We are some way into MARTYN's act. It's not going well. MARTYN steps off the stage into the audience. Nervous, he hands a GIRL his deck of cards.

The GIRL cuts the cards. Standing up she turns to the CROWD.

HOOTS of derision from the CROWD.

Laughter and derision. He's so easy to mock, MARTYN. Trying too hard, so desperate to be liked. The CROWD start chanting "You're shit! You're shit!'

And in the CROWD we see a tall, silent, still young man BEN FIELD. He has dark cropped hair, a muscular, powerful physique. A neat, cropped beard, glasses. He has charisma, the stillness of him in this crowd. He watches MARTYN in the spotlight stumbling and failing, the baying crowd.

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MARK, now dressed in a	)8)1(!#9)\\7'*/(1)'\$\\	Scene: 10:02:28 Credits In:
suit, waits. This is obviously a high level admin area of the station. Hushed because of a better quality of carpet. MARK waits, impatient.	\$&'&''\\7'') 47\\$ \$&(4\\/#33\)  CHRIS Sorry to keep you waiting. Days	10:02:29
Another man in a suit comes hurrying up the corridor. CHRIS WARD Head of Major Crime. Burly, overworked, seen it	1')&!)/\\:\0'#!!).\\3+\\\ \\$&'&'\\7'')47\\  CHRIS (CONT'D)barely started it's already a giant pain in my arse.	Credit In: 10:02:34
all and not much of it is good.  We go with MARK as he	7'*/(1)/\\3+\\\;'&.1)\$\\/(\\7\\44)	Credit In: 10:02:38
follows CHRIS into his office, crowded with files, papers, a computer. CHRIS dumps his briefcase, takes a file OPERATION NASEBY from his desk and passes it to MARK. CHRIS shuts	/#')1!)/\\3+\\\ \$&(4\\/#33\\\\\	Credit In: 10:02:42
the door.	What is this?	Scene:
		10:02:45
MARK who opens the folder and sits down.	CHRIS Will fraud. Suspected homicide. I've got that feeling about it though. Which is why I'm giving it to you.	
The first thing MARK sees is ANN's face.	MARK Uh thanks.	
MARK turns the page.	CHRIS Requires delicate handling is what I mean.	

On MARK.	MAN (O.O.V) Sir.	
	MARK Hi.	
		Scene: 10:03:59
MARK boils the kettle and opens a Pot Noodle.		
MARK'S OFFICE  MARK enters his office		Scene: 10:04:02
with the file and his Pot Noodle.		
MARK'S OFFICE		Scene: 10:04:09
The office is plain, neat, ascetic. MARK opens the file looking at the reports. He opens his laptop and starts listening to audio data files from the police archive of recordings of 999 calls. MARK listens, attentive, finishing his Pot Noodle.	ANN-MARIE (THROUGH LAPTOP) I need to talk to someone about what's been going on with my Aunt. She's er in hospital right now. But she's been spending a lot of time with this young man. He's sort of moved into her house. His name is Ben Field and I think um, I think he's been doing something to her.	Music In: 10:04:17           
MARK plays the next one.	BEN (THROUGH LAPTOP) Good morning, I'm err my name's Ben Field. I'm calling because in, in brief a friend of mine was been admitted to hospital-	
	OPERATOR 1 (THROUGH LAPTOP) Right?	

**BEN (THROUGH LAPTOP)** 

When I've called the hospital or tried to visit, the security have said that I can't see her. Her, her name is Ann Moore-Martin.

YULIA (THROUGH LAPTOP) Hello, can you hear me?

**OPERATOR (THROUGH LAPTOP)** 

From MARK.

### **EXT. NATALIE'S**

A residential suburban area. NATALIE drives with MARK sitting next to her. The ordinary day slides past the car windows. NATALIE turns onto a residential road, finds a space and pulls up. Her SAT NAV continues to instruct.

NATALIE turns off the engine. They sit for a moment. Gather themselves.

NATALIE and MARL exit the car.

IAN and SUE look at each other.

Another long silence. The shock waves eddy and ripple. Like a muscle coiling. SUE takes IAN's hand.

A beat.

A few moments tick away. SUE swallows.

SUE

They were very close. Very...

A beat.

SUE (CONT'D)
Peter loved him.

A moment as SUE gathers herself for this disclosure. On NATALIE.

SUE (CONT'D) (O.O.V) Was in love with him.

To IAN. SUE (CONT'D)

If something's been done then they need to

know. They do.

IAN's drawn face, the slightest move of his head, he knows she's right.

SUE (CONT'D)

There were probably things that er, Peter didn't tell us about Ben, about um their lives together. But he might have written about them. He

wrote about everything.

From SUE.

MARK, wearing evidence gloves, flicks through one of PETERS journals as IAN arrives with another box.

On NATALIE and MARK.

Her face is furrowed with

RICHARD enters and starts searching boxes, looking for the right label, the right year, the right log numbers.

He finds one behind some evidence bags. A label showing '2015 Maids Moreton'.

He pulls the box towards him and opens it, searches through the other bagged pieces of forgotten evidence. And there at the bottom, the whiskey glass.

RICHARD does a quiet fist pump "yes!", repacks the box and returns it to the shelf.

RICHARD Yes!

MARK is at the head of the table. The table is crowded with plain clothes officers, men and women, NATALIE, RICHARD. EVERYONE taking notes, everyone with files.

Now we see the nine seconds of the bodycam footage properly as it plays on the screen. The sweep of PETER's room. The closed curtains to the street.

MARK
The coroner ruled that Peter Farquhar died from . He drank himself to death. Ben Field told the attending officer that Peter had a long history of alcoholism, something that Peter's family refute. Field also told the attending officer that Peter took sleeping pills regularly and that's true, so perhaps Peter did have a problem with alcohol and hid his addiction from his family. Perhaps Field was being truthful. Perhaps. However. Let's have another look at the crime scene.

MARK (CONT'D)

The lights are off. The TV is off. The curtains on the window to the road are drawn.

## GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE

We'll come to recognise this street. From inside the car we see BEN exit the front door.

BEN turns back and shares a lingeringly kiss with a YOUNG WOMAN, in her kimono dressing gown, her hair bundled up. BEN is dressed vest and shorts for running heads away.

BEN Bye.

BEN (CONT'D)
I'll text you later.

From the car we see BEN run into the park.

BEN starts his run.

### **EXT. GIRLFRIEND'S**

A few moments later, we see a plain saloon driven by TWO OFFICERS we recognise from the incident briefing. They pull on their seat belts.

| | |

Scene:

10:16:47

Living room. MARTYN changes the batteries in the TV remote and turns the tele on. They grin at each other happily, enjoying the back and forth-

MARTYN They you go.

LIZ

Brilliant! Now you can fix my guttering.

**MARTYN** 

I don't know anything about guttering.

BEN (O.S) I'll do it.

LIZ

Oh! Oh you made me jump.

BEN

Back door was open. You should be more

To LIZ.

On MARTYN and BEN.

To BEN.

To LIZ.

On BEN and MARTYN.

To MARTYN.

MARTYN and BEN exit. Out on LIZ, happy.

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Most of the CONGREGATION raise their hands.

He gazes round the

SIMON dressed in black enters, carrying a box and flowers.

ANN-MARIE takes a deep breath and stands straight as SIMON approaches. Silently, they start to unpack flowers and photos from the box, placing them on the coffin. ANN at every stage in her life, the model, the headmistress, the adored aunt and grand-aunt, surrounded by family.

ANN-MARIE I used to follow her everywhere when I was little. Toddling alon6 (a) Tf (.) Tj 8 (h) -3-3 (le) 8

A little moment. SIMON goes to her, tries to embrace her but ANN-MARIE steps back.

A long moment.

Movement at the back of the Church as

MOURNERS arrive.

After a beat, SIMON nods and goes. The PRIEST welcomes the MOURNERS. SIMON joins him.

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On ANN-MARIE trying to gather herself.

On ANN-MARIE.

PETER about to head into the living room with a cup of tea clocks BEN's rucksack hanging on the banister. He is compelled by curiosity. Unzipping the rucksack he pulls out the notebook.

MARK flicks through the transcript.

### **INT. PETER'S HOUSE**

FLASHBACK: PETER opens the notebook and reads, excited, anticipatory, a glimpse into his lover's private thoughts. And his face falls.

We see a page written quite clearly: At least 1. Gin and tonic (large)

- 2. whiskey (neat)
- 3. Bottle of red
- 4. Neat vodka !!!

He frowns, turns pages, disbelieving. The pages

MARK reading through the transcripts.

# **INT. PETER'S HOUSE**

FLASHBACK: BEN tears pages out of

BEN steps forward and takes PETER in his arms and PETER clings to him tightly.

RICHARD look over to MARK.

MARK looks up from his

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BEN stands in front of the CUSTODY SERGEANT being booked in. He's dressed, wearing his glasses. He's adjusted his demeanour, polite, charming, low status, what a horrible mistake this all is. How embarrassing for them. The CUSTODY SERGEANT is blandly polite.
To other OFFICERS.

**CUSTODY SERGEANT** 

Okay finally what's your occupation, Mr Field?

BEN

I've just finished a book on the Romantic Poets.

CUSTODY SERGEANT So I should put author?

BEN

Author's fine. Author's fine.

CUSTODY SERGEANT Okay thanks guys.

**BEN** 

I suspect I'm in for a, a rather a dull time. I don't suppose you have such a thing as a book I could read?

CUSTODY SERGEANT Sure

BEN is walked down to the cells by a couple of OFFICERS. When they reach his cell BEN has to remove his shoes. He kicks his trainers off and is shown in.

On BEN.

BEN enters.

# BEN'S

BEN steps into the cell, the door is closed and locked behind him.

# BEN'S CELL

CCTV FOOTAGE: BEN sits down and clocks a camera on the wall.

# MARTYN'S CELL

CCTV FOOTAGE: MARTYN sits on the edge of the bench.

## **BEN'S FLAT**

SOCO in gloves and overalls slowly sifting BEN's belongings with MARK surveying the chaos of the flat. The laptop being placed in evidence bags. So many mobile phones.

MARK walks over to the table covered in evidence bags.

Wearing gloves, he picks Music In: one up - a clear baggie 10:32:43 with packets inside it. Substances. Another bag contains a Dictaphone. MARK, presses play and BEN (THROUGH DICTAPHONE) BEN's voice comes out of So I'll punch you, not even punk you. Straight up, this is my class and I'm a funk you. it. A rap rhythm but it's terrible. MARK clicks the Dictaphone off. An OFFICER hands MARK a black notebook. MARK What's this? On MARK moving towards some light. Inside we see the crammed, chaotic black writing, symbols, dates, abbreviations, a strange, unnerving, illegible riot like hieroglyphs or runes. And written in red: 'I moved in so he could die.' MARK frowns, flips the page, A SOCO OFFICER SOCO OFFICER 2 (O.S) calls from the bedroom. Sir? MARK hands the MARK notebook back to the Thank you. Bag that please. OFFICER. **OFFICER** Yes, Sir. MARK heads into the bedroom. INT. BEN'S FLAT Scene: 10:33:37 As MARK enters he see a SOCO OFFICER holding two blue journals.

# BEN'S BRIEF (READING) (CONT'D)

I did not murder Ann Moore-Martin nor did I have any involvement in her death. I did not murder Peter Farquhar nor did I have any involvement in his death. I do not wish to answer any questions at this stage. I have made this statement of my own free will and the contents are true. It bears my signature.

A moment. BEN sips water. All his muscles relaxed, his limbs easy. He looks big in that small room.

**NATALIE** 

Doesn't stop us asking questions though, does it, Ben? When did you decide to target Peter Farquhar?

Music In: 10:35:10

BEN considers. The softness of his expression, as if he pities the OFFICERS for having to perform such a banal process. And even though he doesn't look at it directly, he is profoundly aware of the blinking camera high up in the corner of the interview room. That knowledge of being watched.

**BEN** 

No comment.

Back with MARK watching the interview through his laptop.

NATALIE (THROUGH LAPTOP) Where were you the night...

Back with NATALIE interviewing BEN.

NATALIE (CONT'D) ...Peter Farquhar died?

BEN No comment.

From BEN.	
Back with MARK.	

A UNIFORMED
OFFICER opens the back
doors for MARTYN to get
in. MARTYN gets in and
sits. The door shuts. And
for a second, it's just
MARTYN, his uncertain
breathing. And then the
door opens and BEN's
getting in. MARTYN's
eyes follow him but BEN
doesn't seem to look at
him. The door shuts

MARTYN nods.

BEN (CONT'D) Yeah me too.

A beat.

BEN (CONT'D)

They haven't got anything really. Ben's a weird man. That's what they've got. That's all they've got.

Out on MARTYN.

Scene: 10:37:29

A briefing: RICHARD enters with print outs, hands them round to MARK, NATALIE and the TEAM who are gathered around the table.

MARK scans the pages of the text message. His face betrays nothing.

**RICHARD** 

Right, there are thousands of files and photos. Thousands. But some results from the bottle and glass. Field's fingerprint is on the inside of the glass and around the bottle. And Smith's DNA's round the neck of the bottle. And there's some text messages. They're pretty nasty.

Music Out: 10:37:39

Music In: 10:37:49

#### MARTYN'S

MARTYN sits on the edge of the bench, his hands tight between his knees, his shoulders hunched round himself.

An OFFICER opens MARTYN's cell.

OFFICER Follow me then.

**NATALIE** 

Was Ben there, Martyn? Were you there that night?

MARTYN No comment.

#### **NATALIE**

We've got texts between you and Ben, and we've seen the sort of things you say about Peter.

From CLOSE-UP on MARTYN.

### MARK'S OFFICE

MARK watching the interview through his laptop.

NATALIE (THROUGH LAPTOP) (CONT'D) You call...

Scene: 10:39:24

Scene: 10:39:22

On MARTYN as he stares in shock.

NATALIE (CONT'D) (O.O.V)

...him Lord Fuckwad. You call him retard and cunt. Peter had been kind to you. Left you a lot of money in his will.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Ten thousand pounds. Why would you say such nasty things about him?

MARTYN No comment.

On MARTYN.

NATALIE (O.O.V)

Martyn, you know you're under caution? There's a really important bit of that caution that I want you to have a little think about. "If you fail to mention, when questioned, something which you later rely on in court...'

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From MARTYN, trembling.

# MARK'S OFFICE

MARK closes his laptop and leans back in his chair.

#### **NATALIE**

He leaves, following a pair of UNIFORMED OFFICERS. He's gone. MARK comes through a door and joins her, taut and angry with failure to charge.

On the security cameras, BEN turns to look up at them as he gets into the back of a police car. That cockiness. MARK sighs.

## **AND SUE'S**

MARK and NATALIE drive down the road to IAN and SUE's house.

NATALIE and MARK, IAN and SUE. IAN and SUE stunned. Long moments tick by.

On IAN and SUE.

MARK (CONT'D)

...delicate work so the original gravediggers who laid Peter to rest would be lifting him up.

A long silence.

IAN

We believe that Peter's body

From IAN and SUE.

Music. A lament. A muted, washed light. A sombre, overwhelmingly sad atmosphere. So quiet, no-one speaks. The air heavy.

OFFICERS erect a temporary wall around the graveyard. SOCO OFFICERS cover headstones in bubble wrap as well as PETER's.

TWO GRAVEDIGGERS arrive with shovels and mattocks. They trace knowledgeably the dimensions of the pit.

MARK and RICHARD watch as the GRAVEDIGGERS put the blades of their spades into the earth, the spades bite the earth with a rasp.

The two SOCO officers push the large plain box containing PETER's coffin on the gurney into the examination room.

The lid of the box is lifted off and inside we see, tarnished and worn, PETER's coffin.
DR BRETT LOCKYER, Home Office pathologist (40's) brushes the earth away from the brass plaque on the coffin lid.

BRETT leaves. MARK and RICHARD look at each other and leave. Scene: 10:45:23 On one of the printers, a page is printing out, we are close on that. It is the front page of the LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of ELIZABETH SCARLETT ZETTL. PULL-OUT TO: the evidence wall of photographs and timelines has grown, taking over the wall. RICHARD at his desk. the work of the incident room going on around him. He lays out PETER's missing diaries and the stack of BEN's workbooks. On one side, the neat, ordered entries Music In: of Peter's diaries. 10:45:41 RICHARD opens one of BEN's workbooks and the comparison is startling, the aggressive, disorienting whirl of abbreviations, the different pens, the scrawl, the symbols. Using his phone RICHARD zooms in on some of the text. We see via the phone, clear in block capitals amidst the jumble 'I have become promiscuous in the matter of death.'

NATALIE's mobile beeps for a text, she checks it.

NATALIE Oh...

MARK What is it?

NATALIE It's Ben's bail officer.

From MARK.

A hearse pulls up outside a chapel. Beautiful shrubs and trees. The tall chimney of the crematorium.

The FAMILY exits the cars and head into the chapel. The coffin is brought in on the shoulders of the pallbearers. One of the pallbearers is BEN. He wears the same official suit as the others. The coffin covered with its floral tributes rests on his shoulder, his face pressed against the grained wood. The coffin is laid down and BEN and others leave through a side exit.

On the pall bearers as they leave the chapel but BEN stays discreetly by the wall.

His eyes rove over to the weeping WIDOW soft hair under a black hat.

BEN watches her.

Later: the coffin disappears slowly.

The weeping WIDOW is sitting alone.

BEN walks over and he offers his own sparkling white handkerchief.
She gazes at him for a moment.

BEN gives her the gentlest, kindest smile and leaves.

As BEN exits the grounds he pulls out a small black notebook and writes something down. B BEN turns back and watches it rise up and up with a kind of spellbound wonder.

MARK walks along the corridor heading to CHRIS' office. He knocks on the door.

MARK opens the door and steps in.

MARK enters.

CHRIS sits behind his desk.

MARK closes the door and heads to CHRIS' desk.

MARK sits down. And pulls a printout from his pocket. On CHRIS

MARK reads.

On CHRIS. A moment.  MARKS stands up and leaves.	MARK (CONT'D) (O.O.V) He's just getting started.  MARK (CONT'D) Come on Chris.  CHRIS I suppose I could bring you back as a civilian investigator?  MARK Right. I'll do that then.  CHRIS Why don't you think about it.  MARK I have. Thanks. I appreciate it.	
MARK closes the door behind him.		Scene: 10:51:21
RICHARD works. Most of the room is dark, the blueish light from screen savers on pcs. Pools of light where RICHARD is hunched over the angry snarl of BEN's workbooks.  RICHARD's face is hollowed, dark shadows under his eyes which are red- rimmed.	PETER (V.O) Late evening I can hardly stand up. I feel so tired.	Scene: 10:51:23 Music In: 10:51:26     

He cross checks dates in PETER's diaries, goes backwards and forwards through BEN's workbooks.

FLASHBACK: PETER is in the lecture hall. He

turns the pages of a book murmuring to himself.

\$

FLASHBACK: PETER hallucinates and points to the ceiling as if seeing something.	PETER (CONT'D) (V.O)of black insects.
RICHARD goes through BEN's notebooks finding what and how much BEN has been putting in PETER's tea.	PETER (CONT'D) (V.O)
FLASHBACK: PETER sits at his desk. He writes in his diary as BEN brings in a cup of tea and toast.	
CLOSE ON spreadsheet dates from PETER's diary.	
FLASHBACK PETER	

wakes up. BEN is looking out the bedroom window.

The camera PANS around the table on the TEAM listening, then on the projector screen.	RICHARD (CONT'D) (O.O.V)  Now the one thing that Ben does keep an ordered record of, where he does date things, is all the drugs that he gives to Peter. Now, its' all on different pages, but it's dated.	
RICHARD shows on screen a clip of Peter's diary.	RICHARD (CONT'D) Peter never mentions that Ben is giving him anything unfamiliar. No white powder, like Ann mentioned she was given. Peter gets ill, so Ben brings him cups of tea, makes him dinner. Tea in bed.	
On the TEAM, listening carefully.	RICHARD (CONT'D) (O.O.V) The only medication that Peter thinks he's taking is the one prescribed to him by his GP, the one that he's been on for years.	
	RICHARD (CONT'D) Peter drinks his tea, eats his toast grateful to Ben for taking such good care of him.	
On NATALIE.	NATALIE Fucking hell.	
On NATALIE and MARK.	RICHARD (O.O.V) Anyway.	
	RICHARD (CONT'D) I've made a table of all the drugs that Ben gives to Peter. And how it affects him It's Benzodiazepines and psychoactives. That's what we're looking for in Peter. That's what will be in his hair.	Music In: 10:54:08   
MARK nods to RICHARD.		
		 Scene: 10:54:19
BEN running. His t-shirt dark with sweat. He puts on a sprint as he heads down the road and then slows.		

BEN is brought out of the police van in the clothes he was wearing. His hands are cuffed.
To OFFICERS as he is lead through the gates.

BEN in the prison grey of sweatshirt and joggers follows an

PROPS MASTER MIKE PARKER
STORE PERSON LILLY ROBBINS
PROP HANDS AXI BUTTERWORTH

GEORGE NELMES STANDBY PROPS CHRIS BUTCHER

CHRIS BUTCHER RICH MOULES

ACTION PROP BUYER GENAYA HARTLEY GORDON SET DECORATOR ELIZABETH MARCUSSEN SOPHIE BLAKE

COSTUME SUPERVISOR
COSTUME STANDBY
JUNIOR COSTUME STANDBY
COSTUME TRAINEE

CHARLIE BESTWICK CHLOE HENDERSON IMMY HOWARTH MAKE-