

By

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Episode 1

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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32, 34

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27, 27A, 28, 30, 30A, 31, 32, 32A

1 */5 . * 3 * 4 # & % 3 0 0 . . 0 3 / * / (1

MRI, 37, turns on a CD Player. Music plays.

She looks in the mirror above her bedroom sink. No make up and bad hair.

MRI
(too serious)
H. I' m MRI.

She doesn't like what she sees. She straightens her wrinkles. They spring back. Fucking wrinkles... She takes a deep breath

MRI
(freakishly upbeat)
H, my name's -

She gets distracted by her fringe. She reaches for some rusty nail scissors then boldly cuts into it.

MRI
Oh shit... fuck.

It isn't good. She cuts some more. Keeps getting shorter.

MRI
Shit.

More cutting. It's worse. Oh dear gdeareareareare.

MRI

Thank you

NATHAN

Have you ever bi vouacked?

MRI

Is that an interview question?

Nathan looks at her. Then writes something down

NATHAN

Super. Your CV is a bit gappy. There's a gap in it. It's mostly. Gap It's all gap

MRI

Well that's a matter of perspective

NATHAN

It says you worked in FatFace in 2000 -

MRI

Critical role -

NATHAN

- and then nothing It just stops.

MRI

Yes.

3 */5 .:45&3*064 */45*565*0/ %": 3

Long empty corridor. A pre-fringe MRI walks down the corridor in silence. Just the echoey clip of feet.

NATHAN

From2000.. To now?

4 */5 .*3* 4 #&%300. .03/*/(4

MRI practices a response in the mirror.

MRI

I... I... I... I, I... Vert -

5 */5 /"5)"/ 4 0''*\$& %": 5

We are back with NATHAN and MRI in the interview

MRI

- travelling

NATHAN

From2000.. To now?

MRI

Yup

Nathan courts on his hands.

NATHAN

Sei Hee... (I'm a free spirit na)

MRI

(I'm a free spirit na)

Hell yeah

6 */5 .:45&3*064 */45*565*0/ %": 6

MRI waits by a front desk while a PERSON counts out forty-six pounds in cash. It is handed to her.

MRI also handed a printed piece of paper to sign. We zoom in. It is a declaration to never buy fireworks.

7 */5 /"5)"/ 4 0''*\$ & %": 7

We are back... We arpo nedASN i t is tclns "

MRI

(making stuff up)

Um. . . Mostly north, south then a little bit of the east. And some west too which was. Nice.

(MRE)

MIRI (CONT'D)
But I'm home now Ready to get
going Back to it. Back to life. My
life

She beams at him

8 &95 .:45&3*064 */45*565*0/ %": 8

A pre-fringe MIRI exits. She breathes in the air. Feels the sun on her face. FREEDOM

A MIDDLE AGED COUPLE are bickering

GSCAR
I like it, leave it -

CAROLINE
You look like an old farmer.

CAROLINE (ALTERNATIVE)
You look like Guy Richie

CAROLINE (ALTERNATIVE)
You look American

GSCAR
(wearily)
Fucksake Caroline.

Miri turns to see her parents GSCAR and CAROLINE. Gscar wears a worn flat cap. Caroline is neatly dressed in MS's finest. They see Miri. For a beat nobody knows what to do

CAROLINE
Miri!

CAROLINE
We repainted the hall.

Miri looks around Nothing has changed

MIRI
The same colour.

Beat.

CAROLINE
Yes.

Miri sees a bunch flowers on the side.

CSCAR
Those came for you this morning

MRI

Thank god he's still with us.

CAROLINE

She puts the Discman on the bed then picks up the Tamagotchi. It's dead. She presses its buttons repeatedly - vainly hoping to revive it.

She then pulls out some old photos: A framed one of TEEN MARI and TEEN MANDY posing "teen sexily" for the camera. Another of TEEN MARI and TEEN DOM with a shit Tippex heart around their faces. And a "Mari (HEART SYMBOL) Dom" written in Tippex.

Mari smiles at it.

15

*/5 ,*5\$)&/ %":

15

We're back with CAROLINE and OSCAR in the kitchen.

CAROLINE

And people aren't just going to forget what she did.

OSCAR

Some people might. Elderly people.

Caroline looks at him.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Anyway, she didn't do it. Not in the way they said.

CAROLINE

People believe what they want.

Oscar eyes the running tap.

OSCAR

We need to give her space as she readjusts to life in our home and wider community.

He turns the tap off.

CAROLINE

Are you going to keep on quoting the bloody pamphlet?

Oscar gives Caroline a look then exits. Caroline rebelliously turns the tap on full and lets it run.

She gets a text. She reads it:

FREE TOMORROW WANT TO MEET?

Caroline hesitates. Then replies YES. The tap runs.

Mari enters. Caroline jumps. Caught in the act.

CAROLINE

Mri...

Caroline hurriedly turns off the tap and starts to wash up

Miri hangs up, cringing

BILLY
Sorry, didn't see the -

MRI
It's fine

Billy nods. Nervous. He's not talked to many women like Miri - or just in general - before.

BILLY
Are you visiting?

MRI
Uh - yes. More like staying

BILLY
Oh Airbnb?

MRI
What?

BILLY
Are you Airbnb'ing?

MRI
I don't think so.. Are you?

BILLY
Me? No I live with.. I am a carer. I take care of... a woman

He wishes he was more interesting. Miri smiles at him

MRI
That's a nice job. Maybe I should do that.

Billy smiles back. This is going better than he thought.

BILLY
Your swing's broken, I can -

Suddenly ANNA, 70s, glamorous, BANGS on the window from inside the house - shouting and pointing at Miri.

ANNA
Noo NOOOO NO NO NOO

Miri looks alarmed

BILLY
Oh shit. Sorry, she's not been well. But she's -

ANNA
GET AWAY FROM HER!

Billy's flustered. He really doesn't want to leave Mimi.

BILLY

Oh God...

He runs back into the house, frustrated. Mimi looks at Anna still banging on the window at her. Mimi smiles and waves.

ANNA

YOU FUCKER

Mimi is shocked but tries to keep smiling

19

*/5 ,*5\$)&/ %":

19

MIMI enters. CAROLINE is there.

MIMI

The new neighbours are friendly.

CAROLINE

We haven't really met yet -

MIMI

I've got to go into town tomorrow for a job interview

CAROLINE

Oh. What job?

CSCAR

You won't recognise the place. Bloody gentrification

CAROLINE

It's one shop

CSCAR

Mimze's was the heart of this community and some arsehole's turning it into posh fish and chips.

CAROLINE

(to Mimi)

We don't know he's an arsehole

CSCAR

We presume. Everyone's terrified we're going to be the next Mimgate

BACK TO LIFE

MRI

No - I left him a message so when he calls me back

CAROLINE

It's just it's been a long time - and you don't know how he's going to feel now you're back. Or how you're going to feel -

MRI

I know That's why I'm going to wear a wedding dress... I'm not going to do that... We were close, and he wrote to me occasionally - and you said he always asked after me.

CAROLINE

Well yes -

MRI

I'm just going to say hi. If that's something people still do?

They nod. Miri exits. Oscar looks at Caroline who shifts uncomfortably.

20 */5 1"3&/5 4 #&%300. /*()5 20

CSCAR and CAROLINE lie next to each other. The widest gap between them. They are silent, both in their own worlds. They hear a bath start running next door.

CSCAR
We've lied

CAROLINE
Gatted. It's different.

Silence. The bath is still running. It keeps running. Oscar shifts. Caroline knows what's coming.

CSCAR
She'll use up all the hot water.

Caroline closes her eyes. My god she would love a big bath.

21 */5 #"5)300. 0.*55&% 21

22 */5 .*3* 4 #&%300. 0.*55&% 22

23 */5 ,*5\$)&/ .03/*/(23

CSCAR is there on his mobile. On hold. He is eating cereal.

CSCAR
I will not hold forever. Someone is going to have to give me a straight answer.

MRI enters. She makes toast.

CSCAR (CONT'D)
Bastards.

MRI
What's up?

CSCAR
Bloody home insurance. Apparently it's compromised. Because you.. it's fine.

MRI
Ooh I see.

Miri is good humoured She just wants toast.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Cos I'm so dangerous? Christ.
Damn it, so does that mean I
can't set fire to the house
or do something terrible?

MIRI (ALTERNATIVE)

Tell them I'm a bit busy so I
can't set fire to the house
until the weekend

Re: g 'hr' Q? (p) B h 1 E m' Q r s & dnd o l c Q u l ° c - to

MRI

Amazing. Fab, great. See you then!

Mri's face flushes. She sees Oscar looking at her sadly. She forces a smile.

MRI (CONT'D)

Going for a walk

OSCAR

Maybe you should check with your mother -

MRI

Or maybe it's fine because I'm thirty seven - sorry.

OSCAR

You're absolutely right. You are an adult now

Mri leaves the kitchen

She turns and exits - passing SAMUEL, 40s, Scandinavian. He wears a backpack and watches her with interest.

33 & 95 # & " \$) % " :

33

MRI sits on the beach looking out to sea. We can see SAMUEL, the man from the supermarket watching her from a bench in the distance.

AUDIO Faint. Rises out of the sound of the waves. A slow instrumental of Bananarama's 'Love In The First Degree'.

Mri closes her eyes. The music gets louder. Then

SAMUEL (O.S.)

It's you, isn't it.

She opens her eyes. Music stops. SAMUEL from the supermarket is standing a few feet away. He has a quiet authority.

SAMUEL

Welcome back Mri Mitten

She's a little confused but grateful he isn't hostile.

MRI

Thank you. Sorry, I don't remember you.

SAMUEL

Because we only just met.

He walks on. She's a little unsettled. She watches him for a beat then gets up and leaves.

&95 %0. 4)064& %":

DOM

I forgive you But only cos you've
got nice tits.

This is clearly an old joke between them Mri smiles.

MRI

Nice house.

DOM

Recruitment Manager.

MRI

Wow So not a rock star.

DOM

No didn't quite get there - I can't
believe you're back

MRI

I know It's mad

(then)

Look, I don't want to freak you out
or anything But I thought about
you And us. A lot. Had a lot of
time - and obviously I know

MRI

**Big fucking omission You said he
asked after me!**

CAROLINE
And he did
She looks to Oscar.

OSCAR
He did

OSCAR
At the beginning

MIRI
You let me believe he was thinking
about me for eighteen years!

Yeah That's bad

OSCAR
He may have been ..

Caroline looks at Miri pleading

38 * / 5 - * 7 * / (3 0 0 . % " :

38

It is the next day. JANICE - Probation Officer - sits opposite MARI who looks unkempt in pyjamas.

Mari watches Janice sip her tea. Janice has an official looking file - she will fill in paperwork during this scene.

JANICE

Oh, that's lovely. I've had sinusitis, so this is the first time I've had dairy in about a week, I know it's not PC but I absolutely love dairy.

Janice glances at a tin of biscuits on the coffee table. Mari pushes the tin towards her.

JANICE

I'd love one but I've just had the most enormous bowl of newdles.

Janice checks her papers.

JANICE

So how are you finding being back?

MARI

Great. All great.

JANICE

Good. And how are the job interviews going?

MARI

Yeah. Positive feedback. Really good.

JANICE

Good. And how are you finding it? Being back?

MARI

You just asked that.

Janice looks at her paperwork.

JANICE

Sorry. Did you answer?

MARI

Yes.

JANICE

Oh god, sorry, I'm on so much codeine.

(MARI)

JANICE (CONT'D)

**Slipped a disc, that and sinusitis,
the only thing that got me through
it was Naked and Afraid. Have you
seen it? - Course you haven't!**

(MRE)

BACK TO LIFE

JANCE (CONT'D)

JANCE

**It's broke. Stop trying to get on
it! Put it in the skip. It's a
brand new bike, no stabilizers.**

(MRE)

JANCE (CONT'D)
You got to learn to ride, for real
this time. You get me?

Miri nods.

MRI
Yup

Grunching noise. Jance is now eating a biscuit.

JANCE
That went well. We got a lot done.
Any questions?

MRI
Nopa

JANCE
Hew I just want to get home and
lie down

Jance rises.

JANCE
There is actually a really good
support group in Eastbourne. First
Tuesday of every month

MRI
I don't drive.

JANCE
Oh. Well it's not that great.

Jance exits. Mri slumps facedown on the sofa. She is at
rock bottom. Defeated.

CSCAR sees her through the doorway.

39 */5)"--8": 0.*55&% 39

40 */5 &95 \$"3 %6/(&/&44 \$"3 1"3, %": 40

CAROLINE lies in her car. Heating full blast. We just see her
face. She's distraught.

CAROLINE
Oh my God, what am I doing? This is
all such a mess -
(wincing)
Gentle!

REVEAL to see a man underneath her skirt going down on her.
His head appears. It is DOM

DOM
It's very hot down here.

CAROLINE

This is the last time. Do you understand?

DOM

**(not meaning it)
Yep**

CAROLINE

I'm serious. We need to stop this

DOM

OK

Dom starts to get up..

CAROLINE

(pushing his head down)

Not now..

41 & 9.5 406/% . * 3303 % " :

41

Large concrete structure on a cliff. Pre radar listening

MRI

Not really. I thought coming home
would be the easy bit.

Qcar mds.

MRI (CONT'D)

Unemployed, no money, living with
my parents... and people really
hate me. Not where you want to be
at thirty seven

Osca tries to console her.

OSCAR

I thought I'd be retired to The
Lake District with six
grandchildren by now

Miri looks at him

MIRI

You thought I'd have six kids?

Osca thinks about it.

OSCAR

On reflection, it is rather a lot.
(then)
I'm sorry if we made it harder.
With Dom-

MIRI

Doesn't matter now

OSCAR

Thought this might help. A bit. You
deserve a good shot at all of
this... life stuff.

He hands her a folded piece of paper. It's a help wanted
sign 'SHIP ASSISTANT WANTED.

OSCAR

From that new Fish and Chip place.

MIRI

Run by the arsehole.

Miri is touched. Osca struggles to contain his contempt.

OSCAR

Yes. I will miss Mirze's -
(then serious)
But like all species we must adapt
to environmental change or die.

Miri can see how hard he's trying to convince himself of
this. She smiles.

MIRI

Thank you

Miri suddenly hugs him. Catching him off guard. He hugs her
back.

49 */5 . * 3 * ~ 4 # & % 3 0 0 . % " : 49

MIRI is awake looking at the job interview info. As she gets out of bed her Tamagotchi suddenly beeps once. It's come back to life! We see it. Miri doesn't.

50 */5 1 " 3 & / 5 ~ 4 # & % 3 0 0 . 0 . * 5 5 & % 50

51 */5) " - - 8 " : . 0 3 / * / (51

OSCAR comes up the stairs. CAROLINE is heading downstairs. They speak in hushed voices.

OSCAR
It's not coming off.

CAROLINE
What are you using?

OSCAR
Vinegar.

CAROLINE
Use white spirit!

OSCAR
We don't have insurance. I'm not dousing the place in lighter fuel.

SUDENLY, they hear music playing loudly from Miri's bedroom. Caroline looks worried.

CAROLINE
Oh God..

Caroline and Oscar head downstairs.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
We can't let her see..

As they pass Miri's Bedroom door they can hear MIRI talking. Caroline stops. The lines we heard in the opening scene.

CAROLINE
What's she doing? Who's she talking to? Why aren't you cleaning?

OSCAR
Because you're talking to me.

MIRI (O.S.)
Hi. I'm Miri...

52 */5 . * 3 * 4 # & % 3 0 0 . . 0 3 / * / (52

Now with her badly cut fringe, MIRI practises her interview. She touches her awful fringe.

MRI
 (cheesy smile)
 I've always loved food.. It's great. And tills...

53

/5 /"5)"/ 4 0''\$ & %":

53

Back in the interview with NATHAN and MRI.

NATHAN
 And do you like people?

MRI
 Some people

NATHAN
 Some?

MRI
 Well, does anyone like everyone?

NATHAN
 Yes.

MRI
 Then yes.

NATHAN
 Cos customer service is everything

MRI
 I love service and customers the most.

NATHAN
 Great. And you're available to start...

MRI
 Now

NATHAN
 Oh okay, well I'm seeing a few people, so

MRI
 Of course, me too

NATHAN
 Oh, who?

Mri thinks.

MRI
 Well worths. Blockbuster.

He laughs. She laughs nervously with him

NATHAN

**That's actually very funny, that's
good**

MRI

**(no idea why)
Thank you**

54 */5 . *3*~4 #&%300. .03/*/(54

Bad Fringe MRI stands in front of her wardrobe. All old nineties clothes. Nothing to wear. CAROLINE enters.

CAROLINE
Oh MRI. You are there.

MRI
It's my room

Caroline stands in the doorway.

CAROLINE
Your hair -

MRI
It's -- how I want it. I need to borrow some clothes.

Caroline stays in the doorway.

CAROLINE
Why?

MRI
Because I've got a job interview

CAROLINE
Oh lovely.

Caroline doesn't move.

MRI
So can I borrow some clothes.

CAROLINE
Why?

MRI
Mhm

Caroline scuttles off.

55 */5)"--8": 0.*55&% 55

56 */5 /"5)"/ 4 0''*\$& %": 56

Back in the interview with NATHAN and MRI.

NATHAN
We haven't got a mobile number for you

Shit fuck

MRI
Oh yeah It's 07700 900738

NATHAN
Sorry. Say it again

MRI
Oh sorry, 07700 900259 ..

NATHAN
I' mbeing thick

MRI
07700 900931!

NATHAN
That' s not the same

MRI
Yes, it is.

NATHAN
It' s really not.

MRI
It is!

Mri is super stressed

NATHAN
Are you OK?

MRI
Yes!

NATHAN
Are you sure?

MRI
Yes. I' malways like this!

Wong answer. He writes something down

MRI
No, wait, I' mnever like this.

NATHAN
I' mconfused

MRI
I am

NATHAN
Why are you here?

MRI
I REALLY WANT A JOB

NATHAN
OK

MRI

But I'm panicking I've not done anything like this for a really long time..

NATHAN

Just breathe. Take a breath

Mri breathes.

57

***/5 .*3* 4 #&%300. .03/*/(**

57

CAROLINE hands MRI an outfit including a skirt. Obviously too small. A weak attempt to stall Mri.

CAROLINE

This is all I have

Beat. Mri takes it.

MRI

Thanks.

Caroline leaves. Mri holds the insanely tiny skirt up against her hips in the mirror. Way too small. She determinedly squeezes it on

58

***/5)"--8": .03/*/(**

58

MRI heads down the stairs in the skirt. It is so tight she has to do pigeon steps. She can hear CAROLINE and OSCAR

MRI

Yes you do

CAROLINE

Oh that bike. Hh

MRI

What's wrong with you?
(to Oscar)

What's that on your hands?

Oscar has red paint on his hands.

CSCAR

Old age.

Mri gives up

MRI

I' ll see you later.

MRI

Do you know what, you should do it.

NATHAN

What?

MIRI

You are right. I have nothing to offer. I didn't have a critical role in FatFace, I think most people are twats, I don't have a mobile, and this town hates me. But I am an exceptional worker - I did a short hairdressing course, and I can clean a toilet 'til it shines like the sun!

He frowns. Thinking

NATHAN

We don't have toilets...

He looks at her oddly. Then looks at her cv, Her name on the top "Miri Mitterson". Miri gives up

MIRI

OK Thank you for your time.

She rises to leave. Then the penny finally drops for Nathan

NATHAN

Miranda.. You're Miranda Mitterson?
The Miranda Mitterson?

Deep breath Miri holds his gaze.

MIRI

Yes I am

NATHAN

Shit shit shit shit. Fucking cry shit. It's FUCK Oh my fuck shit. FUCK holy shitfuck Christmas Shit.

60A &95 ("3%&/ 0.*55&% 60A

61 &95 ."55&40/)064& .03/*/(61

MIRI gets to the front of the house and her PARENIS try to stop her. All chaotic and overlapped

CAROLINE

Darling - just wait.

OSCAR

The seat's too high for you

CAROLINE

You can't wear that. You look peculiar.

63 */5 /"5)"/ 4 0''*\$& %": **63**

**Back in the interview with NATHAN and MRI. Stunned silence.
Mri gets up to leave.**

NATHAN
How was it?

MRI