

FOUR O'CLOCK CLUB

SERIES 5

THE "SOCIAL WORKER"

Written by

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1 EXT. ELMENRE DAY 1. END OF DAY 1

Kids run out, going home, shoving pushing kicking bags.

2 INT. ELMENRE - 400C ROOM DAY 1. AFTERSCHOOL DETENTION 2

MR BELL is sat behind his desk, looking grumpy, staring at a TABLET COMPUTER. FLEUR, ELEESHA, NERO, ELI and OWEN sit at desks with some NS extras. NERO is in school uniform but with a pink tinged shirt.

FLEUR

(to Nero)

O Bubblegum. What you been done for then? Impersonating a milkshake?

BELL

(without looking up)

Detention. Stop wittering.

Fleur looks annoyed.

NERO

I'm gonna kill Dex.

OWEN

How's it his fault?

NERO

He bought tons of discount washing powder, turns everything pink. But he won't stop using it! Cos "that'd be a waste."

Clem comes in with a bit of paper from Ms Goodman. Hands it to Bell.

CLEM

Alright? Goodman said to give you this. Think she wants you.

BELL

Detention!

CLEM

What?

BELL

You were late.

CLEM

Yeah cos your overlord wanted me to give you a note! That ain't fair!

A commotion starts to build outside. We catch a glimpse of a few girls with placards wandering past. The rest of the kids in detention wander over to the window interested -

CROWD OUTSIDE (O.S.)

Kick sexism out / Girls love
football too / Nuri's a sexist pig

FLEUR

(at the window)

O Sir. You gonna do anything about
this?

BELL

(not looking up)

I've told you Murphy. Be quiet.
Detention. In fact, take two

FLEUR

I am DONE with this world!

ELEESHA

Sir! If Mrs Goodman wants you, you
should go. You'll get in trouble.

Bell angrily slams his tablet down

MR BELL

FINE

He heads out the door.

Everyone looks at each other - a still moment - and then
immediately takes the opportunity to pack up and leave.

Eli has hold of Nero's shirt tails.

EI

Seriously, you gotta sort this.
Lock him in a cupboard til he stops
it. That always works on me.

Nero looks thoughtful. The boys exit.

ELEESHA

Somebody has PROPERLY got up Ding
Dong's goat.

The girls are last out. They pass Bell's desk. See he's left
his tablet. Stop

FLEUR

He's left hQ t h e are lasMougpe

AMBER
Yay football!

VIOLET
Girls like kicking!

Darnesh takes a FLAG too

DARNESH
(shouting)
C MON YOU BLUES!!
(off Amber's look)
Wat? I just like shouting

MIS GOODMAN hurries up, attracted by the noise.

MIS GOODMAN
Girls! Girls! Min Boy. I'm all for
the free expression of emotions but
what's going on?

MARY
Nim wri t let girls on the
football team

PROTESTING GIRLS
Boooo! / Rbbish! / Nt fair!

MARY
Offside!

NUN
(outraged)
Hw can I be offside? I' m the
referee!

MIS GOODMAN
Graham love -

NUN
Here ve go -

MIS GOODMAN
- this is a newera. You don't have
to stick to the repressive old
rules. Girls - I'm sure if you come
to practice tomorrow Mr Nim would
love to find you a role. Go team!

NUN
Oh for -

Everyone celebrates. Lots of cheering

Mr Bell arrives.

MRS GOODMAN

Ah Crispin All under control
thanks.

Bell throws up his hands in frustration, stomps off again

VIOLET

Wow I didn't think I'd be striking a
blow for women's rights today.

ANBER

Who cares about women's rights? We
totally OWNED M Nnn!

They high five

DARNESH

And got yourself on the footy team

Darnesh goes to high five them Anber and Violet just look at
each other. Hih

4

INT. ELMHIRE - SCIENCE ROOM DAY 1. AFTER SCHOOL

4

DEXIER sat on a desk. He is dressed completely like normal
Dexter, but his CLOTHES ARE TINGED PINK. He's helping **LIZZIE**
with an experiment. He's holding a **TEST TUBE** whilst she **DRIPS**
LIQUID FROM A PIPETTE into it. Lizzie has **SAFETY GOGGLES** on

She takes the **TEST TUBE** from him and pours the contents into
a **BEAKER OF LIQUID** which goes from **GREEN** to **VIOLET**.

DEXIER

(trying to be romantic)
I love those goggles. They really
bring out your.. uh.. face

She looks at Dexter for the first time. Takes the goggles off.

LIZZIE

You're pink

DEXIER

Ah BUT I saved 3 78 on the weekly
shop! And it's barely noticeable. I
mean, you only just spotted it.

LIZZIE

That's because I wasn't paying
attention to you before.

DEXIER

Oh

Nero (his pink tinged shirt still visible) bangs into the
classroom and hurls his bag onto a chair.

NERO

**Q Cherry Blossom I' mbi ki ni hona.
You take that.**

ELESHA

Put "poet". No wait put.. er..
"mystical poet born under a desert
moon"

CLEM

Dn't know why you're botherin'.
He's a teacher. He don't deserve
happiness.

FLEUR

Yeah, but think. If he was
happy... maybe he'd chill out with
all the flipping detentions?

**Bell enters. Immediately clocks them- Snatches the tablet
and reads it.**

BELL

You've INVADED my private data!
And.. you've ruined it! 'I own a
big horse?!'

ELESHA

No one wanted to know 'bout your
allergies sir. That just ain't
allurin'.

BELL

Detention! For life. Now get out.

ELESHA

Aww, sir -

SEX- PING Bell frowns -

ELESHA (CONT'D)

A message! Oh! Can we read it sir?

BELL

Oh!

The girls leave, giggling as SEX- ANOTHER PING Bell looks
at his tablet. Sits down Starts reading

7

INC. RAP SEQUENCE BELL'S DILEMMA DAY 1

7

RAP ONE "I've Got A Message"

BELL

Goodness I have my first message!
Sent requests in the past,
Gave details of my likes and
dislikes but still... alas..
No one hit or batted an eyelid for
over a month.
Will now I have a message!!
(MORE)

WALTER

No

DEXIER

Then no

Nero comes back with two SHIPPING BAGS.

DEXIER (CONT'D)

Ah, Nero! How'd you get on?

NERO

Pretty awesome, yeah

Dexter looks in a bag -

DEXIER

Chocolate pudding?

(Looks in the other bag)

More chocolate pudding! Wow! But - where's the actual shopping? That can't be all you got...?

9

INT. CARRIER FLAT - HALLWAY. DAY 1. LATE AFTERNOON

9

BANG! THE FRONT DOOR SLAMS OPEN into a messy hall - or it would slam if there weren't a huge **PILE OF POST** in the way -

Nero and Dexter storm through, with the shopping obviously mid fight -

NERO

What kind of yo yo trusts a kid with the shopping money for the whole week???

DEXIER

I wanted you to see how hard it was!

NERO

Yeah, well, surprise surprise, I messed it up. And now we're broke!

Nero slips on a bit of post. He snatches up a handful of letters, waves them in Dexter's face, lets them cascade to the floor.

NERO (CONT'D)

Why don't you **ANSWER** some of this?

DEXIER

Cos it's all junk! I'm going to the loo. You start the washing up.

He exits. Nero rolls his eyes, heads into the kitchen

Nero enters. Mr Bell is at the table, tapping away on his tablet. Bell ignores him There's an ENORMOUS PILE OF WASHING UP. Nero looks at it. Grinaces. Gingerly extracts a dirty spoon and cleans it with his sleeve. Gets a pudding out of the shopping starts eating it.

Dexter stalks in holding several empty washing powder boxes.

DEXIER

The toilet's blocked I assume
that's something to do with you?

NERO

Think it's more "to do" with that
cruddy washing powder you bought.

DEXIER

You poured it all down the toilet?!

NERO

Ops, hand nista slipped

Dexter's speechless. And then -

DEXIER

I give up I'm going to bed

Dexter exits.

NERO

Whatever.

~~Mr Bell ignores Dexter~~ ~~Mr Bell~~ continues to tap away.

Nero finishes his chocolate nusse, throws the spoon in the sink, heads to his room etc.

NERO
(mid rant)
Miri's an absolute noogie. Total
stresscalation

OVEN
Yes, howunreasonable of him to
complain about you spending all his
mney and blocking his toilet.

Nero makes a face at him. Mrs Goodman passes, laden with
briefcase etc, arriving for work. With her is a competent-
looking woman dressed informally but smartly.

MRS GOODMAN
Nero Brilliant. This is Shona,
your newsocial worker. Come to my
office at noon, please.

NERO
What? Why? Hing on

But she's gone. Oh Nero, looking at Eli and Oven -

NERO (CONF'D)
This must be about Dexter! He's
been nassini up, right? They must
be checkin' up on him

ELI
Well, nice knowing you. Hey - could
you send me a canal from Kuwait?

NERO
...not if I cover for him. Make up
some quality stuff.

OVEN
Lying? To a social worker? You
can't do that.

Nero and Eli look at each other -

12

INT. ELSMERE - MRS GOODMAN'S OFFICE DAY 2 LUNCHTIME

12

NERO
(mid speech)
- he's a gourmet cook, of course.
(thinks)
But in a healthy way. And he's SO
tidy-

They're sat on the beanbags. Shona's taking notes on a
clipboard with a RED FLOWER on it.

SHONA
Muhm?

NERO

**And er.. okay, it's only him and me
right now.. but he's getting**

DARNESH

Nice pompons.

AMER

Enjoy ourselves? What sort of
idiots does he think we are?

Ingrid runs up in cheer gear -

INGRID

Are you freaking kidding me!
(facing the pitch)
GO TEAM!! Give me an E! Give me an
L..

The other girls look at each other. This is disgusting

14

INT. ELEMENTRE - CORRIDOR/ICT CLASS. DAY 2 AFTERNOON LESSON

Nim is dribbling a football up the corridor when Mrs Goodman intercepts him

MRS GOODMAN

Grahamsweetheart? This question of
getting girls involved in football -

NUN

All sorted Love. They're out there
now shaking their poppons.

MRS GOODMAN

No, I mean, Cheerleading'll do
wonders for the kids' teamwork
But... we really can't have the
girls doing separate activities.

NUN

What?! You mean - ?

MRS GOODMAN

Blur those gender boundaries. I
know you've got it in you Gooooo
Graham

She exits leaving Nim looking disgruntled

NUN

I'll give her blurred genders!

Over, Eli and Nero round the corner walking to class.

NUN (CONT'D)

Garland Over here.

Over stops to talk to Nim. Nero and Eli keep going

UZZE

They just stare at him in silence. He carries on anyway.

OVEN (CONT'D)

**That's right! Unite! Let me hear
you say 'fight'! OOOOOOOOOOOO-
ELMERE!!**

**Big pomshiny, finishing on both arms up in triumph. It's a
natural place for applause. The girls do not applaud. They
start talking amongst themselves.**

MARY

**I'm going to see Ms Godman. This
is a disgrace.**

**The girls start walking off, leaving OVEN, deflated. On Amber
and Violet, slowly trailing off. Amber turns to camera.**

INT/EXT. RAP SEQUENCE. AMBER'S DILEMMA/SOLUTION

ELESHA
(whispering)

She leaves. Amber and Violet turn to go with her. Nun looks evil.

NUN
O! Not so fast.

The girls turn

NUN (CONF'D)
You're on my team now And I think
you need some extra training
sessions, get you up to scratch

He starts throwing footballs at them

NUN (CONF'D)
Twenty laps! Dribbling! And if you
cry you get twenty more!

On Amber and Violet. Not quite so happy after all...

22

INT. CARRIER FLAT - HALLWAY DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL

22

<Ding Dong!> Nero straightens his tie, takes a deep breath,
opens the door.

Shona is there, with her clipboard

NERO
Hi, hello! Dexter's just held up
for a bit. At church The vicar
needed a hand with his... candles.

23

INT. CARRIER FLAT - LIVING ROOM DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL

23

Nero and Shona enter the living room which is now really
tidy. NB Owen has left his pompos on a chair.

NERO
So, this is the living room We
like to keep it tidy.

Owen emerges from the kitchen Shona takes in Owen's outfit.

NERO (CONF'D)
And this is my friend Owen He's a
scout. Very well behaved

OEWEN
Hello I'd offer you a cup of tea
only there doesn't appear to be any
milk Just chocolate pudding

He puts an arm around Owen

NERO
Ha ha ha Owen's just leaving

OWEN
(being supportive)
No, I can't hang out for a sec from

NERO
Mate. Big favour: could you nip to
the shop? Get us some milk?

He pushes Owen out the door to the hall, shoos him down it.

OWEN
But I -

NERO
Gbat! See ya, bye!

Owen leaves through the front door.

Nero turns back into the room. He smiles. His phone rings. He
looks at the display and sees a text from Owen. He /ER

NERO

NERO (CONT'D)

Anyway, like I said, it's all perfect. You'll probably wanna be getting off?

SEX- the front door opening Nero looks horrified - runs towards the hall -

28

INT. CARRIER FLAT - HALLWAY DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL

28

Nero runs into the hallway to find Mr Bell coming in -

NERO

What you doin' here? What 'bout 4 o'clock club?

BELL

Cancelled. I've got better things to do tonight.

Shona comes through -

NERO

(panicking)

This is Mr Bell. He er...

Mr Bell sees her clipboard. Ah! His date!

MR BELL

Ah, the rose! Very novel. I'm enchanted to meet you!
(finger wobble)
Even though you're early.

SHONA

(looks at her watch)

Er...

MR BELL

And I wasn't expecting a clipboard!

SHONA

(a bit taken aback)

..I like to take notes.

MR BELL

Really? What you come through?

Mr Bell ushers Shona towards the living room. Nero, mystified, follows them.

29

INT. CARRIER FLAT - LIVING ROOM DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL

29

Shona sits on the sofa. Mr Bell swans about, putting on music, lighting candles. Nero stands in the doorway, baffled -

NERO
Your.. date?

MR BELL
Yes, Mr Bell has a date! Is that really so surprising?

NERO
No! Of course not. Your date. Absolutely.

MR BELL
Exactly. So go on Scram

NERO
UmN d&yo.— & L G f c l d goes d so 1

Nero starts to head to the front door, slowly, puts his hand on the latch.. Bell goes into the bathroom Nero swiftly reverses, goes back into the living room

31 **INE CARRIER FLAT - LIVING ROOM DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL** 31

Nero comes- ing to fi p l a s h o t a -

NERO
So! All done? The loo's busted so I vul di t stay too much longer..

SHONA
He bly quirky. c h w l o r i g h t a o X j ° E B D o o o o o q

32 **INT. CARRIER FLAT - HALFWAY DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL** 32

Nero runs through, finds an angry Dexter and chastened Eli.

DEXIER

What's going on? Eli's just had me
on some wild goose chase and - oof!

Nero pushes Dexter back out of the flat into the public
corridor.

33 **INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE CARRIER FLAT DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL** 33

Nero pushes Dexter out into the public corridor.

NERO

The social have come to check up on
you. They heard 'bout how you been
messing up.

DEXIER

Oh. Oh no.

NERO

Yeah. And they were about to send
me away, but I've pretty much
sorted it.

DEXIER

But -

NERO

All you need to know is: you're
really tidy, you're engaged to Mr
Bell and you sound like Eli being a
man. Now come on, let's go!

On Dexter - dilemma!

34 **INT. RAP SEQUENCE SECRETS AND LIES DAY 2** 34

DEXIER

Nero lied his face off
Am I supposed to go along with this
charade of
Secrets and lies responsible thing
to do
Tell the social worker the truth
Lies cause trouble....,
Like the time I accidentally took
the keys to the school gates home,
The next morning we all had to
climb over to get in
My fault, little did they know
I can't go through that again, Need
to be honest,

(MRE)

DEXIER (CONT'D)

Since honesty is the best policy,
 But what if they send Nero away for
 lying
 Or worse still blame me for his
 dishonesty
 I'd hate for him to have to leave
 all his friends
 Yet again and feel like I've failed
 as a parent.
 Being a good one that's a great
 achievement
 So do I have to keep the real truth
 secret?
 For the sake of me and Nero's
 relationship
 Do I lie my face off and make it
 stick?
 Or do I tell the truth, act like a
 grown up?
 A proper adult would go in there
 and own up..

35 **INT. CARIER FLAT - LIVING ROOM DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL** **35**

Shona and Eli are sitting waiting. Dexter enters the room breezily, with Nero behind -

DEXIER

(Eli voice)

Oh hullo! It's reet nice tae
 meet ye!

Eli recoils in shock

36 **INT. CARIER FLAT - BATHROOM DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL** **36**

Mr Bell is in the bathroom giving himself a pep talk in the mirror. In the background we can see the toilet, which is covered with pink crust.

MR BELL

You can do this. You're a lion
 King of the jungle. A silverback
 male. You're irresistible.

Checks his teeth. He turns to go, sees the horrible toilet, and floor, retches -

37 **INT. CARIER FLAT - LIVING ROOM DAY 2 AFTER SCHOOL** **37**

Shona, Eli, Dexter and Nero sit in the living room

SHONA

(to Eli)

And how do you know Nero?

ELI
Four o'clock club

SHONA
What's that?

ELI
After school / detention

NERO
(leaping in)
/ CHEER CLUB With Owen

SHONA
Cheer club?

NERO
Yep. Were all the well-behaved
kids hang out.

Eli gets it. Tries to be helpful.

ELI
Yeah, NOT detention Cheer club! He
could even show you a routine!

Nero glares at Eli.

NERO
Yes. Yes I could

Eli hands him the pens, encouragingly. Nero shakes them

NERO (CONT'D)
Give us a .

He looks at Eli -

ELI
P? B? Q?

Dexter steps in to rescue Nero

DEXTER
Oh, ye cannae really do your
cheers in here man. And besides -

Mr Bell comes in. Dexter stops talking to hide his accent.
Bell pretends to be chilled out, but addresses Dexter through
a fixed smile

MR BELL
Mr Harris, why is the lavatory
blocked?

Dexter smiles, shrugs, grins at Shona and makes a 'that's
life' kind of gesture.

MR BELL (CONF D)

Shona looks at him expectantly. He stands in the middle of the room. An awkward silence. Starts improvising.

DEXIER (CONT'D)

Nero child, it's time tae snooze..
The -

He plays on.. panic! What rhymes with snooze..?

NERO

Cows!

DEXIER

Cows? Cows!.. have finished all
their mos.
And soon they will be.. beef... in

SHONA

**Mr Harris, I think re-establishing
a working toilet should be quite a
high priority for you**

Dexter sighs, opens the door reluctantly. Lizzie looks

39 INE CARRIER FLAT - BATHROOM DAY 2 EARLY EVENING 39

Lizzie is looking at Dexter.

LIZZIE

So.. You're pretending to be Scottish? For charity? I'm a plumber? Mr Bell's your fiancé? And Nero's a cheerleader?

DEXIER

Exactly. Ready?

40 INE CARRIER FLAT - HALLWAY DAY 2 EARLY EVENING 40

Nero is still waiting awkwardly with Shona as Dexter and Lizzie come out of the loo. Lizzie affects a tradesperson's demeanor.

LIZZIE

Well, the problem with your u bend is.. It needs a.. sprocket?

DEXIER

(Eli voice)

Oh, does it now

There's a ring at the door. Dexter goes to answer it.

Bell comes through from the kitchen, Eli behind him

MR BELL

Oh good. That'll be the plumber.

Shona looks at Lizzie. Lizzie smiles. Dexter doesn't want to open the door - just stands there with his hand on the catch. Everyone just stands there awkwardly. The bell rings again

MR BELL (CONT'D)

Well open it then

Dexter sags. Opens the door.

It's Owen

OWEN

I got the milk

Dexter, Lizzie and Nero breathe again

OWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, and good news - the plumber's here.

Owen steps aside to reveal A BIG GUY wearing a TOOLBELT. He smiles warmly.

LIZZY
But.. I'm the plumber.

DEXIER
(Eli voice, to the
plumber)
Already got one thanks.

Dexter shuts the door.

BELL
Don't be absurd You're a chemistry
teacher. And Harris, why are you
putting on that ridiculous voice?

An oven timer goes off.

BELL (CONT'D)
Dessert!

Bell retreats back to the kitchen As soon as he's out of
earshot Dexter calls after him for Shona's benefit.

DEXIER
(Eli voice)
Oh You know why. Er.. Darling

Shona looks at them all, raises a A

ELI

(simultaneous)

Okay, I confess, I'm the Scottish one, not Dexter. On the phone earlier, that was me, speaking in a Scottish accent, because I'm Scottish, from Scotland -

OWEN

(simultaneous)

Madam, please, can I just say a few words in Nero's defence? Yes, he's acted irresponsibly, but he's scared, he's like a cornered animal, and when a vulnerable animal gets cornered sometimes it acts irrationally -

<Ding Dong!> It's the doorbell again. Everyone falls silent.

DEXIER

It'll be the plumber again
(yelling)
GO AWAY!

41 **INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CARRIER FLAT DAY 2 EARLY EVENING 41**

REVEAL A middle aged lady in jodhpurs and riding boots and a pony jumper, holding a red flower. She hears Dexter's 'Go away' and her face falls. Sad. She turns and walks slowly away.

42 **INT. CARRIER FLAT - HALLWAY DAY 2 EARLY EVENING 42**

SHONA

I haven't a clue what's going on here. But something clearly is. Shall we go and sit down?

43 **INT. CARRIER FLAT - LIVING ROOM DAY 2 EARLY EVENING 43**

We jump into a cacophony of protest again. Shona is sat on the sofa. Everyone else is stood up, speaking simultaneously -

DEXIER

Yes, I've made some mistakes, but Nero shouldn't have to pay for-

OWEN

They're good together -

LIZZIE

I feel that sending Nero to Kuwait would be entirely counterproductive.

ELI

Even though I would like a camel -

NERO

Everyone! Shut up!

(they do)

Look I lied okay. I ain't got a grade A home life. But.. I know vander set-ups! Like the stories I could tell 'bout Over's family -

OVEN

Hey!

NERO

Dexter ain't perfect.. but he's okay. He really tries. And I'm happy.

DEXIER

(touched)

Really?

NERO

Yeah So please - can't I stay?

Everyone looks at Shona

SHONA

Will you all sit down?!

They do They think all is lost.

NERO

This stinks man..

SHONA

Please. We KNOW nobody has the perfect childhood 'Okay' is totally fine.

DEXIER

It is?

SHONA

You're a good team And you evidently love each other.

Nero and Dexter both look at each other and make faces.

SHONA (CONT'D)

No one does all this for someone they don't care about. We're not removing Nero from your care, M Harris.

Relief. Exhaustion

