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Undergraduate assignment feedback form

(to be completed by marker)

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<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
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corps
tripe

CARA's NOTE

by

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Scriptwriting - The Stage and Beyond HPEN6024
Creative Writing 2019-2020
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FADE IN:

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A magnificent summer's day. In the gravel driveway of a white well-kept vernacular house with decorated thatch, a red convertible with its roof down is parked askew. A suitcase is in the back, next to a child's car booster seat.

The boot lid is held shut with a rope carelessly fastened around the latch and bumper to contain protruding luggage.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

A garden alive with pink and purple tulips and pansies. Under the shade of a tree, is a table draped in white linen. On it, half-empty dishes. Seated around the table in large wicker chairs are GWEN, mid-thirties, her brother STEFFAN and his wife ELIN, both in their late twenties, and their daughter CARA, aged five. They are chatting, laughing and enjoying their lunch together as a family.

Steffan, an upcoming professional footballer, is an attractive man with a confident, slightly smug air. He stretches for another bottle of Rosé.

STEFFAN
(raising his glass)
Thanks, Gwen! I'll miss this
place...

Steffan smiles warmly at Cara who is seated near his sister.

STEFFAN (CONT'D)
(to Cara)
You were born here Chicky... at
your Aunty Gwen's house...

Ignoring Steffan, Cara licks her ice cream cone. Vanilla and chocolate are smeared around her mouth, her arms and clothes. Gwen gently wipes away the ice cream with a napkin and strokes her cheek.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

A driveway borders one side of a front garden with elm trees. A weathered football lies on the gravel near the

red convertible. Elin is in the passenger seat. Cara is strapped in the back. Gwen is beside the car where Cara is seated.

Steffan throws his arms around his sister in a giant bear hug. Before he jumps into the car, he looks at an elm tree, positions himself and kicks the football to hit the trunk of the elm tree. The ball smashes against the bark.

STEFFAN
(jubilant)
YES! I get paid for this!

Elin smiles. Cara claps and cheers in awe.

CARA
(excitedly)
I'm going to be a pro footballer
one day too!

Gwen amused, ruffles Cara's hair.

GWEN
(to Cara)
You...be good!

STEFFAN
Gwen, Cara has a special gift
for you...

Steffan digs into his pocket and hands an envelope to Cara.

STEFFAN (CONT'D)
Here Chicky, give it to your
Aunty Gwen...

Cara eagerly hands the envelope to Gwen. She opens it and unfolds a sheet of notepaper.

CU on notepaper. A small red finger paint handprint marks the page with 'CARA' laboriously written at the bottom.

GWEN
(kisses Cara on her cheek)
Awww... thank you sweetheart,
that's so lovely. Remember, I'll
be over next week and you can
show me around your new house.
Okay?

Cara nods.

GWEN (CONT'D)
(to Steffan)
Drive carefully... call me when
you arrive...

ELIN
The removers will be here Sunday
for the rest...

Gwen nods. The car pulls out. Gwen waves them goodbye.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - CONTINUOUS

A narrow country lane. Trees line either side. The red convertible accelerates up the road. Suddenly it pulls over into a layby and stops.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Steffan smiles at Elin. Cara is asleep.

STEFFAN
I'm thirsty...

He reaches behind the passenger's front seat and pulls out a bottle of champagne. Elin gazes at him half doubtful but almost instantly changes her expression with an approving look.

ELIN
Genius! The glasses?

Steffan pops the cork and pours the bubbly into two glasses he retrieves from the glove compartment. He hands her one with a grin. She smiles and with a raucous laugh raises the glass.

ELIN (CONT'D)
Here's to our new home!

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLY COUNTRY LANE - CONTINUOUS

The red convertible's engine roars as it speeds down the meandering country lane.

Elin holds her cap down with one hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

4.

CU: Steffan's foot presses down harder on the accelerator.

CU: The speedometer needle swings past 70 miles per hour.

The car wheels screech as it swerves around a blind bend. Elin holds on to the dashboard.

ELIN
Shit! Slow down!

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLY COUNTRY LANE - CONTINUOUS

Steffan, red-faced, grins recklessly.

The car speeds towards another blind bend. A tractor swings around the corner towards them.

Elin and Steffan are horrified.

CU: Elin's face frozen in a grimace.

Elin's POV as the tractor comes hurtling towards them.

CU: Steffan's terrified face.

ELIN(O.S.)
Steffan!

The brakes screech. Steffan swerves off the road.

PULL BACK: The car plunges into a drainage ditch, a meter deep and flips over.

INTERCUT - INT. DITCH/CAR

A scene of carnage. The convertible lies upside down.

CU: Steffan's face, his eyes are half-open, then shut.

BLACKNESS...

FADE TO:

INT. VILLAGE SHOP - DAY

A grocery and confectionary shop. The shelves are stacked with jam, pickles and other provisions. Fresh vegetables in boxes are piled near the counter. The front window displays bread, sweets, and candles.

(CONTINUED)

On one end of a counter stands a till. A CCTV camera points down from the ceiling at the cash machine.

At the rear of the shop, is an open doorway and a window overlooking a backyard. A blind is drawn down over the window.

The owner, SARA, mid-thirties, good-natured, wearily arranges fruit in boxes. BECCA, her five-year-old daughter is asleep in her pushchair beside the counter.

The shop bell clangs as the door opens. GARETH, Sara's brother, mid-twenties, greasy hair and sloppily dressed enters, grabbing a magazine from the display.

GARETH

Any food around sis?

SARA

Yes...I've kept you a piece of shepherd's pie in the oven.

GARETH

Thanks sis.

(sheepishly)

Can I borrow a few quid? I'll pay you back...soon.

Sara shakes her head in bewilderment. Sara glances with concern at Becca asleep in her pushchair.

SARA

Give us a hand, will you? Take the empty crates down to the basement.

Gareth reluctantly picks up the crates. He heads towards the doorway at the back of the shop, which leads both down to the basement and upstairs to Sara's flat. Gareth looks down and then up the stairs.

GARETH

(turns to look at Sara)

Can't let the pie go to waste.

Gareth leaves hastily. A MAN enters the shop and approaches Sara behind the counter. He points at a pouch of tobacco and places some coins down near the till. Sara hands him the tobacco. She counts the money and punches in the till code. The drawer opens. Sara places the money in the drawer and shuts it.

(CONTINUED)

SARA
Receipt?

MAN
No thanks.

The man strolls out of the shop whistling a tune.

A CRASH of dropped keys on concrete come from the direction of the back yard outside. Sara looks towards the rear window.

INT. SHOP REAR WINDOW/EXT. BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

A rear window with blinds drawn down over it. Sara peeks out between the slats.

A concrete back yard with potted plants. The enclosure is closed off from the adjacent houses by a high fence on either side. At the far end, a back wall with a wooden gate opens onto a back street. Two lidded bins are stacked neatly against it.

POV Sara: Gareth bent over, his jeans sliding off his behind, is picking up his keys. He unbolts the gate and skulks out. Sara shakes her head in exasperation.

SARA
Lazy shit!

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE PUB - CONTINUOUS

The dimly lit pub is crowded. A few customers try their luck on slot machines. Blinking lights flash as money clangs against the metal catchers.

At one of the machines, Gareth inserts a coin and pulls a lever. He doesn't win the jackpot and tries again. His scruffy friends WILL and LUC, egg him on.

Gareth's eyes narrow with excitement and he tries once more but loses again. He smashes his fist against the machine's side and inserts another coin. Luc laughs and mocks him with an exaggerated 'L' gesture.

LUC
Loser!

Gareth grabs Luc.

(CONTINUED)

GARETH

Jerk!

Will yanks them apart. He gestures to an OLD MAN at the bar paying for his drink. The old man tucks his wallet into his outside lower jacket pocket and heads for the door.

WILL

C'mon, we better hurry.

They follow closely behind the old man, down to the entrance. Will suddenly steps in front of the gentleman. The man bumps into him.

WILL (CONT'D)

(jerks around threateningly)

Hey...!

Gareth and Luc move closer to the man.

CU: Gareth's hand in the man's pocket. He pulls out the wallet and slips it into his.

The man unaware walks out.

GARETH

(whispers to Luc and Will)

Let's get out've here.

CUT TO:

EXT. NARROW LANE - CONTINUOUS

Gareth, Luc and Will enter a narrow lane that ends in a cul de sac with bins. They examine the stolen wallet. It contains a few twenty-pound notes and coins. Gareth distributes the cash and throws the empty wallet into a bin.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Graves in rows. Steffan slouches in a wheelchair. His face is disfigured with scars. Sunglasses hide his eyes. Gwen and Sara are with him. They stand beside a freshly dug grave watching as two coffins, one big and one small, are lowered. Mourners and a priest are present. A funeral is in progress.

(CONTINUED)

Handfuls of soil are thrown onto the coffins. After the burial, Sara hugs Gwen and whispers into her ear. She squeezes Steffan on the arm and leaves with the mourners. Gwen pushes Steffan in his wheelchair to the car.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN GWEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Sunlight streams through a bay window. A table set for breakfast with jam, butter, slices of toast and orange juice. Gwen seated at the head of the table munches on a piece of toast.

Steffan enters the room with a limp, dragging his left leg. His shoulders are stooped. A thick stubble hides his jaw. A scar extends above his left eyebrow. His eyes are bloodshot and ringed with dark circles. He joins Gwen at the table.

GWEN

Sara needs an assistant for her shop.

Steffan remains silent. Gwen butters him a piece of toast and places it on his plate.

GWEN (CONT'D)

(holds up the jam jar)
Jam?

Steffan shakes his head. He clumsily picks up the buttered toast and tries to control his right-hand from shaking.

GWEN (CONT'D)

The work will keep you busy.

Steffan stares out of the window.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM GWEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dirty plates and cups on the floor near the sofa. A folded wheelchair leans against a wall. No longer in use, a white cloth partially covers it.

Steffan lounges on the sofa in shorts and a vest stained with stale food. He flicks through the TV channels listlessly.

A SOUND of a key in the front door.

(CONTINUED)

Gwen enters and gapes at the mess.

GWEN
Bloody hell!

She clears the mess with speechless exasperation. Her mobile rings. She leaves the room.

Steffan continues to flick through the channels with the remote.

GWEN (CONT'D) (O.S.)
Steffan, Sara wants to know if
you'll help her at the shop?

Gwen returns.

GWEN (CONT'D)
(covers the phone with her
hand)
It'll be good for you...

STEFFAN
Can't. I'm on suspended
sentence.

GWEN
It'll be over a lot quicker if
you get off your fat arse!

Steffan ignores Gwen.

GWEN (CONT'D)
(forces herself to remain clam)
Steffan...will you please...
help...your cousin...at the
store.

Steffan remains silent.

GWEN
(looks at Steffan while she
talks into her phone)
Sure Sara...he'll be there next
weekend. I'll drive him down...

CUT TO:

INT. STEFFAN'S ROOM GWEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Steffan, unable to sleep sits up in bed. He picks up the glass from the bedside table. It's empty.

(CONTINUED)

INT. LANDING UPSTAIRS GWEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Glass in hand, Steffan hobbles out of his bedroom across the landing. He hears Gwen's voice behind her shut bedroom door and presses his ear against it. She's on the phone to Sara, her voice dissolving into sobs.

GWEN (O.S.)

(into phone)

...I know it's hard for him. I know he's hurting. I feel terrible...sending him away...I wish I could do something else.

(sobs)

...but what?

(beat)

Yes, you're right. It may help him if he gets away from here. I know he'll be safe at the shop. Thanks Sara...

Steffan guiltily skulks down the landing.

CUT TO:

INT. PHYSIO ROOM PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE - DAY

A collection of rehabilitation equipment. Steffan walks between the parallel bars with a limp.

Steffan notices a DEAF BOY, about six, wearing prosthetics. The boy manipulates his new legs with difficulty but eagerness. Using sign language, he gestures to his physiotherapist asking her permission to run. She nods.

Steffan watches the boy from a distance. Determinedly, Steffan heads towards the exit and walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RAKER'S BEDSIT - DAY

A car pulls up and parks in front of a row of village houses. Gwen steps out. She removes a suitcase from the back seat. Steffan joins her. They both enter a double storied building.

INT. RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

A smiling WOMAN behind the desk greets Steffan and Gwen.

(CONTINUED)

GWEN

You should have a room for
Steffan Jones?

WOMAN

We do...

She hands Steffan the key while Gwen completes the paperwork.

INT. BEDSIT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A simple room with a single bed and a chest of drawers. Gwen pulls out a small package from her handbag and hands it to Steffan.

STEFFAN

What's this?

Steffan unwraps the package and pulls out a framed image. His eyes well up with tears.

CU: A red finger paint handprint...it is the same palm print given to Gwen by Cara.

GWEN

(lifts his chin)
Hey, look at me...you'll be
okay.

STEFFAN

I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE SHOP - DAY

The shop is crowded with customers. In one corner Becca is asleep in her pushchair. Steffan is near the entrance. He has a stooped posture and his hand shakes. Despite his disability, he makes a conscious effort to help. He clumsily stacks a shelf with boxes of cornflakes.

The shop bell clangs as the customers go in and out. They glare at Steffan as they walk past him. He tries to straighten one of the boxes. The item CRASHES to the floor.

Startled by the sound Becca starts crying. Sara looks up from behind the till.

(CONTINUED)

An OLD LADY being served by her glares at Steffan and then averts her look.

OLD LADY
(to Sara)
Where'd you find him?

Sara smiles politely but doesn't respond. There is a queue in front of the counter.

Steffan limps over to Becca. He gently pushes her pushchair back and forth trying to calm her. He receives disapproving scowls from the customers. Steffan looks at Becca helplessly.

A YOUNG WOMAN approaches.

YOUNG WOMAN
(to Becca)
Sh...sh... it's alright.
(to Steffan)
You're not from around here, are you?

Steffan shies away towards the shop door and fiddles with the magazines on display, pretending to arrange them.

EXT/INT. VILLAGE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Gareth is outside and looks in through the glass display window.

POV Gareth: Steffan is near the entrance door.

Gareth scowls annoyed at Stephan. He resents his presence.

The shop bell clangs. Gareth enters. He intentionally bumps into Steffan, elbows him in the ribs and pushes him to the floor.

Gareth reaches down to create the impression that he is assisting Steffan.

CU: Gareth whispers into Steffan's ear.

GARETH

I'm watching you...
(beat)
I know everything about you,
everything...

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
You're so embarrassing!

Steffan timidly moves away.

Gareth joins Sara behind the counter.

GARETH (CONT'D)
(mutters, glaring at Steffan)
Why is that idiot out here in
the front?
(beat)
...he's...embarrassing.

A STOUT WOMAN places a packet of sugar on the counter and hands Sara a five-pound note.

Sara at the till is unaware Gareth is observing her closely from behind.

POV Gareth: Sara punches in a four-digit code on the till's keypad.

CU on keys five, three, four, two. The cash drawer springs open.

She places the note in the drawer, removes a few coins and hands the change over to the lady.

Gareth's thieving eyes narrow. He smiles, pulls out a toffee from a jar, unwraps the sweet, pops it into his mouth smugly and then loudly chomps.

SARA
Gareth!
(beat)
Can you give Becca her dinner?

Gareth screws up his face, reluctant.

GARETH
Will's waiting for me. Ask the
idiot.

Gareth moseys out of the shop.

Steffan limps over to the counter with an apologetic look for being unable to help.

SARA

You'll have to buck up... I need your help; I can't do it on my own.

Steffan gives Sara a daunted look.

SARA (CONT'D)

Pull yourself together. I know you're trying...you'll know everything you need to in good time...

CUT TO:

INTERCUT - INT. SHOP/SARA'S FLAT/SHOP BASEMENT/BACK YARD
- DAY

MONTAGE:

- (A) Sara orders Steffan on how she wants him to arrange the goods in the shop display window
- (B) Steffan places fruit into a bag for a customer with confidence. Sara observes closely.
- (C) Sara behind the counter instructs Steffan on how to use the till. Sara watches as he punches in the code. The cash drawer springs open.
- (D) Steffan stacks empty crates in a spacious dingy basement packed with supplies and furniture covered with dust sheets.
- (E) Becca plays with MANGO, her ginger-haired cat on the carpet in the living room upstairs. Sara is on the couch watching TV. Steffan knocks on the door. He hands Sara the shop keys after locking up and leaves.
- (F) Steffan, Becca and Mango are in the back yard. Steffan wears a red cap and is showing Becca how to water the plants. Becca is chatting happily. Sara joins them. Just then Mango jumps onto a bin, then onto the back wall and into the back street. Becca starts crying. Steffan unbolts the gate, steps outside and returns with the cat. Becca instantly stops sobbing. He takes off his red cap and puts it on her head. Sara smiles.

(CONTINUED)

(G) In the basement, Steffan removes the dust sheets draped over a bed, a chest of drawers and a cupboard. Sara directs him to move the supplies and boxes to one corner. Steffan makes the dark dingy room his own. A picture of Elin and Cara stands on a small table. Beside a lamp, there is Cara's framed red handprint.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. VILLAGE SHOP - DAY

Steffan wipes down the till as he stands beside Sara at the counter. Becca is on a chair close to them, glum and teary-eyed. Steffan whispers into Sara's ear so that Becca doesn't hear him.

STEFFAN
What's with Becca?

SARA
(whispers)
Mango's missing again...!

ANGLE ON Gareth at the other end of the shop. He observes with a jealous glare and approaches them. He glances at Becca.

GARETH
Hey Becca...what's up?

Sara quickly changes the topic.

SARA
(to Gareth)
Can you fix the CCTV? The terminal works fine but somethings wrong with the recording.

Gareth pretends not to hear her.

SARA (CONT'D)
Gareth?

GARETH
Okay...! I'll do it over the weekend.

(CONTINUED)

SARA
Can't you do it before then?

GARETH
I'll try...

Gareth briskly walks to the rear of the shop.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OF SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Gareth is standing near some shelves.

GARETH
(calls out)
Steffan... I need a hand.

Steffan cautiously approaches Gareth with a puzzled look. Gareth brutally tries to grab him but Steffan blocks him with his right arm.

GARETH (CONT'D)
Stay away from my sister and
Becca.

STEFFAN
I work here, unlike you...

GARETH
You shit! I know about you!
Murderer!

STEFFAN
(beat)
You're right!

Gareth's remark strikes home. Steffan walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE SHOP - NIGHT

The front shutters are down. Sara has retired upstairs with Becca.

Steffan is alone. He stands on a stool inspecting the CCTV camera. He fiddles with some wires and then checks the recorder on the shelf below the till. He pushes down on the playback.

(CONTINUED)

CU: CCTV terminal displays recorded images of Steffan checking the recorder earlier.
Steffan smiles, pleased with his success and resets the recorder.

He switches off the shop lights and leaves for the basement.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOP BASEMENT - DAWN

A clock on the bedside table. It's 05:00 am.

Steffan lies on his bed, staring at the ceiling, lost in thought.

MONTAGE FLASHBACK:

- (A) EXT. GARDEN - DAY - Elin laughs as she stands beside the tulips in Gwen's garden.
- (B) EXT. GARDEN - DAY - Cara giggles, hugging her teddy bear, she cheerfully dances under a tree.
- (C) INT. CAR - DAY - The overturned red convertible. Elin hangs upside down, her neck broken, her body twisted, eyes open with a vacant stare.
- (D) INT. CAR - DAY - Cara like a stuffed ragdoll slouched in her booster car seat. A piece of metal sticks through her chest.

END OF FLASHBACK

BACK TO:

INT. SHOP BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS (PRESENT)

Gareth's words RING in Steffan's ear.

GARETH (V.O.)
Murderer!

Steffan throws off his blanket and leaps out of bed to clear his head of the images. He pulls his jeans over his shorts, reaches for his coat and heads out.

(CONTINUED)

EXT. BACKYARD GATE/BACK STREET - CONTINUOUS

Steffan unlatches the backyard gate and steps out. He shuts it behind him.

He walks through the narrow back street between a row of houses. A field one end. He heads for it.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

A wide expanse of field. Steffan hurriedly walks away distancing himself from the shop.

CUT TO:

INT. BECCA'S BEDROOM UPSTAIRS/EXT. BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

A small room with a window. A clock on a chest of drawers. It's 05:30 am.

A crash outside. Becca wakes up, jumps out of bed and looks out of the window.

Becca's POV: Grey dawn sky. A row of rooftops and the back yard below. An overturned garbage bin. Mango is rummaging through its spilt contents.

BECCA

Mango!

INT. BECCA'S BEDROOM DOOR - CONTINUOUS

A white door. The red cap Steffan gave Becca hangs from the handle. Becca grabs the cap and puts it on her head.

She sneezes and pulls a purple handkerchief from her pocket, wipes her runny nose and slips the hanky back in.

She opens the door and steps out.

INTERCUT - INT. LANDING/SARA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The landing is quiet and still. Becca tiptoes across in the darkness. She stops at Sara's slightly ajar bedroom door. She peeps in.

Becca's POV: Sara on her side, deep in sleep. She hugs a pillow, her hands wrapped firmly around it.

(CONTINUED)

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Becca runs down the dark stairs. She stops at the bottom and looks up towards her mother's bedroom. SILENCE dominates the scene.

INTERCUT - INT. BACK DOOR/EXT. BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Becca turns the key in the back door. The lock CLICKS. She gently pushes the door open and steps into the back yard.

Mango is rummaging through the garbage.

Becca approaches the cat.

CU: Yellow cat eyes stare back.

The cat unpredictably leaps onto the wall, then jumps into the street and disappears.

Becca opens the back gate.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK STREET - CONTINUOUS

Mango strolls up the street towards open ground. Becca is running behind the cat. Her purple handkerchief drops onto the road near the field.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

A stretch of grass. A single broad canopy oak stands on the edge of a small, deep lake. Branches on one side hang over the water. Mango scrambles onto a high branch above the lake.

Becca approaches the oak tree. She looks up and calls out. Her red cap falls off onto the grass.

BECCA
Mango come down!

The cat cautiously climbs towards the end of the branch over the water.

BECCA (CONT'D)
Mango down!

(CONTINUED)

Becca anxiously moves backwards looking up. Unaware, she backs into soft mud.

CU: Becca's heels teeter on the edge of the deep lake.

CU: Becca's ankle twists and gives way.

She plunges backwards into the water. Becca splashes and struggles but slips under the grey-blue surface. Large bubbles of water float to the top.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD/LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Steffan strolls through the field and arrives on the opposite side of the small lake. He pulls out a cigarette, lights it and stares across the water. At first, he doesn't notice any movement on the bank opposite. Then he spots Mango.

POV Steffan: Mango is near the shore edge pawing at the water. Becca's red cap lies near the base of the oak tree.

CU: Steffan's mouth drops open.

POV Steffan: Becca is lying face down in the water, most of her body is hidden by water lily pads.

He runs around the lake.

EXT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Steffan throws off his coat and jumps in. He pulls Becca out of the water and lays her on the bank. Mango scampers away.

Steffan pushes down on her chest.

STEFFAN

Come on Becca! Wake up!

She splutters and coughs up water.

STEFFAN (CONT'D)

Yes...breathe, breathe!

Steffan wraps Becca in his coat and picks her up. Her eyes open and shut a few times as if she is trying to stay conscious.

STEFFAN (CONT'D)

I've got to get you home!

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

INT. BECA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A clock on the chest of drawers. It's 07:00 am. Sheets on Becca's bed are rumpled.

SARA (O.S)
Becca...get up it's late.

Sara enters the room. She gazes around.

SARA
Becca!

INTERCUT - INT. SARA'S KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM/STAIRWELL -
CONTINUOUS

Sara enters the kitchen.

SARA
Becca?

Sara rushes down the stairs and calls out.

SARA
Becca! Where are you?

A CREAKING sound on the landing. She looks towards the top of the stairs. A door opens. Gareth steps out.

SARA
Have you seen Becca? She's not
in her room or upstairs.

GARETH
She may be with Steffan.
(mischievous tone)
He's taken a shine to her!
(beat)
He' so screwed up...

SARA
Don't be ridiculous!

INT. BASEMENT DOOR FROM OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Sara knocks. No answer comes from inside. Gareth bangs on the door with his fists.

GARETH

Open up!

(CONTINUED)

Still no answer. Gareth throws his body against the door and pushes down the handle with his hand. The door opens.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The room is empty.

GARETH
Steffan has taken her!

SARA
He hasn't!

GARETH
I woke up when I heard a noise outside...I saw Steffan in the back yard...

SARA
When?

GARETH
Two hours ago!

SARA
We need to find them.

EXT. BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Sara and Gareth rush out into the back yard. Garbage is strewn over the ground. Sara looks surprised.

EXT. BACK STREET - CONTINUOUS

Sara spots Becca's purple hanky on the street near the field.

She runs towards it and picks it up.

SARA
BECCA!

Sara runs down the street with Gareth towards the open expanse.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Sara and Gareth are surrounded by tall grass. Low trees line one side of the field close by.

GARETH

Look!

CU: Bent blades of grass leaving a track.

GARETH (CONT'D)

C'mon!

Just then a flock of jackdaws take flight over the low trees making a loud cawing noise as if something has startled them.

GARETH (CONT'D)

Which way?

SARA

(points at the low trees)

You...that way...

(beat)

I'll follow the track.

They both head in different directions.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOW TREES - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Jackdaws taking flight. Mango is harassing the birds. Gareth stares wide-eyed at Mango and the birds.

GARETH

Bloody cat!

He reaches into his jean pocket.

GARETH (CONT'D)

Shit...my phone!

(pats down his jacket)

EXT. BACK STREET/BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Gareth sprints down the back street towards the house. He opens the back gate, enters the yard and disappears into the house through the back door.

INT. STAIRWELL/DOORWAY REAR OF SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Gareth rushes down the stairs his phone in his hand. He passes the shop rear doorway. He takes a few steps back and stands at the entrance. He looks in.

(CONTINUED)

GARETH'S POV: The till on one side of the counter. The shop shutters are down making the room dark.

Gareth's eyes narrow. He swiftly moves towards the till and checks the keypad.

GARETH
Fucking code!

He scratches his head trying to remember the numbers.

CU: Gareth's finger presses the keys five, three, four and two.

CU: The drawer springs open. Gareth's hand scoops up the notes and coins. He stuffs the money in his pocket and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Gareth is making his way back through the field. He spots Steffan carrying a drenched Becca. Sara is behind them. Gareth runs towards them.

SARA
I've called the ambulance.

GARETH
What happened?

SARA
Steffan saved her. She fell in the lake.

CUT TO:

EXT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

Sara and Gareth are in the back of the ambulance with Becca. The paramedics attend to her.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING

Steffan crosses the road and heads for the bus stop opposite the shop. A bus pulls up. Steffan hops on.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

INT. VILLAGE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Sara is arranging items on the shelf behind the counter.
Gareth strolls in. He pulls a magazine off the rack.

GARETH
Where's your boyfriend?

SARA
(indignant)
He's, not my boyfriend.
(beat)
He has the day off.

Sara is checking a register on the counter. She punches
in the till code. The drawer springs open.

CU: Sara has a shocked expression.

Sara's POV: The till drawer is empty.

SARA
What!

GARETH
(feigning innocence)
What...what is it?

He walks over to the counter,

GARETH (CONT'D)
It's Steffan...you better call
the cops.
(beat)
...only you'nd he knows the
code!

SARA
He wouldn't! He has money.

GARETH
I don't trust him one bit!

CUT TO:

INTERCUT - INT. POLICE STATION/VILLAGE SHOP - DAY

A POLICE OFFICER on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

POLICE OFFICER
(into phone)
Ms Sara Edwards?

Sara is at the shop counter.

SARA
(into phone)
Yes.

POLICE OFFICER
(into phone)
We've got your shop assistant.
He's down at the station.
(beat)
A policeman should be with you?

The shop bell clangs. POLICEMAN:1 walks in.

SARA
(into phone)
He's here!

Sara disconnects.

POLICEMAN:1
Morning! I'm here for the CCTV's
memory card. I also have a few
questions?

SARA
(angry)
Gareth... did you call them?

Gareth wears a guilty expression and tries to slink out
of the room but is stopped by Policeman:1.

POLICEMAN:1
I need to question you both.

SARA (CONT'D)
(to policeman:1)
The CCTV doesn't work.

Policeman:1 talks to Gareth and Sara, after which Gareth
heads upstairs trying to escape further interrogation.

Policeman:1 makes a few notes and removes the memory card
from the CCTV which he places in a small bag.

SARA (CONT'D)
(to Policeman:1)
It doesn't work!

Policeman:1 leaves with the bag.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. SHOP - AFTERNOON

A van pulls up outside the shop. Steffan steps out with
POLICEMAN:2.

They both enter the shop.

Sara is at the counter and is surprised to see them.

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POLICEMAN:2
We're looking for Gareth...
where is he?

SARA
He...he's upstairs. Why?

POLICEMAN:2
Your shop assistant fixed the
CCTV.

Steffan moves away to the rear window and watches them.

Steffan's POV: Sara and the policeman talk. She starts
crying. The policeman heads towards the rear doorway. He
looks up and points at the landing. Sara nods. He
disappears into the doorway.

SARA
I'm sorry Steffan.

STEFFAN
This is no reflection on you,
but I think this is the point
where I need to leave.

SARA
Don't...I'm sorry.

STEFFAN
Don't be sad. I think it's a
good thing.

(CONTINUED)

The policeman returns with Gareth, handcuffed. Sara is crying. The policeman leaves with Gareth.

STEFFAN

I'd like to say goodbye to Becca.

SARA

She's being discharged this afternoon. I'm driving down to the hospital to pick her up.

STEFFAN

I was on my way to collect the car I ordered when the police picked me up.

(beat)

The car dealers have agreed to deliver it here. They should be here soon.

(beat)

I'll follow you... it's second hand this time... I'll carry on to Gwen's from there.

SARA

You don't have to.

(beat)

I was going to call Gwen but decided to wait.

STEFFAN

I haven't...didn't want her to worry.

(beat)

You've been a good cousin and friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL CAR PARK - CONTINUOUS

SARA, Becca and Steffan are standing near Steffan's blue ford. His suitcase is in the back seat. An exchange of hugs and goodbyes.

SARA

What will you do?

(CONTINUED)

STEFFAN

I'm not sure. Probably get back
into football again.

(beat)

Thinking of becoming a coach...a
new start for me.

Sara smiles and hugs Steffan. She straps Becca in at the
back and gets into her car and pulls out.

Steffan gets into his second-hand ford and drives away.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Steffan is in the slow lane. He peers into the rear-view
mirror.

CU on the rear-view mirror. The village houses recede
into the distance.

Steffan smiles and looks towards the road in front of him
with hope and a sense of a fresh beginning.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END