



by

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1

August; rippling heat rising over Tarmac.

Just coming into view-

LEAH'S [11 yrs] POV, gangly legs furiously peddling a too small pink bike, steady on the approach.

2

2

The scoop and fold of fish and chips in paper. Several brawny MEN, salting chips, tossing fish as they serve a line of CUSTOMERS.

Through the window, LEAH pulling up, leaning her bike against the wall, handlebars tapping the glass.

And's LEAH's in, scooping up a handful of ketchup sachets, pushing past disgruntled CUSTOMERS to get to the front of the queue. Tipping LEAH a nod, a thin whippet like MAN, reaches for another piece of paper-

MAN
You're getting too big for that
bike-

LEAH up on tiptoes, nose pressed close to her hands, peering over the top of the counter, watching as he piles a mountain of fish and chips.

LEAH
No vinegar... no vinegar...

The MAN smirks, mock pouring more malt vinegar all over her chips until-

He slides her the fat roll of fish and chips, in a swift exchange, as money passes hands-

MAN
Tell Stevie-

LEAH, already gone. The MAN pockets the small bag of grass LEAH has newly delivered before moving onto the next CUSTOMER.

Through the window, the distant figure of LEAH peddling away.

3

3

A small BOY in underpants running across a scrubby patch of grass, dodging a spray of water from a makeshift hose-

LEAH swerves past, grabbing the hose in passing, and squirting it at the rag bag gang of KIDS, cooling off in the sun.

BOY
(calling after)
You're dead.

The distant ring of LEAH's laughter. LEAH is already gone, racing towards a distant block of flats-

4

4

LEAH, face into the sun, working up a sweat, turns a bend-

LEAH screeches to a halt, taking in-

Bedding dropped from a second floor window.

Across the street, SONYA [early 40's] LEAH's grandma, scoops up duvet and pillows, chucking it into the back of a beaten up hire van.

LEAH wheels her bike, steadily towards her. A manky dog loitering close by.

SONYA
Leah, get that dog.

LEAH
I'm in the middle of my homework.

From above-

DEBBIE OOV
(calling down)
Mum-

SONYA looks up to see-

DEBBIE [late 20's], LEAH's mum, hanging out of the kitchen window.

DEBBIE
He wants tea at the table.

SONYA dumps the mound of duvet on the grass, hurrying to pull a kitchen chair out of the back of the van.

SONYA
(calling back)
Fuck... fuck... fuck...

LEAH running to try and catch the dog as it jaywalks across a busy road. LEAH, lassoes her belt around the dog's neck, weaving her way back.

On LEAH disgruntled heading towards a grimy stairwell.

5

5

LEAH, the dog close by, on the belt, peering through into the living room-

Through a haze of spliff smoke-

STEVIE [30's] spread-eagled on the sofa, playing X box with LEAH's younger brother, ADAM [9 yrs] slumped on the floor, eyes glazed, barely looking up.

STEVI E
That dog needs water.

ADAM scooping up the X box controls, clocking SONYA just visible through in the sitting room, unplugging the stereo.

ADAM
(aka Homer Simpson)
Marge, this is the darkest day in
the history of Springfield.

STEVIE cramming a chip into his mouth-

STEVIE
(eating a chip/ to LEAH)
Where's the fucking vinegar?

LEAH ignores him, focused on giving the dog a drink, from an old plastic ice cream tub.

CASEY OOV
Dad... dad-

CASEY[7yrs] enters dripping wet, teeth chattering, in her bathing costume, hopping from foot to foot with excitement-

DEBBIE
(sharp)
Give him a break, Casey.

7

7

LEAH clutching her school books, running three steps at a time, after DEBBIE who is lugging the TV in her arms. CASEY and ADAM drag the dog, dog bowl and whatever they could grab on route out-

From above, the sound of STEVIE thundering after them.

8

8

SONYA, the engine already running, shouting out of her window-

SONYA
(shouting to Debbie)
I'm not driving...

DEBBIE
Move, mother.

DEBBIE, hurling the TV into the back of the van, as ADAM and CASEY scabble into the back next to SONYA. DEBBIE and LEAH close behind, leaping into the front cab

SONYA
I'm still on me friggin' ban.

STEVIE, steady on the approach, making their minds up for them. SONYA hard down on the accelerator, the van lurching into speed.

STEVIE
(angry shouting)
It's my fucking TV-

STEVIE racing to catch up, hurling bricks and beer bottles whatever he can find at the van.

DEBBIE
(shouting after)
Yeah, and who pays off the catalogue?
(to SONYA)
Put your fucking foot down.

STEVIE, racing neck and neck with DEBBIE snatching at the door, trying to wrestle it open.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Fuck... fuck... fuck...

STEVIE
You stupid fucking bitch...
Where you fucking going?

DEBBIE
(calling back)
As far away as fuck from here.

The van picks up speed, leaving a puce humiliated STEVIE standing in the middle of the road helpless, surrounded by a gang of dripping KIDS, cheering.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
You've a chip wrapper stuck to your
arse.

LEAH face pressed against the back window of the van, looking
back at all they've left behind, clocking her bike.

LEAH resigned sinks back in her seat, looking back at-

Walkways strung with washing. A FAT WOMAN in a bikini sitting
in a deckchair, peering over her balcony. KIDS soaking, hose
in hand, falling back into their game.

DEBBIE, throwing a cheer of relief and delight, turns up the
radio-

Loud pulsing music-

The rippling sun, just beginning to set-

8A

8A

The trawl of rush hour traffic. The van just pulling out of
Leeds, joining the motorway.

LEAH, nose pressed to the glass, wedged up next to DEBBIE and
SONYA, DEBBIE turns a map in her hand, clearly already lost-

LEAH

DEBBIE
You've got Nanna's glasses on.

LEAH eyeing the map, their conversation white noise, eyes
absently watching-

A HITCHER thumb out by the side of the road, sign for

DEBBIE OOV
Yea...

LEAH
No... (pointing)
Here.. Here..

Loud pulsing music through-

10B

10B

The van driving through a deserted market. DEBBIE clearly lost and late.

11

11

Dusk; LEAH's POV, looking up from the map, peering out of the front of the van as SONYA pulls up outside a row of neat breeze block houses, wedged between rows of terraced houses in a silent empty street.

An ASIAN WOMAN pushing a wailing baby in a buggy, eyes watching the van pulsing with pop music as it passes.

A forgotten football lying in a gutter.

A row of black chadors hanging on the washing line, catching LEAH's eye, looking beyond to DEBBIE, also seeing.

DEBBIE turns the engine off, the radio goes silent-

Silence but for distant voice, almost like singing, far off-

LEAH
You ringed it.

DEBBIE
No, the div in the housing office ringed it. No... No fucking way..

SONYA
Welcome to Ramsay street.

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HOUSING OFFICER (cont'd)
You were meant to be here by six.

DEBBIE takes in the street, an ELDERLY ASIAN WOMAN just visible, peeking out from behind greying nets.

DEBBIE
No fucking way, not here. I said I wanted-

The HOUSING OFFICER fumbles with a key ring, handing over keys.

HOUSING OFFICER
You'll have to call the Council, Monday.

The HOUSING OFFICER hurrying on up the road, DEBBIE tailing her-

DEBBIE
... three bedrooms. Near the city centre with a gar..

DEBBIE looks back at two old plastic window boxes, the flowers dried up and dead.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
That's not a fucking garden.

On LEAH looking up from her homework, staring out at the now silent street, all taking in the silence.

ADAM
(aka Mr Burns/Simpsons)
Release the hounds!

DEBBIE clips ADAM around the ear, catching SONYA's eye, on the verge of some comment-

DEBBIE
Don't.

SONYA
What? What?

DEBBIE
Don't fucking say it.

SONYA smiles, barely containing her dry delight as DEBBIE determinedly turns starts to unload their furniture, handing chairs, and suitcases to her waiting children.

LEAH
Where is everyone?

On LEAH her gaze looking along the deserted street.

DEBBIE
(to LEAH)
Out.

LEAH deliberately ignoring her-

ADAM and CASEY thundering downstairs. DEBBIE looks up, clocks LEAH in the bedroom clearing herself a space.

LEAH
There's only two bedrooms.

DEBBIE
You'll have to share with me then.

LEAH reluctantly moves in sinking down onto the mattress.

LEAH
You'll be back by the end of the week.

DEBBIE
No.

LEAH
Yeah.

DEBBIE
I mean it.

LEAH
You said that last time.

LEAH slams the duvet over her head-

DEBBIE
I'll call the council Monday. Leah?
(silence)

Suddenly the sound of something being spat out-

DEBBIE OOV
Jesus mother

LEAH rolls her eyes, pulling herself up out of bed, peering out of the window, to the yard below-

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14

LEAH's POV watching SONYA in the yard below, smoking a cigarette and swigging from a can of diet coke-

SONYA
It's only vodka. I nicked you a litre.

SONYA, reaches for the bottle of vodka, resting on the windowsill, topping up her can of coke amazed as DEBBIE throws her drink in the plastic flower pot.

DEBBIE
No. No more booze. Spliff. I don't want any of it.

DEBBIE rifles in her bag, dumping the last of a bag of hash, and the bottle of vodka into the wheely bin.

SONYA
(beat)
How much money have you got?

DEBBIE
Tenner to last me to the end of the month.

SONYA
We could have jumped the leccy box before we left.

DEBBIE and SONYA absently watching the street, busier now, a

The hum of DEBBIE's mobile phone, vibrating somewhere, sobering them both, DEBBIE reaches for her fags, once more letting it ring until -

The phone stops ringing. Silence.

SONYA
Elaine's just got Deal or No Deal
on her phone ring.

DEBBIE smokes her cigarette with visible relief-

DEBBIE
I need you to pick up my benefit
cheque.

DEBBIE slides a set of keys to STEVIE's flat across to her.

SONYA
Its a bus and a train and a bus to
here.

DEBBIE
Mother-
(beat)
Van has to be back by ten-

SONYA picking up her handbag concedes defeat, scooping up the keys, eyeing ABDULLAH's MOTHER sitting out in the yard.

SONYA
Neighbours look nice.

DEBBIE ignoring her, watching SONYA go, seemingly oblivious to LEAH looking out of the bedroom window above, both watching the lights coming on in NEIGHBOUR'S WINDOWS until -

DEBBIE
Leah-

LEAH pulls her head in from the window, going to sleep.

A blast of Indian music in a passing car. DEBBIE, hesitates, hovering close to the wheelie bin until -

DEBBIE slams her fag into the bin on top of the bottle of vodka and bag of hash, determinedly going inside, turning her music up.

LEAH blearily opening her eyes on DEBBIE, nose to nose with her, still half asleep-

Through the wall, the taped call for prayer, just heard-

Rowing through the wall, Abdullah shouting at FATIMA.

LEAH leans forward, sniffs DEBBIE's breath, with relief-

Looking up, CASEY stands, leaning over them, eating a bowl of coco pops-

DEBBIE OOV
Leah, run a brush through your
sister's hair.

LEAH already onto it, brushing and plaiting CASEY's hair. The
sound of kids cartoons coming through from the sitting room-

ADAM, two fingers dragging down his lower lids, tongue out grimacing at a gang of passing boys through the window, CASEY close by-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
He's registered dyslexic. He loves his films. Drives you crazy with his voices.

MARIANNE
(as reads)
... He's been excluded-

DEBBIE
Twice.

LEAH eyes straying over MARIANNE, quietly scrutinising her face.

MARIANNE
Their last school mentions-

DEBBIE
Mostly booze, a little weed. I don't know why that's down.

The briefest sting of embarrassment flickers across LEAH's face-

MARIANNE
Perhaps we might be better, Mrs McNeil talking about this-

DEBBIE
You're alright.
(eyeing LEAH)
Leah doesn't miss anything. Gobby so you'll have to shut her up but she likes school. Art. She had her story read out in assembly.

MARIANNE hesitates, momentarily thrown by the DEBBIE's quiet disregard.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
You've only got to take them for a few days. Just til they rehouse us.

MARIANNE
They told you we're 100% Muslim-

DEBBIE
What?

On LEAH, taking in the many brown faces just visible sitting in assembly-

MARIANNE
Not all practising but-

DEBBIE
There must be some white kids?

MARIANNE
One. He left last term.

LEAH rolling her eyes, fiddling with a lumpen home made ashtray on a windowsill, catching MARIANNE's look

LEAH
It looks like a dog shit.

19

19

LEAH, ADAM and CASEY watching DEBBIE through the window, disappearing across the playground. Together they take in a packed assembly, rows of CHILDREN listening to REHAN [mid 20's] a charismatic teacher standing on a stage ahead, puma trainers and indie boy haircut.

Defiantly out staring, the look of a young boy MALIK [11yrs] further down the row, LEAH leans back in her chair feigning boredom, a frustration growing, clocking YASMIN, their neighbour seated a few rows in front..

REHAN
Tari k, Mal ik, Zahi r Mi ss Shaki na
wants you behind after.. Swi mmi ng
Thursday..

REHAN eyes TWO JOSTLING BOYS, winding up the assembly.

REHAN (cont'd)
(to KID)
Stop messing around..
(to KIDS)
..so don't forget your kit. No one
allowed in without goggles and
swimming hats. And we've got eating
healthy week so I want you all
picking up your fruit at
breaktime.. That's it.

KIDS
Story... Story..

TWO JOSTLING BOYS sit up, suitably reprimanded, REHAN's eyes already moving on along the row of EAGER CHILDREN, several have hands up, enjoying the game-

REHAN
Orange and Indigo class you're
doing raffle tickets today... 12
o'clock in middle hall for anyone
making salad.

CASEY
Why are they making salad.

The sound of sniggering travelling down the row, CASEY's words travelling like Chinese whispers. LEAH leans forward, clocking YASMIN, sharing in the joke.

KIDS
Si r... Si r... Story..

REHAN smiles, his gaze grazes over the faces, playfully conceding.

REHAN
In the story of Muhammad's night
journey and ascent to heaven-
(quietening)
Ssh... Sshh. The angel Gabriel acted
as Muhammad's guide. Eventually
Gabriel could go no further up
through the heavens and Muhammad
had to continue alone on his
journey from Mecca to Jerusalem
What does this tell us?

LEAH suddenly overwhelmed with a growing fury, stands up,
making to go-

REHAN (cont'd)
It tells us that the prophet, Peace
Be Unto Him, gave us even higher
potential than angels.
(looking to LEAH)
It tells us Muhammad-

LEAH suddenly caught out, hovering between sitting back down
or running out of the room.

LEAH
...was soft for following Gabriel
in the first place. Next time he
should of taken the bus.

REHAN, caught out, stifles a smile, watching LEAH brazenly
walking out, KIDS already craning to see.

REHAN
(to MALIK)
You sit down.

REHAN watching LEAH disappear out of the hall.

MARIANNE opens her office door on-
or was sof2 out of the re door on-

LEAH
(reading)
And so God said to Noah-

ADAM standing on a bench, peering into another classroom,
bored and distracted.

ADAM
We've been to church once for
Nana's

LEAH
It rains alot.

CASEY
And then what?

LEAH
They all drown and die.

22

22

The noise and bustle of a busy playground at break. LEAH and CASEY sit together on the steps, flicking through a magazine.

Across the yard, ADAM loiters, leant up against a gate watching MALIK, knocking a ball about with his gang of MATES.

LEAH determinedly ignores YASMIN and her posse of GIRLS giggling and whispering together a few yards away until -

LEAH
(pointing to page)
He's gay.

YASMIN
No he's not.

LEAH
It said it in Heat.

YASMIN idly hums Kylie, deliberately ignoring her, marking out a dance room, joined by her posse of GIRLS as they quietly shadow one another, in what is clearly a much rehearsed routine.

CASEY
Our Aunty Maureen's Lesbian.

LEAH and CASEY watch YASMIN lost in repeated dance motif, silently impressed.

YASMIN
That's a sin against Allah.

LEAH
And our dog's gay. He got done too young.

CASEY idly picks up to YASMIN's beat, shadowing her dance moves, but adding a more provocative twist as one by one, YASMIN and her line of little GIRLS all, fall into CASEY's routine a la Kylie.

From across the yard-

MALIK
(in Punjabi)
Yasmin-

MALIK goes to shake YASMIN out of her dance move.

MALIK (cont'd)
(in Punjabi)
What you doing?

YASMIN
(in Punjabi)
Get off.

MALIK grabs YASMIN by the arm, pushing CASEY out of the way.

LEAH
Get lost you chocolate frog.

MALIK turns, shoves CASEY hard against the wall. Seeing this, LEAH goes on the attack, shoving MALIK from behind, in a dirty scrap, ADAM falling in, kicking MALIK close behind-

From across the yard-

REHAN
Break it up... Break it up.

REHAN wades in, shoving ADAM aside and pulling LEAH and MALIK apart by the scruffs of their necks.

REHAN (cont'd)
(to MALIK)
You're hitting a girl, man?

REHAN looks to MALIK, suddenly seeing his bloody nose, face mashed. LEAH smiles smugly, clearly the victor in the fight, pushing ADAM away as he tries to eye the cut to her lip.

23

23

LEAH, sitting on a chair, next to REHAN. The scuff and scrape of her shoes, as she swings her legs back and forth grazing the lino floor.

LEAH eyes, his long beard.

LEAH
Is it itchy?

REHAN
Sometimes-

LEAH clocks a string of beads, half hanging out of his pocket.

REHAN (cont'd)
Tazbih.

REHAN pulls out the set of beads, showing them to her.

REHAN (cont'd)
Prayer beads.
(holding them up)
Ninety nine beads plus this one.
Each bead is for a different name
for Allah, Peace be unto Him.

LEAH
Ninety nine names?
(beat)
Was he fiddling his benefit too?

REHAN laughs-

REHAN
(touching beads)
The Wise, the Compassionate, the
Merciful, the Good, the Eternal.

LEAH
That's five.

REHAN smiles, looking up to see MARIANNE waiting-

24

24

DEBBIE, laden down with coats, and school bags, tailed by
LEAH, ADAM and CASEY, all three clearly in the dog house.

ADAM
It wasn't our fault.

LEAH
He shoved me first.

DEBBIE
I leave you on your first day and-

LEAH
They give you curry with your
fishfingers. Casey-

CASEY
...I couldn't eat it.

DEBBIE

The blur of TV; Monsters Inc or the like on the screen.

LEAH doing her homework-

LEAH
Nanna Margaret went to church.

DEBBIE passing through with a box piled with old letters, cuddly toys, photos, a sense she is trying to keep herself busy-

DEBBIE
Cause she copped off once with the priest. She'd be turning in her grave if she could see us here.

LEAH
She was cremated.

LEAH fishes out a tiny monkey holding a squashy heart from the box, idly fiddling with it. The electronic jingle as the monkey repeatedly punches the air, heart in hand.

LEAH (cont'd)
Classy.

DEBBIE snatches it back, hurling it into the box-

DEBBIE's phone rings. DEBBIE tenses, STEVIE's name flashing up-

The distant sound of an ice cream van. CASEY and ADAM racing out-

The phone rings on-

LEAH (cont'd)
Change your number.

DEBBIE
You got to pay.

It rings some more. LEAH suddenly grabs it, answers it-

LEAH
(into phone)
Fuck off.

LEAH hangs up, slamming it back to DEBBIE.

DEBBIE
He is their dad-

LEAH
Pity you can't remember who mine is

LEAH, clocking a set of rosary beads, spilling out of the box. LEAH reaching a hand out, as DEBBIE clears them back into the box.

DEBBIE
You're Nana's.

LEAH makes to go-

DEBBIE (cont' d)
Leah-

DEBBIE throws her the beads, LEAH takes them, heading upstairs.

On DEBBIE on her own, struggling. She goes into the kitchen, systematically opening the kitchen cabinet, then the fridge, empty on every score. DEBBIE hesitates, flicks on the kettle, takes a cup, a tea bag, wants to make a cup of tea but-

Scooping up her purse, DEBBIE heads out-

26

26

The window open, the sounds of summer outside; birds, the distant rumble of cars and yet beyond a kind of silence-

LEAH looks out at the winding trails of MEN on route to the mosque.

CASEY muscled in next to LEAH, finishing off an ice cream cone, craning to see the disappearing figure of DEBBIE in mini skirt and wedged flip flops, at odds with the long chadors and burkhas of the other WOMEN.

On LEAH, her gaze falling beyond to DEBBIE just disappearing up the road, quiet concern flickering in her eyes, rosary beads absently turning in her hand.

LEAH
She's gonna get pissed. She's got her purse.

CASEY
Yeah but Adam nicked her last fiver.

CASEY smirks. LEAH smirks. LEAH looking down at the rosary beads, shoving them in her pocket.

27

27

DEBBIE scooping up a couple of alcopops and a packet of crisps. The ASTAN SHOP KEEPER eyes her suspiciously. Going to pay for them, DEBBIE sees her purse is empty-

DEBBIE, heart inwardly sinking, searches her pockets, nothing.

DEBBIE staring helplessly at the endless bottles of booze, sliding the alcopops and crisps back.

27A

27A

LEAH lying on ADAM's bunkbed, feet flat to the ceiling, CASEY and ADAM close by, playing top trumps or the like.

A door slam. LEAH, ADAM and CASEY listen. The sound of something being dropped. LEAH's palpable disappointment, going downstairs, followed by ADAM and CASEY-

LEAH smiles, hair covered in plaster and paper dust, like an electrified polar bear, turning to see through the open kitchen door-

STEVIE standing in the yard, mobile phone pressed to his ear.

STEVIE
(into phone)
But I've only just parked the car.

DEBBIE follows LEAH's gaze, freezing on seeing STEVIE standing in the yard, mobile phone pressed to his ear-

DEBBIE
Fuck.. Oh my God..

Running for the door, DEBBIE slams it shut in STEVIE's face.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Upstairs.. Upstairs.. Upstairs..

DEBBIE scrabbling to get CASEY, ADAM and LEAH upstairs until -

The humming vibrate of her mobile phone goading, DEBBIE hovering, unsure of her next move, physically shaking-

LEAH peers through the kitchen window, sees STEVIE nosing about the back yard, patting the dog, licking his fingers-

STEVIE looks up, smiles and waves.

The rattle of the door, LEAH watches the latch being tampered with, looking to DEBBIE until -

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Get upstairs.. Leah-

The door gently lifts off the latch. STEVIE pushes it open to see-

DEBBIE pushes the kids behind her, determinedly trying to stay resolute, holding the fish slice towards STEVIE, forcing him back in the yard.

STEVIE
What you going to do? Batter me.

DEBBIE pushing him back into the yard.

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29

STEVIE arms up in surrender, DEBBIE forcing him stumbling back into the yard, LEAH, CASEY and ADAM close behind-

DEBBIE
Mum told you.

STEVIE
Silly bitch didn't have to.

DEBBIE turns, sees ADAM, looking sheepish behind CASEY and LEAH, standing in the kitchen doorway.

ADAM
(aka Pinocchio)
I'm not a puppet. I'm a real boy

STEVE
Alright son?

ABDULLAH, just visible coming up the path-

ABDULLAH
OK?

DEBBIE
Fuck off.

ABDULLAH hesitates, heads inside the house.

STEVE holds up a brown envelope, her benefit cheque. DEBBIE hesitates, nervous as STEVE holds it out to her-

STEVE
Take it. It's yours.

Suddenly LEAH is wading in, clawing at STEVIE trying to pull him off-

DEBBIE
Leah... No..

ADAM
Dad-

ADBULLAH pushes his way through, breaking up the fight, pulling LEAH off and grabbing STEVIE-

ADAM (cont'd)
(breaking down)
Please dad-

ABDULLAH easing his grip on STEVIE-

ABDULLAH
Get home, mate.

STEVIE pushes him off, clocking ADAM and CASEY held back by LEAH, DEBBIE hurt and struggling to pull herself up.

STEVIE
(with disgust)
Mate-

STEVIE half laughing, resorts to grabbing the dog and slowly leading him away.

STEVIE (cont'd)
(incredulous/laughing)
Mate? Who are you to call me..I'm
not your mate.
(to ADAM/ CASEY)
I'll see you two, soon.

STEVIE passing LEAH, looks at her.

STEVIE (cont'd)
(to LEAH)
And you.

On LEAH, watching STEVIE limp across the street, ADAM and CASEY chasing after him-

ABDULLAH looking to DEBBIE-

ABDULLAH
You alright-

But DEBBIE already gone, chasing after STEVIE-

DEBBIE
(calling after)
He's got fucking worms. And you're
not having his pills.

Fumbling with her ring, DEBBIE struggles to get it off, sucking on her finger, doing all she can to loosen it.

CASEY
(calling after dog)
Becks-

ABDULLAH
In Islam its very simple. The man
says to his wife; I divorce you. I
divorce you. I divorce you.

ABDULLAH sinking down on the step outside his house. YASMIN
playing with FRIENDS in the alleyway.

ABDULLAH (cont' d)
(with a smile)
Now what lawyer can do it that
cheap or quick, huh?

ABDULLAH looks up, DEBBIE just passing the kitchen door, half
listening.

LEAH
(considers)
My mum's got one who can fiddle

CASEY
When I grow up I'm gonna be a
kennel maid. You could be a kennel
maid.

DEBBIE
I don't like dogs.

ADAM
You like Becks.

DEBBIE
Who says?

LEAH leading the way, DEBBIE and CASEY close behind. ADAM
caught in eternal turn, going around and around the revolving
doors, never quite making it in.

33

33

DEBBIE sitting facing a female BENEFIT OFFICER finger poised
ready to touch type information into her computer; CASEY,
LEAH and ADAM loiter close by, pitching in from time to time.

BENEFIT OFFICER
Have you any qualifications?

DEBBIE
No.

BENEFIT OFFICER
Do you drive?

DEBBIE
Kind of- No.

BENEFIT OFFICER
You haven't worked in-

DEBBIE
Five years.

BENEFIT OFFICER
(checking paperwork)
You've been living on disability
benefit?

DEBBIE
Yeah.

The BENEFIT OFFICER eyes her up and down, clearly in search
of some kind of disability, looking suspiciously at the
bruises on DEBBIE's face-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Metal plate in my head.

The BENEFIT OFFICER wearily slides a form across to DEBBIE-

BENEFIT OFFICER
If you'd like to fill in this form.

DEBBIE nods, looking to LEAH who hovers close by-

BENEFIT OFFICER (cont' d)
Then take it to that desk.

DEBBIE joins the queue, perching the form on a ledge, as she tries to write her name, painfully aware she is being watched, the letters betraying that DEBBIE cannot write.

ADAM and CASEY playing chase on the other side of the room. LEAH slides next to her, gently reaching out, pulling the form across.

LEAH
(close to/reading)
Address.

DEBBIE rummages in her bag, handing LEAH a letter with their new address on. LEAH takes the pen, and starts to fill in the form, copying from the letter.

LEAH (cont' d)
Dependants?

DEBBIE
I think that's you lot.

LEAH nods, slowly filling in DEBBIE's form for her in childish scrawl. DEBBIE reaches in her bag, going to light up a fag shaking in her hands. A SECURITY GUARD standing near the door, gestures for her to stop.

DEBBIE (cont' d)
(sharp)
Adam-

ADAM half stuck in the doors, DEBBIE suddenly overwhelmed, finishes lighting up her cigarette, ushering CASEY ahead of her-

DEBBIE (cont' d)
Come on.

LEAH reluctantly following the others, already outside.

LEAH peering out watching the ebb and flow of SHOPPERS steady traffic outside, half listening to the conversation between SONYA and DEBBIE, ADAM eating a plate of chips. SONYA eyes DEBBIE's bruised face and swelling chin-

SONYA
It'll be down end of the week.

DEBBIE wincing a little, a smile stinging-

SONYA (cont' d)
(to ADAM)
Stupid shit.

DEBBIE
Mum leave it-

SONYA
(eyeing LEAH)
You're very quite.

DEBBIE
She's pissed off cause she's
missing school.

SONYA
(on seeing CASEY)
Don't you look a poppit.

CASEY just coming out of the toilet in a peach coloured
meringue like bridesmaid dress.

CASEY
Adam's taking all the chips.

CASEY reaches over for a bottle of ketchup, squirting them
over the plate.

ADAM

LEAH
You need a note if you're late. -

DEBBIE shoves ADAM, CASEY and LEAH out of the bus-

DEBBIE
Go, go, go. I'll do you one
tomorrow.

38A

38A

A leafy road. DEBBIE knocking door to door with her scratchcards, increasingly disheartened.

DEBBIE takes in the large houses, wide sweeping drives, moving on-

DEBBIE hesitates, clocking a van parked up. Molly Maids Cleaning Service. A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN is packing cleaning equipment into the back. DEBBIE considers, shoving the scratchcards in her pocket.

39

39

ADAM slamming the ball back and forth across the yard, narrowly missing CASEY and LEAH perched on the back step, hungry and locked out.

CASEY
I'm starving.

CASEY climbs on top of the broken down fridge, looking out for DEBBIE-

ADAM
Nanna says I can live with her.

LEAH
Yeah, you go and eat runny mince and watch Richard and Judy all day.

CASEY suddenly excited, DEBBIE just visible, a dot over the horizon coming over the brow of the street-

CASEY
She's here.

ADAM scrabbles up on top of the fridge, craning to see her-

CASEY (cont'd)
What she waving?

LEAH scrabbles up to join them, all watching in anticipation, DEBBIE hard on the approach, holding out two ten pound notes, letting ADAM and CASEY snatch one each-

CASEY (cont'd)
(snatching note)
Twenty quid.

DEBBIE snatches the money back.

DEBBIE
Forty scratchcards. Daft git in Londis took twenty.

LEAH
We've been out here for two hours.

ADAM
Can we call dad?

DEBBIE hands ADAM back a tenner, fumbling in her bag for her keys-

DEBBIE
No. But you can get a pizza.

ADAM is already heading out, tailed by CASEY-

LEAH
You on the game?

DEBBIE
You cheeky Mare-

LEAH
You sold forty?

DEBBIE
Yeah.

LEAH
What d'you have to do for it?

DEBBIE
(Laughing)
Leah-

DEBBIE tickles LEAH, blowing a raspberry kiss on her face, trying to make her laugh-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
You're so serious Leah.

LEAH brushes her off.

LEAH
It's still a skanky fiddle.

DEBBIE
You won't say that when I win two weeks in Ibiza.
(swiping away)
Catch up with them, eh? Adam'll spend the whole lot on Hula hoops...

On LEAH heading off after ADAM and CASEY-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(calling after)
Leah... Get me a...
(rethink)
...diet coke.

LEAH hesitates, smiles. DEBBIE smiles watching LEAH heading off. DEBBIE seeing ABDULLAH's MOTHER and FATIMA [late 20's], ABDULLAH's heavily pregnant wife in their back yard. DEBBIE hesitates, considers saying hello, then heads inside.

CASEY furiously brushing her teeth. LEAH leans across, squirting toothpaste on her brush.

LEAH
(watching CASEY)
And the back.

Both vie for space, foaming at the mouth, knocking heads as they try to slurp from the same running tap.

LEAH (cont'd)
You've gotta do it a minute.

CASEY reluctantly brushes her teeth, again, spitting out, then grinning at LEAH, flashing them to her.

LEAH gives her the nod she's done. Looking up, LEAH sees ADAM just standing on the landing, DEBBIE's mobile phone in his hand, furiously tapping away at the keys-

LEAH (cont'd)
(shouting out)
Mum-

LEAH grabs his wrist, twisting it into a Chinese burn until finally he submits handing over the phone-

ADAM
Get off... get off... get off...

ADAM kicks LEAH away, slamming the door behind him.

41

41

LEAH jumping on top of ADAM in his bunk-

ADAM shoves her off. Disappearing under his duvet, LEAH leans over the side to see CASEY giving her row of teddies and dolls a kiss goodnight.

LEAH leans back next to ADAM-

The distant call for prayer on tape, coming through the wall-

LEAH
You want him to come back? You want
to live with all his shit again?

ADAM barely stirring under his duvet. Silence. LEAH teasing ADAM, singing along to the prayer, taking the piss-

LEAH (cont'd)
(mouthing along)
Ashhadu al-lā ilahā illā-Llāhu, wa
ashhadu anna Muhammadan-rasul
Allāh.

ADAM
Mum'll kill you. And then Dad will.

LEAH
He's not here. And he's not my dad.

From the landing-

The humming vibrate, DEBBIE's mobile phone ringing on the landing-

ADAM, LEAH and CASEY listen in anticipation until -
The mobile phone rings off. ADAM's obvious disappointment.

LEAH (cont'd)
And you're the one dead if you call
him again.

ADAM
I hate it here.

LEAH goes to speak but-

ADAM pulls the duvet over his head, thumping the wall with his fist, trying to silence next door.

LEAH slides down out of ADAM's bed, passing CASEY. LEAH leans in, kisses CASEY-

CASEY
Leah?

LEAH
What?

CASEY holds up her favourite doll. LEAH kisses it, tucking it in next to CASEY.

CASEY
Are we still sisters if Stevie's
not your dad?

LEAH
Yeah. Night.

CASEY
Night.

ADAM farts. CASEY giggles. LEAH throws a pillow at him.

42

DEBBIE hovers in the doorway, LEAH now in bed-

DEBBIE
Night.

DEBBIE hesitates, clocks the rosary beads, LEAH absently turning them in her hands.

LEAH
Night.

DEBBIE
I'll do you nails tomorrow if you
want.

LEAH nods, DEBBIE smiles, already moving on, her voice singing along to a distant radio, upbeat, her mood, lifting the house.

42



LEAH, passing the pile of books, standing by the door.

MALIK
What you doing here?

LEAH
Free country.

MALIK moving off, joining his friends. LEAH hesitates, clocks-
A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO ISLAM

LEAH hangs back a little, sliding a book up under her shirt.

MALIK
Tari k. You playing?

A SHORT ROUND BOY shakes his head, too busy holding his tray up for food.

TARIQ
Nah. Miss Rana's keeping us in for being naughty.

LEAH
I can play.

MALIK hesitates, ignoring the giggles of his MATES. CASEY standing with YASMIN and other GIRLS, showing off their intricate scooby doos to one another looks up-

MALIK
Ok, but not your brother. He's rubbi sh.

LEAH clocking ADAM sitting on his own picking as his plate of fishfingers, head hung low-

ADAM
(aka Bart Simpson)
The betrayal by a sister is worse than if you had poisoned me, Lisa.

LEAH
Maybe if you cut out the weird voices and shit, they'd want to hang out with you.

ADAM
Fuck you.

LEAH
Get lost you twit ching ADD freak monster.

ADAM scrapes his chair back, LEAH sees he's stung-

LEAH (cont'd)
(calling after)
Adam.

ADAM, without looking back, gives LEAH the finger-

LEAH (cont'd)
Adam-

LEAH dumps her plate, tray and all in the waste bin, legging it after ADAM.

46

46

LEAH weaving through a netball team in full swing, little GIRLS in hijab jumping for the ball as ADAM pushes ahead-

LEAH
(shouting after)
Mum' I'll kill you.

ADAM is off, climbing over the front gates, LEAH pulling at his trousers and jumper trying to stop him mid run-

LEAH (cont'd)
You' I'll get chucked out again.

MISS SHAKINA refereeing the game, looks up, seeing ADAM finally scrabble away from LEAH.

ADAM disappearing down the street. LEAH shouting after him.

A sharp blow of the netball whistle.

47

47

LEAH head down doing a math's test. Suddenly she looks up, hearing DEBBIE's voice far down the corridor.

DEBBIE OOV
You're the teacher. You're meant to look after him.

LEAH, catching YASMIN's gaze, smarting with growing embarrassment, avoiding others gaze, determinedly trying to work, focused on her math's test.

48

48

DEBBIE standing in a deserted corridor, shouting as MISS SHAKINA

DEBBIE OOV
You lock him in the loo if you have to.

The sound of footsteps, MARIANNE on the approach-

MISS SHAKINA
They've had three detentions and they've been here less than two weeks.

DEBBIE
I don't fucking need this..

The ring of the bell. Class change. The swell of CHILDREN passing around DEBBIE mid argument with MISS SHAKINA and MARIANNE.

MARI ANNE

Calm down.

DEBBI E

(jabbing at MISS SHAKINA)
If some dirty fucking paedophile
has got hold of that kid, or he's
got himself killed on some road-

MARI ANNE

We have called the police.

DEBBI E

(jabbing at MARI ANNE)
What are they going to do? Arrest
him? Anything and I'll phone News
of the fucking Screws and tell them
that you run this place like shit.
And that's only after I've sued
you.

MARI ANNE

I'm going to have to ask you leave-

MISS SHAKINA moves towards her, DEBBI E holds her back with
her look.

DEBBI E

Fuck off, you stupid cow.

DEBBI E turns seeing CASEY and LEAH, a look of stinging shame
evident on LEAH's face, YASMIN and others hurrying off to her
classroom.

DEBBI E (cont'd)

You two, here.

CASEY hangs back, refusing to follow-

DEBBI E (cont'd)

You will curse the day you were
ever born if you don't come home
with me now.

CASEY looks to LEAH, reluctantly going to follow DEBBI E-

LEAH

She's got music and movement.

On DEBBI E turning clearly breaking under the strain of so
many watching going to push CASEY ahead of her until -

DEBBI E

I don't give a fuck.

LEAH

(stopping DEBBI E)
Mum, leave her.

LEAH pushing CASEY towards her class, CHILDREN already in
gymn kit getting ready for the next class.

On LEAH hurrying to catch up with DEBBI E, passing REHAN just
coming out of a classroom, looking on with concern. REHAN
going to follow, MARI ANNE stopping her with his look.

DEBBIE sitting at the table, in a fug of cigarette smoke.

LEAH sits high on top of the old fridge yard, feet tapping against the door, only adding to DEBBIE's irritation.

DEBBIE
Don't do that.

LEAH stops, bored.

The distant sound of laughter, DEBBIE peers through the nets to see YASMIN's GRANDMOTHER laughing with FATIMA in the back yard as they fold washing.

On DEBBIE coming out, sitting on the step, her agitation growing as she opens a packet of cigarettes.

Suddenly the door swings open, ADAM as he comes through, lashing out, hitting him about the head and back-

DEBBIE
Where have you been? You selfish
shit...

DEBBIE's crazed anger verging on insanity as she shoves ADAM against the fence, swiping at his head and legs. LEAH muscles in trying to pull DEBBIE off-

LEAH
(shouting)
You're hurting him.

ADAM cowering now from DEBBIE's fury, starting to cry-

DEBBIE
Anyone could have got you... Any
poxy pervert... You're nine... Your
nine years old-

ADAM
I just want to see my dad. I just
want to go home and be with my dad.

LEAH finally hauling DEBBIE off, sees ADAM cowering, he's
lashing out, hitting her about the head and back- (shouting)

LEAH
It's past seven. She's always back
by now.

SONYA reaches for her fags, eyes darting outside, with growing agitation.

SONYA
I've got donuts for after.

Sound of a car door slam. Voices. LEAH with sudden realisation, instinctively looks to SONYA.

CASEY
Nanna would you rather be blind or
deaf?

SONYA
Deaf and I'd miss Terry Wogan.
Blind.. That fucks Deal or no
Deal.... He's a cocky little knob
Noel Edmonds. Blind.

The sound of a dog barking. ADAM leaps up, running to the window.

ADAM
Becks!

ADAM's face breaks into a smile, on seeing-

DEBBIE coming up the path, closely followed by the dog and STEVIE.

CASEY and ADAM rush to greet DEBBIE just coming in through the door with STEVIE, a bottle of vodka in his hand in a plastic bag with some cokes-

LEAH looks to SONYA-

DEBBIE
(kissing CASEY/ ADAM)
Hello darlings.

ADAM and CASEY's delight as they greet the dog, bouncing up on front paws to greet them.

SONYA
You're alright I got them tea.

ADAM
Dad-

ADAM running to greet STEVIE, as he scoops CASEY into his arms. LEAH's look of disappointment falls on DEBBIE as STEVIE slides the bottle of booze in the bag on the table-

STEVIE
I was gonna take you for pizza.

CASEY and ADAM leap up with excitement, runny mince discarded. LEAH looking on with quiet resignation, scoops up her bag and heads up to bed.

The slam of the bedroom door.

54

54

LEAH, lying on the bed, pulls out a worn book. A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO ISLAM, flicking through its pages, the rosary beads in her hands.

DEBBIE
He could have taken you too.

LEAH barely looks up, DEBBIE hovering in the doorway.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Adam needs to see his dad.

DEBBIE reaches over, turning the page of LEAH's book, bemused by the Arabic lettering, the images-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
School give you this?

LEAH reaches out for the book. DEBBIE pulls it away. The cover rips, pages falling to the floor-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
I'm sorry-

LEAH pushes her away, scrabbling to pick them up. DEBBIE looks on helpless, LEAH struggles not to cry. On DEBBIE's total wretchedness, making to go-

SONYA OOV
Deb I'm off-
(as goes)
Enders starts in thirty minutes.

55

55

DEBBIE sitting, the bottle of vodka and cokes in a plastic bag. DEBBIE trying really hard until. DEBBIE opens the bottle of coke, drinks, topping the can up with vodka and knocking it back-

The murmur of the TV.

55A

55A

LEAH carefully trying to sellotape the book together-
The graze of car lights outside. LEAH looking up-

55B

55B

A tap at the door. STEVIE, CASEY asleep in his arms. ADAM close behind carrying a box of cold pizza. DEBBIE showing STEVIE upstairs, ADAM close behind-

56

56

LEAH watching STEVIE through an ajar door following DEBBIE across the landing, ADAM in her arms.

LEAH

DEBBIE
And that's all you're getting.

STEVIE smiles, throws up his arms, in playful defeat.

STEVIE
Osama Bin Laden made our pizza.

DEBBIE laughs, inwardly struggling, STEVIE already heading out.

59

59

LEAH's POV watching DEBBIE through the ajar door, praying to herself, as if for her life, beads turning through her fingers as she touches each one-

LEAH
Subhanallah... Glory to God... Al hamdu
Ilahi... God is great.

The slam of the door. LEAH with visible relief watching DEBBIE through the ajar door, sink down on the stairs. The graze of car lamps across the bedroom.

On LEAH smiling in quiet disbelief, looking at the rosary beads in hand.

Suddenly LEAH's sniffs the air, looks up sees DEBBIE smoking the spliff. A fug of smoke drifting along the landing into the bedroom.

LEAH closing her eyes again, LEAH resumes praying, hoping for one more wish.

59A

59A

LEAH walking across the empty market, this time on her own.

60

60

REHAN at the end of assembly, looking up with surprise to see LEAH and CASEY taking seats at the back-

REHAN VO
The prophet, peace be unto him,
that night was very tired from the
long walk he had had that day so he
slept very soundly.

REHAN
 ...in full splendour, with the most
 marvellous beast, whose name was-

REHAN looks to the CHILDREN, bright eyed and listening,
 craning with anticipation, waiting for their cue-

CHILDREN
 (excited)
 Burraq... Burraq-

Giggles and squeals of excitement, the CHILDREN's laughter
 infectious, CASEY already up from her chair, joining in.

REHAN
 (nodding)
 A dazzling white mare with wings
 were like an eagle, that could
 travel even faster than light-

LEAH lost in listening, feigning disinterest on seeing REHAN
 clocking this.

61

61

The empty study class. LEAH pulls out the stolen book out
 from under her t-shirt, sliding it back onto the pile.
 Forgetting something, REHAN enters, reaching out and lightly
 stopping her, catching her in the act.

Taking the book from her, REHAN flicks through it, clocking
 the taped pages.

LEAH
 It got ripped.

REHAN
 You shouldn't steal.

LEAH nods, in anticipation of what comes next. REHAN hands
 the books back to LEAH.

REHAN (cont'd)
 So I give it to you.

LEAH
 I haven't got any money.

REHAN half laughs.

REHAN
 No. It's a gift.
 (seeing hesitation)
 Take it.

LEAH tentatively takes it, slipping it back under her T-
 shirt.

LEAH
 Whatever.

LEAH tailing REHAN across the empty playground, KIDS far off playing-

LEAH
It says that there are Angels that
keep lists of like all the bad
stuff you've done.

REHAN
And the good if there is some.

LEAH
And that God'll read the list and
work out if you're going to go to
hell?

REHAN
I think you'll be OK.

LEAH
What if its someone who keeps doing
bad stuff and they don't even know
they're doing it?

REHAN
What kind of bad stuff?

LEAH
Like pretending something's going
to be different and then its not.
Like saying everything's going to
be fine. That they won't drink
again. Or like when Casey burnt her
arm, not being pissed off and
shouting. Like promising it's going
to change even and then it never
does. Do you think if you pray alot,
do you think Allah would cross a
few out? Do you think if you did
that-

LEAH looks up, MARIANNE waiting by the common room door,
clocking REHAN.

REHAN
If he is The Good, The Merciful,
The Compassionate Allah will
forgive-

LEAH
I thought so.

REHAN with quiet concern, watching LEAH disappear along the
2 Tc -iful, e is some i OUTSIDE MOSQUE DAY.D

LEAH sitting on the step, seemingly doing her homework, writing in her exercise book, eyes clocking a can of coke half drunk and resting on the wall, DEBBIE, a little flushed and mellow hanging out the washing swigs on it occasionally, ADAM and CASEY playing close by.

CASEY
He says we can have Becks back.

DEBBIE
He can keep him.

ADAM sits on top of the beaten up fridge, legs kicking against the door, pulling on a strawberry liquorice.

ADAM
He'll forget to feed him

DEBBIE ignores him, clocking SONYA just coming up the road LEAH sees DEBBIE topping up her coke with vodka-

ADAM (cont'd)
If you lend us the bus fare I could go home and change his water bowl.

DEBBIE
Adam? Read my lips. No. You'll see him Friday. He promised he'll come and see you then.

SONYA, holding up take away, with a smile, eyeing LEAH sitting on the back step-

SONYA
(as passes)
You'll get piles sitting on cold stone like that.

SONYA looks over the yard, eyeing FATIMA with ABDULLAH'S MOTHER cooking naans on the back step. Several RELATIVES close by, all lost in conversation. SONYA looks to DEBBIE rolling her eyes.

LEAH
It's Ramadan. They fast all day.
Then eat alot in the evening.

SONYA peering over LEAH'S shoulder, a can of diet coke and vodka already in her hand.

LEAH (cont'd)
It's just my homework.

SONYA
You're getting too clever.

LEAH reaches for the can of coke, goes to swig, eyeing DEBBIE-

LEAH
What? You're drinking it.

DEBBIE takes it off her, watching LEAH going over to the fence to talk to YASMIN.

YASMIN
(hushed aside)
You got any of those scratch cards.

LEAH looks at her bemused. ABDULLAH's MOTHER mimes scratching a card, behind YASMIN. SONYA considers, eyeing her suspiciously-

SONYA
Tell her they're two quid each.

LEAH
(incredulous)
Nanna-

SONYA
One quid fifty if she buys five of them.

SONYA nods to ABDULLAH's MOTHER, beckoning her to come over-

SONYA (cont'd)
She'll have to take her shoes off.

Several of the FAMILY MEMBERS including preparing to head off to the mosque, including ABDULLAH. ABDULLAH's MOTHER's innocent smile, as ABDULLAH passes-

SONYA
They're bugs.

DEBBIE looking out, clocking her NEIGHBOUR in full chador, gardening in the fading light. ABDULLAH'S MOTHER follows her gaze.

ABDULLAH'S MOTHER
(in Punjabi)
She left her husband.

DEBBIE shrugs not understanding-

ABDULLAH
Her family won't talk to her.

DEBBIE hesitates, nods clocking LEAH, heading up YASMIN'S path, into her house.

DEBBIE
Leah-

LEAH already gone, DEBBIE'S gaze falling back on CASEY playing mummies and daddies with MOHAMMAD and a couple of little ASIAN KIDS, in the alleyway.

DEBBIE peers up, looking out for LEAH, seeing the lights go on in YASMIN'S bedroom.

66

66

LEAH peering into YASMIN'S bedroom following YASMIN in. A brightly coloured Aladdin duvet, wrestles with swathes of Indian bedspread. Photos of pop stars collide with family photos, some incense sticks burnt near the bed.

A prayer mat rolled in the corner of the room. A tiny compass resting on the side. LEAH'S hands graze over all of these.

LEAH sinks onto the bed, peering across at several scarves hanging up. LEAH leans forward, pulling one off the rack. Eyeing it, LEAH tries wrapping it around her head, peering at herself in the mirror, absorbed in trying to tie it-

YASMIN
You're doing it wrong.

YASMIN kneels down next to her.

YASMIN (cont'd)
(helping her)
You've got to pull it tight.

YASMIN pulls the scarf, folding it, smiling at LEAH, both girls mildly self-conscious until-

LEAH turns, takes in her face in the mirror, surprised by what she sees-

LEAH
(with karate chop)
Ninja-

ABDULLAH' S MOTHER
(as passes/in Punjabi)
Buy the kids some sweeties.

DEBBIE with bemused gratitude, watching ABDULLAH' s MOTHER heading back to her house. DEBBIE nods her hello to ABDULLAH, already being overtaken by his MOTHER.

SONYA
Debbie, wipe down that chair.
(seeing LEAH' s look)
Oh pull that pickle out your arse,
Leah.

LEAH picks up her exercise books, finishing up the last of her homework.

LEAH
They don' t gamble. She can' t keep
the money.

DEBBIE sinks down next to LEAH, eyeing LEAH' s open page-

DEBBIE
What else don' t they do?

LEAH
Everything. Drink.

DEBBIE hesitates, knocking back the drink in her hand-

DEBBIE
It' s diet coke-

LEAH holds her look silently challenging her as SONYA hands DEBBIE a spliff.

LEAH
Smoke.

DEBBIE hesitates, declining the spliff.

LEAH (cont' d)
(with smile)
Masturbate.

DEBBIE/SONYA
(wry/shocked)
Leah.

SONYA heads back into the kitchen, leaving DEBBIE behind. DEBBIE looks over LEAH' s shoulder down at the drawing on LEAH' s exercise book-

DEBBIE
She looks happy.

A smiling WOMAN arms around a small child, LEAH' s handwriting clear below.

DEBBIE (cont' d)
What does it say?

LEAH hesitates, tracing a finger over the letters, phonetically showing her-

LEAH
'To Whom Should I show Kindness'
'Muhammad asked.' Your mother, next
your mother, next your mother.

DEBBIE
That's homework?

LEAH nods. DEBBIE considers-

DEBBIE (cont'd)
And I hope Muhammad listened.

ABDULLAH shouting at DEBBIE through the fence-

ABDULLAH
Don't sell those things to my
mother.

DEBBIE
What?

DEBBIE almost playful, ABDULLAH eyeing her, the whisper of a smile on his lips.

ABDULLAH
You're a very bad lady.

DEBBIE laughing heads up to bed leaving LEAH, finishing her work, a shaft of light from the kitchen illuminating her.

ABDULLAH (cont'd)
Al right Laylah-

LEAH nods, watching ABDULLAH head in.

69

69

YASMIN hurrying LEAH along, giggling and clearly hesitant-

LEAH
But I'm white.

YASMIN
Do you want to do this or what?

LEAH hesitates, nods. YASMIN holds out her hand. LEAH lets YASMIN tie on her hijab, nodding when it has finished.

CASEY
Leah-

CASEY and ADAM waiting for LEAH, looking on with quiet shock as she disappears up the road with YASMIN.

CASEY (cont'd)
We'll tell mum.

LEAH already gone. CASEY and ADAM not sure what to do.

CASEY heading off. ADAM reluctantly following her.



IOBAL
The moon and the stars are a
reminder to us, that Mohammad was
guided by Allah, like the moon and
the stars.

LEAH taking her place next to YASMIN and MALIK at a long
table with several other familiar CHILDREN from LEAH's class
at school.

IOBAL (cont'd)
And who do we have here today?

LEAH hesitates, YASMIN and MALIK turning to look at her-

LEAH
Laylah.

IOBAL hesitates, smiling, sliding a book across the table to
her-

IOBAL
Sal aam Ale-Khoum.

LEAH
Wal ai kum-asal aam.

IOBAL's eyes graze over the face of the CHILDREN in his class-

IOBAL
For thirty days, as Muslims we
fast, we do not eat or drink during
daylight hours. It reminds us how
difficult it is to be poor, to be
hungry to be thirsty and to remind
us to thank God for his gift of the
Qur'an.

LEAH smiles, catching YASMIN's grin as they fall into work-

IOBAL (cont'd)
Today when you are feeling hungry
again, it is Allah's way of making
you think about the essentials, and
luxuries of life and so not to be
greedy. I want you to write down
what you think you need in life...

74A

74A

DEBBIE pulling out long black chadors from the washing
machine.

The distant murmur of IOBAL's voice.

DEBBIE heaving up a basket of wet washing, heading out.

75

75

ON LEAH, the hijab scarf around her shoulders, with YASMIN
giggling as they head to the loo-

LEAH walking along the corridor, suddenly stopping on seeing-

75A

75A

DEBBIE hanging up long black chadors on the washing line,
turning to see-

LEAH staring back at her through the window in the house.

76

76

LEAH walking along the corridor, meeting DEBBIE shoving her
overalls into her bag.

DEBBIE
No... No... No... No..

DEBBIE opening her cupboard, pulling out clothes, getting ready to go out.

DEBBIE
You're not all the other kids.
You look fucking ridiculous.

DEBBIE hesitates, half stripped, hovering between dresses.

LEAH
You're cleaning for them.

DEBBIE
And? And?

DEBBIE turns on LEAH, shouting at her, losing it.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
What else am I meant to do? Three
of you. I've got fucking three of
you giving me grief and pain every
minute of the day. What the fuck am
I meant to do? Keep an eye on you
all the fucking time? I can't. I
can't-

DEBBIE lashing out, ripping the shit out of the cupboard, slamming clothes on the floor, anger and despair overwhelming her as she pulls at the cupboard, not knowing her strength until-

Exhausted, the aftermath and debris quietly shocking them both until-

LEAH
(pointing to dress)
You can see your muffin tops in
that.

DEBBIE hesitates, takes the other dress.

DEBBIE
I just can't. I just-

DEBBIE overwhelmed with fury and upset.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
..can't live off scratchcards.

The slam of the bathroom door-

LEAH
(calling after)
Who's sitting with us?

77PT

77PT

DEBBIE, suddenly fragile, pulling off her underwear about to step into the beaten up shower. Reaching to turn it off, DEBBIE sinks her head against the cool of the wall.

The arch of her back, spine suddenly visible, white and shaking, skin bruised and battered, marked with years of abuse.

Silent tears pour down her face.

LEAH
(tapping on door)
Mum. . . Mum. . .

DEBBIE turning the tap on-

DEBBIE
Give us a minute. . Give us. .

77A

77A

DEBBIE looking out, blankly staring-
The lights of Leeds, illuminated across her face.

78

78

SONYA stumbling out of a toilet cubicle, bunny ears and tail
awry.

SONYA
You need ears. . She needs ears.

DEBBIE dressed to the nines, staring at herself in the
toilets as ELAINE in mini skirt and pink bunny girl costume
comes out of a cubicle, waving maribou ears and tail.

DEBBIE
I'm fine.

Two more BUSTY GIRLS swarm around DEBBIE handing out bunny
ears and sashes de rigueur.

SONYA
(from behind)
It won't stick.

DEBBIE eyes SONYA, spilling out of her tight lycra.

DEBBIE
Give it here.

DEBBIE fixes on SONYA's tail, reaching for a bottle of Hooch.

SONYA
Easy girl. What's got into you?

SONYA takes the bottle off her, swiping a sip.

SONYA (cont'd)
96 calories in every one of these.

DEBBIE eyes herself in the mirror, ridiculous yet somehow hot
in her bunnygirl outfit, something determined in her eyes,
forcing back all thoughts of LEAH and her day-

ELAINE
Ready.

DEBBIE nods, knocking back a bottle of Hooch, ELAINE, SONYA and the GIRLS already heading out.

SONYA
Abso-fuckin'lutely.

The pulse of dance music through.

79

79

STEVIE dozing, arms around a dozing CASEY and ADAM watching TV-

Take away boxes strewn across the floor.

80

80

LEAH sliding into bed, pulling her exercise book out of her bag, her name clear on the exercise book-

Laylah.

LEAH contemplates, before sliding it under her bed.

Through the walls, the sound of laughter. LEAH listening.

81

81

DEBBIE clambering towards the bar, SONYA already there passing back drinks-

SONYA
He's not bad.

DEBBIE knocks back another drink, eyeing a group of OLDER UGLY BLOKES hovering near.

SONYA (cont'd)

SONYA
Have to catch me first.

DEBBIE knocking it back DEBBIE throws herself back into dancing with SONYA and OTHERS, drinking as if her life depended upon it.

82

82

Darkness.

The creak of the metal gate down below in the yard.

The sound of giggling. DEBBIE stumbling home.

The door swings open, STEVIE comes out, just catching her as she trips and stumbles-

STEVIE
You're steaming, babygirl.

DEBBIE nods, laughter still bubbling.

DEBBIE
Stevie. . Stevie. . Stevie. .

STEVIE laughs, rocking her little in his arms.

STEVIE
You stink of kebab.

DEBBIE giggles, laughter subsiding, rocking his arms, forehead to forehead, nose to nose, a kind of sadness, and

LEAH looking up from praying, surprised at the miracle.
The swing of the back gate. STEVIE clearly heard, leaving.
DEBBIE, almost asleep, tiny snatches of the song dissolving
into slumber.

87

87

ADAM sitting on the back step, his lunchbox open, eating a sandwich. CASEY next to him, also eating something-

CASEY
Want a bite?

LEAH sits with her FRIENDS including YASMIN, giggling and mucking around together.

CASEY (cont'd)
I won't tell anyone.

LEAH shakes her head moving off with YASMIN. MALIK scores a goal, triumphant, patted on the back by his MATES. ADAM looks on resentfully.

88

88

Remove scene 88

89

89

REHAN walking through the busy market with MISS SHAKINA, laughing and talking. LEAH, overtakes him, YASMIN close behind-

LEAH
Sir.. Sir..

LEAH tailing REHAN, moving through the ebb and flow of human traffic-

LEAH (cont'd)
Yasmin says you just have to say
There is no God but Allah; Muhammad
is the messenger of Allah.

REHAN
Declaration of faith is a start.

LEAH
There is no God but Allah; Muhammad
is the messenger of Allah.
(a beat)
I'm a Muslim then?

LEAH smiles before he can answer, running to catch up with YASMIN.

REHAN
Leah..
(calling after)
Leah.

LEAH smiling, holding hands with YASMIN, moving through the human traffic, unstoppable.

90

90

LEAH deflated wedged up in the back of a beaten up taxi, swathed in peach bridesmaid froth, DEBBIE and CASEY in same dress either side. LEAH's nose pressed to the glass, looking out over the old estate, waiting for STEVIE gone to fetch SONYA-

LEAH's eyes grazing over-

Rows and rows of washing flapping on the run down balconies.

SONYA, stumbling in heels towards the car, gets into the front seat of the car, pulling ADAM onto her lap. SONYA eyes DEBBIE, CASEY and LEAH on the back seat, through the rear view mirror.

SONYA
Put a smile on it you miserable
sods.

SONYA eyeing a FAT LADY mid argument with her HUSBAND on a walkway.

SONYA (cont'd

91

91

A shower of confetti. LEAH and CASEY flanking ELAINE, in a meringue dress. LEAH's mind clearly elsewhere prompted to smile for the camera by SONYA. DEBBIE looks on anxiously, pulled aside by STEVIE to meet another RELATIVE-

92

92

LEAH, wedged up under a mountain of bridesmaid dress, sipping a coke watching the celebrations-

DEBBIE dancing with CASEY and ADAM. STEVIE getting pissed at the bar.

LEAH's eyes graze over the clock on the wall. 4 pm. LEAH takes herself off.

DEBBIE returning to her seat, as SONYA slides her another drink.

SONYA
We're getting them in before that
fat bastard makes a speech.

The GROOM, clearly worse for wear, heading towards the microphone.

On DEBBIE eyes looking over to LEAH heading towards the loo.

93

93

LEAH washing her hands and arms in the sink, touching her ears, cleaning out her nose-

Two YOUNG FEMALE WEDDING GUESTS mid gossip eye her with mild horror-

LEAH pulls her scarf out of her pocket. Standing in front of the mirror, LEAH carefully ties the hijab around her face, straightening it, to take in her reflection in the mirror.

94

94

SONYA dancing with CASEY and ADAM. The GROOM already tapping his microphone, a sense that the speeches are about to happen.

DEBBIE surrounded by STEVIE and his drunk mates, looking over mid laugh to see-

LEAH just crossing the dance floor in a hijab. On STEVIE, mid sip-

A ripple of interest passing over the reception.

The GROOM, tapping his mike-

GROOM
1..2..1..2... This is Houston
calling..

On SONYA, open mouthed seeing LEAH as she heads into another room.

95

95

LEAH knelt in a corner of a wide reception room, praying.

From across the room, DEBBIE on the approach-

DEBBIE
Leah-

The quiet murmur of LEAH praying, ignoring DEBBIE

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Get up.
(silence)
Leah-

From across the room, STEVIE on the approach.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Get off that floor.

Silently finishing her praying, LEAH stands, takes a moment-

STEVIE
What's she got on?

LEAH
It's called a hijab.

STEVIE
Take it off.

DEBBIE hesitates, her eyes pleading with LEAH-

DEBBIE
Leah, just take it off OK.

LEAH
No.

STEVIE
Take it off.

LEAH
No.

Suddenly DEBBIE looks up, sees SONYA coming through, her quiet shock turning to laughing ridicule.

SONYA
Leah, love, get up, stop pissing around.

LEAH ignores her, returning to praying.

STEVIE
Youet up, stnow. 's caa Tj 1 0 0 1 337.96 151.28 Tm -0.2

STEVIE goes to rip off the scarf, tearing at LEAH's hair-

STEVIE (cont'd)
Take that fucking thing off. You
look like a spastic.

SONYA
Leah, love-

LEAH
No.. NO..

DEBBIE
(intervening)
Don't. Please. Don't-

LEAH pulls away, eyes smarting with tears, desperately trying
to shake STEVIE off-

LEAH
(desperate)
Get off me...get off me. Get off
me.. -

SONYA
I told you, Deb...I warned you of
this.

DEBBIE
Leah, take it off...Take it off..

LEAH
Mum-

STEVIE snatches the scarf at last, triumphant takes the scarf
and puts it in the bin.

STEVIE
Right lets get back to the party
shall we?

LEAH bends down, picks it out of the rubbish bin, starts to
re-tie it as STEVIE goes to rip it once more out of her
hands. LEAH jerks away-

DEBBIE
No-

DEBBIE stands between them, blocking him, holding her ground,
adrenaline pumping.

SONYA
She's embarrassing us.

LEAH defiantly finishes tying the hijab, refusing to bow down-

LEAH passing STEVIE, crossing through the reception, ignoring
the whispers and curious looks of other WEDDING GUESTS.

The thump of music through-

DEBBIE walking up the path, STEVIE carrying an exhausted CASEY. SONYA and ADAM close behind, as DEBBIE unlocks the back door.

Next door, the sound of laughter, music, the second night of Ramadan-

LEAH goes to follow inside, STEVIE bars her way-

STEVIE
Take it off.

DEBBIE goes to speak, but STEVIE holds his hand up to stop her-

SONYA
Leah, don't make trouble with your
mum and dad.

LEAH looks beyond to DEBBIE, silently imploring with quiet desperate appeal.

DEBBIE's look of quiet appalled despair as STEVIE closes the door on LEAH.

On LEAH, all resolve suddenly faded, a tear rolling down her face.

The sound of shouting, STEVIE and DEBBIE arguing inside.

face.

LEAH shakes her head, avoiding his gaze. ABDULLAH stops, holds her face, sees she has been crying-

ABDULLAH (cont'd)
I'll go and talk to her.

100

100

ABDULLAH knocking on the back door-

Silence. The distant murmur of the TV.

ABDULLAH knocks again, sees DEBBIE staring at him through the window-

STEVIE and SONYA in the kitchen, looking up.

DEBBIE silently shaking her head, warning him with her eyes not to come in.

ABDULLAH at a loss, resigned, turns and heads back into the house.

101

101

A distant cough-

LEAH wedged in bed next to a sleeping YASMIN, presses an ear to the wall.

102

102

DEBBIE lying in bed, disturbed by STEVIE coughing in his sleep, listening to any signs of life through the wall.

103

103

The early morning call for prayer on the tape. ABDULLAH's MOTHER just visible praying in the kitchen-

LEAH bleary eyed. The distant sound of FATIMA and YASMIN arguing.

On the other side of the fence, CASEY sits on top of the fridge, eating a packet of crisps-

CASEY
Kitchen's a tip.

LEAH barely looks up-

LEAH
That all you having for breakfast?

CASEY
(nods)
There's no milk.

LEAH hesitates, going inside to FATIMA's house, she hands a carton of milk over the fence. ei y9r8, she hands a

CASEY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Are you coming home?

LEAH shrugs, ABDULLAH coming out, followed by YASMIN close behind-

ABDULLAH
You should at least talk to your mother.

ABDULLAH looks up, sees DEBBIE through the fence, carrying a pile of clothes-

DEBBIE
I've put in her toothbrush.

DEBBIE hands a pile of clothes to FATIMA over the fence.

ABDULLAH
She's your child.

DEBBIE hesitates, makes to go inside.

DEBBIE
Make sure she cleans her teeth.

DEBBIE turning heading back inside, closing the door.
ABDULLAH shakes his head, looking to LEAH-

ABDULLAH
I don't need this.

ABDULLAH heading down the path, clearly upset, YASMIN next to him.

CASEY
What about me? I don't know how to

ADAM eyes the bike, inwardly cursing, Barbie's face still visible-

ADAM
Nanna says you've been brainwashed.

LEAH
What did Stevie spray the bike for?

ADAM hesitates, avoiding LEAH's gaze.

ADAM
(aka Mr Burns)
Homer, the planet's safety is in your hands. We're on the edge of nuclear annihilation-

LEAH walks away.

LEAH
And you ask yourself why you don't have friends?

On ADAM, left behind, straddle across the too small bike.

Leah-

CASEY

LEAH hesitates, then holds out the well worn exercise book for DEBBIE to take. DEBBIE hesitantly reaches out, taking the book, clocking Laylah scrawled on the front-

DEBBIE struggles, eyes grazing over, failing to make sense of the list-

Never remembers to buy milk.

Drinks.

Smokes.

LEAH
Does too many drugs.
Shags shit men.
Can't read even though she's not
stupid. Makes promises never keeps.

DEBBIE stops, hands it back to LEAH, a tear slowly falling down her face.

LEAH (cont'd)
(as DEBBIE goes)
It's to remind me why I'm not
coming home.
(pushing list back to her)
It's yours.
(beat)
Take it.

DEBBIE reaching out taking the torn sheet, looking up to see ADAM just coming in-

DEBBIE
You were a long time.

ADAM avoids LEAH's quiet scrutiny, going to follow DEBBIE inside-

LEAH
(as passes)
Where d'you go?

ADAM
(aka Mr Burns)
Can it be that you are talking to
me merely a member of your
bloodline and family?

LEAH holds his look-

LEAH
Where d'you go?

ADAM closes the door, ignoring her question.

The electronic fight sounds of the distant X box.

LEAH and YASMIN larking around, on route.

109 _____ 109

LEAH bent over in prayer, touching her forehead to the carpet.

110 _____ 110

Remove scene 110.

110A _____ 110A

DEBBIE walks CASEY and ADAM to School.

111 _____ 111

DEBBIE, tailing REHAN, on route back from dropping ADAM and CASEY-

DEBBIE
Did you send her to that class?

REHAN
But she's not at home at the moment.

DEBBIE
Fuck you.

REHAN
If she was my daughter.. I see a bright kid who needs-

DEBBIE
Fuck you..

REHAN
Fine.. Fine.

DEBBIE
You know why there's no fucking white kids in this school? You don't fucking want them.

REHAN
I want any kid who wants to learn. Any kid who wants something more than she's got. That's Leah.

REHAN turning to go, leaving DEBBIE. A lone white figure, suddenly overwhelmed in a sea of brown.

112

112

LEAH wiping tables, coming over to the counter where YASMIN is playing slaphands, sitting on the counter.

ABDULLAH MOTHER
(in Punjabi)
Off my counter-

ABDULLAH rolls large cans of vegetable oil and coconut milk from the shop to the yard, through wide open doors-

LEAH
All done and I've filled up the salt bottles.

ABDULLAH nodding to ABDULLAH'S MOTHER, as she opens the till, taking out a fiver-

ABDULLAH MOTHER
(handing money to LEAH)
Good girl.

The bell on the door goes. LEAH looks around to see STEVIE, DEBBIE
Good g7l8pa1fLEcans of vegetable oil ang

STEVIE shrugs, STEVIE coming over to join her at the counter.
ABDULLAH'S MOTHER nodding to YASMIN to come and help her in
the kitchen.

LEAH (cont'd)
You're going grey.

STEVIE
Cheers.
(beat)
Are you coming home?

LEAH
Are you moving out?

STEVIE
Your mother's missing you.
(stopping her)
I've been a good dad to you.

LEAH snorts, rolling her eyes-

LEAH
Then be a good dad and fuck off.

STEVIE
(pointing upwards)
I don't think he'd like you saying
that.

LEAH
Who's there when she's crying cause
you haven't come home for a week?
Who's there when you've gone and
nicked everything? Who dad?
(beat)
And I'm the kid.

STEVIE makes to go.

LEAH (cont'd)
I know what you're doing with Adam.

STEVIE
Don't get clever with me.

LEAH
Then fuck off, leave us all alone
and take your shitty gear with you.

STEVIE
Or what?

LEAH hesitates-

LEAH

LEAH (cont'd)
Ashhadu al -la ilaha illa-LI ah, wa
ashhadu anna Muhammadar-rasul
All ah.

ABDULLAH' s MOTHER and OTHERS look up in quiet amazement,
LEAH' s singi ng almost taunti ng, goadi ng a silent STEVIE.

113

113

ABDULLAH, wi pi ng off the sweat as he roll s the last barrel ,
looki ng up on heari ng-

LEAH OOV
Ashhadu al -la ilaha illa-LI ahu,
ashhadu anna Muhammadan-rasul
All ah. Ashhadu al -la ilaha illa-
LI ah, ashadu anna Muhammadar-rasul
All ah. . . .

ABDULLAH' s amazement-

ABDULLAH
You starvi ng?

LEAH
I had a pi ece of pi zza at
lunchti me.

ABDULLAH hal f smi les-

ABDULLAH
Your mother i s very unhappy.

LEAH
(sharp)
She' s a stupi d bi tch.

ABDULLAH
Say not unto them a contemptuous
word nor repel but address them
with respectful words.

LEAH
I hate her.

ABDULLAH
Paradi se i s at the feet of the
mother-

LEAH
She' s-

ABDULLAH
I don' t care-
(beat)
And eat your food.

LEAH
You' re not my-

ABDULLAH catches her l ook-

ABDULLAH
No. You onl y get one of those.

116

116

DEBBIE hurrying home, stops on seeing LEAH, legs swingi ng as she waits for her sitting on the wall. They barel y acknowledge one another as DEBBIE passes LEAH=

LEAH
Have you got twenty mi nutes?

DEBBIE hesi tates, nods, LEAH beckoni ng her to fol low.

117

117

The flick flack of the door-

LEAH and DEBBIE stand hesi tant, catchi ng brief gl impses as MEN and WOMEN enteri ng.

LEAH
The women pray upstairs.

DEBBIE resigned, makes to go inside. LEAH goes to stop her, handing her a scarf. DEBBIE looks at it nonplussed, LEAH goes to put it on her, tying it for her despite DEBBIE's obvious reluctance-

DEBBIE
I'm not taking off my shoes. I've got holes in my stockings.

LEAH

DEBBIE
I just don't get it. I don't get
what you get from it.

LEAH
It's half an hour at the most-

DEBBIE
I'm English.

LEAH
So am I.

DEBBIE
It's not for me.

DEBBIE turns, makes to head up the road-

LEAH
It smells nice It's quiet. I pray
and... everything's not all bad or
fucked up. Like somewhere there's
this place that... I dunno... I feel
safe.

DEBBIE
You're eleven.

LEAH
You're nearly thirty and you've
never felt like that.

DEBBIE
Stevie wants us to move back to the
flat.
(avoiding gaze)
I can't do it. I've not been on my
own since-

LEAH
You never try.
(beat)
Or are you going to let him run
Adam like he did me?

On DEBBIE, slapped-

DEBBIE
(destroyed)
He promised.

LEAH, seeing that DEBBIE knows-

LEAH
(quiet incredulity)
God, you are.

LEAH in quiet despairing disgust, turning and heading back to
the mosque, leaving DEBBIE behind.

LEAH propped up in bed, telling a story to Muhammad[3yrs]-

LEAH

Now after his long journey, the prophet and the Gabriel, came down by way of the Ladder of light- Down they went, Gabriel and our prophet by way of the Ladder of light and when they got down there they found Burraq whom they unfastened-

DEBBIE grabbing a broom, slapping him out of the house, until STEVIE grabs the broom off her, yanking it out of her hands, with violent force-

 STEVIE
Deb-

 DEBBIE
I hate you...I hate you...

On DEBBIE and STEVIE, panting and exhausted, both locked in a battle to the death-

 STEVIE
Get off you silly mare..

SONYA rushing in, pulling STEVIE off DEBBIE-

 SONYA
Calm down...Calm down.

Exhausted, STEVIE and DEBBIE are torn apart, SONYA wrestling DEBBIE away from him, calming DEBBIE down.

Through the fence, DEBBIE sees LEAH watching it all with CASEY and the other CHILDREN.

 SONYA (cont'd)
Come inside love.

DEBBIE heads in.

From inside FATIMA's house-

A low level scream-

FATIMA going into labour next door. ABDULLAH coming out, clearly unsure what to do, ABDULLAH's MOTHER going inside to help.

Above the crack of fireworks-

DEBBIE standing in the doorway, taking in her near empty flat, stepping back to let STEVIE'S MATE'S pass, carrying the kitchen table. SONYA is already back inside the kitchen, packing a box with cutlery.

DEBBIE
Mum, why didn't you send me to school?

STEVIE in the kitchen, taking down a blind, looks up-

SONYA
What?

DEBBIE
Why didn't you send me to school?

STEVIE'S MATE just coming out of the house, carrying the kitchen table.

SONYA
You wouldn't go.

DEBBIE'S eyes absently follow STEVIE'S MATE'S journey to the white hire van, parked in the alleyway.

DEBBIE
Why didn't you make me? Why didn't you march me up there every bloody day? Because maybe now I could read. Maybe I would be somewhere. Why don't you ever want more for me than what you had?

SONYA deflects, eyeing a white hire van, coming up the alleyway, STEVIE'S MATE just stepping out of the driver's seat, clearly on route to the house-

SONYA
Don't be daft. Have a bath and we'll have the last of this lot cleared by the time you get down.

DEBBIE
 We're low life, Stevie and me, we're
 low life, we drag our kids down with
 us-

DEBBIE sinking down onto a packing case-

SONYA
 Deb-

DEBBIE
 ...into all this shit...When they
 start out so beautiful..I don't
 even make them breakfast..We don't
 deserve to be parents...I don't
 deserve to be..Because all my life
 I've wasted it-

DEBBIE looks up, at STEVIE.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 (with realisation)
 ...with you.

DEBBIE slides the wedding ring across the floor to him,
 looking at STEVIE.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 I divorce you. I divorce you. I
 divorce you.

SONYA
 Deb-

STEVIE leans across, taking the wedding ring. He turns to go,
 looking for Becks, the dog. LEAH standing in the yard,
 holding on tight to the dog.

STEVIE
 He's got fleas.

The dog, lollaps past STEVIE, licking the salt off DEBBIE's
 tears.

DEBBIE
 (cutting in)
 Fuck off, Stevie.

DEBBIE laughing, letting the dog lick her face, STEVIE
 already gone.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
 Mum-

SONYA hesitates, seeing something final in DEBBIE's look. She
 reaches for her bag and coat, making to go-

SONYA
 I'll give you a little call later.

DEBBIE nods. SONYA nods, exiting.

SONYA (cont'd)
 (absent)
 7 lbs 10. That's what you weighed.

LEAH slides down next to her, holding out a piece of paper-
 DEBBIE hesitates, opens it-
 DEBBIE looks at LEAH, helpless.

LEAH
 (reading)
 Always knows which chocolate bars I
 like.
 Sings.
 Has my nose.
 Laughs at my jokes.
 Tells me she loves me in her sleep.
 Made Casey and Adam.
 Made me.

DEBBIE eyes fill with tears. LEAH looks up to see ADAM in
 pyjamas, just waking up.

ADAM
 My bed's gone.

CASEY close behind, holding up a tube of toothpaste but no
 toothbrush-

CASEY
 (with delight)
 Are we staying?

On DEBBIE and LEAH's sudden realisation.
 Outside the screech of brakes.

131

131

LEAH running to keep up with DEBBIE tailing the white hire
 van, STEVIE leaning out victorious-

STEVIE
 Who's got chip paper on their arse
 now?

On DEBBIE, fury and frustration, melting into incredulous
 laughter as-

The white hire van with everything DEBBIE owns speeding off
 up the road.

DEBBIE considers, picking herself, walking away from the
 house, off down the street.

ABDULLAH's MOTHER peering over the fence. At a window another
 face, ABDULLAH just returning from the mosque.

Stung with humiliation, DEBBIE keeps walking-

On LEAH looking on with disappointment as DEBBIE just visible
 disappearing in the direction of the off licence.

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LEAH sinking down on an old packing case, taking in-

The stripped house. A dusty circle where the kitchen clock once was.

From behind-

ADAM
He's taken my bike.

LEAH searches through cupboards, finding a bowl unwashed in the sink, but the cupboards bare-

LEAH
It was pink.

ADAM
Black.

LEAH
You could see the pink.

ADAM
(aka Shrek)
Thank you thank you Thank you very much. I'm here til Thursday. Try the veal.

LEAH looking up to see DEBBIE, in the doorway, holding up a box of cornflakes and carton of milk-

DEBBIE
I got milk.

LEAH nods, gets up, to go-

