

PERFECT (Working Title)

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Ken White(c) 2020

1st Rough Draft

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FADE IN:

1 INT./EXT. THE CAR - DAY

1

Music: "St. Louis Blues" by Art Tatum

It is a bright morning.

A line of cars exit from the Channel Tunnel train and take to the Peage.

We focus on a white Volvo estate that has a couple of bikes on its roof-rack.

We cut to inside the car and see the steering wheel with the driver's index fingers drumming frantically to the music as he steers.

We pan around and get a look at the car's occupants.

Driving is STUART (45). He looks happy to be going on holiday.

In the front passenger seat is REBECCA (42). She looks across at Stuart and smiles. He smiles back.

Moving to the back seat we have ABBIE (16). She is looking out of the window. She sighs as she watches a bird flying high and free across the sky.

Next to Abbie is a boy of about 10. This is Magnus, he is in the fetal position and fast asleep.

Montage:

The music is now "Get Happy". Art Tatum at his manic best.

Stuart is still drumming his fingers to the music, he nods his head in time with the beat and hums along with the tunes.

Rebecca smiles at him, he smiles back.

Magnus is playing on a handheld computer game.

Abbie is wearing earbuds while she listens to music on her phone.

REBECCA
(Over her shoulder
to Abbie.)
Oh, Abbie. I forgot to ask. Did you
pack my swimsuit?

Abbie takes her buds out and looks up at her mother.

ABBIE

Yes, of course.

REBECCA

(Relieved)

Good. What about Magnus's?

ABBIE

Yep. I think I got everything that was on the list.

REBECCA

Good. I can always rely on you.

ABBIE

I try my best.

MAGNUS

Did you pack all my t-shirts?

ABBIE

(Mock horror)

T-shirts? No one said anything about t-shirts. In fact the only thing I packed of yours were your swimming trunks. You're going to have to wear those all week.

MAGNUS

You're joking. I can tell.

They laugh as Abbie teases Magnus good naturedly.

MAGNUS (cont'd)

Is there anything to eat? I'm getting hungry.

STUART

I bought some bits at the shop. There's a bag in the back. Abbie'll get it for you.

MAGNUS

Thanks.

Abbie stretches over the back seat and finds a carrier bag full of snacks.

ABBIE

Got it.

She looks inside. There' loads of different things.

ABBIE (cont'd)

It looks like you gave Magnus a load of money and left him unsupervised to do the shopping.

Magnus looks at Abbie quizzically. She shows him the bag. He is very happy.

A bit Later:

The music has changed it is now "Passport" by Charlie Parker.

Magnus has several wrappers around him as he has overindulged on chocolate bars.

MAGNUS
(Quietly to Abbie)
I feel sick.

ABBIE
Magnus is feeling sick.

STUART
He shouldn't have stuffed himself with all that chocolate.

MAGNUS
I think I'm going to be sick.

ABBIE
Try to think of something else. Look out the window but concentrate on the horizon.

STUART
That only works with seasickness.

REBECCA
We'll stop in a while.

Stuart turns the volume of the music up.

REBECCA (cont'd)
(To Stuart)
Can we stop in a while, Stu, give the kids a break.

STUART
I thought we could get a few miles done first.

REBECCA
Really? Magnus is turning a bit green around the gills.

STUART
He's just bored and craving attention.

ABBIE
 Would him throwing up in the back of
 this car get your attention?

MAGNUS
 And I need a wee.

REBECCA
 (To Stuart)
 Magnus needs a wee.

STUART
 Okay, we'll stop at the next
 services, there's one coming up in
 about twenty K.

REBECCA
 (To Magnus)
 Can you wait ten minutes or so. Then
 we'll stop.

MAGNUS
 I suppose.

REBECCA
 (To Stuart)
 I can do some of the driving after,
 give you a break.

She glances to the stereo.

REBECCA (cont'd)
 Maybe you can get some rest, have a
 little sleep or something. A little
 bit of quiet time.

STUART
 No, I'm fine. I'm happy to drive,
 besides this music keeps me going.

Rebecca turns back to her children and raises her eyebrows
 in a "I tried" sort of way.

A few minutes later:

The music is now "Giant Steps" by John Coltrane. Stuart
 continues to tap his fingers on the steering wheel. He
 starts to scat along to the music.

STUART (cont'd)
 (Frantically)
 Scapperdidoo Doobee Doobee Dooo Bah-
 Dah-Bah Dooooo Bop Bop...

Magnus and Abbie look at each other trying not to laugh.

ABBIE
 (Imitating Stuart
 and playing an
 invisible trumpet)
 Doobee Doobee Doobee Doobee Doo Doo
 Dooooo...

Magnus starts laughing uncontrollably.

MAGNUS
 (Through tears of
 laughter)
 Are we nearly there? I'm going to
 wet myself.

ABBIE
 (Now doing a little
 dance in her
 seat.)
 Doobee Doobee Doobee Doobee Doo Doo
 Dooooo...Bah-Dah-Bah Dooooo....

Magnus is doubled up with laughter.

REBECCA
 (Laughing)
 Don't do that, Abbie, he'll have an
 accident.

STUART
 (Stern)
 There's nothing funny about John
 Coltrane, I'll have you know. He is
 one of my favorites. I won't hear
 him being mocked.

MAGNUS
 (Feeling chastised)
 Sorry.

STUART
 He was one of the greatest
 saxophonists who ever lived. If not,
the greatest.

MAGNUS
 (Apologetic)
 I'm sorry.

Rebecca looks across at Stuart.

STUART
 And you know what the best thing
 about John Coltrane is?

MAGNUS
 No.

STUART

It's when he goes, Scapperdidoo
Doobee Doobee Dooo, Bah-Dah-Bah
Dooooo Bop Bop...

They all laugh.

Rebecca looks relieved.

The car pulls into the service station.

Later:

Back in the car Stuart is now listening to Charlie Parker.
"I've got you under my skin."

Rebecca is looking at the stereo with a slightly irritated expression.

Magnus is fidgeting.

Abbie is sketching.

MAGNUS

What are you drawing.

ABBIE

Nothing. Just stuff.

MAGNUS

Let's see.

ABBIE

It's just stuff.

MAGNUS

Show me.

ABBIE

It's for my comic book.

MAGNUS

(To Rebecca)

Mum, Abbie won't show me her pictures.

REBECCA

Maybe she doesn't want to. You need to respect your sister's boundaries.

Magnus sulks for about 5 seconds.

MAGNUS

Stuart...Abbie won't show me her pictures.

STUART

Oh, for Christ's sake. Abbie, show him your pictures.

Abbie huffs, then reluctantly opens her sketch book.

There is a picture of a girl in a cape holding the hand of a little boy. She is standing between him and a monster alien.

MAGNUS

Wow! This is amazing. What is it?

ABBIE

It was going to be a surprise for you.

MAGNUS

Wow. But what is it?

Abbie looks at the picture.

ABBIE

It's a comic strip I'm working on for you. It's called Intergalactic Girl.

MAGNUS

Inter what?

ABBIE

Intergalactic Girl. It's a bit of a mouthful, I might change it.

MAGNUS

She looks like you.

ABBIE

Thanks. And this is her little brother.

MAGNUS

What's he called?

ABBIE

Pongo.

MAGNUS

You can't call him Pongo.

ABBIE

Can if I want.

Magnus points at the monster.

MAGNUS

And what's the monster's name?

ABBIE
That's Grapbats, the evil alien from
the planet Stonk.

MAGNUS
(Laughing)
Stonk?

ABBIE
Not just Stonk, but The Planet
Stonk.

MAGNUS
That's a funny name for a planet.

ABBIE
That's because they all speak
Stonkinese there. It means, the
planet that once smelled really
badly but doesn't any more.

MAGNUS
(Laughing)
So, that's why it's called Stonk?

ABBIE
Exactly. Because it no longer
stinks.

Magnus laughs some more.

ABBIE (cont'd)
So, Grapbats, who likes the old
smell of Planet Stonk and all the
flavours of the smelly cooking, now
searches the universe for something
smelly to eat. And after searching
for years and years he finally came
to Earth and you know the first
smelly thing he found?

MAGNUS
No.

ABBIE
You!

They both laugh.

ABBIE (cont'd)
So, Intergalactic Girl has come to
the rescue.

MAGNUS
How is she going to do that?

ABBIE

Easy. She gives Pongo some soap so he doesn't pong so bad.

They all laugh.

The car is now in country lanes of Finistère, they pass through little old villages and along roads overlooking craggy cliff tops.

MAGNUS

(To Abbie)

Did you know my new school has an indoor swimming pool.

ABBIE

(Heard it all before)

Yes.

MAGNUS

And they have an orchestra and a running track.

ABBIE

Yes.

MAGNUS

And Stuart says, they have the best cross country team and football team and rugby team and hockey team anywhere.

ABBIE

Yes.

MAGNUS

Stuart says he's going to teach me how to play hockey. Didn't you Stuart?

STUART

That's right.

ABBIE

Hockey's a girl's game.

STUART

Not the way we play it.

REBECCA

I do hope it's not too rough for him.

STUART

He'll be fine. It'll be his first year there, so the older boys will look out for him.

MAGNUS

I can't wait to go.

STUART

That's the spirit. Sparkstone School never did me any harm. Us Sparkies stick together, they watch out for one another.

MAGNUS

I'm going to be a Sparky.

Stuart goes back to listening to BeBop Jazz. Rebecca has a tight smile when she looks at him. Magnus goes back to his video game and Abbie looks at the scenery.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. THE FARMHOUSE - AFTERNOON

2

The car turns off the road and drives along a track through a gate to a farmhouse. There are a couple of outbuilding and a large area to park the car. It pulls up next to the house.

We watch from a distant viewpoint as everyone gets out of the car, stretches and then starts to unload. Stuart takes the bikes from the roof-rack.

Stuart waves his arms around directing proceedings. Rebecca finds the keys to the farmhouse. Abbie helps with the luggage as Magnus wheels the bikes into one of the outbuildings then runs around exploring.

CUT TO:

3 INT. REBECCA AND STUART'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

3

Rebecca is in the bedroom unpacking her case and putting things away in drawers and wardrobes.

Stuart enters carrying his case which he puts on the bed and opens.

REBECCA

Well done. That was a mammoth drive. That road never gets any shorter.

STUART

It's good to be back here. But I have to admit, I'm a bit tired after that.

REBECCA

Why don't you have a sleep for an hour? You'll feel better. I can run into town with Abbie and pick up some things and when I get back, maybe you can light the barbecue.

STUART

Sounds like a splendid idea.

REBECCA

I'll finish this unpacking first. Magnus will be fine here with you.

She continues to unpack her case and brings out a toilet bag from which she takes out an inhaler.

REBECCA (cont'd)

I'd better have a couple of puffs of this first.

She takes the puffs.

STUART

Did you pack my clozapine?

REBECCA

You didn't ask me to.

STUART

I'm sure I did.

REBECCA

No. Didn't you pack them?

STUART

No. I don't think so.

Stuart opens his case and urgently rummages through his bag throwing the contents onto the floor.

STUART (cont'd)

They're not in here.

REBECCA

Did you take any this morning before we left?

STUART

(Agitated)

Yes, just the one. I didn't want to be drowsy driving down.

REBECCA

Where was this?

STUART

In the bathroom.

REBECCA

So after that, what did you do with the tablets? Did you pack them, or leave them there?

STUART

Oh, shit. They're still there.

He continues to go through his case, sending things in all directions.

REBECCA

It's not the end of the world. Let's think for a moment.

STUART

Not the end of the world? That's alright for you to say. You don't know what I'm like without them.

REBECCA

Actually, I do. I've seen it. It's not pleasant, but we can sort this.

STUART

Sort this? How? I need those tablets. I'm not safe, you're not safe if I don't have them.

REBECCA

Try to keep calm. I'll see if there's a pharmacist in town who will give me something as an emergency.

STUART

(Desperate)

What will we do? Oh shit!

REBECCA

You need to calm yourself. Breathe.

Stuart stops throwing his clothes around and sits on the bed.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Come on, breathe. Like you were taught. Deep breath, hold it for ten seconds...now slowly out.

Stuart does as he's told.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Now again...

STUART
(Panicking)
It's no good. I can feel it rising.

REBECCA
Try again. Breathe.

Stuart gulps for breath.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Not like that. In through your nose.

Stuart breathes in through his nose.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Now out through your mouth, but
blow. Slow it down.

Stuart starts to calm down.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Better?

STUART
A little. Thanks.

REBECCA
Keep doing it. Lie down. You've had
a long day, you must be so tired.
Close your eyes for a few minutes.

Stuart lays down on the bed and closes his eyes.

Rebecca slips from the room and quietly closes the door
behind her. She looks worried.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

4

Magnus is running around being an aeroplane. Abbie comes
out of the house and calls to him.

ABBIE
Are you going to unpack your bag
today?

MAGNUS
Nah, I thought I'd do it tomorrow or
the next day or never.

ABBIE
I can't do everything for you.

MAGNUS

(Laughing)

Yes you can.

Abbie strides up to Magnus.

ABBIE

No, I can't. It would be nice if just once in a while someone did something for me for a change.

MAGNUS

I laugh at your jokes.

ABBIE

Thanks. Now, I've put your case in your room which needs to be unpacked and your clothes put away. Neatly. Can you do that?

MAGNUS

I suppose.

ABBIE

Good.

Abbie looks up and catches a glimpse of someone watching them from one of the hills that surround the farmhouse.

ABBIE (cont'd)

Who's that?

She points.

MAGNUS

I can't see anyone. Where are you looking?

Abbie takes her eye from the woman and looks back at Magnus for a brief moment.

ABBIE

(Pointing again)

Just there, left of that little crop of trees.

MAGNUS

I don't see anyone.

Abbie strains her eyes to look. But there is nobody there.

ABBIE

She's gone.

Rebecca comes into the garden.

REBECCA

Abbie, we need to go into town.

ABBIE

OK.

MAGNUS

Can I come?

REBECCA

No, you stay here. Stuart's having a lie down after the drive, but if you can be on hand and help him when he wakes up, that would be useful.

MAGNUS

Help him with what?

REBECCA

Well, you could help with setting up the barbecue for one thing.

MAGNUS

Yay!

ABBIE

And you could unpack and put your clothes away for another.

MAGNUS

Boo!

5 INT. MAGNUS'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

5

It is a small bedroom with a bed, a chest of drawers and a wardrobe.

There is a little bedside table. Magnus's suitcase is on the bed.

Magnus looks out of his bedroom window and watches the Volvo drive off.

He goes over to his case opens it, turns it upside down and empties everything onto the bed.

Gazing around for somewhere to put it all, he decides on the wardrobe and opens its door.

He throws everything onto the floor of the wardrobe and tries to close the door. Because his clothes are spilling out, the door won't shut. He tries brute force. Tries banging, it still won't close. He finally pulls some clothes from the wardrobe to the floor and then slams the door shut. Job done.

STUART
Have you finished?

Stuart is in the bedroom doorway behind him. Magnus is startled.

MAGNUS
I couldn't get the door shut.

STUART
So I heard.

MAGNUS
Sorry, I thought you were asleep.

STUART
I was getting there.

MAGNUS
Was I making too much noise? I'm sorry.

STUART
It's not a problem. Really.

Stuart looks at the clothes that had almost made it to the inside of the wardrobe.

STUART (cont'd)
Anyway, at least you've unpacked successfully. Why don't we go outside and knock a ball around while we wait for the girls to come back? I'll teach you how to use a hockey stick.

MAGNUS
(Pleased)
Sounds like a plan!

CUT TO:

6 EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

6

Stuart is rolling a hockey ball towards Magnus who holds an over-sized hockey stick and is swinging it trying unsuccessfully to hit the ball.

MAGNUS
I'll never get it. I think this stick is too big.

STUART
You'll grow into it. The rest is just practice.

MAGNUS

I hope so.

STUART

You'll be in the first team before you know it.

MAGNUS

Were you in the first team?

STUART

Yes. I was the captain. We won the county championships four years in a row. I'll show the the pictures when we go home. I played for the school all the way through the upper sixth then at college then in the Army.

MAGNUS

What about after then? Did you play for England?

STUART

No, I stopped playing when I left the forces. I can't run about quite as much as I used to. Getting old.

MAGNUS

You're not old. Well, just a bit old.

Stuart laughs and ruffles the boy's hair.

STUART

Come on, I'll coach you and you'll be a captain of the team like me.

Stuart points at the gate.

STUART (cont'd)

Now that's your goal. You have to hit the ball into the goal. It's as easy as that.

Magnus takes a swipe at the ball and misses it.

MAGNUS

I'll never be able to do it.

STUART

Of course you will. But not like that. The stick is a bit big for you at the moment, so you need to move your hands further down it.

Magnus moves his hands down the stick.

MAGNUS

Like this?

STUART

Yes, almost, but put your hands closer together, so they are touching. That'll stop the stick flapping around.

Magnus does so.

STUART (cont'd)

Perfect. That'll give you control of the stick. Now you have control of it you need to have it facing the right way. Swing the stick slowly without hitting the ball. Keep the flat side of the stick facing in the direction you want the ball to go.

Magnus tries. He's not great.

STUART (cont'd)

That's brilliant. You need to get that action right for accuracy. That's very important. Swing from your shoulder and through the ball, not **at** the ball.

MAGNUS

Like this?

STUART

Perfect. Next you need power.

MAGNUS

Like a superpower?

STUART

Well, sort of.

MAGNUS

(Singing)

Hockey Man! He's the Hockey Man!
He's got a Hockey Powers! Because
he's the Hockey Man!

STUART

Not really that sort of power. Get the ball.

Magnus picks up the ball and stands holding it.

STUART (cont'd)

(beginning to get
frustrated)

(MORE)

STUART (cont'd)

OK. That's good. But put it down on the ground.

MAGNUS

You told me to pick it up.

STUART

No, I told you to get it.

MAGNUS

Oh.

STUART

Now, line it up with your left foot.

Magnus shuffles around.

MAGNUS

Like this.

STUART

No. Your left foot. The other one. Now lean your shoulder so it's over the ball.

MAGNUS

Like this?

STUART

Sort of. Probably better if you leaned in with your left shoulder. I'm sure you'll get it eventually. Check your grip. Now swing at the ball.

Magnus swings but hits the ground instead.

MAGNUS

Nope. Can't do it.

STUART

You will with practice. Watch.

Stuart takes the hockey stick from Magnus.

STUART (cont'd)

Just remember the three rules. Control, accuracy and power. Get those down and the rest is easy.

He rolls the ball back with the stick.

STUART (cont'd)

Control.

He flicks it up into the air.

STUART (cont'd)

Accuracy.

He hits the ball cleanly while it's in mid air.

STUART (cont'd)

Power.

It goes through the gate and quite some distance along the track beyond.

Magnus is impressed.

MAGNUS

Wow!

Stuart turns to Magnus and shows him the hockey stick. He holds it delicately across both hands, almost weighing it.

STUART

This is the hockey stick my parents bought for me when I started at Sparkstone. I've had this stick in my possession for over thirty years. It has travelled the world with me, scored hundreds of goals and won many of trophies.

He ceremoniously hands the stick to Magnus.

STUART (cont'd)

Now, I want you to have it.

MAGNUS

(Almost speechless)

Really?

STUART

Yes. I'm sure you'll do very well with it. Just promise to look after it. It has a lot of sentimental value.

MAGNUS

I will. Thank you.

Magnus, overcome with emotion hugs Stuart.

MAGNUS (cont'd)

I'll treasure it forever.

Stuart breaks from the hug.

STUART

Come on then, lets see what you can do with it. Go and get the ball.

The ball is miles away from when Stuart hit it.

Magnus turns to Stuart who laughs at him.

Magnus trudges off to get it.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. INTERMARCHE - AFTERNOON

7

Abbie is loading some bits of shopping into the back of the car. Rebecca is looking at her phone. She takes an inhaler out of her purse and takes a couple of puffs.

ABBIE

Are you alright?

REBECCA

Yes, I'm fine. Just a bit short of breath. Probably the journey.

ABBIE

Probably.

REBECCA

(Looking at her phone)

It says here that there's a pharmacist open in Le Rue St. Dizier

ABBIE

How far is that?

REBECCA

Not far. Just near the town centre.

ABBIE

I don't think they'll give you antipsychotics over the counter. Not without a doctor's prescription.

REBECCA

I've got to try.

ABBIE

Will Stuart be alright without them? I mean, he last out until a doctor can see him on Monday or Tuesday, can't he?

REBECCA

I'm not sure. He says he should be fine, but he went through a lot in the army. So without the prescription, he says he gets nightmares.

ABBIE

Nightmares?

REBECCA

Yes, but sometimes when he's awake during the day. PTSD isn't a nice thing to have. We will just have to keep an eye on him and tread carefully.

They get into the car and drive to the pharmacy.

ABBIE

You know you're wasting your time?

REBECCA

Why are you so negative?

ABBIE

Well for one thing you're trying to get horse tranquillizers over the counter. You're not even French and they're not even for you. Sounds like an iffy drug dealer to me.

REBECCA

Thanks for the vote of confidence.

They pull up in a little main street.

The green cross sign is illuminated outside the pharmacy.

They both get out of the car.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Are you coming with me?

ABBIE

Not likely. What's the point in both of us being arrested as drug dealers and thrown into a French prison for the rest of our lives. I'll wait here.

REBECCA

Suit yourself.

Rebecca goes into the pharmacy. While Abbie waits outside.

There are a few people milling around the street. Towards one end a small crowd are watching a girl with a guitar singing "Ne Me Quitte Pas." This is LEA (18).

Abbie joins the crowd and watches the performance.

The girl finishes the song and the crowd disperse. They don't leave any money.

Abbie stays and claps.

LEA
Merci.

ABBIE
C'était magnifique.

LEA
Ah, English.

ABBIE
How did you know.

LEA
With that accent and those clothes.
It is hard to make a mistake.

ABBIE
I loved your song.

LEA
Thank you. But it wasn't mine. It
was written by Jacques Brel.

ABBIE
Jacques Brel? I don't think I know
him.

LEA
That's the problem with the English.
They think music started and ended
with The Beatles.

ABBIE
Who?

LEA
Do not say that you do not know The
Beat....

Abbie is laughing at her.

LEA (cont'd)
(Lea laughs too)
You!

ABBIE
I'm Abbie. Like Abbey Road, but not
spelled the same.

LEA
Lea. Please to meet you, Abbey Road.

They shake hands formally.

LEA (cont'd)

So, you are here for your vacances, non?

ABBIE

Oui. My grandparents own a house on the cliffs. We come here most years.

LEA

Which house?

ABBIE

It's called Maison de falaise.

LEA

I know it.

ABBIE

You do?

LEA

Yes, But I've never seen you here before.

ABBIE

I've never seen you before either, that makes us even.

LEA

Perhaps. Are you with your grandparents?

ABBIE

No. My mother and her boyfriend and my little brother.

Abbie looks across the square and sees the old woman watching her again. She turns to Lea.

ABBIE (cont'd)

Do you know who that is?

LEA

Who?

Abbie turns to look again but the old woman has disappeared.

ABBIE

She's gone. Don't worry.

Rebecca on the other hand appears.

REBECCA

(Agitated and slightly short of breath)

(MORE)

REBECCA (cont'd)
Abbie, there you are. I've been
looking high and low for you.

ABBIE
I'm only here. There's no need to
panic.

Abbie indicates Lea.

ABBIE (cont'd)
This is Lea.

LEA
Hello.

REBECCA
I'm Rebecca. Abbie's mother.

Rebecca and Lea shake hands.

LEA
Enchanté.

ABBIE
Lea's a fantastic singer.

REBECCA
Really? Good. I'm sorry we must be
getting back. Another time?

LEA
Let us hope.

ABBIE
(To Rebecca)
Did they want to call the police at
the pharmacy?

REBECCA
No, they were very helpful. they
gave me a card with a local doctor's
number on it. Although the
pharmacist said not to call out of
office hours.

LEA
You have a need for a doctor?

REBECCA
No, not really. We just need to get
a prescription for something.
Nothing to worry about. It's been
lovely meeting you.

Rebecca looks at Abbie.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Say Goodbye Abbie.

ABBIE
Goodbye. Nice singing.

LEA
Au revoir, Abbey Road. See you soon.

Rebecca and Abbie hurry back towards the car.

REBECCA
She seems nice.

ABBIE
Yeah, I thought so.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. GARDEN - LATER

8

The car pulls up outside the house.

Stuart runs out of the house.

Abbie takes the shopping into the kitchen and puts the things away.

STUART
(To Rebecca)
Did you get them?

REBECCA
No. They wouldn't give them to me without a prescription.

STUART
Didn't you explain the situation?

REBECCA
Of course I did.

STUART
Obviously not well enough.

REBECCA
I explained it perfectly well. The pharmacist also explained that I was asking for a controlled drug, that wasn't even for me. And I had nothing from a doctor saying that they could or should sell me some.

STUART
Maybe I should go and see him myself.

REBECCA

You're welcome to. Actually it was a she.

STUART

What are we going to do?

REBECCA

We?

STUART

Sorry, me.

REBECCA

She gave me a number of a local doctor who should be able to see you on Monday.

STUART

Monday? No sooner?

REBECCA

Hopefully Monday. Might be Tuesday. Can you last that long?

STUART

I should be alright. I apologise in advance.

REBECCA

I'll keep an eye on you.

Abbie comes out of the house.

ABBIE

Where's Magnus?

STUART

He went off exploring somewhere.

REBECCA

Did he let you get any rest?

STUART

No, not really. I was trying to teach him to play hockey.

REBECCA

How did he do?

STUART

He nearly hit the ball once. Nobody will ever accuse him of being a natural talent.

ABBIE
 (Concerned)
 Which way did he go?

Stuart point towards the cliffs

STUART
 That way. I told him to keep to the
 track

ABBIE
 He shouldn't go up there on his own.

STUART
 He'll be fine. I'm sure even he's
 not silly enough to go near the
 edge.

Abbie rushes off towards the cliffs.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. CLIFFS - AFTERNOON

9

Magnus is lying on his belly stretching out over the cliff
 edge to get a good view of a nesting cormorant.

The bird flies from its nest to reveal 3 hatchlings.

He watches them for a while, stretches further, nearly
 slips then wriggles back to safety.

In the distance he hears his name being called.

ABBIE
 (Distance)
 Magnus! Magnus! Are you up here?

Magnus gets up and calls back to her.

MAGNUS
 Just coming!

Abbie finds him coming along the track.

ABBIE
 What are you doing up here?

MAGNUS
 I've been watching the birds. I saw
 some chicks.

ABBIE
 Where?

MAGNUS
Just over the edge.

ABBIE
You mustn't go near the edge.

MAGNUS
I didn't, well, just a bit.

Abbie takes his hand and they start walking back in the direction of the house.

ABBIE
Come on, Stuart's lighting the barbecue.

MAGNUS
That's great. I'm really hungry.
What're we having.

ABBIE
You're probably having sausages or burgers or something like that. I'll have something different.

MAGNUS
What no sausage?

ABBIE
No. I don't like them.

MAGNUS
Why not?

ABBIE
They're made from L&A.

MAGNUS
L&A?

ABBIE
Lips and arseholes.

Magnus bursts out laughing.

MAGNUS
No they're not.

ABBIE
They are. Ask anyone.

MAGNUS
So what will you have? Steak?

ABBIE
Eww no!

MAGNUS

Chicken.

ABBIE

Definitely not. I'll have a veggie burger. We bought some in town earlier.

MAGNUS

Why?

ABBIE

I don't want to eat meat. I've decided.

MAGNUS

Why?

ABBIE

I don't want to eat anything that had to die because I was hungry.

Magnus thinks for a minute.

MAGNUS

Do you mean that when we have a sausage something had to die?

ABBIE

Of course, where do you think meat comes from?

MAGNUS

I've never really thought about it like that. So a bacon sandwich or a burger or a lamb chop. Something had to die?

ABBIE

And the penny drops.

MAGNUS

(Getting tearful)

What's a veggie burger made of?

ABBIE

Veg.

MAGNUS

And nothing had to die to make it?

ABBIE

No animals, maybe the odd plant.

MAGNUS

What about fish fingers?

ABBIE

Ok, you've got me there. I'd eat fish fingers.

MAGNUS

They're made of fish and didn't then an innocent fish have to die to make fish fingers?

ABBIE

No. They just catch the naughty fish, the one's who deserve it. And then they only chop off their finger to teach them a lesson. So that's where fish fingers come from.

They both start laughing.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

10

As they enter the garden from the lane, Stuart is fanning the barbecue getting it to light. He looks up as Abbie and Magnus return.

Rebecca is sitting on a deckchair. She gets up as the siblings approach.

STUART

I told you not to worry.

REBECCA

(Calling out)

Where was he?

Abbie and Magnus have now reached the others.

ABBIE

Just on the hillside. Staying out of trouble.

STUART

(To Magnus)

I want a word with you.

ABBIE

What have you done now?

MAGNUS

Nothing.

Stuart points over towards the gate to where the hockey stick has been discarded.

STUART

What's that?

MAGNUS

Oh. It's your hockey stick.

STUART

And do you think it should be left there?

MAGNUS

No.

STUART

Then why did you leave it there?

MAGNUS

I'm sorry.

STUART

You're lucky your mother didn't run it over with the car. What would have happened then?

MAGNUS

I don't know.

STUART

Think.

MAGNUS

It would have got broken.

STUART

You know how precious that is to me. Yet you deliberately left it where it could have been run over.

MAGNUS

I'm sorry.

STUART

You just don't care do you?

MAGNUS

(On the verge of
tears)

I'm sorry.

REBECCA

He didn't mean to.

STUART

(To Rebecca)

Stay out of this. This is between him and me. I gave him that and that's how he treats it.

(MORE)

STUART (cont'd)

I'm trying my best with your kid.
I'm trying to get him prepared for
his new school. Trying to make a man
of him.

Magnus is now crying.

STUART (cont'd)

Look at him. Sobbing away like a
sissy.

MAGNUS

(Sniffs)

I'm sorry.

STUART

Sorry doesn't cut it. Sorry isn't
good enough. How are you going to
cope if you keep messing up like
this? What do you think the others
at Sparkstone will make of you if
you keep messing up then crying all
the time.

ABBIE

(Sharply)

That's enough! I think he's got the
point, don't you?

STUART

What would your father have thought
of you turning out like this?

Magnus bursts into a new fit of crying.

ABBIE

Don't you dare bring our father into
this.

REBECCA

(Short of breath)

Please can everybody stop arguing?

Abbie goes to Magnus and holding his hand leads him into
the house.

STUART

(Calls after
Magnus)

Haven't you forgotten something?

MAGNUS

No.

STUART

The hockey stick?

Magnus runs over and retrieves the stick then runs after Abbie.

STUART (cont'd)

The barbie will be ready in about 20 minutes. I'll need you to help with setting the table.

Abbie pauses for brief moment then carries on leading Magnus into the house without answering.

CUT TO:

11 INT. THE FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS 11

Magnus leans the stick against the wall in the corner of the hallway and storms off up to his room.

MAGNUS

I never wanted to play hockey in the first place. Or go to stupid Sparkstone school.

CUT TO:

12 INT. KITCHEN - LATER 12

Rebecca is in the kitchen making a salad.

The door is open and we can see Stuart working at the barbecue. He is playing Bebop Jazz on a little sound system and jiggling along to the music.

Abbie is bringing plates and cutlery from the kitchen and setting up the table.

She talks to Rebecca.

ABBIE

You shouldn't let him talk like that to Magnus. He's too sensitive.

REBECCA

Stuart didn't mean any harm. He's just trying to help.

ABBIE

He's just being a bully. That doesn't help.

REBECCA

He's just a little bit tired. It was a long drive and he is anxious about his tablets.

ABBIE

That's no excuse. And why bring dad into it? That was just cruel. Not just to Magnus but to all of us.

REBECCA

I know. But what can I do? He just gets that way sometimes.

ABBIE

And that bloody music! Doesn't he know anything else?

REBECCA

Apparently not. He just likes Bebop.

ABBIE

So we have to suffer it? It's driving me crazy.

REBECCA

It's just for the holiday. He needs a bit of a break.

ABBIE

Don't we all?

REBECCA

Try to keep the peace. I hate it when everyone shouts at each other. It effects my asthma.

ABBIE

I'll try, but he needs to keep off Magnus's back otherwise, if you don't say something I will.

STUART

What are you ladies talking about?

Rebecca and Abbie turn startled to see Stuart standing behind them.

REBECCA

Just talking. Mother to daughter.

STUART

Mother to daughter? So from that I take it I'm excluded from your conversation.

REBECCA

No, not at all.

Stuart turns and walks back into the garden.

ABBIE

He's getting strange. I'm beginning to feel a little uneasy when he's around.

REBECCA

You should check on Magnus. Tell him supper's ready.

ABBIE

I'll see if he's feeling better and if he can bear to come down.

REBECCA

Please.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. GARDEN - LATER

13

Stuart is dishing up the food from the barbecue. He is holding a sausage with some tongs.

STUART

(To Magnus)

Sausage?

MAGNUS

No, thank you.

STUART

Burger then?

MAGNUS

No.

STUART

You're not still sulking, are you?

MAGNUS

No.

STUART

Then what's the problem?

MAGNUS

I don't want to eat anything with meat in it.

STUART

Why's that.

MAGNUS

Because Abbie told me it's all made from L and A.

STUART
I don't get you. What's L and A?

MAGNUS
Lips and arseholes.

Magnus starts laughing.

MAGNUS (cont'd)
(Singing)
Lips and arseholes. Lips and
arseholes. It's all made with Lips
and arseholes.

REBECCA
Magnus! Stop that at once!

MAGNUS
Lips and arseholes. Lips and
arseholes.

Stuart throws the tongs down.

Magnus carries on singing.

STUART
Then go hungry. See if I care.

He turns to Abbie.

STUART (cont'd)
I could have guessed you'd be behind
this!

ABBIE
Why is it my fault?

STUART
You're always filling his head up
with stupid ideas.

REBECCA
(Trying to be
heard)
Please stop!

STUART
I'm only trying to rebuild this
family into some kind of unit and
you put up obstacles at every
opportunity. I'm trying to get
Magnus to stop being so soft and
become a man.

ABBIE
What by getting him to eat a
sausage?

(MORE)

ABBIE (cont'd)

You're trying to make him into something he isn't. He's 10 years old. He doesn't want to go to your old school. He doesn't want to play hockey or be the big man in the playground and he doesn't want to go into the army, he doesn't want to be you. And he hates the horrid music you play absolutely all the time and so do I!

REBECCA

(Getting short of
breath)

Stop it please! All of you!

They all stop and turn to Rebecca who's in some distress.

STUART

You see what you've done! Both of you. You've upset your mother. I thought we could have a nice family barbecue this evening. Unwind after a long day. But you two have to spoil it. Like always.

REBECCA

Please stop!

Abbie looks beyond everyone and focuses on the hill. The woman is watching them again. Abbie stares at her but says nothing to the others. She is no longer listening to Stuart.

Rebecca fumbles in her purse and brings out her inhaler and takes a couple of puffs.

Abbie turns to Rebecca.

ABBIE

Are you alright, Mum?

REBECCA

I will be in a second.

STUART

(to Magnus)

Do you want something to eat or not?

MAGNUS

What's Abbie having.

STUART

A courgette and some other rabbit food in a bun.

MAGNUS
I'll have that then.

Stuart slaps various ingredients into the bun and thrusts it at Magnus.

CUT TO:

14 INT. MAGNUS'S BEDROOM - LATER 14

Rebecca is sitting on Magnus's bed talking to him while he settles.

MAGNUS
I didn't mean to upset Stuart. I'm sorry.

REBECCA
It's alright. He's sorry he got upset. He has a lot on his mind at the moment so we need to make allowances. Be a bit thoughtful.

MAGNUS
I'll try.

REBECCA
That's a good boy. Now sleep tight and I'll see you in the morning.

MAGNUS
'Night, Mum. I love you.

REBECCA
I love you too.

Rebecca bends towards Magnus and kisses him on the forehead.

CUT TO:

15 OMITTED 15

16 INT. ABBIE'S BEDROOM - LATER 16

Abbie has fallen asleep, her light and her fan are still on but she has kicked off her sheet due to the heat.

The camera slowly pans along her sleeping figure.

She is just wearing a t-shirt.

Her book is lying open but face down on the bed next to her.

A hand quietly picks up the book, marks the page and then quietly puts it down onto the bedside table.

We discover that the hand belongs to Stuart.

He watches Abbie sleeping for a moment or two, studying her.

Stuart turns off the light then creeps out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. THE BEACH - MORNING

17

The beach runs beneath a stretch of low rocky cliffs. Although morning it is already quite hot. A few people are laid out on towels, some boys are throwing a frisby and people are paddling in the water.

Overhead gulls hover and call out to each other.

The family are walking along the sand looking for somewhere to settle.

Stuart is striding ahead as he carries 2 folded sun loungers and a parasol. Magnus, holding a small fishing net, is trying to keep up with him.

Further behind, Abbie (Long cotton summer dress) and Rebecca (similar dress and sun hat) are following on more slowly. Abbie is carrying a large beach bag.

REBECCA

He's says he's sorry about yesterday. He was tired and just wanted everything to be perfect.

ABBIE

I was more concerned about you and Magnus.

REBECCA

I'm fine, really. I hate it when you don't get on. But we're all alright now, aren't we.

ABBIE

As long as you say so. But I didn't like the way he spoke to Magnus.

REBECCA

He's sorry about that too. He was coming to see you last night, to apologise personally, but you were asleep, so he didn't disturb you.

ABBIE

He's had opportunity this morning.

REBECCA

Come on, can't we forget it and move on?

Mother and daughter have caught up with Stuart and Magnus who have found a spot on the beach.

Stuart puts the sun loungers out and the parasol up.

Abbie puts the bag down and gets out some towels.

STUART

(Trying to sound cheerful)

Here's a good a place as any.

Abbie doesn't look at him.

STUART (cont'd)

Don't you think? Hey Abbie, what do you think?

ABBIE

Yeah, it's great. Pretty much like any other spot on this beach.

Rebecca gives her a warning look.

MAGNUS

(Excited)

I want to go in the sea.

REBECCA

Not so fast. You need some cream on.

Abbie pulls her dress off over her shoulders. Stuart watches her with interest. She's wearing a two piece swimsuit. She stands soaking up the sun's rays.

Rebecca unbuttons her dress and slips it off to reveal a one piece swimsuit. She takes one of the loungers and fishes in the beach bag for some sun cream.

Magnus runs to his mother, takes off his T-shirt and dutifully turns his back to her while she applies the cream.

MAGNUS

I found a bird's nest.

REBECCA

When?

MAGNUS

Yesterday, when you and Abbie were out. And there's chicks in it. Three of them. I counted. And the mother bird. It flew off and came back after a while and fed them.

REBECCA

It sounds wonderful. Where was this?

MAGNUS

Up on the cliff.

REBECCA

I thought I told you not to go near the cliff.

MAGNUS

It's OK. Abbie was with me.

REBECCA

How could Abbie be with you when she was shopping with me?

MAGNUS

That was later. After you'd been shopping. Abbie came and found me. That's when she was with me.

STUART

That boy makes less and less sense every day.

MAGNUS

Can I go in the sea now?

REBECCA

Yes, but stay where we can see you.

MAGNUS

And I want to catch some fish in the rock-pools. Can I do that too?

REBECCA

Later. Abbie will go with you.

STUART

I can go with him, if you like.

ABBIE

No, I will.

Rebecca goes back into the bag and pulls out three books. She passes Stuart his and Abbie hers and then opens her own.

Stuart claims the other sun lounger. Abbie stretches out face down on a towel and resting on her elbows opens her book to read.

Stuart has been discretely watching her as she moves.

STUART
Don't get too burnt.

ABBIE
I won't.

REBECCA
You should have some cream on.

ABBIE
I'm fine. Really.

STUART
Listen to your mother.

Stuart puts his hand out to Rebecca who hands him the cream.

He puts some in his hands and then moves over to Abbie.

STUART (cont'd)
Now hold still.

He starts to rub the cream onto Abbie's back.

STUART (cont'd)
You know, we really should be friends, you and I.

ABBIE
I thought we were.

STUART
Well, you know. We should be more on the same side.

ABBIE
I just think you're a bit hard on Magnus. He's only young.

STUART
I know. It's difficult. And I know sometimes I can be a bit of a...

ABBIE
Bastard?

STUART
I was going to say, blunt instrument.

(MORE)

STUART (cont'd)

But it is hard not being his real dad, yet trying to fill that position. It's a bit of a balancing act. Can you see that from my point of view?

ABBIE

I suppose.

STUART

It's different for you. You've got your mum.

ABBIE

So has he.

STUART

It's not the same. With boys, mothers are there for scraped knees, runny noses or for Sunday dinner or somewhere to take your laundry when it needs doing. With boys, especially a boy like Magnus, they also need father figures too. They need to have someone to show them the way more, toughen them up for life a bit. Show them how to be strong to be more...manly.

Abbie turns and looks at Magnus splashing around by the edge of the water.

ABBIE

That's a very old fashioned attitude. Magnus is doing fine. He's finding himself, he doesn't need to be moulded into anybody's idea of how they think he should be. And I think that's enough sun cream. Don't you?

Stuart quickly takes his hands from where he had been almost caressing Abbie's back.

STUART

Truce?

ABBIE

As long as we understand each other.

STUART

I think we do.

Abbie jumps up.

ABBIE

I'm going for a swim.

Stuart watches Abbie as she walks down to talk to Magnus.

Rebecca looks up from her book.

REBECCA

(To Stuart)

I'm glad you two have settled your differences.

STUART

(More to himself)

So am I.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. THE BEACH - A LITTLE LATER

18

Abbie is floating in the sea, she watches Magnus as he clumsily goes through the motions of catching fish with his net.

Satisfied that he is out of harms way she swims for a moment or two, then floats once more on her back. She looks up and watches some birds fly across the sun and longs again for such freedom.

She has drifted nearer to the shore and her reverie is broken by Magnus who is standing kneed deep in the water next to her.

MAGNUS

There's a lady watching you.

ABBIE

You can see her?

MAGNUS

Yes. There she is.

Magnus points towards the beach.

Abbie sits down in the water and looks to where Magnus is pointing. It's Lea who holds up an arm in greeting.

LEA

(Calling)

Hi, Abbey Road.

ABBIE

Oh, Hi.

Abbie stands and walks to the shore. Magnus is by her side.

LEA

You don't sound happy to see me.

ABBIE

Oh, sorry. Of course I am, I just
though you might have been someone
else.

LEA

Someone you would rather see?

ABBIE

No. Can we start again?

LEA

(Calling as if from
afar)

OK. Hey! Abbey Road. How are you?

ABBIE

Hey, Lea. I'm so happy to see you!
Where's your guitar?

LEA

That is better.

Magnus is watching the conversation in complete confusion.

ABBIE

Oh, this is Magnus. My little
brother.

LEA

Hello, Magnus, little brother.

MAGNUS

I'm not so little, I'm going to be
eleven in less than a month.

ABBIE

How did you know I was here?

LEA

I didn't. I often come here on
Sundays. I recognised your mother
and she told me where you were
swimming.

ABBIE

That's good.

LEA

Really?

ABBIE

Yes.

LEA

Good.

MAGNUS
(Enthusiastically)
I'm going to a new school after the
holidays.

LEA
That's great.

MAGNUS
Not really. I'd rather stay where I
am.

LEA
Oh.

ABBIE
Magnus, why don't you go and see if
you can catch some more fish?

MAGNUS
More? I haven't caught any yet.
Although I did find a shell.

He takes out a shell from his net.

ABBIE
That's a mussel shell.

MAGNUS
Cool!

ABBIE
Why don't you go and see if you can
find some more?

MAGNUS
Alright.

ABBIE
But don't wander off.

Lea is very amused at how Abbie is trying to get rid of
Magnus.

Magnus smiles at the two girls and stomps off towards some
rock pools.

Lea and Abbie sit in the sand with the waves lapping their
feet.

They watch Magnus waving his net around.

LEA
He's cute.

ABBIE

He is. But he's also a pain in the butt.

LEA

He looks up to you. I can see.

ABBIE

I look after him a lot. My mum's has bouts of asthma and has to take to her bed a lot. Stuart works, but when he is around, his idea of parenting is to shout and bully.

LEA

It can't be easy. Being the boyfriend and not the father.

ABBIE

I suppose not.

LEA

Where is your father?

ABBIE

He died.

LEA

I'm sorry.

ABBIE

Thanks. He died in a motorbike accident. It was five years ago now. He was on his bike and a car pulled out in front of him and that was that.

LEA

How terrible.

ABBIE

It was at the time. I had just started my new school. I wasn't much older than Magnus is now. He was too young for it to effect him too much, although I think he's missed having a proper father around.

LEA

I expect you have too.

ABBIE

Yes. I know little girls can sometimes hero worship their fathers. But he deserved it.

LEA

What about your mother?

ABBIE

She was quite ill afterwards. Me and Magnus had to live with our grandparents on Jersey while mum recovered. She was in and out of hospital for quite some time.

LEA

With her asthma?

ABBIE

Yes, if she gets emotional or depressed or stressed it can cause an attack. And after dad went, she was depressed a lot.

LEA

I understand.

ABBIE

So, now it falls to me more and more to keep everything calm and to look after Magnus as much as I can. I do a lot of the housework and just try to keep her happy. She's had a couple boyfriends since. She has needs, she once told me.

Lea raises her eyebrows.

ABBIE (cont'd)

But they've always been losers.

LEA

And the new one?

ABBIE

Stuart? He tries, I think. But as I said, he's a bit of a bully. He comes over all sweetness and charm at first, but I think there is something below the surface. He was in the army, he says. There was something to do with an explosion and it effected his head. He now has to have medication otherwise he suffers bad nightmares and has really bad mood swings.

LEA

You sound like you need a holiday from your holiday.

ABBIE
That would be nice.

LEA
Can you get away this afternoon?

ABBIE
I should be able to. I'm not chained to the kitchen stove or anything like that.

LEA
Good. Then you should come to my place.

ABBIE
Where do you live?

LEA
It's the château de Barubé.

ABBIE
Château? Wow!

LEA
Don't be too impressed, it's not as grand as it sounds.

BACK TO:

19 EXT. THE BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

19

Abbie and Lea are standing by Rebecca and Stuart.

Stuart is shielding his eyes from the sun while discretely taking in the sight of the two girls.

ABBIE
So it will only be for an hour or so.

REBECCA
As long as you're back in time to help organise supper.

STUART
Why don't bring....

LEA
Lea.

STUART
Yes, why don't you bring Lea back with you? We could all get to know her a little better.

ABBIE

(To Lea)

What do you think?

LEA

That would be very agreeable, but tonight my father is going to call me and I don't want to miss him.

REBECCA

Where's Magnus?

ABBIE

He's fishing for crabs by those rock-pools.

Abbie turns to look to where she last saw him. He isn't there.

ABBIE (cont'd)

Well, he was.

Abbie runs towards the rock-pools

ABBIE (cont'd)

(shouting)

Magnus!

Lea runs after her.

Rebecca sits up and looks concerned and Stuart stands and watches the girls run off to find the boy.

REBECCA

Don't just stand there. Go and help find him.

STUART

I'm on my way.

Stuart now galvanised into action runs after the girls.

There is no sign of Magnus by the rock-pool but his net is there.

Stuart catches up with them. They look frantically around calling him.

Rebecca starts to panic. Lea scans the sea.

STUART (cont'd)

If something has happened to him, it'll be your fault. You were suppose to be looking after him.

There hear him giggling and turn to see him sitting just above them on the side of the cliff.

ABBIE

Magnus! What are you doing up there?

MAGNUS

I thought there might be a bird's nest like at the other place.

STUART

(Shouting)

Get down now!

Magnus comes down but is now upset for being shouted at.

ABBIE

You scared us. You know you mustn't wander off.

MAGNUS

I was only just here.

LEA

Boys. They are all the same.

STUART

I'm not sure you going out this afternoon is such a good idea now.

ABBIE

Oh, Come on!

STUART

Let me think about it. I'll give you my decision later.

Abbie and Lea look at each other. They shrug.

LEA

Like I am saying. Boys. They are all the same.

They walk back to Rebecca, who is standing up to get a view of them. Abbie is holding Magnus's hand, Stuart strides in front of them and Lea walks next to Abbie.

Rebecca is relieved to see them all return.

On the cliff. The old woman watches.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. CHÂTEAU BARUBÉ - AFTERNOON

20

Abbie cycles to the gates of the château. She dismounts and walks along the tree-lined drive towards the building.

Lea leans from an upstairs window and waves.

LEA
(Calling)
Go around to the side and I'll come
and find you.

Abbie leans her bike against one of the trees and goes to the side of the château.

She gazes at the building. It is very impressive.

Around the side there is a garden with tables and canopies.

Wind chimes hang from various places.

On one of the tables is a jug containing something green and several glasses.

Some sun-loungers are laid out and upon one of these a woman is sun bathing. This is DELPHINE (45ish) ex-fashion model and Lea's mother.

Abbie is startled to see that the woman is naked except for a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses.

When the woman sees Abbie she smiles warmly. She sits up and unselfconsciously wraps a sarong around herself.

ABBIE
I'm sorry I didn't mean to...

DELPHINE
Don't be embarrassed. We are all
women together. Are we not?

ABBIE
I suppose.

DELPHINE
You must be Abbie. Lea said that she
had a friend who maybe visiting. I'm
Delphine, Lea's mother.

ABBIE
Pleased to meet you.

Delphine stands then goes over to the table and pours a glass of the green liquid. She is tall

DELPHINE
Have some. It is a hot day.

She hands Abbie the glass.

ABBIE
Thank you.

Abbie takes a sip and pulls a slight face.

DELPHINE

I make this myself. It is good for one's soul. It connects with one's chakras. Opens the third eye. It has pea and parsnip and carrot and water melon. It is very healing.

ABBIE

(Not at all
convincing)

It's really lovely, thank you.

Abbie takes another sip trying to look like she's enjoying the drink.

Lea appears.

LEA

She's not making you drink her potions, is she?

ABBIE

It's really nice.

LEA

Mother. Why do you do this?

DELPHINE

It is good for the body. It keeps everything in balance. And it is a hot day. So...

Delphine shrugs.

Lea glares at her mother then leads Abbie away.

LEA

I'm sorry about that. She can be very embarrassing sometimes.

ABBIE

Not at all. I though she was...interesting.

LEA

I have heard that said about her before.

They walk away from the château along a little path that opens up to the side of a lake.

ABBIE

This is an incredible house.

LEA

Thank you. My father bought it when I was just a baby. I have grown up here.

ABBIE

That's amazing. You must have had a brilliant childhood with all this space.

LEA

Yes and no.

ABBIE

No?

LEA

Well, yes. It's a great place to be, lots of freedom, as you say, space, anything I wanted would appear. I wanted to learn guitar so the best guitar money could buy would suddenly be in my room. I said I would like to try to ride a horse. And then there is a pony that is mine in the field.

ABBIE

Sounds wonderful.

LEA

No. It isn't. I want to be a musician to be creative. It's difficult when one isn't hungry. I cannot achieve anything by myself. My father comes home next week. I haven't seen him for three months. It is not his fault he has to work and work takes him everywhere. But it's always been me and my flower child mother.

ABBIE

She seems nice.

LEA

She is so embarrassing. I asked her to put some clothes on as I was expecting a guest. She didn't listen. She is always like that. She likes to think that she is one with nature.

ABBIE

That's a great way to be, surely?

LEA

Perhaps yes, perhaps no. At least she doesn't get high on drugs any more. I talk too much some times. Tell me about you.

ABBIE

There's not a lot to tell. I'm very boring.

They stop walking and Lea turns to Abbie.

LEA

I think you are not boring. I think you are exciting. I like you, Abbey Road.

Lea leans forward and kisses Abbie on the lips, then turns and runs away laughing.

Abbie takes a moment to recover then happily runs after her.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

21

Stuart is giving Magnus another hockey lesson. Without much success. He still can't get the hang of hitting the ball.

Rebecca is watching. She can feel the frustration of both Magnus and Stuart.

STUART

You're not even trying.

MAGNUS

I am. I trying my hardest.

REBECCA

I think he's trying his hardest. Maybe he's not cut out for sports.

STUART

He will just have to try harder. He will hit the ball and he will be good at sports.

REBECCA

I really think Magnus's talents lie elsewhere.

STUART

You're too soft on the lad. It's your fault he's like he is. You mollycoddle him.

REBECCA

What's that suppose to mean. "Like he is."

STUART

Well, just look at him.

Magnus is still waving the stick around and cannot make contact with the ball.

In frustration he throws the hockey stick down.

MAGNUS

It's a stupid game anyway. Who cares if you can hit a ball or score lots of goals. What difference does it make?

STUART

(Explodes)

How dare you?! How dare you throw my hockey stick around like that?! You need to be taught a lesson in the value of things.

Magnus is close to tears.

STUART (cont'd)

That's it. Cry! Cry like the little baby you are!

REBECCA

That's enough. I don't want you talking to him like that.

STUART

You stay out of it. This is between me and the cry baby.

MAGNUS

(Crying)

I'm not crying.

STUART

Pick up the stick.

MAGNUS

No.

STUART

Pick up the stick.

MAGNUS

No!

STUART

(Menacingly)

Pick up the stick. If I have to pick it up, you'll be very sorry. Very sorry indeed. I will tell all the other boys at Sparkstone that you're nickname is Maggot. Magnus the Maggot! And that's what they'll call you all the time you're there. Maggot!

REBECCA

Please stop.

STUART

I said, stay out of it.

Magnus picks up the stick.

STUART (cont'd)

Good. Now hold it above your head.

Magnus does as he is told.

STUART (cont'd)

Now, run around this garden, little Maggot, until I tell you to stop.

Magnus looks at Stuart blankly.

STUART (cont'd)

And keep the hockey stick above your head.

Magnus starts running around the garden.

STUART (cont'd)

That's right. We'll make a soldier out of you yet, little Maggot.

MAGNUS

(To himself)

I don't want to be a soldier. And don't call me Maggot.

BACK TO:

22 EXT. CHATEAU BARUBÉ - CONTINUOUS

22

Abbie and Lea are lying together next to the lake in the grounds of the château.

Lea is playing with Abbie's hair, running it slowly through her fingers.

LEA

Do you ever feel like running away?

ABBIE

Sometimes. But I couldn't. My mum depends on me when she's ill, which is quite often and then there's Magnus. I have to protect him.

LEA

Protect him? From what?

ABBIE

Oh, I don't know. Life I suppose. He's so grown up in many ways, yet in others he's just this funny little boy.

LEA

Isn't that like all men?

ABBIE

Most of them. Do you, then?

LEA

What?

ABBIE

Feel like running away.

LEA

It gets too much sometimes. Intense. I don't know where my life will end up. I know I don't want to be some rock-star's brat child. Or for my music to be forever compared with my father's or my looks with Delphine's.

ABBIE

She is beautiful.

LEA

She was. She was a fashion model a long time ago. She has been on the cover of Vogue Magazine. There are lots of her pictures hanging in the house.

ABBIE

You have some difficult acts to follow.

LEA

That's why I want to do it on my own.

(MORE)

LEA (cont'd)

It would be the easiest thing to ask for studio time or photo-shoots or PR or whatever. My father has offered. I refused.

ABBIE

Don't you want to be famous.

LEA

I want my music to be. For me, not so much. It isn't so important. I want freedom. I want to connect through my music to people on the street. Like yesterday when we met.

ABBIE

Was that really only yesterday?

LEA

Yes. I love performing like that. I don't want the pressures of the big crowds who have paid lots of money for tickets. I've watched my father. You think there is freedom there? There is none. He cannot even go to the market to buy fruit. I want to travel from town to town, just me and a rucksack and a guitar being anonymous.

ABBIE

You'd be happy doing that?

LEA

I think so. Perhaps for a while. And when I get bored, my father will let me play as his support band and I then will be famous.

They look at each other, burst into laughter and kiss.

LEA (cont'd)

(Breaking the
spell)

Are you hungry?

ABBIE

A little.

LEA

Good. Delphine would have prepared something to eat.

They jump up and walk hand in hand back to the château.

Delphine sees them approach, smiles warmly then gets some plates of food and puts them on the table.

BACK TO:

23 EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

23

Magnus is still running around the garden, now clearly tired. His face is streaked from where he's been crying.

Rebecca is in an emotional state and is having trouble breathing.

REBECCA

(To Stuart)

Stop this. Please!

STUART

He's got to learn.

REBECCA

I think he's learnt enough for one day. And so have I.

STUART

You always take his side. He's going to have to man up. Stop being such a snot-nosed little baby.

REBECCA

He's not! But he's only ten years old!

Magnus's running has now brought him up to where the adults are arguing.

MAGNUS

Can I stop now? I need a drink of water.

STUART

You stop when I tell you to stop. This will also teach you not to go wandering off at the beach.

MAGNUS

I'm sorry. I said I was sorry.

STUART

Not good enough! Now run!

REBECCA

(Gasping for
breath)

No! Magnus, stop! I need you to help Mummy.

(MORE)

REBECCA (cont'd)

I've left my inhaler on the table
beside my bed. I really need it.
Will you get it for me?

Stuart turns away in disgust.

MAGNUS

OK.

Magnus runs off to find the inhaler.

Stuart turns to Rebecca.

STUART

You have to do that, don't you?
Every time. You have to do that.

REBECCA

I don't know what you mean.

STUART

You just try to undermine me at
every opportunity.

REBECCA

I'm not undermining you. I need my
inhaler.

Magnus hurries back and goes to hand his mother her
inhaler.

Stuart grabs it from him and throws it.

STUART

If you need it that badly, go and
find it.

Stuart then goes over to the car and drives aggressively
away from the house.

Magnus runs to where Stuart threw the inhaler, finds it and
returns it to Rebecca.

A man is watching.

BACK TO:

24 EXT. CHÂTEAU BARUBÉ - CONTINUOUS

24

Abbie, Lea and Delphine are eating some bread and cheese.
Another jug of the green liquid has appeared on the table
along with jugs of water, cups and a teapot.

DELPHINE

Will you have some tea? It's ashwagandha. It's very good for keeping everything in balance.

Lea looks to Abbie and raises her eyebrows.

LEA

She likes everything in balance.

ABBIE

Yes please, I'll try some.

Delphine pours the tea.

Lea watches as Abbie goes to drink it. The cup gets as far as Abbie's mouth but she doesn't drink any.

ABBIE (cont'd)

It smells like a horse.

Lea laughs.

DELPHINE

You are not wrong! It is suppose to. The word "ashwagandha" actually means, "smells like a horse" in Galatian. It has many beneficial effects.

Abbie takes a sip, then puts the cup down quickly.

ABBIE

It's really not so bad.

She pushes the cup away much to Lea's amusement.

As Abbie looks up across the garden she catches a glimpse of the old woman again as she quickly disappears behind a bush.

ABBIE (cont'd)

I don't believe it.

DELPHINE

What's the matter?

Lea looks at Abbie, puzzled.

ABBIE

I don't know. But since I arrived here yesterday there's been an old lady who's watching me.

DELPHINE

And where is she now?

ABBIE

She just disappeared behind that bush.

DELPHINE

There's nobody there.

ABBIE

She was there. She was watching me yesterday when we first arrived. I saw her again when Lea was singing and now she's here.

DELPHINE

That's interested. What does she look like?

ABBIE

She's old for one thing?

DELPHINE

Too old to be chasing around the countryside stalking you?

ABBIE

Now you say it that way. Maybe I'm going mad.

DELPHINE

Maybe not. I want to ask you something.

ABBIE

OK.

DELPHINE

What is your memory like?

ABBIE

Not bad. Pretty good really.

DELPHINE

This is a possibility. Have you ever remembered something about yourself, maybe a time when you were very stressed or very happy or just doing something that you knew you would remember for ever?

ABBIE

Well, yes. Lots of times.

DELPHINE

It can be a good memory or a bad memory. But it has to be something significant.

ABBIE
Like my dad dying?

DELPHINE
I'm sorry to hear that, but yes exactly that. And your memory is so vivid and the emotions so strong that they connect with the little girl in your memory.

ABBIE
I'm not sure what you mean.

DELPHINE
People always ask the question, "What would you say to younger yourself if you could meet them?" There's a Yogi belief that this can actually be achieved through meditation.

ABBIE
But what has that got to do with the old woman?

DELPHINE
Don't you see? The old woman might be you, future you, remembering and connecting with herself, you, to such a degree that you can see her.

ABBIE
And that can happen can it?

DELPHINE
Some people believe it, yes.

LEA
I told you, she is a Flower Child.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. GARDEN - LATER

25

Rebecca is having difficulty getting her breath. Magnus is holding her hand and looking worried.

REBECCA
I wish Abbie would hurry up and come back. Can you try to call her?

MAGNUS
She's left her phone in the kitchen.

REBECCA

I'm sure she won't be long. We told her not to be long.

MAGNUS

I'll look after you. Don't you worry.

REBECCA

I wonder where Stuart is.

MAGNUS

I don't care if he never comes back. He shouldn't shout at you.

Abbie, free of care, cycles along the track and into the garden.

She sees Magnus and her mother sitting outside.

Magnus sees his sister and waves urgently.

MAGNUS (cont'd)

She's here. It'll be alright now.

Instinctively Abbie realises something is wrong and after leaning the bike against the wall, she runs over to find out the situation.

ABBIE

What's happened?

Magnus tries to speak but starts to cry again.

REBECCA

Hush now, you've been so brave.

ABBIE

Brave? Why?

Magnus swallows his tears

MAGNUS

Stuart made me run around the garden lots of times and Mummy tried to stop him and he shouted at her and then she couldn't breath then I had to get the inhaler and he threw it and then I found it and then he drove off and now Mummy can't breathe again.

Abbie looks at Rebecca.

ABBIE

You need a doctor.

REBECCA

I'll be fine. I just need to calm
down a bit.

ABBIE

Where's the card the pharmacist gave
you?

REBECCA

I don't need a doctor.

ABBIE

Card?

REBECCA

On my dresser.

ABBIE

Where's Stuart?

REBECCA

Out.

ABBIE

Where?

REBECCA

I don't know, just out.

ABBIE

OK. I'm getting a doctor. Magnus,
well done. I'm so glad you're here.

Magnus sniffs but brightens up.

CUT TO:

26 INT. THE FARMHOUSE - LATER

26

Rebecca is on the sofa being examined by the doctor. She is
wearing an oxygen mask. Abbie is with them while Magnus is
waiting in the kitchen.

The doctor steps away and makes a phone call.

Abbie takes Rebecca's hand.

ABBIE

(Trying to sound
cheerful)

Your looking better already. You
just need to stay calm and keep
rested.

REBECCA

I know. I...

ABBIE

And don't try to talk. You need to save your breath.

Magnus comes to the door.

MAGNUS

Is Mummy going to be alright?

ABBIE

Yes. The doctor is just making a phone call and then we'll know more.

The doctor finishes his call and turns back to Rebecca and Abbie.

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

Everything is arranged. I have just confirmed the ambulance I requested when you called me, they will take you to hospital at Quimper. You need some hours on a nébuliseur. I'm sorry I don't know the English for this word. It is perhaps the same thing, and then perhaps a day or two for observation. I suspect you have angina and so I will order an electrocardiogram to find out.

REBECCA

Angina?

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

It can be treated with tablets, nitrates, or even just a daily dose of aspirin. Mostly there is nothing to worry about. But we need to get you to the hospital as soon as possible.

REBECCA

I can't go. I can't leave my children.

ABBIE

We'll be fine. Don't worry.

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

Is there another adult staying with you?

ABBIE

Yes. Stuart, my mother's boyfriend.

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

Good. The ambulance will be here soon, fortunately, they were already on their way and have nearly arrived. I will wait with you and I will telephone the hospital in the morning and monitor the situation.

ABBIE

Merci, Docteur.

MAGNUS

Can we go with Mummy in the ambulance.

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

No, I regret not. There is no room.

Magnus runs over to Rebecca and hugs her.

ABBIE

Don't worry, we'll see her in the morning. Stuart can take us.

The doctor looks out of the window as an ambulance pulls up to the house.

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

Good, They're here already.

ABBIE

I'll call my grandparents and tell them what has happened.

DOCTEUR BASTIAT

First, Mademoiselle, can you ensure that your mother has a little bag of overnight things and her passport.

ABBIE

Of course.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. THE CAR - NIGHT

27

Stuart is driving along the track back to the farmhouse. He has the music very loud. He is listening to the drum solo from Night in Tunisia by Art Blakey and using the steering wheel as a tom tom.

As he approaches the gate he pulls a jazz drummer's facial contortion and loses concentration on his driving. The car hits the gate post on the way through it.

STUART

Fuck!

CUT TO:

28 INT. MAGNUS'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

28

Abbie is sitting on Magnus's bed while he snuggles down.

She gets up and looks out of his window to see Stuart stagger across from the car.

ABBIE

He's home. You stay in bed. I'll deal with him.

MAGNUS

I hope he doesn't start shouting again.

ABBIE

If he does, don't worry. It's just hot air and noise. Now try to sleep and we'll see Mummy in the morning. Then later when Grandma and Grandpa get here, everything will be alright. I'll try to get them to stay or take us with them back to Jersey until Mummy is all better. Now snuggle down and get some sleep and try not to do anything that might upset Stuart.

MAGNUS

OK. I'll try. Love you.

ABBIE

Love you too. Nighty night.

MAGNUS

(Sleepily)
Nighty night.

Abbie leaves the room and goes downstairs.

CUT TO:

29 INT. THE FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

29

Stuart stumbles through the front door and enters the lounge. Abbie is waiting for him.

ABBIE

(Angry)
Where have you been?

STUART

What?

ABBIE

Where have you been?

STUART

Out. Has your mother gone to bed? I suppose she couldn't be bothered to wait up for me.

ABBIE

My mother is in hospital.

STUART

What?

ABBIE

You got her into such a state that she had a very bad attack and I had to call an ambulance.

STUART

When?

ABBIE

Soon after you did your Big Man act and threw her inhaler away.

STUART

Oh.

ABBIE

Luckily, Magnus found it where you threw it. How could you do that?

STUART

She made me angry.

ABBIE

(Sarcastically)

Oh, that's all right then. Anyway, I called a doctor and he called the ambulance. She's been taken to Quimper.

STUART

Quimper? Wait a minute. You called a doctor?

ABBIE

Of course, what was I suppose to do?

STUART

And he came here?

ABBIE

Yes, what do you expect?

STUART

Did anyone bother to ask him about my medication?

ABBIE

We had other things on our mind. Besides, I would have thought that you would have to see the doctor personally, don't you?

STUART

You could have tried. I bet no one even bothered to think of trying.

ABBIE

As I said, we had other things on our minds. My mother for instance.

STUART

You three are all the same. Just out for yourselves. Fuck Stuart, he's just some poor wanker who's been trapped into providing for an invalid and her fucking kids.

ABBIE

If you feel that way, I'm sure we could manage just as well, if not better, without you.

STUART

You'd like that, wouldn't you? And what do I get for wasting two yours of my life? Two years I've tried with you.

ABBIE

Don't you want to know? Or is everything about you?

STUART

What are you on about? Know what?

ABBIE

You haven't asked how my mother is.

STUART

I'm sure she's fine. She'll be in good hands. French health system and all that.

ABBIE

She will probably have to stay in hospital for two or three days to recover from the trauma induced asthma attack you caused. The doctor thinks she may have angina.

STUART

Trauma induced? Haven't you noticed? She uses that as a crutch. Any slight disagreement or something she doesn't want to do, she starts playing the old soldier and reaches for her fucking inhaler and pretends she's ill. She doesn't fool me any more. I've been watching her very closely lately.

ABBIE

That's not true.

STUART

Think about it. You'll see. Who does all the work at home? You do. She's not ill, she's just fucking lazy.

ABBIE

Stop it. I won't hear you say things like that about my mother.

STUART

Really? Aren't you the woman of the house? And what are you going to do about it?

ABBIE

You'll see.

STUART

Well, you have - what did you say, two or three days? Maybe we can have a bit of alone time. Get to know each other properly.

ABBIE

What do you mean by that?

STUART

Nothing really, other than it will be interesting seeing how we all get along without your mother here. Just the three of us.

ABBIE

Wrong.

STUART

What?

ABBIE

I spoke with my grandparents. They are coming tomorrow. So it won't be just the three of us, will it?

Stuart looks shocked by this.

ABBIE (cont'd)

It's late. There a lot to do tomorrow. I'm going to bed. I suggest you do the same. Sleep off whatever it is you've been drinking.

CUT TO:

30 INT. ABBIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

30

Abbie is asleep. Stuart has entered her bedroom and like before he looks at her lying there.

He moves forward and strokes her hair.

She stirs and wakes startled to see Stuart standing over her. She pulls the sheet up to cover herself.

ABBIE

What the..?

STUART

(Softly)

It's alright. I just wanted to say I'm sorry.

ABBIE

Well, you've said it now.

STUART

I don't want us to be like this. You said were be friends.

ABBIE

Did I?

STUART

Yes, this morning, on the beach.

ABBIE

Ok, we're friends. Can I go to sleep now, please, Friend?

STUART

We'll talk in the morning. But I don't want all this animosity between us to carry on.

ABBIE

Then stop being a dick.

STUART

I know. It's difficult. When I'm off the meds it effects me badly. Makes me a different person.

ABBIE

I'm beginning to think that the meds are to stop the real you coming out.

STUART

Maybe they are. Whatever. But without them it's really difficult to keep track. To stay nice.

ABBIE

Ok. So, can I go to sleep now, please.

STUART

Of course. I'm sorry I woke you.

ABBIE

That's fine. Goodnight.

STUART

So, we're friends again?

ABBIE

Yes. If it will make you leave me alone and let me have some sleep.

STUART

Of course. Goodnight.

Stuart leans over Abbie and hugs her. Abbie is clearly very uncomfortable.

Stuart stands and goes to leave. As he get to the door he turns.

STUART (cont'd)

What time did you say your grandparents were arriving?

ABBIE

I didn't. But I'd imagine they'd take the morning ferry from St Helier, so they should be here by mid afternoon.

STUART

Good. That'll give us time to visit your mother before they get here.

ABBIE

I'm glad you've remembered her.

STUART

We need to talk in the morning. We'll see your mother then come back and get ready for their arrival. We need to not upset them. So no telling tales out of school. OK?

ABBIE

I'm not going to lie to them.

STUART

I'm not asking you to. I'm just saying, keep the truce. Don't do anything or say anything that's going to upset them, or upset your mum or worse still, upset me. Do I make myself clear?

ABBIE

Yes.

STUART

Good. Now get some sleep.

Stuart leaves the room and closes the door behind him.

31 INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

31

Stuart, Abbie and Magnus are walking along a hospital corridor.

Stuart is carrying a bouquet of flowers. Magnus is carrying a picture that he drew.

They approach a door to a side-room. Stuart looks through the little window and sees Rebecca sitting up in bed. She is wearing an oxygen mask.

Stuart turns to Abbie and Magnus.

STUART

Now remember what we agreed. It's important that we don't do or say anything to upset her. Is that clear?

MAGNUS

Yes.

STUART
Abbie, is that clear?

ABBIE
Yes.

STUART
Good. I'll go and see her for a couple of minutes and then I'll call you in when she's ready to see you.

ABBIE
I think she'd be more ready to see us, maybe we can call you in.

STUART
I'm warning you, girl. Don't start.

Abbie takes Magnus's hand.

ABBIE
We've got to wait here, just for a while.

MAGNUS
But I want to see Mummy now!

ABBIE
Please, just do as your told.

Magnus pulls a sulky face, but does as he's told.

STUART
That's better.

Stuart taps softly on the door, opens it a crack, then pushes the flowers through the gap.

His head follows the flowers.

STUART (cont'd)
(Softly)
Hey, hello, Babe. How are you feeling?

Abbie and Magnus watch from through the window.

We see the action from Abbie's POV

Rebecca looks up and sees Stuart - she picks up an oxygen mask that was on her bed, she places it over her mouth then turns her head away.

Stuart slowly approaches the bed and says something to Rebecca.

MAGNUS

What's he saying?

ABBIE

I don't know I can't hear him, but
it looks like Mummy isn't very
pleased to see him.

Stuart holds up the flowers and says something else.

Rebecca looks at the flowers and points across the room.

Stuart turns towards the door and points at Abbie and
Magnus.

Rebecca looks up and sees Abbie and Magnus, she takes the
mask away from her mouth, waves and smiles.

Stuart looking serious says something else.

Rebecca shakes her head.

MAGNUS

What's going on?

ABBIE

I think she's telling him to pack
his bags.

MAGNUS

Good.

ABBIE

And when Grandma and Grandpa get
here, I'll tell them everything
that's happened and he'll have to
leave.

MAGNUS

I don't like Stuart any more.

ABBIE

No, neither do I.

Stuart and Rebecca are in deep conversation. Rebecca is
emphatically shaking her head while Stuart is holding up
his hands palms towards her in a passive manner.

Rebecca takes a breath from the oxygen mask.

Stuart looks across to the door. He looks worried.

He turns back to Rebecca and says something then holds her
hand.

Her face softens.

ABBIE (cont'd)
 (Through gritted
 teeth to herself)
 No! Don't be so weak!

MAGNUS
 What's happening?

Stuart turns to the door with a look of satisfaction on his face and beckons them into to the room.

Abbie and Magnus come into room. Abbie holds back to allow Magnus to run over and hug Rebecca.

Stuart hands Abbie the flowers and points out the vase.

STUART
 Can you put these in that vase?

Abbie glares at Stuart but does as she is told. Finally getting the chance to speak to her mother.

ABBIE
 (Softly)
 Hey, Mum.

REBECCA
 Hey, Abbie.

MAGNUS
 (To Rebecca)
 I've drawn you a picture. It's of
 the chicks. They're cormorants.

REBECCA
 They're lovely thank you.

Rebecca takes the picture and puts it on the bed.

REBECCA (cont'd)
 I'll leave it here where I can see
 it.

ABBIE
 You're looking a lot better. You had
 me worried last night.

REBECCA
 I'm on the mend. It was a bad one,
 but the doctor tells me I should be
 alright for going home soon. Maybe
 in a day or so.

STUART
 (Cutting in)
 You shouldn't rush these things, you
 need to recover properly.

MAGNUS

I want you back with us. I don't like it when you're in hospital.

ABBIE

Stuart's right. You've gotta get strong first. There's going to be a lot to cope with.

STUART

What do you mean by that?

ABBIE

You know, sorting everything out, deciding whether to go back to England, getting things packed up. Those sorts of things.

REBECCA

We'll manage. Don't you worry.

ABBIE

Let's get you better. Grandma and Grandpa are coming to day.

REBECCA

Really? I didn't know.

ABBIE

I'm hoping I can persuade them to stay for a few days until you're back.

MAGNUS

I hope they can.

STUART

Me too, although I know how busy they are.

REBECCA

It'll great to see them. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they stayed?

STUART

(Under his breath)

Fabulous.

REBECCA

I shouldn't be here for too long, I really am feeling a lot better.

Rebecca suddenly starts coughing and wheezing so reaches for her oxygen mask.

ABBIE
You're getting tired. We're making
you talk too much.

REBECCA
(Through breaths)
I'm fine, really.

ABBIE
We'll let you rest now but we'll
become back again tomorrow. Won't
we, Stuart?

STUART
Of course.

They all line up to give Rebecca a kiss goodbye.
Magnus hugs her really tightly.

MAGNUS
I don't want to go back to the
farmhouse, I want to stay here with
you.

REBECCA
Oh Magnus, my little hero.

STUART
Come on, Magnus. Give your mother
some space.

They leave the room. Stuart doesn't look back but the
children turn, smile sadly and wave.

Rebecca blows them a kiss.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. THE FARMHOUSE - LATER

32

Music - Ornithology by Charlie Parker

The Volvo with the broken headlight and dented front wing
drives down the lane and through the gate with the now
wonky post.

In the back Abbie and Magnus sit in silence.

As they go through the gate Abbie sees Lea sitting on the
steps waiting for their return. She instantly brightens.

As Stuart parks the car and turns the engine off. The music
stops. Magnus and Abbie sigh with relief.

Stuart looks across to Lea.

STUART
What does she want?

ABBIE
We thought we'd go for a walk.

STUART
Really?

Lea waves. They all get from the car.

Abbie starts to run towards Lea.

STUART (cont'd)
Haven't you forgotten something?

ABBIE
Oh, sorry.

Abbie runs back to the car, opens the boot and takes out 2 carrier bags of groceries. Magnus helps.

Stuart carries on to the farmhouse and unlocks the front door.

STUART
Hello, Lea. I hear you're off for a walk today.

LEA
Yes. It's a nice day, so why not?

STUART
Indeed.

MAGNUS
Can I come?

STUART
No, you have to practice your hockey moves.

MAGNUS
Can't I practice tomorrow? Or the next day? Or the next day? Or the...

STUART
God, you're getting on my nerves. OK, but you all have to be back in time to sort out something to eat for the oldies when they arrive.

Abbie has returned from putting the groceries away.

MAGNUS

(To Abbie)

Did you hear that? Stuart said I can go on the walk with you.

Abbie looks resigned then smiles at Magnus.

ABBIE

Of course you can.

The two girls catch each others' eyes. Abbie gives a slight shrug.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. CLIFF TOP - LATER

33

Lea and Abbie are walking along the cliff top. Magnus is dragging behind finding everything wonderful.

LEA

I am sorry to say, but he gives me the creeps.

ABBIE

I'm beginning to know what you mean. I'll be happy when my mother's back. Maybe he'll calm down a bit. He's going to try to see the doctor tomorrow morning too, so he can get back on his medication.

LEA

And until then?

ABBIE

I'll keep my fingers crossed and keep try to protect Magnus the best I can. My grandparents are coming later so that should help. Either Magnus and me can go and stay with them or they can stay here.

LEA

Where do they live?

ABBIE

On Jersey, so its not too far.

LEA

I'd like to go to Jersey. One day.

ABBIE

It's beautiful.

LEA

I could sing and play my guitar in the towns.

ABBIE

You'd do well.

LEA

Maybe we could go together. I could sing and you could collect all the money from the tourists in a hat.

ABBIE

We could stay at my grandparent's house.

LEA

And in the winter when there are no tourists we could catch fish and sell them.

ABBIE

That wouldn't make us very much.

LEA

True. But we don't need very much. I get a fantastic allowance.

The girls laugh at the fantasy and hold hands and peck each other on the lips.

Suddenly they hear a wailing scream. It's coming from Magnus. They turn back to look, he isn't there.

They run back to find that he has scrambled onto a ledge just below the cliff top. He is crying loudly.

ABBIE

Magnus! Hey, Magnus. Come up from there. What's happened? Tell me what's happened.

MAGNUS

They're dead! They're all dead?

ABBIE

Who's dead?

MAGNUS

(Sobbing)

The chicks. The cormorant chicks. I looked and they're dead. They were alive yesterday.

Abbie stretched out her hand to pull him up.

ABBIE

Give me your hand. Come on. Wipe your nose.

With Abbie and Lea's help Magnus gets back to the top of the cliff. He is sobbing inconsolably.

Moments Later. The three start to walk back towards the farmhouse.

Magnus has stopped crying but is still very sad.

MAGNUS

But, why did they die?

ABBIE

I don't know. Things do, I guess.

MAGNUS

But the mother cormorant was there feeding them.

ABBIE

Maybe something happened to her and she couldn't get back.

MAGNUS

It's not fair.

ABBIE

Life isn't. But you know it's time you tried not to cry at everything. You're moving to a bigger school soon with bigger boys. Any sign of weakness and they will pick on you.

MAGNUS

I can't help it. Besides, Mummy said that crying isn't a sign of weakness it's a sign of being in touch with my emotions.

LEA

You can't argue with that.

ABBIE

I suppose not. Still there's a difference between being in touch and being in control. You can be both.

LEA

(Quietly to Abbie)

Very good.

MAGNUS

I'll try. I really will.

They approach the farmhouse

ABBIE

(To Lea)

Do you want to stay and meet my grandparents

LEA

Do you think it will be alright?

ABBIE

It would be a help, especially where Stuart is concerned. Also it will be good to meet them, especially if you're planning to be their lodger on Jersey.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. GARDEN - AFTERNOON

34

The outside table is set for afternoon late lunch.

Stuart is talking to ROBERT (mid 60s) and CLARA (60ish)

Lea is helping Abbie to bring food from the kitchen. Magnus is sitting next to his grandmother.

ROBERT

So Stuart, do tell me. What happened to the gate post?

STUART

Oh that? It happened last night. I was coming through it and had to swerve to avoid a fox.

ROBERT

Looks like you've done a little bit of damage to the Volvo too.

STUART

Just the headlight. Easy enough to fix. And the panel can be replaced without too much bother.

Abbie puts a plate down in front of her grandmother.

MAGNUS

And when I went back there today all the babies had died.

CLARA

(To Abbie)

Can I help? You seem to be doing everything.

ABBIE

It's nearly all done and I've Lea to help me.

Lea brings a tray to the table with a pitcher of water and some glasses on it and places them.

Clara looks up at Lea and studies her.

CLARA

She's nice.

Lea smiles.

CLARA (cont'd)

Where did you meet.

ABBIE

In the town. Lea was singing in the square.

CLARA

A street performer. How charming.

ABBIE

She's a brilliant musician.

CLARA

I don't doubt it. She looks like one.

Abbie looks puzzled by this but says nothing.

MAGNUS

Abbie said that something happened to their mother and she didn't come back and they died because of that.

STUART

Is he still on about those stupid birds?

CLARA

It obviously upset the boy.

Clara turns to Magnus.

CLARA (cont'd)

There, there. Don't you worry. They'll be more next year. They're more of a nuisance than anything else. All that squawking.

ROBERT

Oh, I almost forgot. I have a bottle of something in the car. We should open it.

ABBIE

Is that such a good idea? Stuart doesn't drink. Especially...

CLARA

Especially what, dear?

STUART

Especially when I'm not with Rebecca. But as you're both here, I don't see why that rule should apply,

He turns and looks directly at Abbie.

STUART (cont'd)

Do you?

ROBERT

Abbie, be a darling and find three champagne flutes.

As Abbie goes into the kitchen, Robert goes over to his car.

Abbie looks through some cupboard for the champagne glasses.

LEA

He doesn't seem so bad now.

ABBIE

That's because my grandparents are here. He's on his best behaviour. But he mustn't drink alcohol. He isn't nice if he has a drink.

Clara appears in the kitchen.

CLARA

They're in the cupboard in the lounge.

ABBIE

Thanks Grandma.

Abbie goes to get them.

LEA

I'll get them. You haven't had a proper chance to speak to your grandmother yet.

Lea goes into the lounge leaving Abbie and Clara.

CLARA

Such a nice girl.

ABBIE

Yes, I think so. Grandma I need to talk...

CLARA

And where does she live?

ABBIE

Château Barubé.

CLARA

Really? But doesn't that belong to...?

ABBIE

Yes, he's her father.

CLARA

Really? No wonder she can sing and play the guitar.

ABBIE

Grandma please, I need to speak with you, we don't have much time.

CLARA

So, I take it, she's a little more than just a "friend."

ABBIE

What? Yes. No. I don't know, we've only just met. But we seem to get on pretty well. I've never met anyone like her before.

CLARA

Really?

ABBIE

Grandma!

Stuart comes into the kitchen from outside.

STUART

What are you ladies plotting up?

ABBIE

(Crestfallen)

Nothing.

STUART

Well in that case, is there any sign of the glasses, we're dying of thirst out here.

He turns to Clara.

STUART (cont'd)
 (All charm)
 May I escort you to your table?

Clara offers him her arm.

CLARA
 That would be delightful.

STUART
 (Over his shoulder)
 Hurry up with those glasses will
 you.

A little Later:

Lunch has been eaten and a some wine consumed.

Abbie and Lea serve coffee.

ROBERT
 So, Magnus. Stuart tell me you're
 going to be a Sparky.

MAGNUS
 (Unenthusiastically
)
 I suppose.

ROBERT
 You don't sound like you're looking
 forward to it.

MAGNUS
 It might be good. But there's lots
 of sports. I don't really like
 sports.

ROBERT
 Nonsense. They'll make a man of you.
 Lots of outdoor games and fresh air.
 Rugby, cross country running,
 hockey.

MAGNUS
 I suppose.

ROBERT
 Come on, Stuart says he had to pull
 some strings to get you in. Who
 knows you could even follow in his
 footsteps and join the army when you
 leave.

MAGNUS

I'd hate that. When I leave school, I want to work with animals or at a bird sanctuary or something like that.

ROBERT

What? Don't be so soft. I was in the army and so was you step-father.

Robert looks at Stuart with a look of comradeship.

MAGNUS

He's not my step-father. He's just Mummy's boyfriend.

Robert laughs and Stuart looks angry.

ROBERT

Can't argue with that. Not at least until you've put a ring on her finger.

ABBIE

(Under her breath)

God, I hope that never happens.

STUART

You never know. I have settled into this family life very well. And I love it.

He catches Abbie's eye and holds her stare.

ABBIE

(To Clara)

Will you be staying for a few days, at least until Mum gets back from the hospital.

Stuart warns Abbie with a look.

CLARA

I only wish we could. Your grandfather needs to get back to the office and I'm chairing a meeting of the CWO on Wednesday so sadly we can't stay.

ABBIE

So you're just here for tonight?

CLARA

Not even that. We've booked a hotel in Quimper. That way we can see your mother again first thing in the morning before we have to race off.

ABBIE

You could have stayed here. It is your house after all.

CLARA

That's very sweet, Dear. But by staying overnight in Quimper we will save an hour's travelling in the morning.

Abbie is despondent at this news.

Robert checks the time on his watch.

ROBERT

Actually, we need to get going fairly soon. It's been a long day and someone needs their beauty sleep.

Stuart smiles. The two men sharing the joke.

CLARA

Speak for yourself.

MAGNUS

(Pleading)

Can't we go with you?

CLARA

No, don't be silly.

MAGNUS

But Abbie said we would.

STUART

Really?

CLARA

No, you have to be here for Mummy. How would she feel if you weren't here when she came home?

MAGNUS

(Resigned)

I suppose.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. GARDEN - LATER

35

They all wave goodbye as Robert and Clara drive away.

Lea and Abbie walk away from the house.

LEA

I should also go. He wasn't so bad.

ABBIE

There's something bubbling away in him. I can feel it.

LEA

Call me tomorrow.

They turn to each other and embrace.

Lea gets her bike and rides away.

Abbie turns towards the house. Stuart is standing in the garden staring at her. He is holding a glass and the remains of the champagne.

CUT TO:

36 INT. THE FARMHOUSE - LATER

36

Abbie and Magnus are sitting at the table. Magnus has his head in his hands. They are talking in hushed voices.

MAGNUS

(Sad)

I thought they would stay here or we could go to Jersey with them. You said we could.

ABBIE

I'm sorry. I wanted that too. It just didn't work out that way.

MAGNUS

I don't like it here without Mummy. Stuart isn't being very nice.

ABBIE

Mummy will be back soon.

MAGNUS

I hope so. I want to go home. But I don't want Stuart to come back with us. He's horrible.

ABBIE

I know. Don't worry, something will turn up.

Stuart comes into the room. He still has the bottle and empties the last of its contents into his glass. He is very slightly unsteady.

STUART

What are you two whispering about? You're always scheming. Always plotting against me. I know what you're doing.

ABBIE

We're not doing anything. We were just talking. Should you be drinking?

STUART

What's it to you? Are you suddenly the woman of the house?

ABBIE

No. But you said you haven't touched alcohol for years. In fact you said that you mustn't.

STUART

Yeah I know, it mixes with my tablets. Luckily I haven't taken any. So, that's alright then, isn't it?

Magnus is looking concerned at Stuart's tone.

STUART (cont'd)

(To Magnus)

What's that face for, Maggot? Are you going to start blubbering again, like you do all the time?

MAGNUS

No.

STUART

We'll see. I think you need a bit of exercise before bedtime. I think you should run around the garden again until I tell you to stop.

ABBIE

It's too late for that now.

STUART

(Shouting)

I will tell you when it's too late and if I tell him to run around the garden then that's what he'll do!

ABBIE

Magnus, go to bed.

MAGNUS

But...

ABBIE

Go to bed, right now and don't come down until I say its OK to do so. Go on.

Magnus leaves the table but has to walk past Stuart who is standing in the doorway. As Magnus get to the door, he looks back at Abbie uncertainly. Stuart roars at him cruelly making him jump and run from the room.

Stuart laughs as Magnus's footsteps can be heard as he runs from the room and up the stair to his bedroom.

Abbie glares at Stuart.

ABBIE (cont'd)

You really are a bit of a dick at times. Do you know that?

STUART

That's no way to address your favourite step-father is it?

ABBIE

You're not my step-father.

STUART

I soon will be. Your mother and I are soon to be married.

ABBIE

That's news to me.

STUART

I have your grandfather's approval, for what it's worth, so I will propose while we're here. Maybe suggest a short engagement, very short in fact. Perhaps we could even arrange to get married here in France. What do you think?

ABBIE

I think you're drunk and that when I explain what you've been like, my mother will be glad to see the back of you.

STUART

I warned you before about telling tales and what the consequences might be.

Stuart turns his eyes to the ceiling towards the direction of Magnus's bedroom.

STUART (cont'd)

We have to keep things sweet. We mustn't upset your mother must we? She being so delicate. And I would hate to see Magnus suffer. He's such a sensitive little chap he can so easily be broken. If I put my mind to it.

ABBIE

You leave him alone.

STUART

Or what?

Abbie walks to Stuart and jabs him on the chest with her finger.

ABBIE

You'll be sorry, that's all.

STUART

(Mocking)

Oh, I'm so scared. What are you and you're little lesbian lover going to about it? Yes, I saw the two of you. Making eyes at each other all night. Kissing and cuddling in the bushes. It's disgusting.

ABBIE

(Getting angry)

You leave Lea out of this. And if I choose to like or kiss or do whatever I want to do with Lea, it's none of your damn business.

STUART

You need a real man to show you what it's all about.

ABBIE

If *real* men are like you, then they can all go to hell.

STUART

We'll see.

Stuart grabs Abbie and pulls her to him.

Abbie tried to push him off but he is too strong.

He forces his mouth on hers and pushes his tongue into her mouth.

Abbie clamps her teeth down as hard as she can.

MAGNUS
 (Yawning)
 Good morning.

STUART
 You'll never guess, but a little
 bird flew into my bedroom this
 morning.

MAGNUS
 Really?

STUART
 Yes. He perched on my pillow and
 then he whispered into my ear.

MAGNUS
 Don't be daft.

STUART
 He did. And do you know what he
 said?

MAGNUS
 (Humouring Stuarts
 story)
 No.

STUART
 He said that your most favourite
 breakfast in the whole world was
 pancakes. Was that right?

MAGNUS
 Yes.

STUART
 So, that's what I've made for
 breakfast. Come on, they're all
 ready.

CUT TO:

38 INT. THE FARMHOUSE - MORNING

38

The dining room table is set out for three. There is juice
 and a plate of pancakes. Jars of Nutella, confiture and
 honey are next to the pancakes.

Magnus is piling his plate and applying a large dollop of
 Nutella to his pancakes.

Stuart is sipping an orange juice.

MAGNUS
 Didn't Abbie want any?

STUART

She'll be down in a minute. I'm sure.

MAGNUS

These are really lovely.

STUART

I'm glad you like them.

Magnus tucks in.

STUART (cont'd)

Magnus?

MAGNUS

Yes.

STUART

There's something I need to explain to you, *man to man*.

Magnus stops chewing and looks up at Stuart.

STUART (cont'd)

Well, you know what lying is don't you?

MAGNUS

Of course I do. I'm not an idiot.

STUART

Then you know there are different kinds of lies.

MAGNUS

Yes. There's like you saying a bird came into your window this morning, which was just a funny story and then there's when someone says something that isn't true. Like when someone says they're not going to be an asshole again even when they know they will be.

Stuart is taken aback by this.

STUART

Well, yes. I suppose. You know, everybody tells lies from time to time.

MAGNUS

Not everybody.

STUART

Yes, I'm afraid they do. Sometimes just because they think it's funny, like the little bird story, sometimes they'll say a white lie, like when you say you're Abbie looks beautiful but you know she doesn't.

Magnus giggles at this.

STUART (cont'd)

Some people will lie to get themselves out of trouble and others will lie to get someone into trouble. You understand don't you.

MAGNUS

Yes. That all makes sense.

STUART

Good. Well I just want you to remember that. Specially when Abbie tells you things. Especially if she tells you anything nasty about me. Is that understood?

MAGNUS

I think so.

STUART

Good. Because I know she lies about me all the time.

Abbie joins them at the table. One side of her face is a little red where she'd been slapped the night before.

STUART (cont'd)

(Cheerful)

Good morning, Princess. I thought I'd make the breakfast this morning. Let you have a little rest for once.

ABBIE

(Sarcastically)

Great. What time are we going to the hospital?

STUART

Later this morning.

ABBIE

When do you see the doctor about your tablets.

STUART

I'm not. I think I can manage without them.

(MORE)

STUART (cont'd)

I feel great this morning. They were just making me drowsy all the time.

ABBIE

We need to talk about last night.

STUART

Wasn't it splendid seeing Robert and Clara? Although I shouldn't have drunk that champagne. As you know I don't touch it as a rule and so one glass can send me over the edge. I can hardly remember a thing from after we waved them off.

ABBIE

(To herself)

That's convenient.

CUT TO:

39 INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

39

Stuart is leading Abbie and Magnus along the corridor to Rebecca's room. When they get there they find that the room is empty and the bed has been stripped.

Stuart looks around panicking.

ABBIE

Where is she? What's happened.

A nurse appears along the corridor.

STUART

Can you tell me where Rebecca Young is?

NURSE

Yes, or course. She's waiting for you in the lounge area.

STUART

What?

ABBIE

Why isn't she in her bed?

NURSE

She's had a great recovery. The doctor has discharged her and she can go home. If you follow me, I'll take you to her.

Abbie and Magnus look at each other, they are full of joy. Stuart still looks serious.

They follow the nurse along the corridor to a lounge area.

A few people are sat apart from each other. Rebecca is sitting in a wheelchair. She has the overnight case and 2 other bags that look like small rucksacks.

Magnus runs over to his mother.

MAGNUS

Is it true? The nurse said you can come home!

REBECCA

Yes. It's true.

STUART

How come? You were on death's door the other night.

REBECCA

I know. They tested me and found I have slight angina. They've given me something for it and now I feel as fit as a flea. I also have something to take with this nebuliser.

She points to one of the bags.

STUART

Nebuliser? That sounds serious.

REBECCA

It's no different really from covering your head over a steaming bowl. Same principal. Works a treat.

STUART

Clearly.

REBECCA

You don't seem pleased.

STUART

Of course I'm pleased. It was just a shock that's all.

ABBIE

We went to your room and it was empty and the bed had been stripped. And we thought...

REBECCA

Oh, silly. No, I'm all good. I have my pills and potions and if I get bad, they've also given me some oxygen, just in case.

ABBIE
So we can go?

REBECCA
Yes.

STUART
Why the wheelchair?

REBECCA
Policy. Patients have to leave in a
wheelchair. So who's going to push?

MAGNUS
I will!

CUT TO:

40 EXT. GARDEN - EVENING

40

The family are sitting at the table playing Rumikub.
Stuart has a bottle of wine and a glass next to him.
He pours himself a generous helping. He is in a dark mood
and keeps staring at Abbie.

REBECCA
Don't you think you should slow it
down a little bit?

STUART
I'm fine, it's helping to take the
edge off.

REBECCA
You really should have kept that
appointment today. You know that,
don't you?

STUART
Well I would have, but I had to
drive all the way over to Quimper to
pick someone up from the hospital.

REBECCA
Sorry about that.

She lays down some rumikub tiles on the table.

MAGNUS
(Under his breath)
Yes!

ABBIE
Who's go is it?

REBECCA
Magnus's

MAGNUS
Oh, really? OK.

Magnus lays down a load of numbers and wins the game.

MAGNUS (cont'd)
He shoots! He scores! Again!

STUART
(under his breath)
That fucking kid.

REBECCA
Hey! Language!

STUART
Yeah, right.

REBECCA
One more game?

ABBIE
Another one?

REBECCA
One more, then it's getting ready
for bed-time.

ABBIE
You play, I'll go and wash the
dishes and sort the kitchen out.

REBECCA
Have another game, I'll help you
afterwards.

ABBIE
You're in no fit state.

REBECCA
Seriously I feel great.

STUART
She always can when she wants to. I
told you that.

REBECCA
What's that suppose to mean?

Stuart takes another gulp of the wine. Rebecca looks disapprovingly at him.

REBECCA (cont'd)
I really wish you wouldn't.

STUART

Why, are you going to need your
inhaler if I don't?

Magnus, who was happily setting the tiles for a new game, realises the tension and stops. He stands next to his mother.

MAGNUS

Don't you talk to her like that.

REBECCA

It's alright, Magnus. Stuarts just a little drunk. Take no notice.

STUART

(Getting angry)

That's the problem. No one takes any fucking notice! I work hard for this family and what do I get out of it? A snot nosed kid who won't eat meat, cries all the fucking time and can't even swing a hockey stick. His smart-mouthed lesbian sister and a woman who cries "asthma attack" whenever she's asked to do anything, including in the bedroom.

Rebecca starts panting for breath. Abbie and Magnus are either side of her.

ABBIE

(shouting at
Stuart)

Stop it! Can't you see what you're doing to her?

Rebecca is getting worse.

ABBIE (cont'd)

(Quickly.)

Magnus, quickly now, run and get the oxygen for Mummy.

Magnus runs into the house and comes back with the oxygen.

Stuart grabs it from him.

ABBIE (cont'd)

Give it to me. You're killing her!

STUART

We'll see. She can buck up any moment she wants to.

Rebecca is gasping for air. Magnus is crying and trying help Abbie to get the oxygen from Stuart.

Stuart stops resisting and hands it over.

STUART (cont'd)
You're not even worth fighting.

They are being watched by the figures of the woman and the man.

Abbie takes the oxygen and administers it to Rebecca.
Rebecca starts to calm down slightly.

ABBIE
You really need him to leave. He's
nothing but a bully. No only that.

STUART
I'm warning you. Keep your mouth
shut.

REBECCA
What?

STUART
I won't tell you again.

ABBIE
He forced himself on me last night.
Pushed his tongue down my throat.

STUART
I told you.

With much effort Rebecca stands up and throws herself at
Stuart, clawing at his face.

REBECCA
You bastard! I want you gone!

Stuart pushed Rebecca to the ground with ease.

STUART
Oh, Fuck off!

Rebecca lays on the ground trying to reach the oxygen and
regain her breath.

Magnus and Abbie attack Stuart who just laughs at their
efforts.

STUART (cont'd)
Your mother said it was bedtime. So
be a good little maggot and go.

MAGNUS
No!

Stuart picks Magnus up by the front of his T-Shirt with one hand and puts his other fist to the boys face.

STUART

If you don't do as you're told, I will be forced to make you.

ABBIE

It's alright, Magnus. Go up to your room. Everything will be alright.

MAGNUS

(Through tears)

But what about Mummy.

Rebecca is sitting up on the ground, still taking oxygen.

ABBIE

Mummy'll be OK in a minute. I'll sort everything out. Don't worry.

STUART

You see, Magnus. Nothing to worry about.

Magnus goes back into the house. Looking back as he does so.

STUART (cont'd)

There's a good little maggot.

Stuart moves closer to Rebecca.

ABBIE

You need to stay away from her.

STUART

Really?

ABBIE

Yes!

Stuart steps back, takes a breath and relaxes.

STUART

OK. Anything you say.

ABBIE

That's better.

STUART

You're such the woman of the household, aren't you?

ABBIE

I do what is needed.

STUART

You love it. Look at her.

He points to Rebecca.

STUART (cont'd)

She's exactly how you want her to be.

ABBIE

Don't be stupid.

STUART

No, It's true. It puts you in control. You want her to be dependant on you because it makes you feel powerful. When I came along, all that power went to me. That's why you don't like having me around. That's why you want me gone and that's why you're doing everything at every turn to undermine me.

ABBIE

That's rubbish!

STUART

Well if you want to be the woman of the house, it's about time you performed your womanly duties.

Stuart grabs Abbie's wrists and pulls her away to the side of the house as she struggles and tries to fight him off.

Rebecca cries after them. She gets up but only as far as a chair.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. THE FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

41

Stuart drags Abbie to the side of the Farmhouse. She is kicking and screaming at him to let her go.

STUART

Be quiet!

ABBIE

Get off me!

STUART

Stop fighting it'll be so much easier for you.

ABBIE
 (Screams)
 Just get off!

They reach the side of the house. Stuart pushes her against the wall.

ABBIE (cont'd)
 (Trying to reason)
 Stuart, Stuart! Listen. Stop now and we can forget about this. You've had too much to drink and you really need to get back onto your meds.

STUART
 And you really need to shut the fuck up.

He tries to kiss her. Abbie moves her head violently to the side.

Abbie tries to knee him in the groin but doesn't connect properly.

ABBIE
 Just fuck off!

Stuart pins her against the wall and with a free hand pushes his and her shorts down.

STUART
 That's it, you're getting the hang of it. Now just relax.

Stuart positions himself to enter her but suddenly stops.

He has been hit very hard around the head. Again he is hit around the head. He falls to the ground.

We see Magnus standing over him with the hockey stick in his hand.

Magnus brings the stick down onto Stuart three more times.

MAGNUS
 Control. Power. And whatever other one was.

Abbie pulls her shorts up and hugs Magnus. They are both crying.

Stuart is lying on the ground, not moving.

MAGNUS (cont'd)
 I think I killed him.

Magnus overcome with remorse.

MAGNUS (cont'd)

(In despair)

I've killed him. I'm a murderer. It means I'll go to prison for ever.

Stuart stirs and sees Magnus.

STUART

You little bastard! Come here.

Stuart starts to get up.

ABBIE

Run!

Magnus runs back around the house and down the lane dropping the hockey stick.

Stuart now on his feet runs after him.

Abbie runs after both of them.

Rebecca is on her feet and making her way into the house.

Magnus runs along the lane in the direction of the cliffs, with Stuart and Abbie in pursuit.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. CLIFF TOP - CONTINUOUS

42

Magnus reaches the cliff top and has to stop to catch his breath.

Stuart is close behind and Abbie has caught up. We see Stuart's face is bleeding and beaten where Magnus hit him.

Stuart grabs Magnus and holds him by the cliff edge. Ready to push him off. Magnus kicks and wriggles.

STUART

You little fucker!

ABBIE

(Screams)

Stop!

MAGNUS

Let me go!

Stuart stops and turns to Abbie.

STUART

Hello, Princess. Shouldn't you be at home looking after your sick mother?

ABBIE

Let him go.

STUART

Why should I?

ABBIE

You've had your fun for the night. It's all got a little bit out of hand, but it's nothing that we can't sort out in the morning. Just let Magnus go.

STUART

But Magnus likes it up here. It's where he can look at his little birdies. I bet he'd like to fly like a little birdie. Wouldn't you Magnus? Wouldn't you like to fly?

Stuart spins around holding onto Magnus's arms so that he's fly over the cliff should he let go of his grip.

ABBIE

(Screams)

Stop!

Stuart stops still holding Magnus.

STUART

As if I really would.

ABBIE

Why don't you come away from the edge? Let's work this out.

STUART

(laughs)

Work it out? I think it's pretty much worked out already, don't you? And it's worked out pretty much the way you wanted it.

ABBIE

Come away from the edge.

STUART

There's no going back from this. Your mum and me are finished, wouldn't you say?

ABBIE

I admit life would be challenging after tonight, but not impossible.

STUART

And you, after last night and tonight, I can't see us ever getting along. And as for this snot-nosed little brat, believe me I've tried. But I just can't stand him, always crying about something or other.

He looks at Magnus

STUART (cont'd)

(To Magnus)

I'm sure your mum and sister love you, but you do my fucking head in.

ABBIE

Then let him go.

STUART

Nah. From what I can see, my life is over and it's all your fault yours and his. I think we should all take a leap of faith together. What do you say?

ABBIE

What do you mean?

Stuart motions to the edge of the cliff with his head.

STUART

You know.

ABBIE

Look. Let him go and you can have me. I'll go with you anywhere. I'll do anything you want me to. Just let him go.

STUART

Now there's an offer. You mean we could get out of here. You and me?

ABBIE

Yes. If you let Magnus go first.

STUART

It sounds like you're just trying to trick me.

ABBIE

No. Seriously. Let Magnus go and I'll come with you. Your life doesn't have to be over.

STUART

Alright, if you're sure.

ABBIE
Let him go first.

STUART
No, you come here first and then
I'll let him go.

Abbie edges closes to Stuart and Magnus. Abbie puts her hand out to Stuart who takes it but doesn't let go of Magnus.

ABBIE
Now let him go.

STUART
I've changed my mind. I think we
need to take that leap. Don't you?

Stuart turns forcing Abbie and Magnus to turn with him and stand on the very edge of the cliff.

There is a noise behind them and the woman and man appear.

STUART (cont'd)
What the..?

ABBIE
You can see them?

The woman and man take some steps closer. Abbie and Magnus both manage to wriggle free. Stuart stumbles on the edge.

CUT TO:

43 INT. THE FARMHOUSE - LATER

43

Rebecca is sitting down at the table she has her oxygen with her. She is still a little breathless but looks more comfortable although very worried.

She is startled by the sound of the door opening and stands up.

Abbie and Magnus come running in, they hurry to her and hug her.

REBECCA
I was so worried. Are you both OK?

ABBIE
Nothing that won't heal.

REBECCA
Where's Stuart?

MAGNUS

We left him at the top of the cliff.

ABBIE

He said he had some decisions to make. He said he was sorry for what he put us through and that he's thinking he'll just go and not come back. He thought that would be best for all of us. But he wants to think about it for a while.

REBECCA

So he might be back?

ABBIE

We'll know what he does soon enough. But I suspect we won't see him again.

MAGNUS

With any luck.

They all hug.

CUT TO:

44 INT. THE CAR - DAY

44

We see the car dashboard.

The engine starts and with it the bebop music. "Bye Ya" by Thelonious Monk. We hear a few bars.

REBECCA

I think that's enough of that. Don't you?

ABBIE

Absolutely.

Abbie who's sitting in the front passenger seat leans forward and ejects the CD. She replaces it with Jacques Brel - Mathilde.

REBECCA

I didn't know you liked Jacques Brel.

Abbie looks at her mother, who's in the driving seat and smiles.

MAGNUS

It's just as bad as the other stuff, if you ask me.

Magnus is in the back seat. We pan across to see that the other passenger seat is empty.

We see a shot of the car pulling away.

On the way through the gate, it runs over the hockey stick and breaks it in two.

It drives past the Château Barubé where Lea is waiting with a rucksack and guitar. The car stops and she gets in. The car drives off.

Two figures watching from a distance turn away, slowly disappearing.

FADE TO BLACK