about your Dad. He often talked about you, you know? Always said you were a good son.

DANIEL

Thanks... So, were you a friend of his?

PETER

Something like that, yeah.

Daniel eyes Peter with some suspicion.

DANIEL

Well, nice to meet you. Thank you for coming.

And Daniel walks away leaving Peter alone.

36

EXT. ROAD - DAY

36

Howard is struggling to push Alfie up a steep hill. He's gasping and wheezing.

(CONTINUED)

ALFIE

Come on. Put your back into it. You're supposed to be a young man. Don't you have any strength?

Howard tries to up his pace, but he's finding it very hard to cope physically.

37

EXT- FRONT OF HOUSE- DAY

37

Martha sees Sandra approaching from the living room.

MARTHA

(To Troy)

Oh god, here comes Aunt Sandra.

Sandra comes up to Martha and Troy and kisses them hello.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. We're gonna miss Uncle Sidney terribly.

TROY

Yeah. He was a great guy.

SANDRA

Thank you.

Simon appears next to Martha, with a big grin on his face.

SIMON

Have you seen this man's hair?

Simon points over at one of the mourners who has an amusing haircut. Martha is looking terribly embarrassed.

MARTHA

This is my boyfriend Simon... Simon, this is my Aunt Sandra.

Simon shakes her hand nervously. He's now trying to stop himself laughing, and is failing miserably. Sandra just stares at him like he's the worst scum on earth. Simon gets distracted and wanders off.

A mourner taps Sandra on the shoulder. She turns around to talk to the mourner, leaving Martha and Troy standing looking concerned.

TROY

What are you gonna do?!

MARTHA

I don't know... I can't leave, can I?
Auntie Sandra'll never speak to me
again.

Justin arrives disturbing their conversation.

JUSTIN

Martha.

Martha looks at him and answers him coldly.

MARTHA

Hi Justin.

TROY

(Not too thrilled)
Oh, hi Justin.

Being aware of Martha's previous relationship with Justin, and not particularly liking him, Troy leaves.

JUSTIN

You look nice.

MARTHA

I'm dressed for a funeral.

JUSTIN

Yeah, but still.

An awkward moment.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

So... I heard about the engagement.

MARTHA

News travels fast... I haven't even
told my Dad yet.

Justin looks over and notices Simon looking bewildered.

JUSTIN

So that's him is it? That's the man
you're going to spend the rest of your
life with.

Martha looks over at him, and he's wandering inside with a look of awe on his face.

MARTHA

Yep, that's him.

(CONTINUED)

Simon starts to get into a conversation with someone, so Martha thinks she'd better stop him.

JUSTIN

Martha, I-

MARTHA

Oh shit. I have to go.

Martha walks off, leaving Justin feeling dumped.

Howard has just turned the corner of the driveway and is now in front of the home with Alfie. He pushes Alfie to the FRONT PORCH close to Justin. Howard looks like he's about to collapse from exhaustion.

Howard expects Justin is going to help him lift Alfie up the FRONT STEPS but Justin just stays looking at where he last saw Martha.

JUSTIN

I can't believe she's going to marry that guy. She must be out of her mind.

UNCLE ALFIE

(to Howard)

Lift it! You have to lift it!

Howard struggles to lift Alfie and the Wheelchair, huffing and puffing. Justin is just standing there. Howard watches him incredulous.

HOWARD

Any chance of a hand here, Justin?

Peter again approaches Daniel. He looks like he's about to say something important.

PETER

Actually, there's something I'd like to talk to you about when you have a minute.

Daniel spots in the background Justin coming through the door with his Uncle Alfie.

DANIEL

Yeah, that's great.. Do you mind if we do it later though, my Uncle's just arrived.

PETER

Sure.

Daniel heads off.

39

INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR ENTRANCE - ENTRY WAY - DAY

39

Justin comes through with the wheelchair. Howard is panting in the background.

DANIEL

(to Justin)

That's brilliant, Justin, thanks so much. Hope it wasn't too much hassle.

JUSTIN

No, not at all mate.

Howard is still trying to get his breath back so can't say anything and watches in horror as Justin takes the credit.

DANIEL

How are you doing Uncle Alfie?

UNCLE ALFIE

Terrible.

Daniel wheels Alfie away.

40

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

40

Daniel enters and nods to the Reverend. The Reverend stands up at the front. Daniel pushes Uncle Alfie to the front and takes his seat in the front row next to Jane. He takes out his notes and looks at them nervously.

REVEREND

Ladies and gentlemen if you could all kindly take your seats. We're about to begin the service.

Martha is sitting Simon down. He now looks completely off his face. Troy is on her other side.

Pretty much everyone is sitting down now apart from Howard who, sweating from his exertions, is trying to get through the row to sit in a seat next to Justin.

The Reverend waits for the disturbance to end, so that Howard attracts the attention of everyone in the service.

He finally makes it next to Justin. Justin leans away.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN
Mate, you stink.

HOWARD
Yeah, well, maybe that's because you left me to deal with Uncle Alfie on my own... Not to mention taking all the credit.

Martha, turns round.

MARTHA
Howard, can you be quiet?

Howard is deeply irritated by this.

REVEREND
Family and friends, we're gathered here today to mourn the passing of Sidney...

While the Reverend is talking, Howard pokes Martha on the shoulder and leans forward.

HOWARD
(whispers)
Just so you know Martha, we actually had Daniel's Uncle Alfie in the car with us.

Daniel is still reading through his speech, but being disturbed by Howard's whispering a couple of rows behind him.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
(whispers)
You stole my parking space, and I had to push him half a mile up a hill. We almost missed the service!

Daniel looks around to see Howard poking Martha.

DANIEL
(to himself)
Jesus Christ.

Howard taps her on the shoulder again.

HOWARD
That was my parking space.

(CONTINUED)

MARTHA

(whispers)

Look, Howard, if you don't stop poking me on the shoulder, then I'm going to take you outside and I'm gonna kick the living shit out of you, do you understand me?

DANIEL

(whispers to Howard)

What the hell is going on?!

HOWARD

(whispers)

She stole my parking space!

DANIEL

(whispers to Howard)

What do you mean she stole your parking space?! This is a funeral. Behave yourself.

Howard feels berated. Martha turns round and gives him a smug grin, but there's not much he can do to retaliate.

ANGLE ON:

The Reverend at the front of the hall.

REVEREND

...And now we'll have a few words from Sidney's son, Daniel.

Jane gives Daniel a supportive squeeze of the arm, as he makes his way up to the podium. We overhear Uncle Alfie talking loudly to the person next to him.

UNCLE ALFIE

Why isn't Robert doing the eulogy?

Daniel arrives at the front and looks out across the expectant crowd. He looks extremely nervous.

DANIEL

Hi everyone...

Daniel nervously wipes some sweat from his brow.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Thanks to so many of you for coming... I never realized my Dad was so popular.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

In fact he seems to have more friends
now that he's dead, than he did when
he was alive.

Blank faces stares back at Daniel. Jane looks pained. He decides
to read deadpan straight from his piece of paper.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

My father was an exceptional man... He
was a man who lived for his family,
and for his work...

While Daniel's reading his eulogy, Simon is focusing on the
coffin. Suddenly, he grabs Martha's arm.

SIMON

Did you just see that?

MARTHA

See what?

SIMON

The coffin just moved.

MARTHA

What?

SIMON

I'm telling you I saw it move.

Martha looks concerned. Simon looks completely wired.

Daniel becomes vaguely aware of the disturbance, but battles on
with his eulogy.

DANIEL

And I'll never forget the time when
Dad took us to the place where he grew
up...

Simon's protestations are getting louder. Victor looks back at
the disruption with a disapproving glare.

SIMON

There, look. It happened again.

MARTHA

Simon, please-

SIMON

I'm telling you that coffin's moving!

(CONTINUED)

People start looking round at Simon who's becoming increasingly vocal, and looking increasingly like someone on hallucinogenic drugs.

MARTHA

(whispers)

Simon. Just calm down.

SIMON

(shouts)

The coffin's moving I tell you!

Everyone turns to look at him, shocked. Daniel stops his eulogy. Martha is about to die from embarrassment.

SIMON (CONT'D)

There's someone alive in there!

MARTHA

Simon, please sit down.

Troy practically has his whole fist in his mouth. Everyone else is just looking appalled and astonished.

SIMON

What the hell is wrong with you all?!

Simon stands up.

MARTHA

(panicked)

Simon, where are you going?

Simon ignores her and walks purposefully towards the coffin at the front. People watch him in astonishment.

DANIEL

What are you doing?

SIMON

There's someone moving in there. Can't you see?

Simon starts to open the coffin.

Daniel steps down from the raised floor of the conservatory and tries to stop him, but Simon is determined. A tussle begins, and several of the other mourners start to get involved.

Victor comes over, with an appalled expression on his face and tries to pull Simon away, but Simon's absolutely determined to get in there and won't be stopped.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR
Get away from there.

SIMON
No, I have to show you!

The scene descends into absolute chaos with people pushing and struggling.

Finally, the coffin falls off the platform and tips over.

The very dead body of Sidney rolls out onto the floor at the feet of Sandra, to the shock of the onlookers, not least of all Simon.

Robert drops his head in his hands.

As we fade to black we can hear the chaos, and screams of the congregation.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

41 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

41

It's a few minutes later.

Sandra is sitting with a hot cup of tea, staring into oblivion. She looks devastated, and has lots of people comforting her, including Daniel.

MOURNER 1
Are you OK dear?

In the other room, we can hear Robert speaking to the rest of the mourners.

ROBERT (O.S.)
Excuse me everyone. Just to let you all know, we're having everything put back in place and it shouldn't be long before we can resume the service.

Daniel marches out of the kitchen.

42 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

42

Daniel barrels through the living room towards the back garden.

(CONTINUED)

In the background some mourners including Victor are helping to put Sidney's body back into the coffin. Robert is still giving his announcement.

ROBERT

So if you'd all like to have some lovely tea and cake, and we'll let you know when we're ready to continue.

43

EXT. BACK GARDEN - DAY

43

In the back garden, Martha is trying to comfort Simon, who's looking very disturbed indeed. Troy is also there, looking guilty.

Martha's giving Simon a glass of water.

Daniel comes up to them, having come from the conservatory.

DANIEL

Good god Martha, what the fuck was that about?!

MARTHA

I'm so sorry Daniel. Go back inside. Please. I'll explain later.

An annoyed and confused Daniel turns and walks back to the house crossing Victor who has also just come from the conservatory and is headed for Simon.

VICTOR

I'll kill him!

Martha tries to keep Victor away from Simon, who is stressed enough and looks at Victor, terrified.

MARTHA

Dad, leave it!

VICTOR

Leave it?! He completely wrecked the funeral.

MARTHA

It wasn't his fault.

VICTOR

What do you mean, it wasn't his fault?!... Your Aunt Sandra's in tatters... I want him out of here right this minute is that clear?...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (CONT'D)

I don't want to see that ridiculous man ever again in my life, do you understand me?

MARTHA

I can't do that.

VICTOR

Why not?

MARTHA

Because we're getting married, that's why not.

Victor looks like he's about to faint.

He looks over at Simon, who looks like he's just seen a ghost, struggling to stand up straight, with Troy who's doing his best to look after him.

VICTOR

Have you lost your marbles?

MARTHA

This isn't actually what he's like. He had some drugs, and they've made him act all weird-

VICTOR

What do you mean he had drugs?! What drugs?

Troy looks over, his eyes pleading with Martha not to drop him in it.

MARTHA

He took some Valium and had a bad reaction.

VICTOR

Valium?!

Troy looks grateful.

TROY

Dad, maybe you should go back inside and see how Aunt Sandra's doing.

Victor looks at Troy, then at Simon and then at Martha.

VICTOR

We'll talk about this later.

Victor walks back to the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Howard walks over to speak to Daniel who is trying to keep the various mourners calm.

HOWARD

Are you alright mate?.. I mean, that was something, wasn't it?... .. I've never seen a dead body before... So weird... All pale and... dead.

Daniel looks at Howard.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Terrible isn't it... One minute everything's fine, you're having a normal day, and the next-
(clicks his fingers)
You're a dead man... a corpse-

DANIEL

Can you please shut up Howard?

HOWARD

Of course, yeah... sorry... It's just that you never know when its gonna happen to you, do you know what I mean?... It's like, I have this weird patch of skin on my wrist. Have I shown it to you yet?

DANIEL

No.

HOWARD

I've had it for weeks, and I've got no idea what it is-

Daniel spots Victor walking towards the kitchen.

DANIEL

Why don't you show it to my Uncle Victor. He's a doctor.

HOWARD

Great. Thanks.

Howard walks off towards Victor.

Simon, Martha and Troy standing together.

SIMON

I swear, I saw the thing moving. I
must be going mad...

(looks at his hands)

Why are my hands so big?!

MARTHA

Simon, listen to me. I need to tell
you something...

Martha sits him down on the bench. Simon's eye's are bulging out
of his head.

SIMON

What is it?

MARTHA

Now... You remember I gave you some
Valium earlier?

SIMON

Yes.

MARTHA

Well it turns out that it wasn't
actually Valium I was giving you.

SIMON

What do you mean?

MARTHA

It was a concoction of drugs that Troy
had made.

Simon looks up at Troy who sort of waves back embarrassedly.
Simon is trying to grasp the meaning of what's being explained
to him.

SIMON

What?

TROY

It's acid mostly... some speed as
well... a little Ketamine...

Simon goes quiet for a while.

SIMON

So, this is why I'm feeling like I'm on planet Pluto.

TROY

Yeah... Now, my advice is to relax and just go with the flow. Try and enjoy it.

Simon stands up, agitated and panicking, and grabs Troy by the lapels. Troy looks shocked.

SIMON

How long does it last?

TROY

I don't know... about eight hours?

SIMON

Eight hours?! Of this?!!

As Martha struggles to prize Simon off of Troy, the Valium bottle falls out of Troy's pocket, without anyone realizing.

Simon sits down, and starts hyperventilating.

People are starting to gather to see what's going on.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'm gonna be sick.

Martha picks Simon up, and takes him inside.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Bathroom... bathroom...

MARTHA

Everyone out of the way!

Martha leads him into the house.

46

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

46

Daniel has just finished speaking to one of the mourners who walks away. Jane walks up to him.

JANE

(concerned)

My god, Daniel... That was unbelievable!

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

I know.

We see Martha and Simon crossing behind and heading up the stairs.

JANE

Are you OK?

DANIEL

I'll be alright... And, no I haven't sorted out the house yet.

Daniel walks off leaving Jane looking frustrated and hurt.

47 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY 47

Martha leads Simon into the bathroom and he goes in and shuts the door behind him.

48 INT. BATHROOM - DAY 48

Simon stands in the bathroom. He's building up quite a sweat and mumbling to himself.

SIMON

Right... Oh Jesus....

He runs the tap and splashes some water on his face.

SIMON (CONT'D)

OK. Stay calm... Stay calm....

49 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 49

Martha stands anxiously in the corridor.

MARTHA

Simon, are you OK?

50 INT. BATHROOM - DAY 50

Simon is looking at himself in the mirror, blocking out Martha.

SIMON

OK. Let's keep it together. That's it. You're gonna be alright. You're gonna be alright. You're gonna get through this, and one day you'll laugh about it. It'll be a funny story you'll tell your friends.

51 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

51

Howard's holding his hand in front of Victor's face.

HOWARD

It's a kind of skin discolouration.
I've had it for weeks now and it's
just not going...

Victor is looking at Howard incredulous.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I mean it's just in this small area
here, but its weird isn't it? Don't
you think it's weird?

Reluctantly, Victor answers him.

VICTOR

You should probably go and see a
dermatologist.

Howard looks at him, surprised.

HOWARD

Really? Why? What do you think it
is?

VICTOR

I don't know. It looks like some kind
of pigment mutation.

HOWARD

A pigment mutation?!

VICTOR

Excuse me.

Victor takes a swig of his drink and heads off, leaving Howard
looking shocked and terrified.

HOWARD

(to himself)
A pigment mutation?

52 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

52

Simon is still staring at himself in the mirror, looking
completely off his head.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

That's it Simon, keep it together.
Everything's gonna be just fine.
You're Simon Smith. You're a
Solicitor... You can handle this. No
problem. Eight hours he said?
Easy. No problem at all. I mean you've
already been in here for...

He looks at his watch.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Five minutes.

Suddenly the pressure of the situation overtakes him and he
screams out:

SIMON (CONT'D)

God, Jesus, Fuck!

53

INT. ENTRY CORRIDOR/ LIVING ROOM - DAY

53

Daniel hears this screaming and cursing going on upstairs. Peter
appears next to him.

PETER

Grief does strange things to people,
doesn't it?

Daniel looks at him a little freaked out by his sudden
appearance again.

DANIEL

...Yeah.

They stand in silence for a moment, with the swearing in the
background as an awkward backdrop.

PETER

If you remember I had something I
wanted to talk to you about.

DANIEL

Oh yeah.

PETER

Is there somewhere quiet we could go?

DANIEL

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

Daniel is extremely curious. They walk past Troy who is frantically searching around the floor for his lost bottle of pills.

Daniel leads Peter and opens the door into the study.

Troy approaches Uncle Alfie who is sitting near the buffet table.

TROY

Uncle Alfie, you haven't seen a little bottle of pills-

UNCLE ALFIE

(shouts at Troy)
For the last time no!

54 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

54

Martha is outside the bathroom banging on the door. We can still hear Simon moaning inside.

MARTHA

Simon, are you OK? Open the door.

Justin arrives behind her.

JUSTIN

Hi there.

Martha looks at him a little coldly.

MARTHA

Hi.

JUSTIN

Anything I can do to help?

MARTHA

Not really, thanks.

JUSTIN

I guess you've got it under control have you?

Martha ignores him and continues banging on the door.

MARTHA

Simon?

Justin points to the bathroom, from where anguished noises are emanating.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN

So this is your choice is it? This is who you chose over me?

MARTHA

Look... I've got a lot on my plate right now Justin and I just can't deal with your shit. Now will you please just go away!

Justin looks hurt, and walks off in a strop.

INT. STUDY - DAY

Peter takes a seat and notices a manuscript on the coffee table, with Daniel's name on front.

PETER

You writing a novel?

DANIEL

Er... yeah..

PETER

Like your brother.

DANIEL

Well, you know, different from my brother, but-

PETER

He's a great writer, isn't he?

DANIEL

(Reluctant)

Er... yes, he is.

Daniel decides to move the conversation on.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

So anyway.

PETER

Yes, well I've actually got some photos that I wanted to show you.

Peter takes an envelope out of his inside jacket pocket, and takes out some photos from the envelope.

DANIEL

Right.

Peter starts passing them to him one by one.

PETER

We actually got quite close in the last few months.. ended up spending rather a lot of time together.

DANIEL

I see...

Peter passes the first photo.

PETER

That's me and your Dad in Regents park.

Daniel looks at the photos curiously. He's starting to suspect that something's up.

PETER (CONT'D)

That's us on one of those London buses...

Daniel takes the next one, becoming more and more suspicious.

DANIEL

So, where did you and my Dad meet?

PETER

Just around.

56 INT. LIVING ROOM - BUFFET - DAY

56

Howard is talking to Jane, who looks like she'd rather be a million miles away. At the same time as he's eating cake, he's also showing her his arm and the discoloured area.

HOWARD

Daniel's uncle says it could be a pigment mutation. I mean, what the hell is a pigment mutation?

Jane is completely disinterested and doesn't answer.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

He said I should see a dermatologist.

Howard takes a curious look at the cake.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

There are no almonds in this cake are there? I'm allergic to almonds.

(CONTINUED)

Jane walks off. Howard sniffs the cake.

57 INT. STUDY - DAY

57

Daniel is sitting with Peter. Peter passes him another photo.

PETER

That's one of me and your dad on our way to a fancy dress party in Kensington... That's your dad dressed up as a Roman centurion.

He looks at the photo, becoming increasingly suspicious.

DANIEL

So... in what capacity were you actually friends with my Dad? I mean, I don't want to be... you know... but I don't remember him ever mentioning you, and yet you've got all these pictures where you're going around like...

The penny finally drops. Daniel stands up. He looks disturbed.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Oh god...

Daniel sits down again and puts his head in his hands for a few moments while he absorbs the facts.

PETER

It must come as a terrible shock to you. I'm sure he would have told you himself, but I guess he wasn't sure how you'd react.

Daniel tries to gather his senses. He has a thought and turns to Peter.

DANIEL

Does my mum know about this?

PETER

No. And really, there's no reason why she should find out, I mean it would only upset her, wouldn't it? So, I want you to know that you've got no worries about me saying anything to anyone about this...

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Right.

PETER

Just as long as I get what's owed to me.

A long pause. Daniel looks over at Peter.

DANIEL

What?

PETER

Well, obviously I should get something... I mean, your Dad and I were lovers, and he left me absolutely nothing in his will. How do you think that makes me feel?

Daniel fails to respond, because he's in too much shock.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'll tell you how it makes me feel - Cheap. Like some cheap slut... I mean, don't you think I should be entitled to something?

DANIEL

What do you want?

PETER

I reckon fifteen thousand pounds should do it.

DANIEL

Fifteen thousand pounds?!... I can't give you fifteen thousand pounds- I mean, I'm supposed to be buying a house!

PETER

Well, it's up to you.

DANIEL

Now, hang on a second. You think you can come in here, show me a few photos of you and my dad on a bus and that counts as proof? That's not proof of anything-

Peter shows Daniel a photo.

(CONTINUED)

We don't know what's on it, but we can tell from Daniel's reaction that it represents something in the way of proof.

PETER

Now, I don't want to but I will go,
and I'll show these photos to everyone
out there... Do you really want me to
do that?

Daniel stares at Peter, not knowing what to do or say.

DANIEL

Wait here.

He exits the study.

58

INT. ENTRY CORRIDOR/ STUDY DOOR - DAY

58

As Daniel comes through the door, he is suddenly back in the corridor full of people mingling around. He's gone pale.

A MIDDLE AGED MAN approaches Daniel and takes him by the hand.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

Daniel, your father really was such a
wonderful man.

DANIEL

I know. Thank you.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

So loyal and trustworthy...

DANIEL

Yes.

Daniel nods and heads on, not looking at all well.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Oh god, oh god, oh god...

He's looking around for Robert, but there's no sign.

59

INT. LIVING ROOM - BUFFET - DAY

59

Howard and Justin are standing together drinking tea. Howard's holding a piece of cake.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTIN

This was an absolute waste of time. I don't know why I even bothered... I got dressed up and everything!

Howard's still examining his arm.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

How can she be more interested in that idiot up there than she is in me?... I'm telling you Howard this world is a severely fucked up place.

HOWARD

It sounds serious doesn't it?

JUSTIN

What?

HOWARD

A pigment mutation.

Justin gives Howard a disparaging look. Troy comes along looking a little frantic.

TROY

Guys, you haven't seen a pill bottle around have you? Like a Valium pill bottle?

JUSTIN

No.

Troy heads off. Howard calls after him.

HOWARD

Let me know if you find them, I could do with one.

Troy smiles nervously at him, and goes back to his search.

60 INT. BACK OF KITCHEN- DAY

60

Daniel enters the kitchen and sees Robert talking intimately to the attractive girl, KATIE, and looking like he's making good progress. Daniel approaches.

DANIEL

Robert, I need to talk to you.

ROBERT

Not now Daniel.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL
It's important.

ROBERT
Give me five minutes.

Daniel pulls him away. Robert is extremely put out.

61 INT. MUD ROOM. DAY.

61

Daniel pulls Robert into the small room and closes the door.

ROBERT
What are you doing? What is it?

Daniel lowers his voice.

DANIEL
That guy that was here before, that we
didn't recognize. You know the one?

ROBERT
Yeah.

Daniel lowers his voice further.

DANIEL
Well, I was just with him in the
study, and... and he showed me these
pictures...

ROBERT
Yeah?

DANIEL
Of him and... Dad.

ROBERT
Right.

DANIEL
With him and Dad... together.

Robert screws up his eyes.

ROBERT
Right.

DANIEL
Pictures of him and Dad together at
parties in Kensington.

Robert's face is blank. He's not registering.

ROBERT

Look, is this going anywhere Daniel,
because I was actually in the middle
of something-

DANIEL

For god's sake Robert, he was shagging
Dad!

Daniel immediately realizes he's been too loud. And he tries to
get himself back under control. Robert looks disbelieving.

ROBERT

Fuck off... Are you shitting me?

DANIEL

No, I'm not shitting you. I'm telling
you. He showed me pictures... god, I
feel ill.

ROBERT

So what are you saying that Dad was a
gay?

DANIEL

That's what I'm saying.

ROBERT

And he's been cheating on mum?!

DANIEL

Evidently.

ROBERT

Jesus Christ-

DANIEL

Look I know it's a bit of a bombshell,
but the concern right now is... he
wants money.

ROBERT

What do you mean he wants money?

DANIEL

He wants fifteen thousand pounds.

ROBERT

Well tell him to go and fuck himself-

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

No, you don't understand. He has the pictures... If we don't give it to him, he says he's going to tell everyone here the most intimate details of their sex life.

ROBERT

I don't want to hear the intimate details of Dad's sex life!

DANIEL

Exactly... So what the hell are we gonna do?

ROBERT

Oh shit. Right. OK. Let me think, let me think.

62 INT. LIVING ROOM - BUFFET - DAY

62

Howard is still standing with Justin. Justin's looking downhearted. Howard's sniffing his piece of cake.

HOWARD

I'm really not sure about this cake, you know? I think its got almonds in it.

JUSTIN

So?

HOWARD

So?... I'm allergic to almonds...

JUSTIN

Don't have it then.

Howard sniffs the cake.

HOWARD

Will you try it and tell me if it's got almonds in it?

JUSTIN

No.

HOWARD

Oh go on.

JUSTIN

I don't want to.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

Just do me a favour. Can't you just do me a favour?-

Howard is pushing the cake towards Justin's mouth.

JUSTIN

Can you please just fuck off?

INT. MUD ROOM - DAY

Robert rubs his hand through his hair desperately trying to come up with a solution. Daniel's getting impatient.

DANIEL

Well?

ROBERT

OK. Look, I think it's best if you just pay him the money.

DANIEL

What do you mean you think it's best if I pay him the money?

ROBERT

I just don't think mum could handle it.

DANIEL

Let me rephrase the question... What do you mean, you think it's best if I pay him the money?

ROBERT

Well you've been living with your Mum and Dad long enough. You must have some money saved-

DANIEL

That's the money for the house. I can't give that away, Jane will fucking kill me.

ROBERT

Well, I don't really think you've got any choice.

DANIEL

Look. I've already had to pay for the entire bloody funeral, including the caterers that you demanded-

ROBERT

There's nothing wrong with those caterers.

DANIEL

They're bloody expensive.

ROBERT

You can't have shitty catering at your own father's funeral!

Robert stops. He has a thought.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Wait a second. How do we know this guy's not bullshitting?

Daniel passes Robert the last photo that Peter gave him.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Oh... my... God.

The Mud room door opens.

SANDRA

There you are.

Robert very quickly puts the photo away. She goes to them and hugs them both.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

My boys... He was so proud of his boys... At least we'll always have our good memories... No one can take those away from us.

Robert gives Daniel a loaded glance. Daniel closes his eyes, knowing that he'll have to give up the money.

64 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

64

Uncle Alfie is sitting at the side looking distastefully at the food. Jane is doing the rounds and walks up to him.

JANE

Are you OK Uncle Alfie?

UNCLE ALFIE

No, I'm not! The food here is awful! It's worse than the muck they give us in the home!

(CONTINUED)

Jane looks up to see Daniel and Robert in the corridor.

INT. KITCHEN CORRIDOR - DAY

Daniel and Robert are walking.

DANIEL

This is so fucking typical.

ROBERT

What is?

DANIEL

Ever since we were kids, you've acted like you've got no responsibility to anyone. And I'm always the one that's had to shovel up the shit.

The Reverend appears in front of them and stops them.

REVEREND

Ah! I think we're just about ready to resume the service, so-

DANIEL

Would you mind giving us five minutes.

REVEREND

(not happy)

Of course.

DANIEL

Thanks.

As the Reverend leaves, Jane arrives looking curious.

JANE

What's going on?

Daniel takes her off to the side and speaks quietly. Daniel motions to Robert to give him a minute alone. Robert waits out of earshot.

DANIEL

Look honey. I'm really sorry, but I'm afraid our moving out plans are gonna have to be put on hold.

JANE

What are you talking about? Why?

DANIEL

I can't explain right now. You know I wouldn't do this unless I had a bloody good reason.

JANE

What's the reason?

DANIEL

Honestly Jane, I haven't got time right now-

JANE

Now you listen to me Daniel - you're telling me that we're going to have to continue living in this house with your mother, and you're not giving me any explanation why?

Daniel looks at Jane. He lowers his voice.

DANIEL

It turns out that Dad was gay, and I'm being blackmailed by his former lover into giving him £15,000 otherwise he's going to show everyone pictures of them doing... stuff...

Jane looks at Daniel.

JANE

Are you joking?

DANIEL

No, I'm not joking.

Jane is extremely anxious.

JANE

Well why do you have to pay? Why can't Robert pay?

DANIEL

He can't pay, he's got nothing. He can't even afford his share of the funeral.

JANE

But you said-

DANIEL

I know what I said... Look, I've gotta go. I'm sorry.

Daniel joins Robert before going into the study.

Jane watches them go, trying to absorb what she's just been told.

JANE

Shit.

66 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

66

Simon is sitting on the toilet, looking absolutely fucked. He pulls at the toilet roll, then starts pulling more and more and more, unraveling the entire roll, and looking like he's having the time of his life.

67 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

67

Martha is sitting on the floor of the corridor. Jane comes up and sees her, and just flops down next to her.

JANE

Fucking men.

MARTHA

Tell me about it.

68 INT. STUDY - DAY

68

Daniel and Robert enter the study closing the door behind him. Peter is sitting on the couch reading a manuscript. Daniel is appalled.

DANIEL

Er... What the hell are you doing with my manuscript?!

Daniel grabs it out of Peter's hand.

PETER

It was on the desk-

DANIEL

It's not ready to be seen by anyone.

Daniel angrily puts the manuscript away in the drawer.

PETER

Well, you shouldn't leave it lying around if you don't want people to read it.

DANIEL

This is my office!-

ROBERT

Guys. Can we get to the point here.

PETER

Fine by me.

Daniel is now extremely grumpy.

DANIEL

(to Peter)

Right. If I write you this cheque, then that's the end of it, yes? You give us the photos, and you stay out of our lives forever. Is that the deal?

PETER

That's the deal.

With a terrible scowl on his face, Daniel sits down at the desk, reluctantly takes out his cheque book.

69 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

69

Martha and Jane still sitting next to each other.

JANE

I mean, do you have any idea what it's like to live with your mother in law...picking at everything, making comments about your lifestyle, what time you got in last night, what job you're doing. I've had it for over a year now and it's been a living fucking nightmare... I'm beginning to think that we're never going to get our own place.

MARTHA

So, what are you gonna do?

A long pause.

(CONTINUED)

JANE

I just don't know.

70 INT. STUDY - DAY

70

Daniel's pen is hovering over the cheque book. Finally, he starts to write the amount on the cheque.

PETER

(to Daniel)

That your first effort is it?

Daniel stops writing and looks up at him.

DANIEL

What?

PETER

The novel... it's a first work, isn't it?

DANIEL

Yeah. So?

PETER

No, nothing.

Daniel goes back to the cheque.

PETER (CONT'D)

I tried writing once... Didn't work for me either... I think it's just a gift, you know?. You either have it or you don't.... It must be hard for you though especially trying to live up to your brother's reputation... being overshadowed by a sibling like that.

(to Robert)

I read your last novel by the way, it was really good stuff.

ROBERT

Thanks-

DANIEL

Right, that's it.

Suddenly Daniel picks the cheque up off of the desk and tears it into little pieces.

ROBERT

Daniel, what the hell are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

There's no way I'm giving this twat a single penny of my money.

ROBERT

Don't be ridiculous.

DANIEL

No way. Why should I? I mean, he comes in here on the day of our father's funeral, tries to blackmail us and slags off my novel!! Who the hell does he think he is?

ROBERT

He has the photos.

DANIEL

So let him show the photos.

ROBERT

Daniel-

DANIEL

Look, I give up OK? I just can't take anymore. If that's what he's gonna do then lets just get it over with.

There's a long pause as everyone seems to be deciding what to do. Finally, Peter stands up.

PETER

Fine.

Peter stands up and heads towards the door.

ROBERT

What? No, wait.

Robert rushes to stand in front of the door, blocking Peter's exit.

PETER

Get out of my way.

ROBERT

Let's just discuss this a minute.

PETER

There's nothing to discuss.

(CONTINUED)

Peter grabs the door and tries to open it. He tries to push past, but Robert grabs him and wrestles him to the ground. Daniel watches on, absolutely shocked.

DANIEL

Jesus Christ, Robert. What are you doing?

PETER

Get off me!

Robert is trying his best to muffle Peter's screams.

ROBERT

Daniel, give me a bloody hand here, would you?!

Robert is holding Peter down and trying to keep him quiet. The scene is chaos.

PETER

Ah!!

ROBERT

Daniel, get some rope or something.

DANIEL

What do you mean, get some rope?! There isn't any rope.

ROBERT

Well just grab a piece of cord, or something! There, from the curtains.

Daniel grabs a cord from the curtains and gives it to Robert to tie Peter's hands.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Right, hold his legs.

Daniel grabs Peter's legs and holds them still.

DANIEL

Jesus, Robert. This is a really bad idea.

As Howard walks outside, he sees Sandra sitting by the wall talking quietly with Victor.

Howard feels like he should go up to her, though on the other hand, he really doesn't want to.

Victor sees Howard approaching and wants to avoid him.

VICTOR
(To Sandra)
Shall we go inside?

SANDRA
In a moment.

VICTOR
I'll be right back.

He crosses Howard as Howard arrives in front of Sandra.

HOWARD
Hi there.

SANDRA
Hello.

Howard sits next to Sandra.

HOWARD
I'm sorry... you know... about... you know...

SANDRA
Thank you.

HOWARD
Must be awful losing your husband. So young as well, relatively. Do you think you'll marry again?- Probably too early to tell, isn't it.

Sandra looks at him.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
Terrible isn't it, that people have to die... One guy I knew got stabbed to death... He called this guy's mother a "moose", and the bloke stabbed him in the neck. Hit a major artery. Blood spurting out everywhere... And the ridiculous thing was the guy that did it told the police later that he didn't even know what a moose was.

From Sandra's expression, it doesn't look as though he's helping her much.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'd better be... Do you happen to know if there are any almonds in the cake?

Sandra turns and looks at him.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

That's fine... Not important.

As he walks away, he notices Troy's pill bottle on the ground. He bends down and picks it up, and puts it in his pocket.

INT. STUDY - DAY

Robert and Daniel are struggling with Peter.

PETER

Get off of me you bastards! What do you think you're gonna do? Keep me quiet forever?

ROBERT

Shut up! Jesus! Daniel throw me that tie.

The room is filled with panic. Daniel throws it over. Robert ties it around Peter's mouth. He's still struggling and managing to make a lot of noise even through the cloth.

Suddenly the door opens and Howard enters.

HOWARD

Ah, Daniel, do you happen to know what was in this cake, I-

It takes Howard a moment to register that Daniel and Robert are sitting on top of Peter.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

What's going on?

ROBERT

Jesus Christ, Howard. Shut the fucking door!

Peter continues screaming through the cloth.

Shocked, Howard does as he's told.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

(to Peter)

Keep still! Jesus, we need to calm him down... Give me an ashtray or something, I'll knock him out.

DANIEL

What?! You can't do that!

ROBERT

Well we have to do something.

Howard has an idea.

HOWARD

I just found some Valium outside.

ROBERT

Great. Bring them here.

Howard hands Robert the bottle.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Just pour them in.

Robert holds Peter's mouth open while Howard pours a handful of pills into his mouth, then Robert holds his nose, forcing him to swallow.

Once Peter has swallowed the pills he appears to calm down, more out of exhaustion than anything else. Then, Howard looks at Daniel and Robert.

HOWARD

Now, what in god's name is going on in here? Who is this guy?

Everyone's looking absolutely dazed. Daniel and Robert look like they're about to answer when suddenly the door opens again and Troy walks in.

TROY

Hi there. Have you seen a little brown pill bottle lying around-

Troy stops in his tracks as he sees Peter on the floor.

ROBERT

Jesus Christ Howard, I told you to lock the fucking door!

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

You said "shut the fucking door."

Robert closes and locks the door. Troy looks shocked.

TROY

What's going on?

They all look at him, and no one really knows what to say.

73

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

73

Simon's still in the bathroom. He has taken off most of his clothing by now, and is playing around with the various lotions in the bathroom. He pours some lotion into his hands and wipes it over his face.

74

INT. STUDY - DAY

74

There's an awkward atmosphere.

DANIEL

OK, now look. Very briefly, we've got ourselves into a bit of a situation here. Now, this guy is trying to blackmail us which, given the circumstances today, I think is in pretty bloody bad taste!

TROY

Blackmail you over what?

DANIEL

That's not important right now.

TROY

What do you mean, not important?

DANIEL

It's personal, OK?

HOWARD

Has this got anything to do with the orange peel?

Daniel looks somewhat confused at Howard.

TROY

What are you gonna do with him?

Everyone realizes they have no answer to this question.

DANIEL

Yes Robert, what are we gonna do with him?

Robert looks like he doesn't have any answers.

ROBERT

Well I don't know.

DANIEL

You don't know?!

ROBERT

Don't shout at me Daniel. I was just dealing with a very tricky situation. If you'd just paid him the money-

DANIEL

But what are we gonna do? I mean we can't keep him tied up here forever. How long do you think those Valium are gonna last?

Troy's ears prick up.

TROY

Valium?

HOWARD

Yeah, I found that bottle of Valium. We gave him a few to calm him down.

Howard hands him the bottle. Troy looks very concerned.

TROY

Oh fuck.

DANIEL

What?

Troy beckons them all over to the corner. Peter looks extremely curious to know what they're talking about.

Everyone talks very quietly so that Peter can't hear.

ROBERT

What is it?

TROY

(lowers his voice)
The thing is...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TROY (CONT'D)

it's not actually Valium. Its a concoction of hallucinogenic substances.

DANIEL

What?!

TROY

Simon took one of these by mistake. That's why he's been acting like he's off his tits...

DANIEL

Oh my god Troy, what the hell are you doing with this stuff?

TROY

They're for a friend.

ROBERT

So, hang on a minute, you're telling us that Martha's boyfriend, who knocked over our father's coffin, had just one of these things...

DANIEL

(to Howard)

And you gave him how many?

Howard looks a bit guilty.

HOWARD

About five.

DANIEL

Oh Howard...

HOWARD

Well I didn't know, did I?! You can't blame me for this. I mean, I come in here and you're on the floor with this bloke, and he's screaming... What the hell do you want from me?

TROY

(looking at Peter)

Poor bastard.

They all turn and look at Peter who is looking back at them, increasingly concerned by whatever conversation they are having, and the pitying expressions on their faces.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Maybe we should call an ambulance.

TROY

You can't do that. I'll be screwed.

ROBERT

He's right. They're gonna turn up and find this guy's been force fed with hard drugs. It won't look good.

DANIEL

So what then? I mean, what's gonna happen? Is he gonna die?!

TROY

No... shouldn't think so...

The moment is broken by someone trying the door, followed by a knock. It wakes them all out of their reverie.

75 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

75

Sandra is standing outside with the Reverend.

SANDRA (O.S.)

Daniel? Robert? Are you in there?

76 INT. STUDY - DAY

76

They all look at each other in panic.

ROBERT

Oh, Jesus.

DANIEL

(as normal as possible)

Be out in a minute Mum.

77 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

77

Sandra is still outside with the Reverend.

SANDRA

Everyone's wondering where you are.

78 INT. STUDY - DAY

78

Robert looks at Howard and Troy.

ROBERT

(to Howard and Troy)

Right. We have to go outside...You two stay in here and look after him.

HOWARD

Look after him?! What the hell are we meant to do?

ROBERT

Just make sure he doesn't escape. Lock the doors behind us.

Daniel and Robert open the study door leaving Howard and Troy looking like they've got no idea what to do. Troy locks the door.

79 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

79

Daniel and Robert come outside trying to look as normal as possible. They see Sandra standing with the Reverend.

DANIEL

How's it going mum?

SANDRA

The Reverend wants to talk with you.

REVEREND

We were wondering if we might be able to resume the service now... Really, I'm only meant to be here until three-

DANIEL

Yeah, great. Can you just give us another five minutes?

The Reverend doesn't look too pleased.

REVEREND

Sure.

DANIEL

Would you excuse us?

Robert and Daniel kiss their mother and walk off hurriedly towards the kitchen.

80 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

80

Justin sits down next to Uncle Alfie, who turns to look at him.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE ALFIE

What's your problem?!

JUSTIN

Women are my problem.

UNCLE ALFIE

Let me tell you something about women. When I was a young man, I used to go out with the most beautiful woman in the village. I mean, she would walk into the room and everyone's eyes would turn. Everyone wanted to fuck her. And of course she liked the attention because, well you know how it is...

A beat.

UNCLE ALFIE (CONT'D)

So, anyway. We went to some party one night at the local hall. And there was this man flirting around with her and I noticed that she was flirting back. You know, they were laughing and joking. And so I asked her to come outside with me, I wanted to talk with her. So we went outside and I gave her the hiding of her life... And let me tell you, she never disrespected me again!

Justin stares blankly at Uncle Alfie.

UNCLE ALFIE (CONT'D)

I need to shit.

81

INT. MUD ROOM - DAY

81

Daniel and Robert enter and close the door. They speak in hushed tones.

DANIEL

So... any thoughts?

ROBERT

Yeah, I've got a thought - why didn't you just pay him the fucking money?

DANIEL

Look, don't make out this is my fault!
If you had any money rather than
spending it all on shit, then maybe
you could have paid him.

ROBERT

If I'd had the money then I would have
done.

DANIEL

Yeah... Like you're so worried about
your parents, anyway.

ROBERT

(offended)
What the hell does that mean?!

DANIEL

You weren't bothered about leaving me
to look after them, while you went off
galavanting in New York with your
celebrity friends.

ROBERT

You really are unbelievable.

DANIEL

Oh shut up-

ROBERT

You just can't get over it can you?
You're burning with jealousy because I
got out of here and did what you
should have done with your life if
only you'd had the balls for it.

DANIEL

Don't be ridiculous.

ROBERT

Look at you. You've spent three years
on a novel and you won't even let
anyone see it! What are you gonna do?
Wait until you're dead and hope you
get it published posthumously?

DANIEL

Rather that than be some hack writing
pulp crap.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

At least my crap gets published.

DANIEL

You really are a pompous arsehole, you know that?

ROBERT

Oh, fuck off.

Robert opens the door to leave and an old man and an old lady, guests at the funeral, stand in the kitchen before them. Robert and Daniel turn on their funeral faces.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

(charming)

Hi, how are you?

OLD MAN

Very sad. Very sad.

82 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

82

Simon is now completely naked, still with lotion on his face, and mumbling nonsense to himself.

Then, he has an idea and looks over at the window. He opens the window and starts taking in very deep gulps of air.

83 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

83

Martha is still sitting outside the bathroom, not knowing what to do.

Justin comes up again to talk to her. Martha's completely drained and stressed.

MARTHA

What do you want Justin?

JUSTIN

I just want to talk to you.

MARTHA

Look, please don't make us go through this again. It's the same thing every time I see you-

JUSTIN

Well, what is it about this guy? What has he got that I haven't got?

MARTHA

OK, well for one thing he's responsible. He's intelligent. He's thoughtful. He's stable. Is that enough for you?

84 EXT. ROOF - DAY

84

Simon is climbing out of the bathroom window onto the roof's ledge, completely naked with lotion on his face.

85 INT. STUDY - DAY

85

Howard and Troy are sitting in the study. Howard is flicking through an encyclopedia he's found. He's looking at the discolouration on his arm and comparing it with the picture in the book. Peter is on the floor tied up, breathing heavily and making gurgling sounds.

TROY

I can't believe you gave him five.

Howard looks at Troy incredulous.

HOWARD

Excuse me? Are you trying to say that this was my fault? Weren't you the one that made them, and then put them in a Valium bottle?!

TROY

Even if they were Valium, you shouldn't give him five. Don't you know anything?!

Suddenly there's a knock on the door. Howard and Troy both look absolutely terrified.

UNCLE ALFIE (O.S.)

Hello?!

Neither Howard nor Troy want to speak. They argue in gestures about who should speak. Finally Troy relents.

TROY

Hello?

86 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

86

Uncle Alfie is outside the study banging the door with his cane.

UNCLE ALFIE
I need the toilet.

87 INT. STUDY - DAY

87

Troy and Howard both look panicked.

HOWARD
Can't you use the one upstairs?

UNCLE ALFIE (O.S.)
I'm in a wheelchair you fucking idiot!
How am I supposed to get up the
stairs?!

Howard and Troy look at each other not knowing what to say.

UNCLE ALFIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Open the door!

Uncle Alfie starts banging on the door with his cane. Howard turns to Troy.

HOWARD
What are we gonna do?

They look at Peter who's starting to look high as a kite.

TROY
We'll stick him behind the couch.

Troy and Howard pull Peter behind the couch.

Troy stays with him and tries to muffle any sounds that Peter might make while Howard goes to open the door.

HOWARD
Hello?

UNCLE ALFIE
What the hell is wrong with you
people... I'm about to shit in my
trousers!

88 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

88

Daniel and Robert are coming out of the kitchen corridor. Jane sees them and comes over to find out what's going on.

JANE
Daniel, what's going on? Have you
given this guy the money?

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Not exactly-

ROBERT

Daniel refused, so now we're completely fucked.

DANIEL

Oh shut up.

JANE

(to Daniel)

What happened?

ROBERT

The guy started slagging off his novel, so he refused to pay.

JANE

(to Daniel)

Slagging off your novel?

Jane looks confused.

JANE (CONT'D)

You let him read your novel?

89

INT. STUDY BATHROOM - DAY

89

Howard is helping uncle Alfie onto the toilet. He's pulled down Alfie's trousers but he's having a hard time getting him from the chair to the toilet.

UNCLE ALFIE

Hurry up I tell you.

Howard is struggling to hold Alfie up. He has one hand under his arm, and the other is sort of grasping at his bare behind.

Uncle Alfie sits down on the toilet trapping Howard's hand underneath. Howard is stuck.

HOWARD

Erm... you've just got er...

(calls out to Troy)

Troy, do you think you could give me a hand here?

90

INT. STUDY - DAY

90

Troy is keeping watch over Peter, who's looking increasingly strange, and is making some worrying facial expressions.

(CONTINUED)

TROY
I'm not sure I should.

HOWARD (O.S.)
Troy!!!

Troy jumps up and goes to the bathroom to see what's going on.

91

INT. STUDY BATHROOM - DAY

91

Troy opens the door and peers in and looks absolutely appalled. Uncle Alfie is sitting on the toilet on top of Howard's arm.

TROY
Jesus Christ Howard!

HOWARD
(desperately to Troy)
Help me!

UNCLE ALFIE
(to Howard)
Get your bloody hand out!

Troy enters the bathroom and tries to help pull Howard's hand out.

92

INT. STUDY - DAY

92

With Troy and Howard out of the room, Peter, his hands still tied, struggles to get to his feet.

93

INT. STUDY BATHROOM - DAY

93

Troy manages to lift Howard's arm out from under Uncle Alfie, but there's some shit on his hand.

HOWARD
Oh no...

Howard, panicking, rushes to the sink and runs the tap. It comes on full blast causing a splash.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
Oh god, oh god, oh god.

Troy looks at Howard and stares.

TROY
Howard.

HOWARD

What?

TROY

You've er...

HOWARD

What? What is it?

TROY

You've got some of it on your face.

HOWARD

What?!

Howard looks in the mirror.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus Christ!

UNCLE ALFIE

(shouts)

Will you two get out of here?!

94 INT. STUDY - DAY

94

Peter is now up on his feet and running around the study like a rabid animal.

He jumps up on the sofa and loses his balance and lands into the coffee table head first.

He cracks his head on the corner and goes straight down.

He lies on the floor absolutely motionless.

95 INT. STUDY BATHROOM - DAY

95

Howard is leaning over the sink.

HOWARD

I'm going to be sick-

TROY

Shh... I heard something.

Howard wipes his face with a towel, then they exit the bathroom, leaving Uncle Alfie in there, and shut the door.

96 INT. STUDY - DAY

96

They enter back into the study and see Peter lying on the floor motionless, blood by his head.

TROY

Oh fuck.

They approach him and Troy bends down and feels for a pulse. He looks up at Howard with an expression that tells us all we need to know.

97 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

97

Daniel, Robert and Jane are standing talking about what's been happening.

JANE

Look, I have a right to know what's going on Daniel.

DANIEL

I know you do, and I'll explain everything. But just let me deal with this now.

The door of the study opens and Howard looks around before he walks through, a maniacal false grin planted on his face, which the mourners find strange, especially as he's pouring with sweat.

Howard arrives at where Daniel is still arguing with Robert and Jane. They all notice the strange, nervous grin plastered on Howard's face. Daniel takes a step towards Howard.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Howard, what the hell are you grinning at?

HOWARD

(to Daniel and Robert)

Could I just ask you to pop to the study for a second?

Daniel can see from Howard's face and the sweat on his forehead that something serious has happened.

DANIEL

(to Jane)

Honey, I need you to look after things out here, OK?

(CONTINUED)

Jane realizes that Daniel is being serious.

JANE

OK.

Howard returns to the study followed by Daniel and Robert. Jane watches them go, not really sure what's going on.

98 INT. STUDY - DAY

98

Daniel, Howard and Robert head back into the study where Troy is sitting with his head in his hands, and Peter's body lies on the floor.

Howard locks the door behind them. Daniel and Robert look at the body in shock.

DANIEL

Oh Christ! Call an ambulance.

TROY

There's no point.

DANIEL

What do you mean there's no point?!

TROY

Look at him! He's stone dead!

ROBERT

Good god! What the hell did you do to him?

HOWARD

We didn't do anything!

TROY

He hit his head on the corner.

Robert looks at them, disbelieving.

ROBERT

He hit his head on the corner?

HOWARD

Yes. That's what happened. What the hell do you think happened?

DANIEL

Oh no. This is really bad. This is really, really bad.

(CONTINUED)

Daniel slumps down into a chair, thoroughly depressed.

ROBERT

So what is this then? Is it murder?
Suicide? Manslaughter? I mean, how
does this work?

HOWARD

Maybe it's death by misadventure.

DANIEL

Death by misadventure? Yeah, of
course. The police are going to find
this body pumped full of
hallucinogenic drugs, with cord marks
around his wrists and call it death by
misadventure!

TROY

What are we gonna do?

Everyone thinks. Howard looks at his watch.

HOWARD

Do you know what, I actually really
have to get going-

Howard starts making his way to the door. Robert stops him.

ROBERT

You're not going anywhere.

HOWARD

Look, I cannot go to prison OK?! Do
you have any idea what they do to
people like me in prison?!

ROBERT

We're in this together Howard. Now
just calm down...

Robert takes a moment before speaking.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Now, no one here knows who this guy
is, right? As far as they're
concerned he's a stranger who turned
up at the funeral and left some time
later. Nobody even knows his name...

DANIEL

So?

ROBERT

So we'll just get rid of the body and it'll be like he was never here...

HOWARD

Get rid of the body?!

ROBERT

That's right... We'll just get rid of the body.

HOWARD

What the hell do any of us know about getting rid of a body? What are we gonna do with him? Put him out with the rubbish?

TROY

Did any of you happen to notice the size of Uncle Sidney's coffin.

Everyone looks at Troy.

DANIEL

(to Troy)

You want to bury him with my father?

TROY

Why not?... I mean it's not like he's gonna know, is he?

DANIEL

That's not the point.

ROBERT

You have to admit, it makes sense Daniel. The coffin's there, the hole in the ground's there... He'll be gone, finished, end of story... Unless you've got a better suggestion.

Daniel turns and looks at the wall, desperately trying to think of an alternative. Finally, he turns around.

DANIEL

How are we gonna get him out there?

Simon stands on the ledge next to the windows looking over the world, having a thoroughly wonderful time.

Justin is talking to Martha. They're sitting in the corridor. Martha looks drained of energy.

Justin's smoking a cigarette.

JUSTIN

It's funny, you know. No matter how many times you told me that things were over, I was always convinced that we'd end up back together.

MARTHA

Yeah, well, we all make mistakes... I was convinced I was gonna be a world famous ballet dancer. What happened there?

JUSTIN

You still could be.

MARTHA

Don't be an idiot.

JUSTIN

I'm serious... You only live once. You might as well do whatever it is that fires you up the most.

MARTHA

Yes, but maybe I don't think of life anymore as just being about me, me, me... Maybe I've discovered there's something outside of myself that I care about. And maybe you should too.

Justin looks defensive.

JUSTIN

That's a bit harsh. I care about you.

MARTHA

No Justin, you care about you. And you care about me in relation to how I effect you. There's a difference.

JUSTIN

That's not true Martha, I... I love you.

Justin instinctively grabs Martha and lunges into a kiss. As he does he sees out of the corner of his eye the shocking sight of Simon completely naked crouching by the window.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Jesus fucking Christ!

Martha makes eye contact with Simon. He looks distraught, before disappearing from the window.

MARTHA
Oh shit.

Martha stands up.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Simon?

Simon disappears from the window.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Simon?!

101 EXT. ROOF - DAY 101

Simon is still on the ledge..but pacing around, not knowing what to do with himself.

102 EXT. LEDGE - DAY 102

Martha opens the window. She leans over and is shocked to see Simon on the ledge.

MARTHA
Simon. What the hell are you doing?
Get back in here and put your clothes
on this instant!

SIMON
I saw you kissing him.

MARTHA
I wasn't kissing him.

SIMON
Don't lie to me Martha. I'll jump. I
swear I'll jump. Right now.

Justin pokes his head through the same window as Martha to see what's going on.

MARTHA

Justin, will you get the fuck out of here!

Justin does as he's told.

103 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

103

Justin lingers in the upstairs corridor for a moment not sure what to do. Then he sprints off downstairs.

104 EXT. LEDGE - DAY

104

MARTHA

(panicking)

Look, Simon. Calm down. Please.

105 INT. STUDY - DAY

105

Robert, Daniel, Troy and Howard are still in the study standing over the body, trying to work out what to do.

HOWARD

There's just no way we can do it. It's impossible.

Suddenly there's a knock on the door. Everyone freezes.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

Daniel, it's Justin. Let me in.

Everyone freezes.

106 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

106

Justin knocks again louder.

107 INT. STUDY - DAY

107

Everyone looks panicked.

ROBERT

Shit. Quick. Stick him in the bathroom.

Everyone enters a panic. Daniel opens the bathroom door, and Robert, Howard and Troy pull the body into the bathroom.

108 INT. STUDY BATHROOM - DAY

108

Its not until they get in there that they see Uncle Alfie still sitting on the toilet.

(CONTINUED)

108

CONTINUED:

108

Uncle Alfie looks up to see them all burst in carrying Peter's body.

Their faces all show their panic. Alfie stares in shock horror.

They immediate leave the bathroom with the body and shut the door after him.

109

INT. STUDY - DAY

109

We can hear muffled shouting coming from Alfie from behind the bathroom door.

DANIEL

Jesus Christ Howard!! What's Uncle Alfie doing on the toilet?

HOWARD

I forgot!

DANIEL

How could you forget?! What the hell is wrong with you?!

HOWARD

Well, we had more pressing matters to deal with, like this dead man on the floor here.

Another loud bang on the door.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

Daniel, open the bloody door.

110

INT. STUDY / CORRIDOR - DAY

110

Daniel opens the door an inch.

DANIEL

What is it?

JUSTIN

It's Simon, he's just totally fucking lost it, he-

Justin realizes that something weird's going on.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

What's going on?

DANIEL

Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

Justin puts aside his curiosity for the time being.

JUSTIN

Look, Simon's on the roof totally starkers. He saw me kissing Martha and now he's threatening to jump!

TROY

Oh Christ.

Troy rushes to the door.

ROBERT

Where are you going?

TROY

I have to go out there. If he jumps, I'm fucked.

DANIEL

(to Robert and Howard)

Wait here.

Troy rushes out followed by Daniel. They head to the garden along with Justin.

111 EXT. BACK GARDEN - DAY

111

Everyone is looking up at the naked man standing on the edge of the roof.

A man turns to Victor whose attention has been caught.

MAN

Who is that naked man on the roof?

Victor looks up, agog.

VICTOR

That's my daughter's fiance.

Martha's head can be seen hanging out the bedroom window.

112 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

112

Troy and Justin rush out the back door into the garden.

Daniel stops as he realizes the living room is completely empty, bar the coffin. He exits exterior back garden.

113 EXT. BACK GARDEN - DAY 113

Daniel takes a few steps out and sees that the whole congregation are outside and Simon is on the roof.

He heads back inside.

114 EXT. ROOF - DAY 114

Simon is standing perilously near the edge of the roof.

MARTHA

Simon. Why don't you come inside and we'll talk about it there.

SIMON

No!

MARTHA

Fine. Then just come away from the edge.

SIMON

No I won't.

MARTHA

Right... Well then I'm coming out.

From down below, the mourners are stunned by what they see.

115 INT. STUDY - DAY 115

Daniel rushes back inside, panting, where Robert and Howard are still standing with the body.

ROBERT

What's happening?

DANIEL

Everyone's out in the garden... We've gotta move the body now.

ROBERT

Brilliant!

116 EXT. GARDEN - DAY 116

Sandra is out in the garden also looking up at the roof, along with Jane.

Martha is now climbing out from the window onto the roof. The whole thing looks very precarious.

(CONTINUED)

Everyone's watching this scene of Simon and Martha balancing on the roof. Martha holds out her hand to Simon.

VICTOR

(shouts up)

Martha, what the hell are you doing?!

Get down from there.

117 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

117

Daniel and Robert come out of the study carrying Peter with Howard behind them.

ROBERT

(to Howard)

Wait here. Make sure no one comes in.

Howard nods. As Daniel and Robert disappear into the living room, Howard is horrified to see the Reverend coming through the front door walking towards the living room entrance.

HOWARD

(to Reverend)

Hi!

The Reverend looks around not knowing why Howard is being so especially friendly towards him.

118 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

118

Robert and Daniel hurry across the living room carrying Peter.

They get to the coffin and Robert opens it up.

There's an intense moment as they look down at their father in the coffin. They both stop for a moment, speechless.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Howard is standing, blocking the Reverend searching his mind for conversation.

HOWARD

So... God eh?... He's a funny one isn't he?

REVEREND

Excuse me?

119 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

119

Robert and Daniel are still staring at the body.

ROBERT

Daniel, we have to do this.

Daniel looks up at Robert and nods his assent.

Robert and Daniel lift up Peter and try their best to put him in the coffin, facing up on top of their father.

Daniel looks at it and decides that it's just wrong.

DANIEL

We can't leave it like that.

ROBERT

We don't have time.

They try another possibility, turning the body in a different direction. Daniel shakes his head.

120

EXT. ROOF - DAY

120

Martha edges towards Simon, concentrating hard to maintain her balance. Simon is starting to get cold.

MARTHA

Right. Listen to me Simon. If you don't come away from the edge of that roof, I am going to get extremely upset.

SIMON

Good.

MARTHA

Simon... Please don't do this.. I love you.

SIMON

Then why were you with him?

MARTHA

I wasn't with him.

SIMON

Yes you were! I saw you!

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Howard is doing his best to keep the Reverend at bay.

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD

So how did you get into the whole religion lark?

REVEREND

Look, I'm sorry, I really need to get on-

HOWARD

I'd like to make a confession.

The Reverend looks at Howard.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

(thinking on his feet)

I have thoughts... dirty thoughts...

121 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

121

Daniel and Robert are still struggling to squeeze Peter into the coffin.

ROBERT

You know, in a strange way maybe this is what Dad would have wanted?

DANIEL

For God's sake Robert. Can you not take anything seriously?

ROBERT

Why do you say I don't take anything seriously?

DANIEL

I'll tell you why... Because you disappear half way across the world without hardly ever coming back to see your parents. Because you spent your last remaining money on a first class plane ticket when you knew you were supposed to give me half for the funeral. Because you ride through life like you're on a fairground ride... And because you've never, ever, given a shit about anyone except yourself.

Robert looks miffed. Daniel gets back to trying to fit Peter in the coffin.

122

EXT. ROOF - DAY

122

Simon is stepping away from Martha. The crowd are getting increasingly anxious.

SIMON

I'll never be good enough. Not for your Dad and not for you. I'll never be rich enough, I'll never be cool enough-

MARTHA

Simon, please stop talking this nonsense and just come inside... We're going to have a baby.

Simon looks at her, shocked.

SIMON

What?

MARTHA

I'm pregnant. We're going to have a child together...

SIMON

You're pregnant?

Simon is overcome with emotion. She holds out her hand to him.

MARTHA

I won't be able to do it without you.

Very slowly he walks towards her and enters her embrace.

General approval noises come from the crowd.

VICTOR

Jesus.

Victor angrily heads inside.

123

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

123

Finally Robert and Daniel swivel the body round so that Peter is also facing upward tops and tails to their father. It seems to work best.

They both look down at their father one last time. Daniel takes a moment to touch his father's hand.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Bye Dad.

Finally, they shut the coffin a moment before Victor enters the living room through the conservatory back door.

Robert and Daniel try to look as innocent as possible.

124 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

124

Howard is still talking to the Reverend who's looking like he really doesn't want to be there.

HOWARD

But I mean, three maybe four times a night sometimes.

Howard sees out of the corner of his eye that the coffin is shut. His job is done.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

So, anyway, thanks for that. I feel much better.

Howard walks into the living room leaving the Reverend looking miffed.

125 INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR/ BATHROOM - DAY

125

Victor arrives up the stairs to see Martha with Simon, wrapping a blanket around him. Victor walks up to her.

VICTOR

(to Martha)

Thank god you're safe.

(to Simon)

You idiot! What the hell were you thinking?

MARTHA

Look, Dad-

VICTOR

Please Martha, tell me you're not going to marry this man-

MARTHA

No Dad, I won't. This is my life, and this is my choice, and I'm sorry if you don't like it, but that's just tough... And I'll tell you something else.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARTHA (CONT'D)

You really need to sort out your attitude unless you want to end up a very lonely, bitter old man.

Martha heads off with Simon, leaving Victor thoroughly told off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - BUFFET - DAY

Howard, Daniel and Robert are standing in the living room, looking utterly exhausted, as the rest of the guests are trawling back in from the garden. Daniel sees Sandra and walks towards her leaving Robert with Howard.

ROBERT

Well, that was a close one. I thought we weren't gonna get away with that for a minute.

HOWARD

(whispering)

Get away with it?! We've just killed someone! We've committed a mortal sin!

ROBERT

Right. Well, strictly speaking, we didn't kill him... And also, he really wasn't a nice guy, so... The world's probably a better place without him.

Robert pats Howard on the back, then heads off leaving Howard looking thoughtful.

EXT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daniel arrives where Sandra is standing.

DANIEL

How are you doing Mum?

SANDRA

Better now that boy's safely off the roof. I think there's been enough death in this house for one day...

DANIEL

Yeah.

A beat.

SANDRA

Have you seen Uncle Alfie? He seems to have disappeared.

(CONTINUED)

Daniel suddenly remembers where he is.

DANIEL

Oh, shit.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Howard is standing looking extremely thoughtful. An old lady comes up and stands near him.

HOWARD

What's it all about eh?

OLD LADY

Excuse me?

HOWARD

I mean, we find ourselves on this random planet in the middle of infinite space, we live for a few years searching desperately for some kind of meaning to our futile existence, and then in the end we die of horrible diseases and get eaten by maggots and rats... I mean what's the bloody point?

INT. STUDY - DAY

Daniel and Robert enter the study and head towards the closed bathroom door.

Daniel takes a deep breath and goes to open the bathroom door. Uncle Alfie is sitting on the toilet.

UNCLE ALFIE

What the hell is going on in this place?

DANIEL

I'm so sorry Uncle Alfie. There was a whole business going on outside-

UNCLE ALFIE

Never mind that. What about that dead body you dragged in here?!

Daniel and Robert feign ignorance.

DANIEL

What dead body?

UNCLE ALFIE

Don't fuck with me. I saw a dead body.
Now, get me the hell off of this
fucking toilet!

130 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

130

Martha enters the room with Simon, now dressed again, but still looking a bit wired.

Justin walks over and joins Howard.

JUSTIN

Did you hear that? She's having a kid!
I'd never have done anything if I'd
known she was having a kid.

HOWARD

I thought you were hopelessly in love
with her.

JUSTIN

Yeah, but can you imagine me bringing
up a kid?

HOWARD

No.

JUSTIN

Exactly.

Justin looks at Howard who's looking sort of distant.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

How's your pigment mutation thing?

HOWARD

Oh that... It's probably nothing.

Justin's taken aback by Howard's uncharacteristic attitude.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I'm more worried about having told the
priest I'm a wank addict.

Justin looks at him quizzically.

ANGLE ON:

Robert is wheeling Uncle Alfie into the room.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE ALFIE

I'm telling you I saw the guy. He was dead!

ROBERT

I know you did Alfie. We all did.

UNCLE ALFIE

No! In the bathroom.

Robert offers a look to the other mourners indicating that Uncle Alfie's a bit mad and shouldn't be listened to.

ANGLE ON:

Jane comes over to Daniel

JANE

OK, listen. I've been thinking about it, and... if you want to stay here with your mum a bit longer then I'll do it. But six months, and then we're gone.

Daniel touched by the sentiment pulls her into an embrace.

DANIEL

Thank you.

They pull away.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I don't know how I'm gonna do this bloody eulogy now, what with everything I've just found out.

A beat.

JANE

He was still your Dad...

Daniel nods. Reverend approaches Daniel looking at his watch and appearing flustered.

REVEREND

Right. We're really gonna have to whiz through this now.

DANIEL

Sure. Lets go.

(CONTINUED)

REVEREND

Do you want to have the casket opened for people to have a final look at the deceased-

DANIEL

No!

The Reverend looks shocked at Daniel's over reaction, but ignores it and stands up at the front and speaks at high speed.

REVEREND

Well, I'd like to apologize on behalf of the family for all of the distractions. I hope that everyone is settled and ready to continue with the service, and Daniel would like to say a few words about his father.

Everyone takes their seats. Robert manages to squeeze in next to Katie.

Jane gives Daniel an encouraging look as he makes his way to the front. The entire congregation has settled and are staring up at Daniel attentively.

Daniel clears his throat and prepares to begin. The room is absolutely silent. He takes a deep breath and begins.

DANIEL

My father... was an exceptional-

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Everyone looks to the front as, suddenly, a loud banging emanates from the coffin.

Everyone stares at it in stunned silence.

Daniel looks like a deer caught in headlights.

He looks at Robert who gestures to him to continue. He nervously struggles on.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

My father was an exceptional man.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Everyone stares at the coffin in awe. Daniel bravely continues.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Not only did he live for his family,
but he was always there for others-

BANG! BANG!

VICTOR

What the hell is going on?

MOURNER 1

There's someone in there!

SIMON

I knew it!

Suddenly the coffin lid flips off and everyone stares in wonder as Peter sits up, looking like the most fucked person in the world, and babbling incoherently.

Several people scream.

Everyone looks completely stunned.

ROBERT

What the hell are you doing in my
Dad's coffin?

Peter babbles incoherent nonsense.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus. Howard give me a hand here.

Howard steps forward with Troy.

HOWARD

(whispered)

You said he was dead!

TROY

Well, I guess I was wrong.

Robert, Howard, Troy and a couple of others try to lift Peter out of the coffin. But he's holding onto the corpse.

PETER

No! No!

As they finally pull him out, the various photographs falls to the floor, right in front of where Sandra is sitting.

Howard and Troy manage to pull Peter off to one side.

(CONTINUED)

Sandra bends down and picks up one of the photographs and stares at it.

Her face turns to horror as she makes out the image.

The rancour in the room is broken by Sandra's howling cry. Victor comes over and takes the photo from Sandra's hand.

VICTOR

Oh my good god!

Everyone stops what they're doing and look back at Victor and Sandra in silence. Sandra looks shell shocked.

Everything looks like it's going to descend into total chaos until Daniel finally shouts across the room.

DANIEL

MY FATHER WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL MAN!!!

Everyone, including Peter, looks at Daniel, stunned. There's a long silence.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

He may not have been a perfect man...
But he was a good man. And he loved
us. And all I wanted to do today was
to give him a dignified send off... To
give him the respect that he
deserved... Is that really so much to
ask?

The mourners look up at Daniel with undivided attention.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

So maybe he had some... things he
liked to do... Life isn't simple...
It's complicated. We're just thrown
here together, in a world filled with
chaos and confusion, a world full of
questions with no answers, with death
always lingering around the corner...
And we do our best, god damn it... We
can only do our best... And Dad did
his best...

Daniel looks over at the coffin. We see that Peter is moved by the speech.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

He always tried to teach me that you have to go for what you want in life, because you never know how long you're going to be here...And whether you succeed... or you fail... the important thing is to have tried... But a parent can only guide you in the right direction... In the end, you have to learn for yourself. You have to grow up yourself.

A beat. Jane looks up at her husband with pride. We see the various other mourners looking at Daniel and listening.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

So when you all leave here today, I want you to remember Dad for who he really was... A decent, loving man... who never judged others for their flaws... who never condemned anyone for how they chose to live their own lives... who never cast aspersions or held prejudices, or looked down his nose at others... If only we could all be as giving, and as generous and as understanding as my father was... then the world would be a far better place.

Daniel turns and walks out of the room. Everyone watches him go.

FADE IN:

FADE OUT:

131 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER - EVENING

131

Daniel is sitting on one of the chairs, looking drained. Robert comes in looking like he's had some time to recover. He walks over and takes a seat next to his brother.

DANIEL

...How's mum doing?

ROBERT

She'll survive... And on the positive side, now she knows why Dad didn't want to have sex for the last twenty odd years.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I'm going to take her to New York with me. She'll be better off there for a while I think... Give you and Jane a chance to breathe a bit, you know. Get your house and everything.

Daniel looks at Robert, surprised.

DANIEL

Wow...

ROBERT

That was a pretty good speech you gave there by the way. It was really... impressive.

DANIEL

Thanks.

A silent pause.

Robert looks slightly awkward. Daniel shifts in his seat.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Maybe, when you've got some time, you wouldn't mind taking a look at my novel.

A beat.

ROBERT

...I'd love to.

There's a moment between them. They both smile. It looks like they might almost go in for a hug, when Jane enters the room and breaks up the moment.

DANIEL

Hey. How are you feeling?

JANE

Exhausted. Uncle Alfie's in a right state... Keeps going on about the dead body in the bathroom. I think it's best if he stays here tonight.

DANIEL

Do you think he'll be OK?

(CONTINUED)

JANE

Yeah, he'll be alright... I gave him a couple of Valium and put him to bed. That should keep him quiet for a while.

Jane exits the room. Daniel and Robert look at each other.

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END