**Episode 145**

**In a living room, someone’s sat down on a sofa reading the newspaper, it says on the front page, *“FEMALE CORPSE FOUND IN BURNED DOWN FLAT”* they read through it and it the person puts down the newspaper on the table and walks to the table, picking up the phone, they put it to their ear**

**In the Dirty Duck Pub Staircase the phone rings and Lauren walks down the stairs, picking up the phone**

Lauren – Hello, Lauren of the Dirty Duck Pub; how can I help you?

**????? - \*On the phone\*** Lauren, it’s me.

**Lauren looks up in shock**

**In a living room, the person turns; it’s revealed to be Karen and she’s on the phone**

Karen – I’d like to see my daughter.

**Karen smiles**

**In Izzy’s dining room; the table is set and Deborah enters, carrying some letters; she sits down at the table, looking at one and she opens it, it’s a letter from a clinic and she sighs sadly, there’s a door slam from the corridor and Deborah puts the letter back into the envelope, hiding it under a pile of books, Izzy enters and Deborah stands**

Deborah – Breakfast?

Izzy – Yeah; thanks!

**Deborah exits, walking into the corridor and Izzy picks up her text books, putting them in her bag, Sarah enters holding her belly and Deborah enters, holding a plate of toast**

Deborah – Toast?

Izzy – Oh, I’ll have those!

**Izzy takes the plate off Deborah, walking into the corridor, exiting. Deborah puts her arm around Sarah**

Deborah – Sarah, they—They can do it; they’ll see you next week.I’ll have to think of something to tell Oliver, and then everything will be back to normal; I promise!

**Deborah hugs Sarah and Sarah hugs her sadly**

**In Judy’s dining room with Judy sat down at the table, buttering her toast, Amy enters, carrying Connor; she puts him down in his high chair**

Amy – Remind me to never babysit Connor again, aright? Now I’ve got to feed him!

Judy – It’ll only take a second, Amy, and what’s that smell?

Amy – Great; now I have to change his nappy!

Judy – Yeah; don’t mind me, take all the time in the world if you like!

**Gemma enters, looking tired**

Judy – Zombie at Three O’ Clock.

Gemma – Does it have to cry all night?

Amy – He was teething I think, and it was hardly all night; at least you didn’t have to sleep with him, crying in your room!

**Amy picks up a dirty nappy from the floor nearby**

Amy – What the hell is that?

Gemma – You’ve got to be kidding me.

Judy – I was going to throw that in the bin the other day; you can have some on your toast if you like, Gemma?

**Amy picks up Connor, exiting and Judy passes Gemma a card**

Judy – This came for you this morning.

Gemma – Thanks.

Judy – It’s from your Mum; she wants you in Spain, the flight leaves tomorrow morning, you’ll be kicked out by Friday, don’t worry!

**Amy enters, carrying Connor**

Amy – What? You’re leaving already? That’s a shame(!)

Gemma – *“Shame”*? I’ll be lounging on a beach getting a tan, while the only brown that you’re going to see is the stuff that comes out of Connor!

**Gemma walks into the corridor, she opens the envelope, taking out a letter and she puts her hand on her head, leaning against the wall beginning to cry**

**In Derek’s Kitchen with Derek pouring himself a glass of vodka, there’s a slam from the corridor and Derek turns around**

Derek – Jasmine, is that you?

**Shirley enters and Derek puts his hand on his head, sighing**

Shirley – This place needs a good tidy up for tomorrow! Any idea what food to buy on the way? I’ll need to go shopping, we’re—we’re a bit short on stuff at the moment.

**Derek turns to Shirley, taking out his wallet and passing Shirley a twenty pound note**

Derek – Here you go.

Shirley – Cheers! Do you want to come with me; get yourself out the house?

Derek – I’ve lost two people in my family; I don’t know where they are, I just want some time on my own to be honest, Shirley.

Shirley – Derek—

Derek – I’ve got to a fake speech at the wake in case Jasmine arrives; so the whole funeral doesn’t look suspicious, how sick is that? We’ve got to play Amanda’s favourite song there as well, Audrey’s working on a couple of hymns; it’s like we’re setting this up as an actual wake, aren’t we? If Jasmine arrives; I’m going to have to stand up and talk about her, and she’ll still be in coma, unconscious and ready to be sent off to one Hospital after the other.

**Derek shows Shirley a notepad; on the open page it says, *“AMANDA” “JASMINE”***

Derek – That’s my invitation list; that’s the furthest I’ve got.

**Derek puts the notepad on the table**

**In Izzy’s dining room with Deborah looking through the pile of letters looking worried, she sighs madly and walks into the corridor; walking into the living room looking under piles of books on the table, she sits down on the sofa and sighs sadly**

**In the cafe with Izzy and Sarah stood at the counter; Izzy plays the person behind the counter**

Izzy – Thanks, and can I have a can of pop please? Are you sure you don’t want anything, Sarah?

Sarah – No, I’m fine thanks.

**Sarah sits down at a table and Izzy picks up a bag the person behind the counter passes to her**

Izzy – Come on, Sarah; we’re going to be late!

Sarah – You go; I’ll just catch you up.

Izzy – Are you sure?

Sarah – Yeah.

**Izzy exits and Sarah sighs sadly**

**In the Dirty Duck Pub with Lauren stood behind the Bar, Court enters, walking out from the Staircase**

Court – Right, shall we open up?

Lauren – No, Court; we don’t want drunken men roaming the Hotel in the morning, do we?

Court – What about drunken women? Because I could get drunk right now, to be honest!

Lauren – Go and do that then.

Court – What?

Lauren – Go and do that; because to be honest with you, I’m sick and tired of looking out for you. So go on then; DRINK YOURSELF TO DEATH!

**Lauren picks up four bottles of vodka; two in each hands, slamming them on the Bar**

Lauren – Less talking, more drinking; that’s what you said when Alex died, GO ON; DRINK!

**Lauren exits, walking into the Staircase and Court looks at the Vodka bottles, sighing sadly**

**In the cafe with Sarah sat down at a table, Jason, Gemma and Liam enter**

Jason – Babe, that’s heavy, man!

Gemma – It’s not, honestly.

Liam – I wouldn’t mind a bit of Sun!

Gemma – So come with me then.

Liam – Like I can afford a ticket to go there with you!

**Sarah stands and looks at Liam and Gemma**

Sarah – Can I get by, please?

**Gemma steps back and Sarah exits**

Gemma – So you don’t mind me going, then?

Liam – I can hardly stop you, can I?

**Gemma looks at Liam sadly and sighs**

**In the marketplace, Sarah walks away from the cafe and she walks past the Fruit & Veg stall, where Ryan is facing Ross; Ross is holding a bouquet of flowers**

Ryan – Are those for someone nice then?

Ross – You could say that; yeah!

**Ross exits, walking through the marketplace, Ashleigh enters and picks up an apple**

Ashleigh – This looks a bit—Bruised, don’t you think?

Ryan – Don’t play games, alright Ashleigh? I got enough mouthfuls off Jasmine for bruised fruits!

Ashleigh – So she should!

Ryan – She will be there, won’t she?

Ashleigh – She has to be; it’s her Mum!

**Ashleigh smiles at Ryan slightly and exits, walking through the marketplace. Sarah’s behind a jewellery stall and she watches Liam, Gemma and Jason walking out the cafe, holding a cup of coffee each. Sarah sighs sadly, watching them begin to talk**

**In Derek’s living room with Derek sat down on the sofa looking at his mobile. In the Kitchen, David enters holding a carrier bag, he takes a gun out from the bag and stands on a chair, looking above the cupboard, Shirley enters and David turns, hiding the gun behind his back**

Shirley – Seen a mouse?

David – Funny joke, Mum!

**David gets off the chair**

Shirley – What were you doing up there then?

David – I was just looking for biscuits!

Shirley – Biscuits for breakfasts?

David – Yeah; I’m kind of hungry!

**Derek enters**

Shirley – I was thinking that I could do with a dinner later?

Derek – Oh, I don’t know, Shirley; I’m planning tomorrow, that’s all I’ve planned for today!

Shirley – Yeah, well all I’m trying to say is that you don’t have to do all of this on your own.

**There’s knocking at the front door**

Derek – Get rid of them please.

Shirley – Go on, David.

David – We could just leave it, right?

Shirley – Move it, David!

David – They’ll get the message if we don’t answer the door!

**There’s knocking at the front door again and Shirley walks into the corridor, sighing, Derek walks into the corridor into the living room, exiting and Derek closes the door and opens the cupboard under the sink, putting the gun in a plastic bag inside. In the corridor with Shirley facing Ross; who’s stood at the door**

Ross – I had a great time the other night and I just wanted to say thank you!

Shirley – There was really no need!

Ross – I tried to get you a bigger bouquet earlier, but they were too expensive!  
Shirley – Right, well thank you, Ross; but I’ve got to get on, Bye!

**Shirley takes the bouquet of flowers from Ross and closes the door on him, David enters, walking out the kitchen**

David – Flowers; what’s occurring now, then?

Shirley – Why don’t you tell me first?

David – What?

Shirley – Meg; I’ve been meaning to have a little chat about that.

David – Mum, I like her; it’s no big deal!

Shirley – It is if it’s interfering with college.

David – Well it can’t now!

Shirley – *“Now”*? Why can’t it interfere, David?

David – There’s no reason, I—

Shirley – DAVID.

David – Mum, I was going to tell you, alright? I was!

Shirley – Tell me what?!

David – College wasn’t really working out; so I quit.

Shirley – You did what?!

**Shirley looks at David in shock and David looks at her nervously**

**In the Dirty Duck Pub living room with Lauren and Emma sat down on the floor, looking through a box; Lauren takes out one of Emma’s top from the bag**

Emma – I still can’t believe that you kept all of this stuff!

Lauren – It wasn’t exactly me; it was your Mum! She didn’t have the courage to give up; looks like she chose to go down the right path.

Emma – What—What happened while I was gone, Lauren? Did anything happen?

Lauren – I’ll tell you later, yeah?

**Court enters and Lauren stands**

Court – What are you doing?

Lauren – I was just telling Emma that your Mum dumped all her stuff in a box.

Court – Wow; that’s great(!) Can’t you go now, Emma?

Lauren – Court—!

Court – I need a word with Lauren, so get out!

Lauren – Court—!

**Emma stands**

Emma – Don’t worry about it, Lauren; I’ll go.

**Emma exits, shoving past Court, slamming the door behind her**

Lauren – That’s really welcoming her back home, isn’t it?!

Court – I need to talk to you—

Lauren – I wouldn’t blame her if she ran away herself; at least she’d be away from a mad cow like you!

Court – Lauren, I—

Lauren – And why aren’t you wobbling from wall to wall? I thought you wanted to drink yourself to death?!

Court – I KNOW ABOUT MUM RINGING UP EARLIER!

**Lauren looks at Court in shock and Court sighs madly, looking at Lauren, at the Bar with Amy stood behind the Bar, Sarah enters and sits down at the Bar**

Amy – If you’ve come here for a drink; we’re closed for now!

Sarah – I didn’t come here for a dink; I’ve just got study, that’s all.

Amy – So shouldn’t you be at college?

**Sarah stands, holding her belly and she leans over the Bar, throwing up on the floor near Amy and Amy puts her hand on her head and sighs**

**In Derek’s dining room, Shirley enters, followed by David**

Shirley – You have to have a very good reason for quitting; SIT!

**David sits down at the table**

David – Look, I wasn’t really learning anything anyway!

Shirley – I’m not buying that.

David – Can we do this another time? I’ve got somewhere where I need to be!

Shirley – Yeah; at the job centre!

David – I’m not the only one!

Shirley – I’m sorry; what did you say?

David – Mum, I just want to take some time out, y’know? I’ve got to choose what I want to do in my life!

Shirley – Well, no need; because I’ve just done it for you!

David – You can’t run my life.

Shirley – I’m your mother; you have no idea how little that last statement holds!

**David’s mobile rings and he takes it out his pocket, looking at it**

Shirley – Oh, is that her?!

David – She has a name.

Shirley – Yeah; I’m sure she’s been called plenty!

David – You don’t even know Meg!

Shirley – No; I already know that she’s already made you make a mess of your life!

David – The whole college thing was my decision!

Shirley – Well from now on I’m going to make the decisions! Alright; Number One; you stay away from Meg, Number Two; you set about finding yourself a job, and Number Three; I see you at dinner where you can give me your progress report!

David – Mum—

Shirley – Yes; I’m your Mum! And Mum’s are here to make sure that their little boys are safe and sound!

**Shirley exits and David sighs sadly**

**In the cafe with Derek sat down at a table, Ashleigh enters and walks to the counter, Deborah walks round the counter, over to Derek**

Deborah – Do you want anything else? On the house!

Derek – No thanks; I’m alright.

**Deborah sits down at the table opposite Derek**

Deborah – She’s your Mum, Derek.

Derek – So?

Deborah – So if she’s not here for you; then I will be.

Derek – Where’s Oliver?

Deborah – He’s gone out somewhere; he’s meeting with someone! Why?

Derek – I don’t suppose you fancy going out for a drink, do you?

Deborah – It’s a bit early, don’t you think?

Derek – Don’t worry about it then; it was just a thought.

**Deborah puts her hand on Derek’s hand, sighing sadly**

Deborah – Bear with me.

**Deborah stands, walking behind the till**

**In the Shop with Jason and Gemma looking at the drinks**

Jason – Y’know? You don’t know how lucky you are getting away!

Gemma – You reckon?

Jason – What’s that supposed to mean?

Gemma – Nothing.

Jason – You do want to go, right?

Gemma – Not really.

Jason – So; talk to Judy then!

Gemma – She doesn’t want me here.

Jason – Well speak to Amy then; she has space in the Pub, I bet!

Gemma – She likes me even less!

Jason – Gem, if you want to stay, then you’ve got to change all of that.

**Gemma sighs sadly, looking at Jason**

**In the street with Lauren and Court walking; Emma’s followed them**

Emma – Are we there yet? My legs ache!

Court – You could do with some exercise; so it doesn’t matter!  
Emma – That’s nice(!)

Lauren – Are you nervous about seeing your Mum again?

Court – Not really; I’ve spent longer away from her, haven’t I?

Lauren – I guess.

Court – She tried to kill me, Lauren. Not my Mum; Faky did; she started that fire on Friday.

Lauren – I didn’t even think that you started it; don’t worry about it, yeah?

Court – Thanks, Lauren.

**Court smiles at Lauren, hugging her and Lauren smiles slightly, continuing to walk**

Lauren – What was that for?

Court – I just want to thank you for being there for me when I had no one else. I was so ungrateful to you, and I’m sorry.

**They stop outside a House and Court walks to the door, knocking on it. The door swings open and Karen’s stood at the door, she smiles as she sees Court**

Karen – Courtney!

**Karen hugs Court, laughing**

Karen – Ooh, it’s so good to see you both!

Emma – Mum—?

**Karen sees Emma, letting go of Court and looking at Emma in shock**

Karen – Isn’t that—?

**Karen runs up to Emma, hugging her, with tears in her eyes**

Karen – My baby—My baby girl; you’ve come home!

**Emma hugs Karen, closing her eyes and Lauren watches them smiles slightly and Court sighs sadly**

**In Izzy’s living room with Deborah and Derek sat down on the sofa; Deborah has a glass of Lemonade and Derek has a glass of vodka**

Derek – What’s that cushion doing on the table, then?

Deborah – It just needed a new home!

**Derek looks at Deborah, laughing slightly and he sips his drink**

Derek – Its fun being here with you, Deborah.

Deborah – Likewise.

Derek – I didn’t expect this though; coming round being friends with you.

**Derek looks down at the table sadly**

Derek – I don’t have many friends.

**Deborah puts her hand on Derek’s shoulder**

Deborah – Derek—

Derek – No, it’s alright; I’m fine.

**Derek sips his drink again**

Deborah – You don’t have to put on a fake smile every day to make others happy, Derek. If you want to cry, yell, scream; you go right ahead.

Derek – Do you believe in stuff? Like Heaven, Afterlife and all of that?

Deborah – I don’t know. Sometimes—Sort of.

**Deborah sips her drink**

Deborah – Maybe not.

Derek – I was planning to go and see a Median if Amanda died or Jasmine was found dead. I’ve been—I’ve been trying to write this speech, and I can’t think what to put; it feels like Amanda’s actually dead. Then I thought I’d ask Jasmine; to see if she had any ideas. This is so painful; none of this should’ve happened!

**Derek sips his drink, with tears in his eyes**

Deborah – Derek— Derek, you’re the best thing in the world right now; you had Amanda as a wife, Jasmine being your daughter, you had all of those times together; Good and Bad, and you would’ve felt any pain to have had that; anyone would, Derek.

Derek – I thought I heard Amanda’s voice earlier.

Deborah – When was the last time you slept?

Derek – I don’t know; I can’t remember.

**Derek sips his drink and Deborah stands**

Deborah – Take your shoes off.

**Deborah takes the cushion off the table, throwing it on the seat she was sat on**

Deborah – Come on!

**Deborah places her glass on the table**

Derek – What’s all this then?

Deborah – It’s bed time.

**Deborah picks up a cover from another sofa**

Derek – Deborah, I’m not going to curl up on this sofa.

Deborah – Well the flat’s empty; make the most of it! It’ll do you good. Come on!

**Derek sighs, taking his shoes off**

Derek – Do you know what? You sound like my Mum.

Deborah – Right now I am your Mum.

**Derek lies down on the sofa and Deborah puts the cover over him**

Deborah – Look, I know it’s hard; but tomorrow you’re going to make your family so proud!

Derek – That’ll be a first.

Deborah – Of course you will; you’re the father of the family!

**Deborah smiles at Derek and exits, waking into the corridor and Derek sighs, closing his eyes**

**In Karen’s living room with Karen sat down on the floor with Emma. Court and Lauren are stood at the door holding a cup of tea each**

Lauren – This is nice, isn’t it?

Court – I guess.

**Court sips her drink**

Lauren – Look, I know that you’re hiding from the Police from evidence and that right now; but right now you’re with the people you need the most; your family! Make the most of it.

Court – The only thing I’m worried about if she—She survived the explosion.

Lauren – Only The Terminator could’ve survived an explosion like that, Court.

Court – You survived being underground for hours once.

Lauren – Yeah; but that’s not exactly challenging, is it? Especially when you’re in a coffin.

Court – You’ve changed so much, do you know that?

Lauren – Is that good or bad?

Court – It’s good; you’ve grown so much stronger since your pregnancy.

Lauren – I forget that I’m pregnant sometimes; I don’t like thinking about its father.

**Lauren laughs slightly, sipping her drink**

Court – Why can’t I be like you?

**Lauren turns to Court sadly and Court looks at Karen and Emma sadly**

**In the cafe with Shirley sat down at a table drinking a cup of coffee, Ross enters and sits down opposite Shirley**

Ross – I thought I saw you come in here earlier!

Shirley – I’m glad that you didn’t think it was Mavis.

Ross – You’ve got a lot of shopping!

Shirley – Yeah.

Ross – Is it for that fake wake tomorrow or something?

Shirley – Yeah. I’d better get off.

Ross – No, stop for a drink or something; I’ll treat you!

**Shirley stands and exits, Ross stands and follows her, exiting. Gemma enters, carrying Connor, followed by Amy**

Amy – Are you sure about this?

Gemma – I’ve done it before, and look; babies love me!

Amy – You will look after him, won’t you?

Gemma – You’ve got a Pub to run and Auntie Judy’s off shopping; it makes sense!

Amy – If there are any problems—?

Gemma – Of course!

Amy – And—Thanks.

Gemma – Any time; absolutely any time!

**Amy smiles at Gemma and exits**

Gemma – You’d better flaming behave.

**Gemma sits down at a table, holding Connor**

**In Izzy’s living room with Deborah sat on a sofa peeling a potato, Derek’s laid on another sofa asleep. He wakes up and looks at Deborah**

Derek – Do you do this sort of thing for everyone?

Deborah – Oh yeah; Florence Nightingale, me!

**Derek takes the cover off him and looks at his watch; he sits up**

Derek – People will be wondering where I am.

**Derek puts his shoes on**

Derek – They’ll probably be panicking!

Deborah – Only because they care.

Derek – Yeah; I should maybe appreciate that a bit more.

**Derek stands, looking at Deborah**

Derek – I bet you’re a great Mum to Izzy, and a great mother-figure to Sarah; you’ve got the kindness of a mother. I don’t—I don’t suppose that you’ve heard from Jasmine, have you? I just need to know if she’s turning up tomorrow or not.

Deborah – I wouldn’t know; I’m sorry. But listen; you hang in there, alright?

**Derek smiles at Deborah and exits**

**In the park with Sarah sat at a table eating a packet of crisps; she got a can of coke on the table in front of her and Izzy enters, sitting down next to her**

Izzy – I knew I’d be right!

Sarah – How did you know that I’d be here?

Izzy – Well it’s not hard, Sarah; I usually work out where you are.

Sarah – Weirdo. Has anyone asked about me?

Izzy – Well I told Elliot that you’ve got a bug.

Sarah – Thanks.

Izzy – Are you alright?

Sarah – Yeah; I’m cool.

Izzy – Does—Does Oliver know?

Sarah – Know what?

Izzy – Well, I got it out in English, and—

**Izzy unzips her bag, taking out a letter and putting it in front of Sarah on the table**

Izzy – So, you’re going to go ahead with the abortion, then? That was a stupid question; of course you are!

Sarah – I don’t know.

Izzy – No?

Sarah – Well, I think—Y’know? It’s a baby!

Izzy – Yeah.

Sarah – It’s a person!

Izzy – So are you!

Sarah – So do you think I should do it then?

Izzy – Sort of— Is it bad to say that?

Sarah – I think that I’m glad that you did. There isn’t a right or a wrong really.

Izzy – I was thinking the same.

Sarah – And no.

Izzy – *“No”*?

Sarah – Oliver doesn’t know, but your Mum does.

Izzy – OK. Do you want to go back to the Hotel?

Sarah – Maybe in a bit.

Izzy – I knew you’d be here.

**Sarah looks at Izzy, laughing slightly and then she sighs**

**In Derek’s dining room Derek enters, followed by Jamie**

Jamie – I’m sorry about Amanda; not to mention Jasmine.

Derek – Don’t worry about it, Jamie.

Jamie – I feel as though it’s all my fault!

Derek – You don’t have to though, do you? Because it’s not any of your friends, family or anything which get hurt does it? No; you get to continue your lives as though it’s normal! Try being in mine and Ryan’s shoes.

**Shirley enters, followed by Audrey; whose holding a piece of paper, she passes it to Derek**

Audrey – Here are some hymns in case Jasmine comes to the wake, dear!

Derek – Thanks, Audrey.

Shirley – I’ll go and get the dinner and then we can—

**David enters, followed by Meg and Shirley looks at them in shock**

**In Karen’s Kitchen, Court and Karen enter; Karen closes the door behind her**

Karen – I’m sorry that I haven’t been paying much attention to you, Court; it’s just that—I’ve missed her so much.

Court – Don’t worry about it; I understand.

Karen – I just wanted to tell you that you’re still my daughter, and I’m still your mother; nothing will ever change that, OK?

Court – I know, Mum; like I said; I completely understand why you’re trying to bond with Emma again, it’s been a long time.

Karen – Why don’t you and Lauren go to the shop or something? I’ll get some tea ready for you when you get back; if you don’t have any plans that is!

Court – We’ll stay for tea.

**Court smiles at Karen and Karen smiles back walking into the living room, exiting and Court looks down, sighing sadly**

**In the cafe with Gemma sat down at a table holding Connor, Sarah enters and walks over the table, picking up a cuddly toy**

Sarah – Is this Connor’s?

Gemma – Well it isn’t mine!

**Sarah passes Gemma the toy and Gemma laughs slightly**

Gemma – I need to use the ladies; watch him, yeah?

**Gemma passes Connor to Sarah**

Sarah – What—?!

**Gemma stands, walking into the Ladies. Sarah sits down, sighing and she looks at Connor**

Sarah – Hey—

**Sarah smiles, looking at Connor**

Sarah – Hey.

**Sarah laughs, smiling**

**In Ryan’s living room with Ryan stood up looking out the window, Ashleigh enters**

Ashleigh – You can’t just expect her to pop up out of nowhere, y’know?

**Ryan closes the curtains, turning to Ashleigh**

Ryan – You really know how to drop peoples hopes, don’t you, Ashleigh?

Ashleigh – I’m not; I’m just saying!

Ryan – Yeah; that’s the same as ruining people’s hopes.

Ashleigh – Whatever! Have you seen Derek? I need to speak to him about tomorrow!

Ryan – And I would see him because—?

Ashleigh – Well I did see you on the phone to him earlier!

Ryan – I was speaking to Rach.

Ashleigh – Ooh, what about?

Ryan – Keep your nose out of my business, yeah?

Ashleigh – I’m sorry; it’s just that I haven’t had any girl gossip for almost two weeks!

**Ashleigh exits, closing the door behind her and Ryan opens the curtains slightly, looking out the window and he sighs sadly**

**In a shop with Lauren and Court**

Lauren – How much have we got?

Court – A fiver.

Lauren – Oh alright; we could get a bottle of vodka? Your favourite!

Court – Don’t push it, Lauren; don’t you dare ruin this for me.

Lauren – I wouldn’t dream of it; I’m just saying that it’s your favourite! Maybe you should get a bottle? Two Bottles? You seem speechless, Court; do you want five bottles?

Court – Why don’t you back off? You can’t tell me what to do; if I want a bottle of vodka, then I’ll get one!

**Court picks up two bottles of vodka, walking to the till; she passes the shop keeper some money and Lauren watches her paying for the vodka, Court smiles at the shop keeper, putting the bottles of vodka in a bag, she turns and Lauren begins to clap slowly**

Lauren – Nice show you put on there, Court!

**Court walks out the shop, carrying the bag and Lauren follows her, continuing to clap**

Lauren – Why don’t you drown your sorrows in front of your Mum and Emma? They’d be impressed to see how grown up you are, wouldn’t they?!

Court – You know what? I’ll drink how much I like; just like when you let Alex seduce you and you ended up getting pregnant with him!

**Lauren slaps Court across the face and Court holds her cheek in chock, putting the bag down**

Lauren – I’ll see you back at the House.

**Lauren exits, walking down the street and Court continues to hold her cheek in shock with tears in her eyes**

**In Derek’s corridor with Derek at the door facing Ashleigh; who passes him a bottle of vodka**

Ashleigh – This is in case you feel down or something.

Derek – Wouldn’t this make me feel even downer?

Ashleigh – Talk about ungrateful!

Derek – See you tomorrow, Ashleigh.

**Derek closes the door and walks into the dining room; where Jamie, Shirley, Audrey, Meg and David sat around the table eating a roast dinner in silence, Derek places the bottle of vodka on the table and sits down by Jamie and David**

Meg – So, how’s Bronwyn, Audrey?

Audrey – She’s well, dear!

Meg – Is she visiting the Hotel anytime soon?

Audrey – Next week; I’m going to set up a party at the Pub; I’ve asked Amy!

Meg – Give her my wishes in case I don’t manage to turn up, yeah?

Audrey – Indeed—

Shirley – And what are you planning to do then, Meg? Sleep with my son? Get into prostitution?

Meg – Excuse me?

Shirley – Don’t try and get out of this one; I’ve met many girls like you, you use my son and then go for someone else!

David – Don’t speak to her like that!

Meg – David, don’t worry about it, pl—

David – No you know what? I am sick of you, Mum; you don’t rule my life!

Shirley – I rule your life if you don’t have a chance in your life of getting a job; I’m your mother!

David – Yeah; you said earlier!

Shirley – Are you talking back at me, David?

David – Yeah, I am. I’ve done exactly what you’ve asked me to do; and you still don’t appreciate me, not to mention Meg!

Shirley – What? Applied to go into college again?!

Meg – He’s got a spot lined up for a stall in the marketplace; because of ME!

**Shirley looks at Meg sadly and Meg continues eating, glaring at Shirley madly**

**In Judy’s living room with Judy sat down on the sofa watching TV, Gemma enters looking tired**

Judy – What have you come as this time? A Zombie?

Gemma – I have been working all day!

Judy – Oh, so you’ve found a job?

Gemma – No; I babysat your stupid brat of a son!

**Gemma sits down on a separate sofa**

Judy – Don’t call him tha—! Wait, you did what?

Gemma – I looked after the dribbling twerp; that’s what!

Judy – Give me your ticket.

Gemma – What?

Judy – Give me your ticket!

**Gemma takes the ticket out her pocket, passing it to Judy; Judy rips it in half**

Judy – I’ll tell your Mum you’re staying here.

**Gemma stands, smiling and she hugs Judy**

Gemma – You won’t regret this; I promise you!

**Gemma runs into the corridor, laughing and closes the door behind her, Judy smiles and continues watching TV**

**In Izzy’s living room with Deborah sat down on the sofa drinking a glass of vodka, Sarah enters**

Deborah – Hey, Sarah; how are you?

Sarah – Can I speak to you, Auntie Deborah?

Deborah – Sure; sit down!

**Sarah smiles, sitting down next to Deborah on the sofa**

Sarah – It—It seems weird, doesn’t it? You and Oliver wanting to adopt and then there’s me—You know?

**Sarah sighs, looking at Deborah**

Sarah – So I was wondering—Could you wait nine months?

Deborah – Sarah—Sarah—No—No you can’t!

Sarah – I’ve been thinking about Rach when she was first pregnant; she lost her child, she didn’t have a choice—!

Deborah – Sarah, listen to me!

Sarah – But I do have a choice. Why don’t you and Oliver have my baby?

**Deborah looks at Sarah in shock**

**In Karen’s living room with Karen and Emma sat down on the sofa watching TV, Lauren enters**

Karen – Where’s Court?

**There’s a door slam from the corridor and Court enters, holding a bottle of vodka in each hand; she throws one of the bottles at the wall and it smashes, Emma screams and Karen stands**

Karen – WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU’RE DOING, YOUNG LADY?!

Court – I’M DOING SOMETHING WHICH I HAVEN’T DONE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME, MUM; I’M TAKING CONTROL OF MY OWN LIFE!

**Court opens the bottle of vodka she’s holding and drinks half of it, she looks at Lauren, pointing at her**

Court – SHE—THAT AMAZING “LANDLADY” THERE; SHE’S BEEN RUNNING MY LIFE!

Karen – Yeah; because she needs to keep you under control!

Court – SHE’S MADE ME LIKE THIS; NOT ME, I’VE NOT DONE THIS TO MYSELF, SHE HAS!

Lauren – Because you go off the scale; LIKE THIS! You can’t control yourself, Court; you need help!

Court – NO, I’M NOT GOING BACK INTO THAT HOSPITAL, I’M FINE, ALRIGHT? I’M FINE!

**Court exits, slamming the door behind her and Lauren sighs**

Lauren – I’m so sorry, Karen—!

**Lauren runs in the corridor, exiting and Karen looks at Emma and sighs sadly**

**In the Street with Court walking away from Karen’s house, Lauren runs out the door, chasing her, walking fast**

Lauren – I hope you’re proud of yourself!

**Court stops walking, passing to Lauren; sipping some more of her vodka**

Lauren – How many of those have you had?

Court – I drank about five before I came here; you need glasses, Lauren!

Lauren – If you keep drinking you’ll become—

Court – Ill? Yeah, don’t worry; I know! I don’t really care to be honest with you—I don’t care, because I’m my own person!

Lauren – Yeah; the wrong decision too, you don’t stand a chance on your own, Court and you know it!

Court – At least if I met a boy; I could get them straight away! Look at you; first Jay, then Alex, you’re jealous of Sophs aren’t you? You want Kieran to yourself—What about Jordan? Are you going to kill Imane for him?! You’re nothing but a man-eater, Lauren.

Lauren – WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

**Lauren begins walking away from Court and Court follows her, drinking some more of her drink**

Court – See what I mean? YOU CAN’T DENY IT, AND DO YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOU DON’T HAVE ANY REAL MATES; YOU’RE LONELY, GREEDY AND SPITEFUL, I MEAN EVEN YOUR OWN HUSBAND GAVE YOUR PRECIOUS PUB TO SOMEONE ELSE TO BREAK YOUR HEART!

**Lauren sighs madly, turning to Court**

Lauren – DO YOU KNOW WHAT?! YOU DON’T KNOW ANYTHING!

**Lauren walks away from Court and Court follows**

Court – YEAH? WELL I KNOW YOU, LAUREN!

Lauren – I bet you’ve made your Mum proud!

**Lauren begins walking down the street and Court watches her walking away madly, finishing her drink; she walks towards Karen’s House, wobbling and she towards the door, putting her hand on her head, she slides down the door and closes her eyes; dropping her drink and it smashes**

**In Karen’s living room with Karen and Emma sat down on the sofa watching TV**

Emma – Mum, can I stay here; with you? You’re lonely and—

Karen – No, Emma.

Emma – Wh—Why not?

Karen – Because I’m not well.

**Emma looks at Karen sadly**

**Outside the House with Court laid on the doorstep unconscious, someone runs to her**

Lauren – Court? Court, are you alright?! COURT?!

**Lauren kneels down in front of Court, putting two fingers on her pulse on her neck, she stands up, banging on the door**

Lauren – KAREN! KAREN IT’S LAUREN; COURT’S UNCONSCIOUS!

**Lauren looks down at Court with tears in her eyes**

Lauren – I’m sorry—I’m so sorry, Court!  
**Lauren grabs hold of Court’s hand, breaking down in tears**

**TO BE CONTINUED**

**Lauren – x.ATurtle.x**

**Court – Courtneighh**

**Karen – Court’s Mum**

**Sarah – Izzy’s Cousin**

**Deborah – Izzy’s Mum**

**Derek – Jasmine’s Dad**

**Shirley – Izzy’s Grandma**

**David – Deborah’s Brother**

**Meg – pleme**

**Izzy – meepmeow**

**Gemma – Amy’s Cousin**

**Judy – Amy’s Mum**

**Amy – amyrose2024**

**Ross – Sasha’s Cousin**

**Ryan – RyanLanbert098**

**Ashleigh – Jasmine’s Friend**

**Emma – Court’s Sister**

**Audrey – Bronwyn’s Grandma**

**Jamie – Court’s Brother**

**Liam – Liz’s Son**

**Jason – Gemma’s Friend**

**Lexi**

**Jack**