BBC TASTER SHORTS - THE BREAK

SWIPE SLOW

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

1. INT. BAR - PRESENT DAY - EVENING

CU a finger swiping rapidly, making fast snap decisions on profiles on a digital dating app (on a mobile phone) similar to Tinder.

ANOTHER finger doing same, then another. The fingers belong to:

MOUTH and FEI M N sitting at a table in a funky bar absorbed in their phones. They stop and notice DWAYNE still obsessively swiping his. He finally notices and looks up guiltily at them in turn.

DWAYNE

(To Fei Mn)

What ?!

(To Mouth)

What ?!

(To Camera) What ?!

Mbuth's a statistician, studied it at school, drones on and on about ratios and variables although his tactic's more caveman than not;

ON Mouth, extremely cocky nodding proudly.

Accept everything, cull from the l ot!

(Re: Fei Mn)

Fei Mn's way is simpler than that. This society's exoticized her race.

ON Fei M n nodding frankly.

All she's gotta do is post shots and wait and guys always swipe right her way.

ON Fei Min's PROFILE, a FINGER repeatedly tapping 'Like'.

But me, different, deeper than that. Can't talk about.

He gets up to leave the table.

Okay, sit back, relax...

Mouth and Fei Mn shake their heads.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

(To Camera)

Night club, six years ago...

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2. INT. NIGHTCLUB - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

PHOTOS/ LIVE ACTION MOMENTS on Fei M n and Mouth dancing. Strobes/ speeded up stills.

DWAYNE (V. O.)
Can't remember what the live band played but the vibes were right enough for us to dance slow, caught in the drift of the crowd, we grind slow, till the Dj comes, drops the wrong song, whole crowd turns and

Erica-

ANGLE ON Erica through the crowd.

3. INT. BAR - PRESENT DAY - EVENING

Dwayne walking away from table

DWAYNE

- like everyone is making for door. Our eyes lock, knock against each other.

INSERT: PHOTO - FLASHBACK- REVERSE ON DWAYNE, Looking at her.

We don't say a word, don't even

Something like wings grew, fluttering the space between, arms wrapped, buried in that hug, in the chaos of our world, magnet of the moon, its falling down alleys, I felt our hearts beat so rapidly, I thought if we stopped, both of us

On the train, I'm practicing my posh accent cause I don't want to embarrass her in front of her friends and I've got these stock

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5. INSERT- INT. ERICA'S ROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

ANGLE ON Erica sat on her floor mattress next to large window.

6 INT. BAR - TOILET - PRESENT DAY - EVENING DWAYNE

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7. INSERT- INT. ERICA'S ROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

ON Erica as YELLOW sunlight comes through cloud to light up room

8. INT. BAR - PRESENT DAY - EVENING

ON Dwayne with the phone in his hand as he sits back down at the table with Fei Mn and Mouth.

DWAYNE

and the whole room is now bathed in light, a golden overflowing, lifeaffirming light-

Dwayne, Fei M n and Mouth looking directly in to the camera as they look at his phone. This GLOW of yellow light illuminates their faces.

like the world's telling me it's fine kinda light. "So, it's cool," I say, "You're right, you're right."

ON Dwayne, the light has gone.

But on the train, I'm getting heart pal pations

INSERT: PHOTOS of Dwayne in his sick bed, different angles of distress.

a numb thing is growing, spreading in my chest, mum's advice is drink water, rest. But come morning, man's still gripped by this ting, (grabs Mbuth's shoulder, to him)
I go to the doctor bruv!

Mouth, dismissive.

That's how deep it was! And the lady is poking me, prodding my life!

INSERT: PHOTOS of Dwayne on his sick bed, not feeling too hot.

"Not hing's wrong, you're perfectly fine." But I'm not. "Ckay... anyone died? Nervous about something? don't

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DWAYNE (CONT'D)

I know, you're thinking you asked about the app, nice story but what am I on about? I'm not looking for Erica! That's not what I'm telling you. I think, if I'm honest... I'm tryna break up...?

Dwayne gets up, as does Fei M n and Mouth.

I'm too cynical for digital love, but those emotions, that sunny afternoon, gloom of that breakup, light of that room, that's the most emotionally connected I've felt to the world, to our lives, the living, to myself!

Fei Mn and Mouth discuss where next. Mouth might have found someone on phone. Dwayne is oblivious to them

Damm... all this time, I thought I wanted to hit it..

MONTAGE- CU OF DWAYNE at THE DIFFERENT PRESENT DAY LOCATIONS swiping through his phone.

But when I swipe, I ooking through pictures, I'm I ooking for a room with wide windows, where the sky is overcast enough to stop light, so when the gold sun cuts the gloom

INSERT - BACK TO MOMENT OF THE GOLDEN LIGHT on their faces.

it's like I'm alive again, I'm renewed.

In the background. Fei Mn and Mouth go to leave, they want him to come.

That's why I'm always on it if you must know. Takes time cause... I swipe slow.

He leaves frame to join them