

1 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 1. 1

LIAM, (32) is in a meeting room with a group of lawyers, MAX, LEAH, ROBBIE. They are partners in a successful firm. Leah and Robbie are sat, casually, Max, to show how laid back he is, perches on a table edge.

We see events from Liam's POV initially - for a beat or two before we move to regular shooting.

MAX

Okay look, little speech time, I've been mentioning this to everyone about their appraisals, and I just want you to know: It's not a witch hunt for the deadwood. Much more a treasure hunt for the gold?

(beat)

Shit sinks, but also cream floats.

LIAM

Yes. Yes I see that.

The next to speak, ROBBIE, seems a tad colder than MAX

ROBBIE

This is a chance to review your targets in the new environment - but also it's cool to hook up.

LIAM

Of course, yes, totally.

MAX

Shall we just have a beer? because -
(checks clock)
that is very much the atmosphere we like to project ... and...

There's a fridge in the corner of the office. Max gets four beers out.

MAX (CONT'D)

- to actually, to have.

Max gives one to Liam, who pops it open, sips.

ROBBIE

Having it is one of the best ways of projecting it.

Robbie puts his hand out to decline the offered beer - he won't be drinking.

LEAH

Totally.
(re her offered beer)
I'll hang fire.

Max puts his beer down next to him. Unopened. Liam clocks this. He has to take another chug on his now it's open, but it looks very much like he's going to be the only one drinking. He drinks a bit too much in his desire to be casual. Coughs.

LIAM
I love the - new things in
reception, with the - what would
you call those -
(he motions an odd light
fitting or something - we
can't tell what)
Things...?

MAX
(interrupting wanting to
move things along)
Exactly, brilliant.

Max flashes a look at Leah who's keeping a record of stuff on sheets in front of her.

LEAH
So we talked last year about you
taking a step up? Let me just bring
that up...

She produces a small nubbin-- a thumb remote -- manipulates it -- like she's using the trackpad on a laptop. At the same time, her pupils turn 'milky' -- she's seeing an overlaid operating system in her head -- she's scrolling through footage and selecting a bit--

LIAM
Yes, I --

Leah's very quickly found what she was looking for, and clicks the remote in the direction of a glass screen. On it flashes up. An image from her POV of the same room same people (maybe without Robbie - someone different?) 6 months ago.

LIAM (CONT'D)
-- and, uh yes...

1.1 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM (ONE YEAR BEFORE) *PLAYBACK* DAY. 1.1

On the screen: Liam in the same room the previous year.

MAX
You do need to step up Liam, can
you step up?

LIAM
I think I can step up.

ROBBIE
*I'd say it should be a primary aim
re personal progress.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

Back in the room

LIAM
Uh-huh. Okay.

MAX
So what would be great now is if
you could re-do us a time where you
have actually...

LIAM
Stepped up?

This was clearly the way this 'casual' appraisal was always going to go. But Leah and Max nod along like this is a crazy little idea they all might indulge for a minute or two.

ROBBIE
An example where you stepped up.
Yeah that *would* be great.

LIAM
Sure, yes, okay.

Liam de-focuses on the room. Direct onto a little contact-lens sized screen on his eye ball, a menu read out is displaying.

From his POV is a menu of times and dates, icons for past days and events.

In his hand is a little remote. Heavy and comfy in the hand. His thumb fits neatly in a hollow that identifies him. He scrolls with his thumb around a rim. 'Step Up Edit'. He clicks his remote towards a screen in the interview room to 'throw' the re-do up there.

(An icon in the top right corner might show the number of times this re-do has been replayed. '13x Redos' in this case.)

1.2 INT. OFFICE *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 1.2

On screen Liam, is with another guy, being addressed by a superior, Keith.

KEITH
*Umm. The Kendricks case is closed.
So Liam, does that mean you can
take on the Rossi stuff? It's
complex.*

Keith looks at his employee waiting for someone to step up to the plate.

*LIAM (O.S.)
Er. Yeah? Sure.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

In the room everyone clocks that Liam doesn't sound that up for the task.

*LIAM (CONT'D)
That's just - human, hesitation.
I'd just had a baby and ...*

*MAX
Of course.*

On the screen. We jump forward.

*LIAM
I put this together.*

*MAX
An edit's fine.*

1.3 *INT. OFFICE *PLAYBACK*. DAY.* 1.3

Liam is now in a room with Keith again.

*LIAM
Keith? Just heard through a mate.
Rossi's have folded. Looks like we
won!*

*KEITH
Okay. Nice one Liam. Well done.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

The edit ends. ROBBIE doesn't look hugely impressed.

*MAX
Okay. Good finish, like it.*

*ROBBIE
How much did we make on Rossi?*

*LEAH
(looking on a
sheet/screen)
According to Keith's appraisal we
made... zero.*

*LIAM
There was an issue on the billing
side.*

ROBBIE

Billing didn't step up.

LIAM

Uh, well no.

ROBBIE

Should we lean on billing?

LIAM

I don't know about 'lean on', but --

LEAH (checking
notes)

You didn't flag any concerns about them.

MAX

We'll lean on billing.

(changing subject)

So anyhow Liam, what do you want to achieve next?

LIAM

Next, I... What I want to do now is take the next step up.

MAX

The next next step?

LIAM

Right.

Is the group convinced?

ROBBIE

A new area we're getting lots of play in, and your office could be a centre for, is litigation in retrospective parenting cases.

LIAM

Retrospective..
?

LEAH

Bobby sues mum and dad for insufficient attention leading to lack of confidence, leading to damages against earnings?

LIAM

Right. And we're okay, the firm's okay, with that ethically?

Max Robbie and Leah don't want to look like monsters but this thought has not really occurred to them much previously.

ROBBIE

Yep.

MAX

Sure.

LEAH

Mmm-hmm.

LIAM

Right. No. Of course.

ROBBIE

Are you?

LIAM

Totally. Yes.

MAX

So. Look Liam if we invite you to stay with the firm in the new environment we'd have you pull an exhaustive re-do with personnel next week?

LIAM

Oh okay - I was ready to run a big re-do right now...?

MAX

Next week. And we have to ask this, they're not going to hit anything to freak us? No major deletions this quarter?

LIAM

No. No. I think everything's within ... parameters.

MAX

It's not like we need to see every night with uh -- are you married?

LIAM

Almost a year.

MAX

Ha, well we'll keep the honeymoon private, okay.

LIAM

Right. Yes. Haha. Good.

ROBBIE isn't laughing. LIAM coughs a bit.

MAX

Okay great Liam, this has been great. We really hope to look forward to seeing you again.

The group get up. Liam realizes it's the moment to get up and go. But he has not had much of his beer. What to do? He puts it down. But that looks wasteful. Takes a big gulp. Realizes that's not right. He ends up choosing to walk out with it. Not great either.

Outside the room he peers back in through the windows. The blinds close on him. The writing is on the wall.

2 INT. TAXI - LATER. DAY 1. 2

Liam is climbing into a cab.

LIAM

Airport please.

Liam climbs into the back of the cab. He leans his head back. He's thinking. He toys with his remote.

He spins, clicks his little remote and from his POV we switch from an interior of the taxi to a bit of the interview from Liam's POV.

We can see his eyes have glazed. The centre is a milky disc. He's replaying 'full-screen'. It fills all his vision. (Although maybe we can see the ghostly outline of the taxi beyond just faintly.)

2.1 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 2.1

LIAM

Right. And we're okay, the firm's okay, with that ethically?

ROBBIE

Yep.

MAX

Sure.

LEAH

Mmm-hmm.

LIAM

Right. No. Of course.

ROBBIE

Are you?

LIAM
Totally. Yes.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam's face winces as he relives it. He clicks to stop. As he stops the memory playing, he clocks the screen in the back of the cab starting to play an ad.

2.2 *EXT. COUNTRY FIELD *GRAIN AD* DAY.*

2.2

GRAIN AD:

A man breathes in the fresh country air.

AD V/O
Memory without scent is like food
without taste.

Cut to a little boy - (footage treated to look older - possibly 2010s style clothes?) running through the same field years ago.

AD V/O (CONT'D) The new
Willow Grain from Victapulse
reproduces the tight link between
the Mammillary memory body and the
olfactory bulb.

The boy sits with his mother and bites ecstatically into a piece of bread and jam.

AD V/O (CONT'D) Giving
you crystal clear recollections,
packed with all the emotions you
remember.

In a drug company style simple animated graphic we see the way the grain is connected - hard wired by thin filaments from the eyes and ears. Connecting up into the Grain just behind the ear.

In the little graphic we also see the transparent flexible 'screens' that fit snugly like contact lenses onto the wearer's eyes for play-backs. And a thumb flashing red as it is 'read' by a 'Willow' remote.

AD V/O (CONT'D) New
Willow. With olfactory simulation
and 20 year VHQ memory storage.
Same easy back-up, same triple
locked security. Because the scent
of life is the heart of memory.

END OF GRAIN AD:

Liam glances at his watch anxiously.

3 INT. AIRPORT. DAY 1.

3

Liam's running to his gate. We can't see any planes and the other passengers have boarded.

A family are there with the security guy near the exit to the gang-way. In discussion. It's a big family - in transit. Big bulky cheap luggage, several kids.

The discussion/argument has been going on some time and the Security Guard is putting an end to it now. There's a still image - a POV shot of model ship/aircraft being made on a table. Little tools, screwdrivers, small modelling knives are there in the shot.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD

I understand but--

DAD

We have a connecting fli--

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD

(indicating freeze frame)

-- the system's flagged this as a suspect image.

DAD

He's making a model boat. My son is making HMS Victory.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD

You'll have to wait while we manually review it.

DAD

But--

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD

That's procedure.

The dad is exasperated, heads back to his family to explain.

Liam walks through a body scanner. It beeps. The security guard has a load of information come up in front of them about Liam.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Mr Foxwell. Could you just rewind me your last 24 hours quad-speed there for me please?

Liam eyes the family waiting there. He's embarrassed to be in a different social strata as he clicks his remote towards the Guard's screen and Liam's last 24 hours spins by at high speed. If we see any flashes - rather than just the guard's watching face - it is from the interview we have just seen.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
Great and back that up for me times
64 for the week?

We cut away as the images spin quickly backwards.

AIRPORT SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
That's great. Enjoy your flight Mr
Foxwell.

As Liam walks on we see the other family shuffling away in the background.

4 EXT. STREET - NIGHT - LATER 4

Liam is arriving with a bottle of wine to a suburban house.

In through the window, we can see the warmth and life of a little party in progress. We can see Paul Tollgate, and Liam's wife, Ffion talking to Jeff and Jonas.

Jonas says something. Ffion and Jeff laugh. Ffion looks lost in the moment. Touches her throat. She looks lovely.

This is a little gang who used to know each other from 10 or so years ago. They're getting older now but they have a bohemian rather than suburban vibe. Their house looks like it has some cool stuff around.

Liam spins his finger on his pebble. Clicks. His eye goes milky as he replays an image from another party, a tight c/u on Paul introducing his wife who is looking away:

4.1 INT. PARTY *PLAYBACK* - NIGHT. 4.1

PAUL TOLLGATE
*And you've met, Lucy? I think - at
the Dublin wedding?*

Liam knocks on the door. (Which he can see 'through' the memory playing)

LUCY TOLLGATE
*Hi. Hi again.
(she introduces her kids)
This is Jamie and Lisa.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam halts the action. Mutters to himself as he waits at the door.

5 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER. NIGHT 1. 5

FFION (30ish) is talking to a man, JEFF (40ish), JONAS (30ish) is in their group too. They are old friends, they can be harsh with each other without it really counting too much.

On a screen in the living room:

5.1 INT. HOTEL. *PLAYBACK* DAY. 5.1

Jeff's POV of a hotel room. It's fine. Maybe not so lovely.

A hand lifts a duvet that was covering a bit of floor to show a slightly worn patch of carpet.

END OF PLAYBACK:

JEFF
(re, carpet)
I'm not being funny but look at that.

FFION
Look at what?

JEFF
The frayed patch. There. See?

FFION
Seriously?

JEFF
Fi, it was Five star? I should be able to enjoy that whenever. That shitty carpet's always there now.

JONAS
Only if you keep looking at it.

JEFF
Yeah piss off Jonas. So that was the story on the carpet. You probably thought that was the atrocity, right?
(Ffion shrugs)
But no, hold on, welcome - to shower-geddon!*

(* may not be a shower, footage depending)

He slides a button on his controller and we are looking at a totally normal looking, if not great, shower unit. (OR EQUIV)

JONAS

Did you get to the beach at all?

Jonas and Ffion smile at one another.

JEFF

I didn't mind, obviously, but some people would.

Jeff is sliding the controls. Possibly we might see footage of two breakfast plates up next to one another - one rather fuller.

6 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE - NIGHT 1 - CONTINUOUS.

6

The door opens.

LUCY TOLLGATE

Hello...

She welcomes Liam, but doesn't immediately place him.

LIAM

Lucy? Liam. We met at the Dublin wedding?

He's pleased to be the one who's 'remembered' their last meeting.

He goes to kiss her just as she puts out a hand to shake, they both try to adapt quickly.

LUCY TOLLGATE

Liam! Oh. Great... Liam. Yeah. Great to see you again. Where's Fi been hiding you??

LIAM

Oh, nowhere. In our house!

LUCY TOLLGATE

We didn't - she didn't know if you'd make it?

LIAM

No, all over quicker than I thought. So. How are you?
(showing off a little)
Jamie and Lisa good?

LUCY TOLLGATE

They're great, look it's great you made it to see the whole crew. Let's get you a drink.

They come into the main living area or at least a point where they can see across the main room and - in to a corner - where Liam spots Ffion and Jonas talking. Ffion and Jonas are having a little private chat.

For a beat neither Ffion or Jonas sees Liam. And their physical geography looks wrong for a pair of people who are simply friends. It looks somehow sexualized, a little flirty, but, however, definitely within the arena of normal human friendly interaction.

Ffion sweeps the room and spots Liam. There's a moment -- a brief moment -- of disorientation on her face. She composes herself and comes over.

FFION

Hey! You're back early then --
didn't think you'd (make it)

She kisses him.

LIAM

Yeah well I didn't stay over, got
an earlier flight.

FFION

(re the appraisal)
So?
(he doesn't answer)
The appraisal?

LIAM

Well they might get me to do the re-
do next week they said.

FFION

Oh.
(she's trying to read the
implication)
But good?

LIAM

(non comittal)
Mnnn.

FFION

Later?

LIAM

Later. Jody here or --?

FFION

At home. Gina's babysitting.

LIAM

Okay. Right.

LIAM looks around a bit. He's about to say something to FFION -- something along the lines of not wanting to stay long. He's not entirely comfortable here. But before he can speak JONAS sidles over. And puts a hand on Ffion's shoulder.

JONAS

Hey.

FFION

Jonas, this is --

JONAS

Liam, right? Jonas.

Jonas goes into a full-on hand shake with a meaningful 'deep' look into Liam's eyes. Maybe an arm round the back too.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Good to meet you man.

Liam is jangled, but trying to keep up.

LIAM

Likewise.

FFION quickly points out JEFF.

FFION

You know Jeff?

JONAS

You'd remember, cos he'll have shown you, I don't know, a re-do of a fruitless metal detecting expedition or something?

Jonas smiles at his little joke against Jeff. Ffion ignores him and it.

JEFF

Piss *off* Jonas.

LIAM

Hi?

JEFF

Your wife's being mean to me.

LIAM

Yeah she's like that.

JONAS

Tell us about it.

That's a tad over-familiar -- just a tad. Ffion angles right away from Jonas. He starts to head away from the little gang. Ffion doesn't even look at him as he goes to get a drink.

JONAS (CONT'D)
(as he's leaving)
Drink?

Fi, without looking round, gives a slightly stiff shake. Stays studiously not clocking him. As Liam watches Jonas walk off, his view is blocked as another woman, Colleen is brought into their group by Lucy.

LUCY TOLLGATE
Colleen. Come and meet Liam, he's
a...

LIAM
Soon to be unemployed slash
unemployable lawyer.

Ffion smiles but has heard him put himself down once too many times.

LUCY TOLLGATE
And Jeff? Jeff. Jeff and Fi used to
run the squat parties with Paul and
me before we started up the Kings.

They all say hi. Lucy has in her mind that Colleen and Jeff might be a suitable couple. She hangs around.

COLLEEN
So. Yeah.

There's plenty to say but there's almost too much going on as everyone checks each other out and works out what they think. Lucy doesn't like the lull. She wants a fun party.

LUCY TOLLGATE
So Liam? You had a - what was it?
Assessment?

LIAM
Appraisal. You know. Good.
Disaster. I don't know.

COLLEEN
Hard to gauge?

LIAM
Yeah.

JEFF
Well let's have a look. Re-do? We
can appraise the appraisal!

LIAM
Ha, right, yeah.

Liam looks at Fi.

JEFF
Throw it up there. We can grade
you!

LIAM
Yeah, well...

JEFF
Come on.

FFION
Aw, no.

But the hostess sees this could be a fun part of her party.

LUCY TOOLGATE
Might be fun, we could vote? Paul!

JEFF
I'm in recruitment actually so it
could be useful?

Liam is at the centre of the party. The group are all looking
at him. He really doesn't want to do this, these people
aren't on his wavelength ... but social pressure is building.

Paul has joined them.

LUCY TOOLGATE
(to Paul)
Liam's going to redo his appraisal
so we can give him marks!

COLLEEN
Notes.

JEFF
More like pointers.

Ffion tries to help, subtly ...

FFION
I think Liam would probably ...

LIAM
Yeah I don't know if ...

But then Jonas wades in.

JONAS
Hey, look, guys, no, come on.
Seriously, not on. Liam's obviously
not comfortable okay? So... let's
drop it yeah? Have a cool time.

Jonas looks at Liam. I got you out of one. The cunt even
winks. Liam smiles - a weak smile of thanks.

Paul Tollgate is carrying a plate of savoury pancakes.

PAUL TOLLGATE
Time to eat.

The group breaks. Liam catches Ffion. Hushed tones.

LIAM
(indicating Jonas)
I've not met him before have I?
'Jonas' is it?

FFION
He's one of the old crowd. I think
I said.

LIAM
I don't think so.

FFION
No, I did.

She looks at Liam for a beat. Something's eating him.

FFION (CONT'D)
You okay?

LIAM
Yeah. Yeah.

FFION
We can go if you're not in the
mood?

LIAM
Yeah but -- you're with your
friends-

FFION
They're not really my *friends*, just
people I've known for years.
(he smiles, she smiles)
Seriously. If you want?

He looks at her. Is this a genuine offer? But just her having
made it kind of makes things better.

LIAM
No, no. I'm fine. Really.

FFION
Okay

She kisses him -- a big reassuring kiss with real warmth.
Then heads off to the eating area. Liam turns away - we see
his thumb on his remote - his eyes go milky as he winds back
to the troublesome body language moment he saw on arrival.

END OF PART ONE

7 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER. NIGHT 1. 7

The style of dinner party is casual.

JONAS

I brought enough for others to share.

People smile - thanks for the offer. But everyone has brought their own food in different pretty dishes and pots. They are set out on the table in front of themselves.

JONAS (CONT'D)

I've been cooking a lot since the break-up.

People smile and raise their hands. Thanks but no thanks to Jonas's offer. The doorbell goes.

LUCY TOLLGATE

(as she goes to answer)

Jonas has had a tough one.

COLLEEN

Was it bad?

It's all broken up - more people having food and drinks than a 'dinner party'. Jonas has been holding forth for a while.

JONAS

Yeah, we were in the middle of planning it all and I suddenly realized, the less the relationship means, the more you spend on the wedding.

Jonas flashes a half look at Ffion - you can see a little twinkle of enjoyment at Jonas' truth-telling in her eye, even though she keeps it subdued.

JONAS (CONT'D)

You obsess over all these tiny little details - the thickness of the invitation paper because, because God knows, you need something to talk about.

Colleen likes the look of Jonas.

Lucy is arriving with a new young woman - Hallam late 20s, slightly counter-culture. But not out of place.

LUCY TOLLGATE

So everybody. This is Hallam. Hallam. Jonas.

(She doesn't say, but means: 'The one I've told you about and you are set up with.)

HALLAM/JONAS

Hi/Hi.

Jonas likes the look of Hallam. Ffion clocks this and looks a teeny bit uncomfortable about it. Just a glimmer.

LUCY TOLLGATE

And everyone.

FFION

Jonas was just explaining why relationships are a sham.

HALLAM

Are they? Shit!

JONAS

They're like the theatre. You pay loads to go and you're wasting your whole night, so when someone asks you, 'Was it good?' you both say - 'Oh yeah, great.' The more you paid, the longer it went on, the more you're 'Oh we loved it.' 'We love being together and never fucking anyone else and only having just one other person to tell our real thoughts to, for our entire lives, yeah it's great.'

Liam is cutting his food with a knife and fork. Pushing it into his mouth. He thinks Jonas is an Olympian prick.

PAUL TOLLGATE

But you were still going to get married?

JONAS

Well you do don't you? I bought in to the conspiracy. Everyone dying going, 'How are you?' 'Oh we're good. And you?' 'Oh great.' All bullshit.

JONAS pops some food in his mouth casually and looks at Ffion. With maybe a slight barb in his eyes.

COLLEEN

Would you say you loved her though?

JONAS

I think we just really fancied each other and that is all it was. You know how it is early on?

(MORE)

JONAS (CONT'D)

We were two... tools in the toolshed who just fitted together really well.

Liam almost rolls his eyes -- he looks at Ffion -- a slightly pained 'who is this tit' sort of look -- Ffion acknowledges it but looks down.

JONAS (CONT'D)

But still by the end I'd be like, 'you go up honey,' I'm gonna catch a bit more news. And I'd find myself watching you know, re-dos of like hot times - early in relationships.

LUCY TOLLGATE

Easy.

Lucy knows this is an area where Ffion doesn't want to go and is protecting her friend very subtly.

JONAS

I'm just saying ... There's a beautiful woman upstairs waiting to have sex with me --

JEFF

What, right now?

Jeff's a bit too eager to show off, but Jonas is holding court. Jeff's gag is largely ignored as Jonas deftly rides past it...

JONAS

... she's up there waiting to have sex with me and I'm downstairs watching re-dos of some night I'd hooked up with someone else and pulling myself off. I mean seriously.

People chuckle. Including Ffion. Jonas is playing the big man. The guy cool enough he can talk about wanking in front of everyone and stay high-status.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Oh come on, everyone scrolls the Grain rifling through their greatest hits for filth now and then? Surely?

As Jonas says this, Jeff is clocking Hallam. She is very pretty.

HALLAM

Not me.

LUCY TOLLGATE
(slightly excited, like
she's brought a stunt
ethnic minority to the
party)
Hallam doesn't have a grain.

That's interesting.

JONAS
No shit.

He pops another bit of food in -- mister casual. Liam decides
it's time he spoke.

LIAM
Is that a political thing?

HALLAM
No, I was gouged about 12 months
ago --

General intake of breath at that -- gouging is notoriously
painful.

PAUL TOLLGATE
Wasn't it painful, I mean--?

HALLAM
Total agony -- but on the plus
side, I can't remember it that
clearly. There's a scar down here --

She indicates the back of her ear -- there is a scar -- they
ooh and grimace a bit. Jonas stands up for a closer look

JONAS
(reaching with hand)
Can I?

Can he touch it? Hallam nods. Jonas runs his finger over it.
Perhaps a little flirtatiously. Ffion looks at this. Liam
looks at Ffion looking at this. It's a bit of a moment.

JONAS (CONT'D)
Hey it's kind of nice. No brain
damage, clearly?

HALLAM
(she smiles)
And my sight held on fine.

PAUL TOLLGATE
So who took it?

HALLAM

Stolen to order as far as they could tell, probably to some millionaire Chinese perv-

PAUL TOLLGATE

Oh really, is that for real?

HALLAM

Yeah, and none of it was encrypted so...

JEFF

(almost imagining it himself)

They saw the lot.

HALLAM

But the thing is after the gouging I didn't have one for a few days and I just kind of... liked it.

JONAS

Cool. And more people are ... it's a big thing right? Going grainless? Like a hundred thousand people or something?

COLLEEN

I believe it's huge with hookers.

(catches herself)

I mean I'm not - no offence... you know, they say it just is.

HALLAM

No, sure. Well I'm pretty boring. One man at a time.

JEFF

Boo!

FFION

A serial monogamist.

JONAS

I'm a cereal monogamist. I'm being faithful to cornflakes right now.

The 'joke' causes a short awkward silence. Broken when Ffion laughs, almost at the awkwardness. Liam looks at her in what verges on naked disbelief.

LUCY TOLLGATE

I think it's an interesting choice, going grainless.

PAUL TOLLGATE

It's a brave choice.

COLLEEN

I'm sorry. But it's -- well I
couldn't do it.

There's a tear in the social fabric.

HALLAM

Uh-huh?

Lucy nods to Paul. He tries to defuse the awkwardness,
readies his thumb remote...

PAUL TOLLGATE

Okay. I was gonna play some redos
from the squat party days. Stuff
from the last night. Depressing, or
fun?

Paul's eyes de-focus as he scrolls out of an entertainment
menu. But Colleen won't let it go.

COLLEEN

I mean all I'd say is... Where were
you this day, last week? Last
Tuesday?

HALLAM

I was about to say swimming but
that was Wednesday, I think.

COLLEEN

That's the Ebbinghaus curve.

LUCY TOLLGATE

Colleen works with Grain
development.

COLLEEN

It's the rate at which you forget
things if you're off-grain.

Paul clicks his controller and on a screen behind Hallam
starts to roll a little loop of stills from the gang's glory
days.

7.1 INT. SQUAT PARTY. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT.

7.1

Jeff, Fi and Paul and Lucy 5/6 years ago at a cool party.

*(Depending on how easy these are to achieve there might be
only three or four images of the same big night - if we're
more ambitious - more pictures across 2 or 3 nights. They
could be stills or little memory clips from Paul's POV in
slow mo - home edited to poignant background music - first
bit of Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata)*

END OF PLAYBACK:

HALLAM

The important stuff I'll remember.

As they are talking Liam looks at Ffion. Looks at Jonas.

COLLEEN

You know half the organic memories
you have are junk? Just not
trustworthy.

HALLAM

When it comes to little things.

COLLEEN shakes her head.

7.2 INT. CLUB. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT.

7.2

*Up on the screen behind Hallam - happy, drugged up night
images, Jeff, Fi and Paul and Lucy hug, non sexually. Matey.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

COLLEEN

And big ones. With half the
population you can implant false
memories just by asking leading
questions in therapy.

JEFF scoffs. Coleen continues undaunted.

PAUL TOLLGATE

Is that too loud? Tell me if it's
too loud.

COLLEEN

You can make people 'remember'
getting lost in shopping malls they
never visited. Getting bothered by
paedophile babysitters they never
had.

JEFF

"Bothered"? Ha! Kiddy-botherers!

The look that prompts suggests Jeff's not going home with
Colleen tonight. Meanwhile, Liam is covering his eyes, like
he's thinking or is tired. But we can see his thumb -- it's
fiddling with his remote.

HALLAM

All I can say is, honestly, not
having one just makes me feel
more...

Liam looks up - behind Hallam is another image - Jeff's POV,
Paul and Lucy kiss.

Liam is preoccupied with the image he's replaying, but just before he returns to review it paused again on his POV, he clocks the wall screen and there's flash of Jonas and Ffion in the gloom in the background kissing. Liam doesn't clock this element of it though.

In the foreground stands Paul and Lucy under a banner that says "Goodbye Frazer Road"

The music Paul has laid over, Kreutzer, plays on.

COLLEEN

No back-up, no help with the lost
keys, no chance to re-live the day
you met your husband, no proof if
you're mugged, none of that...

From Ffion's POV it looks like Liam is dozing or thinking hard.

HALLAM

I'm just... happier now.

But as he looks up briefly we see his eyes are milky before he can shade them. As Colleen makes her next speech - we are focussed on what Liam is playing back.

COLLEEN

But you don't even know if *that's*
true. In the pre-Grain days: these
researchers interviewed housewives
right after their weddings and
again after they'd been married
after ten years. Graded their
happiness each time, actually put a
number to it. And guess what they
found?

JEFF

Half of them had killed themselves?

JONAS

Because they hadn't been laid in
years.

Everyone laughs. Between Ffion and Jonas there's a twinkle. He likes being teased by her and she likes to tease him.

While Colleen speaks, our attention hones in on what Liam's doing -- in his head we see: playing his entrance to the party, freezing the action when Jonas and Ffion were talking to one another as he arrived. It looks worrying to him.

COLLEEN

After ten years they *believed* they
were happier than they'd been at
the start, as if their happiness
had grown, but it hadn't.

(MORE)

COLLEEN (CONT'D)

They'd just *forgotten* how happy they'd *really* been at the start. Their own memories lied to make them feel better about their shitty marriages.

Liam is playing in super slow mo as we continue to hear Colleen voiced over the action from earlier.

COLLEEN (CONT'D)

Organic memory's a trap, a sort of self-deception engine. With a grain you've got the truth.

Everything's gone a little chilly.

JONAS

And a greatest hits reel of the good bits.

That prompts a little laughter from everyone but Liam. Ffion smiles despite herself.

COLLEEN

And that, yes.

8 INT. CAR. NIGHT 1.

8

Liam and Fi are in the back of a cab. It's a little tense.

FFION

Alright?

LIAM

Yeah.

Liam is not being too friendly.

FFION

So, the... appraisal..

LIAM

I don't know. It was short.

She looks at him as if to say "stop being a dick"

With one hand Liam spins to the right point and clicks onto the taxi screen:

8.1 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 8.1

MAX

Okay great Liam, this has been great. We hope to look forward to seeing you again.

END OF PLAYBACK:

FFION

'Look forward to seeing you again' - that's good.

Ffion looks bright and hopeful. Liam shows a flash of concern.

LIAM

'Hope to look forward'.

Liam clicks.

REPEAT PLAYBACK 8.1:

MAX

Okay great Liam, this has been great. We hope to look forward to seeing you again.

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM

It's kind of...

It does a look a little phony.

FFION

*He 'looks forward to seeing you again?' When's he going to see you again? Next year.
(she spots something)
Hang on...*

She takes the remote - zooms in to a sheet of paper in view in front of Leah, there are some marks on it. Ffion zooms to the limit.

FFION (CONT'D)

Come on. That's a tick.

LIAM

Could be a V? Or an L.

FFION

It's a tick.

LIAM

Probably the start of a swastika, they were such pricks.

Ffion smiles.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Good night with your old crowd?

FFION
(nodding)
Mm-hm

Liam is trying to casually bring up something --

LIAM
You get to speak to Jonas much?

FFION
Tonight, no, not really.

LIAM
Bit of an arsehole isn't he?

Ffion doesn't say anything to that. Her smile fades ever so slightly.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Bit of a dick, yeah?

He waits for her to say something. She doesn't.

LIAM,
(beat)
"Jonas". Wanking over his own
relationship theories, oh it must
be such a drag putting it about,
Jonas...

She's not biting.

LIAM
God, when he 'protected me' from
those tossers?
(impression of Jonas)
'Hey it's not cool to redo another
man's appraisal dudes. I can tell
you cos I can almost see you down
there, the puny humans, from my
position up here on top of dick-
pull mountain.'

He's waiting for supportive laughs. None arrive.

LIAM (CONT'D)
"Mind if I finger your scar? Mmm,
that's good, I like it."

FFION laughs faintly, in appeasement.

LIAM (CONT'D)

"Just gonna rub my massive penis
along it, hope you don't mind".
Bloke's a twat.

That's enough for Ffion.

FFION

Then why invite him over?

She looks in the rear view mirror. There's a car right behind them.

LIAM

I like him.

(then)

I thought you wanted me to invite
him over?

FFION

I didn't say anything.

LIAM

You wanted him over, you were
laughing at everything he said.

Liam's crossed a line.

FFION

You invited him.

Ffion scrolls and clicks, points her remote at the screen in the car.

8.2 I/E. CARS OUTSIDE TOLLGATES HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 8.2

IN THE PLAYBACK: Ffion, Liam and Jonas are outside cars outside the Tollgates. (or just inside if that's easier to shoot.) From Ffion's POV:

JONAS

Okay well bye.

Ffion lingers for a tiny beat.

FFION

Yep. Bye. Wow. It's early. Early to
call it a night.

JONAS

Cheeky one at the pub?

Ffion looks at Liam. She's interested...

LIAM

Gotta get back, rescue Jody from
the paedophile babysitter.

Liam wants to be the big man, show he's not intimidated or unnerved by Jonas.

LIAM (CONT'D)

But... How about, Jonas you could come for a night-cap at ours?

END OF PLAYBACK:

Back in the cab.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Oh come on Fi. It was obvious I didn't want him to come.

FFION

Don't argue, he can probably see. Be nice.

Ffion is nodding her head and smiling.

Liam looks at her.

LIAM

Are you - making out to a twat we barely know, in a car behind us, that we're having a nice time?

FFION

(still smiling)

If you really don't want him to come, you can get rid of him.

LIAM

(smiling back)

Fine. I will.

9

EXT. FFION & LIAM'S HOUSE. NIGHT 1.

9

The taxi has dropped Liam and Ffi at home. Jonas is getting out of his car.

JONAS

Hey hey!

Liam yawns.

LIAM

Yeah, what time is it actually?

JONAS

Pfff, midnight?

LIAM

Shit, it got late. Time's - gone on.

JONAS
Time does that.
(looks at watch)
What, fifteen minutes?

Liam yawns again.

LIAM
And the babysitter's in.

JONAS
So... is that new info?

LIAM
We just wonder if... right, Fi?

Fi shrugs a smile, sorry.

JONAS
Oh okay. I get it.

LIAM
Sorry. We're just actually tired it
turns out. I guess I forgot, but
now I've remembered! Sorry.

JONAS
It's fine. Really.

FFION
I'm sorry.

JONAS
That's cool. No worries. I've got,
uh, a back-up plan.

LIAM
Cool. Well, invoke the back-up!

JONAS
(blows a kiss to Ffion)
Later Fi.
(then)
Well great to meet you man.

Jonas gives Liam a hug farewell. Liam hugs back - the more he dislikes this guys, the less willing he is to show to his face he's rocked him.

LIAM
Brilliant.

So after the hug he shakes his hand again.

As JONAS drives off, LIAM stares after him.

LIAM (CONT'D)
(under breath, mocking)
'Well great to meet you man'. Pfff.

10 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - LATER. NIGHT 1. 10

Liam is paying off their friendly looking baby-sitter.
Ffion is on the phone.

LIAM
Jody okay?

GINA
Great, nothing.

FFION
Listen, Gina, 40 minute wait for a
cab? If you want the bed's made up
in the my office? Yeah?

GINA
Uh okay thanks Ffi.

11 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER. NIGHT 1. 11

Liam and Ffion are front of a TV/screen. They have brandy and
glasses out. A X32 POV from their sleeping baby replays.

11.1 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - JODY'S BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK* 11.1
NIGHT.

*It starts off staring out of the cot. Liam then Ffion in
super fast motion kiss down into the cot. Then the POV goes
black. Wakes once and Gina's face looms over. Then settles
again back to black.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam and Fi watch together. But while Fi is watching, Liam is
replaying things in his eye again.

Liam scans, in-eye, scrolls, rewinds. Clicks play, watches
the moment of suspect body-language between Ffion and
Jonas... then fast-forwards to an exchange we saw earlier in
the Tollgate house, NOT ONTO THE LIVING ROOM SCREEN -- the
first redo he plays back is ALL in-eye...

11.2 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK* - NIGHT. 11.2

LIAM
I've not met him before have I?

FFION

He's one of the old crowd. I think I said.

LIAM

I don't think so.

FFION

Oh.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam pauses it.

LIAM

Was he a big part of the gang?

FFION

Who?

LIAM

Jonas.

FFION

I dunno. Yeah.

LIAM

Let me guess, spent his time oozing round the girls, offering backrubs...

FFION

Not really...

LIAM

... circling for an orifice.

Ffion is quiet.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Was he always that oily or --

FFION

Okay look--

She sighs -- she wants to be on the level.

LIAM

(worried)

What?

FFION

Nothing but - you might've sensed a bit of a weird atmosphere because... me and Jonas, years ago we... had a bit of a thing.

LIAM

A thing - with oily 'dude' man?

FFION

Just a little thing and I didn't even know you back then, so...

LIAM

You slept with oily 'dude' man? That's hilarious.

FFION

We've all got skeletons. How about you and Gemma?

LIAM

I told you about Gemma, Gemma was a nutcase; you never mentioned Jonas.

FFION

I did, I said about a guy I hooked up with in Marrakesh?

LIAM

Jonas is Mr Marrakesh?

FFION

-- for a month -- it was a stupid thing, it was--

LIAM

I thought Mr Marrakesh was some sort of supercool... well not *him*

FFION

It was years ago, and--

LIAM

Aren't you embarrassed? Sorry but that *is* embarrassing.

(forces a laugh)

I mean sorry. But Christ you must be embarrassed?

FFION

(no)

It was years ago.

LIAM

But you were with him for a month?

FFION

(this is starting to grate)

That's what I said.

LIAM

Because when you told me about Mr Marrakesh you said it was a week?

FFION

I don't know.

Liam flicks his remote, looking for 'Mr Marrakesh' references on his display. (eyes go milky) then he finds it -- He clicks up onto the screen:

11.3 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S HOUSE - BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK* NIGHT.11.3

Ffion and Liam close up in bed. Post coital and cosy. LIAM'S POV.

FFION

I don't want to see our first night right now ...

LIAM

Shh, you're talking:

On the screen:

FFION

... No one big. I was living in Hammersmith, at this squat, we ran parties there, and then I went away and had a little thing that did my head in for a while with this sort of - sort of a head-fuck guy in Marrakesh.

LIAM

"Mr Marrakesh". I'm imagining some guy with a chillum and a huge dick.

FFION

(running him down for Liam)

Hah. No. Like a dormouse.

LIAM

Big deal? Big heartbreaker?

FFION

(lying well)

No, it was just a week... a weird week -- Then it's just been dates ... Till now.

She smiles at Liam. (Maybe there's a mirror in the room so as Fi looks around we can see how comfortable with one another they are).

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM

A weird week? Or a month?

FFION

The point is it wasn't a big deal --

LIAM

Big enough to "do your head in".
He's Big Chief Dormouse Dick of
Marrakesh but he did your head in.

Ffion finds all this weird.

LIAM (CONT'D) (pointing to
re-do paused)

That was a nice night. Or it used
to be.

FFION

You're getting obsessed.

LIAM

I'm not.

FFION

We had this with Dan. I don't want
you going like that again. You got
obsessed, you broke up with me--

LIAM

I didn't 'break up with you' --

FFION

You walked out! You were totally
obsessed

LIAM

I wasn't obsessed

FFION

How often did you bring up Dan...

She clicks, Up on a screen comes a read out: 'Liam mentions
Dan 2075 instances'

FFION (CONT'D)

Versus mentions of your own mum?

Up on comes a read out: 'Liam mentions 'Mum' 63 instances'.

FFION (CONT'D)

You made it so... weird... I was
glad when he left the firm.

LIAM

He had creepy eyes and was always
hanging around you like he was--

FFION

--like he was interested, you know what, I think maybe he fancied me. And actually he wasn't completely hideous so in another life, I don't know. But *nothing happened*. And Jonas is an old fling, so what, don't go all fucked up.

LIAM

I'm fucked up am I?

FFION

No, I meant ...

LIAM

Well sometimes you're a bitch.

They reach silence. For quite a while.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Look. No. sorry ...

Ffion presses a button or two.

LIAM (CONT'D)

... *you're a bitch.*

LIAM (CONT'D)

Ffion. I'm sorry.

Ffion presses a button.

LIAM (CONT'D)

... *you're a bitch.*

She gets up and heads off.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I did not mean that. I'd like you to delete that.

(after her)

Also. 'Sometimes.' You can't edit off 'sometimes.'

12 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S KITCHEN SPACE - LATER. NIGHT 1. 12

Liam is stewing, drinking a brandy.

13 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER. NIGHT 1. 13

The bedroom is neat, orderly. Copley. On the wall above the bed, a framed print -- SOMETHING WE'LL RECOGNISE LATER.

Below it, Ffion is sitting in bed. Liam enters.

LIAM

Sorry. I know I go a bit... wonky sometimes.

FFION

I love you, you know.

LIAM

I know.

He strokes her hair. She doesn't say anything. Picks up the remote - which shushes Liam -- and goes to hit a playback.

Liam gently takes her hand. He smiles. Ffion smiles back.

14 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER. NIGHT 1. 14

Liam and Ffion are having sex. Great sex.

We cut between their two first-person POV's.

14.1 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK* - NIGHT. 14.1

It's hot and passionate - but hard to see what's going on, we're close up on flesh and clothes getting tugged around. Ffion's on top, then not, they're off the bed. It is jump cut using both their POV's.

END OF PLAYBACK:

But then we change shot. Liam and Ffi in real time are in a slow - not unpleasant but hardly epic - long-time-married shag.

Liam on top. Ffion beneath. Both their eyes are milky glazed as they watch their memories of their Great Sex Edit.

They both come softly.

After a beat, they roll apart, hold hands. Happy. Slightly sad.

They smile at one another tenderly. Ffion is sleepy.

LIAM

Maybe if we pooled our grains one day...

FFION

(sleepy)
Mmm?

LIAM

So we both had full access to each other's grains, to everything?

FFION
(sleepy)
Mnn.

LIAM
So we'd see, y'know all the grubby
little crummy ... the bollocks and
phonieness and little double
dealings?
(then; slight nervy laugh)
Think you'd still like me?

FFION
(so sleepy she's not
listening)
Hope so. Go to sleep.

She turns over.

LIAM
Yeah.

She closes her eyes. Liam smiles at her, watches her sleep
for a while.

Then he rolls onto his back. Something troubles him.

His hand reaches out for his remote. He clicks. His eyes go
milky. He sees again:

14.2 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 14.2

*That brief moment of body language between Jonas and Ffion.
He rewinds it. Plays it again.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

15 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - LIVING SPACE. LATER. NIGHT 1. 15

Liam is downstairs, pouring himself a glass of scotch.
Watching a re-do.

15.1 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 15.1

JONAS
*I'd find myself watching you know,
re-dos of like hot times - early in
relationships ...*

*People chuckle. Including Ffion. Jonas is playing the big
man.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam takes a cold sip.

END OF PART TWO

16 EXT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHER. MORNING. DAY 2. 16

A new day dawns.

17 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - LIVING SPACE. MORNING. DAY 2. 17

Liam is drinking. Watching a re-do.

A paused re-do of the party comes up.

He manipulates the remote.

17.1 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK* - NIGHT. 17.1

COMPUTER VOICE

Lipread reconstruction enabled.

Liam hits play. It's Ffion and Jonas at the party as Liam entered and caught them chatting.

As their lips move a computer approximation of their words comes out in voice-over from what the software can make out. The voices are American - a generic 'man' and 'woman' - like the voice you can get to read out your script on Final Draft.

COMPUTER MAN VOICE

*'I didn't know if I could make it.
But I got let off from
INDETERMINATE PHRASE. So that was
cool.'*

COMPUTER WOMAN VOICE

'Cool. '

COMPUTER MAN VOICE

'It's good to be you.'

COMPUTER WOMAN VOICE

*'It's nice to see you Jonas. I
don't see enough of Hugh.'*

END OF PLAYBACK:

Gina, the baby-sitter, comes downstairs -- getting ready to leave. She spots Liam sitting at the screen, brooding, the bottle almost empty. She stops.

GINA

(hesitant)

Morning.

LIAM

Gina. Over here a sec.

She's still hesitant.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Over here. I just want your
opinion. Just a stupid game but -
answer this, right.

Liam hits play.

17.1A INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT.

17.1A

JONAS
*I'm a cereal monogamist. I'm being
faithful to cornflakes right now.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam stops.

LIAM
Now. Is that funny?

GINA
Uh...

Gina looks confused.

LIAM
No need to be nice, he's a prick.
But is what he's saying *funny*? In
your opinion?

He hits play again.

REPEAT PLAYBACK 17.1A:

JONAS
*I'm a cereal monogamist. I'm being
faithful to cornflakes right now.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM fixes GINA with a big expectant look. Her answer?

GINA
Er. No? I dont know?

Ffion arrives downstairs.

FFION
Liam?

GINA
Hi.

FFION
Liam, what's...?

LIAM

Just getting Gina's opinion on something.

He hits play again.

REPEAT PLAYBACK 17.1A:

JONAS

I'm a cereal monogamist. I'm being faithful to cornflakes right now.

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM

I was checking because it made you laugh and I wondered why because it's not funny, and Gina agrees.

GINA

I don't really...

FFION

Gina, let me get you a cab.

GINA

My Dad's on his way.

Liam rewinds way back.

LIAM

Something else, out of interest -

FFION

Gina. I'm so sorry.

Liam hits play. He talks as the redo plays:

17.2 I/E. CARS OUTSIDE TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 17.2

Ffion, Liam and Jonas are outside cars outside the Tollgates. (or just inside if that's easier to shoot. From LIAM's POV:

LIAM

Tell me objectively Gina. Off the top of your head. We both want this guy to come back, but who wants it more?

JONAS

Okay well bye.

Ffion lingers for a tiny beat.

FFION

Yep. Bye. Wow. It's early. Early to call it a night.

JONAS

Cheeky one at the pub?

Ffion looks at Liam. She's interested

*LIAM
Gotta get back, rescue Jody from
the paedophile babysitter.*

*Liam wants to be the big man, show he's not intimidated or
unnerved by Jonas.*

In the current moment Liam winces.

*LIAM (CONT'D)
That's just - a silly joke
thing, that - apologies.*

*LIAM (CONT'D)
Look. How about, Jonas you
could come for a night-cap at
ours?*

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM hits pause.

The doorbell goes.

*LIAM (CONT'D)
Ignore the joke, who you would say
was keener for him to come back?*

*GINA
I don't know.*

Gina gets up to go. Ffion walks her to the door.

Liam takes a big swig of booze.

Liam hits play. Ffion's there again.

REPEAT PLAYBACK 17.1A:

*JONAS
I'm a cereal monogamist. I'm being
faithful to cornflakes right now.*

Ffion laughs.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam lets the laugh hang there - rewinds on close up. It is a pretty big laugh for the joke level.

*LIAM
That is just objectively not funny.
Anyone would say that's not funny.*

*FFION
That was fucking embarrassing.*

Liam is scrolling to a moment in the dinner party he saw through the window as he arrived.

FFION (CONT'D)

Whatever you're cueing up, stop it.

17.3 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK* NIGHT.

17.3

Jonas says something. Ffion and Jeff laugh. Ffion looks lost in the moment. Touches her throat. She looks lovely.

LIAM

See that?

He spins on:

JONAS

Yeah you'd remember, cos he will have shown you, I don't know a re-do of like a fruitless metal detecting expedition?

Jonas smiles at his little joke against Jeff. Ffion ignores him and it.

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM

Spot the difference.

FFION

You're drunk and you're--

LIAM

I'm the difference. When I'm outside he's the best guy in the world, then I arrive and you clam.

FFION is silent. He rewinds to:

LIAM (CONT'D)

For clarity.

We see Liam's entrance to the party from his POV:

17.4 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT.

17.4

They come into the main living area or at least a point where they can see the main room and in a corner - Liam spots Ffion and Jonas talking. Jeff is cuing something else up, turned away and they are having a little private chat.

For a beat neither Ffion or Jonas sees Liam. And their physical geography looks wrong for a pair of people who are simply friends.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam pauses the action.

She does look a little flirty on the paused moment.

FFION
We're just talking.

LIAM
Mmm.

Liam hits play. Another moment from the dinner party:

17.5 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK* - NIGHT. 17.5

Ffion angles right away from Jonas. He starts to head away from the little gang. Ffion doesn't even look at him as he goes to get a drink. Stays studiously not clocking him.

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM
But moments later you're so -
stiff? Your gauges were all over
the place. You didn't know how to
stand around him. Hot and fucking
cold.

FFION
This is just stupid.

LIAM
But you can't hide it, not
completely. See how you look at
him.

Liam freezes on how she looks at Jonas.

17.6 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 17.6

Jonas flashes a half look at Ffion - you can see a little twinkle of enjoyment at Jonas's truth-telling in her eye, even though she keeps it subdued.

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM
Now how you look at me.

17.7 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 17.7

Ffion smiles but has maybe heard him put himself down once too many times.

END OF PLAYBACK:

It is less warm.

LIAM

Tell me you look at me nice like
you look at him, because you can't.

FFION

(looking pretty cold)
And how am I looking at you now?

LIAM

How long did you go out with him?

FFION

(after a beat)
Does it matter?

Liam winds on with his remote. Spots an image in the background and stops, rewinds, plays, at the dinner party:

17.8 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT.

17.8

Liam looks up - behind Hallam is another image - Jeff's POV, Paul and Lucy kiss.

Liam is preoccupied with the image he's replaying, but just before he returns to review it paused again on his POV, he clocks the wall screen and the flash of Jonas and Ffion in the gloom in the background kissing.

The music Paul has laid over, Kreutzer, plays on.

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM

That Marrakesh is it?

FFION

What?

He hits play on the screen. Zooms in on the background.

LIAM

Does it look like Marrakesh? No,
because it isn't. So how long did
you go out with him for?

FFION

Alright! About six months.

LIAM

A week, a month, six months. It's
the inflatable ever expanding
romance. You're probably still
going out with him.

Ffion has had enough.

FFION

Am I on trial here?

LIAM

What's been going on?

FFION

Nothing's been going on, it was --
Christ, you know how it is, when
you first get with someone, and
then old relationship stuff comes
up--

LIAM

(overlapping)

Oh, now he was a relationship? I
thought he was a 'weird week' -

FFION

I... downplayed it, I fudged it, it
was...

LIAM

You lied.

FFION

Not everything that isn't true is a
lie Liam.

LIAM

Hello?

FFION

Yes, alright, he was a bigger thing
than I made out, for a bit. And yes
he's sort of a dick -

LIAM

"Sort of?" He's cock-end incarnate--

FFION

-- and I liked him *then* but I don't
like him, not like that, not *now*...

LIAM

So he fucks you, collects
'material' for his fucking redo
wank file -- then he chucks you and
now you're still pally with him -

FFION

What do you want me to do, never
see my old friends?

LIAM

-- What's he got in there? Six months, what's that: fifty blowjobs, couple of arse-fuckings maybe, if he was lucky - was he lucky?...

FFION

This is sad. Just sad.

LIAM

He probably enjoys watching that while he's fucking sitting there yanking himself off into a towel.

FFION

It. Was. Years. Ago.

LIAM

Not for him.

Liam hits play.

17.9 INT. TOLLGATE HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT.

17.9

JONAS

I'd find myself watching you know, re-dos of like hot times - early relationships ...

END OF PLAYBACK:

FFION

Okay. I'm going. I'm taking Jody.

LIAM

Where?

FFION

Anywhere. Sober up while I'm gone. Make yourself puke, whatever, I don't care. Just sort it out.

She's going. We hear the door slam. LIAM rewinds again.

REPEAT OF PLAYBACK 17.9:

JONAS

I'd find myself watching you know, re-dos of like hot times - early relationships ...

People chuckle. Including Ffion. Jonas is playing the big man.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam has another drink.

18 I/E. CAR. LATER - DAY 2. 18

Liam is fumbling slightly to start the car.

A message comes out of the car speakers V/O'd.

CAR WARNING

Grain Assistant suggests you may not be in suitable physical condition for the activity you appear to be engaged in. To override continue at your own risk. All health and personal accident insurance is negated.

19 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE JONAS'S FLAT. DAY 2. 19

Liam is ringing a doorbell, pretty drunk. He has a bottle of vodka in his hand.

JONAS

(through the door)
Who's that?

LIAM

Liam.

JONAS looks around. Clocks the bottle. Looks a bit worried.

JONAS

Is Fi with you?

LIAM

She's not no.

JONAS

Er, is there something you (want) -

LIAM

Just need to come in for a bit.

Jonas opens it a bit.

JONAS

Look, it's morning and --

LIAM

I just need to come in for a bit
"dude"

JONAS

Uh...

Jonas looks back to the bedroom. In that moment Liam pushes past and in.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Hey.

LIAM walks to the main living area.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Seriously man, you shouldn't just walk in and -- it's a bit -- weird -
- what you're --

LIAM is looking around at the accoutrements in JONAS's flat. A cock lives here. He looks at a particularly cockish touch -- a wall-mounted motorbike say -- and smirks to himself.

LIAM (pointing
at it)

That expensive?

(beat)

Looks expensive.

JONAS doesn't know what to say. LIAM sits down on the sofa. LIAM unscrews the top of his vodka bottle and swigs. There's quite a long pause. Jonas doesn't know what to do.

JONAS

Look, Liam, do you want me to call
Fi...

LIAM says nothing.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Did you have a row or something?

LIAM says nothing.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Do you need a -- is there -- uh--

LIAM

(indicating seat in front
of him)

Sit down.

JONAS hesitates.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Go on. It's a chair not a bear
trap.

JONAS does nothing. LIAM holds up the bottle.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Do you want me to bounce this off
your fucking head?

Jonas freezes. There's another electric pause. Then Liam looks at him and laughs. Jonas laughs a very little.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I'm kidding! Bloody hell Jonas. I thought you were 'cool'. I thought you were meant to be fucking brilliant?

Hallam appears in a doorway - with one of Jonas's t-shirts pulled on.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Okay. Yeah well that figures.
(to JONAS)
Get some good stuff last night yeah? For the scrapbook.
(tapping behind ear)

HALLAM

I think you should go.

LIAM

(to JONAS)
Don't blame you, I would. Hey give us a look. Go on, don't be shy, throw it on the screen. Let's see what you got up to.

JONAS is not amused.

LIAM (CONT'D)

(laugh again)
Jesus Christ I'm joking again, fuck me Jonas, you want to develop a sense of humour.
(to HALLAM)
Uptight isn't he?

There's a very awkward atmosphere to say the least. Liam stretche back a bit.

LIAM (CONT'D)

So, this place is good isn't it?
'Have you been here long?'

JONAS

Liam...

LIAM

Lovely room.

JONAS

Well thanks but...

LIAM

And do you touch yourself in here when you're watching redos of my wife? This your room of preference or through there?

Pause.

JONAS

Okay Liam. I want you to leave now.

LIAM

Do you sometimes *start* in here and then finish off in there? The worlds your oyster really?

JONAS

I want you to leave.

LIAM

Well that's a pity isn't it.

And Liam just sits there. There's an impasse. JONAS looks at HALLAM. Is she expecting him to protect her?

JONAS goes to lift LIAM off the sofa. LIAM cracks the bottle over his head -- it doesn't break -- makes a horrible thunk though. JONAS goes down. LIAM launches over the sofa. HALLAM shrieks.

END OF PART THREE

20 I/E. CAR. LATER - DAY 2.

20

Liam wakes up. He feels terrible. He touches his face. Ouch. Looks in the car mirror. He's bruised. Even a little bloodied. The car is in a weird place. Banged into a tree near his home.

Liam is confused. Leans back and replays into his eyes full screen earlier in the day. Zooms through to the points he's interested in with his remote.

NB in-between the 'flashbacks', we see Liam in the car, his eyes milked out as he plays back full-screen.

All the following re-dos are shot from his POV, his memory:

20.1 EXT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK*. DAY.

20.1

We see him arrive at Jonas's. Stagger from the car.

Fast-forward.

20.2 INT. HALLWAY / JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 20.2

Remonstrating with Jonas at the door.

JONAS
Look, it's morning and --

LIAM
*I just need to come in for a bit
"dude"*

JONAS
Uh...

Jonas looks back to the bedroom. In that moment Liam pushes past and in.

JONAS (CONT'D)
Hey.

LIAM walks to the main living area.

JONAS (CONT'D)
*Seriously man, you shouldn't just
walk in and...*

LIAM fast-forwards.

20.3 INT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK*. MORNING. 20.3

Hallam appears in a doorway - with one of Jonas's t-shirts pulled on.

LIAM
Well that figures.

Shot of his thumb on the controls as he zips forward again -- to where he's commanding Jonas to throw his night with Hallam on the screen.

20.4 INT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK* MORNING. 20.4

LIAM
*-- don't be shy, throw it on the
screen. Let's see what you got up
to.*

JONAS goes to lift LIAM off the sofa. LIAM cracks the bottle over his head. HALLAM shrieks.

END OF PLAYBACK:

In the car, Liam shifts uneasily in his seat. This was more violent than he recalled. His thumb is on the control again, this time he's letting things play.

In the flashback:

20.5 INT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK* MORNING. 20.5

Shouting, swearing -- from Liam's POV, Liam is holding Jonas against a wall. Jonas is quite dazed.

LIAM

*You know what you're going to do?
You're going to get every bit of
Ffion you've got in there --*

He aggressively grabs him behind the ear

LIAM (CONT'D)

*You're going to group-select every
bit of it and you're going to wipe
it all.*

But just then Jonas pushes him off. The two tussle on the ground -- it's confusing, from Liam's POV.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam in the car, watching, his thumb on the control. He scrubs forward a little.

20.6 INT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK* MORNING. 20.6

The tussling has stopped. Liam seems to be holding Jonas down against the sofa, hand on his neck.

Hallam in the background has called the cops on the little cellphone she carries. We can hear but only see little glimpses of her.

HALLAM

*Hello Police? I'm witnessing a
serious assault at -*

LIAM

Wipe it.

JONAS

Fuck off.

HALLAM

*(interrupting)
I don't have a Grain feed to throw
you. Because I don't have a Grain.
(listens)
Hello?*

Liam grabs a bit of the broken bottle and seems to hold it behind Jonas's ear.

LIAM

*Either you wipe it all now, or I'll
fucking gouge you myself.*

JONAS

Okay! Okay!

*Jonas takes his remote. His eyes turn milky. Liam grabs him
by the scruff and shoves him toward the screen.*

LIAM

*Not in your eye, on there. On
there!*

Jonas points the remote at the screen and clicks it:

A cover-flow of stills of Ffion come up.

*There's last night's party '24 hours ago' then an indistinct
one from '18 months ago' then a bunch '5 years ago' -- long
enough for us to clock it.*

LIAM (CONT'D)

*Now delete the lot -- all of it --
or I crack your skull and gouge
your fucking neck.*

JONAS

I'm doing it! I'm doing it!

Jonas hits something and the lines all blip out of existence.

The image pauses.

21 I/E. CAR CRASHED INTO TREE. MORNING. DAY 2.

21

We jump out of Liam's POV. He's sitting in the car.

*Liam breathes. He feels jangled up and regretful and
strangely exhilarated. He breathes again.*

*Gets out of the car. Hardly clocking where he smashed into
the tree. Strides purposefully.*

*Arrives at house, strides toward the door. Looks for his
keys. Finds them. Heads for the door. But as he goes to put
the key in the lock, he stops.*

He thinks.

He gets out the remote. His eyes turn milky.

*Then he scrolls back - to stop on the image of all of Jonas's
Ffion meetings.*

21.1 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 21.1

Zooms in on the one rogue meeting. The one separate from the time they were going out - and before last night's party.

The icons were too small for us to see before but we can see it shows Ffion in bed, the covers pulled up to her chest. Behind her is a headboard, and a framed print on the wall. We can make out one corner.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam reels. He can't believe it. This is what he most feared, but there's a bit of him too that is pleased his worst fears have been confirmed. He studies the picture hard.

Zooms in.

22 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE - MORNING. DAY 2. 22

Liam heads up the stairs. Into the bedroom. Ffion is asleep. The familiar print is on the wall above her. Liam watches her sleep for a beat. Looks at the painting.

He goes into the bathroom.

23 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS. DAY 2. 23

Liam washes his face. Takes a towel between his hands, wraps it tight in his hands.

What's he going to do? He looks at himself in the mirror. Looks hard. Looks at a razor (old style) in a glass beside the mirror.

FFION
(from Bedroom)
Li? Li?

Liam walks back into the bedroom.

24 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS. DAY 2. 24

Ffion is now sitting up in bed. Liam is in the doorway of the bathroom looking at her. He's a kind of silhouette.

FFION
Where did you go?

Liam walks forward into the room -- light catches his face, making it clearer. Ffion sees the bruising and sits up, startled.

FFION (CONT'D)
What happened?

He says nothing. Just look at her.

FFION (CONT'D)
Liam what happened?

LIAM
Did you use a condom?

Ffion says nothing.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Or not? Just say.

That hangs in the air. Ffion addresses him as though he's holding a loaded gun and she needs to calm him down.

FFION
Liam, relax, okay, whatever you think has--

LIAM
(more emotional)
Am I Jody's dad?

FFION
Liam--

LIAM
Am I her dad?

FFION
Yes!
(beat)
Of course you are!

LIAM sits at the end of the bed, looking away from her. He now seems eerily calm.

LIAM
Sure about that?

FFION
Yes.

Liam turns to look at her. She looks scared.

LIAM
Well that's nice.

Liam points at the painting on the wall above her.

LIAM (CONT'D)
You like that don't you? I got you
it cos you said you liked it.

Liam hits his remote, points it at the screen in the bedroom.

24.1 INT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK*. MORNING. 24.1

Images of the fight with Jonas appear.

END OF PLAYBACK:

FFION

Christ, what have you done Liam?

Liam's fast-forwarding, trying to find the specific moment. Ffion goes to take the remote from him; he shoves her away.

LIAM

I'm getting to the good bit.

ON the screen:

24.2 INT. JONAS'S FLAT. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 24.2

LIAM

*Either you wipe it all now, or I'll
fucking gouge you myself.*

JONAS

Okay! Okay!

Jonas takes his remote. His eyes turn milky. Liam grabs him by the scruff and shoves him toward the screen.

LIAM

*Not in your eye, on there. On
there!*

Jonas points the remote at the screen and clicks it:

A cover-flow of stills of Ffion come up.

*There's last night's party '24 hours ago' then an indistinct
one from '18 months ago' --*

*With his remote Liam pauses and zooms in on that image of the
rogue night, the one between when Ffion and Jonas went out
and the dinner party last night. In their bedroom. Ffion in
the covers. The familiar headboard. The corner of the print
visible.*

END OF PLAYBACK:

LIAM (CONT'D)

18 months ago, in here.

There's a silence.

LIAM (CONT'D)

When you suspect something, it
actually feels better when it's
true?

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

It's like I've had a bad tooth for years and finally I'm getting to dig my tongue in there and just root around in all the rotten shit.

FFION

That -

(re the re-do)

looks like -- it's not what it looks like.

LIAM

What, did Jonas come round to read you a story?

FFION

No, it was --

LIAM

A story about fucking?

FFION

It was when the Dan time when you freaked out... when you walked out.

LIAM

-for like ten minutes-

FFION

For five days, Liam. No word if it was over, no calls. No nothing --

LIAM

So you fucked him after what four days, that's restraint, that's Romeo and Juliet stuff that is--

FFION

I was a state --

LIAM

--three days - that's admirably faithful. But after four you're going to be gasping, stands to reason--

FFION

I was upset, we went for a drink

LIAM

You and him?

FFION

All of us, Paul and Lucy and-

LIAM

So everyone knew?

FFION

No! It was - it just -- it was after -- it shouldn't have happened, it was a blip --

LIAM

Oh a "blip"

FFION

I swear never before or after, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I can't say anything else -- I love you.

She goes to touch him -- he pushes her away.

LIAM

Did you use a condom?

Ffion looks down: this is excruciating.

FFION

Yes.

LIAM

Because there weren't any here were there? We were trying.

FFION

He had some.

LIAM

What, in his pocket?

FFION

In his car.

LIAM

His idea to use one, or did you make him?

FFION

I made him.

LIAM

And he put it on?

FFION

Yes.

LIAM

And you saw him do it?

FFION

Yes.

LIAM

Then show me.

A beat. Ffion doesn't know what to say.

LIAM (CONT'D)
(indicating screen)
Show me on there.

Ffion opens her mouth but can't speak.

LIAM (CONT'D)
(tears pricking his eyes)
You have to show me Fi.

FFION
I can prove about Jody. That's just
true. She's our ...

She's reaching for her remote, just out of Liam's sight.

LIAM
Still need to see it.

FFION
I deleted it. I wanted it to go
away, I wiped the whole night.

LIAM
Did you?

FFION
Yes.

LIAM
It's a blank gap in your timeline.

FFION
Yes.

LIAM
Show me that then. The blank gap.

Ffion, tears, hands shaking, is toying with her remote.

FFION
(great distress)
Okay... yeah... I have to find
it...

Her eyes turn milky. Ffion is scrolling on her eyeball manu
of times and dates, looking for something to delete. Suddenly
all of Liam's attention is focused on her thumb and finger on
the remote.

LIAM
No!

He jumps over the bed to stop her. She tries to evade him.

LIAM (CONT'D)

No deleting now. No fucking way.

They grapple, for a second, he's shocked to be physically tussling with his wife. He pulls her remote, hard, from her hand.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Still on there is it?

Ffion can see there's no way out of telling the truth here. She nods.

FFION

I'm sorry.

LIAM

You've got to show me.

FFION

Why?

He can't really say why. He holds up Ffion's thumb remote.

LIAM

I need to.

FFION

Li, I love you I-

LIAM

I'd play it myself but I don't have your thumbprint.

FFION

No.

LIAM

Show me.

He holds out the thumb remote. She shakes her head. Liam snaps, grabs her by the neck, pushes her head against the headboard, hard --

LIAM (CONT'D)

(shockingly loud)

Show me!

Liam's frightened himself.

LIAM (CONT'D)

What, look what you're doing to me.
This isn't me.

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)
You've got to show me.

Defeated, terrified, she clicks and points at the screen.

24.3 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 24.3

On a screen - from Ffion's POV we see her and Jonas eighteen months back. On the couch. In Liam and Ffion's flat. Kissing.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Back in the present, Liam, slow-mo, watching, staring at the screen... his hand still around Ffion.

24.4 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 24.4

On the screen -- from Ffion's POV -- Jonas and her in the bedroom, kissing, laughing...

END OF PLAYBACK:

Back in the present, more on Liam's face -- more intense -- the sounds of the lovemaking leaking through --

BLACK.

25 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. *PLAYBACK* DAY. 25

It's morning. The room is bathed with light. Jody the baby is on the bed. Ffion is over him goo-ing and gahh-ing. Changing a nappy. Liam's POV. He comes in. Touches Ffion on the neck. Kisses her neck. Looks down at the baby.

LIAM
I love you.

FFION
I love you.

26 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. DAY 3. 26

Pause. The image stutters.

Liam blinks. We stay in his POV but now we're staring at the ceiling.

Change shot:

27 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BEDROOM. DAY 3. 27

Liam is lying on their bed. But the curtains are closed.

The room is a tip. Sheets half off the bed. The duvet screwed up without a cover at the foot of the bed.

All Ffion's stuff is gone from her bedside, her cupboards.

There's an incoming video message on the screen. We see Max, from the job appraisal.

MAX

Liam? Max. We saw you a few weeks ago, the appraisal. Sorry to keep you hanging but listen, good news, we're looking to open a dedicated retrospective parenting unit, and it strikes us you'd fit right in there. So tomorrow we'd like you to play out that re-do for personnel -- nothing ghastly, just the past six months or so -- character stuff mainly... and then we can - yep - start sorting it out. Okay. Bye.

Liam clicks his remote, gets up.

We jump cut as Liam wanders the house. It's deserted - most of the furniture has gone.

He's in the kitchen -- barren.

He clicks his remote -- eyes turn milky.

In his head:

27.1 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 27.1

POV images of how it used to be.

Ffion from behind, just eating breakfast cereal.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Cut: he's in the living room -- again it's empty. He clicks -- his eyes turn milky.

27.2 INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE. *PLAYBACK*. NIGHT. 27.2

In his head: POV Ffion sitting on the couch at night.

Nothing times, but haunting.

Cut: Liam's back in the bedroom. He fishes about under the bed.

There's a discarded top of Ffion's -- maybe the top she was wearing in the last scene. It's been forgotten during her packing. Liam picks it up. He holds it to his face and smells it, trying to remember her, as he clicks his remote to see...

27.2A INT. LIAM & FFION'S HOUSE *PLAYBACK* DAY 27.2A

POV: Ffion sitting in bed, holding Jody. Smiling up at Liam

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam makes it to the bathroom. Where there's a used up tube of toothpaste. Deodorant.

He clicks. Eyes turn milky.

27.3 INT. LIAM & FFION'S BATHROOM. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 27.3

In his head: POV the image of it full of Ffion's cosmetics, the mess of family life.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Liam looks at himself in the mirror. His eyes are milky.

27.4 INT. LIAM & FFION'S BATHROOM. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 27.4

In his head: POV shot - He's shaving in the mirror as Ffion, chatting, potters about behind him.

END OF PLAYBACK:

He snaps back out of it. Clicks his remote. Shuts down the memories. Stares into the mirror.

Cut: He scratches behind his ear. Like there's a tick he needs to pluck out. Then more violently. His fingers searching for a grip on something.

Cut: He takes the razor blade from by the sink. He flicks the metal edge with his thumb. What's he going to do? Cut: He takes it up to by his neck - just behind the ear, nicks into the skin. Slicing -- grimaces -- it hurts --

Cut: He tries pulling at something -- in the wound -- but he can't get a grip. Fingers slipping -- with the blood-

Cut: He flips open the medicine cabinet, hunting for something -- it's just dried up tubes of Germolene, bloke stuff -- there's a toenail clipper. He regards it for a moment, picks it up.

Cut: He's got the toenail clippers behind his ear, struggling for a grip - -this hurts -- he's gritting his teeth - - sweating -- straining -- he pulls hard --

The picture wobbles.

27.5 INT. LIAM & FFION'S BATHROOM. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 27.5

POV shots of Ffion in the bathroom. No audio.

END OF PLAYBACK:

Fritzing between that and the empty present as he grapples for the grain.

27.6 INT. LIAM & FFION'S BATHROOM. *PLAYBACK*. DAY. 27.6

POV shot -- Ffion leans in to kiss him

END OF PLAYBACK:

28 INT. LIAM AND FFION'S BATHROOM. DAY 3. 28

Just as she closes in -- with a wrench Liam in the present pulls the Grain out - some wires tugging, with a tearing sound - and as he snaps the device out the picture blips off.

The memories are dead.

ENDS