1. EXT. HOUSE. DAY – D1

BEN (starts OOV)
I could be handcuffed and suspended from a crane, in a block of ice.

2. INT. KITCHEN. DAY – D1
Dad is clearing up breakfast stuff with a phone tucked under his chin.

DAD
That feels like a lot of work for a school talent competition
(He speaks into the phone with exaggerated pronunciation
you use when you are speaking to a machine) Y-e-s. But it’s
great you’re taking part, y-e-s…..(mutters) stupid machine.

BEN
I could do the magic trick I did with, Gran. Her face when
she thought I’d smashed her watch with that hammer.

DAD
Well….you had.

BEN
Yeh…..I still don’t know what went wrong there.

DAD (into phone)
Y-e-s

BEN
I think it was the wrong kind of hammer

DAD
No, I said y-e-s.

BEN
Still, Gran likes her new watch.

MUM enters shouting behind her.
MUM
Look Karen, if both socks have got holes in, they match, just put them on! (She starts tidying up)

DAD
I didn’t say No....

JAKE
Yeh, just now. You said ‘No I said ‘Yes’.

2A. INT LIVING ROOM. DAY – D1
KAREN for some reason, has a washing-up bowl full of water and is cutting a shape out of some cardboard.

2B. INT KITCHEN DAY – D1
As before

BEN
I could always sing... (sings in his deep voice)
‘And I said to myself.....’

DAD (still to phone)
‘Go back’

BEN
‘What a wonderful world’

DAD
‘Go back’

JAKE
Yeh, the only disadvantage to singing is....that you can't.

BEN
OK I've got loads more ideas here.
(He hands a list to DAD)

DAD
Er... impractical... illegal... suicidal, Ben, you don’t even know what the 'Wall of Death' is... ‘Go back’...
2C. INT LIVING ROOM – DAY – D1
KAREN has finished cutting the hole out of the cardboard, which is exactly the same shape as one of her toys.

KAREN
Bring on the wall!

She advances the cardboard towards the toy and pushes it into the bowl.

2D INT KITCHEN DAY – D1
As before

DAD
Ben!.... Look at the time, teeth.

MUM
(To JAKE)
Jake, you shouldn’t discourage him. It’s not good for his confidence.

In the background DAD continues to struggle with the phone.

JAKE
Will it be good for his confidence when the whole school laughs at him?

The bell rings.

MUM (has got some food muck in her hands)
Oh....Who’s that?

Karen shouts.

IMPROVISED DIALOGUE

‘Wall of Death’ – can you do it on a pushbike?

BEN comes up with more ideas. JAKE tries to shoot them down. DAD still sometimes struggling with the phone. BEN’s possible ideas – ‘Streetdance, ‘look like you’re having an epileptic fit’, animal acts – lion taming, only with Rotweilers, mind-reading, juggling lobsters – have you ever thrown a lobster? – Yes, thrown out of the touch and feel pool. End with DAD: Well, look it’s not today, so you’ve plenty of time to come up with something doable.
KAREN (OOV)

A man in a suit

DAD

See what he wants, and if he’s a cold caller just do your stuff!

KAREN (OOV)

Ok

DAD

(To the phone)

Go b- oh... ‘no – I wouldn’t – like – to – start - again, I would -like-to-kill-myself’

3. INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR. DAY – D1
Karen opens the door to a smart man in a suit. But she only opens the door a tiny bit, with the chain across.

ARMITAGE

Hello...

KAREN

They’re busy

ARMITAGE

Um...Can I speak to your Mum and Dad?

KAREN

You’ve just asked the question I answered. I’m sorry but Mum and Dad don’t speak to cold callers.

ARMITAGE

I’m not a cold caller

KAREN

Do we know you?

ARMITAGE

No, but...
KAREN
Did we know you were going to call?

ARMITAGE
No, however...

KAREN
I think that makes you a cold caller

4. INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN. DAY – D1

MUM
This competition might be good for Ben. I'm worried about him fitting in at school.

DAD
Well that's good

MUM
Eh?

DAD
Well, because it'll stop you worrying that Jake's 'up to something'

MUM
Oh God, Jake, yeh (DAD looks to the skies) Yeh, ....he...he just keeps putting up all these defenses.

DAD
Yeh, well, maybe if you didn’t keep trying to break into his Facebook page.

MUM
He seems to have this sixth sense, every teenage girl I pretend to be he spots it, I mean, I use the current slang and everything.

(DAD’s looking at her)
Oh yeh, you’re right, I need to chillax

DAD (to himself)
....‘Chillax’?
BEN enters.

MUM
I mean Jake's pretty low-maintenance for a 15 year old. And he's got nice friends and...

BEN
Jake's really popular. Big kids keep coming up to me and saying... 'so you're jailbait's brother. His band's really cool' and stuff like that. Can I have a biscuit?

MUM is staring at him.

MUM
.....Jailbait?

BEN
Yeah... that's his nickname

MUM
Jailbait?

BEN
Yeah. You've asked me that twice. Can I have a biscuit?

MUM
No. Why's that his nickname?

BEN
I dunno.....why am I called 'Casualty'?... or 'Ouch' or 'The Destructotron'. Actually, I'm not called 'Destructotron' but I'd like to be, can I have a biscuit?

DAD
No. Get ready for school

BEN (as he exits)
Is eating caterpillars a talent?

DAD
Only if you're a bird

MUM is deep in thought.
5. INT/EXT. DOOR. DAY – D1
KAREN still has the door on the chain

ARMITAGE
Look, I’m not a cold caller and this is very important.

KAREN
The lady from Sky said that.

ARMITAGE
Your Mum and Dad are not going to be very pleased when they realize you didn’t let me talk to them

KAREN
She said that as well… Try the blue house over there. If you get there before her helper arrives she’ll buy anything

The MAN has trouble keeping his temper.

ARMITAGE
I do not want to sell you anything

6. INT. KITCHEN. DAY – D1
MUM and DAD are still talking.

DAD
There’s any number of reasons he could be called... Jailbait.
(MUM stares blankly at him)
Nicknames often don’t mean anything... like I was called Floppy at school, and there was no reason for that...
Or there was this boy called James who was the only one without a nickname so we called him ‘No Nickname’ which got shortened to ‘Nick’... which was actually really confusing because there were already two ‘Nicks’, though...

MUM still stares and DAD finally realizes he’s talking too much.

MUM
.....‘Jailbait’...does not sound good.
7. INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR. DAY – D1

ARMITAGE
Well, Karen, I can see you are a very clever little girl who’s not going to let me chat with her Mum and Dad but perhaps you could just let me have a little chat with Angela Bollinger

KAREN
Who’s that?

ARMITAGE
She’s your mum’s sister, Angela... Auntie Angela... she’s staying with you, isn’t she

**IMPROVISED DIALOGUE**

KAREN
No. She comes once a year and they smile at each other for a while, but then they shout at each other, and once Mummy kicked her up the bottom and now she’s married a man with a silly name I forget.

ARMITAGE
Look, it’s very important, if Auntie Angela -

KAREN
I'm bored now

KAREN tries to slam the door, but he stops it with his foot, and passes a card through the gap.

ARMITAGE
Ok, Ok, but just take my card and tell your Mum and Dad it’s vital they call me.

KAREN
Foot...
(She points)
He takes it away and she shuts the door.
8. INT. KITCHEN. DAY – D1

DAD
(Lowers voice)
Look, I think it might be best if you didn’t actually ask Jake
about this

MUM
No, Ok.

DAD
Because it's not as if he'll tell you

MUM
Ok Ok you’re right... Oh God....kids grow up so fast
nowadays, that’s the trouble. Girls in Karen’s class with nail
extensions and bras they don’t need and sleepovers where
they watch slasher movies when they should be playing
‘Hide and Seek’ and...

DAD
Making daisy chains?

MUM
Ok, ok....I know it was never quite like that...I mean we used
to pay Lucy Shapp in sweets to watch her Mum and
stepdad in the bath....but that was basically innocent.

DAD
....Right

(8A) JAKE races in.

JAKE
Has someone moved my science homework?

MUM
Why are you called Jailbait?

DAD looks dismayed

JAKE
...What?
MUM
Why's that your nickname?

KAREN (coming in, to hand them the business card)
Mum, Dad...

DAD
Not now Karen

JAKE
It’s a name that’s all and it’s none of your business and I need to go to school (exits)

KAREN
But Dad –

DAD
Just get your school things now.

KAREN exits. DAD’s looking at MUM accusingly.

MUM
I knew he wouldn't answer......I just wanted to learn from the way he didn't answer

DAD
And what did you learn?

MUM
...As you’re not working today, can you attack that ironing? (exits) Come on Karen, school!

BEN charges in

BEN
Dad, are cabbages flammable?

DAD
....Well, yes, if you put your mind to it, why?

BEN (exits)
Oh just an idea I’ve got for the talent contest, bye!

DAD is pondering this, as he hears the door slam
9. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY – D1
Fade up on DAD doing the ironing watching T.V.. There’s the sound of a Jeremy Kyle type show at low volume.

DAD

(Peering)
‘My gay boyfriend got my Mum pregnant.’... How do they find them? Advertise? If you’ve impregnated your boyfriend’s Mum then text ‘mumupduff’ to this number....why am I watching this?
(the phone rings)
Oh hi.....just doing the ironing, watching ...+(he blips) The History Channel...Eh?....Well how would I know Jake's password?....What do you mean ‘take a guess’?....You take a guess....Oh you have....yes, that is quite a lot of guesses...Look, Sue, just calm down and (she’s hung up) and hang up on me, like you always do when I tell you to calm down.
Ah, Catherine the Great... Now having her on Jeremy Kyle would liven things up.....especially when they brought on the horse...and gave it the lie detector test....one hoof-tap for yes....two for no, and three, you’ll have to speak to Max Clifford...(puzzled) this iron’s not on.

10. EXT. HOUSE. DAY – D1
Now it’s afternoon.

BEN (OOV)
If we filled the freezer with water how big an ice cube could we make?

11. INT. KITCHEN. DAY – D1
DAD talks to BEN as he works

DAD
Will you just forget the David Blain thing, you need something practical for the talent show.

BEN
I checked out a couple of things on the Internet.

DAD
Yeh, I saw ‘fire eating’
BEN
I’m not doing that, cos kids in my class have got this phobia thing about fire.

DAD
Yeh well we know why that is, don’t we

BEN
It turned out Ok. Mr. Hunslet said he’d got bored of having eyebrows.... I like Mr. Hunslet. How about if I tell jokes like a comedian?

DAD
No, Ben, it – (realizes)...actually that’s quite a good idea.

The bell rings. DAD has his hands full.

DAD
Oh... Where’s Karen when you need her?

DAD heads off down the hall.

BEN
Cos everyone laughed a lot when I farted at Uncle Bob’s funeral

12. INT HALL – DAY – D1

DAD
Yeh well that was funny...but it was the echo as much as anything.

BEN (OOV)
And I’ve got this joke book

DAD
Uh huh, good.
13. INT/EXT. FRONT DOOR – DAY – D1
DAD opens the front door (maybe looking back over his shoulder to BEN as he does so when he turns it’s a bigger shock to see Angela). ANGELA stands there with MISTY, a teenage girl and a couple of suitcases. DAD just stares.

ANGELA
...Hi Pete

DAD
Angela...
(He sees the girl)
Hello...

MISTY mutters what is probably a ‘hi’.

ANGELA
I brought Misty with me.

DAD
(looks down)
...and some baggage... er luggage.

ANGELA
....So are you going to ask us in?

DAD
(A half beat)
Yes, of course...

He picks up a suitcase and motions them to go ahead of him.

14. INT. HALL DAY – D1

DAD
Is Brick with you?

ANGELA
....Not this time. So, you two won’t get to shove each other in the chest in a car park this time. (She’s trying to make a joke)

DAD
....Right
15. INT. KITCHEN. DAY. – D1
ANGELA walks in.

ANGELA
Ben!

BEN
Uh oh!

DAD
(coming in)
Ben...

BEN
..Does Mum know you’re coming?

DAD
Ben! Say hello

BEN
Hello, Auntie Angela

DAD
Does Sue know you're coming?

ANGELA
Er...

DAD
Or is this just a lovely surprise?

ANGELA
To be honest Pete, we’re in a bit of a situation. Our hotel room was double booked, and every single place we tried was full and it’s Misty’s first night ever in Europe, so we wondered if maybe we could stay with you for just one night? We had a really rough flight, so we haven’t slept for 36 hours, have we honey?

MISTY shakes her head. She looks very sad.

DAD
Just one night... I’m sure that would be....nice.
BEN (reading from joke book)
A skeleton walks into a pub and says I’ll have a pint of lager
and a mop

ANGELA and MISTY stare at him.

DAD
He’s going to be a comedian in the school talent show

BEN
It’s funny because the skeleton doesn’t have a body so the
lager’s going to go straight through onto the floor and
that’s why he needs a mop. Do you get it...?

ANGELA
Yes...I get it

BEN
A skeleton walks into a pub and says I’ll have a pint of lager
and a mop

ANGELA and MISTY stare bewildered.

BEN
Look do you get it or not? Cos you’re still not
laughing...(BEN tries to explain it still further)

There’s the sound of a key in the door.

DAD
Ben, I expect you’ve got some homework.

BEN
No.

JAKE walks into the kitchen. He sees ANGELA.

JAKE
Uh oh...

FADE TO BLACK
16. INT. KITCHEN. DAY – D1
ANGELA and DAD and MISTY are sitting awkwardly. JAKE does his homework in the corner.

DAD
So...Misty, would you like a drink? I've got Coke

MISTY
No thank you, I suffer from personal gas.

DAD
Right. I've got tea, coffee, all the things you pour water....onto, that don't give you gas.

MISTY
.....No thank you

ANGELA
So Pete, you're a house-husband now?

DAD
No, I'm supply teaching and I just happen to be –

ANGELA
It's ok, don't feel emasculated, I think it's marvelous.

DAD
I don't feel emascula-

JAKE
So, Auntie, hows things?

ANGELA
Oh terrific thanks, Jake... I've become a writer

DAD
(Not quite as neutral as he intended)
A writer...

ANGELA
I've written this book they want to publish and I'm meeting an editor in London... and Misty wanted to see Europe, and so...
KAREN comes in and sees ANGELA

KAREN

...Oh Jesus.

DAD has given up trying to police his children.

ANGELA

...Hi, Karen! ...This is Misty....is Mummy with you?

KAREN

I ran ahead. Does she know you're here?

ANGELA

It's a surprise

KAREN

Yes, but it won't be a nice surprise. You'll just fight.

ANGELA

Don't be silly, we won't fight.

KAREN

Yes you will, I'm going to my room, call me when it's over.

KAREN exits

DAD

So, this book... is it a novel?

ANGELA

No, Pete, it's a self-help book... it gives advice on surviving families

DAD

So it's you... giving advice about families to other people

ANGELA

I finally understood that my pain was a gift

There's the sound of the front door being closed.

MUM (OOV)

Hiya
DAD moves like Usain Bolt.

DAD
Sue... I'll just...(And he's gone)

17. INT. HALL. DAY – D1
DAD and MUM meet by the stairs.

DAD
Sue...

MUM
Jake's going out with a nineteen year old girl

DAD
Angela's here

MUM
Wha- here, you let her in?

DAD
Nineteen?... One nine...?

MUM
She can't stay

DAD
I said she could stay the night. How do you know he's...going out with -

MUM
I finally conned my way on to his Facebook page. What the hell is Angela doing here?

DAD
She's written a book. ...Nineteen? This girl is -

MUM
A book?

DAD
...four years older than him

MUM
What kind of book?

(17A) BEN appears.

BEN
Did you hear about the cowboy who had brown paper trousers and a brown paper shirt and a brown paper hat? He was found guilty of rustling.

DAD
Not now, Ben

BEN
What’s rustling?

DAD
Ben... Go!
(Ben goes)
He’s going to be a comedian

MUM
A comedian?

DAD
Nineteen!

MUM
Angela!

JAKE comes out of the living room and squeezes past them and up the stairs.

JAKE
No violence now, Mum

DAD watches him go. He sees his son in a new light... shock tinged with awe.

DAD
(quietly)
Nineteen...

MUM
Can you stop saying that?
ANGELA (OOV)
Hi Sue!...Aren’t you going to come in and say hello to your sister?

MUM and DAD steel themselves to

Mix to:

17B EXT HOUSE DAY – D1

18. INT. KITCHEN. DAY –D1
ANGELA, DAD and MUM sit awkwardly

MUM
So, you’re giving advice on families to other people

ANGELA
(a little snappy)
Yes. I am

DAD
...She finally understood her pain was a gift

MUM
Uh –huh...

The doorbell rings.

MUM
Karen! Door!

KAREN (OOV)
Ok

(18A)
BEN runs in from the living room

BEN
I’ve got this really good joke off twitter. It’s a Frankie Boyle joke...

DAD
I’m going to stop you right there
BEN
I've already told it to Misty.

DAD
Did she laugh?

BEN
She made some noises but it wasn’t laughing as such.

KAREN (OOV)
Ben! It's for you!

BEN
Ooh..

BEN runs out

(18B)

MUM
So...does this book draw on our family?

ANGELA
A tiny bit, here and there...but enough of me and my writing...I hear you've got some secretarial work

MUM looks at DAD

DAD
I never said secretar...

MUM
I run the office at a Multi Media Interconnect Company

ANGELA
And what's that?

MUM
They provide connectivity solutions for different kinds of media

ANGELA
But what exactly...

MUM
Look I don’t know, I run the office OK!
ANGELA
...And how’s Jake getting on? Has he got a girlfriend yet?

MUM and DAD look at each other.

DAD
Well... um...

MUM
There's... rumours of someone

ANGELA
So you haven’t had the big day, when you meet her for the first time

MUM
No, but that big day will be coming soon

DAD
...Will it?

MUM
(Quick)
Yes... yes it will

(18C)
BEN comes in carrying a battered and slightly scary ventriloquist dummy.

DAD
What the...?

BEN speaks as the dummy.

BEN/DUMMY
That was Ibrahim at the door. He’s given me to Ben. I was in his attic and they didn't want me, and his grandmother said I was the work of the devil

MUM
...He's horrible
BEN/DUMMY

(BEN) No I'm not
(DUMMY) Yes he is
(BEN) No I'm not
(DUMMY) Oh yes you are,

Fade as the group watch BEN bond with his DUMMY, with MUM and DAD trying to clam him

19. EXT. HOUSE. DAY – D1
ESTABLISHER

20. INT KITCHEN. DAY – D1
Lowered voices.

DAD
I just don’t think we should rush up to him and say, 'so you've got a nineteen year old girlfriend'

MUM
Every time you say 'nineteen year old girlfriend', you have a bit of a grin on your face

DAD
I don't have a...

MUM
It’s illegal

DAD
Technically

MUM
No, not technically...

DAD
Well only if they're...y'know...actually -

MUM
You think he's got a nineteen year old girlfriend and they're... reading poetry to each other, you’re doing the grin

DAD
I am not, I -
MUM
You are

DAD
Look, my face at rest just happens to look a bit like a grin I -

MUM
You admire him don’t you?

DAD
No, I –

MUM
Because he’s doing something you only ever dreamed about as a teenager

DAD
Hey, alright, let’s not forget you had a boyfriend…and a steady boyfriend at 14…which is like the equivalent of about eight now

MUM
But he was 14, the same age as me

DAD
I’ve seen the photo, he -

MUM
How would you feel if Karen was fifteen and had a nineteen year old boyfriend?

DAD
Well

MUM
Oh, you’re not grinning now.

DAD
Well, that would be different

MUM
Why?
DAD
Because... because...

MUM
'She's a girl'

DAD
I haven’t said that

MUM
You haven’t said anything. It’s different because...?

DAD
Because...

MUM
Yes?

DAD
...We’ll have a word with Jake

21. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY – D1
BEN sits on a chair in front of ANGELA and MISTY, who are sitting on the sofa

BEN
So I’m going to do my act... and you have to heckle me, so I can practice my heckling put downs

ANGELA
We are quite tired

BEN
Just do your best

(ANGELA (wearily)

Knock knock. Who’s there? Dwayne. Dwayne who? Dwain the bath I’m dwowning. You haven’t heckled me yet

ANGELA
You’re rubbish

BEN
No, I’m not... oh was that a heckle, gotcha, sorry. Let’s start again. Knock Knock.
ANGELA

Get off!

IMPROVISED DIALOGUE

BEN leafs through joke book - ‘The put downs are at the back of the book’

MISTY: Could you stop please?

An improvised section where we give BEN lots of heckling put downs...

Can you not do jokes about weight please Ben

‘Sit back in your chair and I’ll plug it in.’ – doesn’t really work on a sofa

‘That’s what happens when cousins marry?’

Does tongue – twister while drinking glass of water – but pours the water into the dummy

MISTY

Is he ok?...Is this abnormal behaviour?

ANGELA

(Thinks about this) Not really...not for him

22. INT. LANDING OUTSIDE JAKE’S ROOM. DAY – D1

MUM and DAD stand outside the door. MUM knocks

MUM

Jake...

JAKE (OOV)

I’m doing my homework

MUM

(knocks again) Jake...

JAKE (OOV)

I’m in the middle of a maths problem

MUM enters
22A. INT JAKE’S BEDROOM – DAY – D1

MUM
Well how’s this for a maths problem?… Nineteen plus fifteen equals a crime.

JAKE
...what are you talking about?

DAD sets his face into a frown

MUM
You and this nineteen year old girl, Jake, that’s a crime

JAKE
A crime?

MUM
... she could be put on the sex offenders’ register

JAKE
Whoa, OK, Cool it a bit, eh, Mum, anyway it’s not her fault...

MUM
I think you’ll find it is her fault

JAKE
Well it’s not...cos’ she thinks I’m 17

MUM
Why?

JAKE
Because that’s what I told her

MUM
Well...she should have checked

JAKE
Eh?

MUM
She should have asked to see some form of identification
JAKE

Well...she has...

MUM

What?

JAKE

She’s seen my I.D.

MUM

You’ve got fake I.D. saying your 17?

JAKE

Well, no... 18...No point having a fake ID saying you’re a year too young to do anything

MUM

Right, well-

JAKE

...Come on, everyone’s got fake I.D. Dave’s got one saying he’s got diplomatic immunity.

MUM

Jake... Pete, why aren’t you saying anything?

DAD

Because you’re not leaving any gaps... but Jake your Mum's right... this girl, what’s her name?

JAKE

Victoria

DAD

And where does she live?

JAKE

...Ealing

DAD

And have you got a photo of -
MUM
That’s not important, is it.

DAD
No

23. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY – D1
ANGELA and MISTY are still in there looking a little jetlagged.

KAREN enters

ANGELA
Hello, sweetie, my how you’ve -

KAREN
I don’t want you to sleep in my room, but as you’re going to, this is the list of rules.

ANGELA takes it.

ANGELA
Right...I’m not really likely to wee in the bed

KAREN
Auntie Maddy did,

ANGELA
...Really?

KAREN
But she’d drunk too much wine. She’s borderline alcoholic.

ANGELA
Is she?

KAREN
She broke rules six and eight as well

ANGELA
I can’t see a box

KAREN turns the paper over
ANGELA
Oh of course... just below rule 27

ANGELA signs.

KAREN
You haven’t read them. You shouldn’t sign something if you haven’t read it. That’s how that woman got the wrong side of Rumplestiltskin

KAREN turns to MISTY

KAREN
She doesn’t have to sign because she looks sad. (exits with her form)

24. INT. JAKES ROOM. DAY – D1
MUM, DAD and JAKE still argue.

JAKE
Anyway, Mum’s four years younger than you

DAD
Oh come on!

JAKE
No, it’s –

MUM
Jake, what’s wrong with going out with girls your age?

JAKE
Well then I would be doing something illegal

MUM
Would you?... Would he Pete?

DAD
(flummoxed) Not sure, erm...

MUM
But you googled it...
DAD
I googled ‘sex under sixteen’... which was a mistake... look
Jake, for a start you have to tell this Victoria your real age...

JAKE
Why?... What are you going to do... Go to the police?

MUM
Yes
(DAD looks at her in surprise)
Maybe

JAKE
Oh that is just stupid

MUM
It is not stupid

They start to argue over each other

DAD
OK, let's all calm down, before someone say's something
really unfortunate

JAKE
She always goes mental when Angela’s here

DAD
Like that

24A. INT LIVING ROOM DAY – D1
ANGELA and MISTY can hear lots of raised, but muffled voices from upstairs.

MISTY
...This place doesn’t seem very secure...does it have a panic
room?

ANGELA
I think this whole house is a panic room, darling.
25. EXT. HOUSE. NIGHT – N1

26. INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT
DAD comes in the hall door in a dressing gown. MUM is sitting on the sofa in hers.

DAD
Sue?

MUM
I couldn’t sleep...it’s that band of Jake’s that’s the trouble...you know what girls are like around bands.

DAD
Yeh, he’s like Bill Wyman in reverse

MUM
Oh well.....suppose it won’t be that long before Jake’s lying to girls that he’s younger than he really is.

DAD sees MUM has a sheaf of papers on her lap.

DAD
What’s that?

MUM
Oh... Angela’s book...
(DAD looks at her)
I stumbled across it
(DAD is still looking)
... in her luggage.

DAD
Right...

MUM
Well I actually stumbled across the disc in her luggage...
which I put back... after I printed it out

DAD decides to let this one go.
MUM (Con’d)

Listen to this
(Reads)
‘Some self help books are band aids... some are bandages... this book is a portal’

DAD

A portal?

MUM

‘A portal to take you back to when the hurt happened. To let you relive it in a healing way, which will positivise your future. Let me talk you through my past.’

DAD

‘Talk to you through my arse’ was that?

MUM is giggling as she reads

MUM

“In my family..... (she turns the page)....my sister was a manipulator.’

DAD

... Maybe stop there.

MUM

‘She hooked my mom like a drug pusher... gave her love until she got used to it. Then she took it away and forced my Mom to buy it hit by hit.’

DAD

Or... stop there?

MUM

‘Mom’ ‘Mom!’

DAD

Sue.....

He points upstairs to the sleeping children.

MUM

We didn’t have a ‘Mom’ we had a bloody ‘Mum’
MUM starts flicking through the pages.

    DAD
    OK... but let’s not have a big fight about this, let’s just
pretend we never read this and -

MUM has found something in the book.

    MUM
    ‘She finally found the man she’d been looking for..... a weak
but angry man, who avoided all confrontation, who she
could hook like she hooked Mom.’

    DAD
    .... ‘Weak and angry’....So I avoid confrontation, eh? Well
just wait till bloody breakfast, then she’ll -

(26A)

KAREN appears in the doorway

    KAREN
    Are you two fighting?

    DAD
    No, sweetheart, hey come on, what are you doing up at this
time of night?

    KAREN
    You are, aren’t you?

    DAD
    No. Really...
    (KAREN still looks doubtful. DAD decides he has to convince her)
We’re not fighting. We both want to fight Auntie Angela...a bit

    KAREN
    Why do families fight so much?

    MUM
    Well, often they fight...because they love each other.....

    KAREN
    So did Henry the 8th love Anne Boleyn?
MUM
Well, in a sense, yes, he sort of loved her too much, so he ended up....

KAREN
Chopping her head off.

MUM
Yes

KAREN
In front of hundreds of people.

IMPROVISED DIALOGUE
KAREN explores various historical examples of family friction where there was too much love. (Richard the 3rd, Romulus and Remus)

DAD
Listen, families are like democracy, really rubbish, but better than the alternatives
(DAD picks up KAREN) Carry up the stairs, for old time’s sake?

KAREN
OK...so the big fight’s going to be at breakfast?

DAD
Yup

27. EXT. HOUSE. MORNING –D2

28. INT. KITCHEN. DAY – D2
BEN has his dummy on his arm, ready for school, KAREN’S still in her pyjama’s, and not sat down

BEN
(as BEN)
Hello. He’s Tommy
(as the dummy)
And he’s Ben.

KAREN
I can see your lips move
BEN
So?

KAREN
You’re not supposed to see your lips move

BEN
Then close your eyes

KAREN
Also, he called you Gen

ANGELA walks in.

ANGELA
(brightly)
Hi ya!

MUM
Hi ya.

KAREN plonks down a stool and sits on it to watch the fight

DAD
Karen, go get dressed
(she looks miffed)
Go on
(she exits giving him a stare)

ANGELA sits down next to BEN. Every time an adult speaks, Tommy the Dummy turns his head

MUM
So, the book... is there much about me?

ANGELA
Not much no... a mention now and then

MUM
What sort of a mention? A nice mention?

ANGELA
It’s mostly... affectionate.
MUM
Right... it’s just that. Ben, Tommy, can you go get ready for school

BEN exits, conversing with the Dummy

(28A)

ANGELA
Have you any skimmed milk? I find the... (i.e. full fat makes me a bit nauseous)

MUM
(interrupts)
You call me a drug pusher!

ANGELA
...You’ve read it

MUM
You say I’m controlling, you say I’m small minded

ANGELA
You got it out of my...

MUM
And you say the bike Mum bought me was better than yours. And it wasn’t. Yours was way better

ANGELA
That is a totally unacceptable invasion of privacy

MUM
We can get an injunction

ANGELA
No you can’t

MUM
(Bluffing)
We can. We looked into it

ANGELA
Between last night and breakfast?
MUM
...Lawyers get into work very early

ANGELA
Oh you’re just jealous of my success

MUM
I should take the book and shove it up your... portal

ANGELA
Why are you so angry?

MUM
Me angry?

DAD
That book's the angriest thing I've ever read.

ANGELA
Ah! You can talk!... You're the angriest of anyone.

MUM
You're the angry one.

Briefly the three of them shout at each other about who's angrier.

(28B)

JAKE
Ok Ok everyone’s angry... where’s my backpack?

(He sees it and picks it up, he passes MISTY as he exits)

JAKE
They're all very angry apparently

ANGELA
Misty, we’re leaving straight after breakfast, we’ll need a number for a cab

MUM and DAD both come in very quickly.

MUM/DAD
0207
MUM cedes to DAD

DAD

0207 946 0505

ANGELA picks up a card and angrily scribbles on the back of it.

ANGELA

It’s good for me to visit suburbia every now and then because it reminds me exactly why I...

(she stops mid sentence deeply shocked by what she’s seen on the front of the card)

God, I know you hate me but... you’re working with Brick?

DAD

Brick?

ANGELA holds up the card.

ANGELA

‘Sneider, Morpego’... this is the card from his attorneys.

MISTY looks horrified

MUM

I’ve no idea what that is.

ANGELA

Is Brick paying you?

(28C)
KAREN enters

KAREN

Oh that's the card from the man

DAD

What man?

KAREN

The man who called yesterday and who said he wasn't a cold caller. He asked if Angela was here
ANGELA
And what did you say?

KAREN
No. Obviously because yesterday you weren't

DAD
Why didn't you tell us this?

KAREN
I tried to, but you were too busy arguing with Jake about his nickname,
have you seen my trainers
(she remembers)
Oh I know
(she runs off)

ANGELA (to MISTY who’s looking
very anxious)
Don't worry sweetie, why don't you go and get your things
together? (MISTY exits)
...Me and Brick... we split up... badly... he was
psychologically abusive, especially to Misty, so I left and
took her with me... but, Brick being Brick...

BEN passes through, with his dummy.

BEN
I liked Brick...

DAD
Ben...

BEN
Cos he was called Brick
(as the dummy)
I liked him too
(as BEN)
You never met him, Tommy
(as dummy)
How do you know? I might have.
(as BEN)
Shut up...(exits)

BEN and his dummy leave arguing with each other.
(28D)

DAD
So you’ve done a runner… with Brick’s daughter?

ANGELA
I had to… he’s evil, Pete… he had his first wife commited. And now he’s traced us to London where we’ve got nowhere to go, unless, of course we can stay a few hours, while I sort somewhere to go.

MUM and DAD look at each other

MUM
....OK… but I want you… out by lunchtime

ANGELA
Absolutely.

MUM
... all this stuff about Brick… you haven’t mentioned any of it in your book

ANGELA
....The publisher said to save it for the sequel

29. MIX TO EXT. STREET. DAY – D2
DAD is coming home. There’s a roll of recycling bags on the doorstep, which he picks up.

30. INT. HALL. – D2
Dad enters and walks up the hall, glancing in the front room as he passes. He seems pleased that there’s no sign of Angela

31. INT. KITCHEN – D2
Jake’s doing his homework, at the computer

DAD
Woo – hoo! Alone at last, eh

JAKE
Oh, Dad –

DAD
Have you spoken to Victoria, like we agreed?
JAKE
Actually -

DAD
Come on, Jake, have you or haven’t you?

ANGELA
Hi Pete –

Dad is startled

DAD
What the hell are you still doing here?

ANGELA
I'm sorry... all the hotels are booked out

DAD stares grimly at her.

DAD
No they're not

JAKE
I told you he wouldn’t believe you, Auntie

A beat as ANGELA considers her options.

ANGELA
Bricks cut off my cards... I'm sorry. I’ve no money. We can't go anywhere

(31A) BEN enters

BEN
I did the talent show!

DAD
Right,

BEN
They laughed lots

DAD
Great
BEN
But in the wrong places. I tried to tell them. Stop laughing I shouted, but they just laughed. It was Tommy’s fault, he kept messing about. I’m going solo, where are the jaffa cakes?

ANGELA
I... think Misty’s had those

BEN exits, disappointed. We hear MUM entering with KAREN (31B)

MUM
(calling up the stairs)
Oh hi, Ben, how did you get on with the talent contest, was it, (entering KITCHEN) Jesus, you’re still here.

ANGELA
...Yes...

DAD
... she hasn’t got enough money for a hotel room

ANGELA
I’ve no money for anything... I’m... stuck here

MUM
When you say, ‘here’, what exactly do you mean by -

ANGELA
Op, text from Misty
(set off up the stairs)
She’s having one of her bathroom traumas. She has a fear of flush toilets. (calling upstairs) I’m coming!

MUM
Hey – you can’t just – we need to – come back here and – (to PETE)
oh for ... Jesus wept, this is an... effin nightmare!
JAKE
So, what are you going to do?

MUM
Never you mind what we’re going to do, have you done what you were supposed to do?

JAKE
Sorry?

MUM
About that girl, have you told her?

JAKE
I’m not allowed to use my mobile at school...

DAD
Ring her now

JAKE
She’s working

DAD
Working? You said she was a student

JAKE
She’s got a part time job...

MUM
Doing what?

JAKE
In entertainment

MUM
Doing what?

JAKE
She’s a dancer. I’ll... (i.e. ring her tomorrow)

MUM
In a dance troupe?
JAKE
She dances alone.

MUM
She dances al - Oh my God!

DAD
Is there a pole involved?

JAKE
... Sometimes

MUM
You're going out with a nineteen year old lap dancer?

JAKE
She's not a lap dancer... lap dancers are cheap. She's a pole dancer, which is artistic.

MUM
Is that what she’s told you?

JAKE
It is artistic, I've seen her

MUM
You've seen her!
(can't believe it ) (to DAD)
He's seen her!

JAKE
It's OK, I wasn’t in the club, I was only backstage

MUM
Oh what with all the other naked strippers?

JAKE
You just have to be judgemental, don't you

ANGELA
(Materialising)
Naked strippers?
MUM
(Pointing at nose)
Oi, just keep this out of it.

32. INT. LIVING ROOM. / INT KITCHEN – DAY – D2
KAREN’S in the bay windows

KAREN
Mum! Dad!

DAD
Not now Karen

The doorbell rings.

DAD
Who’s that?

KAREN
It’s the man. He’s back... the man who’s looking for Auntie Angela

MUM, DAD and ANGELA take this in

CAPTION: To be continued

END