

# **CYCLE**

by  
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FADE IN:

- 1 EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS STIRLING - EARLY EVENING 1  
ESTABLISHING SHOTS OF THE LAKE.  
THE UNIVERSITY SIGN.  
A COLLEGE BUILDING.
- 2 INT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 2  
ISLA, half dressed, getting dressed, cigarette in  
her mouth.  
She collects a few personal items and stuffs them  
in a backpack.  
She glances at her watch.  
She hastily stubs out her cigarette.  
An older man - JOHN is buttoning his shirt.  
Isla, pack in hand, goes to kiss him goodbye.  
He tries to take her in his arms.  
She pushes an essay into his hand.  
He looks at it and is resigned.  
Isla runs to the door ....  
Leaves.
- 3 EXT. STATION - EVENING 3  
A THREE CARRIAGE TRAIN PULLS INTO A SMALL STATION.  
It shudders to a halt.  
A door opens in the rear carriage.

Cycle 2.

A bare leg with a hiking boot.

A backpack.

The BANGING of a carriage door.

Isla is standing on the platform with her backpack in her hand.

THE TRAIN SHUNTERS ON INTO THE LANDSCAPE.

CU - ISLA

The station is in a deserted part of the Scottish Highlands.

A chill wind flays the broom.

Isla pulls a coat from her pack.

She puts it on.

A buzzard flies overhead.

A brooding ruined castle is across a breeze fanned loch.

Heavy clouds signal rain.

THUNDER confirms it.

4 EXT. BOTHY - EVENING

4

The rain is pissing down.

Isla is drenched.

A stone building is ahead of her.

She races to its door .....

and pushes .....

INT. BOTHY - CONTINUOUS

.... There is loud MUSIC.

It is dark.

A group of around ten PACKERS are squatted at one end of the room with their torches shining on ....

.... young hiker PEARL doing 'The Dance of the Seven Backpacks'.

She is wearing only the packs except a red woolly hat and is stripping them one by one.

Isla frowns.

STEPHAN

Isla!

ISLA

Stephan .....

STEPHAN thrusts a can of beer into her hand.

STEPHAN

You missed the train???

ISLA

I had a tutorial ....

STEPHAN

(suggestive)

Did he give you an A plus?

Isla swigs on her beer.

ISLA

I gave him a C minus .....

Isla moves forward and squeezes in between RORY and TAMARA whose eyes are on Pearl.

Pearl continues with her dance.

She is down to two packs.

Cycle 4.

SLOW CU - SHE IS AS DRUNK AS A SKUNK.

From behind - she is silhouetted. The torches are blinding.

RORY  
Pack it in, darling!

There is laughter.

Pearl throws one of the packs away.

VARIOUS CU'S MALE AND FEMALE.

TAMARA  
Hold on to your hat, Pearl!

Pearl turns her back on the audience and drops the last pack. The torches run up and down her naked body.

Stephan has a worried look.

RORY  
We want the hat!

All the torches focus on the red hat.

ALL  
(chanting)  
We want the hat!  
We want the hat!

Pearl turns around. Only her head is illuminated by the torches.

ALL (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
We want the hat!

Pearl slowly reaches up and places her hand on her hat.

She takes it off slowly ....

.... there is ascending approval from the audience.

She pulls off the hat.

There is a CHEER.

The hat is flung into the audience.

The torches swivel around and arrest on BRENDAN.

He blushes.

CUT TO:

6

INT. BOTHY - LATER

6

The group is now in a circle of ten facing inwards at each other.

A plastic cup is being passed around.

Each person is removing a folded piece of paper out of it.

ISLA

The one that gets the piece  
of paper marked with an eye  
is the killer.

Pearl is sitting by Isla.

PEARL

This game always gives me the  
creeps, Isla.

ISLA

That's because you're always  
the first killed.  
(to the rest)  
If the killer winks, you are  
dead and you must play dead.

PEARL

I hate dying .....

ISLA

Shut up, Pearl. If you think  
you know who the killer is  
you point and scream  
'Killer!'.  
(MORE)

ISLA (cont'd)  
If you're wrong, you're dead,  
and the game continues.

PEARL  
I always get it wrong.

Everyone has their piece of paper.

ISLA  
Are we ready?

Everyone nods.

Pearl pulls her hat over her eyes.

Isla pulls the hat off.

Pearl scowls and takes a drink.

CU - ON THE EYES AS WE GO AROUND THE CIRCLE.

The BOY next to Pearl goes dead.

PEARL  
Jesus Christ .....

ISLA  
(whispers)  
Shut up or I'll kill you  
myself!

Pearl goes silent.

The good players keep their heads low and glance  
furtively.

Another goes dead.

Isla sneaks a look around the circle.

Another goes dead.

Then Tamara.

From over Isla's shoulder we see that Rory, Brendan  
and Stephan are still alive.

PEARL

Shit!

Pearl goes dead.

CU ON ISLA AS SHE TRIES TO WORK OUT WHO IS THE  
KILLER.

Cut to Rory.

Cut to Brendan

Cut to Stephan

Back to Brendan

To Rory .... but he is dead.

To Stephan ... He is dead.

To Brendan .... He winks.

Isla winks back.

Brendan, winks again.

Isla winks in return.

Brendan is now annoyed. He winks twice.

Isla winks twice.

Brendan gets up and breaks the circle.

PEARL (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
For God's sake, Isla ... my  
bum's gone numb. You must  
have been killed by now???

Pearl looks up as the door to the outside closes  
with a BANG.

Everyone else opens their eyes and looks around.

STEPHAN

Where's he gone?

ISLA  
To piss in the rain, I  
suppose .... He's a weirdo.

STEPHAN  
What makes you say that?

ISLA  
The look in his eye .....

PEARL  
Shut up, Isla, you're  
spooking me.

7 INT. BOTHY - MOMENTS LATER

7

The circle is broken and everyone is tired.

ISLA  
Was he on the train with you  
guys?

STEPHAN  
No, he was here when we  
arrived.

ISLA  
He's a student, right?

PEARL  
I think he's nice. He's  
studying at St. Andrew's  
University.

ISLA  
You think everyone at St.  
Andrews is a cut above us.

PEARL  
That's not true. I like  
Stirling.

STEPHAN  
I'd rather be at St. Andrews.

PEARL  
You would not .....

RORY  
Want a bet. He'd wants to  
hang out with Willy.

ISLA  
Prince William? Aye, right  
.....

Isla stretches out her sleeping bag.

Rory has his arm around Tamara.

RORY  
We've planned to walk to  
King's House tomorrow, and  
Glen Coe the day after?

ISLA  
I might hang out here for the  
weekend.

Isla eyes Pearl who has passed out on top of her  
bag.

STEPHAN  
She drank a bottle of Martini  
on the train.

ISLA  
She's going to drop out at  
this rate ..... Pearl! Get  
into your bag you stupid cow  
.....

Isla gets Pearl into her sleeping bag.

Brendan re-enters from outside with an armful of  
chopped wood.

Isla turns away from the fire and lies down with  
her eyes open listening to Brendan dropping logs on  
to the fire.

He turns in her direction.

Sensing his gaze, she pulls her bag over her head  
and curls up.

STEPHAN

You want to go with us to  
Rannoch Moor tomorrow, mate?

BRENDAN

Maybe ... I'll see what the  
weather's like .....

STEPHAN

It's always the same in  
Scotland ... wind, rain,  
sleet, sun ... all in one day  
... the only thing that  
changes is the order.

Stephan lies down in his bag.

Brendan remains sitting by the fire.

There is a troubled look in his eyes.

He lives in a world that we know nothing about, but  
soon will.

8

EXT. BOTHY - MORNING

8

Spring is alive and well.

The sun is spreading a golden hue across the  
mountains.

Some of the Packers have set off along the mountain  
pathway leading north.

Stephan, Rory and Tamara are packed and ready to  
move on.

STEPHAN

She really wanted to go to  
Glen Coe. We planned this for  
weeks.

ISLA

When she wakes up I'll see  
how she feels.

STEPHAN  
If you leave in the next two  
hours you'll get to the  
King's House before dark.  
I'll set up the tent.

Thrusts a map at her.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
Up the Black Mount, across  
Rannoch Moor, camp at the  
King's House ....

ISLA  
(unimpressed)  
Groovy .....

RORY, TAMARA  
Bye .....

ISLA  
Bye .....

Isla turns and goes into the bothy.

9 INT. BOTHY - CONTINUOUS

9

Pearl is in her sleeping bag sitting up holding her  
head with both hands.

Brendan is by the fire.

CU - BOILING WATER IN A PAN.

Isla sees Brendan and is suspicious.

BRENDAN  
Here, you go, Pearl .... A  
nice cup of thick coffee to  
stick your brain together  
again.

PEARL  
Thanks, Brendan .... you're  
an angel.

Isla blanches at Pearl's description.

BRENDAN  
You want some coffee, too,  
Isla?

Isla is surprised that his familiarity.

ISLA  
As long as I don't have to  
kill you for it.

Brendan laughs.

He hands her a cup of coffee.

BRENDAN  
You freaked my head last  
night.

ISLA  
Yeah ..... so now you want  
us to have a cosy fireside  
chat?

BRENDAN  
Are you always so horribly  
intense?

ISLA  
Are you always so hideously  
scary?

PEARL  
Oh for god's sake, you two.  
My head's up a duck's arse.

Isla starts to gather her things up and pushes them  
into her pack.

Pearl is looking at herself in a small mirror.

Brendan sits watching them out of the corner of his  
eye.

PEARL (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
What did I do last night?

ISLA  
You made a tit of yourself.

Isla throws the red hat at Pearl.

She picks up the hat and hides her face in it.

PEARL  
Oh my god. I'm the campus  
tart.

ISLA  
Yeah .....

PEARL  
(looking about)  
Stephan's disgusted with me,  
right?

ISLA  
Bullshit ..... he's a dog  
with his tongue hanging out.  
(throws her a pack)  
Get yourself together. We've  
a long walk ahead of us.

Pearl starts to pack.

Isla glances at Brendan.

He finishes his coffee.

PEARL  
Are you coming with us,  
Brendan?

Brendan flashes a look at Isla.

Isla scowls at him.

BRENDAN  
No. I'm cycling .....

He holds up a cycle helmet.

BRENDAN (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Maybe we'll tete-a-tete  
tonight at the King's House.

Brendan takes his gear and brushes past Isla.

There is a momentary exchange of looks.

Brendan smiles and exits.

10 EXT. BOTHY - CONTINUOUS 10

Brendan straddles his mountain bike.

Isla watches from the door of the bothy .....

He turns back and gives Isla a long look.

She looks away.

He smiles smugly, then turns.

He pushes off.

11 INT. BOTHY - CONTINUOUS 11

Isla is silhouetted against the sky.

ISLA  
That cycle guy gives me the  
creeps .....

Pearl pulls her bra down from a wall mounted set of antlers.

PEARL  
Did I shag anyone last night?

She drains a near empty vodka bottle.

ISLA  
(exasperated)  
You need to get your act  
together. You're an  
alcoholic!

12 EXT. HILL PATH - DAY 12

The wide wild West Highlands.

Isla and Pearl are backpacked and walking.

Pearl takes a swig from a quarter bottle of whiskey.

PEARL  
Don't lecture me, Isla. I  
like a drink, that's all.

ISLA  
Its more than a drink.

PEARL  
Okay ... I like to get drunk.  
I'm a student, right. I want  
to have fun before I die.

ISLA  
You'll die young .....

PEARL  
So! I don't want to turn into  
some miserable old bag with  
droopy tits and an arse that  
drags on the ground.

Pearl offers Isla the bottle.

ISLA  
Stuff it .....

Isla takes a swig from the bottle.

PEARL  
See ... that's better than  
reading about stupid politics  
and history.

ISLA  
Especially politics ...  
(swigs again)  
Makes you think ... what the  
tits are we doing with our  
lives if we're not enjoying  
ourselves.

PEARL  
You once said that studying  
is just an excuse to party  
for four years.

Cycle 16.

ISLA  
If you don't fail your exams  
....

PEARL  
If you don't fail, exactly  
...

ISLA  
Which you are going to do if  
you don't give up this stuff.

CUT TO:

Brendan is on his bike.  
He has stopped in the trees.  
He is looking down on ....

.... THE TWO GIRLS IN THE DISTANCE.

CUT BACK TO:

PEARL  
Get off my case, Isla.

ISLA  
No, I won't. You're an idiot,  
Pearl. You're not stupid like  
me. You don't need to shag  
your tutor to get good  
grades.

PEARL  
My tutor's a woman, Isla.

ISLA  
You know what the hell I  
mean. You're going to flunk  
your finals next month if you  
don't dry out.

PEARL  
I'm not going to sit them.

ISLA  
What the arse does that mean?

Palm Tree UK March 2005

PEARL  
I'm not going back to uni.  
I'd rather slit my wrists.

ISLA  
That's the drink talking ....

PEARL  
You might think that ....

Pearl starts to walk quicker.

Isla trots to catch her.

ISLA  
So you're going to get a job  
in Burger King?

PEARL  
Why the hell would I want to  
do that?

ISLA  
That's what you'll be  
qualified for.

PEARL  
I'm better than that.

ISLA  
So you think you're worth  
more than five pounds an  
hour?

PEARL  
No .... but I don't need to  
work at Burger King.

ISLA  
You will without a degree.

PEARL  
Will you just shut up! You're  
giving me a sore head.

ISLA  
Well, don't feed me your crap  
...

PEARL  
Okay ..... can we change the  
subject?

ISLA  
As long as you promise to  
take your exams .....

PEARL  
I promise! Okay! Now fucking  
shut up and give me a rest.

Isla smiles.

The two girls walk silently along the path.

CUT TO:

Brendan smiles.

He kicks on a pedal.

He bikes off along a forest track.

13

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

13

Rory and Tamara are lying in the heather eating  
candy bars.

Stephan is playing with his camping knife.

RORY  
Pearl was up to her usual  
entertaining self last night.

TAMARA  
(jealous)  
She's got small tits.

RORY  
Stevie's got a small dick  
.....

STEPHAN  
You're just jealous ...

RORY  
I'd rather give Isla one ....

TAMARA  
You're a wanker, Rory. You've  
been creaming over her since  
fresher's week. That's three  
and a half effing years. Get  
a life.

Tamara hurls her candy bar at him and gets up.

Rory and Stephan exchange a look of 'women'.

14

EXT. OAK WOOD - DAY

14

Isla and Pearl are walking through the woods.

THE CAMERA FOLLOWS THEM AS THEY PASS ALONG THE PATH  
BETWEEN THE TREES.

The SOUND of a cycle wheel.

Isla stops dead.

Pearl almost walks into her.

Isla is listening.

There is only the SOUND of a wood pigeon.

PEARL  
What's up?

ISLA  
I thought I heard something?

Pearl listens intently. Hears nothing.

PEARL  
You're giving me the creeps  
...

Pearl walks on ahead.

A CLUMP OF FERN TWITCHES.

Isla approaches the ferns.

She pulls back the ferns.

THERE IS NOTHING THERE.

Isla shrugs and returns to the path.

She walks briskly to catch up with Pearl.

15

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

15

The three are getting ready to move on.

Rory is conciliatory towards Tamara.

RORY  
How'd you like the look of  
that Brendan guy?

TAMARA  
He was alright ....

RORY  
... for a St. Andrew's twat.

Tamara ignores his remark.

TAMARA  
Did you read about the girl  
that was found dead there  
last week?

RORY  
What was she studying ....?

TAMARA  
Politics and .....  
Economics?

STEPHAN  
It was Politics and History,  
same as me.

RORY  
(laughs)  
Must have been suicide then.

Stephan winces.

They start to hike.

RORY (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
What do you do with a  
Politics and History degree?

STEPHAN  
Get a job in the Scottish  
parliament.  
(beat)  
What do you do with an  
Agric's degree?  
(beat)  
Put more sheep on the hills?

RORY  
What's wrong with sheep?

STEPHAN  
They eat fucking everything  
....

Stephan stops and takes out a sock from his pack.

He throws it at a sheep. It runs away.

RORY  
(laughs)  
They're not that fucking  
hungry .....

They all laugh ....

Stephan picks up the sock.

They continue to walk.

Brendan is racing through the woods on his bike.

He is enjoying the thrill.

17 EXT. ROAD - DAY 17

Brendan emerges out on to a main road.

TRAFFIC PASSES.

He watches until it is clear.

He joins the road and peddles along it.

18 EXT. SHOP - DAY 18

Brendan emerges from the shop with some groceries.

He walks to his bike.

He places the groceries in his panniers.

He looks up at a notice board.

A wanted poster is pinned to it.

He is drawn to the notice board.

A PHOTOGRAPH OF BRENDAN.

READS - WANTED FOR QUESTIONING BY FIFE POLICE.  
ROBERT LINDEN. AGED 25. POLICE SEEK TO QUESTION  
THIS MAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER OF ALICE  
COLLINS ON THE 25TH MARCH ..... CALL ....

SOME TOURISTS DRIFT BY.

Brendan opens the front of the notice board.

He removes the poster

.... coolly folds it several times

... and places it in his pannier.

He hops back on to his bike.

He slowly peddles away.

19

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

19

The two girls are climbing a steady slope.

Isla stops. She is out of breath.

She reaches into her shirt and pulls out a packet of cigarettes.

PEARL

What the hell are you doing?

ISLA

Having a fag .....

Isla puts a cigarette into her mouth.

She attempts to light it but the wind keeps blowing out the flame.

She crouches down.

Pearl takes out her bottle of whiskey.

Isla, fag lit, looks up.

ISLA (cont'd)

What are you up to?

PEARL

Killing myself like you ....

ISLA

C'mon, its only one fag ...?

PEARL

I'm only having one sip ...?

Isla looks at the hills rearing up around them.

ISLA

Shetland's as flat as an alcoholic's arse.

PEARL  
We've got hills in Yorkshire.

ISLA  
These are mountains, kid.

PEARL  
Shetland's part of Scotland?

ISLA  
Naw ... we're independent.

Hold's up her fingers to the sky.

ISLA (cont'd)  
Scotland's flag's like this,  
ours is like that ...

CU - ON ISLA'S FINGERS AS SHE TURNS THEM FORTY FIVE  
DEGREES.

They take in the scenery.

Each are in their own world.

Isla drags on her cigarette.

Pearl sips her bottle.

Isla looks up behind her.

ISLA (cont'd)  
We've got to get over this  
shagging hill.  
(stubs her fag out) )  
Are you ready?

Pearl corks her bottle.

PEARL  
Ready to rock .....

ISLA  
Very funny .....

They start to climb the hill.

20 EXT. STEEP SLOPE - DAY

20

Stephan, Rory and Tamara are running down a slope.  
Rory is racing ahead.

RORY  
Speed up you, pussies!

TAMARA  
You're going too fast!

Rory is now out of earshot.  
He is bounding down the hill in leaps and bounds.  
He is in a wild jubilant mood.  
He is nearing the bottom of the hill.  
Suddenly, his ankle gives way.  
He is still travelling at great speed.  
He is hobbling, trying to slow himself.

21 EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM - MOMENTS LATER

21

Stephan and Tamara reach a stream.  
They wade across it.  
Rory is sitting with one boot off with his leg  
dangling in the cold flowing water.

RORY  
I've sprained my ankle.

TAMARA  
You're lucky ... you could  
have broken your leg.

RORY  
I've done that dozens of  
times before ... even in  
wellies.

TAMARA  
You're a nut case ....

Rory pulls his leg out of the water and tries to stand on his ankle.

RORY  
I'll need to strap it up.  
(beat)  
Have you got the first aid  
kit?

Rory and Tamara look to Stephan.

STEPHAN  
I gave it to Pearl to carry.

RORY  
Great ....

Rory sits down and starts putting on his sock.

STEPHAN  
I'll call her.

He gets out his cell phone and recalls a saved number.

There is a BEEP.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
No bloody signal! Why the  
hell don't they stick a mast  
up around here!

TAMARA  
(facetious) )  
Right here would be perfect.

Stephan realizes she is being insincere, and smiles smugly.

Pause.

STEPHAN  
We could wait for her.

RORY  
She's a dipstick. She's  
probably fallen off a cliff  
by now.

Rory puts on his boot. He grimaces.

He gets up and hobbles about.

STEPHAN  
How far are you going to get  
like that?

RORY  
Far enough ....

He picks up his pack and hobbles back towards the track.

Stephan and Tamara follow.

22

EXT. SMALL ROAD - LATER

22

Rory, supported by Tamara, and Stephan carrying two packs, climb over a fence to a roadside.

Brendan is sitting on the roadside peeling an apple with a knife.

His bike lies close by.

He sees the three and gets up as if surprised.

BRENDAN  
What happened?

TAMARA  
The no-brainer needs a  
doctor.

RORY  
I'm fine. Stop fussing. I can  
hitch a ride back to  
Stirling.

BRENDAN  
I can carry him on the back  
of my bike to the main road.

RORY  
How far is that?

BRENDAN  
About three miles .....

RORY  
Sounds good to me, mate ....

Rory pulls the tent from his pack and throws it to  
Tamara.

RORY (cont'd)  
You're on your own, love.  
Make sure you keep randy  
balls out of your bag. He's  
got no control after a few  
beers.

STEPHAN  
(defensive)  
Speak for yourself, man .....

CUT TO:

Rory is on the seat of the bike, his pack on his  
back.

Brendan stands on the pedals and rolls the wheels.

It is wobbly at first.

The bike copes with the weight of them both.

Rory waves.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
Its me and you, then .....

TAMARA  
Pearl and Isla will catch up  
soon.

Tamara starts to climb back over the wire fence.

STEPHAN  
I wouldn't bet on it. Pearl's  
been leading me on for months  
.... (beat)  
Can I ask you a question?  
(beat)  
Do you think women fancy me?

Tamara is over. Stephan starts to climb over.

TAMARA  
Are we talking about Pearl,  
Isla or me?

STEPHAN  
(awkward) )  
Pearl ... Isla .... and you?

TAMARA  
No .... no .... and no again.

STEPHAN  
In that order?

TAMARA  
You can mix the order up ...  
the answers the same.

Stephan falls off the fence into the ditch.

Tamara laughs and keeps walking.

STEPHAN  
Tamara .....

23 EXT. STEEP SLOPE - DAY

23

Isla and Pearl are descending the steep slope.

They are in their own worlds.

Isla, wearing shades, is listening to her personal  
cd.

The MUSIC is spilling out into the landscape.

Pearl is trying to get a signal with the cell phone.

It is RINGING.

She holds it to her ear.

It BEEPS out.

She curses to herself.

THE WIDE VALLEY BELOW STRETCHES OUT ACROSS A VAST OPEN WASTE.

WE WATCH FROM BEHIND AS THEY DESCEND INTO THE WORLD AHEAD.

24

EXT. SIDE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

24

Brendan is still cycling with Rory on the back.

They are travelling slowly ...

... but steady.

A BUZZARD PASSES OVERHEAD.

Brendan stops peddling.

RORY  
What's up, mate?

BRENDAN  
The back tyre's flat.

Brendan gets off the right side of the bike.

Rory gets off the left side and hobbles backwards to look at the wheel.

RORY  
I'm a dead loss with bikes,  
mate ....

Brendon reaches across the saddle to the pannier on the left.

He pulls out his air pump.

Unnoticed by Brendan the folded poster falls out and lands at Rory's feet.

RORY (cont'd)  
What's this, mate?

BRENDAN  
A brain teaser .....

Rory starts to unfold the poster.

Brendan reaches into his pannier.

Rory is reading the poster.

He looks up with a dawning expression.

Brendan brings a claw hammer down on to Rory's head.

THUD!

Rory rolls onto the ground holding his head.

Brendan strikes with the hammer again.

THUD!

Rory is still trying to protect his head.

RORY  
You're sick in the head!!!

Brendan strikes again ... thud!

and again ... thud!

and again ... thud!

Brendan straightens up.

There is a gazed look in this eyes.

He wipes the hammer in the grass.

CUT TO:

Cycle 32.

He puts the flame of a disposable lighter to the corner of the poster.

He watches it burn.

CUT TO:

He puts the hammer in the pannier ...

Mounts ...

Turns his bike around ...

Pedals back the way he has come.

25 EXT. MOOR - CONTINUOUS

25

Stephan is trailing Tamara across a moorland, non-surfaced track.

THE TRACK WINDS INTO THE DISTANCE ....

THE HEATH IS SWEEPED BY A STRONG BREEZE.

IT IS MID-SPRING AND THE WEATHER IS CHANGEABLE.

CLOUDS ROLL ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS.

THE MOOD OF THE DAY CHANGES.

RAIN IS ON THE WAY.

26 EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM - LATER

26

Isla is wading bare-foot in the stream.

She fills a plastic cup.

She drinks.

Pearl, on the bank, is making some rough hewn cheese sandwiches.

PEARL

Do you want mayonnaise?

ISLA  
Have you got any mustard?

PEARL  
No. I've got cheese ... and  
mayonnaise.

ISLA  
Have you any ham?

PEARL  
I've cheese and mayonnaise!

ISLA  
I've got ham ....

Isla takes the cheese sandwich.

PEARL  
Why do you need ham?

ISLA  
Because I'm not an arse of a  
vegetarian like you.

Isla takes some pre-cut cooked ham from her pack  
and slaps it on the sandwich.

ISLA (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
The first guy I did it with  
gave me a ham and mustard  
sandwich afterwards.

PEARL  
Oh yeah? In Shetland?

ISLA  
On a boat in Lerwick harbour.  
A fisherman from Iceland ....

PEARL  
Did he smell of fish?

ISLA  
(thinks back)  
(raises her eyebrows  
and smiles) )  
Yeah, but he was well salted.

They both laugh.

PEARL  
My first guy was in Israel.

ISLA  
When was that?

PEARL  
Before starting university. I  
worked on a kibbutz.

ISLA  
What did you get to eat  
afterwards?

PEARL  
Just him .....

They both laugh again.

Isla picks up the map.

She looks at the map ... then her watch.

ISLA  
We've another eight miles to  
the King's House.

PEARL  
My feet are sore as it is.

ISLA  
We've got all afternoon. It  
doesn't get dark until eight.

Isla lies down in the heather.

Pearl does the same.

THE SKY IS A CHANGING SWIRL.

PEARL  
What do you think you'll be  
doing in ten years?

ISLA  
Don't know? What about you?

PEARL

One kid. A lover. A little rented house. I don't want to own anything.

ISLA

Me neither. I'm not going to work myself to death to pay a mortgage?

(beat)

I'm going to keep life simple and have no more than two kids, two lovers, and two rented houses.

A LAPWING TAKES TO THE AIR WITH ITS STARTLED CRY.

Isla sits up.

There is nothing but wilderness.

CU - ISLA'S STARTLED LOOK GIVES WAY TO A SHAKE OF HER HEAD.

Pearl is asleep.

Isla places her pack and lies down again using the pack as a pillow.

THE LAPWING SETTLES IN THE GRASS.

She closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

It is raining.

Isla awakes as the rain begins to drop heavily.

ISLA (cont'd)

Bloody Scotland!

(beat)

Pearl!

Isla is on her feet pulling on her boots.

She pulls out a waterproof jacket.

Pearl is doing the same.

The rain is very heavy.

CUT TO:

Isla and Pearl are walking briskly through the rain.

There is no shelter anywhere.

THEIR BOOTS GRIND ON THE ROCK STUDED PATH.

27 EXT. MOOR - CONTINUOUS 27

Stephan and Tamara are sheltering under a small hawthorn tree in the middle of the moor.

The rain is bouncing off their waterproofs.

STEPHAN  
Bloody Scotland, Tamara.

TAMARA  
Yes, Stephan ... bloody  
Scotland.

28 EXT. MOOR - LATER 28

Isla and Pearl are huddling in a peat bog.

PEARL  
Bloody Scotland!

29 EXT. MOOR - CONTINUOUS 29

Stephan and Tamara are sipping lukewarm tea from a flask.

TAMARA  
That girl in St. Andrew's  
didn't commit suicide.

STEPHAN

I know .... she was smashed  
over the head.

(sips)

They suspect it was her  
psycho boyfriend who did it.

(another sip)

Do you think he really ate  
her brain?

TAMARA

People are weird. We've  
covered criminal psychology  
on our course. The human  
brain is a cocktail of  
chemicals. Too much of this  
one, too much of that one ...  
and the brain literally boils  
over.

STEPHAN

And you become a cannibal  
...?

TAMARA

Not overnight. Too much crack  
... too much hash ...  
parental loss ...  
relationship problems ...  
depression ... more drugs ...  
mental institution treatment  
... that's usually the back  
ground.

STEPHAN

And then you become a  
cannibal?

TAMARA

Will you get off this  
cannibal thing.

STEPHAN

No, I want to understand it.

(sips)

What's the motive?

TAMARA

A psychological one. A  
cannibal doesn't kill because  
he's hungry ...

STEPHAN

So what makes him kill in the  
first place?

TAMARA

Jealousy ... fear of loss ...  
delusion ... voices inside  
his head telling him to do  
it.

STEPHAN

So he won't just do it once?

TAMARA

No, he'll do it again and  
again until he's caught.

The SOUND of brakes.

Brendan appears out of the rain in front of them.

STEPHAN

Christ's sake, man! You  
scared the crap out of me.

Brendan grins.

He gets off his bike.

He shelters with the other two under the tree.

TAMARA

Is Rory okay.

BRENDAN

You can rest your mind .....  
I took him to the main road.

Brendan is looking at the palm of his right hand.

CU ON HAND - A BLEEDING GASH.

TAMARA  
You're bleeding ...

Brendan wraps a neck-scarf around his hand.

BRENDAN  
I feel light headed ... but  
I'll be fine.

He smiles sweetly at Tamara.

She smiles sweetly back.

She offers him a candy bar.

BRENDAN (cont'd)  
No, thanks, I've just eaten.

Stephan is put out that he is being ignored.

STEPHAN  
Bloody rain .....

Wide shot of the three huddled under the tree.

30 EXT. MOOR - LATER

30

The rain has stopped.

THE VEGETATION DRIPS IN THE BRIGHT SUNLIGHT.

Isla and Pearl are shaking dry their waterproofs,  
and themselves.

ISLA  
One of my boots is leaking  
....

PEARL  
My bum's wet.

They start to walk.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. MOOR - CONTINUOUS

31

Stephan is walking ahead.

Brendan is wheeling his bike, talking with Tamara.  
She is struggling with the pack.

BRENDAN  
Let me carry the tent for  
you.

TAMARA  
No, its fine ....

BRENDAN  
Don't be silly. I can strap  
it to my bike.

Brendan starts to remove the tent from Tamara's  
pack.

TAMARA  
No, its really okay .....

Brendan takes the tent and straps it to his bike  
with some bungee hooks.

BRENDAN  
Better, right?

TAMARA  
Yeah, feels great now .....  
thanks.

BRENDAN  
(flirts)  
It'll cost you a drink in the  
pub tonight.

He kisses her.

Tamara blushes.

She looks ahead.

Stephan has stopped and is waiting with his hands  
on his hips.

STEPHAN  
What's keeping you???

TAMARA  
(impatiently)  
Why are you walking so fast!  
(to Brendan)  
He's a bloody tosser .....

They both start walking again.

32 EXT. MOOR - LATER

32

The sun is out.

They girls are crossing a stream.

PEARL  
I'm dying for a drink ...

ISLA  
For god's sake, its the  
middle of the afternoon.

PEARL  
A drink of water ...

ISLA  
Get some out of the burn.

PEARL  
It might have sheep shit in  
it.

ISLA  
Give me a break! Its rain  
water.

PEARL  
Its bog water ...

ISLA  
Its out of these mountains.

Isla bends and scoops up some water with her  
plastic cup.

She thrusts it at Pearl.

PEARL  
Its dirty ....

ISLA  
Drink it!

Pearl looks into the cup.

PEARL  
Its got bits floating in it.

ISLA  
Its organic. This whole bog's  
organic.

Pearl looks into the cup again.

PEARL  
Organic is good for you ...  
right?

ISLA  
Especially when you're  
thirsty

Pearl takes a mouthful, pauses, then swallows.

Isla looks at her quizzically.

ISLA (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Well, have you died yet?

PEARL  
Its quite nice actually.

Pearl drinks again.

ISLA  
Can I have my cup back?

Pearl empties the cup and throws it back to Isla.

Her aim is bad and the cup lands in the water.

Isla wades into the water to rescue the cup but it  
gets carried away in the current.

ISLA (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
I've had that cup five years!

PEARL  
Sorry .....

Isla wades out of the water.

ISLA  
You do my head in sometimes!

PEARL  
I said I was sorry ....

ISLA  
Forget it!

Isla keeps walking.

Pearl brings up the rear.

THE TWO GIRLS CONTINUE TO TREK ACROSS THE MOOR.

33 EXT. MOOR - CONTINUOUS

33

Brendon is cycling ahead of Tamara and Stephan.  
He doubles back.

BRENDAN  
Why don't I go on ahead and  
meet you at the King's House?

Tamara looks to Stephan.

BRENDAN (cont'd)  
I can erect your tent for  
you.

TAMARA  
No, its alright .....

BRENDAN  
Don't be silly. I can hammer  
it up for you before you  
arrive?

Stephan wants rid of Brendan.

STEPHAN  
Let him do it, Tamara.

Tamara nods.

BRENDAN  
See you later, then ....

Brendan turns around and cycles off quickly along the rough track.

STEPHAN  
I thought we'd never be rid of him ... hanging around us like a vulture.

TAMARA  
I think he's nice ....

STEPHAN  
You sound like Pearl.  
(beat)  
What's that guy got that I haven't got?

TAMARA  
An ego the size of Ben Nevis.

STEPHAN  
Its my dick that's that size.  
You want to see it?

TAMARA  
No, I don't ....

STEPHAN  
Come on, we're in the middle of nowhere ...

Stephan stops. Tamara keeps walking.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
Broaden your education,  
Tamara ....

Tamara stops and smiles. She turns back to face Stephan.

Stephan unzips his flies. He starts to fumble about.

TAMARA  
Is that its natural state?

Stephan pulls at himself.

STEPHAN  
I have to give it some  
encouragement or you won't  
get the full effect.

Stephan straightens up.

Tamara looks at him curiously.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
What's up?

TAMARA  
What's that bit?

STEPHAN  
What bit?

TAMARA  
The bit in the middle ....

STEPHAN  
That's the main show .....

TAMARA  
(slowly)  
Interesting .....

Tamara turns and starts walking.

Stephan hurriedly dresses himself as he follows on.

Tamara is walking faster and faster. Stephan is trotting to keep up.

STEPHAN  
Show me what you've got .....

TAMARA  
No .....

STEPHAN  
Go on, Tamara ...

Stops abruptly.

TAMARA  
For god's sake! You're like a  
four year old!

WIDE SHOT OF THE TWO ON THE TRACK.

STEPHAN  
You're a tease .....

TAMARA  
Its the Irish in me .....

She turns and starts along the track.

Stephan runs after her.

34 EXT. MOOR - CONTINUOUS 34

Isla is in her own world.

BEEP of a cell phone.

Isla rummages in a pocket and produces her cell  
phone.

She holds it up.

ISLA  
Yes .....

She dials a number ... and waits.

35 INTERCUT EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS 35

ISLA  
John ... its Isla

JOHN  
Hi ....

Cycle 47.

ISLA  
Look, I'm sorry. I know  
you're pissed off with  
me.

JOHN  
I'm not pissed off with  
you. I just don't know  
whether I'm coming or  
going with you.

ISLA  
Coming I hope ....

JOHN  
I hope so too ... I  
really like you, Isla.  
You're not like the other  
students I've had ...

ISLA  
Had ... like sleeping  
with them?

JOHN  
You know what I mean.  
Technically I could get  
suspended from the  
university ...

ISLA  
Look, its only another  
couple of months til I  
get my degree.

JOHN  
We can go to my beach  
house in Portugal ...  
spend the summer there  
and work out our future  
...

ISLA  
Sounds good ...

Pearl has caught up with Isla.

JOHN  
Where are you?

ISLA  
Somewhere on Rannoch  
Moor. Look, if you're  
free tomorrow you can  
drive and pick us up in  
Glen Coe?

JOHN  
Who's us?

ISLA  
Me and Pearl.

JOHN  
You and Pearl Jonson?  
Fine.

ISLA  
And a couple of other  
students?

JOHN  
I better pump up my  
tyres.

ISLA  
Two o'clock at the  
Clachaig Bar?

Palm Tree UK March 2005



PEARL  
How far now?

ISLA  
Three miles. About an hour if  
we keep going .....

The two girls lift their weary legs along the track.

36 EXT. KING'S HOUSE - DUSK 36

THE LAST LIGHT OF THE DAY.

THE LIGHTS OF THE KINGS HOUSE BECKON.

37 INT. KINGS HOUSE BAR 37

The bar contains an assortment of CLIMBERS and HIKERS.

Stephan is drunk and is all over an equally drunk HIKING GIRL.

Brendan and Tamara look cosy in a snug corner.

BRENDAN  
So what are you studying,  
Tamara?

TAMARA  
Guess .....

BRENDAN  
From your looks I'd say you  
were a first year medical  
student.

TAMARA  
(laughs) I'm a final year  
psychologist ....

BRENDAN  
How do you keep your skin so  
wrinkle free with all that  
heavy thinking ....

Cycle 50.

TAMARA  
I wrinkle my brain instead  
.....  
(touches his hand)  
Flatterer .....

BRENDAN  
You don't like flattery?

TAMARA  
I love it!  
(turns square on to  
him)  
Give me more.

Brendan takes Tamara's hand.

CUT TO:

Isla and Pearl enter the bar.

Isla sees Brendan with Tamara.

She draws Pearl's attention to it.

ISLA  
Tamara's beaten you to the  
creep.

Pearl is unconcerned.

PEARL  
She's just warming him up for  
me.  
(sees Stephan) )  
Look at the state of him  
.....

ISLA  
He's been studying you .....

Stephan comes lumbering towards Pearl.

STEPHAN  
Pearl, darling .....

He throws his arms around her. Pearl humours him.

PEARL  
Enjoying yourself, Stephan?

STEPHAN  
We've been here for hours,  
man. I've got myself a bird.

They look towards the Girl.

She waves innocently at them.

Isla pushes to the bar.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
She's gorgeous .... A  
beautician from Glasgow.  
(staggers)  
You want to meet her?

PEARL  
I want a drink ....

STEPHAN  
Aw, don't be like that,  
Pearl. I know you and me  
haven't worked out. Its such  
a shame ... I really like  
you, but you're so .....  
unreasonable.

PEARL  
Unreasonable ...?

STEPHAN  
You won't sleep with me ....  
and now I've found someone  
who will.

PEARL  
So we're not sleeping in your  
tent?

STEPHAN  
Naw, you can have it. She's  
got her own.  
(suggestive)  
I've been in hers already  
.....

PEARL  
I don't need the details,  
Stephan .... I get the  
message.

Isla returns with a drink for Pearl.

STEPHAN  
Isla, sweetheart .....  
Did you hear about Rory?

ISLA  
(sips) No ....

STEPHAN  
The show-off runs down a hill  
...  
(claps his hands)  
Whap! Out of the race, man.

ISLA  
What race?

STEPHAN  
The tottie .....  
(points to Tamara)

Isla and Pearl watch as Brendan kisses Tamara.

STEPHAN (cont'd)  
You two are lemons.  
(laughs)

Stephan returns to the Girl.

ISLA  
Piss head .....

38 INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

38

Isla leads Pearl over to Brendan and Tamara.

ISLA  
Cosy little twosome ....

TAMARA  
I was just thanking him for  
helping Rory.

ISLA  
Yeah, where is Rory?

TAMARA  
He twisted his ankle. He's  
gone back to Stirling.

ISLA  
Have you called him ...?

Brendan's eyes narrow.

TAMARA  
Why don't you find somewhere  
else to sit?

Isla searches through her phone listings - presses  
call.

A phone starts to RING.

It is coming from a small pack.

PEARL  
(to Brendan)  
Is that yours?

Brendan picks up his pack and rummages through it.

BRENDAN  
Its too noisy .....

He takes the pack and goes outside.

Isla still has her phone to her ear.

PEARL  
Who are you calling?

ISLA  
Rory .....

The phone connects.

ISLA (cont'd)  
Rory ... Its Isla.  
Are you okay?

39 EXT. KINGS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

39

Brendan is on the other end.

BRENDAN  
(Rory's voice)  
Aye ....

INTERCUT WITH INT. BAR

ISLA  
Tamara wants to speak to you.  
She thrusts the phone at Tamara.

TAMARA  
Cow .....

TAMARA (CONT'D)  
Rory, how's the ankle?

BRENDAN  
Dead .....

TAMARA (CONT'D)  
Aw, I'm sorry to hear  
that, babes. Are you at  
home?

BRENDAN  
Aye, I'm in the bog .....  
Is that Brendan guy  
taking care of you?

TAMARA (CONT'D)  
How'd you know I was with  
him?

BRENDAN  
I told him to shag you  
for me ...

TAMARA  
(blushing) Rory .....

BRENDAN  
Just enjoy yourself, luv.  
I'll see you when you get  
back.

Tamara hands Isla her phone back.

ISLA  
What'd he say?

TAMARA  
(smiles)  
He's fine .....

Brendan reappears in the bar.

Isla is suspicious.

Brendan sits down.

Tamara loops her arm around Brendan's arm.

Brendan gives Pearl a half smile.

Pearl smiles weakly and knocks back her drink.

Brendan turns to Isla with a cold stare.

Isla returns the look.

There is no love lost between them.

40

EXT. KINGS HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Flashlights in the darkness.

Brendan leads the three girls to the tents.

Isla is the only one half-way sober.

BRENDAN

This is the headbanger's tent

...

PEARL

Thank god. I'm knackered

.....

Pearl unzips the tent and goes in.

ISLA

Where's he sleeping?

TAMARA

He's sharing with me ....

ISLA

Why don't you share with us,  
Tamara? Let him have Rory's  
tent?

TAMARA  
No ... we'll be like  
sardines.  
(grabs Brendan's arm)  
I've a mind to look after  
myself, Isla.  
(turns)  
See you in the morning.

Brendan gives Isla a creepy look before turning  
away into the dark.

41 INT. TENT - NIGHT

41

Pearl is on her side trying to sleep.

Isla is wide awake playing with the torch on the  
roof of the tent.

PEARL  
Put it off .....

ISLA  
There's something not right  
about that guy ...

PEARL  
For God's sake, Isla ... you  
think everybody is a  
psychopath.

Isla switches off the torch.

She turns over on to her side to face the door of  
the tent.

A human shadow appears across the tent.

Isla stiffens.

The SOUND of a zip.

Isla snaps on the flashlight.

Stephan pokes his face through the door.

ISLA  
What do you want ...?

STEPHAN  
She's chucked me out ...

PEARL  
(half asleep)  
Let him in ....

Stephan gets into the tent with his sleeping bag.

He places himself between Isla and Pearl.

STEPHAN  
Can I cuddle up to you,  
Pearl?

He places his arm around Pearl's bag.

Pearl is too tired to resist.

Isla is annoyed.

She gets up and leaves the tent.

42 EXT. TENT - LATER

42

Isla is taking a pee.

THE BLACK OF THE MOUNTAINS HEM IN THE HORIZON.

SOUND of a low scream.

Isla is startled and hitches up her pants.

TAMARA O.S  
What are you doing .....

SOUND of a scuffle .....

TAMARA O.S (cont'd)  
Let go of me .....

Isla is outside Rory's tent.

The cycle is there.

ISLA  
Tamara! Are you okay???

SOUND of a zip.

Isla stands back.

Tamara, naked, looks out.

TAMARA  
What is it?

Behind her, Brendan, also naked, is caressing her.  
She is clearly enjoying herself.

ISLA  
Everything okay?

TAMARA  
(whispers)  
You phone Rory again and I'll  
kill you .....

(zips the door back down)

ISLA  
(embarrassed)  
I'll see you in the morning.  
Night.

Isla turns away.

43 INT. RORY'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

43

Tamara turns from zipping up the tent.

Brendan grabs her from behind.

He slowly puts his hands around her neck.

TAMARA  
(sensually)  
What are you going to do with  
me now, luv?

BRENDAN  
(whispers in her ear)  
Suck your brains out .....

He holds her throat with one hand and raises the other into the air.

A look of utter terror fills Tamara's face as she sees ...

CU - ON THE HAMMER.

CU - ON TAMARA.

The hammer falls .....

44 EXT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

44

A faint silhouette of the hammer falling ...

SOUND ... Thud!

Repeated ... Thud!

Again .....

And again .....

Until silence.

A dog barks.

The echo bounces off the mountains.

45 EXT. KINGS HOUSE - NEXT DAY

45

Isla and Pearl, cups of water in hand, are brushing their teeth.

Isla is looking in the direction of .....

RORY'S TENT. THERE IS NO MOVEMENT.

Stephan is taking down his tent.

He is clearly hung over.

STEPHAN  
I'm giving up drink ... its  
ruining my happiness.

ISLA  
And ours .....

Stephan draws her a look, then carries on packing up the tent.

PEARL  
Should we get them up?

ISLA  
Naw ... I don't want to know  
what they've been up to.  
Leave a note on the tent  
pole.

CUT TO:

Isla, Pearl and Stephan are leaving the camp area.

CU ON NOTE PINNED TO TENT POLE READS 'SET OFF FOR  
GLEN COE. CALL US'.

CUT TO:

The three are now a quarter of a mile down the  
track.

CUT BACK TO:

A HAND LIFTS OFF THE NOTE.

It is Brendan.

CU - BRENDAN SMILES.

46 EXT. HILL PATH - MORNING

46

Pearl is trailing Isla and Stephan.

Isla drops back ....

ISLA  
You're quiet today.

PEARL  
Just thinking about the  
future.

ISLA  
What are you doing after  
graduation?

PEARL  
Don't know. I haven't got any  
jobs lined up.

ISLA  
What about post grad?

PEARL  
And end up an academic?  
That's the cowards way out.

ISLA  
I must be a coward. I'd like  
to stay on ...

PEARL  
Maybe John can fix it for  
you. Everything in adult life  
seems to be fixed.

ISLA  
You sound depressed?

PEARL  
I'm de-toxing ...

ISLA  
Maybe you should have a  
drink?

PEARL  
Or a man? Stephan's starting  
to look like my only option.

ISLA  
He's a bit wet ....

PEARL  
You've shagged him?

ISLA  
Twice. He hit on me for so  
long I felt sorry for him.

PEARL  
That's his act all over ...  
the weasel.

ISLA  
The second time I felt sorry  
for myself ... he was really  
nice about it.

PEARL  
I bet he was ... he probably  
grinned for a month.

Stephan turns around ... sees them whispering.

STEPHAN  
My ears are burning .....!

Isla and Pearl break apart.

All three walk on in silence.

47 EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS STIRLING - CONTINUOUS 47

John is putting a pair of walking boots and a rain jacket into the boot of his car.

As he closes the boot he is clutching a Sunday paper in his hand.

48 INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER 48

The paper is thrown on to the passenger seat.

CU HEADLINE - CAMPUS KILLER HUNT WIDENS

John starts the car.

49 EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS STIRLING - MOMENTS LATER 49

John's car leaves the university complex.

50 EXT. KING'S HOUSE - MORNING

50

A Police Car is driving along the track.

Brendan pushes his bike into the tent and zips it up.

COP 1 gets out of the car.

He walks towards Brendan.

COP 2 gets out and watches.

Brendan pulls his woolen hat down and converts it into a balaclava.

It covers most of his face.

COP  
Excuse me, sir .....  
(hands him a poster)  
Have you seen this man?

CU - SAME WANTED PICTURE OF BRENDAN.

COP (cont'd)  
He was seen riding a mountain  
bike in this area?

The policeman walks around the tent.

BRENDAN  
Sorry .....

Hands back the poster.

COP  
Are you camping alone?

BRENDAN  
There's a few of us. My mates  
have gone on ahead ...

COP  
Too many beers last night?

BRENDAN  
Exactly .....

COP  
What's your name, sir?

BRENDAN  
Rory Anderson .....

The Cop writes in his notebook.

COP  
What do you do, Mr. Anderson?

BRENDAN  
I'm a student .....

COP  
(interested)  
At university?

BRENDAN  
Stirling .....

COP  
(jokes)  
Lots of girls, eh?

BRENDAN  
Too many .....

The Cop flips shut his notebook.

COP  
Thank you, Mr. Anderson ...  
enjoy your stay in the  
Highlands.

The Policeman heads back to his car.

Brendan watches.

Cop 1 and Cop 2 converse.

Both Cops go into the King's House Hotel.

Brendan throws Tamara's pack on to his back.

He heads out .....

51 EXT. HILL PATH - LATER

51

Isla, Pearl and Stephan walking.

ISLA

So Stephan, what happened  
with the beautician last  
night?

STEPHAN

I don't want to talk about  
it.

Stephan speeds up.

Isla catches up with him.

ISLA

Did you have the droop ...?

STEPHAN

That was not the issue ....

ISLA

Really? So what was it then?

STEPHAN

She thought Pearl was my  
girlfriend.

Isla is slightly surprised.

STEPHAN (cont'd)

Don't say anything ....

Isla nods.

52 EXT. HILL PATH - LATER

52

Some HIKERS are on the path.

Brendan is coming swiftly the other way on foot.

He passes them with a smile.

Once clear of earshot, he takes out a cell-phone.

He keys through the memory.

He smiles at his own inventiveness.

He hits a key.

53

EXT. OAK WOOD - MOMENTS LATER

53

Pearl answers her phone as she walks.

PEARL

Tamara .....

INTERCUT EXT. HILL PATH - CONTINUOUS

Brendan answers.

BRENDAN

No, its Brendan ....  
Tamara asked me to call  
to find out where you  
are?

PEARL

Oh, yes, wait a minute  
...

Holds the phone away ...

PEARL (cont'd)

Where are we?

STEPHAN

At the head of the Pass of  
Glencoe ... just before the  
waterfall.

Pearl puts her ear back to the phone.

PEARL

Did you here that?

BRENDAN

(looking ahead)  
Yes, I heard .....

PEARL

Where are you?

BRENDAN

(searching his map)  
About twenty minutes  
behind you.

Cycle 67.

PEARL  
Great, we'll go slow so  
you can catch us up.

BRENDAN  
(smiling)  
You do that .....  
(beat)  
Bye.

Pearl puts her phone away.

Isla, walking beside her, gives her a questioning  
look.

PEARL  
Brendan .....

ISLA  
How'd he get your number?

PEARL  
He was using Tamara's phone  
...

ISLA  
Where was Tamara?

PEARL  
I don't know ..... somewhere  
twenty minutes back that way.

Isla takes out her phone. Hits a key.

Holds the phone to her ear.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. HILL PATH - CONTINUOUS

54

Brendan looks at the phone.

He switches it off.

BACK TO:

55 EXT. OAK WOOD - CONTINUOUS

55

Isla is annoyed.

ISLA  
The creep's playing games  
with us!

PEARL  
Brendan ...?

ISLA  
That guy's not who he says he  
is. He's stalking us.

Pearl looks to Stephan.

PEARL  
What do you think, Stephan?

STEPHAN  
He fits the profile of a  
cannibal.

ISLA  
What does that mean?

STEPHAN  
Something Tamara and I talked  
about yesterday.

Isla's phone rings.

She is reluctant to answer it.

ISLA  
Hello .....

56 INTERCUT INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

56

John is driving.

JOHN  
Its John .....

ISLA  
(relieved)  
John!

JOHN  
I left early. I'm on at  
Loch Earnhead. I should  
be at the Clachaig by one  
o'clock.

ISLA  
Fantastic ....  
(beat)  
John, could you do me a  
favour .....

The phone beeps ... cuts out.

John looks at the cell screen then throws the phone  
... on top of the newspaper.

57 EXT. KING'S HOUSE - MORNING

57

The Police Car is still on the track.

Cop 1, accompanied by COP 2, approach the tent.

Cop 1 unzips the tent.

CU HIS FACE CONTORTS IN HORROR.

He reels back.

Cop 2 looks in and likewise recoils in horror.

58 EXT. OAK WOOD - CONTINUOUS

58

Isla is frustrated with the cell phone.

ISLA  
Right, lets get a move on.

PEARL  
You've got this all wrong,  
Isla.

ISLA  
I'm not taking the chance.  
Its six miles to the main  
road. Stephan?

STEPHAN  
I think Pearl's right. The  
worst the guy can be is  
lonely. Tamara liked him  
okay.

ISLA  
Is Tamara with us?

STEPHAN

No ....

ISLA

What about Rory? He's your best friend. Has he called you?

STEPHAN

No ....

ISLA

Is that unusual?

STEPHAN

A little ..... but my battery is dead.

ISLA

(exasperated)

You can wait for him if you want. I'm moving on.

PEARL

Me too .....

Isla and Pearl start along the path.

STEPHAN

Its broad daylight ... I'm going to let him catch me up. Leave it to me ... I'll check him out.

Isla and Pearl disappear along the path.

Stephan settles down on a rock beside the path.

STEPHAN (cont'd)

You've taken up with two daft girls, Stephan, ... too tolerant, that's your problem.

He takes out a book on Philosophy and starts to read.

CUT TO:

Stephan has fallen asleep.

Brendan is standing over him.

Stephan opens his eyes.

Brendan removes Stephan's woolly hat.

BRENDAN  
I hope you've learned  
something about how the mind  
works.

The hammer comes down.

THUD.

CUT TO:

Brendan emerges from some trees.

His hand is dripping with blood.

He wipes the blood off with Stephan's hat.

He tosses the hat away.

He lumbers onwards.

59

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN PATH - LATER

59

Isla and Pearl are walking quickly.

Pearl is exhausted - she needs a rest, and stops.

PEARL  
Isla! This is crazy.

ISLA  
It's only another three  
miles, Pearl.

PEARL  
I need to catch my breath.

Pearl takes out a quarter whiskey bottle, and uncorks it.

ISLA  
Where'd you get that?

PEARL  
I bought it at the bar last  
night.

Offers it to Isla.

She takes it. And drinks.

ISLA  
That actually tastes good  
right now.

PEARL  
Can I have a fag?

Pearl digs out her cigarettes. There are only two  
left.

ISLA  
I'm giving you my last fag  
....

PEARL  
Does that mean something?

ISLA  
It does if you're a smoker.  
Do you see any shops around  
here?

Isla lights her fag, then lights Pearl's.

They both draw on their cigarettes.

PEARL  
That's the best cigarette  
I've ever tasted.

The mountains stretch out at eye level.

ISLA  
Its the fresh air.

Pearl has a moment of clarity.

PEARL  
I think I'll get a job  
working for a charity.

ISLA  
So your going to take your  
finals?

PEARL  
Of course, silly! You didn't  
believe any of the that stuff  
I said yesterday, did you?

ISLA  
You're a flipping wind-up,  
you are.

BRENDAN O.S  
Hello, girls .....

Isla and Pearl jump with fright.

Brendan is just a a few metres away.

BRENDAN  
Where's your buddy?

A look of fear enters Isla's eyes.

PEARL  
Didn't you pass him?

BRENDAN  
Oh, the guy sleeping by the  
side of the path?  
(smacks his lips)  
Was that him?

PEARL  
(relieved)  
See, Isla, he'll be along  
soon.

Isla is not convinced.

She notices Tamara's pack on his back.

ISLA  
Where's your cycle?

BRENDAN  
I left it back at the Kings  
House with Tamara. She let me  
borrow her pack for the hike.

Pearl notices the pack.

ISLA  
Why's she not with you?

BRENDAN  
She was embarrassed this  
morning ... she told me that  
Rory was her fiance. I didn't  
know that.

(beat)  
She said you're picking her  
up on the way back to  
Stirling?

(beat)  
Could you drop me off?

ISLA  
(uneasy)  
There's Stephan too. We won't  
have space.

BRENDAN  
Oh well, I'll walk with you  
then ...

ISLA  
(stalling)  
Pearl and I are going to wait  
here for Stephan. Why don't  
you go on and we'll see you  
at the Clachaig Inn.

BRENDAN  
No, I'm happy to hang out  
with you .....

Brendan takes off the pack and sits down near them.

ISLA  
Look, Brendan, you're getting  
on my tits. Why don't you  
just fucking push off.

BRENDAN  
(appealing to Pearl)  
Have I done something wrong?

ISLA  
You're a bloody creep!

Isla jumps up and moves off a little.

BRENDAN  
What's got into her?

PEARL  
She's just a little paranoid.  
(confides)  
She was stalked by a perv  
last year. It got quite ugly.

BRENDAN  
Messed up, eh?

PEARL  
I'll say ... she had to do re-  
sits.

Isla is trying to use her cell-phone.

There is no signal.

ISLA  
Shit .....

PEARL  
Have you got exams coming up?

ISLA  
(cutting in)  
Who cares ...? Come on, if  
the creep won't move, we  
will.

Isla yanks Pearl to her feet.

PEARL  
Isla!

ISLA  
(whispers)  
Nothing this guy says adds  
up. Let's go.

PEARL  
What about Stephan?

Brendan is watching them whisper. He tries to draw  
closer to hear what they are saying.

ISLA  
Look at his boots .....

PEARL  
What???

ISLA  
There's blood on them ...

Pearl swings round in fear.

CU - BLOOD SPOTS ON BRENDAN'S BOOTS.

PEARL  
My god ....

Isla and Pearl shoulder their packs.

BRENDAN  
Are you going?

Brendan picks up his pack.

Isla and Pearl start to run.

Brendan starts to run after them.

60 EXT. MOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

60

Isla and Pearl begin to run faster.

Cycle 77.

Brendan is gaining on them.

CUT TO:

Pearl falls.

CUT TO:

Isla looks back. She is horrified.

She goes back to help Pearl up.

Brendan is close behind.

Isla picks up a rock and throws it at him

... And another rock.

Brendan stops to shield himself.

Pearl scrambles to her feet.

Isla hits Brendan on the forehead with a rock.

The rock draws blood.

CUT TO:

Isla and Pearl start running again.

CUT TO:

Brendan is holding his forehead.

A look of evil enters his eyes.

He takes a long knife from the pack.

He throws the pack away.

He starts to run.

CUT TO:

Isla and Pearl are breathless.

Brendan is not in sight.

Cycle 78.

Isla grabs Pearl and drags her into the heather and up on to a large rock.

PEARL  
He'll find us!

ISLA  
Shut up!

Brendan appears running on the path.

He stops beneath the rock.

Isla and Pearl huddle on the rock.

Brendan is puzzled.

Isla throws a stone into some bracken.

Brendan turns and makes for the bracken.

SOUND - Isla's cell-phone rings.

Brandon turns and looks to the rock.

Isla gives up trying to switch it off. She stands up in full sight of Brendan.

ISLA (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
John!

61 INTERCUT EXT. CLACHAIG - CONTINUOUS

61

JOHN  
Isla ... I'm at the Clachaig.

ISLA  
Call the police!

JOHN  
What???? (hears screaming)

CUT BACK TO:

Pearl is screaming.

Brendan has her by one of her ankles and is dragging her off the rock.

Isla grabs at Pearl to pull her back.

The cell phone drops into the heather.

JOHN (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Isla???? Isla???????

Isla is losing her grip on Pearl.

PEARL  
Isla .....!!!!!!!

Isla loses Pearl and she slides off the rock.

ISLA  
Pearl!

Isla can't see what is happening below.

Brendan is struggling to hold on to Pearl.

PEARL  
Run, Isla!!! Run!!!!

Isla instinctively starts to run into the bracken to be away from Brendan.

Pearl is still screaming.

A look comes over Brendan. With one surge of strength he smashes her head

... off the rock.

Pearl falls silent.

Isla freezes. She turns to look back at the rock.

There is a deathly SILENCE.

Brendan takes out the long knife from his waistband.

A CURLEW RISES FROM THE BRACKEN.

Brendan, splattered with blood looks up.

Isla starts to run again.

Cycle 80.

Brendan wipes the knife on the grass and rises.

CUT TO:

Isla is descending a steep slope.

Brendan is at the top looking down at her.

62

EXT. CLACHAIG - CONTINUOUS

62

A police car pulls up in the car park.

Cop 1 and Cop 2(from before) get out with two other COPS.

Another car pulls up.

A plain clothes DETECTIVE gets out. He joins the Cops

John grabs the newspaper with the headline and goes towards them.

Cop 2 is using binoculars.

COP 2

I see him!

Cop 2 bends into the car to call in. The others put on hill gear.

JOHN

What's going on???

DETECTIVE

We have a situation, sir.

JOHN

Some of my students are up there.

63

EXT. CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

63

Brendan is sliding down the slope.

Isla is making her way down towards the valley below.

She is in fear of her life.

Brendan pursues her.

64

EXT. CLACHAIG - CONTINUOUS

64

The Cops have gathered together a small party of VOLUNTEERS. John is one of them.

The Cop holds up a wanted poster.

DETECTIVE

Robert Linden is a very dangerous man. We need your assistance to help us block his escape. Do not try to make an arrest, that is the duty of a police officer. Is that clear?

(everyone nods including John)

Let's go.

The party moves hastily from the car park.

The Detective stays behind with the binos.

65

EXT. CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

65

The distance between Isla and Brendan has narrowed to twenty meters.

They are perched precariously on a cliff top.

Isla picks up a large rock.

ISLA

Stay away from me!

BRENDAN

Its a bit late for that. We've become such good friends.

ISLA  
What's wrong with you?

BRENDAN  
So you finally want to have  
that cosy fireside chat?

ISLA  
You're sick .....

BRENDAN  
I bet you taste lovely.

A cold chill goes down Isla's back.

66 EXT. VALLEY - CONTINUOUS 66

The Cops, John and VOLUNTEERS are moving swiftly  
across the narrow valley towards the mountain  
slope.

67 EXT. HILLS - CONTINUOUS 67

Brendan edges closer ... and closer.

BRENDAN  
Tamara was a little salty ...  
but Pearl was just divine.

ISLA  
Shut up!

BRENDAN  
Those boys ... I was  
disappointed. Especially the  
little one ... he was hardly  
an intellectual.

ISLA  
Stop it.

CUT TO:

Cycle 83.

The search party is now spread out in a line and is starting up the first slope.

CUT TO:

Brendan is now within five meters of Isla who is edging her way backwards and downwards.

BRENDAN

Its hopeless ... I'm going to  
have you .....

Isla keeps backing down as Brendan steals another half meter.

He lunges at her and catches her wrist, but she twists away and escapes. Brendan stumbles and slides a little but prevents himself from tumbling down the slope.

Isla sees the search party in the valley below.

Brendan sees them too. He scrambles back up the slope.

Isla runs across a scree slope.

Brendan follows.

CUT TO:

The rescue party is drawing closer.

John is with Cop 1. He draws his attention upwards.

JOHN

There!

The cop blows on his whistle.

The rest of the party move towards them.

CUT TO:

WIDE - BRENDAN IS CATCHING UP WITH ISLA AGAIN.

Cycle 84.

MEDIUM - BRENDAN IS NOW WITHIN AN ARM'S REACH.

He snatches at her ... and misses.

He snatches at her again ... and misses.

He snatches at her again and catches her by her shirt.

Isla clings to a large rock.

She kicks at him but can't get rid of him as he climbs up her body.

She is desperate, but nothing she does will dislodge him.

CUT TO:

Cop 1 and John are now only two hundred meters away.

JOHN (cont'd)

Isla!

CUT BACK TO:

Isla looks down ... Brendan grabs her by the throat.

Her hands cling to the rock.

She looks up, then down, then calculatingly lets go of the rock.

Isla and Brendan tumble down the slope.

They land with Isla on top of Brendan.

He is winded.

She sees his knife and pulls it out of his waistband.

She makes to stab him in the chest but he grabs her wrist.

He takes the knife from her.

Palm Tree UK March 2005

Cycle 85.

He stabs her in the chest ...

A look of death overcomes her.

He stabs her again .....

And again .....

The blood splatters on his face.

Isla convulses .....

CUT TO:

Cop 1 and John are seventy meters away.

CUT BACK TO:

Brendan rolls Isla over on to her back.

She is still alive ... but barely conscious.

Brendan smiles at her.

BRENDAN

I won't let this go to my  
head .....

He takes her head in one hand, and in a swift movement, brings the knife down in a sweeping motion across the top of her head.

CUT TO:

Cop 1 is barely ten meters away, John just behind him.

CUT BACK TO:

Brendan stuffs something bloody into his mouth and falls backwards as the cop ...

... takes hold of him in a neck lock.

John sees Isla ... stares unbelievably, then sharply turns away in horror.

Palm Tree UK March 2005

Cycle 86.

Brendan lies docile in the Cop's arms, his lips red with Isla's brain.

The other Cops and searchers arrive.

All are revulsed.

CUT TO:

68

EXT. VALLEY - LATER

68

Brendan is being led back along a track towards the village by Cop 1 and Cop 2.

COLLAGE

BODY OF RORY IN A DITCH.

CUT TO:

BODY OF TAMARA IN THE TENT.

CUT TO:

BODY OF STEPHAN IN A WOOD.

CUT TO:

BODY OF PEARL BY THE ROCK.

CUT TO:

BODY OF ISLA BEING COVERED BY COP 3 AND COP 4.

69

INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - LATER

69

John is sitting with a mug of tea and a blanket over his shoulders.

The Detective is consoling him.

DETECTIVE  
You can't blame yourself ...  
Linden is a one off ...  
(MORE)

DETECTIVE (cont'd)  
that odd human being that  
society breeds but has no  
place for .....

70 INT. POLICE CELL - CONTINUOUS

70

Brendan is sitting in his cell in a straight jacket.

DETECTIVE O.S  
Students are desirable to him  
as they are privileged  
individuals ... they  
represent to him his own  
failure to succeed because of  
his mental instability as a  
child. By eating students  
brains he feels he is gaining  
their knowledge. Where this  
evil notion came from we may  
never know ... but one thing  
is for sure, he will spend  
the rest of his life in an  
institute for the mentally  
insane.

(beat)

None of your students may  
fear the campus cannibal ever  
again. You have my word on  
that.

Brendan looks up.

From the back of his mouth he produces something.

He begins to chew.

Blood trickles from his mouth as he smiles.

CUT TO:

71 EXT UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

71

A lively crowd of students moving about campus  
talking animatedly and unaware.

Cycle 88.

CREDITS

THE END