

Conquering Heroes

by
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FADE IN:

1 MUSIC: 1

TITLES - BLACK CARD CAPTION 1:

THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE FOR
DEFEATING TERRORISM AT ALL
COSTS - THERE ARE THOSE WHO
THINK BRITISH SOLDIERS ARE
DYING NEEDLESSLY IN A FOREIGN
LAND.

TITLES - BLACK CARD CAPTION 2:

AFGHANISTAN CASTS A CONSTANT
SHADOW OVER THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE BRITISH ARMY WAITING
TO TAKE THEIR TOUR OF DUTY.

OPENING CREDITS:

2 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - SATURDAY EVENING 2

IRIS and LILY NELSON, sisters, are dancing -
surrounded by a group of ten British Army SOLDIERS -
all drinking heavily - smoking cigarettes. The men
include sergeants MITCH MITCHELL and BOBBY,
corporal DANNY, lance-corporals MARTIN, ROY, and
three other NCO's. There are two females - corporal
JAZ, lance-corporal SANDERS

It is wild dancing - the Nelson's are loving the
attention of the men.

The men are feisty - vociferous.

MITCH
Dance with us! Dance with us!

Iris holds out a glass bowl -

The soldiers throw cash into it.

3 EXT. HEATH - SATURDAY EVENING 3

Wobbly cam out on the heath -

Panting -

Breathlessness.

4 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - SATURDAY EVENING 4

Iris is 60's dancing with Mitch.

Some of the other soldiers try to cut in.

MITCH pushes them back.

MITCH
Stay away from my girl!

The men protest - it is all in good spirit

MITCH
You love me don't you, Iris!

IRIS
Mitch, you're a darling but I
love all the boys!

MITCH
(rejected) Iris ... I'm off
to Afghanistan soon. You
can't send me off a virgin?

The others howl with laughter.

Lily is lifted on to a table

She dances.

The men all clap.

She throws herself off the table

They catch her -

Lower her to her feet.

She dances with Iris.

The men love them.

Mitch keeps them back.

5 EXT. HEATH - SATURDAY EVENING 5

SOUNDS - panting

Heavy breathing.

6 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - SATURDAY EVENING 6

Danny and Bobby are dancing with Lily.

Jaz throws Danny off.

JAZ
Break it up, morons!

The music stops.

MITCH
What's up with you, Jaz?

DANNY
She's in love with you,
Mitch!

JAZ
Leave off, Danny!

LILY
Come on Jaz, dance with me!

BOBBY
Yeah come on, Corp! Show us
your moves.

Jaz takes a swig from a bottle -

MUSIC starts again -

She starts to dance with Lily and Iris.

7 INT. HEATH - SATURDAY EVENING 7

An army vehicle stuck in mud.

The DRIVER is alone -

spinning the wheels.

8 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - SATURDAY EVENING 8

The three girls are doing a line dance -

Clicking their fingers -

Jaz drops out as she cannot get it right -
The men are around them - clicking with them.
The clicking continues over and into

9 EXT. HEATH - SUNDAY MORNING 9

The abandoned army vehicle.

A GIRL out walking a DOG.

She SCREAMS.

10 EXT. HEATH - SUNDAY MORNING LATER 10

Detective Inspector SONIA ARUN, Detective Constable
CHARLOTTE DENHAM with pathologist DR. HARLEY.

Mitch is hovering in the background.

They are looking down -

ARUN

So, Doctor Harley, as a
pathologist, what do you
think is the cause of death?
Animal, mineral or vegetable?

HARLEY

Certainly not vegetable,
inspector. Mineral? A knife
perhaps, but I doubt it. The
wounds are too jagged, too
ferocious.

ARUN

What then? Animal?

HARLEY

In my opinion, yes? A beast.
Certainly a beast of some
sort.

ARUN

A puma?

HARLEY

Oh no ... not a puma. I would
say it is more the size of a
leopard.

ARUN
A leopard? Here in England???

HARLEY
It has been known. There was
a case some years ago.

ARUN
So we can presume this is not
a murder enquiry?

HARLEY
Yes, that is a reasonable
conclusion at this juncture.
Its some kind of beast that
took a dislike to this
particular fellow. Can I
clean up now?

ARUN
(nods) Charlie, put out a
public alert that there is a
large wild beastie on the
loose.

DENHAM
I don't think its a beast,
Sonia.

ARUN
I think you're right, but
lets not upset the
neighbourhood on a Sunday
morning wi' tales of murder.

10a EXT. NELSON HOUSE STABLE YARD - SUNDAY

10a

Iris, hung-over, is mucking out a stable -
Cell-phone RINGS

IRIS
Mitch! Are you on jankers?
(laughs)
Standing in shit.

Listens. Her tone changes.

IRIS
Thanks for letting me know.
I'll keep the horses stabled.

Iris puts away her phone.

She bolts the stable door.

11 EXT. VILLAGE SHOP - SUNDAY 11

Shot through the window.

Lily is in conversation with SINGH the shopkeeper.

Lily rushes out of the shop with two bags of groceries.

She hurriedly mounts her bicycle.

Peddles off.

12 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - SUNDAY 12

Iris walks to the back door -

Enters

13 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - SUNDAY 13

.... takes off her wellies -

overcoat.

Picks up a cane - swishes it -

Opens a door -

14 INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - SUNDAY 14

.... descends the steps slowly.

IRIS

Henry? Are you there?

NOISES - GRUNTS

Iris moves towards a brick wall -

A grill throws out some light.

Iris peers into the grill -

Rears back in fear as a hand clutches at her.

Iris rattles the grill with the cane.

More GRUNTS - NOISES.

IRIS
Have you found a way out of
here? Henry?

The NOISE subsides.

IRIS
Of course you haven't. That's
impossible isn't it?

Iris is not convinced by her own words.

IRIS
Lily'll bring you a nice
steak later. You like steak
don't you? Of course you do.

SOUND of WHIMPERING.

15 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - SUNDAY 15

Lily furiously arrives along the road to the house -

Enters the drive -

Parks her bike by the front door -

Enters

16 INT. NELSON HOUSE FRONT HALL - SUNDAY 16

.... closes the front door.

LILY
Iris! Iris! Where are you?
(annoyed)
Why are you never home when I
need you.

17 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - SUNDAY 17

Lily drops the groceries on the dining table.

It is still a mess from the night before.

LILY
God, she hasn't even started
cleaning. That's her job! I
do the shopping and cooking.
Its the rules!

Lily starts to clean up -

Picks up a small picture frame -

Wipes it clean.

LILY
Oh Daddy ... what have you
done to us?

CU - on photograph of LT. COLONEL NELSON.

18 EXT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - SUNDAY 18

Iris enters the hall from the basement -

Puts the cane down.

19 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - SUNDAY 19

Lily is putting the picture on the mantelpiece.

LILY
There we go, Daddy ... Best
view in the house.

Iris enters - creeps up on Lily.

IRIS
Talking to yourself again!

LILY
Don't do that! You frightened
me! You've always frightened
me, Iris. Since we were
little.

IRIS
I thought I told you not to
put the shopping on the
dining table.

She looks in the bags.

IRIS
Where's the cucumber?

LILY
I forgot. Iris have you heard
about the beast?

IRIS
What beast? You know I can't
eat cheese without cucumber.

LILY
A soldier has been killed!

IRIS
Oh Where?

LILY
Out on the training moor.
Brutally slain by a leopard!

IRIS
Brutally slain by a leopard?
Whose words are they, Lily?

LILY
Mr. Singh's. What if it was
Mitch, or Danny or Bobby or
one of the other boys?

IRIS
It wasn't. Mitch called me.
It was one of the camp staff
drivers.

LILY
Are you sure it wasn't one of
Mitch's boys from last night?

IRIS
No.

Lily flops into a chair.

LILY
What are we going to do,
Iris?

IRIS
What do you mean, Lily?

LILY
You know what I mean?

IRIS
Do I?

LILY
Him

IRIS
I don't think it was him.

LILY
How do you know?

IRIS
He's still there. Waiting for
you to bring his lunch.

CU - Iris slaps a steak on to the table.

LILY
I'm sorry I forgot the
cucumber. I was so shocked by
the news. I can't go back to
the shop? What if the leopard
gets me?

IRIS
(irritated) It doesn't
matter, Lily!

LILY
Have you taken your medicine?

IRIS
Stop nagging me

Iris starts to clear up.

CU - picture on mantelpiece.

LILY
Do you remember when Daddy
came home from the Falklands.
He was the most handsome man
in the regiment ... the most
handsome man I ever saw in my
life.

IRIS

Stop it! I won't have you go on about how wonderful Daddy was! It wasn't true! He was beastly to us! An utter brute!

LILY

No, Iris, he wasn't, not back then. He was lovely! Everybody loved him. Everybody!

IRIS

Mummy didn't. She had an affair with an other man and had our little brother.

LILY

No she didn't.

IRIS

Yes she did. Henry wasn't Daddy's. That's why he hated Henry ... why he was so wicked to him.

LILY

Daddy was lovely. You can't stop me from thinking what I want. I'm not a slave, I'm not stupid and ignorant and uneducated.

IRIS

Yes you are. You haven't been to university, you can't drive, you can barely cook. You don't even have a mobile phone!

LILY

I don't want a mobile phone! And there's nothing wrong with my cooking. You eat it! (miffed)
You didn't go to university, you can't drive. All you know is how to ride horses and manipulate men.

IRIS
Men like me, Lily.

LILY
Men like me too, Iris.

IRIS
Mitch asked me to marry him
last night.

LILY
What! You can't marry him! He
must have been drunk! What
did you say?

IRIS
That if he came back from
Afghanistan without getting
his face blown off, I'd
consider it.

LILY
That's an awful thing to say.

IRIS
It happened to Daddy.

LILY
If you marry him, what am I
going to do?

IRIS
There's Bobby or Danny?

LILY
We fool around a bit, that's
all. Its not serious. What am
I going to do with him?

IRIS
I'm not going to marry Mitch
Mitchell. So stop worrying!

LILY
But you like him, Iris, you
like him a lot. I won't stand
in the way, I promise.

IRIS
I don't want to marry a
soldier.

LILY

We only every meet soldiers.
Its only soldiers that come
to the house. We like
soldiers. Don't we?

IRIS

That's the problem.

LILY

I'd like Mitch as a brother-
in-law. He's kind. Say yes to
him.

IRIS

Mitch is a trained killer.

LILY

How can you say that about
him?

IRIS

You are so naive. Take the
shopping into the kitchen.
(hands her the steak)
After he's eaten we'll go for
our Sunday ride.

Lily picks up the shopping.

LILY

Its not safe, Iris. The
leopard might attack us.

IRIS

A leopard in Berkshire? I
don't believe a word of it!
We're going for a ride!

LILY

No need to snap at me. You
haven't taken your medicine
today, have you?

Iris holds her head.

LILY

I'll get it for you. You know
what happens when you don't
take your medicine. Will I
call Doctor Larkin?

IRIS
I'm fine. Riding will clear
my head.

20 EXT. HEATH - SUNDAY AFTERNOON

20

CU - horse hooves.

Iris and Lily are riding on the heath.

They reign.

IRIS
Where did Mr. Singh say the
killing took place?

LILY
Over by the trees.

IRIS
It's very close to the house?
Lets take a look.

Iris canters off.

LILY
Iris! I don't want to know
any more.

Lily is frightened - more-so now she is alone.

She canters after Iris.

CUT TO:

Police tape is pegged along an area of scrub.

Iris dismounts.

Lily dismounts too.

Iris rubs her finger on scrub branch.

CU - a trace of blood rubs on to her fingers.

LILY
What is it, Iris?

IRIS
Blood, Lily. Human blood.

LILY
You're frightening me.

IRIS
I can see the roof of the
house from here.

The wind shakes the dead leaves in the trees.

Lily is nervous.

LILY
Let's go home. I'll make us a
nice afternoon tea.

Iris is crouched down on the ground.

LILY
What are you doing?

LILY
Daddy once told me that when
a big cat kills it drags its
prey off to devour it. He saw
it in Africa. Did Singh hear
anything about the soldier
having been eaten.

LILY
Iris! You're giving me the
willies!

IRIS
An animal didn't do this,
Iris. We both know that,
don't we?

LILY
I'm not listening anymore.

Lily mounts her horse.

IRIS
We have to face up to the
possibility that it was
Henry?

LILY
No, Iris, it is too horrible
to contemplate!

Lily gallops off.

IRIS
She's in cuckoo land.

Mounts -

Follows after Lily.

21 INT. NELSON HOUSE KITCHEN - SUNDAY EVENING 21

Lily is serving dinner.

Three plates are set out on the counter.

One plate has more food than the other.

Lily takes two pills from a medicine bottle -

Grinds them down -

Mixes them into the mashed potatoes of the largest plate.

Iris enters.

IRIS
I'll take the food down this evening.

Lily nods.

Iris takes the largest plate - leaves the kitchen.

Door bell RINGS.

22 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - SUNDAY EVENING 22

Lily opens the door.

LILY
Mitch!

Mitch, Danny and Bobby.

MITCH
You know the boys. Just dropped by to help you get over your hangover from last night.

Mitch is pouring spirit from a bottle into two glasses.

He hands Lily a drink.

Bobby and Danny help themselves.

MITCH
Got a bit drunk last night.
Made a fool of myself.

LILY
You're only human, Mitch.
Down the hatch!

ALL
Down the hatch!

They all knock back their drinks in one shot.

Mitch fills the glasses again.

MITCH
I drove the pathologist back
to town today. He said that
it could be a lion on the
loose.

Iris enters the room.

LILY
A lion! See I told you, Iris!

IRIS
(dubious) A lion? You got a
drink for me there, Mitch?

DANNY
I heard they called around
every circus in the country
to see if they were missing a
lion.

LILY
Have they?

BOBBY
Circuses don't have lions no
more. You never been to a
circus, Lily?

LILY
Our Daddy took us when we
were very young.

MITCH
Here's to the old man!

ALL
To the old man!

DANNY
We've got a picture of him up
in the officer's mess.

MITCH
That's right. Big enormous
thing. You seen it?

IRIS
Yes. Its nothing like him.

LILY
Yes, it is? Don't you think
he's very handsome, Mitch?

MITCH
Of course he is.

DANNY
Always knew you were a
faggot, sarge.

MITCH
Takes one to spot one, Danny-
boy.

Mitch tilts the spirit bottle into his mouth.

BOBBY
Mitch! C'mon man. We're with
ladies!

Bobby snatches the bottle from him.

MITCH
Lighten up, Bobby. We're
having fun. You want to
dance, Iris?

IRIS
Not tonight, Mitch.

MITCH
Bullshit! Danny put the music
on!

Danny puts on some dance music.

The MUSIC is wild and loud.

Mitch dances with Iris

Bobby dances with Lily.

IRIS
Any news about when you're
going overseas?

MITCH
Maybe tomorrow. They always
give us bad news on Monday's.

IRIS
You looking forward to going?

MITCH
Its what I'm trained for. I'm
going to miss you, though.

He kisses her.

IRIS
You'll find some other port
to dock yourself in.

MITCH
Not me, darling. You're my
girl.

Mitch fumbles in his pocket - brings out a ring.

IRIS
What's that?

MITCH

Its for you.

IRIS

What do you expect me to do
with it?

MITCH

Wear it!

BOBBY

It came off the finger of his
last girlfriend!

MITCH

Don't listen to him. He's got
a small penis!

BOBBY

Lily knows that's not true.
Lily always gets a good time
from me.

DANNY

For about five seconds.

Mitch is putting the ring on Iris's finger.

Its too small to fit.

Mitch slips the ring on to Iris's little finger.

BOBBY

You going to marry me, Lily?

Danny leans into them.

DANNY

I asked her first, soldier.

BOBBY

You like him, Lily?

LILY

He's alright.

DANNY

Alright! What about that time
I kept you going all night.

LILY
You were younger then!

DANNY
It was only a couple of weeks ago!

BOBBY
Push off, Danny. She's mine tonight.

Bobby and Danny face off.

Iris splits off from Mitch - breaks in.

IRIS
Time to go home.

BOBBY
Aw, Iris, we've only just got here.

LILY
Yes, Iris. Don't spoil the fun. You always spoil the fun.

IRIS
They've had too much to drink. Take them back to barracks, Mitch.

Iris stops the music.

MITCH
Okay, men, move it out!

DANNY
Its cold out there!

BOBBY
Lily doesn't want me to go. Do you?

Bobby lands a big kiss on Lily.

MITCH
Move it!

Danny and Bobby shuffle towards the door.

Mitch sticks a wad of cash in a glass bowl.

MITCH
I'll come by tomorrow.

IRIS
We're too old for this crap,
Mitch.

MITCH
You're in my plans, Iris.
When I finish my tour, we're
going to marry.

He kisses her tenderly.

IRIS
Your buddies are waiting,
Mitch.

MITCH
Okay, Iris. See you, Lily.

Mitch departs.

SOUND of door closing.

Iris and Lily look at each other.

LILY
Its not going to work out
with Mitch, is it?

IRIS
How can it?

Iris starts to clear up.

24

INT. NELSON HOUSE KITCHEN - SUNDAY EVENING

24

Lily scrapes the two uneaten dinners into the bin.

Iris enters with the drinks glasses and the glass
cash bowl.

LILY
The two of us have to stick
together, Iris.

IRIS
Its not just two of us, is
it?

LILY
We'll get by.

IRIS
How? When its discovered what
we've been doing, we'll go to
prison.

LILY
Don't say that, Iris.

IRIS
Its true, Lily!

LILY
We could tell Mitch? He'd
make everything alright.

IRIS
He's a soldier. He'd get mad
with us. He'll go straight to
the police. The best thing to
do is keep him away from the
house.

LILY
How are we going to do that?
He's in love with you, Iris.

IRIS
He needs to love someone
else.

LILY
Who?

IRIS
There's Jaz She'll be
going off to Afghanistan with
him. They'll be plenty of
time for romance to blossom.

LILY
In the middle of a war?

IRIS
It happened in Brief
Encounter?

LILY
They weren't on foot patrol
or being blown up by land
mines.

IRIS
Mitch is just another
soldier. We've known soldiers
all our life. There will
always be soldiers knocking
on our door.

Iris scoops the cash out of the cash bowl.

LILY
If Daddy was still here
everything would be
wonderful.

IRIS
For God's sake! Don't you
remember the beatings!

LILY
No! Daddy was a marvellous
handsome man!

IRIS
He was a cruel sadist. He
made us into what we are!

LILY
We're normal! There's nothing
wrong with us!

IRIS
We're as bad as Daddy!

LILY
I'm not listening to you any
more!

Lily makes for the door ...

25

EXT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - SUNDAY EVENING

25

.... enters crying -

Dashes up the stairs.

Iris emerges from the kitchen.

SOUND of upstairs door banging.

Iris puts her hand to her head -

Leans against the basement door.

JARRING SOUND EFFECT

She experiences serious head pain.

26 INT. NELSON HOUSE LILY'S BEDROOM - SUNDAY EVENING 26

It is decorated like a young girl's room -

Dolls and puppets.

Lily is curled up on her bed sobbing.

27 INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - SUNDAY NIGHT 27

A dull light comes from the grill.

Two hands wring on the bars.

The hands instantly disappear.

A moving shadow makes the faint light flicker.

The SOUND of scrapping.

Silence.

28 EXT. BARN - SUNDAY NIGHT 28

A car pulls up.

The headlights go off -

The doors open -

The Car CD is playing. The MUSIC is turned up.

Two soldiers GLORIA and Roy (Mitch's Troop) get out

- Giggling they run into the barn ...

.... throw themselves into the hay.
They begin to strip off -
Start making out.

ROY
You like this music?

GLORIA
Yes

Gloria closes her eyes.
A fleeting shadow crosses her face.
Her eyes flick open in fear.
She sits bolt upright.

GLORIA
There's someone watching us!

ROY
Don't be daft, Gloria.

GLORIA
I saw something.

ROY
Its nothing. You've got me
all worked up, love. Don't
spoil the moment.

GLORIA
I hate all this sneaking
around, Roy. When are you
going to tell your mum about
us?

ROY
I'll take you over to meet
her tomorrow.

GLORIA
Be serious. You know I love
you.

ROY
I love you too.

They recommence their love making - hot and heavy.

The camera moves closer as they entwine semi-naked in the hay.

The camera edges closer and closer.

GRUNTS and GROANS.

A shadow crosses Gloria's face again.

Her eyes open once more - she SCREAMS.

Roy turns to the camera -

Blood splatters across his face -

Gloria scrambles across the bales - blood splatters her.

Roy's face becomes bloodier and bloodier -

as he is ripped to pieces by the Beast.

Gloria SCREAMING - runs semi-naked from the barn.

Roy lies dead in a pool of blood.

30

EXT. BARN - SUNDAY NIGHT

30

Gloria reaches the car.

Gets in - switches on the headlights.

The shadow of the Beast is cast on the barn wall.

The car struggles to start. The MUSIC cuts in and out.

The Beast POUNDS on the car bonnet.

Gloria recklessly backs the car up -

Wobbles out into the road -

Drives off at a devil's pace down a country lane.

31 EXT. NELSON HOUSE STABLES YARD - MONDAY MORNING 31

Lily is mucking out.

Iris is still holding her head in her hands.

LILY
I'm going to call the Doctor
Larkin.

IRIS
No ... I'm alright.

LILY
Why aren't you taking your
medicine?

IRIS
We need it for him.

LILY
You need it too, Iris.

IRIS
Will you stop nagging me!

LILY
When you don't take your
medicine you get violent. I
don't want you hitting me.

IRIS
I don't mean it. You know I
don't mean it.

Lily rustles in Iris's pocket -

Produces a tablet bottle -

Empties it into the palm of her hand.

There are three tablets.

LILY
There's only three left.

IRIS
It's the last bottle.

LILY
Its not enough. You need one
a day.

IRIS
And he needs three ... I
know.

Iris cradles her head in her hands.

LILY
You need to take one now.

Lily hands Iris a tablet -

She swallows it.

LILY
We need to get you another
prescription. I'll call
Doctor Larkin ... ask her to
come out to the house.

IRIS
She won't come unless I'm
sick.

LILY
Then you'll be sick. We'll
say its your nerves.

IRIS
We could blame it on the
beast.

LILY
Yes, that's what we'll do.

32 EXT. BARN - MONDAY MORNING

32

Arun, Denham and Harley are picking over the scene
of Roy's killing.

ARUN
Puma or leopard, doctor?

HARLEY
Very funny, inspector.

ARUN
Murder is hardly funny,
doctor. What we want to know
is.... what is he using as a
weapon?

HARLEY
Did your eye-witness not shed
some light on that?

ARUN
Unfortunately not. She says
it was dark.

HARLEY
Well, the marks are still
consistent with the tears
from the claws of a large
cat.

ARUN
So your theory is animal?

HARLEY
Yes, still animal.

Arun turns and confides with Denham.

ARUN
So what we have is a man who
kills like an animal?

DENHAM
Not another soldier then?

ARUN
Hardly likely. Naw. Its sign
and signifier, Charlie.
Learned that at university.
Like Pavlov's dog.

DENHAM
Show it a bone and it will
drool?

ARUN
Aye. Show this psycho an army
uniform, and he kills whoever
is in it.

DENHAM
The girl was lucky.

ARUN
Maybe he's got issues with
men in uniform, not women.

33

INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - MONDAY MORNING

33

Iris is sipping a cup of tea.

Lily is on Iris's cell-phone.

LILY
Hello, is that the surgery?
I'm calling on my sister's
mobile. Iris Nelson. Longmoor
House. Yes, she's in terrible
pain. Its her nerves, you
see. Can Doctor Larkin make a
house call? Tomorrow?
(listens)
Not today? She really is
suffering. I see? Very well,
tomorrow ten AM? Thank you.
I'll nurse her the best I
can.

Lily hands the phone to Iris.

IRIS
You are a good little liar,
Lily. I'm quite convinced I'm
ill.

LILY
Its not hard to do. There has
always been someone ill in
this family.

IRIS
I don't think you really are
my sister.

LILY
What do you mean by that?

IRIS
I think Mummy had an affair
with lots of soldiers while
Daddy was away.

LILY
That's a horrible thing to
say.

IRIS
You don't look anything like
Daddy or me.

LILY
I take after Mummy. Stop
being cruel to me.

IRIS
You don't look like Henry
either?

LILY
He's got my eyes. So maybe
you're the odd one out.

IRIS
Maybe I am. I can't look
Henry in the eye any more.

LILY
He's angry, Iris. He's been
down there eight years. He
doesn't understand why we
locked him up.

IRIS
It was for his own good. He
wanted to join the army,
remember?

LILY
Yes

IRIS
We saved him from dying in
Iraq.

LILY
Maybe he wouldn't have died.

IRIS
He would have. Have you
forgotten we watched him
tattoo hero across his
fingers with a needle?

LILY
No

Iris hands Lily the tablet bottle.

IRIS
You better get his lunch
ready.

LILY
Alright, Iris.

IRIS
I'm going to sit in the
garden.

The camera follows Iris out

34

EXT. NELSON HOUSE GARDEN - MONDAY

34

.... into a sun filled day.

IRIS
Beautiful

She settles on an old deck chair -
Places some sunglasses over her eyes.
She breathes out deeply.
The sky is blue.
A winter bird chirps cheerfully.

IRIS
Bliss

A shadow crosses her -
Blocks out the sun.

IRIS
Lily! You're in my sun.

There is no reply.

IRIS
Lily!

Iris tears off her sunglasses.

The sun glares into her eyes.

She looks about -

The garden is empty.

She sits back -

ponders the moment.

35

INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - MONDAY

35

Lily is descending the stairs with a tray of food.

LILY

Its me, Henry. I've got some
nice vegetable soup today.

She approaches the grill -

Looks in.

LILY

You're very quiet, Henry. I
was hoping we could have a
chat. We haven't had a chat
in ages. I'll just put your
tray through the slot.

Below the grill - a narrow slot wide enough for a
tray to be pushed through on to a shelf.

Lily waits watching the tray.

LILY

Go on, Henry. Your soup will
get cold.

Lily peeks through the grill into the cell.

CU - her face fills with alarm.

Lily runs up the stairs.

LILY

Iris!

36 EXT. NELSON HOUSE GARDEN - MONDAY

36

Lily runs out into the garden.

LILY

Iris! He's gone! He's gone!

Iris gets up -

Follows Lily back into the house.

37 INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - MONDAY

37

Iris, carrying a powerful torch, descends the stairs followed by Lily.

LILY

He doesn't like bright light.

Iris is shining the torch through the grill.

IRIS

He's found a way out!

LILY

How?

IRIS

There's a hole at the back.

LILY

It must come out somewhere?

IRIS

We'll have to search the grounds.

SOUND of door bell.

Iris and Lily freeze.

SOUND of bell again.

LILY

Its the police!

IRIS

Shut up. Say nothing.

38 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - MONDAY

38

Iris opens the door.

Mitch is standing with a bunch of flowers and a rifle slung over his shoulder.

IRIS
Mitch!

MITCH
Brought you some flowers to
cheer the place up.

The two girls see the rifle, are on their guard.

MITCH
Is there something wrong?

IRIS
No. We were just on our way
out.

MITCH
I don't think that's a good
idea. There's been another
murder.

LILY
Murder?

MITCH
Why don't you let me in?

IRIS
Can't we just take a short
walk? Its a lovely day.

MITCH
Okay, but not far. The place
is crawling with police and
army personnel.

Iris and Lily reach for their coats.

39 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - MONDAY

39

Iris, Lily and Mitch walking.

LILY
Roy was in your troop?

MITCH

Yeah, and Gloria. She's in a real state. The nub is ... there's a soldier hater on the loose.

LILY

That's terrible!

MITCH

Some sicko pacifist who thinks we shouldn't be fighting terrorism. What's wrong with this country!

IRIS

Not everybody agrees with the war.

MITCH

I was spat at on Remembrance Day just because I was in uniform.

IRIS

Lots of people want to see the end of the war.

MITCH

And you agree with them, Iris?

IRIS

Not just me, Mitch. War achieves nothing.

LILY

We all want to live in peace and quiet.

MITCH

I was in Iraq. Do you know why I was there? To stop Iraqis killing Iraqis. End of story.

IRIS

But you are being used, Mitch, manipulated by politicians.

MITCH
I'm doing my job.

LILY
Leave him be, Iris.

IRIS
No. I don't agree with what
he's doing.

MITCH
I don't want to argue with
you. I'm thinking of getting
out of the army after this
tour.

LILY
The army's your life, Mitch.
What else would you do?

MITCH
I'm pretty good with my
hands. I'd start by fixing up
your house.

IRIS
We like the house the way it
is.

MITCH
Are you trying to tell me
something, Iris?

IRIS
Look, Mitch, you're a nice
guy, but you should find
someone who won't argue with
you ... and be able to look
after you.

MITCH
I don't want to be looked
after. I want to look after
you and Lily.

IRIS
That's sweet, Mitch, but
we're doing okay for
ourselves.

MITCH

What's wrong with her,
Lily??? What's she hiding
from me?

LILY

Don't bring me into this,
please. It's complicated.

MITCH

Tell me.

IRIS

Leave her alone, Mitch. I
think you shouldn't come to
see us anymore.

MITCH

Where did that come from? I
thought we were the best of
pals?

IRIS

Let's go home, Lily.

Iris puts her arm around Lily -

Guides her back towards the house.

MITCH

I don't care what you think,
Iris. I'm sending someone
over to watch the house.
We've got an ID on this guy.
He's going to regret messing
with the army. We've all been
authorized to shoot on sight.

Iris and Lily flinch a little but keep walking.

MITCH

And just so you know, the
reason I came over was to
tell you that I ship out for
Afghanistan on Thursday.

Mitch turns - marches off down the road.

Iris falters - turns

IRIS
Mitch!

He is out of earshot.

LILY
What a mess. You've got to
tell him about Henry!

IRIS
No! He won't understand.

LILY
He will, Iris! He will! He's
ever so nice. We couldn't
find a better friend.

IRIS
I know.

LILY
You love him don't you?

IRIS
I'm not sure.

LILY
What if he doesn't come back?

IRIS
Don't say that!

Iris cups her hands around her head.

LILY
Call him later. We need to
look for Henry.

They hurry up the road.

40 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - MONDAY 40

Iris and Lily search the grounds -
The outhouses.

41 INT. NELSON HOUSE OUTHOUSE - MONDAY 41

Iris enters an outhouse -

Peers into the dark -

Discovers a hole in the floor.

IRIS
Lily

LILY
Oh my God!

IRIS
He's dug his way out to here.

LILY
Has he gone back in?

Iris leans into the hole - listens.

IRIS
I can hear breathing.

LILY
We have to block the hole up!
We have to!

IRIS
Alright!

They block up the hole with whatever they can find.

42

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - MONDAY

42

Iris padlocks shut the outhouse door.

IRIS
Let's check the fences.

LILY
Why?

IRIS
Maybe there's another hole.

Iris and Lily separate -

Skirt the hedgerows -

LILY
Iris! Over here!

There is a hole in hedge.

Iris squeezes through the hedge - Lily follows.

43

EXT. HEDGE - MONDAY

43

Iris is looking out.

IRIS
This way leads to the moor.

Lily picks up a bicycle lying in the grass.

LILY
Its my bike. How did it get
here?

IRIS
He can't ride a bicycle.

Lily turns - freezes in horror.

LILY
No!

She clings to Iris.

A blood covered MARTIN lies in the grass.

LILY
Henry's done this!

Iris bends down - feels the soldier's pulse.

IRIS
He's stone cold.

LILY
Do we know him?

IRIS
No. Yes. Maybe he came to the
house a couple of nights ago.

LILY
Is he dead?

IRIS
Of course he's dead! Take an
end of him.

LILY
What?

IRIS
We can't leave him here.

LILY
What are we going to do?

IRIS
Bury him!

Iris and Lily drag the soldier through the hedge
....

44 EXT. NELSON HOUSE GARDEN - MONDAY

44

.... into the vegetable garden.

Iris pulls a spade from the vegetable patch.

IRIS
Go and get another spade.

Lily runs off towards the house.

Iris starts to dig.

The soldier lies lifeless.

IRIS
There'll be no dinner for you
tonight Henry Nelson.

Lily returns with a spade - and a Union flag.

LILY
(prays) In some foreign field
there is always a place
called England ...

IRIS
For Christ sake!

LILY
He's a soldier, Iris!

Iris snatches the flag and covers the soldier.

IRIS
Pray for him later!

They both dig.

CUT TO:

Iris and Lily stop digging.

IRIS
Take his head.

LILY
I'd rather take his feet.

IRIS
You're like a little baby
sometimes.

LILY
I don't have to bury a
soldier everyday.

IRIS
You've buried lots of cats
haven't you?

LILY
Its not the same, Iris.
Shouldn't we hum Last Post?

IRIS
Take the head!

LILY
No!

IRIS
I'm warning you, Lily. This
is no time to disobey me!

LILY
What are you going to do,
Iris! Lock me in the basement
with Henry?

IRIS
That's a cruel thing to say!

LILY
It was your idea.

IRIS
Daddy started it!

LILY
You finished it.

Iris's hand goes to her head.

LILY
You're so predictable, Iris.
As soon as you have the truth
spelt out to you, you pretend
to have a pain in your head.

IRIS
You know that Daddy damaged
me! He nearly killed me.

LILY
And you call me a cry baby?
Daddy beat me too!

IRIS
He didn't crack your skull.

Iris is clutching her head with both hands.

IRIS
We have to find him! Finish
up here!

Iris staggers off towards the house.

Lily takes the feet of the dead soldier -

Drags him into the hole.

LILY
(resentful) I always have to
finish up.

She starts to fill in the hole.

45

INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - MONDAY

45

Iris is descending into the basement.

CU - on cane in her hand -

A short rope in the other

There is the sound of HUMMING from the cell.

IRIS
Henry????

She peers into the grill -

IRIS
What are you humming, Henry?

A cruel look washes into her face.

IRIS
Give me your hands. I have
something for you.

Iris steps back.

PAUSE

A pair of dirty blood stained hands nervously
emerge from behind the grill. One hand is tattooed
'HERO'.

Iris loops the rope around both his wrists -

Pulls tightly - ties the rope securely.

IRIS
You won't escape again!

HENRY O.S
Iris

IRIS
You better be sorry, Henry
Nelson! Very very sorry.

Iris unbolts the door to the cell -

Opens the door -

IRIS
You are a bad little boy.

Raises her cane - enters the cell.

HENRY O.S
(low) I'm sorry

Iris shadow is cast on a wall -
The cane comes down.
The SOUND of the cane on flesh.
Again -
Again -
CU - the tied hands wrenched in pain ...
As the camera drifts away from the hands -
to the ceiling.

46

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - MONDAY

46

A long shot down the drive -
Jaz, carrying a semi-automatic rifle -
Comes up to the house.
The front door is partially open.
She rings the doorbell -
Waits -
Pushes open the door -
Enters.

47

INT. NELSON HOUSE - MONDAY

47

Jaz wanders around the house.

JAZ
Hello???

Trips over a cat.

JAZ
Stupid moggy.

The cat scurries out the back door into the garden.

Jaz follows the cat

48 EXT. NELSON HOUSE GARDEN - MONDAY

48

.... out into the garden.

She squints in the sunlight -

Lily is finishing off her digging.

JAZ

Hello!

Jaz is right behind Lily.

LILY

You scared the life out of me!

JAZ

Hi Lily. I've been sent up to keep an eye on the place. Do you mind if I take a look around.

(looks down)

One of your cats die?

LILY

Yes You want a cup of tea?

JAZ

I'll take a look around first. Might find the killer lurking in your outhouses.

They both laugh.

LILY

I'll put the kettle on.

Jaz wanders towards the outhouses -

Lily rushes into the house

49 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - MONDAY MORNING

49

.... Looks up the stairs.

LILY

Iris!

IRIS
Yes, Lily.

Iris is splattered with blood. She closes the door to the basement.

LILY
What have you been doing????

IRIS
Giving Henry a thrashing.

LILY
Oh, Iris. We need to clean you up.

50 INT. NELSON HOUSE BATHROOM - MONDAY

50

Iris is washing herself.

Lily is standing holding a towel.

LILY
What are we going to do?

IRIS
Hide Henry until this all blows over. You don't want to go to jail, do you?

LILY
No!

IRIS
Who's downstairs?

LILY
Jaz! You know, the corporal from Mitch's company. She's here to keep an eye on us.

IRIS
So we are suspects?

LILY
No! I think its all innocent. Come down when you're ready. I said I'd make her a cup of tea.

Lily leaves the bathroom.

51 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - MONDAY

51

Jaz is sitting in a comfortable armchair drinking tea, talking to Lily.

JAZ
My father is English, my
mother Thai.

LILY
Its an interesting mix. What
made you join the army?

JAZ
Don't know really. Never
quite fitted in anywhere
else. Army's full of
oddballs, it feels right.

Iris enters.

JAZ
Hi, Iris. You heard the news?

LILY
Jasmine says that there is
another soldier missing.
Martin. She says he was here
Saturday night.

JAZ
He may have gone AWOL. We're
under strength as it is, and
we're shipping out in a three
days.

IRIS
We've heard. Where exactly?

JAZ
Helmand Province. There's a
one in twenty chance of being
killed or seriously wounded.

There is a long silence.

JAZ
I was wondering if you could
teach me how to do that line
dance properly. You know, the
one with the clicking?

Iris and Lily are reluctant.

JAZ
I could do with learning a few steps. I missed out on all that as a kid.

LILLY
Alright, Jaz. It'll take our minds off everything.

Lily finds a CD - puts it in the player.

MUSIC - basic beat stuff.

51a INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

51a

The three girls line-up.

Iris starts clicking her fingers.

The other two imitate her.

Iris takes the first step -

IRIS
(forward) Right, left

Lily and Jaz and follow.

IRIS
(side) Right, left. Clap.

Right side step -

IRIS
(back) Left, right

Back step -

IRIS
(side) Left, right. Clap.

Left side step -

IRIS
(back) Right, left

Back step -

IRIS
(side) Right , left. Clap.

Right side step -

IRIS
(forward) Left, right.

Forward step -

IRIS
(side) Left, right. Clap.

Left side step -

IRIS
Again! Its easy.

REPEAT -

The girls repeat the dance -

Over -

And over -

FADE OUT:

52 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - MONDAY EVENING 52

There is an evening glow to the house.

53 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - MONDAY EVENING 53

Iris, Lily and Jaz are seated eating dinner.

The door bell RINGS

Lily gets up -

Leaves the room.

JAZ
You ever get scared living in
this big house on your own?

IRIS
Some times.

Mitch bursts into the room - he is very drunk.

Danny and Bobby follow behind - try to restrain him.

Lily seems lost.

MITCH

Why are you doing this to me!
I've always been nice to you.

DANNY

Mitch! Get a grip of
yourself.

Mitch sees Jaz.

MITCH

You should leave, corporal.
I've got private things to
say to Miss Nelson here!

IRIS

I don't want to hear them.

MITCH

I'm going to make you listen!

IRIS

I'm going to bed.

Iris pushes past Mitch. He grabs her by the arm.

MITCH

I want to tell you how I
feel!

Iris clutches her head in her hand.

IRIS

I don't want to know!

Iris wrenches herself free - leaves the room.

54

EXT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - MONDAY EVENING

54

Iris runs up the stairs.

Mitch staggers to the bottom of the stairs.

The others rush to stop him following her up.

LILY
Mitch! Don't! She's got a
headache.

BOBBY
Leave him to us, Lily.

LILY
Why did you let him come here
like that?

BOBBY
We couldn't stop him.

LILY
You're just as drunk as he
is.

BOBBY
Heh, wait a minute. It's not
our fault your sister's been
leading him on. Maybe you're
doing the same to me.

DANNY
Yeah, that's right. She's
playing him ... maybe you're
playing us?

Mitch breaks free -

Staggers back out of the hall

55 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - MONDAY EVENING

55

.... to the drinks tray.

Pours himself a drink.

MITCH
You want a drink, Jaz?

JAZ
I'm on duty.

MITCH
C'mon on, Jaz. Who's going to
tell on you!

JAZ
You're a pain in the arse
when you've got a drink in
you.

MITCH
Just because you're a dyke
doesn't mean you've got a
squeeze on my balls.

JAZ
Or you my tits?

They stare each other out.

JAZ
What's wrong with you?

MITCH
I'm in love with her.

JAZ
You'll get over it.

Enter Lily - pinned between Danny and Bobby.

DANNY
Lily wants us to leave, Mitch

Mitch turns and smiles at Lily.

MITCH
We've come to protect you.

LILY
Jaz?

Danny laughs.

DANNY
Jaz's a pussy ...

Danny approaches Jaz and puts her in a headlock.

DANNY
See what I mean!

Jaz grabs him by his testicles -

Escapes his headlock - kicks him across the room.

Danny picks himself up.

JAZ
You want to be nut-less,
Bobby?

Jaz picks up her rifle - earnestly levels it.

BOBBY
Cool it, Jaz. We've got the
message.
(takes Mitch by the elbow)
Come on, Mitch.

MITCH
That was good, Jaz. I'm proud
to be serving with you.

JAZ
Shut up, Mitch. You've said
enough for the night.

BOBBY
Come on, Danny.
(to Lily)
See you before we go
Thursday.

56 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - MONDAY EVENING

56

Bobby is supporting Mitch and Danny.

Lily opens the front door.

Iris is sitting at the top of the stairs holding
her head.

MITCH
(shouts) See you tomorrow,
Iris!

IRIS
Sure, Mitch.

MITCH
You do love me, don't you,
Iris?

IRIS
Sure I do.

MITCH
Then marry me!

The others are embarrassed.

BOBBY
We've got to go, Mitch.

MITCH
But she hasn't said yes.

BOBBY
Night, Lily.

The door closes behind Danny, Mitch and Bobby.

57

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

57

POV the Beast - wobble cam.

The three drunk soldiers stagger along the road.

MITCH
Let's go back to the house.

BOBBY
No way. The Beast might get us.

MITCH
Bullshit!

DANNY
Old man Nelson was C.O.
during the Falklands, right
Bobby?

BOBBY
The RSM told me he put his
old lady in casualty when she
tried to leave him.

DANNY
Ever hear the sisters talk
about it?

BOBBY
Would you admit that to
anyone? Here, I need a piss.
Hold Mitch.

DANNY
I need a piss, too. Sit him
on the road.

They both help to sit Mitch on the road.

Bobby and Danny line up - unzip their flies.

BOBBY
Clear night, eh?

DANNY
Yeah. Wonder if we should be
doing this. Martin's still
missing and we've been
warned.

Mitch gets back on his feet.

MITCH
I'm thirsty. Lets go to the
pub.

Bobby and Danny zip up.

BOBBY
You amaze me, mate. I don't
how you do it.

Mitch leads the way down the road.

58 INT. NELSON HOUSE IRIS'S BEDROOM - MONDAY EVENING 58

The decor in Iris's room is sparse and functional.

Iris is in bed. She is fighting the pain in her
head.

Lily is sitting on bed. She has a glass of water
and a tablet in her hand.

LILY
I found it in the kitchen in
an old bottle. Take it.
Doctor Larkin will be here in
the morning.

Iris pops the tablet, drinks the water.

IRIS
I feel like killing myself.

LILY
Don't Iris. I couldn't cope
without you.

Lily leans under the bed -
pulls out a box of puppets.

IRIS
We used to give puppet shows
for Daddy and Mummy.

Lily puts a cassette in a player.

MUSIC 'Time of your Life'.

Lily performs the puppet show to the music.

Iris laughs.

It is sad tearful stuff -

Iris's face falls sad.

Lily is totally absorbed in the operating the
puppets.

59 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - MONDAY EVENING 59

The Music can be heard.

Jaz is on the sofa covered with a duvet. She is
staring at the ceiling.

JAZ
What are the crazy bitches
doing now?

She pulls the duvet over her head.

60 INT. PUB - MONDAY EVENING 60

Mitch, Danny and Bobby - playing pool with a few
other SOLDIERS.

Loud music is playing 'Money Talks'

The guys are singing along -

Fooling around.

Mitch is now almost completely sober.

MITCH
Did I make a fool of myself
again, Bobby?

BOBBY
No more than usual.

MITCH
I'm such a dumb shit.

BOBBY
We'll be out of here soon,
mate. Those Nelson's are not
the marrying kind. They'll be
here when we get back.

MITCH
What do you mean?

BOBBY
They're good time girls.
While we're on tour they'll
find some other dumb
squaddies to pay for their
parties.

MITCH
Yeah, you're right. To hell
with them!

Arun steps into the pool room followed by a red arm-banded MP.

MITCH
Oh oh. Trouble.

DANNY
You're busted, mate.

MITCH
I haven't done nothing.

The MP points to Mitch.

Arun slides up to him.

ARUN
Michael Mitchell? I remember
you The driver? Remember
me?

MITCH
Indian copper with the
Scottish accent?

The Soldiers laugh.

MITCH
What can I do for you?

The MUSIC goes off.

The Soldiers pay attention.

ARUN
We're looking for a missing
soldier. Colin Martin?

MITCH
We'd like to know where he
is. He's our radio op.

ARUN
He was last seen in your
company two nights ago.

MITCH
Yeah, up at the Nelson's.

ARUN
Lake End House?

MITCH
That's it.

ARUN
Did he get back to barracks
with you?

MITCH
He left before us. We got
back to camp early Sunday
morning.

ARUN
Any witnesses?

MITCH

Danny Cameron and Bobby
Robinson.

Danny and Bobby nod their heads.

ARUN

The recent deaths both
happened not far from Lake
End House?

MITCH

Yeah, I suppose so.

ARUN

You've been up at the house
several times in the last few
days.

MITCH

What are you getting at?

ARUN

I hope you lads are not
acting out another Deep Cut
barracks scenario. Knocking
off the guys you don't like?

BOBBY

Heh! That's insulting!

MITCH

Cool it, Bobby. Look, we're
just soldiers. The last thing
we do is kill our own side.
Why haven't you nailed the
killer??? You want us to do
it for you, is that it?

ARUN

No that's not it. I just want
to know if any of you have
information that could help
my enquiry?

DANNY

Maybe it's some Scottish
nutter!

The Soldiers laugh again.

ARUN
Local I would say. Someone
who knows the area and who
lives no more than a mile
from this pub.

A buzz goes around.

ARUN
Whoever it is, he is stalking
soldiers. That's you, not me.
You! I suggest you heed the
warnings. I don't want to
have to look at any of you
lying in a pool of blood
tomorrow morning.

Arun turns and leaves followed by the MP.

The MUSIC is turned back on.

61 EXT. ROAD - EVENING

61

Mitch, Bobby, Danny, Sanders and three other
SOLDIERS are on the road.

DANNY
Let's take the shortcut
across the moor.

MITCH
We should stick to road.

DANNY
You're not scared of this
Beast are you?

MITCH
Nothing scares me! Moor it
is.

62 EXT. MOOR - MONDAY EVENING

62

The seven soldiers are crossing the moor.

They are SINGING an army song.

One of the soldiers is stragglng - she is drunker
than the others.

MITCH
Keep up, Sanders!

SANDERS
Yes, sarge.

DANNY
Let's put the shit up her.
(shouts)
Run! Its the beast!

The six soldiers start to run off at speed leaving Sanders on her own.

Sanders tries to keep up, falls over.

She gets up -

Turns round -

The Beast is on her -

Tearing into her -

CUT TO:

The others are looking for Sanders.

BOBBY
We can't find her, Mitch.

MITCH
We'll have to wait until
light. Keep together.

They move off.

62A INT. NELSON HOUSE IRIS'S ROOM - TUESDAY MORNING 62A

DOCTOR LARKIN places a bottle of pills on the bedside cabinet.

DR.LARKIN
I can't see how she possibly
got through so many tablets?

LILY
She lost a whole bottle while
out riding.

DR.LARKIN

I don't believe that for a moment. I think she's been taking double, even triple the dose she should have been taking. These tablets contain morphine ... refined heroine. They are addictive.

Iris is in bed feigning illness.

IRIS

I'm sorry, doctor, the headaches were very bad.

DR.LARKIN

From now on you will administer the correct dosage. One pill per day. Is that clear?

LILY

Yes, Doctor Larkin.

63

INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - TUESDAY MORNING

63

Doctor Larkin is departing - seen out by Jaz.

Mitch bursts in.

MITCH

Jaz. Sanders is missing on the moor. You're needed in the search. Get your rifle.

JAZ

Sure, Mitch.

Lily comes down the stairs - the pills in her hand.

LILY

Something wrong?

MITCH

Nothing you need to worry about.

Mitch and Jaz depart.

Lily closes the door. She knows something is wrong.

He places the pills on a table -

takes the cane -

Goes through the door

64 INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - TUESDAY MORNING 64

.... down the stairs.

The door to the cell is ajar.

Lily looks inside -

It is empty.

65 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY MORNING 65

Lily goes into the outhouse.

The hole is clear again.

66 INT. NELSON HOUSE IRIS'S ROOM - TUESDAY MORNING 66

Iris is getting dressed. Lily bursts in.

LILY
Iris! Iris! He's gone again!

IRIS
Who's gone?

LILY
Henry! Henry, silly! What are
we going to do!

IRIS
What do you want us to do?

LILY
We have to tell the police!

IRIS
Help me get dressed.

LILY
You're in no state to do
anything.

IRIS
I'm fine now. I'm as strong
as an ox. Now help me!

Lily does as she is told.

67

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY MORNING

67

Iris and Lily emerge into the grounds.

The SOUND of dogs.

A POLICEMAN with a dog rushes past followed by an
armed SOLDIER.

LILY
They're everywhere.

IRIS
Stay calm.

The dog sniffs briefly in the vegetable patch.

Iris and Lily sweat it out.

The dog moves off - the Police and Soldier with it -

As it squeeze through the hole in the hedge.

Iris and Lily set off

68

EXT. NELSON HOUSE STABLE YARD - TUESDAY MORNING

68

.... to feed the horses.

SOUND of distant barking dogs.

LILY
He was always hiding from
Daddy.

IRIS
Daddy couldn't find him
either.

LILY
Where could he be?

IRIS
Somewhere close.

LILY
We're done for if they search
the house.

IRIS
Why would they do that?

LILY
Its obvious. They're running
around the house in circles.
They'll put two and two
together.

SOUND of thunder.

IRIS
You're right. Lets go back
in.

69 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY

69

SOUND of heavy rain.

Iris and Lily are sitting smoking cigarettes and
drinking vodka.

SOUND Door bell.

IRIS
Tidy up

Lily collects the glasses -

Hides the booze -

Sprays with air freshener.

70 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY

70

Door opens.

Arun and Denham are standing in heavy rain.

They show their warrant cards.

ARUN
Miss Iris Nelson I presume?
Do you mind if we come in?

IRIS
No, not at all. I imagine it
is about these dreadful
killings

She leads the officers through into

71

INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY

71

.... where Lily is sewing.

IRIS
Its the police, Lily.

LILY
Thank god! We're scared
stiff. What if he broke in
here and murdered us both?

Arun and Denham are soaked.

ARUN
Do you mind?

Arun and Denham take off their wet overcoats.

ARUN
I was wondering if we could
wait here until the rain
slackens?

IRIS
Of course

ARUN
Thank you. The rain has made
it difficult for the dogs. We
almost had him.

LILY
So you know where he is?

ARUN
We think he's dug himself a
foxhole in the woods.

LILY
A fox hole?

ARUN

Army style ... like the
Vietcong. You know.
Underground tunnels. Wee
bunkers.

IRIS

How would he know how to do
that?

ARUN

From military manuals. My
youngest son showed me on the
internet. You have to have
the right kind of ground -
soft earth, a canopy of
trees, a place to dispose of
the soil taken from below.
You have to be very clever.
Almost undetectable if done
right.

LILY

Even in Berkshire?

ARUN

Aye. This whole area could be
riddled with hidden bunkers
and we wouldn't be any the
wiser.

IRIS

Do you think that's the case?

ARUN

Well, that would be telling,
wouldn't it, Charlie?

DENHAM

Yes, mam.

ARUN

You wouldn't happen to have a
cup of tea for me and my
detective?

LILY

Sorry, how rude of us. I'll
put the kettle on.

Lily leaves the room -

We follow her

72 INT. NELSON HOUSE KITCHEN - TUESDAY 72

.... picking up the kettle.

Henry is standing in the corner.

Lily screams - drops the kettle in fright.

73 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY 73

Arun and Denham run out of the room

74 INT. NELSON HOUSE KITCHEN - TUESDAY 74

Lily is down on the floor mopping up water.

Henry has gone.

DENHAM
Are you alright?

Denham helps her up.

LILY
I almost scalded myself.
Sorry if I frightened you.

ARUN
No not at all. Let Charlie
make the tea.

75 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - TUESDAY 75

Arun leads Lily out of the kitchen.

Iris pushes close the door to the basement.

LILY
Sorry, Iris. Must have
sounded as if I was being
murdered.

Iris puts her head in hands.

LILY
My sister is not very well.

Arun - cup of tea in hand -

looks closely at a photograph of a young boy.

ARUN
Who's this bonny wee lad?
Your brother?

Iris and Lily exchange a glance.

IRIS
Yes. That's Henry.

ARUN
Oh, aye? Where's your brother
now?

IRIS
We don't know.

ARUN
You've lost touch.

IRIS
To speak of.

ARUN
How long has it been since
you've seen him?

IRIS
Too long.

ARUN
You're not giving me much to
go on. I was hoping for
something a bit more
specific.

IRIS
Are we under suspicion of
something?

ARUN
What makes you think that?

Iris takes the photograph out of his hand.

IRIS

The poking around.

ARUN

I'm just making conversation until the rain stops, Miss Nelson.

IRIS

We like to talk about music and fashion and things like that when we have company. Don't you like these things?

ARUN

I can't do small talk. I've tried. Isn't that right, Charlie? It always seems to come out as a question or an accusation. All those rows of magazines in the news-agent's. I admit it, I should read them more, broaden my topics of conversation on ... celebrity culture for example.

DENHAM

You know a lot about tv shows, sir.

ARUN

The Professionals, Minder, Morse, Taggart. I can name very single one of the actors.

LILY

We don't have a tv. Our Daddy wouldn't let us watch it.

ARUN

You're father was a lieutenant colonel.

IRIS

Was that a question?

ARUN

No, Miss Nelson, that was a statement of fact. I've been looking at the records.

(MORE)

ARUN (cont'd)
Your mother died when you
were young. Your father died
about twelve years ago. You
were eighteen, your sister
seventeen, and your brother
twelve. You became his legal
guardian.

IRIS
That's right.

ARUN
He was meant to go to
boarding school?

LILY
When Daddy died, Henry went
to pieces.

ARUN
So he didn't go to boarding
school?

IRIS
We kept him at home and
schooled him ourselves.

Mitch bursts in.

MITCH
He's been sighted on the
heath!

Arun and Denham grab their coats -

77 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY 77

Arun and Denham follow Mitch out of the house.

Iris closes the door behind them.

78 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - TUESDAY 78

Iris picks up the cane and the rope.

IRIS
Why did you tell them about
him going to pieces????

LILY
It's true! Now he's killing
soldiers! Why Iris? Why?

IRIS
Because of Daddy's cruelty.

LILY
Why hasn't he killed us?
We've been just as cruel.

79 INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - TUESDAY

79

Iris and Lily descend the stairs.

LILY
We can tell the police it was
Daddy who started building
the cell.

IRIS
We were the ones who finished
it and put him in it.

LILY
We don't have to tell them
that!

Iris rattles the grill with the Cane

IRIS
Henry!
(pause)
Henry!

Henry appears from the cell -

LILY
He's back again

He is a sorry sight.

IRIS
You've really got into big
trouble this time.

HENRY
I'm sorry, Iris.

LILY
You used to be a lovely
little boy.

HENRY
Sorry, Lily. You should have
let me join the army.

IRIS
Lets not go into that again!

HENRY
Sorry

LILY
We love you, Henry.

IRIS
How many soldiers have you
killed?

HENRY
Not many.

IRIS
Not many! The whole county is
looking for you!

LILY
Don't shout at him.

IRIS
We need to get him cleaned
up.

LILY
What do you mean?

IRIS
We take him upstairs, wash
him and put him in clean
clothes.

LILY
Why?

IRIS
When the police come back,
they can take Henry away.

HENRY
I don't want to go away!

Henry backs into his cell - tries to close the door.

Iris prevents him.

IRIS
Listen to me! Its your only chance.
(to Lily) Henry pleads insanity. We plead to harbouring him. Henry goes to a mental hospital. We get a year in prison. When we get out ...
(to Henry)... we come and get you out of the hospital and bring you back to live with us upstairs.

HENRY
No, I don't believe you.
You'll put me back down here!

LILY
We won't! We promise!

HENRY
You did it before!

LILY
We couldn't have you join the army. Look what happened to Daddy.

HENRY
I always wanted to be a soldier.

IRIS
You were never right in the head.

HENRY
I wanted to fight terrorists.

LILY
No. You would have been killed in Iraq.

IRIS
Enough now! Do as you are
told. Give me your hands.

HENRY
No.

IRIS
If you don't give me your
hands, I'll give you a
thrashing.

HENRY
And I'll kill you!

LILY
Henry! Iris is your sister!
Give him your hands.

HENRY
Sorry, Iris

Iris loops the rope around his wrists.

She leads him up the stairs.

Lily follows, puts out the light.

80 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY EVENING 80

Distant SOUND of barking dogs.

It is pouring rain.

Mitch and Jaz run up to the house.

Ring the bell.

81 INT. NELSON HOUSE LILY'S BEDROOM - TUESDAY EVENING 81

Henry, clean and clothed, sits up on the bed.

His hands - tied by the rope which passes under the
bed on either side - tug away at the knot beneath
the frame.

82 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY EVENING 82

Iris pours Mitch a drink. Jaz and Lily listen.

MITCH
We lost him in the woods.

LILY
Did you actually see him?

MITCH
No. We were following the
dogs.

IRIS
They probably caught the
scent of a fox. Drink, Jaz?

JAZ
Yeah why not. Its been a hell
of a day.

MITCH
Everyone's beat, but we've
volunteered to spend the
night here to make sure
you're okay.

LILY
That's kind of you.

MITCH
How you doing, Iris?

IRIS
Alright, Mitch.

LILY
(whispers) You have to tell
him everything.

Lily smiles.

LILY
Jaz. Could you help me make
some dinner? I don't want to
be alone in the kitchen.

JAZ
Sure, Lily.

Lily and Jaz exit.

MITCH
There's rumours that the
killer might be your brother?

IRIS
What if it was true?

MITCH
What are you saying, Iris?

IRIS
That the killer is my brother
Henry.

MITCH
Are you serious? I didn't
even know you had a brother.

IRIS
There's lots you don't know.

MITCH
Maybe you should tell me. Its
my last night here. Tomorrow
we are confined to barracks
until we go.

IRIS
Alright. Do you want to meet
Henry?

MITCH
He's here in the house????

IRIS
You promise you won't harm
him.

MITCH
I promise.

IRIS
First you have to do
something.

MITCH
What?

IRIS
Take off your uniform.

MITCH

Why?

IRIS

In case he tries to kill you.

Mitch starts to remove his uniform.

IRIS

Wait here.

Iris leaves the room.

83

INT. NELSON HOUSE KITCHEN - TUESDAY EVENING

83

Jaz is up close to Lily

JAZ

You're a good looking girl,
Lily.

LILY

You think so, Jaz.

JAZ

Do you like girls?

LILY

What do you mean?

JAZ

You know ... girl girl stuff.

Jaz puts her hand on Lily's buttock.

JAZ

The things I could do with
your butt.

Iris pushes her head in the door.

IRIS

Lily?

LILY

Excuse me for a moment.

84

INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - TUESDAY EVENING

84

Iris and Lily are climbing the stairs.

LILY
Jaz is a lesbian.

IRIS
Who cares! I've told Mitch
about Henry.

LILY
That's important.

IRIS
We're going to bring him
down.

LILY
Then what?

IRIS
We get Mitch to take him to
the police.

85

INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY EVENING

85

Jaz enters the room -

Sees Mitch in his underwear cradling a rifle.

JAZ
What the

MITCH
Shut it. Get your uniform
off.

JAZ
Are you real?

MITCH
They're bringing in the
soldier killer.

JAZ
The crazy bitches?

MITCH
Its their brother. Get your
uniform off. He'll go nuts if
you have it on.

JAZ
I don't believe you.

MITCH
It's an order. Strip!

Jaz begins to remove her uniform.

JAZ
What you going to do when he
arrives?

MITCH
Shoot him through the head.

86 INT. NELSON HOUSE LILY'S BEDROOM - TUESDAY EVENING 86

Iris and Lily enter.

The room is empty -

The rope lies curled on the bed.

IRIS
The basement!

87 INT. NELSON HOUSE BASEMENT - TUESDAY EVENING 87

Iris with the cane - Lily the rope - run down the
stairs.

They reach the cell -

It is empty.

LILY
Where is he? Where is he?

SOUND - door bell.

Iris and Lily freeze.

88 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY EVENING 88

Arun and Denham are at the door.

89 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY EVENING 89

SOUND - door bell again.

Mitch and Jaz both raise their rifles.

MITCH

Don't answer it. It could be
a trick.

90 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - TUESDAY EVENING 90

Lily and Iris emerge from the basement -
Slam the door shut.

SOUND - impatient door bell ringing.

LILY

Should we answer it?

IRIS

Not until we find him.

They run to the back of the house.

91 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY EVENING 91

Arun and Denham.

ARUN

Round the back, Charlie.
There's something no right
here.

Denham sets off around the house.

Arun takes out a revolver.

92 INT. NELSON HOUSE HALLWAY - TUESDAY EVENING 92

There is creaking on the stairs.

Henry descends the stairs in an army uniform -
Reaches for the handle

93 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY EVENING 93

... the door opens.

Mitch and Jaz behind the sofa - take aim -
Henry enters -

HENRY
Iris?

JAZ sees the uniform - pauses.

JAZ
He's just a kid.

HENRY
Lily?

Mitch and Jaz stand up.

HENRY
Hello. My name's Henry.

SOUND - doorbell again.

MITCH
Hello. My name's Mitch.

JAZ
I'll get the door.

MITCH
I wouldn't do that, Jaz.

JAZ
Its the cavalry, Mitch.

MITCH
The cavalry are always too late.

JAZ
I'm not going to let you shoot him, Mitch.

Jaz skirts around Henry.

He looks down at her feet -

CU - army boots.

HENRY
Are you a soldier?

Henry takes from his belt a claw on a long handle -

Lunges at Jaz.

Jaz ducks - grabs him by the testicles -
Throws him across the room.

Henry gets up -

Takes a hand grenade out of his pocket -

Reaches for the pin.

Mitch raises his rifle -

Iris and Lily burst into the room -

SOUND OF RIFLE SHOT

Henry falls dead at their feet.

The grenade rolls unnoticed under the sofa.

IRIS

Henry!

The fall to their knees - cry.

Iris looks up.

IRIS

You bastard, Mitch!

LILY

We trusted you!

Mitch lowers his rifle.

94 EXT. NELSON HOUSE - TUESDAY EVENING

94

Mitch and Jaz are being questioned by two MP's.

95 INT. NELSON HOUSE MAIN ROOM - TUESDAY EVENING

95

Iris, Lily with Arun. Denham is examining the murder claw.

ARUN

You wanted to save your
brother from the horrors of
war? Why?

IRIS

War changed Daddy. It made him cruel to us. Even when he was invalided out of the army, Daddy wore his uniform every single day until he died. We didn't want that to happen to Henry.

ARUN

So Henry made the association that all uniformed men were cruel?

LILY

Daddy hated Henry. He blamed Henry for the death of Mummy. She never recovered from his birth and died a year later.

ARUN

So your fear of the potential effects of war on Henry made you lock him up?

LILY

After the Twin Towers happened, Henry got very angry. He said he was going to join the army as soon as he was sixteen.

ARUN

Would the army have taken him?

LILY

We couldn't take the risk. Physically there was nothing wrong with him.

ARUN

So you shut him up in the basement?

IRIS

He was virtually a prisoner all of his life. Daddy teased him when he was very little that he was going to lock him up.

ARUN

He built the cell and put him
in it?

IRIS

Partially. We finished it.

ARUN

So you were the ones who
actually locked him up?

LILY

We loved Henry. We did it for
his own good.

ARUN

Some might argue that your
misguided love was as unjust
as your father's cruelty.

IRIS

No, we were right to do it.

LILY

Yes, we were right to do it.

ARUN

You were right to shut him
away, take away the last of
his human dignity, and make
him kill soldiers?

IRIS

Is that what we did to him?
Is it Lily?

Iris holds her head in her hands.

IRIS

What's Mitch going to think
of me?

Lily comforts her.

LILY

My sister's not well. I think
we'd like a lawyer now.

to a waiting car.

MITCH

Iris!

IRIS

Go to Afghanistan, soldier.
Get yourself killed.

97 INT. CAR - TUESDAY EVENING

97

Iris joins Lily in the car.

The camera stays on them as the car drives off -

LILY

I'm tired, Iris?

IRIS

We'll get a good night's
sleep.

LILY

That sounds nice. I haven't
had that since Daddy came
home from the Falklands as a
conquering hero.

98 EXT. ROAD - TUESDAY EVENING

98

The car recedes into the gloom.

END CREDITS:

MONTAGE: Images of Afghanistan under the credits.