

OA EXT. PLAYGROUND / MAIN ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 06:59 - DAY. OA

The relief sculpture of William Beswick. A hand hastily shakes a can of red spray-paint, and daubs the word RACIST over the sculpture. Pull back to see SHOLA AKU looking round furtively, before scarpering.

WATERLOO RO

DONTE (V.O.)

Maybe I wasn't that brilliant at some of it - lessons, homework, exams, good behaviour...but man, we had a laugh. And somewhere along the way I learned a ton of stuff.

2

INT. KIM'S CAR. PRE SCHOOL. 07:02 - DAY.

2

We see KIM CAMPBELL behind the wheel of her car, looking sharp - checking traffic lights.

Pick up shot of her face as she drives.

DONTE (V.O.)

Maybe I locked horns with a couple of teachers now and then, but there was some of 'em I won't forget. Cos they never give up on me. They knew it wasn't just about exams. It was about growing, taking responsibility, getting on with life - and enjoying it because you're part of it.

Kim continues to drive towards the school.

W

4 EXT. STAFF CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 07:08 - DAY.

4

Kim pulls into the parking space marked 'Head Teacher'. She hauls a plastic container of books, files, and photo frame out of the back seat, galvanised for the new term.

The smile slips from Kim's face as she turns towards the Teacher's entrance to see the relief sculpture of William Beswick '1763 - 1854' on the wall defaced in red spray paint with 'RACIST'.

Kim takes a deep breath - her sense of optimism punctured by the reality of the ongoing task ahead.

Her PA WENDY WHITWELL comes zipping round the corner on a mobility scooter and stops in front of the relief.

WENDY

Our lovely pupils have been practicing their art homework over the break.

KIM

I knew something like this was coming!

Making a decision, Kim hands her box of things to Wendy.

KIM (CONT'D)

Tell Lindon and Joe to hol

5A

EXT. COUNCIL CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 07:36 - DAY.

5A

Kim speeds into the council car park and before she has even had a chance to park. She spots a harried ERICA THORN heading toward the building.

Kim stops where she is, leaps out of her car.

KIM

Erica -

Erica turns, face falling when she sees Kim hurrying up -

ERICA

Really Kim - not now.

KIM

I've got graffiti at the front entrance, calling the school 'RACIST' in giant red letters.

ERICA

Oh god. . . .

KIM

I told you we need to bite the bullet and get the name changed.

ERICA

(weary, they've been here before)

I'm well aware of your feelings on the matter Kim.

KIM

For me the kids are bang on the money -

ERICA

Who's money? That's one of the issues, Kim - not every parent wants to waste limited funds on a rebrand when we're already stretched so thin.

KIM

It wouldn't be wasted -

E

(MORE)

ERICA (CONT'D)

But I have to measure it against
the cost of books, resources,
uniforms - William Beswick isn't
the only school I have to consider.

KIM

(appealing to her)

But I've got to steer the ship,
Erica - and, mark my words,
graffiti's the tip of the iceberg -

5B

EXT. TOWER BLOCK ENTRANCE. PRE SCHOOL. 07:37 - DAY.

5B

Throngs of students stream into the school via the tower block entrance. Kelly Jo is amongst them and is carrying a placard.

She hides it behind her back as she sees JOE CASEY cycle into school on his bike, with his two foster sons DWAYNE and ZAYNE cycling behind in matching helmets (or whatever).

Dwayne pulls a wheelie.

JOE

I can see you Dwayne!

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MAIN ENTRANCE: Shola is ignoring Lindon. She opens a bag of paint bottles and starts squirting red paint on the uniform pile - having spotted this, Samia joins them.

SAMIA
Hey, what's with the paint?

Kelly Jo joins her and grabs a paint bottle.

KELLY JO
Blood of slaves, innit.

Lindon tries to reach for the uniform.

LINDON
Vandalism isn't the answer.

He gestures for them to go inside - and for some pupils, the show's over - but Shola's defiant.

SHOLA
Our uniforms, our property -

SAMIA
It's our right to protest.

7A EXT. COUNCIL CAR PARK. PRE SCHOOL. 07:43 - DAY.

7A

Erica's edging towards the building as she reassures Kim -

ERICA
You need support, I can see that -

KIM
(frustrated)
I need the go-ahead, I'll do the rest.

ERICA
I'll call you. I promise.

KIM
That's what you said last week, and last month -

Erica disappears towards the building leaving Kim less than convinced.

9 EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / CAR PARK GATES. PRE SCHOOL. 07:45 - DAY. 9

MAIN ENTRANCE: The protest has doubled in size - pupils chant NOT MY SCHOOL - Dean and his mate NOEL McCMANUS (yr. 11) square up to Kelly Jo and Dwayne.

DEAN
This is cancel culture.

DWAYNE
Some culture needs cancelling.

NOEL
It's history.

KELLY JO
Your history.

Joe and Dean try to get control of the situation as more kids arrive at the entrance and the tension escalates between the o

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EXT. STREET NEAR SCHOOL. PRE SCHOOL. 07:57 - DAY.

15

Donte's stuck in yet more traffic - winds his window down to see what the hold up is. Chlo's getting antsy, clutching her proposal.

CHLO

Think I'm more nervous than you,
meeting Miss Campbell after all these
years.

IZZY

(droll)

Did she deliver me on the floor of the
girls toilets by any chance?

DONTE

(droll back)

Shocker. Who told you?

CHLO

You can tease, but who knows what
might've happened if she hadn't -

IZZY

(arg!)

I knew I should've walked.

DONTE

You'll both have to walk if I'm gonna
get to this job on time.

Chlo and Izzy jump out -

- and Donte starts a three point turn - blowing a kiss.

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EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL

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CORAL

A paint bomb hit my windscreen, I
couldn't see a thing!

The Au Pair Driver checks her car.

CORAL (CONT'D)

It wasn't my fault.

Coral gets back in her car and tries to tell herself that is
the truth.

21B

EXT. PLAYGROUND. PRE SCHOOL. 08:06 - DAY.

21B

Kim is still in shock at the chaos in the playground as a panicked
Joe strides over.

JOE

We got local lads jumping on the
bandwagon now -

A rush of screaming, giggling kids surge through the gates as
others - are they even pupils? - chase them, lobbing paint
balloons - Kim's decisive.

KIM

Right - let's get the gates shut before
we do anything else.

And she hurries toward the eye of the storm, raises her
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- and here's another teacher VALER

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25 INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR / MEDICAL ROOM. REGISTRATION. 25:38
- DAY.

Spilling from the tiny room into the corridor - a few NS TEACHERS clean NS PUPILS' arms/faces - treat scraped knees, bathe eyes, and Dwayne's ankle being tended to by Joe.

JOE

You'll live, but let's see how it looks when we get you home tonight. You should never have got involved.

Anxious Izzy's eyeing Amy's tattoo under her rolled up sleeve as she bandages Chlo's wrist. Joe joins them.

JOE (CONT'D)

I can get a nurse here within the hour.

IZZY

(to Amy)

I thought you were the nurse?

JOE

Miss Spratt's a teacher, Izzy.

Even Chlo looks a little surprised, and Amy flushes.

AMY

Name's Amy. Newly qualified, but I'm St John's ambulance trained.

She finishes the wrist -

AMY (CONT'D)

Pretty sure it's not broken, but I'd prefer if you got it X-rayed -

CHLO

It's fine.

She examines Chlo's temple/scalp.

AMY

Where'd you bang your head?

CHLO

(pulling away)

It's my daughter I'm worried about -

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26

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD ONE. 09:10 - DAY.

26

A weary Wendy fields calls from parents.

WENDY

No - of course I do understand your
concerns - but it was largely a couple
of local idiots -

Kim sees the cops out of her office as Wendy mutes her call, pre-empting Kim's next question, as per.

WEND

LINDON
And the rest should

27 INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. PERIOD ONE. 09:26 - DAY.

27

In the background, Rolf and cleaners are making inroads into the clean up process - mops, a cone where paint is slippery.

Freshly showered Kai and Preston are outside 'Lost & Found' rooting through boxes of used PE kit and clothing.

Here's Caz, showered, face washed though still pink - but her hair is a stiff, claggy, red nightmare.

PRESTON

You look like a crime scene, mate.

CAZ

Anyone got a pair of scissors?

KAI

I got some nail clippers?

Caz just gives him a dead eye.

KAI (CONT'D)

Maybe try the art department?

Caz salutes a thanks and goes. Preston pulls on a rugby shirt, checks himself out in the mirror, then pulls focus to Kai holding up a girl's unicorn tee-shirt.

PRESTON

Hey - that's

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34 INT. PASTORAL CARE. PERIOD TWO. 10:22 - DAY.

34

Joe sits in as Jamilah talks to Danny, taking it at Danny's pace. Silences and defensive shrugs punctuate the following.

JAMILAH

Is there a reason you don't want us to
call your mum?

Danny chews his cheek. Works his jaw. Silence. Finally.

DANNY

No point. I only stayed cos of my Nan.

Silence. Works his jaw, mistrustful. Jamilah tries again.

JAMILAH

How long have you been sleeping rough,
Danny, before here? Or did you stay
with someone?

Shrugs indifferently, shame and pride fighting each other.
Jamilah lets the silence hang

35 INT. HEAD TEACHER'S CORRIDOR. PERIOD TWO. 11:10 - DAY. 35

Joe's come to collect Chlo from the nurse's suite having given her statement to Mike, who's filling

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Jamilah nods, and they exit - Kim's resolve growing by the moment.

39 INT. MAIN CORRIDOR. BREAK. 11:28 - DAY.

39

Kim emerges from the staff room as Jami lah approaches, with a subdued Danny and Angel in tow.

JAMI LAH

I can't get an answer from Danny's Mum
- might be an old number, so I'm going
to go round there myself.

KIM

Okay, good.

(to Danny)

Meantime why don't you go down to the
canteen, get some food?

Wendy hurries towards them.

KIM (CONT'D)

Wendy won't mind taking Angel back to
the office will you?

Wendy doesn't look impressed as she looks down at Angel. Danny
gives Angel a pat before heading off with Jami lah -

WENDY

(to Kim)

Erica Thorn just rang. She's coming
in. About the riot.

Kim takes a breath - course she is.

40

INT. SCIENCE LAB. PERIOD THREE. 11:45 - DAY.

40

An NS SCIENCE TEACHER patrols the room as Kai, Caz and Preston work together at a lab table. Furtive smirking and 'is she

WATERLOO ROAD

JOE
(morose)
When you put it like that...

A sense of gloom prevails.

42

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42

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44

INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. LUNCH TIME. 12:45 - DAY.

44

A group of the original protesters have gathered for Kim, including Samia, Shola, Caz, Tonya, Kelly Jo, Dean and Noel. Kim scans their faces, her anger palpable.

KIM

You have no idea the position you've put us all in.

SAMIA

(the injustice!)

We campaigned for a whole year, but nothing changed -

KIM

- so you thought starting a riot would sort it?

Samia's trying to stand her ground, but she's close to tears.

SHOLA

The red paint was on me, okay? It was supposed to be symbolic. I didn't know cretins like him were going to abuse it.

Dean and Noel all 'wounded reproach'.

KIM

Don't even try, lads - I saw you hurling projectiles at pupils.

DEAN

I threw the paint to be symbolic -

KELLY JO

You don't even know what symbolic MEANS!

DEAN

(blow me)

Neither do you!

KIM

You think it's funny hurting people, Dean?

DEAN

(kinda

NOEL

Depends on the situation, to be fair.
Like if it's only a wallop in the
niknaks -

Dean chortles -

SAMIA

There is something fully wrong with
you.

KIM

Noel, are you boys going to pay for
the damage to school property?
People's clothes - Caz's hair?

Dean peers at Caz's hair, stifles a smirk. She withers him.

CAZ

I don't care about my hair, Miss
Campbell. I care that we've still got
that white supremacist's name on our
blazers. That's not okay.

A ripple of confidence at her bold clarity. Kim's careful.

KIM

I understand your frustration. But
taking matters into your own hands
like this morning not only undermines
your position, but it's made
everything worse.

She's deadly serious.

KI

KIM

When I was at school, challenging the
William Beswicks of this world
wouldn't even have been an option.

Food for thought for all of them, not least Kim...

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45B INT. SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM. 12:48 - DAY.

45B

The pupils disperse after Kim's bollocking - and Shola breathes a sigh of relief.

SHOLA

Could of been worse -

SAMIA

How? We've blown it, Shola - made ourselves look proper bad - and it's your fault for bringing that stupid paint -

SHOLA

It wasn't me lobbing it all over everyone, was it -

Dean and Noel slope past on their way out -

KELLY JO

It was them two morons -
(to Dean)

You should of got the bollocking for everyone -

Dean makes kissy lips at her -

TONYA

Gross -

KELLY JO

You're a PIG BOY Dean Weever -

Dean and Noel scuttle off, chortling.

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50 INT. HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE. PERIOD FOUR. 13:35 - DAY. 50

Kim's on her computer, going over her 'RENAMING SCHOOL BUDGET' spreadsheet - absorbed in her task...

A knock and in comes Danny - Kim stops what she's doing.

KIM

Danny - have a seat -

She looks over his shoulder for Jamilah - but he's alone.

DANNY

So - I was wondering, like, if it's possible - I could - maybe - come back.

Kim's taken aback - Danny clarifies, trying to be casual.

DANNY (CONT'D)

To school. Like, as a pupil.

KIM

(carefully)

Let's get you settled somewhere, then we can look at the available options for education -

DANNY

But I could come back here, right?

Kim's wrongfooted - desperately wants not to hurt him.

KIM

It's not that simple, Danny. You missed your GCSEs. Your form's already preparing for A Levels.

DANNY

Yeah, but - if I do over year 11 -

KIM

You can't repeat year e

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51 INT. DEPUTY HEADS' OFFICE. PERIOD FOUR. 14:21 - DAY. 51

Kim's with Lindon now, Danny's holdall on her desk as she takes a few things out - books on photography, graphic art, music, torch, a photo of his Nan.

KIM

He's a survivor. Living here off handouts from food banks and reading our library books to keep him sane -

LINDON

It's awful, of course - and I admire your compassion, but you're not in pastoral care any more -

KIM

Don't patronise me -

LINDON

(flaring)

I'm not patronising you - I'm trying to protect you.

Something sparks in the space between them.

KIM

It's not *me* that needs protecting.

LINDON

Are you sure? You're Head Teacher of a school that's already in trouble - our pass rate's low enough as it is -

KIM

(frosty)

I'm well aware of our stats, Lindon. And I'm well aware you would have done things differently if you'd got the job.

LINDON

KIM

If we give up on Danny, he'll turn eighteen - lose whatever help social work can provide - no qualifications - odds stacked against him - and it's writing on the wall.

LINDON

Choose your battles, Kim. How many fronts do you want to fight?

KIM

Kids like Danny are exactly why we need to rename.

LINDON

(sigh - how to put it?)
If you let your heart rule your head, you'll lose credibility, and

VERITY

(lofty)

I just know stuff cos of my dad. It helps.

IZZY

I wish I did. I feel like a total loser. I wish we hadn't had to move.

VERITY

Did your parents split up, or what?

IZZY

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52

INT. FOYER. PERIOD FIVE. 14:30 - DAY.

52

Kids pour out of classes on their way to the next, and here's a hatchet-faced ERICA THORN coming through the main doors - not quite as smiley as her lanyard photo.

Wendy's there to greet her - they've met before.

ERICA THORN

Cindy.

WENDY

Wendy - nice to see you again, Ms
Thor

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57

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL. PERIOD FIVE. 15:15 - DAY.

57

Back in the hall, Samia shifts in her seat.

KIM

And I will always defend our right to
exist in a school based on tolerance,
inclusivity, and respect.

Her expression is grave as she scans the auditorium

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Applause, cheers - whoops - high fives and hugs from the protesters, and the various classrooms intercut. Dean and Noel jeer to make it clear they and a couple of their cronies aren't happy about this. Kim gestures for them to hush - waits for it -

KIM (CONT'D)

So. Day one over. A new name, a new beginning. I want you to be proud of your school. To enjoy your time here, to think, to question, to discuss, and to work hard so you can leave Waterloo Road -

60

INT. ADMIN/WENDY'S AREA. PERIOD FIVE. 15:28 - DAY.

60

Danny is clinging to Angel as Jamilah stands ready to go, with Danny's holdall, the bedding etc.

DANNY

If they don't take dogs they don't take me.

JAMILAH

I can get her re-homed, she'll be safe.

Kim enters.

DANNY

You don't get it, I'm all she's got.
And - and -

He doesn't need to say it: that she's all he's got too. And he buries his face in her fur.

KIM

Danny - a word.

She gestures him into her office.

WATERLOO ROAD

Kai catches

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63

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 16:30 - DAY.

63

Chlo's clearing up Tommy's mess when she hears the key in the lock - and in comes Izzy followed by Donte. Chlo looks at

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DANNY

(a little embarrassed)

Nanna Angel. That's what they called her at our church, anyway. Cos she looked out for people, innit.

KAI

Ohmygod - Angel - where's your dog?

70 EXT. MAIN ENTRANCE / STAFF CAR PARK. AFTER SCHOOL. 19:24 - 70
EVENING.

Kim and Angel round the school toward the car park - and someone has already spray-painted WATERLOO ROAD over the damaged William Beswick sculpture.

Kim smiles - and now the term can start. She heads for her car, Angel trotting alongside her

72

INT. CHARLES HOUSE. AFTER SCHOOL. 20:01 - NIGHT.

72

But at the Charles house everything's in slowmo tunnel vision for Izzy as she watches PARAMEDICS tend to Chlo, lying on the floor, Donte frantic, sheet white - lights flashing from outside as police arrive on through the open front door -

DONTE

She was fine - she was talking -

- and as the paramedics tell Donte the worst news ever, he puts his face in his hands.

DONTE (CONT'D)

No - no - I'm not hearing this -
you're not right, you're not -

Close in on Izzy's face - trying to blot out what she's watching - yet unable to look away.

72A

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. AFTER SCHOOL. 21:34 - EVENING.

72A

A desperate Donte comes tearing into the hospital followed by a tearful Izzy holding hands with Tommy, who is in his pyjamas. He runs up to a nurse at a desk.

DONTE

My wife... Chlo Charles?

DOCTOR

Mr Charles...

Donte whips round and sees a Doctor waiting to talk to him -

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Perhaps we could talk in the family room?

Sound becomes echo as Donte looks at the family room, and the Doctor's face, trying to compute what he knows now is inevitable -

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

We took every measure available to
save her -

Donte hugs the kids to him tight, trying to cover their ears
and his own - it's pitiful.

DONTE

Don't listen to him - Don't listen -

DOCTOR

I understand how upsetting -

DONTE

No no no no no -

And now it's all just white noise as we close in on Donte -
eyes tight shut - determined to block out the truth.

END OF EPISODE