

beans

by

Anthony Wood

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1. **FROM BLACK**

White bold text on a black screen.

monday

2. **EXT. PRISON GROUNDS - DAY**

A faint mist rises from from freshly mown lawn. A bird chirps from a branch of a nearby tree. Prison walls tower high, topped with barbed wire.

A bell rings, breaking the quiet.

A GUARD walks across the carpark.

SIMON, slim and in his mid-twenties, alights from a bus and scampers behind the tree.

3. **INT. PRISON CELL - DAY**

PAUL, toned and his mid-twenties, opens his eyes. He runs his finger down the wall. His cellmate HANS, obese and in his late forties, washes his face at the sink. He roars out a fart. Paul sits up.

PAUL

Ya pig.

HANS

You better watch you tongue or I'll give you what for. Last day or not.

PAUL

Never thought it would come.

Paul looks up to the barred window of his cell.

HANS

Have you learnt anything in the last six months?

PAUL

Yeah, one thing. I'm not coming back.

HANS

That's what they all say. You'll be back. Trouble with you mate, you're too soft.

PAUL

Not this time. I've got plans.

Outside the cell comes the shout of a guard. Curses are hurled at him from other cells. A peep-hole in the door flips open.

GUARD

Hazeltine. Are you ready?

PAUL

Ready as I'll ever be.

The door swings open. Paul gathers his few possessions and they leave

HANS

Good luck, mate.

4. **INT. PRISON CORRIDOR - DAY**

Paul and the guard march along a corridor. They pass cell after cell.

5. **INT. PRISONER PROCESSING AREA - DAY**

Paul slips on a jumper in a booth and flicks the curtain back. The guard passes him a brown paper parcel and a yellow envelope.

GUARD

Don't spend it all at once.

6. **EXT. INSIDE PRISON GATES - DAY**

Paul stands inside the gates. He shifts from foot to foot. A guard opens the small door in the bottom of the towering gates. Paul exits.

7. **EXT. OUTSIDE PRISON GATES - DAY**

Paul sits on the kerb. He lays down and yells loudly.

PAUL

Whoo... hoo ... oop!

The peep hole on the gate flies open, stays open for a moment, then bolts closed with a click. Paul sits up and casts his gaze around the prison grounds. There is nobody.

Simon peers from behind the tree on the opposite side of the carpark.

Paul breaks open the yellow envelope and counts some money. He tears open the brown parcel. A gold chain spills out. He fastens it around his neck and lays down again.

The sound of footsteps approach. Simon's face hovers over

Paul.

PAUL
Got my letter then?

SIMON
I did.

Paul stands up.

PAUL
It's great to see you. You bastard.

SIMON
You've lost weight. You look good.

PAUL
Must've been the food.

SIMON
Have you got any fags?

PAUL
Jesus, I've been out for five
minutes and you're already asking
me for things.

He pulls a packet from his top pocket.

PAUL
Here.

SIMON
You're a life saver.

Paul and Simon walk across the carpark.

PAUL
So where were you hiding? I didn't
think anyone had come.

SIMON
I was just over there, by that
tree.

PAUL
Why weren't you at the front gate?

SIMON
I was worried they might arrest me
and take me inside.

PAUL
You're an idiot. Why would they
(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

have any reason to arrest you?

SIMON

It sounds stupid, I know, but honestly that's what I thought. I feel guilty just hanging around the place.

PAUL

You're mad.

A bus ambles down the street.

PAUL

Come on. Lets run.

Paul bolts away as Simon begins a jog.

SIMON

What's the rush? We'll just catch the next one.

PAUL

Come on you lamer.

Simon slows to a walk.

SIMON

A gentleman walks. He never runs.

PAUL

You're not a gentleman.

8. **INT. BUS - DAY**

Paul and Simon are seated in the back seat of the bus. Simon talks non-stop. Paul looks out the window.

9. **EXT. CAR (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT**

Paul is seated in a car. Lights flash from behind him. A police officer asks him to step out. They handcuff him and put him in the back seat of the police car.

10. **INT. BUS - DAY**

Paul stares out the window of the bus. Simon nudges him.

SIMON

Are you listening to me?

PAUL

Yes.

SIMON
Then what did I say?

PAUL
Something. About some bloke.

SIMON
And what happened?

PAUL
I don't know I wasn't listening.

SIMON
Come on. This is us.

Simon sways down the aisle of the bus. Paul follows.

11. **EXT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Simon turns the key in the front door of a flat in a high-rise estate.

SIMON
Home sweet home.

12. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN - DAY**

They enter the kitchen.

SIMON
Coffee?

PAUL
Please.

SIMON
So, how was it?

PAUL
Shite. I'm never going back to that place. I had a lotta time to think.

SIMON
I bet you did.

PAUL
Time is passing me by and what've I got to show for my life?

SIMON
What ya gonna do about it?

PAUL
I have some plans. Time to make amends.

SIMON

Remorse?

PAUL

I suppose. Thanks for taking me back. I didn't mean to desert you. It was stupid.

SIMON

Let's agree to try again then, huh? How's Shirl?

PAUL

I didn't see much of her. We passed in the corridor a couple of months ago.

Paul reaches for a biscuit and dunks it in his coffee.

PAUL (CONT'D)

So what about you?

SIMON

I went to rehab.

PAUL

Rehab huh? How was that?

SIMON

It was painful. I had to come face-to-face with my thoughts... with myself. I came out and all of my friends had gone. I've got no one to hang out with any more.

PAUL

Now you got me.

SIMON

Seems so.

PAUL

Did it work?

SIMON

What?

PAUL

Rehab of course.

SIMON

Sort of. I'm actually feeling on top of things for the first time in ages.

Simon rests his hands on Paul's.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Are you hungry?

PAUL

Starving.

13. **INT. SUPERMARKET DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Paul stares at bacon rashers in the deli display.

AMY (O.S.)

Next.

PAUL

Half a kilo of...Is that you Amy?
Do you remember me?

AMY

Um. Peter?

PAUL

Paul. I haven't seen you for ages?

AMY

Where have you been? My mum
sometimes asks about you. All the
old crew and that.

PAUL

I've been away. On a holiday. Up
north for a while. Bit of work and
that.

AMY

Sounds like quite an adventure. Can
I help you with anything?

PAUL

Just some of the bacon rashers.

AMY

So what are you doing back down
here?

PAUL

Oh a bit of this and a bit of that.

Amy hands him the packet. They stop for uncomfortable
moment.

AMY

Who do you think is going to win
the Derby?

PAUL

I don't know. I don't really follow
the races.

AMY

I don't either but I heard
something about that French horse.
I'm saving up to live in France,
you know.

PAUL

You should put some money on it.

AMY

I'm stuck here. I'll tell you what.
If you put a fiver down, we'll go
out and celebrate if it wins.

She scribbles on a corner of butchers paper and tears it
off.

PAUL

Deal.

AMY

Here's my number. I hope it wins.

PAUL

Me too.

14. **INT. SUPERMARKET FRUIT SECTION - DAY**

Simon pushes a trolley. Paul joins him and passes a smile.

SIMON

What are you smiling at?

PAUL

I just ran into someone I know.

SIMON

Oh really?

PAUL

Yeah she works in the deli section.
I got her number.

SIMON

Is that so? Do you think it will
help?

PAUL

What's that meant to mean?

SIMON

She would run a mile if she knew
the truth about you.

15. **EXT. FOOTPATH - DAY**

Paul and Simon walk side by side. JEAN grabs Simon's shoulder from behind. Jean is in his twenties and quite attractive. Paul turns braced, ready to confront the attacker.

JEAN

Hi Simon. Where have you been?
(to Paul) Who is this?

SIMON

You gave me a shock. This is Paul.
He's staying with me.

JEAN

(to Paul) Lucky you.

SIMON

You're looking good. You've had
your haircut. Sexy.

JEAN

I wish I could stay and talk, but
I've got to meet someone. Great to
see you again. We'll have lunch one
day.

SIMON

He's so nice.

PAUL

Seemed a nice enough person.

SIMON

Unfortunately not my type.

16. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN STOVE - DAY**

Paul twists a knob and sets a match to the hissing gas jet. He places bacon rashers into the pan and picks an egg out of its carton. Paul runs his finger over the bald arch of the shell.

17. **INT. PRISON WORKSHOP (FLASH BACK) - DAY**

Flashback to an attack on a fellow inmate. BOB's head shimmers with perspiration as he labours at a piece of heavy machinery. A hammer smashes into his skull. He screams and lurches around the workshop as blood spurts from a gash in his head.

INMATE

It's Bob! They've got bald Bob.

18. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN STOVE - DAY**

Paul cracks the egg with a knife. Another egg screams in the pan, as if in pain. He drops the yoke in the pan.

19. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN TABLE - DAY**

Paul and Simon sit at the kitchen table. Paul crunches a piece of toast. Simon supports his head on a propped elbow and admires Paul.

SIMON

Feel better now?

PAUL

I feel like a drink.

SIMON

Coffee.

PAUL

Alcohol.

SIMON

At this time of day?

PAUL

Yeah, I want to celebrate.

SIMON

I haven't drunk for a few weeks.
All I've got is some stale Chianti.
Do want that?

PAUL

Better than nothing. I'm not fussy.

Simon drags a bottle of wine from the top of the fridge and fills Paul's mug.

PAUL

Here's to freedom.

SIMON

To freedom.

20. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Paul is asleep on the sofa. Drool dribbles from the corner of his mouth. Simon shakes his arm and he leaps up.

SIMON

You've been asleep for hours. Want some dinner?

PAUL

What you cooking?

SIMON

Wow this looks great.

Simon holds up a picture of a dish in the magazine.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I think we have just enough ingredients to make this work.

PAUL

Anything is fine.

21. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Simon bangs cupboard doors, chops up ingredients. Garlic and onion sizzle in the frypan. Paul sips wine.

SIMON

Can you pour me a glass please?

PAUL

Didn't think you were allowed.

SIMON

Just the one won't hurt.

22. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Paul sits on the lounge. Simon enters carrying two steaming plates.

PAUL

It doesn't really look like the picture in the book does it?

SIMON

Well I tried.

PAUL

Smells great though.

SIMON

Its the first time I've cooked in over a month.

PAUL

I must be a good influence.

SIMON

That gives me an idea. We could make a little competition of this.

PAUL

What do you mean?

SIMON

See who can do the best job of making a dish look like a pic.

PAUL

Nice idea. Bet I'll win.

SIMON

Alright. You're on. Your turn tomorrow night.

Paul takes a swig of wine then lights a cigarette.

23. **FROM BLACK**

White bold text on a black screen.

tuesday

24. **INT. PAUL'S PRISON CELL - DAY**

A guard screams over and over at Paul as he slides across the floor in slow motion. The cell door bangs closed with a shudder. A guard screams through the peep-hole. Gradually the repeated words become clear.

GUARD (O.S)

That's fair isn't it? That's fair?
That's fair isn't it? That's fair?
(fades)

PAUL

Its fair, its fair.

25. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Paul is asleep on the sofa. Sunlight cuts a beam through the smoke suspended in the air. He jolts awake, lights a cigarette then lies down. He flicks the radio and turns it up loudly.

26. **EXT. SIMON'S KITCHEN DOOR - DAY**

Paul steps outside the back door for moment, stretches then returns inside.

27. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM(COFFEE MUG) - DAY**

Paul blows across the surface of the coffee mug. Miniature waves rise in slow motion. The sound of a strong wind rises and mingles with the music of the stereo. The sounds are cut short.

28. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Simon flicks the stereo off.

SIMON

Do you know what time it is?

PAUL

I dunno.

SIMON

Too bloody early.
Can you keep it down?

29. **INT. SIMON'S BATHROOM - DAY**

Paul wipes the mist from the bathroom mirror.

30. **INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Simon is asleep. Paul shakes him.

PAUL

Simon. Get up you lazy prick.

Simon groans from beneath the bedcovers

PAUL

Get up, we've got things to do.

SIMON

Leave me alone.

31. **EXT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Paul bangs the front door closed.

32. **EXT SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY**

Paul stands in front of hairdressers at a bus stop. He looks through the window. A young, female hairdresser looks

out through the window and smiles.

33. **INT. BUS - DAY**

Paul sways on a crowded bus. A PASSENGER beside him stares out the window.

PAUL

Where does this bus go?

PASSENGER

To town, but I get off well before then, you know.

34. **INT. SIMON'S BATHROOM - DAY**

Simon looks in the bathroom mirror. There is a razor on the bench. Water is puddled on the floor. He hurls the razor to the ground.

SIMON

What a bloody mess.

He opens the bathroom cupboard shakes a couple of tablets from a small bottle and swallows them.

35. **EXT. BRIDGE - DAY**

Paul stands on the wide, concrete railing of a bridge. The bridge spans a river. He spreads his arms out wide. Everything accelerates into fast motion. Clouds travel fast. The sound of whipping wind mixed with bird cries rise. Orchestral music crescendos.

He jumps down to the footpath. The music dies.

36. **INT. CAFE - DAY**

Coffee beans are emptied into a grinder. They fall and bounce in slow motion.

A waiter serves Paul a coffee. Paul shovels spoonfuls of sugar into his cup then lights a cigarette. He watches people pass.

37. **EXT. BUS STOP - DAY**

Paul alights from the bus and looks through through hairdresser's window. He enters.

38. **INT. HAIRDRESSER'S SHOP - DAY**

A sign on the mirror says "HAIRCUTS - 5 POUNDS"

HAIRDRESSER

Have a seat.

Paul sits.

HAIRDRESSER (CONT'D)

What will it be?

He points at the sign.

PAUL

I'll have that.

The HAIRDRESSER pushes Paul's head forward roughly and cuts a swathe through this hair.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Whoa. What ya doin'?

HAIRDRESSER

The five quid cut is a crop.

39. **EXT. SHOPPING CENTRE - DAY**

Paul looks at his reflection in a shop window. A passer by gives him a strange look. Jean stops beside him.

JEAN

Well look at you!

PAUL

I look like a stormtrooper.

JEAN

So short.

PAUL

Wasn't what I had in mind.

JEAN

Think of it as a purification.

PAUL

Yeah, a purification.

JEAN

Gotta run. Say hello to Simon for me.

40. **INT. SIMON'S BATHROOM - DAY**

Paul runs his hand over his head and looks in the mirror.

PAUL

Oh God. I look like Bald Bob.

41. INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY

Simon is passed out on the couch. Paul shakes him.

PAUL
Wake up Simon.

SIMON
Who ... Who are you?

PAUL
All you do is sleep. Come on wake up.

SIMON
Go away.

PAUL
It's Paul. Are you OK? You don't look well.

SIMON
Just tired. You had a haircut. It's very short.

PAUL
It's like a purification. I had to remove the stench of the last six months.

Simon is angry.

SIMON
You look like an idiot and you left the bathroom in a fucking mess. I hope you don't expect me to clean up after you.

PAUL
Give me a chance. It wasn't that bad. You are overreacting

SIMON
Don't tell me I'm overreacting, you little piece of shit.

PAUL
You don't wanna get me angry.

SIMON
Why? What ya gonna do? You're pathetic. Get out of my sight.

Paul storms out and slams the front door.

42. **EXT. FISH SHOP - DAY**

Paul stops outside a fish shop and looks at his reflection in the shop window. He runs his hand over his head. The assistant looks at him from behind the window. He enters.

ASSISTANT

What will it be?

43. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN - DAY**

Paul dumps the parcel on the table, fills a pot with water and puts it on the stove.

44. **EXT. DESERT PLAIN - DAY (1ST MOTIF)**

A domestic gas oven stands beside a window frame. The window frame is suspended in mid-air. A lace curtain frames the window. The sky is blue and cloudless.

Sunlight reflects from a chromium steel pot. Inside the pot, red kidney beans are immersed in water. The gas burner ignites under the pot with a whoomph.

45. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Simon is asleep on the lounge. He mumbles and rolls over. Paul sits beside the telephone. He pulls a slip of paper from his pocket, lifts the handset and dials.

PAUL

Hi Amy. It's Paul. How are you?

AMY (O.S.)

We won! Did you put the money down?

PAUL

What? No. I forgot.

AMY (O.S.)

But Paul.

PAUL

I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you.
Do you have any plans for tonight?

AMY (O.S.)

Um. No?

PAUL

Wanna go out?

AMY (O.S.)

Go out? Where?

PAUL

The pub?

AMY (O.S.)

The pub? Ah. OK.

PAUL

Bull and Bush? Seven OK.

AMY (O.S.)

Seven.

Paul replaces the receiver.

PAUL

Shit. The food!

He races into the kitchen. Simon stirs from his sleep.

SIMON

Ohh, my head.

Paul returns.

PAUL

So you're awake now? Sorry about this morning.

SIMON

What happened?

PAUL

You don't remember?

SIMON

Remember what?

PAUL

Nothing really. What's wrong with you? You've been asleep all day.

SIMON

I had something to help me relax.

PAUL

Thought you'd given that shit up.

SIMON

I have.

PAUL

You reckon?

SIMON

Mostly.

PAUL
I hope you're hungry. I've got
dinner on.

SIMON
I feel a bit squeamish.

Paul exits to the kitchen.

PAUL (O.S.)
It's ready now.

SIMON
I don't feel good.

Paul returns with two plates food.

PAUL
Get into this, it'll make you feel
better.

SIMON
Well that definitely doesn't like
the picture in a magazine. It looks
like the way I feel.

PAUL
Oh yeah. Forgot about the picture
stuff.

SIMON
Thanks anyway.

PAUL
I'm going out tonight. Big date.

SIMON
With who?

PAUL
Pub. With Amy.

SIMON
What about me?

PAUL
You don't look so well.

SIMON
Fine. If that's what you want to
do.

Simon places his unfinished plate on the coffee table and
lies down again.

46. **INT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT**

A knock comes from the front door. Paul answers. Amy stands on the doorstep.

PAUL
Amy! You look great. Let's go.

AMY
Paul your hair! What happened to your hair?

PAUL
I know. Let's just get out of here.

47. **INT. PUB (BAR) - NIGHT**

The hotel bustles with music and people. Amy and Paul stand at the bar. Amy buys Paul a drink.

PAUL
Busy here tonight?

AMY
Want a drink?

48. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Simon sits on the sofa reading a magazine. The TV flickers. The clock ticks. It reads "9:00 pm". He lies down.

49. **INT. PUB - NIGHT**

Paul and amy dance seductively on the dancefloor.

50. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Simon sits on the sofa reading the magazine. The TV flickers. The clock ticks. It reads "12:00 am". He lies down.

51. **INT. PUB - NIGHT**

Amy is slumped over Paul at the bar. She kisses him with a long, deep kiss.

52. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

The front door rattles. Simon sits up, grabs a magazine and buries his head in it. Paul and Amy enter. Paul flops on a lounge chair. Amy giggles as she sits in his lap.

SIMON
Have a good night?

PAUL

Sure did.

Simon stands and sways, unsteady on his feet.

SIMON

I'm going to bed.

PAUL

Night.

Amy and Paul lay on the lounge.

PAUL

Coffee?

AMY

Nope. I'm gonna head straight for
dessert.

Amy lies down and pulls Paul with her. They make love.

53. **INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Simon tosses and turns in his bed. The sounds of Paul and Amy's love making are audible. He covers his head with a pillow.

SIMON

The fuckers.

54. **FROM BLACK**

White bold print text on a black screen.

wednesday

55. **INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Simon wakes.

SIMON

What day is it? Shit!

He rushes to his desk where he rustles through a pile of papers.

SIMON (CONT'D)

This should've gone in yesterday.
Nothing now 'til Thursday.

He throws on some clothes and leaves.

56. INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY

Simon glances at the couple entangled on the sofa. Paul stirs and murmurs.

57. INT. SIMON'S BATHROOM - DAY

There is a pile of vomit on the floor. Simon screws up his face and shakes his head. He opens the cupboard and rattles a few pills from a bottle and swallows them.

58. EXT. RAILWAY OVERPASS - DAY

A train rumbles by beneath and vibrates the footbridge. Simon watches it until it snakes out of view.

59. INT. SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Simon waits in line.

CLERK

Next.

SIMON

Sorry, it's a day late.

60. EXT. JEAN'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Simon knocks at the front door of a stylish terrace. Jean answers, bleary eyed and sleepy.

JEAN

Simon. Come in.

61. INT. JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY

SIMON

Coffee?

JEAN

What's up?

62. INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY

Amy wakes with a start and nudges Paul.

AMY

Paul wake up.

Paul begins to stir.

AMY

What's the time?

PAUL
Dunno. About eleven.

AMY
Shit. I'm late. Very late.

She gathers her clothes.

PAUL
Don't go.

AMY
I have to go. I need the money.

PAUL
Call in sick.

AMY
I wish I could.

PAUL
Do it.

AMY
Will you call in for me?

63. **INT. JEAN'S KITCHEN - DAY**

Simon and Jean sip their coffees.

SIMON
I haven't seen you much lately.

JEAN
Where have you been?

SIMON
Rehab.

JEAN
Hell Simon. I didn't realize. What for?

SIMON
Uppers, downers, alcohol.

JEAN
That combination can kill you. We need to talk. Come to lunch OK?

64. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Amy dresses as Paul admires.

PAUL
I need a job.

AMY
There is always something going at
my work. I can put in a good word
for you. If you like?

PAUL
Would you do that for me?

AMY
Sure.

Paul stands and stretches.

PAUL
Wanna coffee?

AMY
Yes please.

There is a knock at the door.

65. **INT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Paul unlatches the front door. He is greeted by TWO MEN
wearing suits and carrying black book satchels.

MAN 1
We were just in the neighbourhood
and decided to make a call on you.
Have you heard about Jesus Christ?

PAUL
Who hasn't?

MAN 2
He died to save us from our sins.
After he died, he rose again.

MAN 1
Are you a sinner?

PAUL
Oh God. Sorry, I don't have time
for this.

MAN 1
Have you heard of the Bible?

PAUL
Look, I'm not really into all that.

MAN 2
Did you realize God created the
entire world in seven days.

PAUL
I'm sorry, I'm really not
interested.

Paul slams the door and enters the lounge room.

AMY
Who was that?

PAUL
Oh just a couple of friends of
Simon's I think.

AMY
OK.

PAUL
Do you believe in God?

AMY
Sort of.

PAUL
I don't think there is such thing
as a God. That's like believing in
Santa Claus.
(he points to his chest)
God's in here.

AMY
I haven't thought much about it.

PAUL
We should go somewhere. Let's go to
the park or something.

66. **EXT. PARK - DAY**

Paul and Amy lay entwined in each others' arms underneath a
large tree. Paul's eyes are closed.

67. **INT. PRISON WORKSHOP - DAY**

There is a lot of commotion, screaming and yelling. Bald Bob
lies on the ground, his shattered head in a pool of blood.

68. **EXT. PARK - DAY**

Paul feels his own head.

PAUL
I need to tell you something.

AMY
I'm hungry. Let's get lunch.

69. **INT. CAFE - DAY**

Beans whir as they are ground in a coffee grinder. Jean studies the menu.

JEAN
So what was it like?

SIMON
What?

JEAN
Rehab of course.

SIMON
It was hell. I hung out the whole time. The food was terrible. It was like being in prison.

JEAN
That bad?

SIMON
I had to go. They won't treat me until I'm clean. Funny really. You've got to get off the drugs to get back on them.

Neither speaks for a moment.

JEAN
Do you feel any better?

SIMON
Yes much better now, but I still hang out. Sometimes I feel so lonely.

JEAN
Are there any support groups for, you know, the HIV and that?

SIMON
I don't really know. I can't face
(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

it.

JEAN

They might help. You may not feel so lonely.

SIMON

Maybe.

JEAN

You wanna come out with me tomorrow night? I'm going to Connie's.

SIMON

I'd like that.

The WAITER approaches the table.

JEAN

What do you feel like?

SIMON

Nothing.

JEAN

What is wrong with you?
(to the waiter) Marinara thanks.

SIMON

So do you have any new love in your life?

JEAN

No just the regulars. What about that guy who is staying with you?

SIMON

Paul? We met ages ago. He's all I think about. I don't think he feels the same.

JEAN

He looked a bit straight to me.

SIMON

That is his appeal.

Paul and Amy pass the window.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil.

70. **EXT. CAFE - DAY**

Paul and Amy take a seat at a table, on the footpath outside the cafe. Paul lights a cigarette.

AMY (CONT'D)

You really shouldn't smoke.

PAUL

I should quit.

AMY

You'd be much better company if you did. So why the haircut?

PAUL

A purification you could say.

AMY

Of what?

PAUL

It's not really that. But it does sound good. It was a mistake.

AMY

Mistake?

PAUL

I only wanted a trim. This is what I got.

AMY

At least it will grow back.

71. **INT. CAFE - DAY**

Simon whispers to Jean.

SIMON

Look at them.

JEAN

They look happy to me.

SIMON

How embarrassing. Look at that stupid haircut.

JEAN

I think you are wasting your time. Plenty more boys in the bars. Just forget about him.

SIMON
I can't help myself.

JEAN
Well you're out to lunch with me,
so just relax. Another coffee?

SIMON
No.

JEAN
I am going to go then.

SIMON
No! you can't go. They haven't
left. I don't want them to see me.

JEAN
I'm sorry.

SIMON
You can't just leave me here.

Jean leaves some money on the table.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Here. Keep the change. I'll give
you a call about tomorrow night.

72. **EXT. CAFE - DAY**

AMY
What were you going to tell me?

PAUL
It's a long story.

Jean stops by their table. He greets Paul.

JEAN
Hi Paul.

PAUL
Its...John isn't it?

JEAN
Close. Jean - it's French.

Amy's face lights up.

AMY
Are you French?

JEAN
No darling, just my name.

AMY

I'm saving up to go to France. That horse in yesterday's race. That was French. I picked it to win.

JEAN

Did you place a bet?

AMY

No. Actually I didn't.

JEAN

Pity.

AMY

(to Paul) Who was that?

PAUL

Another one of Simon's friends. Come on, let's go.

73. **INT. CAFE - DAY**

Simon hides behind a menu until all three disappear, then leaves too.

74. **EXT. AMY'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Paul and Amy stand at the front door of flat in a high-rise estate. She kisses him on the cheek.

AMY

Thanks for today.
I'll let you know if I hear of any jobs.

She closes the door and Paul looks at the closed door for a moment.

75. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Simon bangs cupboard doors. The front door rattles. Paul enters the kitchen.

SIMON

Did you have a good day?

PAUL

Unbelievable. Perfect. I wish it would've lasted longer.

SIMON

You really like her, huh?

PAUL

Yes.

SIMON

I'd love a drink.

Paul pours two glasses of wine and gulps one before refilling it.

PAUL

Food smells great.

76. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Paul switches on the TV. Simon joins him with two plates. The news is on.

SIMON

News. Always the same. Same stories. Same tragedies. Just different faces. Different names.

Paul lifts his plate and examines it closely.

PAUL

This doesn't look much like a picture.

SIMON

I saw you today. At the cafe.

PAUL

Really? Where were you?

SIMON

Having lunch. With Jean.

PAUL

I saw Jean, but not you.

SIMON

You were with her. I didn't want to interrupt.

PAUL

You're an idiot.

SIMON

I'm not a idiot.

PAUL

I don't understand you.

There is a pause. Simon speaks first.

SIMON

Remember when we first met?

77. **INT. SHIRL'S PRISON CELL - NIGHT**

Paul is lying on the bed. A head is bobbing up and down around his genitalia. SHIRL smiles up at him. Wetness all around her face.

LATER: SHIRL writes something down on a piece of paper.

SHIRL

His name is Simon. He'll put you up for a week or so. He owes me one.

78. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

SIMON

I was so worried about putting you up. I owed Shirl. Remember where we met?

PAUL

Yeah that bar. Connie's. And you were late.

SIMON

I had to size you up from a distance.

79. **INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT**

Paul is passed out at the bar. Simon taps him on the shoulder and he lifts a heavy head

80. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

SIMON

You were so helpless. Alone and drunk. I fell in love.

PAUL

Not this.

SIMON

So tell me why?

PAUL

What?

SIMON

Why did you steal that car?

PAUL

Dunno.

He scratches his head

PAUL (CONT'D)

I see someone rich, with something hot. It burns me up inside. I want a hot car like that. I get drunk. Stupid.

SIMON

I'm going to Connie's tomorrow night. You can come if you want.

PAUL

Its not really my scene.

81. **FROM BLACK**

White bold print text on a black screen.

thursday

82. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Paul who is asleep on the sofa. Simon shakes him.

SIMON

It's payday. I'm going shopping. You coming?

83. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Amy has her back turned and is slicing up some meat. Paul approaches the counter.

PAUL

Hi gorgeous. What's happening?

Amy turns around.

AMY

Oh its you. I thought it was Henry. My boss. He's such a sleaze.

PAUL

Gee thanks.

AMY

No, not you. I'm glad to see you. I asked about work.

PAUL

Yeah.

AMY

He wants to see you.

PAUL

Um Sure.

AMY

At least its a start. We'll be able to work together. He can see you this afternoon.

A CUSTOMER intrudes assertively.

CUSTOMER

Excuse me.

AMY

I gotta go.
I'll see you later OK?

PAUL

This afternoon.

AMY

'Bout three.

84. **INT. FRUIT SECTION - DAY**

Simon is bagging up some mushrooms.

PAUL

I could have a job.

SIMON

Where?

PAUL

Here. Got an interview lined up.

SIMON

Are you sure?

PAUL

Can't you ever be happy?

85. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Paul lays on the lounge.

SIMON

How do you think you're gonna get a job with your background?

PAUL
I dunno. We'll see. I can only try.

SIMON
I think you just want it so you can spend more time with her.

PAUL
No it's for the money. I gotta start to make my way up in the world.

SIMON
What happens when they find out?

PAUL
How will they find out? Look, I'm having enough trouble with this whole thing without you adding to it. I need some clothes.

86. **INT. SIMON'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Simon lays some clothes on the bed. Paul gets dressed.

SIMON
I hope they're OK.

PAUL
Better than these rags.

SIMON
Will you be home after?

PAUL
I can't talk now. I've got to go.

87. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

A crowd of CUSTOMERS gathers around the deli counter. Amy battles to serve them. Paul waits until the crowd thins. HENRY, a portly man, is behind the counter.

PAUL
Hey.

AMY
You look great.

PAUL
They're Simon's.

AMY
Henry, this is Paul.

HENRY
Amy tells me you're interested in a job.

PAUL
Yeah. Anything really.

HENRY
I got something part-time. Thursday night and Sunday. Sound OK?

PAUL
Sure.

HENRY
We'll give you a go. Can you start tonight? Amy'll show you the ropes.

PAUL
What do I wear?

HENRY
What you've got on is fine.

PAUL
I won't let you down.

AMY
We'll see you at five then.

88. **INT. SIMON'S KITCHEN - DAY**

Simon is at the sink doing the dishes. Paul enters the kitchen.

SIMON
How did it go?

PAUL
I got it. I start tonight.

SIMON
Won't be coming out with me then?

PAUL
I don't suppose so.

Simon slinks out of the kitchen.

89. INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT

Simon dials the phone.

SIMON

Jean. I'll come tonight after all.
Is that alright?

He hangs up.

90. INT. DELI COUNTER - NIGHT

Paul's back is to the counter. Henry approaches. Paul spins around.

HENRY

You're not going to get many
customers like that.

PAUL

Sorry.

AMY

You're not terrorizing my new
assistant are you?

HENRY

Would I do a thing like that?

AMY

I don't think you'll be pinching
his arse.

HENRY

You love it. How's everything going
here.

PAUL

Fine.

HENRY

OK. I'm off.

AMY

Seeya.

Henry leaves.

AMY

He's such a bastard.

Simon approaches the counter.

SIMON

Nice to see someone hard at work.

PAUL

Hey.

SIMON

Well I can't stay for too long. I'm just passing by. Sexy apron.

Simon flounces away.

91. **EXT. JEAN'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT**

Simon knocks on Jean's door. Jean answers, wearing only a towel wrapped around his waist.

JEAN

You're early. Come in.

92. **INT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Simon enters and sits down.

JEAN

I've got a surprise for you.

SIMON

What?

JEAN

Open your mouth and close your eyes.

Jean places a small tablet on Simon's tongue.

SIMON

That's bitter.

JEAN

Bitter makes better? How about a drink?

Jean dances out of the room.

93. **EXT. JEAN'S OUTDOOR COURTYARD - NIGHT**

Jean enters the courtyard. Simon joins him. They look up at the stars

JEAN

What a great night.

SIMON

It's nice to be back with people who appreciate me.

JEAN
I know what you mean.

They embrace.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's go.

SIMON
Where?

JEAN
We'll have a drink, then Connie's
Lights, music, boogie.

94. **INT. BAR - NIGHT**

Jean and Simon stand at the bar, drinks in hand.

JEAN
I love this place.

SIMON
I haven't been here before.
Stylish.

MATT, a tall, good-looking man approaches Simon and Jean.

MATT
Jean is that you? Long time no see.
Who is this?

JEAN
Simon. He's an old friend.

MATT
What are you two up to?

JEAN
A couple of drinks. Then Connies.

MATT
Do you mind if I tag along?

Jean turns to Simon.

JEAN
Fine by me.

SIMON
Be our guest.

95. **INT. DELI COUNTER - NIGHT**

Amy and Paul finish up.

PAUL
What a night!

AMY
You did well. What are you doing
now?

PAUL
Home I guess.

AMY
Come to my place. For a coffee.

96. **INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - NIGHT**

Jean dances provocatively with a partner on the dance floor.
Simon talks to Matt at the bar.

While Simon's back is turned, Matt slips some POWDER into
Simon's DRINK. Simon turns around.

MATT
So? Do you live around here?

SIMON
Not far.

MATT
I don't think we really met before.
My name is Matthew. Everyone calls
me Matt.

SIMON
Simon.

97. **INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR (SIX MONTHS EARLIER) NIGHT**

Paul's head is slumped on the bar. Simon taps his shoulder.
Paul lifts his head and smiles at Simon. Simon supports him
to his feet, down the nightclub entrance to a waiting taxi.

98. **INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR (PRESENT) - NIGHT**

Simon's head is slumped on the bar.

MATT
You've gone quiet.

Simon shrugs and turns to search the crowded dance floor.

SIMON

Where is Jean?

MATT

He left. I told him I would look after you. He gave me your address.

SIMON

I have to find him.

Simon staggers to the dancefloor. Faces swirl in front of him. The music is throbbing. Laser lights frame his head like a halo. People stare at him strangely.

SIMON

I have to go. I have to get out of here. I have to get out! Let me get out!

Matt takes him by the shoulders and shouts over the music.

MATT

Hey calm down. It's OK. I'll look after you.

Simon slumps on Matt's shoulder. Matt supports him down steps to the nightclub entrance.

99. **INT. TAXI - NIGHT**

Matt bundles Simon into the backseat of a waiting taxi.

TAXI DRIVER

Big night huh?

MATT

Big night.

TAXI DRIVER

Where to chief?

100. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Matt supports Simon into the lounge room and onto the lounge. Matt unbuttons Simon's shirt. Simon rouses.

SIMON

Where are we? What's happening?

MATT

It's OK. You're home safe and sound.

SIMON
What are you doing?

MATT
Just making you comfortable. We'll
pop these pants off shall we?

SIMON
No. It's OK.

Matt pulls Simon's pants down roughly.

SIMON
What's happening?

MATT
It's OK. Just relax.

Matt unbuckles his belt and drops his trousers, then pushes his weight into Simon.

SIMON
I can't. I can't. I don't want
this. Don't. Please don't.

Simon gasps as he is penetrated.

101. **EXT. DESERT PLAIN (STORM MOTIF) - NIGHT**

Simon battles across a desert plain. Lightning flashes. Thunder crashes. He struggles to stand and falls to his knees.

A face appears out of darkness and screams at him. The bayoneted assailant stabs him again and again.

Simon's face emerges from a pool of calm water in slow motion. Water streams down his face. He gasps lungfuls of air.

102. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Matt bellows as he climaxes. He pulls his trousers up then leaves. The front door slams shut. Simon sobs heavily.

103. **FROM BLACK**

White bold print text on a black screen.

friday

104. INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY

Paul stands at the deli counter. Amy's back is turned.

PAUL

Amy.

AMY

Hey sleepy head what are you doing here?

PAUL

Got nothing better to do.

AMY

We'll have to get you some more hours.

PAUL

I could do with them.

AMY

Whatcha doin tonight?

PAUL

Dunno.

AMY

Come to my house again. It would be nice to have the company.

PAUL

Sure.

AMY

Henry was really happy with you. You impressed him.

PAUL

Really?

AMY

I told you it would be alright, didn't I?

105. INT. SHOWER - DAY

Simon scrubs himself down with a scrubbing brush. He is racked with sobs. He towels himself and shakes a couple of tablets from a bottle and swallows them.

106. INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY

There is a rattle at the front door. Paul enters. Simon is curled up in a ball on the sofa.

PAUL
Simon, Simon are you awake.

SIMON
Where have you been?

PAUL
Amy's. Did you have a good night?

SIMON
I really don't want to talk about it. Did you wear those to work?

PAUL
I didn't have anything else.

SIMON
They've got meat and crap all over them.

PAUL
I'll buy you a new set.

SIMON
You have no respect for other people's property. You have a real problem.

PAUL
You're the only one with a problem. You should get off your arse and do something about your life.

SIMON
Don't try and tell me about my problems. The trouble with you is...you're just an inconsiderate, piece of shit. You couldn't give a fuck about anyone but yourself. Selfish! Selfish! Selfish!

Paul rushes at Simon and stands over him. Simon flinches.

SIMON
Paul!

Paul slaps Simon's face, pulls out a key and throws it at him. Paul exits and slams the front door.

107. **EXT. STREET - DAY**

Paul stops outside a real estate office. He searches the 'To Let' notices. Jean approaches from behind.

JEAN

Paul?

Paul turns around.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Looking for a new pad?

PAUL

Just dreaming really.

JEAN

Things getting tough at Simon's?

PAUL

You could say that.

JEAN

He's not the easiest person in the world to live with. I'm going to have a coffee. Wanna join me?

108. **INT. CAFE - DAY**

Beans whir as they are ground in a coffee grinder. A waiter serves the two coffee.

JEAN

What are you going to do about Simon?

PAUL

I don't know.

JEAN

You know he thinks the world of you. He's head over heels in love.

PAUL

He told me the other night. I don't know how much longer I can handle him.

JEAN

If you get hopelessly stuck you can stay at my house.

Jean writes on a serviette.

JEAN

Give me a call you need help. Good luck.

109. **EXT. DESERT PLAIN (2ND MOTIF) - DAY**

A domestic gas oven stands beside a window frame. The window frame is suspended in mid-air. A lace curtain frames the window.

Clouds gather and darken the afternoon sky.

The solitary gas burner hisses loudly. Shadows dance along the window frame.

The chromium cauldron's base is embraced by fire and blackened by soot.

Water boils frantically inside. Whitened broad beans bounce and ricochet off each other in the liquid.

110. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Simon is huddled on the sofa. He turns on the heater. He picks up the phone and dials.

VOICE (O.S.)

Police, Ambulance, Fire.

He slams the receiver down and rocks on the sofa.

111. **INT. SIMON'S BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Simon opens the bathroom cupboard and takes out a bottle of pills.

SIMON

You never let me down.

He pours some into his hand.

SIMON (CONT'D)

My loyal companions. Faithful and true.

112. **INT. AMY'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Amy and Paul watch TV. Dirty dinner plates are on the coffee table.

PAUL

That was delicious.

Amy turns the television off and puts music on. She dances seductively to the music and beckons to Paul.

AMY
Come and dance.

PAUL
No.

AMY
Oh c'mon.

PAUL
No.

AMY
Why?

PAUL
I just don't wanna dance.

AMY
What's up?

She joins Paul on the sofa. Amy lays her head on his shoulder.

PAUL
I've got something to tell you.

AMY
Must be pretty bad.

PAUL
I wasn't up north on holiday?

AMY
Where were you?

PAUL
In prison.

AMY
Where?

PAUL
Prison.

AMY
You mean jail?

She switches the music off.

AMY (CONT'D)
Jail? Nothing major was it? Unpaid fines? What?

PAUL

I stole a car.

AMY

I can't believe this. A friend of mine had her car stolen. She was devastated. I don't really know who you are - what you're like. I can't trust you.

PAUL

It was stupid. I was drunk. You can trust me. I wanna make a change.

AMY

You should go.

PAUL

Wait.

AMY

Please. Just go.

Paul leaves.

113. **EXT. PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT**

Paul punches some numbers into the telephone.

PAUL

Come on Jean.

The phone rings out. He slams the receiver down and slumps to the floor of the booth.

114. **FROM BLACK**

White bold print text on a black screen.

saturday

115. **EXT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY**

Paul wakes in the phone booth. He squints into the brilliant morning sunlight. He stands and punches some numbers into the telephone. It rings out. He slams the receiver down.

116. **EXT. - SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Paul goes to knock on the door, then steps back.

117. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Simon lays on the sofa. Sunlight fills the room. A bottle of wine sits on the coffee table beside an unfinished glass.

118. **EXT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY**

Paul stops at another phone booth and again dials the number.

PAUL

Jean? I've had a bit of trouble.

119. **EXT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Paul and Jean sit on the lounge.

JEAN

You look as though you've been in the wars.

PAUL

Its been a tough couple of days.

JEAN

So, what's happened?

PAUL

I had a fight with Simon and a misunderstanding with Amy. I've got nowhere to go.

JEAN

I guess you can stay here the night. But only one night.

PAUL

You don't have to.

JEAN

Don't be silly.

LATER: Paul wakes and wipes a smear of dribble from the corner of his mouth. Jean enters.

JEAN

You awake sleepy head.

PAUL

Sort of.

JEAN

I dropped by Simon's. There was no answer. Must be out of it.

PAUL

I don't know if rehab helped him much.

JEAN

Well there's not much we can do.
This one's for Simon to sort out.

PAUL

I guess.

JEAN

I'm going out tonight, would you
like to come?

PAUL

Not tonight.

120. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Simon sits up and sways on the edge of the sofa and groans
aloud.

SIMON

Oh God.

121. **INT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Paul and Jean sit on the lounge.

PAUL

You wanna know something Jean?

JEAN

What?

PAUL

Life's a piece of shit?

JEAN

Why do you say that?

PAUL

Everything really. Amy. Simon. I
really don't know what to do.

JEAN

It will all work out. You'll be
fine.

122. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

There is a knock at the front door. The knock comes again,
louder. Objects scatter and tinkle as Simon kicks them out
of his way. He opens the door.

SIMON

Jean?

SIMON

You don't look so good. Can I come in?

SIMON

Its quite a mess.

JEAN

I was just passing by.

SIMON

Is that all?

JEAN

What's up?

SIMON

Everything. I don't know what to do.

JEAN

Paul thinks you're not well.

SIMON

So where is he?

JEAN

At my place. Are you off the rails again?

SIMON

What makes you think that?

JEAN

Come on Simon.

SIMON

I need help.

JEAN

How can I help?

SIMON

I don't know if I can tell you.

Simon buries his face in his hands. Jean embraces him.

JEAN

What is it?

SIMON

I couldn't find you. The other night. At the club. I panicked. I had to leave. That guy. Matt.

JEAN

What?

SIMON

The bastard raped me.

JEAN

I can't believe it.

Simon shakes his head.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I don't think he would hurt a fly.
He's straight you know.

SIMON

Straight. I'd kill him if I could
get my hands on him. Where's Paul?
I want Paul. It's all your fault.

JEAN

How is it my fault?

SIMON

You feed me drugs. Abandon me in
some club. Leave me to get
attacked. You don't even care.

JEAN

You can't expect me to be your
babysitter.

SIMON

Fuck off! Fuck off! Just fuck off!
Get lost and don't ever come back.

Simon slams the door.

123. **INT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Paul watches TV. There is a knock at the door.

124. **INT. JEAN'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT**

Paul swings the door open.

PAUL

Simon.

SIMON

Hello Paul.

SIMON

Enjoying your stay?

PAUL

I want to say sorry.

SIMON

You know what you can do with your fucking apology. Go and ram it up your arse.

PAUL

Simon. Wait.

SIMON

I wish you would fucking die Paul - or even better get back to jail where you belong.

Simon storms off.

PAUL

Wait.

125. **INT. JEAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Paul searches through the cupboards in the kitchen. He finds a tin. The elusive can evades him and tinkles along the floor, rolling away. He hunts it to ground.

PAUL

Damn. Got you! Baked Beans.

126. **INT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Paul spoons baked beans from the tin. He stops and holds the tin up.

127. **INT. PRISON CANTEEN - DAY**

A cook slops a blob of baked beans on to a plate. Paul moves along.

128. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Simon flops on the lounge and swallows a few tablets from a bottle of pills. There is a knock at the door.

129. **EXT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - NIGHT**

Simon tip toes to the door.

AMY (O.S)

It's Amy. Is Paul in?

Simon calls through the door.

SIMON

He's not here. I don't know where he is. If you see him, tell him I wish he'd die. Why don't you just go and drop dead too?

AMY (O.S)

If you see him, can you tell him I'm sorry.

130. **INT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - NIGHT**

Paul reclines on the lounge. Jean enters.

JEAN

I went to see Simon. He seems pretty messed up at the moment.

PAUL

I'm causing a lot of trouble.

JEAN

It's not your fault.

131. **FROM BLACK**

White bold print text on a black screen.

sunday

132. **INT. JEAN'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Paul wakes. He gathers his clothes and dresses.

133. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Paul enters the deli section.

AMY

Don't just stand there, come in. I didn't think you would come. I want to say sorry.

PAUL

I'm sorry too. I know it is a lot to take in. Hope I'm not late.

134. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Simon lays on the lounge. The sun beams through the window.

135. **EXT. DESERT PLAIN - STORM - NIGHT (3RD MOTIF)**

A domestic gas oven stands beside a window frame. The window frame is suspended in mid-air.

The flame shimmers, blown by a powerful breeze.

Shreds of curtain smoulder and flap in the soot-blackened window frame.

Black storm clouds boil in the sky overhead.

A flash of lightning illuminates the scene. A deep rumble rattles the window.

A thick bean brew bubbles in a coal-stained cauldron.

The flames engulf the cauldron and the stew bubbles over the rim of the pot. It flows down the side of the vessel and smothers the fire.

The sound of rainfall rises.

136. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Paul places a parcel of meat on the counter.

PAUL

Thanks.

A customer takes the parcel. Henry enters.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Hey Henry.

HENRY

Amy around?

PAUL

Out the back.

Amy appears and almost collides with Henry.

AMY

Henry! Hi!

HENRY

Can we have a word.

AMY

Sure.

HENRY

Through here.

137. **INT. BACK ROOM - DAY**

HENRY

We've got a bit of a problem with Paul.

AMY

He's a good worker.

HENRY

We checked his background. He's just got out of prison.

AMY

Really? I'm shocked. I had no idea.

HENRY

We're gonna have to let him go.

AMY

He seems like a nice guy. Couldn't you give him a chance?

HENRY

Sorry, company policy.

138. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Henry leaves.

HENRY

(abruptly) Bye Paul.

PAUL

Are you in trouble?

AMY

Henry wants to see you after work. Something about your pay.

139. **EXT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Jean knocks on Simon's door. There is no answer.

140. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Jean stands at the counter.

PAUL

What's up?

JEAN

I can't find Simon. I'm worried he has done something silly.

PAUL

Can we sort this out after work?

JEAN

I don't think he is coping.

PAUL

We'll sort it out tonight. OK?

141. **EXT. SIMON'S FRONT DOOR - DAY**

Jean waits by Simon's door. TWO POLICE OFFICERS arrive.

JEAN

I'm the one who called.

POLICEMAN 1

What's up?

JEAN

I'm a friend of the guy who lives here. I haven't seen him for a few days. No answer when I knock or phone.

POLICEMAN 2

He hasn't gone away for a few days?

JEAN

Not that I know of. He had a few problems. He might have overdosed.

POLICEMAN 1

Police! Is there anybody in there?

There is no answer.

POLICEMAN 2

We're gonna have to kick it in.
Stand back.

Policeman 2 kicks the door in.

142. **INT. SIMON'S LOUNGEROOM - DAY**

Jean rushes to Simon, prone on the sofa. He shakes his friend, but there is no reaction.

JEAN

He's cold. He's cold.

POLICEMAN 1

(feels for a pulse)
No pulse.

143. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Paul separates frankfurts with a large knife.

AMY

Paul I have to warn you.

PAUL

About what?

AMY

Henry's found out that you've been in prison. He's gonna fire you.

PAUL

Oh! For shit's sake. I might as well go now.

AMY

No Paul. Wait.

PAUL

What else can I do?

144. **EXT. CARPARK SIMON'S ESTATE - DAY**

A police car and ambulance are parked beside the road.

POLICEMAN 1

We'll need you to come with us.
To help sort this out.

TWO AMBULANCE OFFICERS wheel a stretcher through Simon's front door and clunk the trolley down the steps. A sheet is wrapped tightly over a still body. A small crowd gather.

JEAN

There's another guy that lives here. I have to tell him. He works at the supermarket.

POLICEMAN 2

We'll need to speak to him too.

145. **INT. DELI COUNTER - DAY**

Jean and the two policeman approach the counter.

PAUL

Oh here we go.

JEAN

Paul, Oh God. I don't know how to tell you this. It's Simon.

PAUL

What is it?

JEAN

He's dead. Simon's dead.

PAUL

What?

JEAN

Simon's dead. I think it was a drug overdose.

PAUL

No. No.

JEAN

You have to come with us.

PAUL

It wasn't me.

JEAN

Just to sort a few things out.

PAUL

Nah, I'm not going back inside.

Paul goes to run. He TRIPS on the MAT. The knife pierces Amy's clean white dress.

PAUL

Amy.

AMY

My stomach.

She steps back and places her hands around the knife handle. Blood stains her uniform. Her breath comes in short sudden gasps.

LADY CUSTOMER

Do something. Don't just stand there. For God's sake someone do something.

Paul runs from behind the counter.

JEAN

Paul. No.

POLICEMAN 1

Stop.

Policeman 1 takes chase.

ELDERLY LADY CUSTOMER

Get him. Call an ambulance. He stabbed her. Get him!

146. **EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

Policeman 1 tackles Paul, then lifts him to his feet and handcuffs him.

147. **INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT**

Policeman 1 pushes to Paul into the back seat.

POLICEMAN 1

Well you're in a whole heap of trouble.

POLICEMAN 2

Why'd you go and do something stupid like that? Why'd you run?

Paul drops his head on his chest.

An ambulance mourns woefully onto the footpath.

Paul's shirt is now dirty from the pavement. Jean sits in the police car beside him.

PAUL

I didn't wanna go back inside? I haven't done anything. I've only been out a week. God took seven days to create a world huh? And I took seven days to destroy mine.

JEAN

What a waste. A bloody waste!

A rubbish truck pulls up beside Paul's window. A sign attached to it's side reads: "KEEP CLEAR - DISPOSABLE WASTE"

FADE OUT.

THE END