Holland Park - "Pilot"

ACT ONE (TEASER)

1 EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - SUNDAY AFTERNOON

1

A paparazzi photographer leans against his motorcycle drinking coffee. His mobile phone announces itself with a loud text tone.

TEXT

"Spotted: Abi Grant - Holland Park"

He throws the coffee into the nearest bin, climbs aboard his bike, donning his crash helmet, before the engine roars into life.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. LONDON BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

2.

Another paparazzi, enjoying his Sunday off and chatting up a couple of beautiful tourists, is shocked into action as his pager explodes into life.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. LEICESTER SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

3

A third paparazzi waiting outside the Odeon. His mobile phone rings loudly and he hurries to answer it.

PAPARAZZI

Hello?

(beat)

I'm on my way.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. HOLLAND PARK - CONTINUOUS

4

A serene montage of the suburban Holland Park scenery, including the park itself, on a beautiful summer's day before ending on:

CUT TO:

5 EXT. DREW'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

5

A beautiful, large whitewashed Georgian house in a quiet, tree-lined and almost suburban street. One or two people are milling around, a car passes. Clearly an ordinary day.

CUT TO:

On the TV, an episode of *Daria* called "The New Kid" is playing. Watching are DREW (15) and ANNA (15), who sit on the bed while GWEN (15) sits in the open bay window, smoking, half paying attention to the TV and absently thumbing through one of Drew's *Vatican* comic books.

GWEN

So tell me again why we're sitting inside watching TV on a day like this?

DREW

What else is there to do on a Sunday afternoon?

GWEN

This is London. There has to be something more interesting out there.

ANNA

We're seeing <band name> tomorrow night. Why waste the energy today?

GWEN

Because it's a beautiful day out there!

DREW

You sound like my dad.

GWEN

As long as I don't look like him.

ANNA

You say that like it'd be a bad thing.

DREW

What? You have a thing for my dad now?

Anna realises what she just said and immediately regrets it.

GWEN

Who wouldn't?

DREW

This is a conversation I hoped I'd never have.

GWEN

Well, be grateful. At least you look like him. Don't you think Anna?

Drew stares at Gwen for a moment.

ANNA

(changing the subject)
Do you think it's really possible
for anybody to be that negative
about love in real life?

DREW

She's not negative, she's skeptical.

ANNA

If she's so skeptical, then why is she falling for the new kid?

GWEN

Exactly. This is just TV. It's all fiction. Nobody falls in love--

A loud metallic bang from outside distracts her.

CUT TO:

7

8

7 EXT. DREW'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

A removal truck across the street as new neighbours move into the house across the road. Two people stood by the truck are ABI (42) and CASEY GRANT (16), an American mother and son, the new neighbours. They're assisted by a pair of removal men who get straight to work.

GWEN

(absently) -- That easily.

CUT TO:

8 INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

01 10.

Her distraction gets Drew and Anna's attention.

DREW

What's going on? (beat)
Earth to Gwen?

She ignores him still, so Drew and Anna go to the window for a look. Gwen is staring off into space, lost in fantasy.

ANNA

Is that?

GWEN

Perfection.

DREW

Yeah. No, wait. What?

ANNA

Crossed wires. That's... Abigail Grant, right?

DREW

Yeah.

ANNA

Abigail Grant... The movie star?

GWEN

And her fine son, Casey.

She pauses to ogle him for a second.

GWEN (CONT'D)

In your street? Lucky you.

DREW

Not really my type.

GWEN

I was talking to Anna.

ANNA

Yeah.

(beat)

Lucky me.

DREW

I'm gonna go offer them a hand.

ANNA

I'll come.

GWEN

Yeah, I'll offer him a hand too.

CUT TO:

9

9 EXT. DREW'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

Drew, Anna and Gwen emerge from Drew's house and cross the road to the removal truck.

DREW

Mrs. Grant?

She turns to face him and lets out a sigh.

ABI

Damn it! Why can't you people leave me alone for five minutes?

DREW

You people?

ABI

Yeah. Photographers? Journalists? Whatever you guys are, can't you see I'm busy?

She turns to carry on with what she's doing. Drew, Anna and Gwen give each other anxious looks. Drew clears his throat to try again.

DREW

Uhh... Mrs. Grant, we're not with the press.

ABI

Well, no autographs either.

DREW

We're not fans. Well, we are. Of course we are, but--

She turns back to face him, getting angry.

ABT

Look, I don't have all day. What is it you want?

Drew turns to walk away. He's filed her under 'bitch' and given up. Anna steps in instead.

ANNA

Nothing. What he's trying to say is 'Hi' - I'm Anna, this is Drew and Gwen.

Abi gives her a blank look, one which says 'so what?'

ANNA (CONT'D)

We're your new neighbours.

ABI

Thank God. Okay--

DREW

We were wondering if you could use a hand unloading?

ABI

Oh, sure, thanks. Just take whatever you can carry into the living room.

She takes a beat to let out a sigh of relief.

ABI (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Gwen takes a deep breath, checks her outfit and her breath "subtly" and walks towards Casey, who's unloading at the back of the van.

GWEN

(flirting badly)

Maybe I can give you a hand later?

CASEY

What?

She stops to think. She's flustered and a little embarrassed.

GWEN

If you like?

He stares at her hoping she's done embarrassing herself. His look tells her she'd better be.

CASEY

Sure. Whatever.

He walks away, completely blowing her off. Anna and Drew begin unloading boxes from the truck and taking them into the house.

An ever-increasing roar of engines can be heard in the background as first one paparazzi on a motorcycle, then several, appear to be bearing down on them.

ABI

Oh God, they're here.

(to the removal guys)
Get the truck out of here!

The removal guys drop the boxes they were carrying and hurry to lock up the truck, climbing inside and driving away.

ABI (CONT'D)

Everybody get inside. NOW!

Everybody grabs an item from the pavement and they run inside. Abi locks and bolts the door behind them as the horde of journalists and paparazzi bear down on them in an almost zombie-like fashion.

CASEY

Wow, mom, that was close.

He looks around behind him to make sure she made it.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Mom?

She doesn't respond because she's sat up against the door, crying. An unscrupulous photographer forces open the letter box and starts snapping photos through it.

FADE TO:

CREDITS

END OF ACT ONE (TEASER)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

10

The room is somewhat sparse - they've chosen to take refuge upstairs to avoid being seen by the paparazzi, who are still quietly audible outside.

A single box is the only thing in the room, meaning we have a slight echo. From inside, Casey has pulled the essentials: a kettle, coffee and mugs and is brewing his mother a cup.

ABI

I-I'm sorry. It's just... Ever since the separation they just... appear.

ANNA

Hey, it's not your fault. We completely understand.

Casey stops making coffee and glares at her. His eyes could burn a hole right through her.

CASEY

Completely understand? How could you guys completely understand? You don't know what it's like, living in this bubble, surrounded by paparazzi all the time--

ABI

Casey!

He snaps and throws the coffee-filled mug against the wall. It smashes loudly, porcelain and coffee flying everywhere.

CASEY

What, mom? They can't possibly understand this life.

ABI

Casey, stop. You're embarrassing me.

Abi leaves the room. The others aren't sure whether to follow or glare at Casey. They're caught in the middle. There's an uneasy moment of silence.

CASEY

I'm sick of people pretending they understand what it's like, living under a spotlight.

DREW

Listen, Casey, I'm not going to pretend I understand everything you're going through--

CASEY

Then don't!

DREW

--but it's not like we don't understand getting harassed by the press.

CASEY

When was the last time you had the press at your doors?

DREW

Me? Never.

CASEY

Exactly.

They lock eyes. It's something of a stand-off.

GWEN

(eagerly)

I have.

Casey takes a moment, a calming breath, then turns to look at her.

CASEY

When?

GWEN

Constantly. My brother is a rapper. The press are always sniffing around for a story. And even when they can't find one--

CASEY

--They just make it up?

GWEN

Yeah. And he pretends like he doesn't care, y'know? But I think he does.

DREW

Are you kidding me? He's twenty-one years old and being linked with everyone from The Olsen Twins to Beyonce.

GWEN

Which means nothing if it isn't true.

Casey nods in agreement. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt.

CASEY

How about you... Anna, right? You ever have to deal with the press? With fame?

ANNA

No.

CASEY

Really? Your eyes say different.

ANNA

Just drop it, okay?

CASEY

Let me guess - failed child star?

DREW

She said 'drop it' Casey.

Casey and Drew lock eyes again. There's another uncomfortable silence as they all look around the room, as though searching for something to say.

ANNA

Is your mum okay?

CASEY

Yeah. Well, as 'okay' as can be expected. I guess everyone knows what happened, right?

ANNA

With your dad's co-star?

CASEY

Yeah. My mom thinks he traded in for a younger model. But they were fighting a lot before he went to shoot the movie.

(beat)

I guess it was inevitable. But it was still so... sudden. Y'know?

ANNA

Yeah.

Gwen stands up and walks over to the window, where she looks out at the press.

GWEN

There's loads of them. Seems to be more and more every minute.

CASEY

Yeah. It always gets worse before it gets better.

ANNA

Maybe it doesn't have to. (to Drew)
Got your phone?

He throws it to her. She starts flicking through his phone book and dials.

CASEY

(mouthing)
What's she doing?

Drew shrugs.

ANNA

Hey Sophie. Look, I need a favour.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. DREW'S STREET - SOON AFTER

11

The press are still camped outside the Grant house, although they're more or less milling around, some drink coffee, some are looking in the windows, some are looking for a way in.

A limousine pulls up across the road, almost completely unnoticed by the press. JAKE TYLER (25), Drew's older brother, gets out and opens the Tylers' front door.

Before he enters, the sunroof of the limo opens and SARA DEXTER (24), the older sister of SOPHIE (15) - who is visible through the window - pops out to hug and kiss him goodbye. That gets the attention of the press and they have a new target.

Jake goes inside and the limo slowly moves away. The press run to their bikes to follow the Dexter sisters in the hope of a more interesting story.

CUT TO:

12 INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

12

Drew, Anna, Gwen and Casey are watching through the window. Casey looks impressed for more reasons than one.

CASEY

Wow. Who was that?

DREW

Sophie and Sara. Our very own version of Paris and Nicky.

ANNA

Yeah. Same famous family situation, not quite so vapid.

CASEY

So the press here follow the children of anybody famous too?

DREW

No. Well, not always. Sara's an actress, just did the new Richard Curtis movie. Sophie is the latest Disney princess. You know, sings, dances, acts...

CASEY

I get it. That's cool.

Anna starts dialling Drew's phone again.

ANNA

Hey Soph... Thanks. Tell Sara I said thanks, too.

CUT TO:

13 INT. LIMO - CONTINUOUS

SOPHIE

(to Sara)

Anna says thanks.

Sara gives her a thumbs up.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

(to Anna)

So... Casey Grant? Interesting. Is he going to be at school?

14 INTERCUT ANNA/SOPHIE - CONTINUOUS

14

13

ANNA

I don't know... I guess so.

SOPHIE

I hope so. He's gorgeous!

ANNA

(under her breath)

If you say so.

SOPHIE

What?

ANNA

I gotta go. Thanks for helping us out.

SOPHIE

No problem. Catch you later.

Sophie flips her phone shut. DAN (15), Sophie's boyfriend, looks at Sophie.

DAN

"He's gorgeous?" Should I be worried?

SOPHIE

Of course not, babe. You know I only have eyes for you.

DAN

Good.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL - MONDAY MORNING

15

The school is busy, children arrive from all directions by foot but many by car, either chauffeur driven limos or dropped off by parents in luxury cars.

Anna, Drew and Casey arrive on foot, having walked the short distance to school. They're neatly dressed in full uniform; right down to the blazer, shirt and tie, though Casey has added the obligatory dark sunglasses. They walk through the school grounds as they talk.

CASEY

Wow, you weren't kidding. Everyone has to wear a uniform to school?

DREW

Well, except the sixth formers, yeah.

CASEY

That's going to make choosing between the girls harder.

Anna rolls her eyes theatrically.

ANNA

Yeah, that's why they do it.

CASEY

Seriously?

DREW

No. It's something about equality and making sure nobody has better clothes than everyone else.

Gwen comes running over. Unlike practically everyone else at the school, her uniform is an untidy mess. Her shirt is untucked, her hair scraped back into a ponytail.

GWEN

Hey guys.

(flirting shamelessly)

Hi Casey.

They pass Sophie, Dan and their group: The popular kids, who are talking excitedly, are heavily styled and have done the very best they can to turn their uniforms into high fashion.

CASEY

That was Sophie, right?

DREW

Yeah.

CASEY

I should go thank her for yesterday.

DREW

Yeah.

CASEY

Catch you later?

GWEN

It's okay, we'll wait for you. Right guys?

Anna shakes her head in disbelief at how much Gwen is throwing herself at Casey.

DREW

Sure.

Casey turns to go back and join Sophie. He pulls out a bullet-style body spray and gives himself a quick squirt with it.

CASEY

Hey... it's Sophie, right?

SOPHIE

Yeah. And you'll be the infamous Casey Grant, I take it?

CASEY

That's right.

DAN

Hey, I'm Dan. Sophie's boyfriend.

They shake hands firmly, locking eyes. Another stand-off.

CASEY

(to Sophie)

I just wanted to thank you for what you did for me and my mom yesterday. Since she and my dad separated it's been non-stop.

SOPHIE

Oh, I know. And I figured I probably owed her one. It kept them off of my doorstep for a few days.

Casey laughs. He and Sophie share a smile.

DAN

So Casey, how long are you going to be around for?

SOPHIE

Dan! Stop.

(to Casey)

Sorry, he can be so rude sometimes.

CASEY

Nah, it's cool. He's just trying to hang on to his girl. And who wouldn't want to keep such a beautiful girl on their arm? (to Dan)

I'll be here as long as it takes.

The bell rings.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Guess that's my cue. I'll see you 'round.

Casey throws a smile at Sophie then fires a sly wink in Dan's direction before walking away to catch up with Anna, Drew and Gwen. They start walking towards the building again.

ANNA

So, do you need to do paperwork or...?

CASEY

Yeah, I'm supposed to report to the office. You know how I get there?

ANNA

Yeah it's--

GWEN

That's okay, I'm heading that way. I'll take you.

They go through the doors.

CUT TO:

16 INT. HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

16

Gwen leaves with Casey reluctantly following. Anna and Drew continue walking into the school and through the halls.

ANNA

Someone's getting into the new guy. (half beat)
In a creepy, bunny-boiling kinda

way.

Drew laughs.

DREW

What does she see in that guy anyway?

ANNA

Aside from the money, fame and Hollywood good looks?

DREW

Everyone here has the money, half the kids are famous or famous-byblood and--

A particularly ugly kid walks past. He stops to reconsider his train of thought.

DREW (CONT'D)

--well, some of them have Hollywood good looks. We're surrounded by them all the time.

ANNA

She's not used to it yet.

DREW

I keep forgetting that she's new here. Feels like she's been around forever.

Anna stops walking and turns to look in the direction Gwen went.

ANNA

Hey, does she even know where she's going?

Drew realises that Anna has stopped walking and considers that, actually, she probably doesn't.

DREW

We should go rescue them. Right?

ANNA

Leave them to it. They'll figure it out.

(beat)

Why are you so into her, anyway?

She turns to look at him. He's gone.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 INT. HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL (HALLWAY) - LATER

17

The bell rings for lunch and uniformed teenagers file out of various classes lining the hall.

Drew heads straight for his locker. Anna and Casey leave the same classroom opposite. They aren't walking together, but they both head for Drew.

DREW

How's the first day going?

CASEY

Pretty good. I mean, it's not like home but--

A group of really attractive sixth form girls walk past, eyeing Casey up as they do.

CASEY (CONT'D)

--With girls like that, I'll get used to it.

ANNA

I bet you will.

Drew nudges her to shut her up.

CASEY

So... where do we go for lunch?

ANNA

The cafeteria.

CASEY

No, seriously... Where do we go?

DREW

She's serious. We can't leave the site for lunch here. It's against the rules.

CASEY

I'm liking this school less by the minute.

Gwen joins them, immediately latching on to Casey.

GWEN

So, are you guys going to lunch or just standing around talking?

DREW

We're just heading that way.

GWEN

Cool. Casey, you can sit next to me.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

(shouting)

Casey!

CASEY

Saved by the bell, huh? I'll catch you up.

Casey walks over to Sophie and the popular girls, JESSIE (15) and NICOLE (15), at Sophie's locker. Jessie is checking her hair in the mirror.

SOPHIE

I thought you might like to join us for lunch.

CASEY

I told those guys I'd sit with them, sorry.

JESSIE

Oh, you don't want to sit with those losers do you?

NICOLE

Yeah, really. I mean, that Anna girl? So depressing.

JESSIE

And that kid, Drew? Cute but nerdy.

NICOLE

Yeah. Unsaveable. And the new girl. What's her name?

SOPHIE

Gwen.

NICOLE

Yeah.

(with contempt)

Gwen.

JESSIE

Poor kids with new money? So sad.

SOPHIE

Do you guys have to bitch about everyone? It's so clichéd.

JESSIE

It's not bitching; It's constructive criticism that they can't hear.

Sophie laughs, shakes her head, shrugs apologetically and turns back to Casey.

SOPHIE

So... Lunch?

CASEY

Sounds good to me.

Sophie closes her locker and the four of them leave together.

As they turn the corner to leave the scene, Dan appears from one of the classrooms, looks towards her locker, then deposits his books in his before slamming it angrily.

CUT TO:

18 INT. HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL (CAFETERIA) - SOON AFTER

18

The cafeteria is busy with people. Some kids queue for food, others are assembled around tables among groups of friends, some are using vending machines near the entrance. Everything is a noticeable step up in quality from the typical school cafeteria.

A central table is conspicuously empty despite those around it being packed. This table is 'reserved' for Sophie and the other popular kids. Gwen, Anna and Drew sit at a table on the outskirts of the hall, near the door.

DREW

So, how are you finding your first day so far?

GWEN

It's been alright. School is school, right? I mean, no matter how fancy everything is it's all the same, really.

DREW

So you found all of your classes and everything?

ANNA

Damn it, Drew. She said it's going alright. She doesn't need twenty questions.

In the background, Sophie's group sit down at their table. Anna notices immediately.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I wonder how Casey is getting on with everything.

This grabs Gwen's attention, she turns to look at him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I mean, he's at a new school and in a new country.

GWEN

He'll be okay. I'll look after him.

ANNA

You're just as new as he is.

GWEN

Exactly. We already have so much in common...

Dan comes to their table and sits down. He still seems annoyed.

DREW

To what do we owe the pleasure?

ANNA

Yeah... are you sure you're not lost? Not like you to acknowledge our presence in public these days.

DAN

We hung out at the weekend!

DREW

Yeah, but when was the last time you were seen around us at school?

DAN

Well, y'know, I've been a little preoccupied.

ANNA

Seems to be catching around here.

DAN

Casey?

ANNA

You noticed?

Dan turns to look at him. Nicole spots him looking over and quickly looks away, completely ignoring him.

DAN

Yeah. Ever since he showed up, Sophie has barely stopped talking about him.

GWEN

Maybe she's just star struck?

ANNA

Look who's talking!

DAN

It won't be that, anyway. I don't think you can get star struck when you have Simon Cowell as your godfather.

The girls on the popular table have all gathered around Casey, making him completely the centre of their attentions.

DAN (CONT'D)

What do they see in that guy, anyway?

GWEN

Well-

ANNA

Please don't start her off on that again.

DAN

Should I be worried though?

GWEN ANNA

Yes!

No!

They look at each other as if they've both been speaking martian, Anna more angry, Gwen surprised.

DREW

Look, Dan... you know her better than any of us but do you want my advice?

DAN

Yeah.

DREW

You and Sophie have been together forever. You're a good guy, she knows that. And you guys just 'work' together. But I think we all know that she's not that kind of girl.

(beat)

We all see the way you guys look at each other, okay?

ANNA

Yeah. It's creepy, sickening and extremely disgusting.

DREW

Yeah.

He almost leaves it at that, then remembers that this isn't what Dan wants to hear right now.

DREW (CONT'D)

But it's, y'know, romantic. I think you'll be okay.

ANNA

We know you'll be okay.

DREW

Besides, Casey's like that shiny new toy on Christmas day. It's really exciting when you first take it out of the box but you're pretty much bored of it by New Year's Day.

DAN

You mean I have another week of-(beat; a hint of envy)
--him?

Another look over towards the popular table. This time, Jessie is staring at him. She'd ignore him too if it wasn't for Sophie looking up.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Dan! Over here!

DAN

Duty calls.

He starts getting up to go over there.

DAN (CONT'D)

You guys out tonight?

ANNA

Yeah, we'll be there.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Daniel!

Dan scurries off, looking truly 'whipped' in every sense.

DREW

I've heard <band name> are supposed to really good live?

ANNA

Supposed to be.

GWEN

Sebastian supported them at Reading last year. He says they're amazing.

DREW

Good enough for me. (checking his watch) (MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

Hey, I've got to run. I'll catch you both later, okay?

He leaves. Anna and Gwen stay behind. There's an uncomfortable silence as they realize that they really have nothing to talk about.

GWEN

So, uh... What time does the gig start tonight?

ANNA

Eight.

GWEN

Great.

More uncomfortable silence. Both girls pick at their food.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Hey, I wonder if Casey wants to come?

ANNA

I think Casey will probably go wherever Sophie goes.

GWEN

What's that supposed to mean?

ANNA

It means that those two are heading on a collision course.

GWEN

But you said Dan shouldn't be worried--

ANNA

And you said he should. I was trying to spare his feelings.

GWEN

Oh.

She stops to consider this for a moment.

GWEN (CONT'D)

So you think they'll get together then?

ANNA

Definitely.

GWEN

Oh. Shame.

ANNA

You're really into him aren't you?

GWEN

Is it that obvious?

ANNA

Following him like a lost puppy, the constant staring--

GWEN

I just can't stop thinking about him.

ANNA

Well, you should try. At least around Drew.

GWEN

Drew?

Anna takes a deep breath. She knows she isn't supposed to tell Gwen this.

ANNA

Yeah. In case you hadn't noticed the staring and following you like a lost puppy, he's pretty into you, too.

GWEN

He is?

ANNA

Yeah. And you staring at Casey is torturing him.

As if on cue Gwen turns to stare at Casey again.

CUT TO:

19 INT. HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL (CAFETERIA) - CONTINUOUS

19

Sophie's table. Everyone is finishing up lunch, though nobody appears to have eaten much of one.

JESSIE

So Casey, do you have a girlfriend?

NICOLE

Yeah, do you?

CASEY

I do. I mean... I did.

He stops to think about it, trying to figure out if he does or not, and how much to say.

CASEY (CONT'D)

I don't know. Maybe.

SOPHIE

Maybe?

CASEY

Well, yeah. I have - or I had - a girlfriend back in L.A.

NICOLE

How do you mean?

CASEY

Well, I was dating this girl, an actress.

JESSIE

Was she famous?

CASEY

Yes. But we kept it a secret because of the press.

NICOLE

Who was she?

SOPHIE

He said it was a secret. Sorry, Casey.

CASEY

The night before mom decided to move us over here, we had a huge argument about something and we haven't spoken since.

He takes his phone out of his pocket to check whether he has any calls or texts. He doesn't.

CASEY (CONT'D)

She won't answer my calls and she hasn't called back, so I guess we're over.

Jessie and Nicole pause to consider the appropriate response to this.

JESSIE

Are you looking?

CASEY

Am I what?

DAN

I think she wants to know if you're looking for someone new - If you have your eye on anyone.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

But hey, you've only been here one day. It's probably too early to say, right?

CASEY

There might be one or two that have caught my eye.

(with subtle malice)

Just between us guys, of course.

SOPHIE

Well, whoever you pick will be a lucky girl.

DAN

Not as lucky as I am.

He kisses Sophie but she seems just a little awkward about it and pulls away from him slightly.

SOPHIE

Not here, Dan. I've told you about kissing me in school.

DAN

You're just ashamed to be seen with me, right?

SOPHIE

No. Just... not in school, okay?

Awkward silence for a beat.

NICOLE

(to Casey)

Are you coming to club sXe tonight?

CASEY

Club... What?

JESSIE

It's like an all-ages nightclub. They have bands on and stuff.

CASEY

On a Monday night?

JESSIE

Yeah, it's really good.

NICOLE

<band> are playing.

CASEY

Sounds cool.

(to Sophie)

Are you guys going?

Sophie tries to answer. Dan jumps in first.

DAN Yeah. We'll be there.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

20

ACT FOUR

20 INT. DREW'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Drew is in his bedroom getting ready for the night out. He is dressed sharply and is applying aftershave obsessively as there's a knock at the door and Anna walks in, already dressed up.

ANNA

What the hell is that smell?

DREW

Hai Karate.

ANNA

No, I'm Anna.

DREW

Ow! That stings!

ANNA

Well, that explains the smell of burning flesh.

DREW

Oh God. Do I have time to shower again?

ANNA

If you think that might erase the smell of death, go right ahead.

Drew whips his shirt off and throws it at her. She gags from the smell of the shirt.

CUT TO:

21 INT. CASEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

and hove

2.1

Now more fully furnished, save for a few unopened boxes. Casey is fussing in the mirror over his hair. He has a bit of a 'Fonzie' moment.

CASEY

(to himself)
Looking good.

He leaves the room, grabbing his shirt from the bed and throwing it on as he runs down the stairs.

ABI (0.S.)

Where are you going?

Casey heads into the living room, where his mother is sitting watching trashy TV.

CASEY

What are you watching this for?

ABI

Just seeing what's going on back home.

CASEY

Don't torture yourself again, okay?

ABI

I won't.

(beat)

So, I asked you a question. Where are you going?

CASEY

I'm going to a club.

She looks at him incredulously. She's disappointed, but she's used to it from him.

ABI

You have school in the morning.

CASEY

It's an all-ages club, it closes at eleven.

ABI

And you're going because?

CASEY

<Band> are playing.

ABI

Who?

CASEY

My friends are going.

ABI

Okay... Well, you know the rules. No drinking--

CASEY

--No fighting, no drawing press attention unnecessarily. Got it, Mom. I'll be back by midnight.

ABI

Just checking. Now have fun.

He kisses her on the cheek and leaves. The news comes on the TV.

NEWSREADER

More developments in the story that's gripping Hollywood as Robert Grant announced his engagement...

ABI

(beginning to cry) Damn it, Robert!

She turns off the TV with the remote and throws it across the room.

CUT TO:

23

23 INT. GWEN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

heard from elsewhere in the house.

Gwen sits at the kitchen table, fixing her hair and make-up in a vanity mirror whilst her mother, FAYOLA (45), stands at the sink doing the washing-up. Loud garage music can be

FAYOLA

You know, in my day we didn't work so hard just to impress a boy.

Gwen carries on, completely oblivious to her mother's commentary.

FAYOLA (CONT'D)

No, because we knew that if a man was going to be interested in us, eventually he was going to have to see us for who we really are.

Gwen takes a break from her preening to go to the fridge, where she pulls out a can of Diet Coke an a bottle of water, unable to decide which she wants.

FAYOLA (CONT'D)

Of course, if that theory worked both ways, I probably would have seen your father coming.

Gwen opens the door to a small larder. The back is covered in a full length mirror, which she studies herself in as if that'll help her make the decision between coke and water.

FAYOLA (CONT'D)

What's so special about this boy anyway?

Gwen chooses water, having clearly decided she looks fat. She doesn't.

FAYOLA (CONT'D)

Gwendoline Anuli Lawrence, I am talking to you!

GWEN

What?

FAYOLA

What's so special about this boy?

GWEN

He's famous.

FAYOLA

So is your brother, that's no good reason to go chasing after him like a headless chicken.

GWEN

He's also good-looking, funny and charming.

FAYOLA

You just described your father. Look how that worked out.

The music stops, leaving an awkward silence.

GWEN

So what should I be looking for?

FAYOLA

If it was up to me? Your homework. Studying and going to a good university is far more important than boys.

Gwen's older brother, SEBASTIAN (21) enters the kitchen half-dressed, going straight for the fridge and raiding it for an assortment of junk food.

FAYOLA (CONT'D)

Sebastian, will you please tell your sister that getting a good education is not more important than this celebrity she's dating.

GWEN

I'm not dating him. And even if I was, you're asking the man who provides half the content of Heat magazine each week to tell me that?

SEBASTIAN

Harsh, but true. Who is he?

GWEN

Casey Grant, he goes to my school.

SEBASTIAN

(laughs)

Casey Grant? That pretty white boy from LA? You've got no chance!

GWEN

How do you know?

SEBASTIAN

I've heard this kid's reputation. He's bad news. You should stay away.

GWEN

I thought that you of all people should know that you can't believe everything you read in the papers.

She begins to angrily gather her things and put her coat on.

SEBASTIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

GWEN

You know exactly what that's supposed to mean.

She leaves the room, heading straight out of the front door and slamming it hard behind her.

SEBASTIAN

What did I do?

FAYOLA

You know your sister and her temper, Sebastian. She'll have forgotten all about it by the morning.

CUT TO:

24 INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

24

Sophie and Dan are 'making out' on the bed. Both are fully dressed. They clearly have no intention of it going further than this.

SOPHIE

Hey... What got into you today?

DAN

How do you mean?

SOPHIE

In the cafeteria? You were being all... affectionate.

DAN

I can't be affectionate towards my own girlfriend anymore?

SOPHIE

Well, you've never done it in public before.

DAN

You told me you didn't like it.

SOPHIE

I know. So why did you do it today?

DAN

I just felt like it. Why are you so bothered by it?

SOPHIE

I don't know. It just felt like you were being kind of territorial or something.

DAN

(sitting up)

Territorial?

Sophie sits up next to him and turns to make eye contact with him.

SOPHIE

Yeah. The whole time Casey was there you were all over me.

DAN

So?

SOPHIE

Are you threatened by him?

He studies her face for a second.

DAN

Should I be?

SOPHIE

How can you even ask me that?

DAN

Well, you brought it up!

SOPHIE

I was curious. Don't you trust me?

DAN

What?

SOPHIE

Don't you trust me anymore?

Dan takes a beat for a deep breath to calm himself down a bit.

DAN

Of course I do. It's just that-- you were all over him today.

SOPHIE

He's the new guy. I was being nice to him.

DAN

And that's all it was?

SOPHIE

Yes!

There's a knock at the door and it opens cautiously, just a crack.

SARA (O.S.)

Are you decent?

SOPHIE

Of course we are!

Sophie enters the room.

SARA

Just checking. I know what you're like.

SOPHIE

Clearly not.

(beat)

What's up?

SARA

Your friends are here.

SOPHIE

Thanks.

SARA

Casey's kind of cute.

DAN

(getting up to leave)
I'll give you guys a minute.

They pause for a beat while Dan leaves the room. Sara joins her sister on the bed.

SARA

What was that about?

SOPHIE

Sore subject.

Sophie lays down, as if tired by the stress.

SARA

(joining her)

Oh?

SOPHIE

Dan thinks I'm in to Casey.

SARA

Are you?

SOPHIE

Sara! No, of course not.

SARA

Then he has nothing to worry about, does he?

They lay there while they both consider that.

SARA (CONT'D)

Hey, you're off to club sXe tonight, right?

SOPHIE

That's the plan. Why?

SARA

I have no plans tonight. Mind if Jake and I come?

SOPHIE

You want to hang out with your kid sister and her friends?

SARA

Is that so bad?

SOPHIE

As long as you remember you're my sister. Not my mother, not my minder and not Sara Dexter, gossip column darling.

SARA

Deal.

The club is thriving as hundreds of people of varying ages queue to get in. A limo pulls up as Casey, Gwen, Drew, Sophie, Anna, Dan, Sara and Jake get out.

Flashbulbs immediately start burning as the handful of assembled pressmen waiting outside for a lucky break spot their prey: The Dexter sisters with Casey Grant is too good a photo opportunity to pass up.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

(ad-libbed)

Sara! Sophie! Casey! Over here, over here!

They keep walking. The doormen wave them straight through the front door to the chagrin of some in the crowd, although one or two are trying to get pictures of their own on camera phones.

CUT TO:

26 INT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

26

They walk inside the club. It's not quite packed, but it is busy. The DJ is playing loud music of a similar genre to

dand> to warm the crowd up.

JAKE

(over the noise)

We're going to get a drink. You guys have fun.

DAN

(looking at Casey)

We'll join you.

Dan takes Sophie by the hand and they walk in the same direction as Jake and Sara. Sophie steals a quick look over her shoulder at Casey. Gwen is already inching in on him. Anna spots it.

ANNA

(to Drew)
Shall we dance?

DREW

(slightly distracted by

Gwen)

Uh, sure.

Anna drags him away to the dance floor as Gwen finally reaches her intended target.

GWEN

So, I guess that leaves you and me.

CASEY

I guess it does.

GWEN

Do you like to dance?

CASEY

What?

GWEN

(louder and slower) Do you like to dance?

CASEY

Oh. Yeah.

GWEN

Good.

She grabs him and drags him away into the crowd to dance with her.

CUT TO:

27

27 INT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

Anna and Drew are dancing together. It's awkward and easy to see that neither is comfortable dancing, much less dancing with each other.

DREW

Since when do you dance?

ANNA

Pretend you never saw it.

(half beat)

It just hit me that we haven't had a chance to talk properly today.

DREW

We've talked loads of times today!

ANNA

Yeah, but not properly. And not just the two of us. We never get a chance to talk anymore.

DREW

Okay... So what did you want to talk about?

ANNA

Well--

(beat)

This thing with you and Gwen. What's going on there?

DREW

Nothing is going on there. There isn't a 'me and Gwen.'

ANNA

But you still like her, right?

DREW

I guess, but she's not interested. She completely into Casey.

ANNA

You noticed?

DREW

Nothing gets past me.

ANNA

I guess not. But how are you coping?

DREW

I'm kicking myself regularly for not saying something already. Like last week, for example.

Anna smiles at this as they continue to dance awkwardly in silence for a few seconds.

DREW (CONT'D)

What about you? Anything going on I should know about?

ANNA

Not really. You know me, nothing ever changes.

DREW

So there's still no boyfriend?

ANNA

What do you mean still no boyfriend?

DREW

Well, we've been friends for fifteen years. How many boyfriends have you had in that time?

He pauses while she considers this.

DREW (CONT'D)

Exactly. Zero.

ANNA

What about Selwyn?

DREW

Selwyn Lewis? I haven't thought about him in years!

ANNA

We went out for a while.

DREW

He moved away when we were six.

ANNA

So? I still went out with him.

DREW

I mean a proper boyfriend. I don't remember you ever having a proper boyfriend.

ANNA

I don't remember you ever having a proper girlfriend, either.

DREW

I have you.

ANNA

You're stuck with me.

DREW

(hugging her)

Good.

CUT TO:

28 INT. CLUB SXE (ON STAGE) - CONTINUOUS

2.8

The band appears and starts playing as the crowd gathers around the stage and greets them with a loud applause.

CUT TO:

29 INT. CLUB SXE (BAR) - CONTINUOUS

29

Jake, Dan, Sara and Sophie are stood with drinks - all non-alcoholic - watching the band play.

JAKE

So Danny, did you see the football on Saturday?

DAN

Arsenal? Yeah.

SARA

Oh my, I suddenly need to go to the ladies.

SOPHIE

Yeah, me too.

They walk away together. The boys pause their conversation to watch them go, both realising how lucky they are.

DAN

That was a cracking goal!

Jake ignores him, waiting to make sure the girls are gone.

JAKE

Look, is everything okay mate?

DAN

Sure, I guess.

JAKE

I only ask because you and Sophie are acting strange tonight.

DAN

Strange?

JAKE

Yeah. Trouble in paradise?

DAN

No, not really.

JAKE

So it has nothing to do with the new guy?

DAN

Casey? No, why would it?

JAKE

You do realize that Drew and I talk, right? I mean, we're brothers, we tend to talk about things.

They both swig from their drinks.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Look, he tells me you've been a bit preoccupied since this kid turned up. You think he's trying to steal her from you?

DAN

Have you seen this guy's reputation? He has a little black book that reads like an issue of Playboy.

JAKE

Yeah, but you and Sophie, you've got history. You've been together forever now. Don't worry about him, okay? She'll forget all about him soon enough. DAN

I hope so. (beat)

So what about that goal?

CUT TO:

30 INT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

30

Gwen and Casey are dancing awkwardly, but not with the same awkwardness as Anna and Drew. Gwen is trying to dance 'sexily' to entice Casey. Casey is being polite whilst looking around, trying to escape.

GWEN

So... Los Angeles?

CASEY

Yeah.

GWEN

What's it like?

CASEY

It's a lot like London.

GWEN

Really?

CASEY

No. We have a beach, the Lakers and two hundred-sixty days of sunshine a year.

GWEN

Oh. We have London Zoo.

CASEY

(sarcastically)

Great.

(beat)

Excuse me.

CUT TO:

31 INT. CLUB SXE (LADIES' ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

31

Sara and Sophie are at the mirror in the bathroom. Sophie is touching up her make up, while Sara is doing the same, liberally borrowing from her sister.

SARA

I see what you mean about Dan. He's really clingy tonight.

SOPHIE

Yeah. He's been like that ever since Casey arrived. I just don't know how to make him stop.

SARA

And you've told him that you're not interested.

SOPHIE

Of course I have.

SARA

And you're not interested, right?

SOPHIE

(noncommittal)

Right.

SARA

(in disbelief)

Right.

There's a pause as both, almost psychically, realise that Sophie is into Casey.

SOPHIE

Oh God, sis. What am I going to do?

SARA

Well, you have to tell Dan.

SOPHIE

I can't do that!

SARA

Why?

SOPHIE

Because... Look, I dunno, okay?

(beat)

I'll figure something out.

They go to leave the bathroom as:

CUT TO:

32 INT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

32

The band finish their first song. Sophie, lost in thought, walks right into Casey.

SOPHIE

I'm so--

(beat)

Hey!

CASEY

Hey.

SARA

I'll leave you guys to it.

Sara does as she says she would, and in a hurry. Sophie and Casey share an awkward moment.

CUT TO:

33 INT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

33

The band begins to play again. At the bar, Dan and Jake are still talking when Drew approaches them from the dance floor.

DREW

Hey... Jake, can I talk to you a second?

(to Dan)

Sorry, mate.

DAN

No worries. I'll catch you guys later.

Dan leaves, heading the way Drew came from.

JAKE

What's up little bro?

DREW

I need some advice.

JAKE

You're not into Casey as well are you?

They laugh.

DREW

No... but it's kind of related.

JAKE

I'm listening--

DREW

So you know I'm into Gwen, right?

JAKE

I think everybody knows you're into Gwen.

DREW

Well, I think Gwen is into Casey.

JAKE

Damn. How does that boy do it?

Sara returns.

SARA

What boy?

JAKE

Casey. He's got half the girls in this club after him, and now Gwen too.

DREW

You know what? Forget I mentioned it. It'll blow over.

Drew leaves.

JAKE

(after him)

Drew?

(beat)

Was I that awkward at his age?

SARA

You're still that awkward now.

She kisses him.

34 INT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

34

As the band continue to play, we pick out Dan, Gwen, Drew and Anna in the crowd.

DAN

So, me and Sophie talked about the Casey thing.

DREW

And?

DAN

She promised me that I have nothing to worry about. She was just being nice to the new girl.

ANNA

Where is Sophie, anyway?

DAN

She said she was going to the ladies.

GWEN

She must be with Sara.

DREW

(gesturing)

No, Sara's over at the bar with Jake.

Anna and Gwen look around as if to say "She's gone alone?"

ANNA

Oh my God.

The other three turn, following her eyeline until they see the same thing that she does: Sophie is kissing Casey in a dark corner of the club. Eventually she looks over towards them, making eye contact with Dan, who's aghast. Sophie breaks the kiss and hurries towards him to apologize.

DAN

Some promise.

He walks away from her, leaving her standing open-mouthed, poised for a worthless apology. She looks to Anna and Gwen for support, but they snub her completely and walk away, so Sophie follows Dan. After a beat Sara follows her.

Gwen and Drew walk slowly towards Casey, who's looking a little smug.

GWEN

To think I was practically throwing myself at you. You horrible selfish bastard.

She throws her drink over him then follows Anna. Drew waits a beat to let it soak in.

DREW

In case you were wondering, that was not cool.

CASEY

Says who?

DREW

Says me.

(beat)

What the hell is wrong with you? Do you have any idea how many people you've hurt? How much pain you've caused tonight? Do you?

(beat)

Do you even care, Casey? Or is all this, everyone's lives, just one big game? Another scene in the fabulous life of Casey Grant?

CASEY

You know what? You're right. I don't care.

(MORE)

CASEY (CONT'D)

I saw what I wanted and I took it. And I don't have to explain myself to you or to anybody else.

DREW

You know what that makes you? A coward. A pathetic, heartless coward.

CASEY

What did you just call me?

DREW

A pathetic, spoiled, heartless, spineless Hollywood coward.

Casey punches Drew and they begin to brawl. Jake arrives on the scene and pulls Casey off of his brother and tries to hold them apart.

Casey makes another lunge for Drew, prompting Jake to punch him out just as security arrive.

JAKE

(to Drew as security grab
 them)

Let's go

(to security)

We're going.

CASEY

(getting up)

You'll pay for this.

JAKE

(walking away)

Behave!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

35

ACT FIVE

35 EXT. CLUB SXE - SOON AFTER

It's started to rain. Dan is outside the club trying desperately to hail a cab as Sophie approaches. She's almost immediately besieged by the photographers.

SOPHIE

Dan...

He completely ignores her. He's almost shaking with anger. She reaches out to him.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Dan?

A taxi finally stops. The photographers form a close audience around them, with flashbulbs leaping into action.

DAN

(opening the door)
Just leave me alone okay?

SOPHIE

Please talk to me?

DAN

Talk to you? I don't even want to see you again!

He slams the door and the taxi pulls away. Sophie watches him pull away and sits down on the curb, beginning to cry. Sara approaches her, forcing her way through the crowd of photographers.

SARA

(to the photographers)
Would you leave us alone for just
one second?

They completely ignore her and carry on taking pictures.

SARA (CONT'D)

(shouting, almost

screaming)

Leave her alone you heartless bastards!

The photographers back off a little, they know not to push her too far. One or two still snap the odd shot, but it's not nearly as bad as it was.

SARA (CONT'D)

So... Subtlety never was your strong point, was it?

Sophie looks up with a sad smile, as though she would have laughed under any other circumstances.

SOPHIE

I could say the same to you.

She begins to cry again. Though not as heavily as before.

SARA

Look, he's going to come around, okay? You just need to give him some space and bite the bullet on this one for a while, kiddo.

SOPHIE

I just-- I don't know what I was thinking. We were just talking and then he kissed me and-- and--

She begins to cry uncontrollably. Sara pulls her in to give her a shoulder to cry on.

SARA

Look, we just need to get you home, okay? We'll get you a nice, hot bath, a trashy movie and lots of ice cream and talk it out, okay?

Sophie nods sadly and cuddles up to her sister as the cameramen cautiously descend on them again.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. CLUB SXE - CONTINUOUS

36

Jake and Drew are stood outside the club. Jake is still trying to shake the pain from his punch out of his fist and is smoking a cigarette.

JAKE

So, do you want to talk about it now?

DREW

Talk about what?

JAKE

Well, Gwen, Casey, the fight?

DREW

The guy's a total muppet. He just turned up and put himself right in the middle of everyone's lives; He's broken Sophie and Dan up, he's messing Gwen around--

He takes a moment to breathe, compose himself and shake the anger.

DREW (CONT'D)

Besides, you hit him too.

JAKE

Well, like you said, he was messing Dan, Sophie and Gwen around. Plus he hit you first.

(beat)

Well, that and I caught him staring at Sara earlier and thought I should show him who's in charge.

They laugh. Gwen appears from the club and walks hurriedly towards them.

JAKE (CONT'D)

So tell me about the Gwen thing.

DREW

Well, I guess I like her. I think about her all the time and I just don't know what to do about it.

(beat)

Every day I think 'Just tell her' you know?

(beat)

Should I tell her?

GWEN

Jake, I think Sara needs you.

She points to the girls, who are swarmed by photographers.

JAKE

(turning to look)

I think you just did.

(half beat)

Wait here.

He flicks the cigarette aside, pats Drew on the shoulder and runs in the direction of Sophie and Sara, leaving Drew with Gwen.

DREW

Wow. This is embarrassing. Exactly how much of that did you hear?

GWEN

Everything from 'I guess I like her.'

DREW

So you won't believe me if I tell you that everything you just heard was out of context then?

GWEN

No. Besides, Anna already told me everything earlier.

DREW

She did?

GWEN

Yeah, she did. But don't get mad at her, okay? I'm glad she told me.

She looks at him, hoping for a reaction. He's just waiting for her to finish.

DREW

You are?

GWEN

Yeah. That's what I was coming to talk to you about.

DREW

It's okay, you don't need to. I'm suitably humiliated already.

GWEN

Just hear me out, okay?

Drew looks at her expectantly.

GWEN (CONT'D)

I, uh, I know I've been a little preoccupied these last couple of days, okay? And I know how you're feeling right now, believe me.

There's a pause, an uncomfortable silence as they both look for something to say.

GWEN (CONT'D)

You know I like you, right?

DREW

I know. I mean, we're friends, I get that.

GWEN

No. Well, yes. But, I mean, I really like you. And I know that must sound really weird right now but if you're still interested then... maybe we could go out sometime.

(beat)

You know, only if you want to.

DREW

It's tempting but, look, I don't want to be your rebound guy, okay?

GWEN

You won't be. It's not like I'm rebounding from anything anyway.

He leaves her hanging for a moment while he considers this. You can almost see the 'is she using me?' Thought process in his face.

DREW

Alright.

(beat)

Let's try it. Friday?

GWEN

Friday? It's a date.

She kisses him on the cheek. As she does, Anna comes out from the club, sees them and looks upset briefly. Then she composes herself and walks over to join them.

GWEN (CONT'D)

(to Anna)

There you are! Ready to go?

ANNA

Yeah. Let's go.

DREW

I'll go give Jake a hand.

He runs over to his brother, who's struggling to hold the photographers away from Sara and Sophie, who's still in tears. Their limo pulls up just in time as the paparazzi close in on them.

JAKE

(to Drew)

Get everyone in the car!

Drew does as he's told and the photographers descend on the open door. Jake tries to get in last but is blocked by a photographer that's trying to reach into the car.

In a fit of rage, he snatches the camera and hits the photographer with it so hard that it breaks.

JAKE (CONT'D)

(to the driver)

Go!

He slams the car's door behind him as the car speeds off.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FIVE

CREDITS