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# BACK TO LIFE

By

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Episode 5  
"Sticks and Stones"

SHOOTING SCRIPT  
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**BILLY**

**Sorry, I' mconfused do you have a  
downstairs disease?**

**MRI**

No It's all good I was just happy  
you were talking to me and I tried to  
make a joke -

**BILLY**

Oh Oh oh I see I get it.

(pause)

Hh

**We now see CAROLINE kneeling by his crotch**

**CAROLINE**

**Oscar. You need to relax**

**Oscar could not be less relaxed**

**OSCAR**

**I'm trying**

**CAROLINE**

**Unclench your fists.**

His hands are so tightly clenched. He tries to open them.

CSCAR

Bloody hell Caroline what are you doing?

CAROLINE

I am trying to

CSCAR

Oh good god

CAROLINE

Relax!

Oscar desperately tries to relax, exhales slowly. Then FARIS.  
Silence.

CSCAR

Sorry - How awful -

CAROLINE

I will not be defeated by a fart.

She looks up It's ANNA Billy's wife - looking over the fence

ANNA

It's Anna

MRI

H. Hello I'm MRI.

Mri waves kindly, tentative.

ANNA

I know I saw you and Billy making  
anands, and I wanted to apologise. For  
all the drama last week

Mri is unbelievably grateful and touched She stands.

MRI

I really appreciate that. And I'm so  
sorry too I had no idea

ANNA

Let us never mention it again

Anna looks at her. Mteral, sudden warmth and insight.

ANNA (CONT'D)

It's hard isn't it? Life sometimes.

MRI

(with great feeling)

Yes.

ANNA

But look at you bathed in sunlight  
like an angel. How are you?

MRI

I'm good thank you

ANNA

Fresh start, new beginnings.

MRI

Well, it's a lovely day.

ANNA

Isn't it? Crisp Nothing like the  
winter sun is there?

MRI

How are you?

ANNA

I feel fabulous. Thank you for asking

MRI

I'm so glad





Caroline pops up

CAROLINE

No! We need to push through. Steer  
this ship into sexy waters again..

Oscar frowns.

OSCAR

OK

CAROLINE

It's not always going to be pleasant.  
It just has to be part of our routine.  
Like porridge.

OSCAR

Porridge?

CAROLINE

Yes. But a bit sexier.

OSCAR

Grand a

CAROLINE

No, that gets stuck in your teeth

OSCAR

Maybe croissants.

CAROLINE

Just - concentrate

Oscar takes a breath. And Caroline descends.

10 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

10

MIRI is trying to ignore the endless foul words coming from  
ANNA over the fence.

ANNA

Slut fucker, shit slit-

MIRI

Stop it.

ANNA

Dirty little prison killer, rot rot  
rot, no life for you, no love for you  
rot rot rot you nasty little -

Finally Miri snaps. She stands up and eye balls Anna over the  
fence. Anna is delighted to get a rise out of her.

MIRI

You know nothing about me you spiteful  
old witch

**Mri turns to walk away.**

**ANNA**

**I know you've got a big greedy pussy  
and nobody wants it. Not my husband  
Or anyone. You'll always be alone.**

**Mri turns furiously.**

MRI

Oh fuck off and die!

She makes an aggressive gesture. Anna's mouth hangs open  
Suddenlly and strangely she falls out of frame. Slumping noise.  
Mri's in shock

MRI (CONT'D)

Anna?

She stares helplessly over the fence. Anna's body lies face  
down on the grass. Very dead

TITLE CARD BACK TO LIFE over Anna's dead body.

11 EXT. STREET - DAY

11

An ambulance. BILLY is being conforled by a NEIGHBOUR

OSCAR and CAROLINE stand in their driveway with MRI - who  
looks pale. Sick to her stomach

CAROLINE

Poor woman

OSCAR

Never got to know her. Now we  
definitely wri t.

TINA, a police officer, approaches.

TINA

Mri Mittenon, I'm Officer Crowley-

MRI

I'm a bit late for work -

Tina's police radio crackles into life

POLICE OFFICER (V.O.)

Apparently she was talking to that  
psycho that killed Chief Inspector  
Boback's girl.

Tina looks at Mri.

TINA

(into radio)

Yeah With her now Rick

She escorts Mri to the side dramatically.

TINA (CONT'D)

You were the last person to speak to  
the deceased

Mri swallows hard

**MRI**

I was yes. We did converse. Indeed

**TINA**

And what was said?

**MRI**

Um. yes... we had a good chat.

**TINA**

What did she say?

**MRI**

Nice weather-

**TINA**

Well it is, lovely.

**MRI**

So I said yes it is, she said it was crisp

**TINA**

Crisp It is crisp

**MRI**

She seemed very lucid -

**TINA**

Interesting

**MRI**

And then she changed tack

**TINA**

Okay.

**MRI**

Con conversationally she went in a different direction

**TINA**

For example?

**MRI**

Umm.. like slut whore, shit slit, dirty little husband fucker - rot in prison killer killer killer.

Tina doesn't flinch

**TINA**

Anything else?

**MRI**

Um..

TINA

It's important.

MRI

(shyly)

That I had a great big greedy pussy.

TINA

Ok Is that true?

MRI

Um.. No.. What? No

TINA

So you don't have a greedy pussy-

MRI

No!

TINA

Calm down, it's a fair question.

MRI

I am.. calm

TINA

So what was your response?

MRI

Um..

TINA

Last thing you said to her.

MRI

(really quiet like it didn't happen)

Fuck off and die

Tina looks at her. Long and hard

MRI (CONF'D)

I'm aware it doesn't sound good

TINA

No

MRI

You can see how I got there. I snapped

TINA

Snapped

Tina writes "snapped" down

MRI

No no no no!

**TINA**

No or yes?

**MRI**

Yes! But I did it... oh God this is so  
incredibly rubbish

**TINA**

We will see what the coroner's report  
says.

**MRI**

They are just words- I did it- you  
can't with words- come on!

**Tina is writing stuff down Mri is desperate**

MRI (CONT'D)

"Sticks and stones will break my bones  
but words will never hurt me"

TINA

We all know that's not true "Tiny  
tits Tina you're so weak, weak little  
freak" So you say through your tears  
"words will never hurt me" Then you  
become a police woman With a  
truncheon I'll be in touch

Tina marches off. Mri suddenly sees Billy looking at her. He  
has heard some of this.

MRI

I'm so sorry

He looks at her coldly and walks off towards his house. Mri  
runs after him

MRI (CONT'D)

Billy!





MRI

Neither

NATHAN

Killer. Front of house. Puts people off. Unless it's Halloween and you're making a thing of it... should have done that. Anyway, they will come round. It's not like you're gonna be killing anyone else.

Nathan chuckles. Mri exhales slowly for a few beats.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Oh fuck

MIRI

Listen, I didn't... she was my neighbour, she was very old, we were talking.. she died. It's fine.

NATHAN

Not for her.

MIRI

No obviously not.

NATHAN

Living next to the grimreaper.

MIRI

It was just a tragic coincidence.

NATHAN

You should warn people, carry around a scythe or something.. OK Grikey. Shit the bed

He's on the brink

MIRI

Sit down I'm going get you -

She opens a small fridge. It's broken. There's a bad smell.

MIRI (CONT'D)

A hug

She gives him a hug

MIRI (CONT'D)

It's okay. Everything's going to be okay. I know what it's like to hit rock bottom. You have to hang on. It will get better.

He stares at her.

NATHAN

You're being really nice.

MIRI

Nathan, you need to fire me.

NATHAN

No

MIRI

Just do it.

NATHAN

I can't.

MIRI

I'm doing it, I'm firing myself.

NATHAN

I don't want you to

MIRI

"Miri you're fired" OK thanks for giving me a chance Nathan "OK bye Miri."

Nathan is grateful.

NATHAN

Wow You're like Paul McKenna, making me do that.

Miri tries something else.

MIRI

"Oh and here's your money Miri for the few days work you did so you can buy a present for the person whose wife you just accidentally killed" "Oh thank you for all the money Nathan, bye."

He nods. And reaches for an empty wallet.

MIRI (CONF D)

Don't worry.

Before she leaves.

MIRI (CONF D)

(brightly)

Could be worse. You could be me.

NATHAN

That is true.

(beat, then)

Wellt...

Miri turns.

NATHAN (CONF D)

Did you like prison?

MIRI

Uh.. it's not great. But in some ways, it's simpler. Why, are you thinking of going?





CAROLINE

Don't worry, darling We'll sort this out. Together.

They sit quietly for a bit. She gives him a kiss on the cheek

17 EXT/ INT. NATHAN'S FOOD TRUCK/ MINDY'S CAR - DAY

17

Miri walks away from Nathan's truck. Mindy gets out of her car and approaches.

MINDY

So you killed your neighbour's wife?

MIRI

No!

MINDY

You're trending on local Twitter.

MIRI

Argh. This is ridiculous. I didn't do anything.

Miri takes Mindy's phone and starts reading.

MINDY

Who was that guy at your house yesterday? With the beard.

Miri is very immersed in the phone.

MIRI

I don't really know. He's some kind of investigator.

(re phone)

Oh my god, who are these people!!!

MINDY

Investigator? He's creepy. I don't like him.

MIRI

Social media is evil.

MINDY

Miri! You're not listening. He freaked me out. I think he wants to turn us into the human centipede.

MIRI

I've got slightly bigger things to worry about right now.

Miri hands the phone back to Mindy.

**BACK TO LIFE**

**BACK TO LIFE**



**19 INT. CHEMIST - DAY****19**

**CAROLINE** is at the counter with a **JUNIOR PHARMACIST**, 20s. She is trying to be discreet. **OSCAR** is lurking in one of the aisles like an embarrassed school boy.

**CAROLINE**

You know to help With things. Down there.

**JUNIOR PHARMACIST**

Canesten? Pessary?



**Nathan hangs up abruptly.**

**20 INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY**

**20**

**MNDY** walks a bit behind **MRI** scrolling on her phone.

**MNDY**

**My WhatsApp parent group basically  
think you're Satan**

**MRI**

**Interesting because I think Satan is a  
parents' Whatsapp group**

She shows Mindy a potted rose bush

MINDY

I'm sorry you lost your wife, but  
it's going to be okay because here's a  
bush

MRI

Shut up, Ms. Heckles. He likes  
plants.

Mri checks the price

MRI (CONT'D)

Do you think I should get a card?

MINDY

Don't talk to me, I can't be seen with  
you

MRI

Fuck that 6 Ta ee

Mri approQ

a eeseesees

2

MILE SHIP ASSISTANT

No

Miri flushes. Mirny steps forward with great authority.

MIRNY

Phil Solon

He sees Mirny and his attitude drops completely. He reverts to school boy mode. And Mirny's his headteacher.

MILE SHIP ASSISTANT

Hello Ms. Mather. H.

MIRNY

You're still being a nasty little bully?

MILE SHIP ASSISTANT

Uh.. Yes Miss.



CAROLINE

Why don't you hate me?

OSCAR

I do. A bit.

CAROLINE

Good.

Pause.

OSCAR

But I have a part to play in this. I haven't been a husband to you lately -

CAROLINE

Oscar please.

OSCAR

No, it's true.

Beat.

CAROLINE

It is over. I ended it -

OSCAR

For better or worse. This is extremely worse.

Caroline nods. He takes her hand.

OSCAR (cont'd)

But we've been through so much together. We can do this. We start again, as of today. Reset. We will love each other. And endure.

CAROLINE

I'm so sorry Oscar.

OSCAR

So am I.

They sit quietly for a beat. She then notices the basket of newspapers by the fireplace.

She gets up and goes over to it. She starts to pull out some magazines that have got mixed in with the newspapers.

Very carefully she starts separating the flammable paper from the magazines. Oscar watches. We really zoom in on her gentle and meticulous organising.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

(something's all this) though out of the series TO LIFE

He watches her hands delicately sort the papers. As she does this Oscar starts to get aroused

CAROLINE

Magazines in the fire paper pile,  
toxic fumes. Very harmful. Been  
meaning to..

Something is stirring in Oscar. His impotence is no more

OSCAR

Caroline.. We have a.. I think I'm

Caroline turns around and looks at Oscar.

CAROLINE

Oh God

OSCAR

Keep going

Caroline hurriedly returns to sorting the papers.

23 EXT. BEACH- NIGHT

23

MIRI and MINDY sit on beach. Mindy has a spliff.

MIRI

Don't you have kids to go home to?

MINDY

I find parenting much easier after  
this.

She has a long drag

MINDY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

So Mr. Bushman, is he someone you  
want to -

MIRI

It's not like that.

MINDY

Are you still a virgin?

MIRI

No! There was Dan-

MINDY

That was just the tip wasn't it?

MIRI

He got most of it in, then pulled out  
and came on my Winnie The Pooh bear.  
Don't think the two were connected, he  
was just by my bed





**MIRI (CONT'D)**

**But it's just not been about my fanny  
at all.**

**MINDY**

**I've maintained an eight /**

**ANDY**

MIRI

No. You were a wimp. Which is worse.

Mindy can't argue with that. Silence.

MIRI (CONT'D)

Do you think she's looking down on us and laughing at our shit lives?

MINDY

Probably.

Beat.

MIRI

I miss her.

MINDY

Me too.

They both gaze out at the sea for a long beat.

MINDY (CONT'D)

I've really missed you too, you know.

Miri has missed her too. A lot. She nods. She takes a drag of the spliff and coughs.

MIRI

I'm pretty cool and amazing.

Mindy looks across Miri and smiles. Suddenly she can see someone walking towards them. It's LARA. But only Mindy can see her.

AUDIO Brief snippet of the three of them singing 'Love In The First Degree'...

And Lara's gone. Mindy feels sickening guilt.

MINDY

I have to get home.

She gets up, party over.

24 INT. NAIHAN'S FOOD TRUCK - NIGHT

24

NAIHAN is packing things into boxes. There's a knock at the door. He opens the window or door of the truck.

DOM is there. A bit pissed.

DOM

I need to talk to her.

NAIHAN

She's not -

Dmpushes past himdramatically. Like he's about to searr he s

**25 IN: PARENT'S BEDROOM- NIGHT      25**

**OSCAR and CAROLINE make love. They haven't done this for a long time. It's familiar but also they're re-learning**

**OSCAR**

**Sorry -**

**CAROLINE**

**It's lovely.**





TINA

H. Didn't see you there behind this massive criminal. Come with me.

Tina leads Mri away.

MRI

What is happening?

TINA

You got fired today.

MRI

No - I fired myself.

TINA

That doesn't even exist.

MRI

It does. Because I did it.

TINA

"I did it". Sounds like a confession to me.

MRI

To firing myself, not arson

TINA

Too late, wrote it down

MRI

No you didn't.

TINA

(tapping her head)  
In here

MRI

It doesn't work like that.

TINA

So you're a police officer now are you?

MRI

No

TINA

I am Eighteen months and counting

MRI

Not long then

TINA

It's whizzed by, feels shorter. Just get in the car clever clogs.



**MRI**

**But I haven't done anything**

**TINA**

**I see. Sticks and stones will break my  
bones, but I won't get arrested if I**

**31 EXT CLIFFTOP - NIGHT****31**

Nathan's Food Truck is on fire, burning beautifully in the night sky. We hear sirens approaching

Music fades.

**32 EXT STREET - NIGHT****32**

Samuel listens to a voicemail on his phone. It's from JOHN BOBACK

**JOHN BOBACK (V.O)**

This is John Boback I don't know who you are, but I'm warning you Leave me alone.

Samuel smiles to himself.

The screen goes black. We hear the Radio Four "pips."

**THE END**