

BACK TO LIFE

By

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Episode 6
"Sink or Swim"

SHOOTING SCRIPT
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5 EXT. MITTESON HOUSE - DAY

5

Close on OSCAR in the bedroom window He looks ashen

CAROLINE (O.S.)

Happy Birthday!

OSCAR

No it's not.

CAROLINE joins him at the window

CAROLINE

Oh

NOW WE SEE WHAT THEY SEE

Rubbish is strewn everywhere. Someone has emptied all the bins. And more. All the street's rubbish. There is a life size effigy of Miri hanging from the tree. It has a blonde wig and a dress. It all looks awful.

6 INT. POLICE STATION CELL - DAY

6

MIRI paces. JANICE sits on the bench filling out a lot of paperwork while she talks.

JANICE

I was midway through an extremely spicy noodle soup and I got the call. Miri Mitteson possible arson. Oh, and she shouted an old bag to death. I nearly threw up - sign this.

She hands Miri the paperwork and pen

JANICE (CONT'D)

Have you ever thrown up noodles. I did it in Singapore Airport in the nineties - one of them came out at full length. Very disconcerting.

MIRI

FUCK NOODLES JANICE. I don't care. And it's not noodle it's noodle.

JANICE

That's what I said, noodle.

MIRI

Noodle. Noodle - oh forget it. I need to get home. It's my Dad's birthday.

JANICE

Oh

MRI

I've probably already ruined it with
all this toss.

(then)

That should not have happened
I didn't do anything!

JANICE

Calm down Good news - you didn't do
anything

MIRI

I KNOW

JANICE

Bad news. It might take the community
a bit longer to catch up

She hands Miri her iPad Miri takes it.

JANICE

You've made the front page.

Miri reads. The website of the local newspaper. She's the main
story. The old photo of TEEN MIRI from the trial stares back
her.

MIRI

Oh my God.. none of it is true. And
I'm not forty don't age me as well /

JANICE

- There's nothing wrong with forty. Or
fifty -

MIRI

/as blaming me for everything that
goes wrong in this town Urghh
"De-eyed manipulator." Jesus Christ -
we're back to that -

JANICE

Okay -

MIRI

They'd never describe a man like that.
This is all bullshit.

JANICE

You should go to the meeting and tell
them that.

MIRI

What meeting?

JANICE

Oh God, Janice you prat. Forget I said
it.

MIRI

Janice!

Beat.

JANICE

There's a community meeting at the
school later. Concerned residents.

~~JANICE~~
I'd love a big bear like that. Very nice hairy. I know it's controversial but I do love a bit of back hair-

Miri has gone.

JANICE

Miri?

8 EXT. MITESON HOUSE - DAY

8

OSCAR is picking up the rubbish with CAROLINE. All of Oscar's carefully separated waste is mixed up. Caroline is removing the effigy from the tree.

CAROLINE

This is so horrible! It's horrid. I thought it was getting better.

fl

OSCAR, looking at the effigy, looks impressed, checks the dress label.

CAROLINE (CONT'D) (ROLINERO IN c

e linking

CAROLINE

I think they've probably gone by now

(then)

Look, don't let them in. It's your birthday. We're together as a family.

We're going to have a wonderful day.

Aren't we Miri?

Caroline makes the effigy nod

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

See?

Oscar nods. He manages a smile. He clears a little more rubbish then sees the local newspaper. They both stare at it. The paper is folded in half. TEEN MIRI'S trial photo stares back up at them

Oscar's smile fades. Oh Christ.

9 EXT. HYTHE CHURCH GRAVEYARD - DAY

9

BACK TO LIFE

SAMEL

Let me finish Lara finds out you are scissoring with her Dad

SAMEL

Let me finish Lara finds out you are scissoring with her Dad

MIRI

Scissoring? What are you -

SAMEL

Scissoring

He nines it.

MIRI

Wow

SAMEL

It's all in the book

Over the following Mri flips through the book Notes, photographs, diagrams - it's an intense investigative record But just wrong

SAMEL (CONT'D)

Lara bites you - savage rage - you push her back Smash! She's dead Then he tells you to stay quiet or you will die Then you go to jail. And nobody ever knows that Chief Inspector Boback likes to swim in schoolgirl soup

Mri firmly closes the book

MIRI

BACK TO LIFE

Notes,

I didn't sleep with him None of this happened I can see you've worked very hard but it's entirely wrong

He looks at her carefully. To see whether she is lying

SAMEL

Hum

MIRI

What?

SAMEL

Studying your face.. OK

BACK TO LIFE

MIRI

I'm so sorry guys. Happy Birthday Dad
Not a present. It's your veggie box

Caroline hugs Miri.

CAROLINE

It's not your fault. Your father wants
to sue the police.

CSCAR

No I want to throttle Tina. Taking you
in like that. You didn't do anything

MIRI

I snatched them and said I did it
so..

Miri spots her effigy at the kitchen table

CSCAR

Wofl " her BF

MIRI

Maybe you should keep her, she's a better bet than me right now

CAROLINE

Darling I'm sorry.

Oscar opens the veggie box His face drops.

Oscar

Oh God No no

Caroline and Miri's hearts sink Fearing something terrible like faeces.

CAROLINE

What's wrong darling?

He shakes his head darkly.

Oscar

Potatoes. It's all potatoes.

They all peer into the box It is indeed all potatoes.

Oscar

We've suffered enough

Caroline and Miri exchange a look Relieved

MRI

**Oh God, look this is all because of
me. Let me talk to them I'll go round
to every one of their houses one by
one. I'll force them to understand**

That was a bit intense. He looks nervous. She mitigates it.

MIRI (CONF D)

Obviously, in a very unthreatening way.

He can't look at her now Miri knows she's losing this.

BILLY

I don't think there will be ice cream again

They're both devastated

MIRI

(sadly)
Okay.

They look at each other sadly for a beat. He gets into his van
Miri walks back to Caroline

CAROLINE

I can go on my own if you -

MIRI

(defiant)
No, no

They get in the car.

15 INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

15

MIRI walks with gold helium balloons for Oscar - a number 7 and 0. She's looking for candles. DOM comes round the aisle. He still has a slightly black eye. He looks hungover. He stops when he sees her. Terrified She gives him a look, thinking he's going to hit on her again

MIRI

No Dom

Dom thinks Miri must know about his relationship with Caroline

DOM

Miri - oh shit. I'm so sorry. I'm so fucking sorry -

MIRI

Please don't feel sorry for me

DOM

Sorry -

MIRI

Stop it!

DOM

CK CK CK

MRI

I was kind of expecting it, to be honest.

DOM

(vaguely appalled)

Really? Wow Why? Cos I wasn't-

He still thinks they're talking about Caroline.

MRI

I was. I'm a shit magnet.

DOM

Came as a total surprise to me.

MRI

Well, welcome to my life.

DOM

So you're OK with it? Really?

MRI

I've handled worse. Can we not talk about it. Please.

DOM

OK OK- wow You are so.. amazing
It's inspiring really. And you're
looking great for your age.

He points at the "70" balloons.

MRI

Prison's really good for your skin
Anti-aging.. Right...

They walk the aisle together, Mri is gathering things.

DOM

You do actually look.. fit though I
still would

MRI

What are you doing?

DOM

I'm just saying what I feel about your
face. And your tits.

MRI

Is this really the only way you can talk to me?

DOM

What?

MRI

Have you not evolved at all?

DOM

Uh.. well -

MRI

I'm not going to sleep with you Ever. It's never going to happen You're not my type anyway, and you are a married dad With twins.

They walk in silence Dom finally drops his stick.. Dom refers to his basket of nappies and loo roll.

DOM

My basket used to be so much sexier. Fucking twins...

MRI

What are they like?

DOM

Small. One of them is crying at all times. My wife is always feeding them The supermarket is a fucking holiday.

MRI

You look awful.

DOM

You look like shit too

MRI

That I I I I I vi

DOM

You were always the cool one - I was just a little twat trying to stick my dick in everything I still am. I think I might be a sex addict.

MRI

No You're just a sixteen year old in an old man's body.

DOM

Och

(then)

I tried to find you yesterday. I was really drunk So I couldn't.

MRI

I was with Mindy.

DOM

Poor you she's a stuck up asshole

MRI

Well apparently, you'd "jizz on anything"

DOM

Apart from her. Did she say that?
See Asshole

They are quiet for a bit. Then

DOM

Do you think we'd be together - if you had it -

MRI

No

DOM

(disappointed)

No Me neither.

MRI

We would have been friends. You did make me laugh You and your white Reeboks.

DOM

Oh no..

BACK TO LIFE

SHIPPING FORECAST (V. O)

Moderate becoming rough or very rough Southwesterly gale force eight continuing and increasing

As Mri exits, right past Caroline - Caroline tries desperately to talk to her. And pulls on Mri's arm

Mri suddenly lashes out and thrashes her mother violently but harmlessly and ineffectively with the balloons.

She stops. She and her mother have slightly static hair.

A few SHIPPERS - including a MOTHER who holds her CHILD closer - all stare at Mri like she's a monster.

Mri turns defiantly and leaves. As she exits, she releases the balloons. They float gently up into the air.

As Mri leaves we hear the following conversation

MRK (V. O)

Hello?

MRI (V. O)

H, is Mandy there?

MRK (V. O)

No. She's out.

(calling out to a kid)

Don't point that at your brother!

MRI (V. O)

I need to speak to her.

MRK (V. O)

She's at the school, she's always at the school. Others she's with Mhc er/

17A EXT. BOBACK'S HOUSE - DAY

17A

We stay on Samuel throughout this scene. Samuel knocks on the door. After a few beats it opens.

SAMUEL

Hello Mr. Boback, I think we need to have a little chat.

17B INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAY

17B

OSCAR is dressing in front of the mirror. He's wearing a dapper old suit - clearly a suit he used to wear in his prime. It's tight, but it still looks good. He is very pleased with what he sees. He's had a bad day, but he's not going to let Q see it. ud vi e' lps

BACK TO LIFE

MIRI

I've been calm and it doesn't work!

Miri pushes past Mindy and walks forward to the front of the meeting

MIRI (CONT'D)

I'm pretty angry right now so I may not come across very well which is annoying because I'm actually very, very, very polite and stable. Aren't I?

She looks over at Mindy.

MINDY

(quick and diplomatic)

Can be.

MIRI

That woman - Anna - had a heart attack. I did not set fire to the truck - someone threw a brick at me. (Gesturing at her wound)
Look -

CONCERNED RESIDENT TWO

Can't see anything

MIRI (CONT'D)

I'm really not a bad person. I'm a good person. Well, a good person who did a terrible thing. But we all do terrible things. We do. Come on.

Silence. Then NATHAN stands up. He's been lurking at the back

NATHAN

I set fire to my truck. It was me.

People turn

MIRI

See! (realising) What, that was you?

NATHAN

And then said it was her. What a bastard

MIRI

I helped you

NATHAN

I know I just did it. For the insurance. And I thought they'd believe that you did it because you killed someone -

MIRI

Yep - got that.

NATHAN

Anyway I'm not going to claim it now. So don't tell the police... I don't want to get into trouble.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE

We are here to discuss the release of a violent psychopath into our town

CONCERNED RESIDENT TWO

And the parking on Dickson street.

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE

There's a separate committee for that.

(then)

She is evil. This is a community of decent god-fearing people.

CAROLINE has entered at the back with OSCAR

CAROLINE

Shut up Lisa. You spent last summer screwing your chairman.

The concerned resident looks immediately guilty. The MAN next to her looks up - shocked

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Oh I didn't see you there, Martin. Well now you know

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE

You can't talk to every body about what's
you've been up to

MacMue isn't

MINDY

Keep it civil -

CAROLINE

She's right. But I'm here to make
amends.

CSCAR

We all have sins. All of us.

CAROLINE

I'm sorry I hurt you
(then to the room)
I hurt my daughter.

MRI

Yes you did!

CSCAR

And I had child a

CAROLINE

Because I gave it to him

Nobody knows how to react to this. Dmraises a hand

DOM

Because I gave it to her. And maybe a
couple of other phy o phy o q he h he h he h he

CONCERNED RESIDENT ONE

Why? Because you want to kill us all?

CSCAR

I'll kill you all before she does.

MIRI

He doesn't mean that.

DOM

He might.

CSCAR

I do

MIRI

You don't.

CSCAR

**Graffitiing our house, effigies,
shitting in boxes.**

MIRI

That was someone else.

CSCAR

I'll kill them too

MIRI

She's already forget it.

NATHAN

Does anyone have an phone charger?

VARIOUS RESIDENTS

Sit down/shut up

Mindy suddenly shouts angrily.

MINDY

SHUT UP! SHUT UP! All of you!

Her head teacher voice gets everyone's attention

MINDY (CONT'D)

**You are all awful. All of you Christ -
This whole town is full of sad, narrow
minded, pathetic arseholes. I should
have left when I could**

(then)

**I'm chair of this committee and I'm
telling you Miri Mittenon is not
dangerous. She didn't kill the old
lady - she didn't steal your hanging
baskets. And she hasn't joined Isis -
Sue**

Mindy indicates an ELDERLY WOMAN in the front row Miri stares

We hear stifled sobs.

MRI (CONT'D)

**Is that true. Were you sleeping with
Mr Boback?**

MIRI (CONF D)

Christ Mindy. Oh my god Why did it
you tell me?

Mindy sobs.

MIRI (CONF D)

Did Lara know? Did she know the night
she died?

A piece of toilet paper comes under the door.

MIRI (CONF D)

Yes? Then why was she so angry with
me? Did she think I knew about it?

No toilet paper. Miri slowly corrects dots.

MIRI (CONF D)

She didn't think it was me did she?
(then)
Did she think I slept with her dad?

Mindy has her head in her hands.

MINDY

I didn't want her to hate me.

MIRI

Did you lie and tell her it was me?

Mindy sobs. Miri suddenly bangs on the cubicle door.

MIRI (CONF D)

Mindy! Did you lie and tell her I was
sleeping with her Dad?!

Another piece of toilet paper appears under the door.

Miri is winded Mindy sobs. Miri bangs at the cubicle with both
hands.

MIRI (CONF D)

So none of this had to happen None of
it.

Miri wants to claw the door down Mindy is sobbing inside.

MIRI (CONF D)

I'm going to fucking kill you get out
of there, come out and face me you
fucking wimp! Mindy!! Mindy!!

Mindy covers. Miri slams herself against the door. Finally
giving up she storms out of the loo

24 INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

24

MRI walks away in pieces.

MUSIC PLAYS

25 INT. DOMS CAR - OMITTED 25

26 INT. KITCHEN - EVENING 26

OSCAR and CAROLINE slowdance in the kitchen together. They hold each other tight.

27 INT. SUPERMARKET - EVENING 27

JANCE looks at a packet of noodles in her hands.

**JANCE
Noodle Noodle Noodle**

28 EXT. WHEREVER WE WANT - OMITTED 28

29 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - EVENING 29

MRI walks down the path toward the sound mirror. She has not been here since the night. This is huge for her.

She sees it looming in front of her. She feels sick. But walks on

Finally reaching it. She stops in front of it.

BILLY

I saw you I got these but they
melted

MRI

Thank you

Mri smiles and takes them

MRI

What changed your mind?

BILLY

A big walk .. Realising how little we
all are. And then I saw you on the
beach all hunched up like a turtle and
thought everything's gone a bit shit.
We both need an ice cream What are
you doing?

MRI

Sitting

BILLY

Yes you are. I'm standing

MRI

Yes you are. Well done.

BILLY

Thank you

MRI

You want to?-

He is hesitant, then he sits.

BILLY

You look sad

MRI

I am a bit.

He nods.

MRI

None of it needed to happen

Billy isn't sure what she means.

MRI

None of the last twenty years. And my
best friend died hating me for
something - and I can't tell her it's
not true. Which is an awful feeling

Silence.

BACK TO LIFE

34 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY

34

The sound mirror looks beautiful in the light.

We pull closer. We now see there's a body slumped by its base.

It's SAMUEL. Dead

And we...

FADE OUT

35 EXT. SOUND MIRROR - DAY - ALTERNATE FOR SC34 TBD IN EDIT

35

The sound mirror looks beautiful in the light.

We pull closer. We now see there's a body slumped by its base.

It's MINDY. Dead

And we...

FADE OUT

THE END