In Their Shoes

CHARLOTTE

Episode one

Sixth draft

by

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IN THEIR SHOES BY JULIETTE SHORT : EPISODE 1 - CHARLOTTE.

EXT:OLD TOWN STREETS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A MAZE OF ALLEYWAYS OVERSHADOWED BY 19TH CENTURY BUILDINGS.

Its getting dark, a few guys are huddled around at an alley way intersection making exchanges...

One guy scurries off, while the 2 remaining guys stand around looking menacing while casually smoking.

CUT TO

CHARLOTTE

Suddenly... A woman appears from the darkness? She walks towards the guys, arms folded, her body shaking!

As she approaches, we see that she is also sweating and in an anxious state!

CHARLOTTE

You got it yeah!! I'm ill...I'm REALLY ILL!

Awkwardly she takes a package from one of the guys, and fumbles with a few notes and hands them over.

Camera follows her as she scuttles off into the darkness.

CUT TO

CHARLOTTE WALKING ANXIOUSLY DOWN A DIMLY LIT ROAD AND LOOKING ROUND CONSTANTLY.

A pair of hooded lads on bikes zip by...one of them pulls a wheely in is attempt to show off and cause attention!

Charlotte looks round at them briefly trying not to make eye contact, she nervously walks on gaining a bit more pace in her stride.

CUT TO

EXT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT ENTRANCE - NIGHT.

Charlotte arrives at an old doorway, she turns the key in the lock and opens the door. She pulls out the keys as she enters the building and drops them.

As she bends down to pick them up...

FLASHBACK

THE KEYS CHANGE TO A PIECE OF PAPER.

A TRANSITION FROM NIGHT TO DAY.

INT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT ENTRANCE - DAY.

Charlotte is wearing her training gear, flushed and sweating. She opens the note.

Camera sees the writing.

YOU ARE EXPECTED AT THE HOUSE ON SUNDAY 2PM DON'T BE LATE

MOM.

CHARLOTTE

Oh shit...{frustrated}

She screws up the piece of paper and chucks it in the direction of a bin and misses.

FADE OUT

EXT: FRONT DOOR TO A DIFFERENT FLAT - DAY.

Charlotte bursts out onto the street.

CHARLOTTE

Fuck, I'm never going to make it?

Charlotte starts running looking unsure as to where she is heading?

CUT TO

INT/EXT: MOTHER & STEPFATHERS HOUSE - 2.30PM - DAY.

ROBERT

"No Charlotte"

LYNSEY

(sarcastic)

"Yes I can see that.

ROBERT

Why do we bother!

LYNSEY

You know why.

ROBERT

Fame and fortune? Do me a favour.

LYNSEY

Shut up, lets join the others.

Camera watches Lynsey go into the garden to join a crowd of party guests. Lynsey goes to stand with a couple of IT girls.

INT: KITCHEN - DAY.

Robert is getting a bottle of wine from the fridge when there is a bang on the front door?

Robert goes to open the door to find Charlotte collapsed on the doorstep?

ROBERT

What the fuck have you done?

CHARLOTTE

Please stop...

Charlotte is grasping at Roberts leg.

ROBERT

(shouting quietly
 seething)

Get in now.

Robert pulls her to her feet, then drags her into his office looking towards the garden hoping nobody has noticed, he pushes her in and shuts the door.

CUT TO

EXT: GARDEN - DAY

Robert goes up towards Lynsey and whispers in her ear. They both walk inside the house.

CUT TO

INT: HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY.

ROBERT

Look at the fucking state of her.

Lynsey grabs Charlotte's face.

LYNSEY

What the hell have you took now?

CHARLOTTE

Mom, help me.

Robert takes out his phone and walks out of the office. we hear him talking on the phone but murmured.

Meanwhile Lynsey paces the room arms folded looking at her with disapproval and dismay.

Robert suddenly walks back in...

ROBERT

You will be picked up at six!

CHARLOTTE

Picked up, Why? I want to stay here.

LYNSEY (ANGRY)

Your not staying here, look at the state of you!

CHARLOTTE

I don't want to go back to the flat, I can't be on my own.

ROBERT

"Your not going back to your flat, your going to Rehab"

LYNSEY

(shocked)

What?

ROBERT

(through gritted teeth)

We have no choice.

CHARLOTTE { SHOUTING }

Nooooo!

ROBERT

Shut up, and stay here until the driver turns up.

Charlotte flops down onto a couch, shaking and sweating. Lynsey and Robert walk out and shut the door behind them.

Charlotte sighs and looks around the office, then just staring at the desk. Suddenly she throws up before passing out.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

CAMERA IS CHARLOTTE'S EYES. WE HEAR VOICES THROUGH BLURRED VISION

LYNSEY{V.O}

She's in here

DRIVER{V.O}

Is she alright? I don't want a mess in my car.

LYNSEY{V.O}

She'll be OK.

ROBERT {V.O}

Just get her out of here.

CHARLOTTE

(pleading)

No please, I have to train.

ROBERT {V.O}

They have a Gym, sauna, hot tub and a swimming pool...sounds like a fucking holiday to me.

DRIVER LOOKING UNCOMFORTABLE

ROBERT {V.O}

And miles of countryside to run around.

CHARLOTTE

My clothes?

LYNSEY{V.O}

I will send some to you. Just take what you have in your rucksack.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT: CAR- DAY.

Charlotte slumped in the back of the car.

CHARLOTTE

(emotional)

Nooooo! Please.

LATER

INT: CLINIC ADMISSIONS/MEETING ROOM - DAY

TWO THERAPISTS IN THE OFFICE.

GLORIA

O.K then, we have a newcomer on her way as we speak.

LAURA

And whats the problem?

GLORIA

Drink and drugs.

LAURA

Do we know why?

GLORIA

Well her Mother said she mixed with the wrong crowd when she was a teenager and it kinda went downhill from there.

LAURA

Uh huh! whats her name?

GLORIA

Charlotte Steele.

CUT TO

INT: CAR - MOTORWAY - DAY.

Charlotte comes round from a doze in the back of the car. She fumbles in some pockets and pulls out a crooked looking cigarette, she puts it in her mouth and goes to light it.

DRIVER

Hey, you can't smoke in the car love.

CHARLOTTE

(wearily)

But I need a smoke.

DRIVER

You'll have to wait until I can stop Ok.

Charlotte still tries to light her cigarette, not having much luck with the lighter. The driver then turns and reaches back to her with his left arm and aggressively snatches the cigarette from her grasp.

CHARLOTTE

Oh ffs... I need to get out, I NEED A FUCKING CIGARETTE! {ACCENTUATED}

The driver pulls over to a service area and gets out, he walks around to the car where he helps Charlotte out of the car and gives her one of his cigarettes. She flops to the floor crouched down by an old barrier as the driver then hands her a bottle of water.

DRIVER

Here...drink this

CHARLOTTE

Thanks mate.

Charlotte sits and takes a drag on the cigarette as her head flops back against the barrier, she exhales and she looks up towards the sky.

LATER

EXT: CLINIC - DAY.

Gloria is waiting outside a large country house as the car pulls up.

INT/EXT: CAR- DAY.

CHARLOTTE

Is this it?

DRIVER

Yep...

She looks around at the unkempt garden and a few people wearing hoodies wandering around smoking. She struggles out the car.

Gloria walks towards her

GLORIA

Charlotte? My name is Gloria, follow me and I'll check you in.

FADE OUT

INT: BREAKFAST ROOM - NEXT DAY.

Charlotte walks through the door, nobody speaks. Charlotte picks up some ready prepared juice and muesli. She turns round looking for a chair.

YOUNG MAN (NEIL)

Over here, I don't bite.

Charlotte sits down next to him.

NEIL

Hi I'm Neil...{smiling}

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte!... as she starts eating.

NEIL

Muesli! Yum...not...laughing.

CHARLOTTE

I have to train, wheres the pool?

NEIL

Pool? The only thing here is that green pond with dead fish in it...{nodding towards the window.}

CHARLOTTE

Yeah! They have a swimming pool, a hot tub and a gym right?

The whole breakfast room burst into laughter. Charlotte looks confused.

FADES OUT

LATER.

INT: REHAB BEDROOM - DAY

CHARLOTTE {ON PHONE}
Look Dad its nothing like you said
it would be. They do weird stuff
and giving me strange pills...Dad
you don't understand....{crying}

Charlotte throws her phone on the bed and puts what little she has into her rucksack.

CUT TO

EXT: REHAB BUILDING - DAY.

AERIAL SHOT FROM THE SKY, ZOOMING IN.

You see countryside with someone running down the lane? its Charlotte. Gradually she gets closer until the camera is at the back of her feet...they morph into smaller feet running on grass.

EXT:FLASHBACK - SCHOOL FIELD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

TEACHER ON A MEGAPHONE.

TEACHER

And its Charlotte Steele a clear winner and I think its a record...wait a minute...yes its an all time record for the under 11's!

Everyone claps and cheers.

TEACHER

Well done Charlotte (elated)

Charlotte looks around in a daze as she walks through the crowd while they are clapping and patting her on the back.

GRACIE

(babysitter)

Charlotte, Charlotte.

Charlotte runs into the arms of Gracie.

CHARLOTTE

Oh Gracie (in tears) wheres Mom and Dad?

GRACIE

I don't know? Come on, get your stuff I'll take you home.

She grabs her kit as her teacher walks over.

TEACHER

Absolutely astounding Charlotte... Where are your parents? (looking around)

GRACIE

Not here (sharp)

TEACHER

Oh erm! I'll catch them another time.

He walks away. Gracie and Charlotte head for the gates.

CUT TO

EXT: OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL - DAY.

Robert is running to the gates, he runs through them and sees the girls.

ROBERT

Am I too late? (out of breath)

GRACIE

Yes (stern)

ROBERT

Princess I am so sorry

Charlotte is still and says nothing.

GRACIE

Where were you? And where's Mrs Steele (whisper)

ROBERT

I got stuck in traffic. I thought Lynsey would be here. I'll give you a lift home.

ROBERT TOUCHES GRACIE'S ARM.

ROBERT

I'm sorry

GRACIE

You had better tell her, not me.

Robert goes down on one knee in front of Charlotte

ROBERT

Princess I am so sorry, it won't happen again.

CHARLOTTE

I was really good Daddy, I've beaten the school record

ROBERT

Really?

He looks up at Gracie and she nods her head to confirm.

ROBERT

What a clever girl, come on lets go and tell Mommy. Gracie are you coming?

GRACIE

No (shaking her head) I'm meeting friends.

Hand in hand Robert and Charlotte go one way and Gracie goes the other.

FADE OUT

INT/EXT: HOUSE/GARDEN - EARLY EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Lynsey is sitting with twin boys.

The front door bursts open and Charlotte runs around looking and calling for Lynsey.

CHARLOTTE

Mommy, Mommy!

Charlotte runs in and spots her through the open french windows.

Charlotte runs outside.

CHARLOTTE

Mommy, Mommy I won.

LYNSEY

(dulcet tone)

Great! (not turning her head)

Robert walks out behind Charlotte with the look of anger on his face.

ROBERT {V.O}

(calmly)

Charlotte why don't you go upstairs and get changed

CHARLOTTE

OK Daddy.

Robert waits for Charlotte to go inside

ROBERT (ANGRY)

Where the fuck were you?

LYNSEY

I forgot.

ROBERT (FUMMING)

Forgot? Jesus Christ. Look Lynsey I really think you need to see someone. You have been...been different since the twins were born.

LYNSEY (ANGRY)

Different, different? I really don't need this.

Lynsey gets up and storms off.

ROBERT

I'm trying to help you woman. (shouts)

CUT TO

INT: KITCHEN - EVENING.

Lynsey is sorting through her handbag for her cigarettes. You hear Charlotte running downstairs, she runs into the kitchen.

CHARLOTTE

Mommy I won!

She runs up to Lynsey and knocks the cigarettes out of her hand. Charlotte freezes.

Lynsey strikes her hand across her face.

LYNSEY

You stupid little bitch.

Charlotte vomits on the floor

LYNSEY

And I'm not cleaning that up.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry Mommy, really sorry
(crying)

Lynsey picks up the cigarettes and walks out of the front door.

CUT TO

EXT/INT: GARDEN/KITCHEN - EVENING.

Charlotte runs out to Robert crying

ROBERT

Whats wrong?

CHARLOTTE

I've been sick on the floor and Mommys angry again.

ROBERT

Don't worry Princess, keep an eye on the boys, where's Mommy.

CHARLOTTE

I don't know she went out, she was really angry with me.

Robert rushes into the house, steps over the vomit and heads for the front door.

EXT: FRONT OF HOUSE - EVENING

Robert runs to the end of the drive looking up and down the road...Lynsey is no where to be seen.

INT: KITCHEN - HOUSE - EVENING

Robert walks into the kitchen and gets a mop out of the cupboard.

CHARLOTTE

Daddy I'm sorry.

ROBERT

For what Charlotte you can't help being ill.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not ill...I'm....

One of the boys lets out a scream in the background both Robert and Charlotte run out into the garden.

EXT: GARDEN - EVENING.

SHOT OF ROMAN, HE HAS MUD ALL OVER HIS FACE.

Robert looks at Charlotte. They burst into laughter.

CUT TO

EXT: STREET - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Lynsey walks and walks smoking all the way visibly upset. (Music)

She walks down the side of the park.

LYNSEY

(whispering)

Get your act together woman.

WE SEE A MAN WALKING HIS DOGS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE PARK.

Lynsey hears giggling in the woods. We see two girls are messing around.

Lynsey keeps watching as one girl fell over and the other falls on top of her, the girls started to kiss.

Lynsey looks away her eyes fill with tears.

INT: UNI CAFE - DAY

FLASHBACK...A YOUNG LYNSEY AND FRIEND ARE SAT DRINKING COFFEE.

LYNSEY

You will forget me, you won't want to know me when you are high flying in New York.

ANNE

I want you to come with me.

THE MEMORY FADES OUT.

LYNSEY'S EYES GLAZE AND SHE STARTS TO GET ANGRY.

LYNSEY

(shouting to herself)
I hate them, hate them all...

CUT TO

EXT: MOTORWAY FOOTBRIDGE - DUSK.

She looks towards the cars speeding past as she walks to the center of the bridge staring at the cars as they pass under.

A woman walks towards her from the other end of the bridge with a little dog. It's one of the Mothers from the "IT"crowd. Immaculately dressed and groomed as always.

STEPHANIE

Lynsey, Lynsey is that you? (squints as it's almost dark)

LYNSEY

Oh! high Stephanie

STEPHANIE

Just call me Steph all my friends do.(posh accent)

Lynsey looks puzzled?

LYNSEY (QUIETLY CONFUSED)

"friends"?

STEPHANIE

Your Charlotte is a little star isn't she?

LYNSEY

Is she?

STEPHANIE

Darling! Everyone is talking about her.

LYNSEY

Huh! (surprised)

STEPHANIE

Oh Lynsey darling...her running.

LYNSEY

Oh! Er! Yes of course.

STEPHANIE

What are you doing here in the dark anyway?

LYNSEY

Just needed some fresh air.

Stephanie looks down at Lynseys hand holding a cigarette packet.

STEPHANIE

Fresh air huh? More like a crafty ciggy. Don't worry I won't tell darling (giggles)

Stephanie carries on walking her dog, then turns to Lynsey.

STEPHANIE

It's coffee morning at The China Cup tomorrow. Do come and join us. About 9.15 after we've dropped off the little darlings.

LYNSEY (STAMMERS)

Err! OK. Thank you see you tomorrow...Steph

Stephanie disappears into the night calling for her dog.

INT: LOUNGE/KITCHEN/OFFICE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Robert is watching Charlotte put the toys away.

ROBERT

Your a good girl, your Daddy's special girl (slightly smiling)

ROBERT

Come to Daddy.

Charlotte turns towards Robert smiling. As she walks towards him you hear the front door open and Lynsey walks in.

Robert shoots back in his chair and Charlotte freezes.

CHARLOTTE

Where have you been Mommy?

LYNSEY

Just out for some fresh air. Now off to bed you little monkey, its way past your bedtime.

Charlotte goes to Robert and kisses him.

CHARLOTTE

Goodnight Daddy.

She's about to walk past Lynsey when she opens out her arms and gives a surprised Charlotte a kiss and hug.

Charlotte receives the hug gratefully.

IN THE DISTANCE YOU SEE ROBERT LOOKING PUZZLED.

As Charlotte skips upstairs, Lynsey goes into the kitchen. Robert follows.

ROBERT

Where the fuck have you been?(loud whisper)

LYNSEY

Walking.

ROBERT

For two hours?

LYNSEY

It was a long walk (sarcastic)

ROBERT

And what was that I just saw?

LYNSEY

What?

ROBERT

The sudden show of affection towards her. (eyes look upwards)

LYNSEY

Bloody hell! I can't do anything right.

Robert relaxes a little.

ROBERT

OK! Sorry. Fancy a brandy?

LYNSEY

Yeah sure.

He pours the drinks cheerily and passes a glass to Lynsey and leans in for a kiss.

ROBERT

(pausing)

You've been smoking!!

LYNSEY

Oh for fuck sake, give it a rest.(anger)

She downs the brandy and slams the glass onto the table.

LYNSEY

I'm off to bed.

ROBERT

I'll join you.

LYNSEY

Don't bother.(annoyed)

Robert is seething.

ROBERT

Bollocks, fucking bollocks (seething)

He pours another brandy and sits back in a chair. He waits for a while till the house goes silent. He gets up out of the chair.

The camera follows him as he looks upstairs. All is quiet and dark. He turns, walks through the lounge shutting the door silently behind him. He enters his office and starts up his computer. And gets himself comfortable.

CAMERA LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER.

On the screen you see two young teenage girls looking provocative.

THE CAMERA MOVES IN FRONT OF THE DESK.

You see him reach down. You hear his zip being undone.

FADE OUT

BACK TO...

EXT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT- NIGHT.

A taxi pulls up. Charlotte stumbles out of the back seat.

CHARLOTTE

(slurring)

Cheers mate.

She grabs her ruck sack dragging it across the tarmac to her doorstep, where she goes to open the door.

Camera is focused on her feet, when we suddenly see two more pairs of mens feet walk up behind her.

CUT TO

INT: FLAT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Camera is looking out to the front door.

CHARLOTTE

Hi fellas..

1ST MAN

Get in bitch....{accent}

He pushes her through the door. She stumbles up the stairs and into her lounge falling to the floor.

CHARLOTTE

I told you, I will get your money.

1ST MAN

Too late...

Three more men walk in.

1ST MAN

Search her bag.

CHARLOTTE

I haven't got any money.

2nd man with a beard holding her rucksack looks across and shakes his head.

CHARLOTTE

Ask Ballon he'll tell you I'm cool

1ST MAN

He sent us here...

Charlotte gets up and walks towards the men...

CHARLOTTE

Pleeease! I will sort it next week.

Before she could say anything more, the 2nd man back hands her. She falls onto the settee.

CUT TO

THE CAMERA IS CHARLOTTE'S EYES...

1ST MAN

Hold her...as he reaches for his fly.

2nd man holds her down while the 1st man gets on top of her.

Everything goes into a blur. You hear the men laughing as the 2nd man takes his turn.

CHARLOTTE

Please stop....{crying whisper}

SCENE FADES OUT...

THEN BACK...

The last man gets off her as the others trash the place.

1ST MAN

Hurry, lets go.

Charlotte is left bruised and naked on the floor. She hears the door shut and passes out.

FLASH BACK

INT: KITCHEN - STEELE HOUSEHOLD - DAY.

Shot opens with Lynsey happily preparing breakfast for the children.

LYNSEY

Charlotte...when are you running next?

CHARLOTTE

Not sure mummy.

LYNSEY

I will ask your teacher when I take you to school.

CHARLOTTE

(puzzled)

Your taking me to school today?

LYNSEY

Of course I am.

Robert walks in looking moody.

ROBERT

Get your stuff ready Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

No, its ok daddy, mummy is taking me to school today!

ROBERT

What?

Robert looks to Lynsey, Lynsey chooses to ignore him and gets the double buggy ready.

ROBERT

I'll go straight to work then?

Robert kisses the children, and walks up to Lynsey to kiss her on the mouth, she offers him a cheek, Robert whispers in her ear...

ROBERT

Frosty bitch.

Lynsey looks coldly ahead to the camera, not reacting, just staring blankly.

CUT TO:

EXT: AVENUE - DAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY.

Lynsey is walking along a tree lined avenue with the double buggy, Charlotte is looking happy and proud being walked to school by her Mummy.

Charlotte cheerily shouts at her different friends she meets on the way.

CHARLOTTE

Hey Jasmin.

A little girl on the other side of the road waves back.

CHARLOTTE

Hi Claudia.

We see a blonde girl just coming out of her house with her father.

CLAUDIA

Hello Charlotte.

They approach the school gates, Lynsey spots the small group of IT Mom's chatting. Lynsey carries on and keeps away from the group.

LYNSEY

Go on, off you go.

Charlotte looks up at Lynsey expecting a kiss. At that moment one of the IT Mom's looks across.

STEPHANIE

Lynsey darling, over here.

Lynsey then quickly bends down and gives Charlotte a kiss.

LYNSEY

(loudly obvious)

Have a good day darling, see you later.

Charlotte then walks off into school with one of her friends. Lynsey approaches the IT Mom's.

A few air kisses goes on apart from two who keep aloof {Amanda & Nicole}

STEHANIE

Lynsey darling, you know Naiomi, Rebecca, Amanda and Nicole?

Lynsey just smiles at everybody.

STEPHANIE

Come on girls lets go.

Stephanie looks back at Lynsey...

STEPHANIE

Lynsey do join us.

Lynsey shrugs and nods hesitantly before heading off with the girls.

JUMP CUT TO

EXT: SCHOOL GATES - AFTERNOON.

LYNSEY IS WAITING FOR CHARLOTTE. A TEACHER WALKS UP TO HER.

MR FLETCHER (TEACHER)

Ah! Mrs Steele its about Charlotte.We would really like her to run for us and have some after school training. Is that's OK by you?

LYNSEY

Well that's fantastic, she will love it.

MR FLETCHER (TEACHER)
Good stuff it will be Tuesdays and
Thursdays

LYNSEY

That's fine.

Stephanie and Rebecca are looking on, side whispering whilst smiling at Lynsey.

EXT: SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD - NEXT DAY.

CHARLOTTE IS ON A FIELD WITH A P.E INSTRUCTOR IN A TRACKSUIT.

GARY

Charlotte your doing great...{shouting}

CHARLOTTE (OUT OF BREATHE SHOUTING) Thanks Gary...

Charlotte running around the far side of the track.

SHE RUNS AND RUNS THE CAMERA FOLLOWS THE BACK OF HER FEET. THE FEET CHANGE AND GET BIGGER.

The camera pans out and Charlotte is now 13yrs old.

Cheers can be heard in the background.

Loudspeaker...

V.O

Charlotte has done it again...its another record.

THE FIELD IS BRIMMING WITH PEOPLE.

Charlotte stops dead in front of a now greying Gary.

GARY

Brilliant, bloody brilliant.

CHARLOTTE

Cheers Gaz....slightly out of breathe.

Note

{Over the last 2 yrs Charlotte has changed a lot. She looks much older than her 13yrs}

Claudia and Jasmin are hanging around at the end of the field.

CHARLOTTE

I've got to go...walking off.

GARY

No wait! What about your trophy?

CHARLOTTE

Oh shit yeah.

Gary looks surprised at her language and attitude.

Charlotte waits in a line waiting to here her name.

MRS SEABURN (TEACHER)

And in first place...Charlotte Steele.

A big cheer is heard, and a few boo's from the losing schools as she collects her trophy.

Charlotte walks back to Gary passing a few older lads in uniform.

LAD

Oi oi! Lotte...looooooking gooood...laughing.

CHARLOTTE

Fuck off.

LADS

Burst into laughter

Charlotte chucks her trophy in her bag.

GARY

Hey! Are you OK?

He puts his arm around her shoulders...she recoils in disgust.

GARY

Charlotte whats wrong?

CHARLOTTE

I'm fine, gotta go.

Charlotte throws her bag over her shoulder and dashes off towards Claudia and Jasmin.

CLAUDIA

Jesus, about time.

The three girls head off towards the park singing.

CUT TO

EXT: STREET - EVENING.

A small bottle of whiskey appears out of Jasmines coat pocket.

CHARLOTTE

Fuck no! Not yet we might be seen.

Jasmine puts it back in her coat.

CLAUDIA

I've got the cigarettes.

The girls enter a park and head for the swings. They sit on the swings, light up and take turns swigging from the whiskey bottle.

JASMINE

Urghh! I hate this stuff but its all I could find.

EXT: HOUSE - EVENING.

Mandy the new babysitter is playing football with the twins.

Lynsey rushes in and out to the garden.

LYNSEY

Sorry I'm late. I had to organise the new sofa. Its coming tomorrow, Look.

She opens a catalogue to show mandy.

MANDY

It will look lovely in here Mrs Steele.

LYNSEY

Yes, just make sure those two don't climb all over it...{looking at the boys}...is Charlotte upstairs?

MANDY

No,,,Mrs Steele

LYNSEY

Where the hell is she? she's doing a charity run tomorrow for Steph.

Mandy just shrugs...Robert walks in.

LYNSEY

You haven't seen Charlotte on the way here have you?

ROBERT

No...{sharply}come on Mandy I'll take you home.

MANDY

Thank you Robert....picking up her coat.

LYNSEY

Don't forget to pay her Robert.

ROBERT

Yeah! Yeah!...as he shuts the front door behind him.

CUT TO

EXT: PARK ENTRANCE - EVENING, CONTINUOUS

The girls are on their way home

CLAUDIA

Is that your Dads car? Is that your Mom?

CHARLOTTE

Yes, and No its Mandy.

CLAUDIA

What are they doing?

The girls get closer to the car.

CAR.

Robert opens Mandys window as Charlotte peers in.

CHARLOTTE

What are you doing here?

ROBERT

Looking for you...

ROBERT { CON ' T }

You need to get back, you have that run thing for your Mothers friend tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE

Oh God!

She turns to her friends

CHARLOTTE

See you tomorrow if I'm back early enough.

CLAUDIA & JASMINE

OK!!!

They both give Robert a long look. As Charlotte gets into the back of the car and shoves her head between Mandy and Robert.

CHARLOTTE

How did you know I was here?

ROBERT(LOOKING SHIFTY)

Lucky guess...can I smell whisky?

Mandy looking sheepish.

MANDY

Can I smell smoke?

Charlotte flops back in the seat.

CHARLOTTE

"Yep"

Mandy looks shocked at Robert, as he starts driving away.

ROBERT

"She's only messing around"

CUT TO

EXT: MANDYS HOUSE - DAY.

Roberts car pulls up outside the house, Mandy gets out, Robert opens his wallet and pays Mandy, she gratefully pulls the money from Roberts hands slowly and turns to the back seat.

MANDY

Bye Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Byeee!

ROBERT

See you at the house tomorrow, one o'clock

MANDY

Yeah sure.

ROBERT DRIVES AWAY.

INT: STEELE HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS.

The twins are ready for bed and having a glass of warm milk. Robert and Charlotte walk in and Charlotte runs upstairs.

LYNSEY

Found her then, where was she?

ROBERT

Out with a few of her friends.

LYNSEY

She needs to sort her stuff out for tomorrow and have something to eat.

CUT TO

INT: HOUSE - TOILET - NIGHT.

CHARLOTTE {SHOUTING}

I'm not hungry.

Charlotte is sat on the floor holding the toilet.

LYNSEY{O.S}

You had better be ready and able by tomorrow, don't you dare let me down.

CUT BACK TO

ROBERT.

ROBERT

Leave her, she'll be there tomorrow, I don't see what the big deal is, its only a charity run!

LYNSEY

"Big deal! Everyone who's anyone is going to be there, even the T.V people.

ROBERT

"Fucking hell" really?

LYNSEY

Robert please...the twins.

The boys are oblivious and put their empty glasses on the kitchen counter.

ROBERT (DISMISSIVE)

Yeah, yeah!

FADE OUT

EXT: CHARITY GALA - DAY.

STALLS WITH GAMES AND CAKES, TOMBOLAS AND ICE CREAM VANS.

Lynsey pulls up in her Land Rover.

CUT TO

INT: LAND ROVER

The twins are in the back. We see a worse for wear very moody Charlotte sat in the front seat.

LYNSEY

Charlotte liven yourself up, come on, get out of the car.

EXT: CHARITY GALA - DAY.

Lynsey gets out of the Land Rover and opens the back door, the boys to get down of their seats and run off in the direction of the bouncy castle

LYNSEY

"Boys, wait!

Lynsey spots Stephanie, Naomi and Rebecca looking over at her.

LYNSEY { CON ' T }

(seething)

Charlotte get out of the car!

Nicole walks by.

NICOLE

(with a side smirk)

Good morning Lynsey.

Lynsey shoots round.

LYNSEY

Er...good morning Nicole.

Nicole looks into the car.

NICOLE

(directing her look at Charlotte)
Ooh! She doesn't look too good does
she?

Charlotte glares at Nicole.

LYNSEY

She's fine, just a bit tired after training!

NICOLE

The local radio station and T.V are here, they are eager to see Charlotte at the charity run.

LYNSEY

Are they?

NICOLE

Yes, so she had better do a good job, Steph is relying on this to be a success, "she's angling to be Mayoress next year"

LYNSEY

Charlotte's fine aren't you sweetie?

Lynsey looks in at Charlotte. Charlotte gives a half smile back. Nicole then struts off in the direction of Stephanie and the others. Lynsey then turns back to Charlotte in the car.

LYNSEY

(with anger)

Get out of the fucking car now!

Charlotte straightens up and clumsily gets out of the vehicle.

STEPHANIE

(calling over)

Lynsey darling, over here, come and meet Brian.

LYNSEY

(waving nervously)

Coming.

Lynsey grabs Charlotte's arm.

CHARLOTTE

Ouch!

LYNSEY

Shut up!

They both walk through some of the crowd and past the bouncy castle where we see the twin boys laughing and pushing other kids around.

Lynsey turns towards the twins, Charlotte quickly jumps in front of her Mother.

CHARLOTTE

I'll go and sort them out.

Lynsey heads back towards Stephanie and the others.

Stephanie looks over Lynseys shoulders.

STEPHANIE

Everything Ok darling?

LYNSEY

(nervously)

Yes fine.

Nicole leaning over towards Amanda.

NICOLE

Doesn't look fine to me?

STEPHANIE

This is Brian from the radio station.

BRIAN

Nice to meet you, I've heard a lot about Charlotte. You must be very proud.

LYNSEY

(with a blush)

Hi, and yes very proud.

BRIAN

So tell me Lynsey...erm, your husband not here today?

LYNSEY

No!

BRIAN

Oh! err, Ok. Tell me Lynsey what are your hopes for Charlotte's future?

LYNSEY

Future? I can't see much past next
week! {laughing nervously}

Brian laughing with Lynsey as the others look on.

BRIAN

Surely you must see her heading towards the Olympics?

LYNSEY

Oh something like that is way off Brian.

Suddenly we hear a commotion over by the bouncy castle, and everyone looking over to it?

CUT TO

WE SEE CHARLOTTE VOMITING

STEPHANIE

Oh my lord!

KIDS IN THE BACKGROUND

Ewww...Errqh!

Charlotte steadies herself and looks around.

THE CAMERA IS HER EYES AS EVERYONE IS STARING WITH DISGUST.

LYNSEY'S FACE IS LIKE THUNDER.

CLOSE UP SHOT OF CHARLOTTE'S FACE.

Charlotte then walks over to Lynsey and the people around her.

CHARLOTTE

Mommy, I knew I shouldn't have had breakfast so close to training.

LYNSEY

(with a sigh of relief)

Are you Ok sweetie?

Lynsey putting her arm around Charlotte looks at Brian.

LYNSEY { CON ' T }

She is so dedicated.

BRIAN

"No kidding"

LYNSEY

Come on, lets get you some water or something.

FADE OUT

EXT: RACE TRACK - GALA - DAY.

Everyone is on the starting line, children, dogs, and adults proudly wearing their tabard's.

BANG!!

BRIAN(V.O)

And they're off ladies and gentlemen.

Spectators are mumbling with astonishment as we see Charlotte lagging behind, the runners start to disperse.

THE CAMERA IS NOW CHARLOTTE...

Slow motion sound of breathing. Charlotte appears to be struggling.

FLASH SHOTS

CLOSE UPS OF HER FACE AND FEET AS SHE SUDDENLY GETS INTO THE ZONE, HER EYES WIDEN AND HER BREATHING CHANGES. CHARLOTTE'S LEGS GETTING FASTER AND FASTER.

The other competitors are half way round the course we see Charlotte powering down the course behind them, closing in fast.

BRIAN {V.O}

She's coming...Charlotte Steele is now steaming through.

Lynsey almost buckling with relief, Roman and York shouting...

ROMAN & YORK

Come on Charlotte!

WE SEE CHARLOTTE POWERING DOWN THE TRACK, HER ARMS AND LEGS EVEN HIGHER NOW WITH MORE INTENSITY AS SHE GOES EVEN FASTER.

The cheers disappear as the sound goes more ambient, the other competitors now almost appear stationary as she passes the last few runners to take the lead.

SHOTS OF THE GRASS UNDER HER FEET.

Charlotte passes the finish line with the others lagging way behind.

MID SHOT{SLOW MOTION} OF CHARLOTTE CROSSING THE LINE AND THE INTENSE LOOK ON HER FACE.

BRIAN { V.O }

Wow! I have never seen anything like it...amazing.

BRIAN {V.O}

Charlotte I am sure you have raised a lot of money for all our local charities, a real asset to our town, ladies and gentlemen, CHARLOTTE STEELE our winner.

The "IT" girls are congratulating Lynsey.

Charlotte looking quite ill again spots her friends and heads for them while the crowd congratulate her.

JASMINE

Jesus Char!

CLAUDIA

(mocking)

Charlotte's famous.

CHARLOTTE (GLUM)

I only did it to please Mom!

Charlotte looks in Lynseys direction, but she can hardly be seen because of the crowds around her.

For a second we see a smiling Lynsey, but as she looks over to Charlotte her smile fades?

CHARLOTTE

I'm going.

CLAUDIA

Why?

CHARLOTTE

I can't stand it any longer!

CLAUDIA

What?

Charlotte makes for the exit, her friends following.

We hear Brian's voice.

BRIAN (V.O)

Charlotte must be resting somewhere? But I have her mother right here, Lynsey Steele...

LYNSEY

Hello Brian.

CUT TO

We see the girls walking off into the distance, Amanda and Nicole watch them?

NICOLE

There's something wrong about that?

AMANDA

Oh just stroppy teenagers.

NICOLE

Hmm! Maybe.

AMANDA

Come on, lets get to Steph before she drinks all the fizz!

FADE OUT

FADE IN & JUMP FORWARD AGAIN.

INT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT - NIGHT.

Charlotte comes to for a few seconds trying to remember what happened? Then she staggers to her feet, she looks around at everything and we see its a mess. Charlotte looks into the mirror. We see she has a black eye and split lip. She retches trying to make it to the toilet. She falls to her knees, not quite getting to the toilet. Sitting back against the wall, she grabs a towel wiping the remainder of the vomit from her face whilst crying.

CHARLOTTE

Nooo! {screaming,crying}

LATER

CHARLOTTE IS ON THE PHONE.

CHARLOTTE

Gary, I can't make it to training, I've injured myself, over done it I think... Sorry, sorry to let you down.

We hear a faint voice of acknowledgement over the phone.

Hangs up.

Charlotte scans the room slowly picking things up. There is half a bottle of vodka poking out from behind the settee, she grabs it and flops down into a chair, whincing with pain Charlotte takes a deep breath and gulps form the bottle, then picks up her phone again.

SCREEN SHOT OF HER PHONE AS SHE SEARCHES THROUGH NAMES UNTIL SHE COMES TO JASMINE.

CHARLOTTE

Hey Jas

JASMINE {V.O}

Hi!

CHARLOTTE

Hows everything? Hows the baby?

JASMINE {V.O}

Good, really good thanks.

how are you?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah I'm good, just thought I would catch up with you guys.

You see Charlotte's face, tears slowly falling down her cheeks.

JASMINE {V.O}

Charlotte are you OK?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah! Just needed to hear a friendly voice.

JASMINE {V.O} BACKGROUND BABY CRYING Charlotte I've got to go, I'm going to send you a number, she will help you.

CHARLOTTE

Oh Ok! I know your busy...love you

 $\label{eq:JASMINE} \mbox{\tt V.O} \mbox{\tt BACKGROUND BABY CRYING} \\ \mbox{\tt Love you babe, call her.}$

The phone goes silent Charlotte drinks from the bottle again. Her phone pings.

The camera looks at the phone, you see a number appear.

She tosses the phone aside...

CHARLOTTE

Fuck it!

Her phone rings. She scrabbles for it down the side of the chair.

CHARLOTTE

Bollocks, ouch!

You see a discarded needle next to the phone. She sucks the blood from her finger as she answers the phone.

CHARLOTTE

Jas?? Oh! Mom...

LYNSEY{V.O}

What the fuck are you playing at?...(angry)

CHARLOTTE

What do you mean?

LYNSEY{V.O}

The rehab, Robert's lost nine thousand pounds....(angry)

CHARLOTTE

Sorry, but I told him it was...

CUT TO

INT: ROBERT AND LYNSEYS LOUNGE.

Lynsey standing with her mobile to her ear.

LYNSEY

(interrupting)

I don't care, you've ruined your life. You will not make it to the Olympics now. Your an embarrassment..(angry)

BACK TO

INT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT - NIGHT.

CHARLOTTE

MOM!!!!{shouts}

LYNSEY{V.O}

Your no child of mine

CHARLOTTE

Mom please! You don't

 $\verb"understand... I love you. (shouts"$

emotional)

The phone goes dead.

CHARLOTTE

MOM! (shouts)

Charlotte is sobbing, rocking hugging her knees.

The phone slips from her hand.

FADES OUT.

LATER...

EXT: DRUG DEALERS BUILDING - DOOR - NIGHT.

Charlotte approaches a very heavy duty looking door. The door opens...

{ITS THE DRUG DEALERS 2ND MAN}

2ND MAN

You!!!

CHARLOTTE

I've come to pay Ballon.

2ND MAN

Wait..

Camera's on Charlotte. She's swaying from side to side sweating.

2nd man appears.

2ND MAN

OK! In.

CUT TO

INT: HALLWAY - NIGHT.

Charlotte walks through a line of men hanging around. A few looking up from their phones as Charlotte approaches. She recognises one of them (one of her rapists). He sneers at her. She looks down and walks through into the lounge.

Behind a coffee table sits Ballon and his right hand man (1st man)

BALLON

Sit,sit. You bring my money
(accent)

CHARLOTTE

Yeah...well half of it.

BALLON

You cannot afford anymore?

CHARLOTTE

Not at the moment..(shaking nervously)

BALLON

Look! I have something else to offer you.

WE SEE THE COFFEE TABLE FULL OF VARIOUS DRUGS.

Ballon pushes a packet towards her.

BALLON

Its cheap.

CHARLOTTE

What is it?

BALLON

Spice!!!(grins)

You see Charlotte reach out and then stops herself.

CHARLOTTE

Err! No I'm good. I'll bring the rest of your money soon.

She gets up to leave.

BALLON

Be sure you do that girl. You don't want another visit from Ivor and his friends again.

She leaves the room as the men start to chuckle.

CUT TO

EXT:BACK STREET DOOR - NIGHT.

CHARLOTTE

Wankers!

She wraps her cardigan around her, folding her arms against the cold. She emerges into the main street knocking into several people as she goes.

YOUNG WOMAN

Charlotte, Charlotte!

On the opposite side of the street you see a young woman wearing a tracksuit with the olympic logo on it.

(ITS ONE OF HER TEAM MEMBERS)

CHARLOTTE (TO HERSELF)

Shit, shit!

She pretends she hasn't seen her and nips down a side alley. As she walks up the alley there's a pub at the end with several people standing outside whilst smoking and drinking. She hears someone shouting her name.

MATT

Charlotte? Hey!

CHARLOTTE

Oh! hello you.

MATT

Where did you go? You didn't say goodbye.

CHARLOTTE

I had to get to my Moms party.

CUT TO

FLASHBACK OF CHARLOTTE CREEPING OUT OF A ROOM WITH MATT STRETCHED OUT ON THE SOFA ASLEEP.

MATT

You look like you could do with a drink.

CHARLOTTE

No shit (little laugh)

CUT TO

INT: PUB - NIGHT.

They both push their way through a very busy pub.

MATT

Whats your poison?

CHARLOTTE

Vodka...double please

BARMAID

Mixer?

MATT

No, she takes it straight

CHARLOTTE

You remembered!!

MATT

Yeah...do you want to go to a real party?

CHARLOTTE

Na! I know your parties

MATT

No straight up. Its only around the corner. A friend of mine is celebrating his new job in Oz.

CHARLOTTE

But I look a state

Charlotte downs her drink in one.

MATT

By now no-one will notice....believe me.

He walks out and Charlotte follows looking bemused.

EXT: STREET - NIGHT.

They come to a door beside a chip shop.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not hungry

 MATT

No, its upstairs (laughing)

They push the door open. You here music, talking and laughter as they climb the stairs, it opens out into a large open plan room stuffed full of city professionals.

INT: UPSTAIRS PARTY ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS.

Matt looks around searching for his friend. He spots him over the far side of the room.

GEORGE

Matt!!glad you could make it.

MATT

Hey man! I'm not gonna miss out on celebrating your success. This is Charlotte.

Charlotte steps from behind Matt. George looks a little surprised but quickly regains his composure.

GEORGE

Nice to meet you.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah you too...{slightly embarrassed}

GEORGE

Help yourself to drinks and there's a little something in the loo for everyone... {winks}

MATT

Ha ha! Trust you, come on Char.

CHARLOTTE

What now?

MATT

You'll see.

They both go into the bathroom. Sitting on a glass shelf is a box with a couple of small chrome straws and a credit card lay by its side.

MATT

Look!

He slowly opens the box. Inside you see white powder....almost full to the brim.

MATT

Good old George.Come on lets tuck in...

CHARLOTTE

Fuck!!.....{In wonderment}

They both scoop out some powder with the spoon provided. Then carefully set up four lines with the credit card. In turn they sort a line up each nostril.

CHARLOTTE

WOW! This is good stuff.

MATT

Yeah I know, George can afford the good stuff....happy?

A loud knock on the bathroom door

V.O

Don't take all day in there

MATT

All done mate.

They squeeze out through the door as a blonde man waits impatiently the other side.

MATT

Sorry bud

BLONDE MAN

No worries

Back to the party. They shuffle past a few hooray toffs discussing the markets and laughing.

CITY BOY #1

Sterling took a massive fall today, The whole market is up and down like a whores draws!(laughing)

CITY BOY #2

No worries for me I have a good system?

Matt and Charlotte see a table full of spirit bottles and a stack of plastic cups. They both lunge forward giggling.

CHARLOTTE

Good old George....laughing.

They pour a drink and start to mingle...

FADES OUT.

EXT: GEORGES FRONT DOOR - NIGHT.

Charlotte and Matt fall out of the door laughing.

MATT

Fancy some chips?

CHARLOTTE

Yeah go on then.

CONTINUED

They enter the chip shop, a woman is waiting behind the counter.

INT: CHIP SHOP - NIGHT.

MATT

One large chips please love.

The woman piles chips into a cone.

CHIP SHOP WOMAN

There you go..that's one pound forty please.

She hands over the chips and Matt gives her the money.

MATT

Salt'n'vinegar?{Turning to
Charlotte}

CHARLOTTE

Its a must...laughing

MATT

Cheers love

The woman gives them a puzzled look as they stumble out of the shop.

MATT

Where now?

Matt Passing the cone of chips to Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Mine? Its only up the road but I haven't got anything.

MATT

I have...{winks}

They both look down as Matt pulls out a little bag of powder.

CHARLOTTE

Nooooo! Bad boy.

MATT

Na! George told me to.

She throws a chip at him and he chases her down the road.

CUT TO

INT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT - NIGHT.

Charlotte's on her phone

CONTINUED

CHARLOTTE

Yeah can you deliver it? Cool see you in a minute.

MATT

You get your booze delivered...astonished

CHARLOTTE

Why not? They know me well...winks

She puts some music on. Then crouches over the coffee table snorting a few lines. The door bell rings.

CHARLOTTE

Shit! That was quick....{laughing}

Matt stretches out on the sofa gazing at the ceiling.

Charlotte opens the door still laughing.

IVOR AND HIS EAST EUROPEAN MOB ARE BACK AND STANDING AT THE DOOR!

IVOR

Whats so funny bitch

She tries to quickly shut the door, but its too late, Ivor and his men barge their way in.

CUT TO

CHARLOTTE

GET OUT! GET OUT....{shouts}

They shove her up the stairs.

Matt sits up.

матт

What the f....

IVOR

Fuck off friend...calmly

Matt gets up and goes to hit Ivor.

CHARLOTTE

No Matt don't...{shouts}

One of Ivor's men punches him in the stomach. He falls to his knees holding his stomach and promptly vomits on the floor.

CHARLOTTE

Please... leave him alone...{crying}

IVOR

As I said fuck off friend,,,,{calmly}

One of the men drags Matt to his feet and shoves him towards the door. Matt tries to grab the packet of powder off the coffee table. He fails as he is punched again.

MATT

OK! OK!

Matt staggers out of the door.

Ivor looks at Charlotte.

IVOR

Have you forgotten me?

The cameras is her eyes as Ivor slowly walks towards her

CHARLOTTE

No, please don't

You see Ivor getting closer.

FADES

INT: CHARLOTTE'S FLAT - MORNING.

Charlotte is on the sofa, partially clothed.

Her eyes flicker open as things come into focus. She groans and looks around the room. Its a mess. Her eyes pan to the vomit on the floor.

CHARLOTTE

Oh God!

She looks at her phone and realises its Monday late morning.

CHARLOTTE

Fuck sake...

She makes a call.

CHARLOTTE

Penny its Charlotte, I can't make it in today I'm too ill.

You hear Penny's voice.

PENNY{V.O}

Again? That's it Char, you've lost your job.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah I know....but there's no way I can get there.

Charlotte looks at her face in the mirror.

PENNY

I'll see what I can do. But I can't promise anything.

CHARLOTTE

Cheers hun, and thanks.

Charlotte steps back into Matts vomit.

CHARLOTTE

Oh jesus....gagging.

CUT TO

SPORADIC TIME FRAME MONTAGE - CONTINUOUS

CHARLOTTE IN THE SHOWER.

THEN YOU SEE HER TIDYING UP LITTLE BY LITTLE.

SCRUBBING THE CARPET.

PUTTING THE CUSHIONS BACK ON THE SOFA.

She finally sits down holding a cup of tea...reflecting. Putting down her tea she lights up a cigarette, as she puts down her lighter she picks up her phone.

CUT TO

THE CAMERA SEES THE OLD MESSAGE FROM JAS WITH A NUMBER?

Charlotte taps the number and begins to text...

Hi.

A moment later...

Hi {Returned message}

Charlotte: My friend gave me this number.

Reply : Jas?

Charlotte : Yes

Reply: Do you want to chat?

Charlotte : Yes please!

FADE OUT

LATER

INT: FLAT WINDOW - EARLY EVENING.

Its pouring with rain as Charlotte gazes out of the window looking down at the pavement. She watches a woman pushing a pram closely followed by a man holding a little girls hand. The girl falls over in a puddle. The man brushes the now crying girl down, then scoops her up into his arms and makes her smile.

Charlotte smiles as tear falls down her cheek.

SHE HEARS A VOICE IN HER HEAD AS A FLASH BACK.

ROBERT {V.O}
Hey princess do you want me to brush your hair?

CHARLOTTE TURNS TO SEE A YOUNG ROBERT STANDING IN HER BEDROOM DOORWAY FROM WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD.

CHARLOTTE
Yes please Daddy.....{a girls voice}

FADE OUT

THE END