

THIRD STAR
by
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FADE IN:

1 EXT. A CHURCH YARD [STACKPOLE] 1

OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

MUSIC

An extraordinarily green and lush rural graveyard.

CLOSE UP: Slow motion: The whirling head of a strimmer sweeps through the lush grass reaping it down to the roots. It moves over the contours of the old unkept graves sunken and rounded by time, knocking over small vases of flowers and keepsakes, some new some long-forgotten.

ANGLE ON:

MILES (29, handsome, possessing a natural confident charm; impeccably dressed in black.) stares at a gravestone. He looks at the sky. Clear blue.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. OUTER-SPACE [GILTAR GROVE. JAMES' BEDROOM.] 2

Close in on James' face. (JAMES, 29, very thin.) He is very still. Behind him is a twinkling firmament in which he appears to be floating. He stares straight down the lens.

CUT TO:

3 INT. JAMES HOUSE. PANTRY - DAY [GILTAR GROVE] 3

DAVY (29, handsome, strong, earnest and trendy) stands holding an armful of jam jars, each filled with home made pickled produce. We see the legs of James' Mother, (MRS GRIFFITH) who is up a setpladder passing more jars down to him. He is exasperated, but infinitely patient. The alarm on Davy's watch goes off. He manages to turn it off and wonders how much longer this will take.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. JAMES HOUSE - GARDEN.[GILTAR GROVE] 4

BILL (29, Scottish, an urban surf bum) emerges from the darkness of a barn. With what seems like Herculean strength he is carrying something above his head. We don't see all of it, just the general size of it and that it's some kind of mechanical contraption.

Bill is struggling to hold it aloft, with triumph, ceremony and excitement... Then sudden PANIC, as his arms judder.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. A CHURCH YARD. [STACKPOLE] 5

Miles, at the gravestone, lost in thought. Suddenly he starts getting hit by small flecks of greenery. In fact he's being splattered all over by them.

SMASH CUT:

A scruffy GROUNDSMAN, 55, wearing ear protectors and a face-shield, is strimming the grass of the churchyard with a petrol strimmer, edging backwards towards Miles. The strimmer is throwing up the mulched grass flecks.

Miles looks down at his smart clothes, now covered in grass as if this was somehow inevitable. The groundsman edges closer - still unaware of Miles. Miles pokes him lightly in the back. The groundsman turns round. Miles gestures with a slow sweep of his hand to show that he is covered in grass mulch.

The groundsman looks at the mess. He nods slowly with resignation. Using the same gesture he points out that his tattered old overalls are also covered.

Miles nods slowly. This is obviously going to be one of those days, weeks, months, years...

CUT TO:

6 EXT. OUTER-SPACE [GILTAR GROVE. JAMES' BEDROOM.] 6

Close in on James' face, floating in space.

He stares straight down the lens.

JAMES

James Kimberly Griffith.

He breaks into a laugh...

PULL OUT TO REVEAL:

James on his bed in front of a huge poster of the firmament, holding a small camera in front of himself.

Davy enters carrying James' shoes. James shows him the images on the camera.

DAVY

Your mum just made me do CPR on
on one of Chloe's old dolls.

JAMES

At least one of us is getting
some.

Davy nods. Resigned.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Do you know CPR?

James looks at the shoes. With one hand in each, he 'tap dances' them on the tray table beside him.

DAVY

No. But that doll did give me a
semi.

JAMES

If I didn't know better, Sherpa
Davy, I'd say you've cleaned
these shoes.

Davy smiles and shrugs as he starts sorting out his medication almost like a croupier with chips and cards. Swift and professional.

James puts on one shoe himself. But he is struggling with the other. Davy sees and comes over to help.

CUT TO:

7 INT. JAMES HOUSE BATHROOM. [TBC] 7

CHLOE (30, James' sister, naturally beautiful) leans against the wall, crying. She looks in the mirror. She tries to take a deep breath. She can't. At the sink she splashes her face and leaves the bathroom...

8 JAMES' HOUSE. HALL (CONTINUED) [GILTAR GROVE] 8

Chloe checks her watch. Her little girl(5) runs to her. She scoops her up, hugs her too hard. Mrs. Griffith marches past.

MRS GRIFFITH

Lord knows where the drinks table-

Seeing Chloe's face she does a double-take,

MRS GRIFFITH (CONT'D)

Have you looked in a mirror?

CHLOE

Yes. I-

MRS GRIFFITH

Oh. Well.

Then she walks on. Chloe is a bit smacked in the face for a moment, then takes a breath.

CHLOE

Let's help Granny with the party.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. JAMES HOUSE. GARDEN. [GILTAR GROVE] 9

Still seeing only part of the contraption, including one of its shiny wheels and a tyre, Bill and MR GRIFFITH (James' father, 65, vague engineering genius) stare at it.

BILL

You've done it, Mr. Griff... now
ANYTHING is possible.

Long pause. Mr Griffith seems to seriously consider this and conclude that the statement can't be accurate.

MR. GRIFFITH

Well...

They stare at the cart. Mr. Griffith kicks a tyre gently.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. JAMES GARDEN 10

James sits on a garden chair and looks back at the house where a lunch party is in full swing. Family and friends fill the house. James' mother and Chloe pass around food at his family and friends. Bill tucks into mountains of food as he talks to Chloe's husband MIKE (He is 40, gentle, square). He looks bored.

Chloe's children examine Mr. Griffith's face scientifically as he explains wrinkles.

Mrs. Griffith and Davy check the taste of a salad dressing. Davy suggesting a little more balsamic.

Chloe and Mrs. Griffiths put food out, side by side. Chloe adjusts the plate layout and immediately Mrs. Griffith swaps it back round and walks out. James chuckles and looks at the sky...

CUT TO:

11 EXT. JAMES HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. [GILTAR GROVE] 11

Miles gets out of his huge, black brand new Land Rover. He seems a little uncomfortable about the number of other cars. He walks to the house trying to brush from his clothes the remaining grass mulch.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. JAMES' GARDEN - DAY [GILTAR GROVE] 12

Miles comes to the conservatory unaware that James has seen him. Davy and Bill go to greet him with cheers.

Chloe's two little girls rush to him. He picks them up and showers them with unashamed affection. He puts them down and hugs Chloe and shakes her husband's hand.

Miles has a charming word for everyone. He's greeted with love and laughter by all, but then he sees James...

Miles' face betrays a moment of shock at James' appearance. He approaches and sits in a chair opposite.

They look at each other in silence with malevolent enigmatic power barely contained (before engaging in their normal meaningless banter...)

JAMES

Miles.

MILES

You look like shit. I thought they'd stuck you out here 'cos you'd snuffed it.

JAMES

Having a pretty good day rhabdomyosarcoma-wise -

MILES

You, You, You. Jesus...

James laughs.

JAMES

How are you? You look amazing.

MILES

Thank you, James. I think you're right.

They look at each other...

JAMES
Wish me Happy Birthday.

MILES
Shit. Is it your Birthday?

James smiles. Davy and Bill approach. Bill has his stills camera.

BILL
(To Miles)
You wearing that blouse on the expedition?

MILES
Don't even start. (To James) And why are you dressed as the bass player in an 80's pop group?

Chloe appears with drinks...

BILL
Chloe, perfect creature!... Take a photo of us... Together again.

Chloe puts down the drinks. Takes the camera from Bill. They pose for the shot.

BILL (CONT'D)
(Taking camera and a drink)
Thanks, beautiful. Come on Miles let's get wanked and embarrass ourselves.

CHLOE
You look well, Miles! What's the secret?

MILES
None of your business, cock breath! Pour me a drink.

BILL
Nobody move!

As Bill runs off to the barn...

CHLOE
Now, be nice you three, he's really excited about this!

Chloe puts her arm round James.

JAMES

After Auntie Jane's leg warmers
I'd be excited if Bill gave me a
yeast infection- (Seeing Bill's
gift) Oh Christ.

Bill returns carrying a tree sapling with it's roots
wrapped in hesian. It's about eight feet tall.

BILL

This is a tree.

Silence.

BILL (CONT'D)

I grew this tree - FROM SEED!

JAMES

(Realising Bill awaits
reaction.)

Oh! Holy shit!

Davy and Miles snort their drinks in unexpected laughter.

BILL

WE are taking this tree to
Barafundle Bay.

Davy raises his eyebrows.

JAMES

A larch?

BILL

GOOD! I'm going to make sure it
grows there forever.

JAMES

Bill... I love it. Thank you.

They admire the tree in silence for a while.

MILES

PLEASE say it, Davy.

DAVY

How are we going to carry it?
(Trying not to upset him.) It is
a brilliant, brilliant idea.

MILES

Brilliant.

DAVY

Brilliant. Lovely. But I think we
are going to struggle with all
the other stuff anyway.

MILES

Lovely idea.

Chloe cuffs him.

BILL

I can carry it. Or it can go on the cart. It'll be easy.

CHLOE

I think you underestimate the difficulties of this adventure-

BILL

We're taking you to your favourite place on earth! You're going to see it going into the ground... and nothing and no one is going to stop me.

BEAT. Miles raises his eyebrows - not sure what else to do. Davy takes a small present from his pocket.

DAVY

OK... well at least mine is small.

MILES

I heard some girls like that. I've never met one but-

JAMES

Needless confession, mate.

Laughter. James unwraps it and sees a battered penknife.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I can't take this, Davy... I gave him this when we were-

DAVY

Ten.

Chloe is moved and looks away. Miles looks at her.

BILL

Miles? (To James) I hope you like sports cars, you lucky wee bastard.

Miles scoffs at this. He hands an envelope to James...

MILES

Go mad.

JAMES

A year's subscription to
Playboy...and a cheque for ten
million pounds - posted dated to
2012.

They laugh.

MILES

It's the least I could do.

DAVY

It is.

They laugh but Miles and Davy dart a look to each other
noting the sting... Mr Griffith joins them.

MR GRIFFITH

Miles! So tell me about her?

Miles looks bewildered.

MR GRIFFITH (CONT'D)

The new one?

MILES

I'm single.

Chloe exits, to see her girls playing.

MR GRIFFITH

What? (There is a moment of
confusion.) No! The new Jag!

MILES

Oh - yeah. You should take it for
a spin while we're gone.

MR GRIFFITH

I will! No. I won't. Mrs. G's
gone green... Objects to the lawn
mower!

BILL

You should hybrid like me.

MILES

Half man - half compost heap?

BILL

HEY! Come and look at the go-
cart!

Miles Mobile rings. He looks at the display.

MILES

Sorry better take this.

He walks away from them towards his car.

MR GRIFFITH
(MUMBLY, NON-
COMMUNICATIVE.)

Just got to fit the breaks...
couldn't get the bonding to...
And ... I'm still not sure it's
wise...

Davy helps James to his feet. As Miles walks away he sees this and looks away. Bill goes towards the barn and they follow.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. JAMES' HOUSE. DRIVEWAY. MILES' CAR. [GILTAR GROVE] 13

Miles walks to his car. He looks stressed as he listens. He opens the boot while he's talking...

MILES
Mac. What's the story?... Except
the money isn't there. So, we
can't just tell the board....

He takes his overnight bag. When he shuts the boot he sees Chloe, with her husband, Mike, and their young girls blowing bubbles. The sun is shining through Chloe's summer skirt. She looks at Miles and smiles.

MILES (CONT'D)
(Still on the phone.)
What will we have by Tuesday?!...
It was mine to lose, Mac. We did
everything right... We'll see.
Bye.

Miles ends the call and shakes his head. He looks at the view. He struggles to take a deep breath. He is obviously not coping too well behind his smile. He takes out his mobile. He types out a text... "I LOVE YOU" Then he deletes it without sending it. He shakes his head. He tries to breathe deeply again but it seems he can't fill his lungs.

CUT TO:

14 INT. JAMES HOUSE. THE BARN - DAY [GILTAR GROVE] 14

James is sitting on the cart. Mr. Griffith, Bill and Davy are admiring what we now see is a Go-cart, that Bill was carrying earlier. It is built from what is obviously an old go-cart, but with new shining wheels and handles attached to push it from behind. It has "APOLLO 18" painted on it.

The boys examine it with quiet wonder. Miles comes in as the others try out the pushing handles.

DAVY
(Seeing Miles approach)
Jim's been really strong for the last few weeks, even eating.

BILL
This trip is going to be- (sees Miles) Have you ever seen anything so awesome in your life?

MILES
Honestly?

Davy's watch alarm beeps. Miles clocks this.

DAVY
Meds Jim.

MILES
Niagara Falls.

They head toward the house. James stops for a second.

JAMES
(To Miles)
Thanks for coming.

MILES
Twat.

James walks on smiling.

CUT TO:

15 INT. JAMES LIVING ROOM - DAY [GILTAR GROVE] 15

MUSIC. The party. The lights dim. Mrs Griffith enters with the cake. They sing Happy Birthday, but we don't hear it. Chloe is beside her husband.

James eyes the candles. He wafts his hand through the orange flames. He bends down towards the flames, takes a huge breath and...

CUT TO:

16 EXT. VIEW FROM THE GARDEN. [GILTAR GROVE] 16

A fiery sunset. Orange sky. Wales is green and pleasant.

In the garden is one of his father's beautiful wind powered sculptures, in the shape of a ship and fish, shimmering, tinkling as it slowly spins.

A deflated Birthday balloon is caught in a tree where it bobs in the wind.

CUT TO:

17 INT. JAMES' BEDROOM -EVENING [GILTAR GROVE] 17

James is in bed. His father sticks his head round the door.

MR GRIFFITH
Night, Jim.

JAMES
Dad?

He enters and comes to James bed.

JAMES (CONT'D)
My sixth Birthday, I'm sorry I used the lining of your suit to make my action's man's parachute.

Mr. Griffith looks confused then remembers and nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Mum went mad. You didn't.

MR. GRIFFITH
I was *livid*. I want to hit you *now*.

James laughs, but he's tired. Mr Griffith looks at the floor. But he puts his hand on James face and holds it there for a moment. He just can't speak... He goes to leave.

Then Mr. Griffith stops and turns around.

MR GRIFFITH
When we nearly lost you, even as I dived into the sea, my mind was racing ahead. Even in the panic, my mind was... playing out how I'd try to live without you. And I couldn't. And the water was like treacle... And then you weren't moving and I passed you up to the people in the boat, and I didn't watch...

JAMES
It's funny. I think I remember. It was peaceful.

MR GRIFFITH

I doubt it. You were three.... If you hadn't spluttered your way back I don't think I'd have come back from the water either... I mean, I would have... I would have been walking, breathing... but drowned, for the rest of my life... Then you were OK. Crying. Shocked. And OK. And...I thought-I thought we'd taken your gamble... and we'd won.

James nods.

MR GRIFFITH (CONT'D)

We don't like morbidity in this house.

Mrs. Griffith comes in and sets about the night-time routine with her military style.

MR GRIFFITH (CONT'D)

Good night.

(All totally straight faced.)

Yes. I just... Well, OK. Chap next door's let his trees grow over my green house again. I'm going to surf the net. Find a hitman. Have him killed. Butchered.

JAMES

OK.

He exits.

MRS GRIFFITH

Right. Well, kitchen is closed. So let's get you sorted.

She plumps his pillows too vigourously. He lies back already drowsy.

JAMES

Thank you.

On the wall beside his head is a map of a coast line and some pictures of cliff tops.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I can't wait to get going.

MRS GRIFFITH

You know what I think of this trip...

(MORE)

MRS GRIFFITH (CONT'D)
I'm going to unpack some of your boxes while you're away. Get this room sorted.

JAMES
Oh, don't touch my things!

MRS. GRIFFITH
Fine! You do it.

JAMES
You can unpack that box. It's all pornography.

She just gets on with sorting out his meds, muttering to herself. She picks up a book marked copy of James And The Giant Peach as she tidies.

MRS. GRIFFITH
I won't read tonight....

He closes his eyes.

MRS. GRIFFITH (CONT'D)
Night, angel boy.

She goes to the door. Only now does her sadness show, she exits leaving James in the gloom of his room.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. UNDER THE OCEAN [TANK] 18

The gloom of the water with sun streaming through from above...Suddenly the surface breaks... amidst the bubbling turmoil a three year-old-boy, in shorts and T-shirt, sinks under the water, kicking and reaching, through the bubbles.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. JAMES HOUSE - JUST AFTER DAWN [GILTAR GROVE] 19

A bottle of champagne is sprayed over the Go-kart to a cheer from the boys.

The go-kart is strapped to the roof of Bill's Land Rover. It is old but full of character. Beside it is Miles' luxurious new one. James watches the exuberant chaos with pleasure as Davy, Miles and Bill pass back and forth, bickering with each other and with Chloe and Mrs. Griffith about where to pack things! Heard amongst the chaos:

JAMES
The whole - Miles car vs Bill's debate is closed, is it?

BILL (O.C.)

Yes!!!!

Miles rolls his eyes at James.

JAMES

Right... I'm looking forward to roughing it for few days. Just wouldn't mind getting there with a little comfort... and a stereo... air bags... reliable brakes...

BILL

Satnav is all well and good - but when we're struck by lightening and the electrics blow, you'll be glad my old man has a compass mounted on a steel gimbal.

MILES

What?

DAVY

Has your car-?

BILL

Shit. No. I took it off.

Mrs. Griffith tries to organise the food she has prepared, which is packed in a miraculous amount of Tuppaware.

MRS GRIFFITH

The lettuce for today's sandwiches is loose in this bag. Are you listening?

ANGLE ON: Miles, really angry, pointing at something else.

MILES

NO! NO WAY! I only agreed to the whole trip on this ONE condition!

JAMES

(Laughing.)

Miles-

MILES

NO! Bill is not taking that!

Only now do we see Bill is holding his guitar.

DAVY

(Laughing too.)

Bill, we did promise him and I - just don't think I can stomach it either.

Bill relents much, to the stifled amusement of James' parents and Chloe, and takes it to the house sourly.

BILL
(Under his breath.)
Can't kill the music inside me.

DAVY
He's repellent isn't he?

James' mother gives them a large polka dot, deflated, lilo.

MRS GRIFFITH
You'll need this!

Miles is shadow boxing her annoyingly. Davy tries to wrestle the tree up through the sunroof as Bill comes out and shouts at him to treat it gently.

Finally they are ready. James shakes his brother-in-law's hand warmly. Then hugs Chloe.

CHLOE
Have fun.

Mike puts a hand on her shoulder.

James looks at his father. His father opens his mouth as if to speak, but changes his mind.

JAMES
(Looking at him
curiously.)
You have never bored me.

Mr. Griffith's face is transformed by the most charming smile.

MR GRIFFITH
I never meant to.

They laugh and James hugs him.

NEAR BY

Bill is on his phone having a strained argument.

BILL
Abbie... Abbie! I did say I'd be
away three or four days... OR
FOUR! Darling-

Davy rolls his eyes at Miles as they pack.

NEAR BY

James turns to his mother.

MRS GRIFFITH

(Loudly)

Don't be mouthy to people just because Miles is there.

JAMES

You know I could never keep still? I have to feel like I'm on my way somewhere...

MRS GRIFFITH

Ha! Don't I know it?!

JAMES

Do you?

Mrs. Griffith looks confused, starts to well up, but fights the urge fiercely.

MRS. GRIFFITH

I'm glad you explored.

(Whispering.)

I love you.

JAMES

Christ, you annoy me.

She laughs. They look at each other warmly. He lightly kisses her.

He is about to get in the car when he looks to Chloe again. She is just keeping it together. He darts back towards her. She rushes at him and they hug... Then he gets into the car.

MRS GRIFFITH

(to Bill and Davy)

Bill, Davy, take the utmost care!

MILES

What about me?!

Mrs Griffith gives Miles a weary look.

JAMES

Westward Ho, boys bach!

MILES

Your Mum's the only ho'...

The boys laugh raucously. The car speeds away with her calling after.

MRS GRIFFITH

No risks! Not the slightest! Be-

She stops. They are out of earshot. Mr. Griffith puts an arm round her.

CUT TO:

19 a EXT. COUNTRY ROAD. [TBC] 19 a
The red Land Rover drives away.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. MAIN ROAD - DAY [KILGETTY BY PASS] 20
The car heads west, music playing.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTRYSIDE, NARROW LANES [TBC] 21
They drive along chatting and laughing, music playing.
The window is open and James shuts his eyes and lets the wind and the sunlight play on his face.

CUT TO:

22 EXT/INT. THE CAR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. [DALE OR CAREW AIRFIELD] 22
James looks at the boys in the car. Bill grooves to some music, Davy reading the map. Miles sleeps.
As James watches Miles, Miles' eyes slowly open. He looks straight at James for a moment, then lets his eyes close.

CUT TO:

23 EXT/INT. PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTRYSIDE. BILL'S CAR [TBC] 23
NEAR THE COAST. Miles drives. They see the sparkling sea. James stares at it.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. NATIONAL PARKS CAR PARK. [STACKPOLE HOUSE OR TBC] 24
The boys have unloaded. Nearby a fat family are sunbathing and having a picnic beside their car (string vests, and scotch eggs.) They watch the boys with suspicion.

James sits on the grass as Bill tries to rig up the tree on the cart, while Davy weighs up each back pack. They have way too much stuff.

BILL
Put it over the back wheels!

DAVY
But we need more weight at the front!

Miles watches James test his bad leg. But Davy pushes the go-cart towards James.

DAVY (CONT'D)
I can get that other cushion-

JAMES
Not yet. I want to start under my own steam!

James sets off. The others look at one another and follow.

CUT TO:

24 a EXT. OLD LANE. [STACKPOLE CENTRE. RD DOWN TO BRIDGE] 24 a
They walk down the hill merrily. The cart empty along.

DAVY
Quite bumpy isn't it.

MILES
Like sex with an anorexic.

CUT TO:

24 b EXT. THREE ARCH BRIDGE [STACKPOLE CENTRE] 24 b
They cross the bridge over a lake.

BILL
How bloody beautiful is this?!

MILES
Do we have to get to a certain point tonight?

Bill shakes his head.

BILL
We'll walk until... well until James-

Miles stops. He watches for a moment. He looks down the path behind them and then out at the sea. He tries to take a deep breath but his chest is tight.

DAVY

I don't want to be knackered and hungry before we put up the tents.

BILL

Don't stress! Look at the sky, the water...

DAVY

While you're examining the hedgerow I have to think about how James... (He and James exchange a glance.) is actually going to get sorted out each night.

Miles looks ahead at the three and the cart, he is uneasy, but he follows.

CUT TO:

24 c EXT. RED MUD ROAD [STACKPOLE CENTRE] 24 c
The boys head up the farm track.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. FARMLAND. [STACKPOLE. RED ROAD FARMLAND.]-MORNING. 25
In the back ground James sits on the grass watching something off screen and he claps rhythmically.

In the foreground Miles and Davy lie inexplicably close together on their backs in silence, beside the base of a bush.

Suddenly Bill flies through the air above them brushing the top of the bush. He grunts with pain as he lands and rolls.

James cheers and laughs hysterically.

Miles rummages in his pocket, takes out a ten pound note and gives it to Davy. They get up.

In the background Bill gets to his feet in pain but triumphant.

BILL

YEAH!!! I'm super-fucking-human!

Davy and Miles laughing join James.

JAMES

It won't get better than this!

Davy looks at him. James' face betrays a double meaning.

Davy's smiles fades and he looks at the ground. Bill and Miles' smiles fade too and they look at James and Davy...

JAMES (CONT'D)

I know you all know...

He looks at Miles. Miles looks at the view.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Six months.

BILL

My Bother's mate's Mum had six months and she's doing fine and that was five years ago! You have to stay positive. Yes? Yes!

James smiles at him.

JAMES

I'm OK. I'm really, really, OK.

Silence. James looks at Miles again. So does Davy - willing him to say something... He doesn't.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We'd better keep moving, eh?

Bill springs up.

BILL

Yes!

James, turns on the small radio on the cart. He takes a deep breath and sets off as fast as he can. Quietly the boys follow...

CUT TO:

26

EXT. CLIFF TOP PATHS [DALE AIRFIELD] - DAY

26

From a distance we see the boys coming over a hill. The wide countryside on one side, the endless sea on the other. Bill eats a sandwich.

JAMES

...I mean breast cancer isn't funny but Mammogram is one of the funniest words ever!

They laugh.

DAVY
(to Miles)
Do you ever see Laura?

Miles looks sharply at him, and laughs shallowly.

James listens with acute interest, observing Miles.

MILES
She got the all clear apparently.

BILL
She would've been down the aisle
with you-

MILES
She's with a banker of some kind.
Probably choosing dinner plates
already.

DAVY
She was amazing.

Miles bristles and Davy sees it. So does James.

MILES
I don't know anything about
anything. That's why I'm in
advertsing.

DAVY
Aaah! The disarming self-
deprication! Good spin.

BILL
(Loving his sandwich)
Anyone who doesn't love beetroot
is-

JAMES
-a deviant. (In pain but lying.)
May as well try this out.

James climbs into the go-cart. Miles doesn't help him. Davy
rushes forward. Davy and the others exchange a look of
concern about James's strength.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Excellent! This will be just
fine!

The boys look at him. He looks ridiculous. Miles and Davy
take the handles at the back and they move off.

BILL
Loving this! LOVING THIS!

Bill, totally over excited, tears his shirt off and starts skipping along ahead of them, at one with nature.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. CLIFF TOP PATHS [DALE AIRFIELD] - DAY 27

An elderly couple are having a picnic looking at the sea. The boys come over the brow of a hill. Bill naked and leading. Davy and Miles push James in the cart. The old couple stare in amazement.

BILL
Hello. Beautiful isn't it?

JAMES
(Smiling radiantly.)
Hello!

DAVY
Hello.

MILES
Hello.

They walk on out of sight.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. PATHWAY THROUGH WOODLAND [BOSHERSTON. OLD LANE] 28

James leans on Davy for support while James tries to urinate in the hedge.

JAMES
Did Miles already know how long?

DAVY
I don't know.

James nods thinking about this.

DAVY (CONT'D)
Taking you to piss always makes me want to piss, and you piss far more than I used to, so where's all my new piss coming from? I'm not drinking more-

JAMES
Will you shut the fuck up!

BEAT. Davy and James stare into space.

At last James urinates.

DAVY

I may as well piss now too.

Nearby... Bill and Miles have some tea, brewed on Bill's camp stove, and biscuits. They look over to James then to each other and say nothing. Bill tops up his tea with hot water. It's not as good now, so he dunks his biscuit.

BILL

Biscuits - they're great on their own... but once they get dipped in tea they become a whole different journey.

Miles laughs.

BILL (CONT'D)

A make-up girl at work was reading one of your dad's books. The Lebanon Tree.

Miles nods.

BILL (CONT'D)

How's your book coming?

Miles is uncomfortable.

MILES

Gave up on it. Couldn't be arsed.

BILL

You should just write a diary about banging Chelsea-chicks.

MILES

Finally bored of meaningless sex.

BILL

Bollocks. Later. I want to be lying back with a beer. Then I want a tale of orifice that would make most people go blind.

Miles smiles. Looks towards James.

BILL (CONT'D)

This cart is the business. I want one! I could fit a sail to it. I want to go to try land yachting in Baja, Mexico. Saw it on TV. Looks amazing. Man!

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

I know she's not pretty, but
she'll go all the way, I know it.

MILES

Speaking of which, how's Abbie?
Why wasn't she at the party?

BILL

Well, she had a thing for work
that... she had to... uh... do.
It was tricky.

MILES

(Not convinced.)
Right.

BILL

(With some hesitance.)
No, it's all good. It's all good.
It's all good.

MILES

Good. Now - again with feeling.

Davy and James are back.

JAMES

Remember that time we pretended
to Chlo' that Davy was having an
epileptic fit-

CUT TO:

29 EXT. THE LILY POND BRIDGE. [BOSHERSTON]

29

Davy and Bill carry the cart over the narrow footbridge
bridge as James and Miles walk slowly along behind.

DAVY

Every so often I check the
credits and wait for the camera
man...

BILL

It's not Shakespeare, but it pays
the mortgage.

DAVY

Mate, ANtiques Roadshow has a big
audience!

BEAT. Bill grins and nods.

BILL

I work on Cash In The Attic.

DAVY

Oh sorry.... (confused) Are you
sure? Well, that's better...isn't
it?

CUT TO:

30 EXT. WOODLAND PATH NEAR GROTTO [STACKPOLE WOODS]-4PM 30

Suddenly the cart lurches and the boys stop.

BILL

Woah!

JAMES

Cart malfunction everyone!

Bill and Davy examine the damaged axel.

DAVY

I knew it! It's the weight I'm
telling you!

MILES

Is it fucked?

BILL

Not on my shift.

Bill starts unloading the kit...

CUT TO:

30 a EXT. FIRST NIGHT CAMP. GROTTO. [STACKPOLE WOODS] 30 a

The Boys are making camp. Bill is in overdrive

BILL

This was a good choice Davy Gam.

James pokes at a fire sceptically wafting a pair of pants
at it. Bill sees James's scepticism and shows him again the
correct way to waft the pants at the fire.

BILL (CONT'D)

Waft! Waft!

Miles and Davy put up the second tent. This involves team
work and though they are trying to do it amicably Davy
yanks the tent too hard out of Miles grip. Miles eyes him
with annoyance. Davy pretends he hasn't noticed.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. FIRST NIGHT CAMP. GROTTO. [STACKPOLE WOODS]

31

Miles and James sit by the camp fire.

MILES

You've honestly, honestly, never watched that Green Peace footage of baby seals getting clubbed and thought... yeah. Cruel. Ban it - but just after I've had a go.

James roars with laughter.

Nearby Davy and Bill are fixing the cart.

DAVY

I decide, in the confusion of whether he's joking or not, that he probably is.

BILL

Mate! **HE** doesn't even know if he's joking.

Back to Miles and James...

JAMES

How's work actually going?

Miles looks at him with suspicion.

MILES

You hate what I do.

JAMES

Only because you do. Are you writing?

MILES

I'm so bored of the Laura and 'my book' questions. I'm not a writer, Jim. I'm an ad'man. I'm good at it. Let's just talk about nice stuff.

Bill and Davy join them.

DAVY

I'm just saying we should stow some of the stuff here and pick it up on the way back.

BILL

Like what?! I precision packed.

JAMES
The microwave?

CUT TO:

31 a EXT. FIRST NIGHT CAMP. GROTTO. [STACKPOLE WOODS]-MORNING 31 a

They are packing up. Bill is stowing some stuff they have decided to leave in the grotto. He looks back at the boys and then goes into the backpacks and starts hurriedly, secretly, taking out all the spare clothes.

BILL
(To himself.)
They won't let me have my guitar?
They can't have their fashion
show. Essentials only...

He rejoins the boys. And helps to put the tree on the cart.

CUT TO:

31 b EXT. CLIFF TOP PATH. [STACKPOLE. BB SOUTH] 31 b

The boys push on enjoying the view.

CUT TO:

31 c EXT. HEADLAND. [STACKPOLE. BB SOUTH SIDE.] 31 c

They push on. As Davy pushes the cart the tree keeps blocking his view to his frustration.

DAVY
(To James.)
Don't get angry, but I promised
I'd phone your Mum in a while.

JAMES
Jesus! We only just left!

DAVY
I know. I promised.

JAMES
Tell her we have hope in our
hearts and wings on our heels!
And after that - no more calling!
(To Miles) And if you've got your
mobile on you I'll bloody find
it.

MILES
I haven't!

Bill rejoins them and they set off.

JAMES

Bill. We could just plant that-

BILL

No!

CUT TO:

32 EXT. NEAR THE WHITE BULL [STACKPOLE QUAY. VIEW ABOVE] 32

The boys see The White Bull below. A fisherman's tavern on a small quayside nestled in a tiny cove. There's a celebration in progress, a small colourful, pagan festival. A pig is roasting on an open spit. The locals stand around near the quay in front of the pub.

BILL

Perfect!

JAMES

Push me on Davy! Push me on Miles!

Davy and Miles smile at each other and do as they're told.

DAVY

My 'Spidey Senses' are tingling.

JAMES

Herpes, Davy. You've been Boybanding some Pill-ripened, teen mum-to-be again, haven't you?

DAVY

When do I have time to do that?

JAMES

Admit it! You whoremaker!

CUT TO:

33 EXT. THE WHITE BULL [STACKPOLE QUAY] 33

The boys get some funny looks as they move through the mini-festival. The locals are letting their hair down. A band (young and very good) are playing on the back of a trailer. Bill loves it. Davy is worried that people will bump James, and acts as a human shield. James and Miles look around bemused.

A flat bed lorry is decorated with hay bales and streamers. A large throne is empty in the middle and a crown lies abandoned on the seat. Amongst the locals are some costumed characters (a GOAT, a BEAR, a strange HUMAN TREE carrying a horn that he blows drunkenly from time to time, and a small boy dressed as an ANGEL.)

The boys find a few bales to sit on near the edge of it all and bask in the atmosphere. Davy takes the silver meds kit out. James shakes his head. Davy doesn't like it but puts the meds away.

BILL

Fuck, it's good to be back here!
I'll get the beers in.

Bill bounds off towards the bar.

JAMES

I'll have a Guinness!

Bill hesitates for a second then nods. James looks at Davy for a moment who stops himself from objecting.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I've never taken LSD and lost my shoes playing poker. I've never had a gun held to my head by bandits. I've never sailed the globe single-handed.

DAVY

I've never been to Birmingham.

JAMES

You know what I mea - Really?

Davy nods. James is sidetracked by this.

Miles walks away towards the toilets.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Don't you ever want to do something dangerous?

DAVY

Eat some under-cooked pig.

JAMES

Have a real MAN-THRILL!

DAVY

Steady.

JAMES

None of us remember the day, the moment, we realised we weren't actually going to play in the world cup final, or be the first man on Mars. It's too fucking embarrassing... because it happens so late.

Davy says nothing.

DAVY

I have no response to that.

JAMES

That gives me great comfort.

BEAT

DAVY

This is nice though isn't it?

JAMES

Yes. (He laughs a little ruefully.) Yes it is.

James looks around at the young couples chatting each other up, at the families laughing and drinking, and eating...

CUT TO:

34 INT. THE WHITE BULL. TOILET [STACKPOLE QUARRY TOILET] 34

Miles stares in the mirror. He takes off his Rolex. He puts it down by the sink. He washes his face and hands. He's struggling again. He takes a deep breath but he can't seem to fill his lungs. He exits, but leaves his Rolex watch by the sink.

As he exits, the Angel-boy pushes past him into the toilets.

The door closes behind Miles.

He walks on and goes to look at his watch... He rushes back in to the toilet.

He goes to the sink. The watch is gone. He kicks open the cubicle doors, but the cubicles are empty. As the last of the doors flies open a white feather wafts into the air. Miles looks at it then exists in a hurry.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. THE WHITE BULL [STACKPOLE QUAY]

35

James see Miles emerge, searching for the Angel-Boy, frantically weaving through the crowd.

Bill dances with some locals.

Miles catches a glimpse of the Angel-Boy, but can't catch up.

James looks at him and sees a white feather drifting in the wind. It wafts down towards him... as he reaches out for it a hand grabs it. It's Miles. He looks at the feather, then both he and James see a glimpse of the white wings heading towards the quayside. Miles follows.

36 EXT. WHITE BULL QUAYSIDE. [STACKPOLE QUAY]

36

Eventually Miles follows him to the edge of the quayside but the boy has vanished. It doesn't seem possible. Miles turns through 360 degrees. Then he see the tops of the wings emerging over the quayside as the boy climbs up a mooring ladder, holding a basket with a bottle in it. He looks at Miles and then sits down nonchalantly on a hay bail and takes a swig of his sea chilled cider. On the boys wrist is a gleaming Rolex.

BOY

What are you looking at?

MILES

Where'd you get that watch?

BOY

My father. Birthday Present. It's a Rolex Oyster, Professional Sea-Dweller 4000.

MILES

Your Dad's a liar. It's a fake.

BOY

Fuck you.

MILES

Nice. Give it to me.

BOY

I'm going to tell him you asked to see my cock.

MILES

Go on then.

BOY
 (wicked grin.)
 Do you like my wings?

MILES
 Give me that watch or I'll rip
 your fucking wings off and use
 the blood on the stumps.

BOY
 (Enthralled.)
 What for?

MILES
 To write thief on the ground.

BOY
 I don't want this watch
 anymore... I don't like fakes.

MILES
 Me neither.

The boy throws the watch in the water.

BOY
 Then we're both better off.

Miles registers this with contained exasperation. Miles
 turns to leave.

BOY (CONT'D)
 What's up with your bumchum in
 the cart?

MILES
 Sick.

BOY
 Is he your best mate?

MILES
 Yes.

The boy swigs some cider

MILES (CONT'D)
 How old are you?

BOY
 Nearly eleven.

The boy seems bored of him all of a sudden.

MILES
 You may be tough, but being a
 'grown up' is shit-

BOY

Piss off! If I wanted chick-flick advice from some paedo- I'd go to church.

MILES

You'll be dead before you're thirty.

Miles walks away.

BOY

Hey, poofter!

Miles turns.

BOY (CONT'D)

What time is it?

Miles instinctively looks at his watch. It's not there... The boy chuckles devilishly. Miles is beaten. He smiles.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. BACK NEAR THE FESTIVAL. [STACKPOLE QUAY]

37

Bill is dancing enthusiastically. Miles returns and offers the feather to James.

JAMES

You keep it.

Miles looks at it and tucks in his pocket. Miles takes a beer from a tray.

Suddenly near to Bill, two young lads start fighting. A girl screams and Bill decides to step in.

BILL

Brothers! This is not the way!

Bill tries to wrench one lad clear, but in doing so he accidentally elbows a fat girl in the face. She screams and falls. He looks at her in confusion. Another guy leaps at Bill and punches him. Bill barely flinches (gentle Bill is extremely hard). The boys know this. They've seen this happen before.

DAVY

He's like an Alsatian pup. He's one of those guys that EVERYONE just seems to love.

While protesting his innocence Bill floors his assailant. He is surrounded. Punches and furniture are flying from all around. Bill wrestles under a pile of angry locals.

MILES

Nuts?

He offers the nuts. The boys watch a while longer, then Miles sighs. He downs most of his pint and calmly walks toward the fight and wades in, elbowing punching, and trying to pull people off Bill.

Davy tuts and shakes his head.

DAVY

Back in a minute.

JAMES

Davy, I'm going in!

DAVY

Are you drunk?

JAMES

A little. This is IT!

DAVY

You should probably sit this out.

JAMES

NO! Bollocks![Desperate. He realises he can't move. He looks back at Davy) Davy, ramming speed!

Davy knows this is a bad idea.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Please. We can do this. We can BLOODY DO THIS!

BEAT.

Davy rolls his eyes. This is a bad idea but he goes behind the go-cart and starts pushing James towards the fight as fast as he can. As they hurtle into the fray James grabs a stool and brandishes it in front of him. He roars as he ploughs into a group of men trying to get at Bill.

Miles and Bill are doing OK, until Miles accidentally punches an old woman in the face.

ANGRY LOCAL BRAWLER

What's wrong with you bastards?
Stop hittin' the women!

Miles is hit on the nose. He's blinded and flailing around badly. Davy fights beside James trying to protect himself and James. James, still in the cart, swings the stool, trying to hurt people in any way he can, but he's soon exhausted. Someone punches him. Davy is livid.

DAVY
 Hey! Not him! He's got cancer!
 I'm not shitting with you! You
 don't hit people with cancer!

A few people stop and stare. Miles takes the chance to hit someone, but Davy grabs the cart and pulls James away. Bill grabs Miles and pulls him away and they join Davy and push the cart as fast they can away from the crowd who are still fighting each other.

The boys grab their packs and the tree as they run.

DAVY (CONT'D)
 Leave it Bill, for God's-

BILL
 NO!

A couple of drunken locals and the one dressed as the Bear stagger after them, but soon give up hurling abuse instead.

The boys make it to the lane and away over the hill, still running.

JAMES
 Yes! Yeees!!

BILL
 I think we did well. Sensible
 retreat but... the tide was
 turning....

DISSOLVE TO:

38 EXT. A STREAM. [TBC] - NIGHT

38

Lit by lanterns they wash their faces. Davy has a bloody nose and lip. Miles tenderly nurse his jaw. Bill whips off his shirt and splashes cool water over himself. Gradually the other two strip off too. Davy gets some pills out of the silver Meds kit for James.

BILL
 Aaaah! That's good...

DAVY
 My teeth are actually fizzing.
 One of my ears is ringing.

Davy, Miles and Bill examine their scrapes and scratches, and apply antiseptic ointment to each other.

BILL
Crystal water, man-flesh and
antiseptic. Every Welshman's
dream.

DAVY
This is the gayest thing we've
ever done.

MILES
No it's not.

DAVY
I have an insight into what it's
like to be one of your wank-
puppets.

MILES
Pretty great - I imagine.

Davy and Miles nurse themselves further. Miles is drying
off and goes into his backpack for fresh clothes, but they
are missing:

MILES (CONT'D)
Where the fuck are my clothes?

DAVY
What?

Davy goes through his pack.

DAVY (CONT'D)
Mine are missing too.

BILL
Yes. They are.

Davy and Miles stare at him.

BILL (CONT'D)
All your SPARE clothes are
missing.

Davy is incredulous.

DAVY
Why? Why would you do this? Why?

BILL
We should be living as nature
intended us out here, with as few
of the wasteful comforts as-

MILES
I'm going to fucking kill you.

BILL
We are going to experience this
landscape...

Miles stalks towards Bill, whose laughing and backing away tripping over their half made camp. Miles leaps at him.

CUT TO:

38 a EXT. SECOND NIGHT CAMP. [STACKPOLE QUARRY]-NIGHT 38 a

(UNLESS WE FIND CAMPSITE BY A STREAM)

James winces with silent pain and takes a huge swig of morphine syrup secretly.

Bill gets out his video camera. James takes the camera and starts fooling around with it filming himself...

MILES
How's the new camera!

BILL
No... I didn't get- We had a new
bathroom instead.

Miles and Davy exchange glances at this.

James stares down the lens, then turns the camera on the boys and the view around them.

JAMES
"It seems to me my lord that the
present life of men here on earth
is as though a sparrow in the
winter time should come to a
house and very swiftly fly
through it..."

The camera films the nature existing around them... Then he turns it back to the boys...

JAMES (CONT'D)
...while you sit at dinner with
your captains and a hall made
warm with a great fire...

Bill, seeing that he is becoming a little drowsy (but fighting it), firmly rescues the camera from his grasp.

JAMES (CONT'D)
So the life of man here appears
for a little season... but what
follows or what has gone before,
that surely we do not know"

James swigs more Morphine.

MILES

The Venerable Bead goes on to say that seeing as it's all unknown we should all be Christian. Live in fear of Hell.

James eyes Miles narrowly.

JAMES

I forget my audience. You're right. What a gamble it is - to have faith or pleasure. Faith! Or-

James passes out.

BILL

Thank Christ! Saved from the intellectual pissing contest.

CUT TO:

38 b EXT. WOODLAND. [STACKPOLE CENTRE WOODS] - DAWN 38 b

James wakes next to Davy. He reaches for some morphine and swigs as he clambers out of the tent.

He relishes strolling alone, across the countryside. Birds flit around him. The dew bejewels the cobwebs that blankets the plants. He drinks it in...

CUT TO:

38 c EXT. SECOND NIGHT CAMP. [STACKPOLE QUARRY]-BREAKFAST 38 c

ANGLE ON: Davy, James and Miles, stare at Bill blankly as he talks to them. (We only see Bill's head.)

BILL

...and it turns out that Mengoll has been carrying the sword of truth, which is why it wouldn't kill Treeathor in the caverns. So they use it to destroy the orb and run out before the citadel explodes...

They stare at him blankly.

BILL (CONT'D)

It's not all worked out, but...

MILES

Put some clothes on!

Only now do we see that Bill is totally naked again. Davy and James nod keenly.

DAVY

Do you even know how much you touched yourself at the bit about the witch? What's the matter with you!...

CUT TO:

38 d EXT. A FARM GATE [STACKPOLE FARM OR ST BRIDE'S] 38 d

Bill, Miles and James have crossed through a field full of cows. They are looking back at Davy who is on the other side refusing to walk through them.

DAVY

They're ALL staring at me now!

BILL

Come on!

Davy summons all his courage. He runs like a demented child through the cows. The boys laugh uncontrollably.

The boys cheer as Davy flies over the gate and lies panting on the grass. He opens his eyes and looks at the clouds. A smile spreads across his face and he starts to laugh.

CUT TO:

38 e EXT. A FIELD. [STACKPOLE FARM OR ST BRIDE'S] 38 e

The boys rush across a field...

Chased by a herd of cows.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. THE FERRY [MARTIN'S HAVEN OR GILTAR BEACH] - DAY 39

The small ferry to the island, is moored with its engine running. The boys approach the shed on the quayside that serves as a ticket office. Above the booth a neon sign, strangely out of place, reads FERRY. In the shed is a TICKET MAN (gruff, scruffy 40), who looks at the boys with suspicion. James gets out and stretches. His leg is painful and he takes the weight off it. Only when the boys are closer do they see that despite the man's rough appearance he is wearing heavy eye make-up.

BILL
Hi there! We four, need to take
the ferry... we and the cart.

TICKET MAN
When?

DAVY
Now, whenever you leave.

The man leans forward and silently counts them with minimal lip movements and nods. The boys are amused.

MILES
Four. There are four of us.

TICKET MAN
And the... cart?

MILES
Yes.

TICKET MAN
Single or return is it?

BILL
Return. But not today we're
camping.

TICKET MAN
Oh. (This appears to change
things.)
When will you be coming back?

BILL
Monday.

The Ticket Man looks down at his tickets.

JAMES
(Quietly to Davy.)
Is he wearing eye make up?

DAVY
He is.

TICKET MAN
All returns?

MILES
Yes! Does it run everyday?

The ticket man looks up at Miles wearily, as if this questioning has interrupted his calculation.

TICKET MAN

365 days a year, 24/7. First ferry at about 6 am last ferry back at about 8pm. No ferry Christmas or New Years Day or Easter.

MILES

So it's neither 365-

JAMES

It seems to say that a single ticket is 3 quid... but a return is 6.50.

James is pointing to a very faded notice in the window.

TICKET MAN

Aye.

JAMES

Well why would anyone buy a return?

TICKET MAN

For coming back.

JAMES

Do you sell many return tickets?

TICKET MAN

What's your problem, mate?

JAMES

Uuuh..?

TICKET MAN

I'll have to charge you for the cart.

BILL

What?!

TICKET MAN

Weight and volume. I'll charge for an extra passenger? How does that sound?

Bill steps forward angrily, but Davy pulls him back. The ticket man is smirking.

BILL

Alright! Fine. You're a criminal, but... fine. Four singles and an extra ticket for my terminally ill friend's cart.

TICKET MAN
Single or return for the cart?

MILES
(Bill holds him back.)
Listen, Tootsie-

CUT TO:

40 EXT. THE CHANNEL [TBC] - DAY 40

The ferry pulls out for the short trip. Sun Sparkling on the sea. Gulls flocking by.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. THE FERRY - [TBC] DAY 41

Davy and Miles crouches down beside Bill, who has fallen asleep in seconds as usual, squeezing toothpaste on to his eyebrows.

James makes his way to the bow rail and looks across the water.

An old FERRYMAN leans on the rail nearby smoking a cigarette. James' studies his profile.

FERRYMAN
(Without looking at James.)
How long've you got?

JAMES
Not long. You?

FERRYMAN
(Laughs gruffly.)
Same probably, boy... In pain?

JAMES
Yes.

FERRYMAN
Scared?

BEAT

JAMES
Yes. (BEAT) I don't know. You?

FERRYMAN
Not really. But then... I'm old.

JAMES
Does that make a difference?

FERRYMAN
(He laughs a little.)
Aye, I reckon it does.

James stares at him in silence for some time.

FERRYMAN (CONT'D)
History does anyway. By the time
I got half way through my days I
knew I was more afraid of killing
than of being killed.

James thinks about this.

JAMES
Yes. I can see that would... I've
had it very, very easy.

FERRYMAN
Not your fault.

JAMES
No. But I haven't really got
started.

James looks over at Miles.

JAMES (CONT'D)
My friend's father died when we
were sixteen; cancer. He was a
writer. He was amazing. He was
too young... but his books are
still here... I haven't achieved
anything.

The Ferryman does not respond.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm ready though, apart from
that. Very little left to sort
out.

FERRYMAN
Sort out? Sort out eh?

JAMES
Yes.

PAUSE.

FERRYMAN
If I said you had a beautiful
body would you hold it against
me?

JAMES

I'm sorry?

FERRYMAN

Song, by the Bellamy Brothers.
Know it?

JAMES

Oh - Yes.

FERRYMAN

Did they mean hold your body
close, or did they mean... take
umbridge?

JAMES

I - I've never known-

The Ferryman shakes his head gravely.

FERRYMAN

But if the Bellamy Brothers got
on this ferry, and they said, "It
means both. That's why it's
clever.", so I finally knew,
straight from the creators
mouth... So bloody what? Do you
know what I mean?

James thinks hard.

JAMES

I don't think so.

The Ferryman grins devilishly.... James smiles.

FERRYMAN

Even when you have it all
explained by the man himself. If
you can't crack it... Can't see,
really see, why it's so smart...
what's the point of being told?

James raises his eyebrows at the colloquial wisdom - looks
round - hoping the others can hear... they can't.

JAMES

Yes. Yes?...Ok.

The ferryman laughs until he chokes...

JAMES (CONT'D)

Have you... Can you say you've
had a good life?

The ferryman looks at him for the first time, for a moment. Then he looks back at the water. He is silent for some time.

FERRYMAN

Yes. But then I've never asked much of it.

James looks back at the water.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. THE FERRY [TBC] 42

As they cross the channel the boys are all lulled by the water and the motion. We see Davy watching James and looking pensive. Miles looking down, transfixed by the froth of the bow wave, and Bill sleeping peacefully with his toothpaste eyebrows.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. COAST PATH [MARTIN'S HAVEN OR GILTAR HEAD] 43

The boys head up the coast and see the ferry heading back. James looks back at the small figure of the Ferryman who waves a farewell. James smiles a little.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. THE COAST PATH [ST. GOVAN'S HEAD]- DAY 44

James dozes in the cart. The other three talk quietly as they push it.

MILES

Thanks for the email updates on the patient. My spambox is a nightmare. I always assumed they were pretty out of date.

Davy nods, annoyed.

BILL

Have you been looking for work?

DAVY

Not at the moment obviously.

Bill realises this was a stupid question.

MILES

Redundancy seems to suit you.

DAVY

Meaning?

MILES

Sorry. About an 8 on the tension scale there, Dave.

BILL

Ignore him. Jim's mum said you've been amazing these last few months.

DAVY

I just did what anyone would do. Well, I wanted to help and, I didn't get much redundancy pay but-

MILES

So, you're going to go back to marketing when James dies?

Davy grits his teeth in anger.

DAVY

What?

MILES

What?

DAVY

Is that a Miles-ism?... You think you're so clever and cute. It's exhausting.

MILES

I am sort of cute-

DAVY

Piss off-

Davy steps in a wet cow pat.

DAVY (CONT'D)

- Of course. Of fucking-course this is what happens to me now!

James wakes.

JAMES

Must of drifted off... (Looking about as if amazed.) What have you bastards done to my room?

CUT TO:

45 CUT 45

46 EXT. THE COAST PATH [ST. GOVAN'S COAST PATH] 46

A montage of shots as the boys make their way onwards. It's exhausting, often having to lift the cart. It's starting to get more difficult for James.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. A FORK IN THE PATH [ST. GOVAN'S COAST PATH] 47

They study the map at a fork in the path...

CUT TO:

48 EXT. A GREEN PATH. [ST. GOVAN'S COAST PATH] 48

The boys swap roles, pushing and pulling the cart. Through it we see James is becoming ever more uncomfortable and exhausted and the boys can see it.

They stop and James lies on the heather. The others rest and drink beer.

JAMES

A guy came to the door not long ago and asked if I was interested in winning a Caribbean holiday 'for those post' Christmas blues. I said I may well be dead by then. He said "Oh right - what about a luxury hamper?"

CUT TO:

49 EXT. THIRD NIGHT CAMP. TINY COVE [ST. GOVAN'S BEACH]. 49

The boys are drying off and dressing. Davy comes over to where James is still lying. (We hear Miles and Bill in the background talking very seriously.)

BILL

Honestly?

MILES

Yep.

Miles opens his back pack -looks for his clothes.

BILL
 (Pointing at two
 invisible forms)
 Jenna Jameson naked there.
 Kristin Scott Thomas naked there.

MILES
 (Nodding to the latter.)
 Double barrel all the way...

Davy comes over to get a towel from beside James.

JAMES
 Davy - I can't get up. It's OK.
 It's just been a bit... more than
 I'm used to. Just need some Meds.
 I'll be fine.

Davy helps him up and half carries him off the rocks.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 Don't tell the others.

Davy nods, but looks worried and lifts him up, not noticed
 by Miles and Bill, and helps James to sit down by the
 rocks.

CUT TO:

50 CUT. 50

51 EXT. THIRD NIGHT CAMP. TINY COVE [ST. GOVAN'S BEACH]. 51

The last of the seagulls skims the water on their way to
 roost.

The boys lie back after supper. Looking at the stars. Bill
 passes a joint to Miles, but James takes it instead.

BILL
 Heaven.

Bill starts filming again.

JAMES
 You know, if this were heaven,
 I'd be pretty chuffed.

MILES
 I like the way you subtly brought
 it back round to you dying. I'd
 forgotten.

JAMES

Seriously. I don't believe in the pearly gates... What do you reckon?

James coughs. Davy isn't too happy about him smoking, but is stoned. James looks at Davy.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Come on!

DAVY

I don't know, I want to believe in something like God. I do.

BILL

Reincarnation... born again... as a...

JAMES

Mollusc.

BILL

(Smiling.)

Don't piss on my nirvana!

Bill takes the boiling water and makes the tea, handing it out, relishing the ceremony of it. He LOVES tea.

JAMES

Seriously, our souls... I don't bloody know of course... But I've read about it a lot and I'm pretty sure that it's all about the magical science that we barely know anything about. There's an idea in Buddhist faiths about a kind of constant energy... and quantum physicists have proven it's existence... a perfect timeless universal space...

DAVY

What are you fucking talking about?

JAMES

Sorry! I know. It's just...like "being", 'is-ness' I can't help but see myself...like the dust dancing in the flickerlight of a projector at the cinema. A million atoms of constant... sort of is-ness...

He has lost them but Miles stares at him surprisingly without cynicism.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 (A little embarrassed.)
 I'm not explaining it very well... We don't think about our souls much...actually I've thought about little else since I first watched Anal Carnage 3...

This gets a hoots of laughter from Miles and Bill. Davy is lost and confused.

DAVY
 What?

Laughter.

JAMES
 Picture me tap dancing across the firmament and I'll be well satisfied!

Bill has a beetle on his hand and is watching it roam around his fingers, to distract himself. Davy looks terribly sad.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 What about you Miles? What happens to you when you snuff it?

MILES
 No idea.

JAMES
 You must have thought about it.

This is too pointed. Miles shakes his head.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 What's your instinct? I want to know!

MILES
 After your 'dancing across the stars', you want to hear that I think there's nothing? That you're going to rot and that's it?

JAMES
 Is that what you-

MILES
 When my dad died, that's what I deci-

JAMES

Really?

MILES

Yes... How do you feel now -
better or worse?

James swigs his morphine... There is a nasty, nasty
silence. Bill is lost in thought.

BILL

I - Reincarnation's one thing,
but one day we'll live on in our
kids I suppose...

He looks up at James... This is no comfort to him.

CUT TO:

52

EXT. THIRD NIGHT CAMP. TINY COVE [ST. GOVAN'S BEACH].

52

James looks at the sea and sneaks a secret swig of
Morphine. Then Bill goes to pass a joint to Davy, but James
takes it.

BILL

(Laughs.)

Christ this is a great cup of
tea!

Bill takes more simmering water from the stove and adds it
to his tea. Then he adds some more milk. He takes it and
tastes it, and there is a trace of disappointment. James,
coughing a little, watches this routine, laughs and shakes
his head.

JAMES

You make a cup of tea and it
gives you real pleasure! Then you
ruin it. Why not finish it then
get off your arse and make a
whole new cup?

Bill laughs, but it seems James is angry.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Bill, you were going to film
endangered tree frogs in the
amazon, save the planet... but
you shoot the most heinous
reality TV, so you can pay the
mortgage for a home you share
with a girl who... I hardly
recognise you. You're getting
more and more watered down every
day.

Long silence. Bill stares at his tea. He nods slowly.

MILES

Nice. Was that rehearsed or-

JAMES

Shut up, Miles.

DAVY

Jim, loads of people would for Bill's job.

BILL

He's right. I do do that. I just... I never seem to get things done the way I thought I would... And when I am happy... I just want... And now- Now-

They sit in silence watching Bill's agony. He tosses the ends of his tea away and shakes his head.

MILES

I love lessons learned through anecdotal observation. Seriously, did you prepare that?? ... And like you ever finish anything!

James is coughing badly and it hurts. Miles rolls his eyes.

Davy leaps up and frantically starts to get the meds out and starts seeing to James.

JAMES

It's fine.

DAVY

Shit! Are you feeling nauseous?

MILES

I am, but it's the tea-making-life metaphor.

James suddenly chokes on the mixture of morphine and pot.

DAVY

(In complete control.)
Sit back. Take the phemoryl.
You'll be fine.

Miles and Bill look on helplessly. This is Davy's domain. Then Bill looks away. Miles looks at James and he's uncomfortable seeing his pain, so he gets up and walks to the edge of the cliff.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. CLIFF EDGE. [ST. GOVAN'S BEACH

53

Miles tries to take a deep breath to control his rising anxiety. He can't. He tries, but he can't breath... Slowly he manages to control it. After a moment he notices that Bill too has left James and Davy who are chatting (in the background throughout), and he joins him.

BILL

(Snapping out of his reverie and suddenly cheerful.)

We can get to Goat's Head tomorrow easily. It's a great spot. Soft grass, great view.

MILES

(With real tenderness.)

Sounds good.

BILL

Miles, you know a lot about women.

MILES

No.

BILL

My life right now is... I've been with Abbie seven yea... And sometimes it feels- Isn't this what everyone feels after a while?... I do love her... I do.

Miles looks at him.

MILES

Bill, we both know most people settle for something that they think is better than being alone.

BILL

Great! Is that me?

MILES

What? I don't know? How should I know?

BILL

Why do I want the opinion of a man who doesn't believe in love?

MILES

(Annoyed)

The love you're talking about is like being an addict.

(MORE)

MILES (CONT'D)

You should think 'I can't live without you today'. You have to NEED that woman's love coursing through your veins. You'd stand in flames to make her want you more! To make her want you!

Bill looks back at Miles.

BILL

Mmmm - That's not me and Abbie.

MILES

Then do heroin. It's cheaper than women anyway.

Miles smiles. Bill looks at him.

BILL

Someone chink the armour?

MILES

No.

BILL

Ok... Do you always tell me the truth?

MILES

Yes.

BILL

Is there really such a thing as multiple orgasms?

MILES

Yes.

BILL

Damn it.

Davy comes between them. He is wears a pair of surgical gloves and a head-lamp. He holds up a very large white object like a GIANT pill (about 8cm long.)

DAVY

(Gravely.)

I have to get this up inside him...

He flicks on his head-lamp to illuminate the object in his gloved hand.

DAVY (CONT'D)

You guys will have to hold him down.

Miles and Bill look at it, then at Davy, in abject horror. Suddenly Davy collapses in hysterics. They hear James dissolve too. Miles and Bill sink with relief...

BILL

Bastards... God, it's soap...
Very funny. I'm going to do it
anyway! Teach you gaylords a
lesson.

Miles and Bill leap on Davy.

FADE TO:

54 CUT 54

55 EXT. THE COAST PATH. [ST GOVAN'S BEACH] - EARLY MORNING 55

The sun gleams on the water. The boys have packed up. Miles and Davy push the cart away from where they camped. They all look a little more tired and dishevelled. Miles yawns. James is putting on a good show of being fine.

JAMES

See! Just needed some sleep!

MILES

Couldn't breath in that tent.
Bill's feet smell more like the
wild than the wild.

Bill examines the tree that is now looking a little battered. He picks it up and runs to catch up.

MILES (CONT'D)

And no clean underpants thanks to
the Wookiee...

CUT TO:

55 a EXT. CLIFF TOP. [ABOVE BB. NORTH END.] 55 a

Long shot. The boys appear over a hill together and determined.

They leave the path with Bill pointing towards a cluster of trees.

56 CUT 56

57 CUT 57

58 a EXT. COAST PATH [BROAD HAVEN OR ST.GOVAN'S HEAD] 58 a

At one point on the path they have to lift the cart over rocks where the path has been washed away by the sea. James is has to walk and relishes the challenge of it. Bill is proud, and loving it, but Davy looks really anxious.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. FURTHER ALONG THE PATH [STACKPOLE QUARRY] 59

LATER IN THE DAY...

Amongst the trees at the top of a steep cliff. The boys are tired and look at each other doubtfully as Bill starts to climb down a rope.

BILL

We can't go round. This will save us a day that we just don't have.

A MONTAGE OF SHOTS:

As the boys lower James and the cart down the cliff on the rope.

Davy and Miles edge down beside James.

Suddenly the handle snaps on the cart. Davy and Miles can't hold it. James shoots down the slope on the cart. Bill braces himself as the cart hits him hard. He holds it.

DAVY

Jesus! You OK Jim?

JAMES

Fine...

MILES

Nice one Bill!

JAMES

Are we setting up camp soon?

BILL

Yes, mate.

DAVY

That could have been bad.

MILES

Oh Christ-

DAVY

Someone has to say it. Perhaps we
can't-

JAMES

If it's me you're worried about -
I'm fine.

DAVY

Maybe we shouldn't be going on
too far-

MILES

We're not going back. We're going
to Barafundle Bay.

BILL

It was a minor slip. As long as
James wants to go on we go on...
We gave our word and that's all
there is.

James looks up at Davy.

JAMES

Every man's reach must exceed his
grasp...else what's a heaven for!

Miles and Davy start pushing the cart. Davy stands there,
thwarted but follows on. Bill turns to James and speaks
with poetic gravity...

BILL

There once was a man called Nick,
Who was born with a corkscrew
dick.
He spent his days in a life long
hunt, To find a girl with
corkscrew-

CUT TO:

60 EXT. TREES/CLIFF [MARTIN'S HAVEN OR BB NORTH SIDE.] 60

The boys emerge from the tree line and are relieved to see
the sea again. But the efforts of the cliff have taken
their toll on all of them.

CUT TO:

61 EXT. THE CLIFF TOP. [MARTIN'S HAVEN OR BB NORTH SIDE.] 61

The boys are sitting down. Bill has fallen asleep again.

JAMES

And you read the short stories?

James and Miles look at each other trying to keep their quizzical poker faces.

MILES

I e-mailed you, as you know.

James looks at Miles.

MILES (CONT'D)

The one about the bike-man, was great, really great... The one about the nurses was bollocks.

DAVY

I'm no writer, but I liked them.

Miles shoots a pointed look at Davy who returns it.

JAMES

There's no point pretending that I don't care what you think. I do, more than anyone-

Davy winces at this, though it's barely perceptible.

MILES

I'm not going to tell you they're good because -

JAMES

I'm a dying cripple.

DAVY

It's like you enjoy-

Suddenly Bill is up and on his feet.

BILL

(To MILES)

Miles - is that what you really thought?

MILES

Yes.

BILL

Cool. James - try harder.

This comes as a surprise to them all. But Bill already has his pack on and is moving on.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. GRASSY HILL. [STACKPOLE NEAR BB]

62

The boys are all balanced at the top of hill and are all balanced on the cart.

DAVY

If the cart breaks-

BILL

How fucking dare you... Ready for take off...

JAMES

Take her steady Master Bates.

Bill gives a push with his foot and the cart starts down the hill slowly at first but gathering pace as the boys ride it. Bill whoops with the glory of it and even Davy joins in the triumph... But for James this speed is the most exhilarating and his face beams with joy.

CUT TO:

63 EXT. A RUBBISH FILLED COVE.[NEAR STACKPOLE QUARRY]

63

Davy, Miles and James sit where the path dips close to the level of a very narrow inlet. The inlet is knee deep in flotsam and jetsam. It's all industrial ocean rubbish. Multi-coloured plastic, canisters, packaging, rope, nets etc. As a whole this unnatural spectacle looks bizarre but almost like an artwork. Bill is down on the beach and he's talking to a strange figure in an old red cagoule with the hood up, and yellow waders. As they watch the pair start coming up towards them.

DAVY

(Sarcastically.)

Great.

MILES

What do you think it is?

Bill scrambles up the low cliff followed by the BEACHCOMER. He is about 40 and ruggedly handsome.

BILL

Guys! This is Jonathan Beaton. This is Miles, Davy, and that's James, our leader.

JAMES

The pleasure is ours. Shall I have Bill make some of his excellent tea.

BEACHCOMER

Thank you, no. I have a flask of hot chocolate that I have to finish. I won't have tea until after my supper. Then I may have two mugs.

There is a slight pause as the boys take in this report.

BILL

This dude is amazing! Show them.

The Beachcomer reaches into the inside pocket of his cagoule and takes out a tiny orange bit of plastic the size of a toothpick. There is silence. The boys look at it. Then at the Beachcomer, then at it. Then at Bill who is beaming, then at it.

BILL (CONT'D)

He's looking for - You tell them!

The Beachcomer is coy, as if this is going to be the Lost Ark of the Covenant!

BEACHCOMER

Darth Vaders.

Silence

BILL

About a hundred thousand Darth Vader action figures!

DAVY

Star Wars toys?

BILL

From 1980!

MILES

(Quietly)

Are you as scared as I am?

JAMES

I love where this is going.

The Beachcomer sits down.

BEACHCOMER

Fifteen years ago I was in a bar in Marseilles. A Chinaman, speaking french, mentioned South Pembrokeshire. I was born here, so obviously I was interested. The Chinaman, a cargo boat skipper, was saying he'd lost a fortune.

(MORE)

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)

A container of Star Wars figures. But no ordinary Star Wars figures - faulty Darth Vaders - made brown like Ben Kenobi, instead of black. He reckoned they'd be collectors items one day, so he decides he'll (*making bunny ears in the air*) "mislays" them... He leaves the docks at Milford, runs into a storm.

JAMES

An ungodly tempest.

BEACHCOMER

No. A storm. His vessel is grounded, a man dies. The only container to go over, and break up on the rocks-

DAVY

Is-

BEACHCOMER

Yes. Years later. I'm back here. Walking. Trying to clear my head - a lot - and I saw this cove. The wave approach and prevailing wind, make it the perfect filter. It should all be just beautiful drift wood, not this industrial flotsam and jetsam, but, you know, men should still wear hats every day, the world's changed!

The boys look at him blankly.

JAMES

Are you coming back to the Chinaman?

BEACHCOMER

No. I realised this is where the brown Vaders would be, slowly washing up over the years. So I started looking. Every day I came down and looked. A month went by. Then two. Then three... nothing. I was starting to think I was crazy-

Miles and James exchange glances.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)

Then one morning, spring of 2004 -

DAVY

NO!

BEACHCOMER

No. I found a yogurt pot inside a sack of rubbish.

The boys stare blankly again.

MILES

(Under his breath.)
Bagsy, I die first.

BEACHCOMER

It had a 'sell by' date on it. November 1980. Proof that there was stuff washing up, from that exact year. Obviously I kept looking.

JAMES

Obviously.

BEACHCOMER

A year, two years, three, four and still no Brown Vaders. But I'm happily looking, seeing this beautiful view every morning, changing all the time, and then last month-

DAVY

NO!

BEACHCOMER

No. But, I found this.

He holds up the tiny orange tooth pick like a treasure.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)

It's a light saber from a Darth Vader made between 1980 and 1981.

DAVY

Wow!

BEACHCOMER

Yep. They're here... If I find ten, they'll be worth thirty five thousand pounds. The container held more than hundred thousand. You do the math.

MILES

No.

James snorts trying to contain his laughter as he gets up. Davy jumps to help him.

DAVY
I never heard anything like it in
my whole life!

JAMES
You speak for us all. I need a
piss.

MILES
No! Let me. I'm dying to see his
cock, it's been ages.

Miles follows James, but doesn't touch him. Davy looks
irked that his job has been taken.

BILL
I'm going down there!

Bill leaps off the edge down to the cove.

NEARBY:

As Miles and Jim approach a suitable spot to pee at...

MILES
(Whispering.)
Captain, we may have to sacrifice
Nurse Davy to save ourselves.

BACK:

Davy is examining the light-saber. The Beachcomer is
oblivious to the mirth he has caused.

BEACHCOMER
Your friend is ill.

DAVY
Just excitable.

BEACHCOMER
No the other one... Ja-

DAVY
I know I was joking. Yes, James.
He's got cancer. Terminal.

Davy looks over at James and Miles.

BEACHCOMER
Right. I lost a friend to cancer.
My best friend ever.

DAVY
Sorry.

BEACHCOMER

It's not your fault. It's just really really, really, really, really, really, really, really unlucky.

DAVY

(Wondering at his madness.)

Right.

BEACHCOMER

I have other friends. People find me attractive. But I started looking for a replacement for my dead friend. Among my existing friends, then acquaintances, and then new people.

LONG PAUSE.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)

Why didn't you want the laughing-one to take your sick-friend to urinate?

DAVY

I - I didn't mind.

BEACHCOMER

(Considering Davy.)

Right.

DAVY

How long will you keep looking?

BEACHCOMER

For a friend? I don't anymore. That's the point.

DAVY

No, for the... (He gestures to the beach.)

BEACHCOMER

(Looking over to see what Davy's pointing at.)

Oh that!... I took millions of photos of it all. That's what I used to do, you see. Fashion though. I put the photos in a book with some thoughts about stuff, rubbish mostly! Ha! And my agent in New York sold it, and it sold a lot, a lot, I mean A LOT!... So I'm OK. I'm more OK than ever... In fact I...

Long silence.

The Beachcomer seems to have realised that this is true for the first time in a long, long while. He and Davy look at each other. Davy smiles at him.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)
Four years. Haven't had to give a
shit about anyone... Great to be
needed isn't it? I'd forgotten.

Davy nods.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)
Do you ever find yourself,
really, really, really, annoying?

DAVY
Yes.

BEACHCOMER
Me too.

They both laugh.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)
Whose going to be your friend
when he's gone?

DAVY
I haven't really thought about
it.

BEACHCOMER
You should. Wow!NO. You
shouldn't... Maybe you're one of
the lucky ones, David.
Satisfiable. How would that be?
Rare. A gift. There already. And
good... Well done.

Davy is totally bowled over considering this idea. James and Miles are back.

There is a silence.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)
Sometimes I suddenly see things.
Like when I take a picture. It's
perfect. Right there...Click.

The boys watch him.

In the background we notice Bill tearing around the cove flinging rubbish about.

Suddenly the Beachcomer gets up, picks up his bag.

BEACHCOMER (CONT'D)

Well - this was a life changing few minutes. James, we would have been good friends. Not best friends, but good friends. (He looks at Miles briefly, but says nothing. Then to Davy) You, I'm not sure. Good and possibly best. Yes.

DAVY

(Surprised.)

Thank you. I - thank you.

BEACHCOMER

No. Thank you.

Bill clambers up from the beach. The boys watch him go in bemused silence.

BILL

Good luck mate. Maybe I could come back sometime and help-

BEACHCOMER

Nah. I'm done with all that shit. (He tosses the light sabre into the cove.) Enjoy your walk.

He strides off on a new mission.

BILL

I LOVE that dude!

DAVY

He was quite... I don't know he was actually-

MILES

I really thought he was going to kill us.

Davy helps James onto the cart while watching the Beachcomer.

JAMES

Possibly fuck us and eat us.

MILES

(Getting his pack on.)

He could turn round of course. Stalk us until we settle down to sleep.

He gives a final wave and disappears, but Davy keeps watching. The others look at each other.

JAMES

David. Did that man try to touch
your private place?

CUT TO:

64 EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP [TBC] - EVENING

64

A delve on the cliffs beside a small rocky bay. The camp looks very inviting. Two tents have lanterns and the boys drink beers round the fire.

Miles and Bill setup fishing rods and lanterns on tripods in slapstick fashion in the background.

James takes some more morphine secretly while Davy's back is turned. Davy is checking his mobile phone secretly. Davy hurriedly re-packs it. Then Davy turns and sees James.

DAVY

You been hitting the morphine
kind of hard.

James looks at him. They both know he needed to. Davy feigns a smile and takes out the silver medication bag to do the other meds.

James takes this chance to reach into Davy's pack and steal his mobile and put it in his own on the cart.

Bill and Miles return to the fireside. Miles starts blowing up the Pink Lilo mattress.

BILL

We've done well. We could take it
easy and do another night.

Miles rolls over exhausted already.

MILES

No. I have to be in work on
Tuesday whatever.

James looks pissed off at this. Davy does too.

Bill lies down beside it and starts blowing.

DAVY

I still think we're carrying too
much.

Bill reaches out to the tree and hugs it to him.

DAVY (CONT'D)

The fireworks!

JAMES
Fireworks?

BILL
Davy!

JAMES
What fireworks?

BILL
You've ruined it!

DAVY
Sorry, sorry! But-

James is confused.

BILL
We had this idea, that because you love the stars, and having heard the whole 'dancing through cosmos' thing it seems doubly apt, that we try and... give them to you.

JAMES
Ha!

MILES
But they weigh a ton so let's just light the fuckers.

DISSOLVE TO:

65 EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP [TBC] - LATER

65

The sky is lit by an amazing shower of white cascading fireworks.

Miles and Bill set them off some way from the camp on the rocky cove. They are unsure of what they are doing.

At the camp we see James wrapped in blankets beside Davy. They watch with wonder.

DAVY
Am I annoying you?

JAMES
Sometimes.

DAVY
(Sad and guilty.)
Sorry.

A firework explodes at the wrong angle. Bill and Miles shriek and dive out of it's path.

James and Davy duck as it shoots over them and straight into one of the tents. The nylon tent bursts into flame.

As Miles and Bill arrive the tent has already evaporated the kit inside is well alight as the firework continues to explode impressively. Davy grabs a small bottle of water and jumps about in panic splashing it onto the flames.

DAVY (CONT'D)
 THAT'S FUCKING GREAT! WHAT DO WE
 DO NOW! YOU FUCKING IDIOT! YOU
 IDIOT!

MILES
 It was him as well!

Bill soaks a towel and dampens the fire...and they manage to stamp out the rest.

Most of the stuff inside has been burned, including their rucksacks. James has all but passed out from laughing and the pain it causes him. Davy, Bill and Miles stare the wreckage exhausted and shocked. There is silence.

BILL
 That was an accident.

CUT TO:

65 a EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP [TBC]- LATER.

65 a

Miles and Bill lie shivering by the dying fire.

BILL
 I feel so honored to be here.

MILES
 I'd feel just as honoured to be
 with you all in a five star suite
 in the Caribbean.

BILL
 I'm freezing.

MILES
 Put your spare jumper on. No wait
 a minute...

BILL
 So you're really not banging
 anyone?

MILES
Shut up please.

CUT TO:

65 b EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP. [TBC] - NIGHT 65 b

Bill shivers.

He gets up and creeps into the tent.

Miles suffers it a few moments longer then follows. We hear the groans and shuffling as they get into the tent.

BILL (V.O.)
(Whispering hoarsely)
Alright. I've got my knife. So
any of you start getting
'Brokeback' I'll be going Rambo!

Beat.

MILES (V.O.)
Mmmm... God you feel warm.

CUT TO:

65 c INT/EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP. TENT. [TBC] 65 c

The sounds of night by the sea. Inside the tent there are arms and legs everywhere. They look uncomfortable but each has an amusing slack-jawed expression. James is half awake, half asleep and lost in thoughts, and memories.

CUT TO:

65 d EXT. A WIDE BEACH. 65 d

The four boys are younger. They are playing frisbee on the beach. They are laughing. In the dazzling sun we can make out James... young and healthy... life ahead...

CUT TO:

65 e INT. A BEDROOM 65 e

The sun streams through a curtain in a foreign hotel room. On the bed lies a naked young woman. As the curtain floats in the breeze the sunlight plays across her hips...

CUT TO:

65 f EXT. CLIFF TOP. [BROAD HAVEN ? TBC]

65 f

James is on the ground on his front, staring at ocean. Tears well in his eyes. He grips clumps of the dew laden grass. It is hard to tell if this is in pain or rage. But the feeling passes... he stares fixedly at the sea. Then slowly he rolls over and sits up.

A movement behind him. Miles is next to wake... He sees James and there is a moment where says nothing. Evaluating, awkward...

MILES
(Breezy, but cold.)
Alright?

JAMES
Yes.

On James... but we see Miles hesitate then walk off to do something else...

CUT TO:

66 EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP. [TBC]- MORNING.

66

Miles is picking cautiously at a semi burned, bag of crisps. Then Bill takes a deep breath and starts to sing -

BILL
"In this proud land I -"

MILES
No thank you!

Bill stops. James and Bill laugh. By torch and fire light Davy looks over the damaged kit. James watches them. Davy finds some condoms.

DAVY
Who packed these!?!

JAMES
Four straight guys, in the middle of nowhere, set fire to most of their stuff - but the CONDOMS are in tact! Love it.

BILL
You can use them to cover a microphone actually. To record dolphins underwater. It's what they use.

DAVY

Cool. Everyone get that? It may not come up but - thanks Bill.
(*Looking back at the kit*) We shouldn't have cooked all the beans tonight.

BILL

We've plenty of food.

DAVY

I'm not worried about me!

MILES

Jesus, stop!

DAVY

Stop what! Stop making sure he gets to do this bloody trip! You two don't have any idea how much responsibility I have to shoulder so you can just piss around.

JAMES

You get thanks ALL the time.

DAVY

Well, that's nice-

JAMES

Davy, you're desperate to be needed.

DAVY

(*Quietly to James only.*)
I'm glad you see it that way. I don't.

JAMES

I'm grateful!... But what ARE you going to do when I'm gone. I can't picture it.

DAVY

Who knows, Jim?

JAMES

But all you ever did was moan about being taken advantage of at work, until you lost your job, and I think my cancer came along at just at the right time.

Beat.

Davy's rage is simmering. But as usual he contains it.

MILES

I'll pay for all three of you to
see a shrink when we get home.
But for now-

JAMES

(Ignoring Miles)
It's not about failing it's about
finding your...

MILES

Oh God. If you say 'Reason
d'etre' I'm killing myself.

JAMES

Shut up, Miles. This is-

MILES

Repugnant? Boring?

Bill clouts him on the head hard with a plastic bottle!

MILES (CONT'D)

Ow!

JAMES

Davy. Who the hell are you? What
do YOU want? What perfect thing
are you looking for?

BILL

James. I think he's doing fine.
And you are being a bit-

MILES

There was no need to hit me.

JAMES

It's not what life's dealt you
it's the cards you feel safe
playing.

Davy is silent. His face is dead.

James looks at him, then at Davy, then at Miles. Drugs and
pain wrack his body and his face has darkened to a storm.

MILES

(Re: his head again.)
You got me with the hard end bit,
bro... Well, I thought the tea
making stuff was good - but

JAMES

Miles, it's so fucking easy to
take the piss, but I'm angry!
With all of you!

MILES
 (A sudden flash of
 anger.)
 Well you shouldn't be!

JAMES
 WELL I AM!

Miles kicks himself for losing his temper even briefly as this will egg James on...

JAMES (CONT'D)
 I don't want to die!

They are sobered.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 I want more time. I want more
 time. I'd take any one of your
 pointless consumer-fucker lives!

James has tears in his eyes for the first time. Miles looks down and shakes his head.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 I was going to do so much. I was
 going to be special. I know it
 sounds pompous. It is.

BILL
 It is.

MILES
 You are!

JAMES
 I am! But... (to Miles) You make
 me sick.

Miles looks up to meet his stare.

MILES
 Don't. I love my life. Cancer's
 no excuse for being such an
 egomaniac. Why are you special?

JAMES
 You don't think I would have-
 (*become a writer?*)

MILES
 I don't know! That's the point!
 By our age my father had written
 three novels already.

(MORE)

MILES (CONT'D)
 (This wounds James.) Your writing's good, but you only sat down to finally do it because it got too difficult to stand up!

Miles looks to Bill and Davy. Davy is about to kill him.

MILES (CONT'D)
 What? ...You want to hit me now, you pissy little arse-licker?

Beat.

DAVY
 We're not your secretaries. We don't run away when you turn nasty.

MILES
 I'm telling him the truth!

DAVY
 I know, but why?!

MILES
 You bore the fuck out of me.

DAVY
 Why are you so cruel? Just cruel. There's other ways to get what you want.

MILES
 (Nodding.)
 It's like you're actually looking at my soul through a microscope. (*It becomes obvious he is taking the piss.*) I have to find a way to redeem myself! Davy will you give me Aids!!!!!!!

Davy just stares at him. No one laughs.

MILES (CONT'D)
 Bill? Rabies?

Bill wants to laugh but, James and Davy are still stony-faced. Miles shakes his head and backs away exasperated.

MILES (CONT'D)
 God! GOD!

He gets up kicks a bottle of beer into the darkness...

MILES (CONT'D)
 We don't NEED to do this! We don't!
 (MORE)

MILES (CONT'D)
 We should be laughing and talking
 bollocks about the old days...

Miles looks at James almost pleadingly...

JAMES
 I read your novel.

Silence.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 I read it. (Staring at Miles, but
 for the others to hear.) He
 finished it years ago.

Miles walks away towards the fishing rods on the shore.
 James struggles to get up. Davy does not help. James takes
 a lantern and hobbles after Miles.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP. SHORE LINE. [TBC]

67

Miles tries to calm himself, tries to breathe. He just
 wants one really deep breath.

James approaches with a lantern. He is in pain. Miles
 glances round. He really doesn't want to help, TO TOUCH HIM
 EVEN, so James lowers himself onto the sand.

JAMES
 So, I read your book. Your lie
 can't exist.

MILES
 When did you read it?

JAMES
 Two years ago. I snooped on your
 computer. It seemed a natural
 part of the competition we'd been
 having all our lives. I found
 three drafts of the finished
 book... I copied the latest. I
 felt guilty and jealous. So I put
 it away. And I hated you for it.
 Then I got ill. And I gave in to
 my desire to... Even though I
 knew you'd never, ever forgive
 me.

MILES
 I won't.

JAMES

It ruined me. You're right. Out of the two of us... you should-
(write.)

MILES

I don't give a shit what you think of my book. I really don't. That book... means a lot to me-

JAMES

Because-

MILES

Oh, Shut up! Come on! You're going to tell me why it means a lot to me now?! Jesus this trip has been like a walk with the sick-white-Oprah! And you would hate you right now!

JAMES

Miles-

MILES

Mate, if you really need to tell me something you could have phoned me and I'd have come over. We would have had a chat and then we would have watched Jaws and pretended you weren't sick-

JAMES

I am.

MILES

Because you are! And when you're gone, when you're gone, you won't know how I... So all this is just unnecessary fake soul searching, that EVERYONE fucking does these days.

James tries to speak but Miles is off...

MILES (CONT'D)

I can't even say this REAL stuff, because I just may not get to see you again so I can-

JAMES

You don't have to apologise-

MILES

I wasn't going to apologise you arrogant little fucker! I'm right!

(MORE)

MILES (CONT'D)

And we never apologise!... I can say this shit, and see you in five minutes and say nothing! That's the point. There is one human... one other human being in this whole world, to who we can say anything. Anything. Anything.

JAMES

You're book is... You know it is.

MILES

Thank you.

JAMES

You're welcome.

MILES

I'm not afraid of failing now. I don't need to be -

JAMES

I know.

MILES

You see my Dad was so-

JAMES

I know.

MILES

(Nodding.)

And now the only other person -

JAMES

Yes. I know.

MILES

Well, if you're not going to fucking listen.

James laughs raucously.

BACK NEAR THE TENT

BILL

Don't worry. It's the morphine talking. This morning he called me Robert.

Bill walks off towards James and Miles.

CUT TO:

69 CUT 69

70 70, 71, 72, 73 CUT 70

74 EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP. [TBC] 74

The radio is playing. They pack up their kit. There's still a lingering tension between Davy and Miles. They side step each other as they pack away. No one has slept well. They look like insects unfurling in the sun.

Miles is struggling to open a broken tin of tuna.

MILES

Shit it. Shitting thing!...I need-
Jim have you got that knife?

James tosses the old penknife from Davy at him.

He opens it and tries to pry open the can.

The blades snaps.

He freezes. He looks up. They have all seen. James looks simply saddened by it - but Davy is livid. Silent but livid....

MILES (CONT'D)

Oh.

BILL

THAT was an accident as well.

CUT TO:

74 a EXT. FOURTH NIGHT CAMP. [TBC] 74 a

Davy cleans the cooking pots they still have. James rest near by. In the distance Miles chatting with Bill.

JAMES

Davy?

DAVY

What?

JAMES

What do you really think about
what I said to you?

Beat. James is sipping secretly at his morphine.

DAVY
You've no right to talk to me
like that. None.

JAMES
Why didn't you say that in front
of them?

DAVY
(Coldly)
Loyalty you prick. Go to sleep.

CUT TO:

75 EXT. SECOND NIGHT CAMP [BROAD HAVEN]

75

The cart is loaded. Miles holds it to stop it rolling down the slope. Bill and Davy bring stuff to put on it. Suddenly a phone rings. It's Miles' mobile.

JAMES
(Annoyed)
You promised!

MILES
It's work. I need to take this
call. It's a very important
situation.

BILL
More important than this trip?

MILES
Davy has a phone too!

DAVY
For emergencies! It's not about
the phone. It's about you not
really wanting to be here.

Davy snatches Miles' phone, which is still ringing, stops the call and sticks it in his pocket defiantly.

MILES
Give me that phone.

The cart, that Miles was holding, is now trundling towards the cliff edge behind them. James sees it and shouts at them. They panic. Davy runs after it. Bill does too and falls over in hilarious fashion. But Davy runs towards the edge. He's almost at the cart as the cart reaches the brink. The cart sails over the edge. Miles is close behind and dives to catch Davy who would have gone over the cliff with the cart, and pulls him back!

DAVY
What are you doing?!!!

MILES
You would have gone over with it!

DAVY
I would have got it, you twat!

JAMES
He just saved your life.

BEAT.

MILES
You think he likes me more than
you, you whiny poof!

Davy takes Miles' mobile from his pocket and throws it over
the cliff in rage.

Miles watches in disbelief.

Davy tries to look as though he doesn't regret it.

MILES (CONT'D)
Why do people keep throwing my
stuff in the sea?

Then he turns calmly to look at Davy. Bill steps in.

BILL
OK. That ALSO was an accident.
We can't afford many more. The
phone. That was bad. Bad, Davy.
But it's not the end of the
world. Miles your work knows
you've gone into the wild-

MILES
It's not that fucking simple.
It's all fucked! Things are bad.
People rely on me! The bank have
called in our loan. I'm going
under! (To Davy) Miles is
failing! You happy about that?

James looks down over the cliff again.

JAMES
Boys, we have a problem.

CUT TO:

76

EXT. CLIFF TOP [BROAD HAVEN OR STACKPOLE CLIFFS]

76

All the boys lie on the edge peering down at the cart, which rests broken on the rocks below. Miles rolls over onto his back and stares at the sky. James looks seriously ill.

DAVY

We'll call Mr. G. Maybe they'll send a helicopter.

JAMES

NO. No way... We haven't finished the walk.

DAVY

Mate, you weren't doing that much walking, and your transport is gone!

DAVY (CONT'D)

We'll call your dad. Maybe stay at a B & B on the mainland and he could find -

BILL

Where's your phone?

DAVY

In my bag.

JAMES

Uh. No. I'm afraid it's in my bag... on the cart.

There is a pause where they all compute this new problem. They look over the edge.

DAVY

This is un-fucking-believable.

BILL

There's a kind of amazing natural symmetry-

DAVY

Shut up, Bill.

BILL

We've still got the tent. We'll just have to camp here while one of us goes back and gets help-

JAMES
(Lost in thought.
Quietly)

No.

DAVY
Where's the map?

MILES
In the cart.

JAMES
We're going on. It's not far.
I'll walk it. I can.

DAVY
James-

JAMES
No, Davy! I have to go on. I just
want one night there. If you
won't come I'll go without you. I
have to. I have to.... I'm not
finished!

He clambers to his feet and feebly heads off with fierce determination, despite being a shadow of the man that started the trip.

There is a moment of silent debate. They watch his tragic determined figure hobbling away. Davy looks at Bill.

BILL
We may be closer to the emergency
phone at Barafundle- So... I
could go back to the last phone.
Reckon I can jog it in five hours
maybe.

MILES
When did you last run for five
hours?!

DAVY
If we go on we should stick
together in case we have to carry
him.

Davy glances at Miles but won't ask him.

BILL
What do you think Miles?

Miles is concerned, but he looks at James.

MILES

Thanks to you pricks, I doubt
I'll have a company to go back to
now.

They all look at James hobbling as fast as he can.

DAVY

Is it time to leave the tree-

BILL

(Abrupt.)

The tree is one of us!

Davy rolls his eyes.

BILL (CONT'D)

So should I tell him or let him
keep going.

Davy shakes his head.

BILL (CONT'D)

James! Stop.

JAMES

Are you coming to Barafundle?

BILL

We are. But it's that way.

He points in the opposite direction.

FADE TO:

77 EXT. CLIFF TOP [BB NORTH] - MOMENTS LATER 77

Leaning on a stick and on Davy, James sets off gingerly.

Miles lingers behind and struggles to take a breath again.
He closes his eyes, calms down.

James looks ahead in agony.

CUT TO:

78 EXT. COAST PATH [BB NORTH] 78

James leans on Bill, but the pain is quite bad and fatigue consumes him. Though it is awkward on Bills part, and James knows it. They silently change from James leaning as he walks, to leaning in more heavily... Bill takes more of his weight, having to put his arm round his waist, to James putting both arms round Bill's neck and eventually they come to a stop and Bill has to put down the tree.

He offers his back. James clammers on without an ounce of energy to spare. Bill looks at the tree sadly. Davy hurries his step, and picks up the tree. Bill smiles at him. They walk on.

CUT TO:

79 EXT. THE COAST PATH [BB NORTH]

79

Exhausted, they have stopped for a break. Bill has fallen asleep with his back to the other three. Davy examines the gas can of the stove.

DAVY

Is this the only gas we have?
Bill?

MILES

Asleep.

JAMES

(Pain and drug addled.)
Good to see him off the leash
isn't it? Sooner he ditches that
bitch the better.

MILES

How do you know that's what he
wants?

JAMES

He's a big hearted, hilarious
force of nature! And she crushes
every natural urge he has. It's a
horrible relationship. He has to
face it!

MILES

It's none of our business. He's
blissfully unhappy in his
relationship probably, going
through the ups and downs like
everyone else.

James takes another swig of his Syrup.

JAMES

People who are totally in love
have arguments that burst the
bubble only to facilitate the
bubble's exquisite re-inflation.

Miles rolls his eyes. Bill slowly rolls over and gets up
looking crestfallen.

BILL
 "Facilitate the bubble's
 exquisite re-inflation." Hmm. Not
 me and Abbie.

Awkward silence. There is a silence that is finally broken
 by James.

JAMES
 Thank God! Bill, make a clean
 break.

MILES
 Be vile and distant 'til she
 cheats on you. Then dump her.

JAMES
 This is a new start-

BILL
 Abbie's pregnant.

There is a dreadful silence.

James is particularly filled with horror and confusion.

This was not in his plan.

Bill looks darkly at the ground.

JAMES
 Why didn't you say?

BILL
 I wanted to enjoy the walk.

JAMES
 Congrat-

BILL
 Don't.

Pause.

DAVY
 I'm not saying it's good news, in
 the circumstances, but you'll be
 a brill-

MILES
 Definitely yours?

Bill is aghast at this but thinks about it...

BILL
 Far as I know.

MILES

And she wants to keep it?

Bill nods. Miles nods back.

DAVY

Baby or not... if she isn't the one-

BILL

Of course she isn't the one!

JAMES

Well then, grasp- (*the life YOU want.*)

BILL

(Angry.)

It's not that simple.

JAMES

But-

BILL

(ANGRY. ANGRY. ANGRY.)

Shut the fuck up, Jim! Yeah it all gets "watered down"! It does. With every year. But I know that what I do with my life effects other people. I stick to my decisions - however shit - I'm trying... I may not set the world on fire, but I see things through! And when all my dreams come to nothing, I'll be around to bloody see it!

Beat.

BILL (CONT'D)

(To James, then Miles and Davy.)

You should have told me before!
You should have fucking told me!

Bill backs away from them shaking with rage.

He stumbles over the tree. He grabs it. He brandishes it above his head like a mace and pounds it on the ground. Then picks it up and does it again. Now he swings it round twice and sends it flying over the cliff... He watches it disappear...

The boys just stare at him.

Bill's rage subsides. He slumps to his knees on the cliff edge, totally spent, looking at the sea.

The boys look at each other. Eventually... Miles walks over to Bill and stands facing the sea, but very close to him.

MILES

Well... You really showed that tree.

Bill laughs. The tension is released and he leans against Miles' leg. Miles roughs his hair, as though patting a much loved old dog that has just failed to catch a rabbit. Bill turns around and looks at James.

BILL

I'm sorry.

James looks at him with sympathy and shakes his head... he's speechless, he tries to remain serious... but cracks up.

CUT TO:

80 EXT. COAST PATH. [BB NORTH]

80

The boys are tired and struggling. Davy and Bill carries heavy packs. Davy carries James on his back.

They have stopped to rest. James is suffering. Bill sits a little apart and nurses serious blisters... but without dressings for them he just pulls his boot on in agony. They all look at each other. They all know going a step further may be beyond them all.

James tries to walk on. He looks out at the sea. He watches a cormorant that is hovering at his eye-line dive into the sea. He looks at the birds and smiles.

BILL

I'm sorry about your tree. I'm going to grow another. We can-

JAMES

Do you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way... My tree will drift... wash up on some strange shore.... perfect.

Bill smiles.

CUT TO:

80 a EXT. CLIFF TOP. [BB NORTH. SHOT FROM STACKPOLE QUAY]

80 a

No one is talking. Each in his own private miserable world they concentrate on nothing but moving forward.

Miles is ahead looking scared. Behind him Davy is carrying an exhausted James.

Bill is at the rear, carrying Davy's pack. Even he is just trudging on step by step now, limping badly but trudging on with gritted teeth. Unnoticed by Bill, Davy's pack, which has a hole burnt in it from the fire, starts to tear apart as he walks and pieces of kit drop out.

Pull out to show the great distance of wilderness ahead...

CUT TO:

81 EXT. THE COAST PATH [MARTIN'S HAVEN OR BROAD HAVEN] 81

They get to a steep rise and stand at the bottom.

James is on Bill's back.

He adjust his hold on James and starts to climb.

Bill stumbles. Davy and Miles leap forward to try and catch James and Bill but too late and Bill falls. His efforts to protect James cause him to fall badly and James cries out in pain. Bill and Miles just look at him. Helpless, but Davy grips James hand.

DAVY

You're alright! Breath in.

James is pulling on Davy's hair.

Miles is appalled.

MILES.

Right. Are we done? I mean I think we're done now. Fuck it. I'll run back. Bill runs on, or vice versa. One of us will get there. We might see a boat or-

DAVY

Shut up Miles. We'll be fine.

James focuses on Davy's eyes. He smiles as much as he can manage.

MILES

Bill? This is fucking mental!

Bill looks at Davy.

BILL

I don't know.

MILES

Jesus!

DAVY

(to Miles.)

You carry Jim for a bit.

Miles looks scared. He looks at James who is paler than ever. Miles looks up the steep incline ahead and back at Davy.

MILES

Don't tell me what to do-

DAVY

Why?

MILES

You feeling all hard now?! Why? Because I didn't kick your arse for chucking my phone away... or because I'm -

DAVY

Oh- just shut it! This isn't about you right now. Pick him up!

MILES

No.

DAVY

Pick him up.

MILES

Fuck you!

DAVY

Pick him up, you fucking coward!!

Miles swings at him and lands a punch on the top of Davy's head, which hurts his hand.

Davy swings back and soon they are rolling on the floor trying to kill each other.

Bill watches shaking his head. James turns from the cliff edge to look at them. Miles and Davy fight with neither obviously winning.

JAMES

We should stop them.

BILL

Well... I know we should... but it's kind of fascinating...

Davy and Miles both give up at the same time totally exhausted. They fall back.

BILL (CONT'D)

Let's call it a draw... (To Miles) I liked the little 'EEEEK!' noise you made when he got you in a head lock.

Miles looks at him and then can't help laughing. Neither can Davy.

There is a silence.

DAVY

We're men now! And it turns out I'm a pretty fucking average man! And you know what - Heaven forbid that I should learn anything on this fucking trip... But I have! I've got people who love me. People I love back. This is all there is and it hurts and it's amazing. But it's the truth. But I'm not afraid of it... and THAT is what makes you despise me.

Miles is beaten. Davy stares at him waiting for the attack but sensing victory.

MILES

It is easier winding you up than being... You.

Miles and Davy grip hands in conciliation.

BILL

This trip is awesome.

MILES

(Weakened beyond recognition. Looks to James.)

Your illness disgusts me. If I got sick like that, I'd be so totally humiliated. It shocks me. That's ALSO the truth. After my Dad- I actually don't need to say this. I don't have to.. But I am - SO sorry.

He looks at Davy too. Then he gets up and goes over to James and starts to heave him up and onto his back.

MILES (CONT'D)

Come on, you bugger.

He starts to climb the massive incline.

It's tough this is a huge challenge... it's painful for James and Miles is struggling to climb at all.

CLOSE in on: Miles and James. They are silent. Both in pain of different kinds.

PAUSE. Gradually the action slows to slow motion. We hear two different heart beats. One stronger than the other.

Finally, with Bill and Davy supporting Miles and James, they reach the summit and collapse again.

CUT TO:

82 EXT. BARAFUNDLE BAY. CLIFF. [AS IS] 82

From the summit of the hill they see Barafundle Bay.

The sun kisses the water at a million glistening lips.

They stare at the cove for a moment taking it in.

BILL
Barafundle Bay. Jesus.

DAVY
Told you we'd make it.

They laugh.

BILL
I'd forgotten how incredible...

JAMES
Yeah... this isn't actually the one I was thinking of.

They laugh.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Thank you.

They are thrilled. They make their way down to the beach.

CUT TO:

83 EXT. BARAFUNDLE BAY. THE BEACH [AS IS] 83

The boys have dumped their bags and run into the water, leaping about in the surf. Even James is in knee deep, watching his friends with affection.

CUT TO:

84 EXT. FIFTH NIGHT CAMP. BARAFUNDLE BAY. BEACH [AS IS] 84

EVEING - MAGIC HOUR.

Still a little wet from the swim they have started to set up camp and Bill has a fire going. They are happy. But across the laughter James and Miles make eye contact. There is the hint of suspicion in both their eyes. James raises his morphine syrup in a toast to him.

Miles nods.

The laughter continues and their eyes are diverted by the chatter.

JAMES

Bill. Whatever the circumstances... any child will be so lucky-

Bill nods...

JAMES (CONT'D)

Bill, any names picked out?

BILL

Couple. But not really.

JAMES

How about Larch?

Davy and Miles try to stay straight faced. Bill thinks about this...

BILL

I quite like that.

James smiles. Davy and Miles at each other with silent horror.

CUT TO:

84 b EXT. FIFTH NIGHT CAMP [AS IS]- MOMENTS LATER 84 b

James is resting. The other three have gathered driftwood to make shelters around the fire, tying them with bits of rope from the flotsam and jetsam. As they work:

DAVY

...Waste of money. Hated going to the gym anyway. Full of Russian gangsters-

MILES

You haven't spent all your redundancy already have you?

DAVY

No-

MILES

Only. It's tough out there at the moment-

DAVY

No. I don't need-

MILES

I could have helped but, now-

DAVY

It's fine. But thank-

MILES

Do you have a little nest egg to-

MILES (CONT'D)

'Course you should put into property. But-

DAVY

Maybe I can get my old job-

MILES

Well, like I say, if I can throw something your-

BILL

Wait. Davy, 'get your old job back'? I thought you were made redundant? You can't.

Miles realises what Davy has said and both he and Bill look at him.

DAVY

Yeah. I, um...

BILL

You quit for this didn't you.

Davy doesn't answer. They are silenced.

Eventually Bill slaps him on the back and keeps working on the driftwood shelter.

So does Miles. But as he works...

MILES

You're a class act Davy. A class act.

With only a sideways glance to each other they on with their jobs, but this has meant the world to Davy.

CUT TO:

84 c EXT. FIFTH NIGHT CAMP. BARAFUNDLE BAY. BEACH. 84 c

The stars come out above the bay... The camp is quiet. They boys rest. Bill has fashioned driftwood into sculptures around the camp that act as a wind break and throw strange shadows in the flickering firelight.

CUT TO:

85 EXT. FIFTH NIGHT CAMP. BARAFUNDLE BAY. BEACH - MORNING. 85

They are sorting out their breakfast things.

BILL

Is there anything so restful as the sound of the ocean?

Only Miles looks away. He looks unhappy.

JAMES

Fuck. Sorry guys. I was so proud of myself for my stoicism. I thought I could wrap everything up neatly... and then-

MILES

I'm fucking your sister.

James just stares at him. Miles stares with a strange look of calm danger in his eyes that antagonises and inspires.

James nods slowly and looks to the sea. This is not what Miles expects. He looks to a stunned Bill and Davy.

Eventually James looks back at him impassively.

MILES (CONT'D)

I am totally and utterly in love with her and I have been for ten years.

JAMES

(Genuinely surprised now.)

Shit.

MILES

I watched her marry Mike and did nothing. Have children, settle down in her big comfortable life.... Only then did I really know I had to find... I pursued her. And I got her.

JAMES

My God.

MILES

We met up when you got sick and - well... Ironic isn't. Terribly ironic.

JAMES

Yes.

MILES

I'm going to buy a big house and one day, soon, she'll leave Mike. Then, sometime after, she'll bring the girls to my house...and she'll be mine.

Beat.

JAMES

I always knew she had a thing for you but, most women seem to-

MILES

NO. No. I wanted her. She would never have... I wanted her. So I took her. And we are perfect for each other. Perfect in every way. Perfect. Perfect.

JAMES

Jesus! I mean it'll...

James, Davy and Bill stare at Miles mentally envisaging all the stress and turmoil this will cause to all involved, after James is gone... Miles just stares back at James.

JAMES (CONT'D)

When were you going to tell me-
Oh. You weren't

MILES

No.

JAMES

So, do you want my blessing?

MILES
No. I'll do it anyway.

PAUSE

JAMES
Yep.

MILES
Yep.

They sit in silence.

MILES (CONT'D)
My father always told me that one thing is bigger and better and stronger than everything and everyone in this world put together. I'd ask him what it was and he would never tell me. He said I'd find out if I were any son of his. I...

JAMES
I do so hope it turns out well.

Silence.

BILL
So do I.

Miles looks at Davy who stares at the fire.

DAVY
It makes sense. Wierdly, it makes sense.

Miles is surprised by Davy's gravity. Humbled.

They sit in silence for a while again.

CUT TO:

85 a EXT. FIFTH NIGHT CAMP. BARAFUNDLE BAY. BEACH [AS IS] 85 a

They have fashioned a driftwood shelter out of bill's sculptures.

MILES
I know what you wanted.

JAMES
There is no ribbon to tie around it all is there?

He looks at Miles, who just stares at him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I thought I was ready... Now I look at Bill and wonder if I could just get through another nine months. And if I could hold on until Chloe is sorted with or without...

James stares at the sea. He nods slowly.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I'm leaving early. And it all goes on without me.

MILES

I'm so sorry.

James whips round to look at him.

JAMES

Strange thing is - this is what I was most afraid of. But now it's a relief, Milo. It's such a bloody relief.

Miles nods... James struggles to get up. Miles helps him.

CUT TO:

85 b EXT. FIFTH/SIXTH NIGHT CAMP. BARAFUNDLE BAY. BEACH [AS I\$5 b
EVENING.

James is stoking the fire but staring at the sea. Davy has a John Grisham paperback. Half of it is burnt.

DAVY

I think it's more interesting with half the page missing.

JAMES

I'm going to go for a swim.

Davy and Bill look at him but Miles' head drops.

DAVY

Your mum said you-

JAMES

I know. Tomorrow, I'm going to swim out into the bay, and I'm not coming back. I know the enormity of this, but I'm asking you to let me swim.

Bill and Davy stare at him in horrified silence. Miles' head sinks further and he stares at the sand.

DAVY

No.

BILL

Jim, we just can't do that. Why-

JAMES

You can. The question is will you?

BILL

Has this been your plan all along?

James nods.

BILL (CONT'D)

I thought you wanted to live. Why-

JAMES

(Gesturing to himself
and the effect the walk
has had.)

Because this is what my life is going to be like! Because of the pain, and the drugs I take for the pain, and the drugs I take for the side-effects of the other drugs...You've seen it. And it's only going to get worse. Life is all up here really, but it takes over. Gradually I'll slip further into thinking solely about pain. And that's not worth living for.

BILL

I don't know what the pain's like but surely we can...

JAMES

What?

BILL

I don't know. I just... We can't let you swim, mate.

JAMES

Stop saying you CAN'T. You can. But you won't.

James looks at Miles - silently, calmly watching.

BILL

What would we say to your mum and dad-

DAVY

This is crazy! I can't even believe you're talking about it normally!

JAMES

The same as you'd say to the police. That when you woke up I'd gone. You checked the dunes and then you saw something floating in the water. That you came to get me but it was too late. (Beat.) One of you had run up to the headland to the emergency phone. You wouldn't be alone for long.

BILL

But every time I looked at your family I'd know they could have had you for another day. Said goodbye properly...

JAMES

That's just it, there won't be a better goodbye than the one we had.

DAVY

There will! It's not time yet.

JAMES

I've never been so alive. And now I want to end it, to actually finish something!

BILL

Why don't you just go home and take an overdose like normal people.

James laughs.

BILL (CONT'D)

It'd be painless. You'd just fall asleep.

JAMES

I'd be quitting. If I swim out and the sea takes me, it's different... I'd be making the choice!

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

I want to be conscious until I'm gone, I want to feel something even if it's the pain of salt water in my lungs... I want to feel the fight. Something huge and terrifying and brave.

DAVY

I promised your mum I'd bring you back.

BILL

Sorry James.

Heartbroken, James looks at Miles.

Miles shakes his head.

JAMES

OK. OK. It was too much to ask.

He lies back and closes his eyes.

The others sit in silence looking to one another.

CUT TO:

85 c EXT. FIFTH NIGHT CAMP. BARAFUNDLE BAY. BEACH [AS IS OR 85 c
BROAD HAVEN BEACH]

NIGHT.

Miles and Bill sit staring into the flame huddled together for warmth. James shivers and grimaces a bit, shifting in discomfort. Davy comes out of the tent. Davy emerges from the tent with his pack. There's the big burn hole in it.

DAVY

I've lost the silver bag - it must have dropped out.

They rummage through their bags. There's no silver bag.

DAVY (CONT'D)

He doesn't have any morphine.

JAMES

I'm not deaf.

BILL

We'll find it. Miles?

James looks really worried for the first time. Miles looks terrified.

James nods. He's in pain. Davy tries to make James comfortable as Bill and Miles jog back up the path scanning the ground with their torches.

CUT TO:

86 EXT. COAST PATH. NIGHT. [TBC - BB NORTH?] 86

Inter-cut scenes of Miles and Bill running and searching in the dark for the silver med-kit, with:

CUT TO:

87 EXT. FIFTH/SIXTH NIGHT CAMP - CAMP. NIGHT. 87

James gets progressively more and more sick and his pain increases. Davy helps him into the tent. And wraps him in the sleeping bags. Moving into the tent causes him to cry out in pain and the sound carries across the headlands...

CUT TO:

88 EXT. COAST PATH. NIGHT. [TBC - BB NORTH?] 88

The beams of Miles and Bill's torches scan the ground and they can hear the distant sound of James crying out. They go on looking frantically.

CUT TO:

89 EXT/INT. FIFTH/SIXTH NIGHT CAMP. - NIGHT. 89

James writhes in agony, delirious, crying out to try and control it.

[Inter-cut with the coast path where the torch light beams scan the ground. James voice echoing through the darkness. Short of breath. Talking incredibly fast, almost indecipherable. Miles is in blind panic.

JAMES (V.O.)

Oh God!... Enough! I can't...
God! If can hear me! Please! GOD!
Fuck you! Help me!

90 EXT. COAST PATH. NIGHT. 90

The torch beams scan the ground. Miles and Bill run on.

JAMES (V.O.)

If there's nothing... if there's
nothing...

(MORE)

JAMES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 It's less than an instant... God!
 God! If there's nothing...

Suddenly the beam of Bill's torch falls on the silver bag containing the meds. He weeps with relief.

BILL
 I've got it! I've got it!

The boys run back and still they hear James calling out, getting louder and louder as they approach.

CUT TO:

91 EXT. THIRD NIGHT CAMP - NIGHT. 91

Davy rips the Med' bag open and takes out a bottle of syrup and helps James to drink it.... It quickly starts to take effect as Davy takes a morphine 'patch' and sticks it on James' arm. James is still shivering and wracked but his breathing slows a little... a quiet descends... Bill and Miles collapse by the fire with relief but don't talk. By firelight we see they have been traumatised.

DISSOLVE TO:

92 INT. THE TENT. MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. 92

Davy is fast asleep. Alone in the tent. Miles leans over him and wakes him gently. He wakes with a start sensing immediately that James has gone.

DAVY
 (Whispering.)
 Where is he?

MILES
 He's fine.

CUT TO:

93 EXT. MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. [BB OR BROAD HAVEN] 93

Miles leads Davy silently to the headland nearby where Bill stands, his arms supporting James, wrapped in a sleeping bag, who looks terribly ill. They look out into the moonlit bay... The air is filled with the sound of Whale song and soft puffing as they break the surface of the still water to breath. The boys look at each other and smile but say nothing.

DISSOLVE TO:

94 EXT. FIFTH/SIXTH NIGHT CAMP. [BB] - DAWN.

94

The grey light finds Miles and Davy and Bill still by the fire, awake and looking ravaged by the night's experience. Bill pokes at the embers and manages to get a flame again. Miles, looks from the sea to Bill. They stare at each other for a while. Davy notices their look. Miles nods at Bill slowly then looks back at the sea. Bill looks at Davy, then back at the fire.

James is now at the shoreline, sitting alone, wrapped in his sleeping bag. The sparkling sea laps at the shore. The boys watch him. James gets slowly up and turns to look at them. He smiles.

CUT TO:

94 a EXT. FIFTH/SIXTH NIGHT CAMP. [BB] 8 AM

94 a

Bill gets up, tears in his eyes and walks over to him.

JAMES

I get the feeling we'll meet again?

BILL

We're all just dust dancing in the flickerlight...

JAMES

Good luck, Bill.

Bill beams but a tear rolls down his cheek. James laughs warmly.

BILL

I'm shaking... I can't stop.

JAMES

Bill. Bill!... You're a giant! There are so few left.

James hugs him.

Davy comes to them. He is in shock.

DAVY

I can't do it... You can't do it. How-

JAMES

It's just tough. But you said it. It's amazing. Look around us. It's so worth it.

James hugs him. But Davy can't look at him.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I envy the people that you will
love.

James turns to Miles.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Mate.

MILES
(Nodding.)
Yep.

JAMES
Thank you.

They smile at each other. But their smiles fade slowly together. They look young and scared.

MILES
Go on if you're going.

James' fear is gone suddenly. He smiles and turns to the sea. He walks in gingerly, it's cold, he is breathing hard.

JAMES
You could catch your death in
here!

He goes in and swims a bit in the shallows. The cold takes his breath. He laughs... On the beach the boys look on in horror, Davy cries, shaking his head.

James looks at them then he turns around and starts to slowly swim out. He looks back once more and then swims on.

Miles takes off his shoes, and checks his pockets. He takes out some coins and with them the white feather. He looks at and tosses it away. Then he strides in to the water.

Bill follows and lastly Davy, though he's not sure if this is a rescue or not. It's not.

Miles catches up with James and swims near him. Bill is on the other side. Davy, the weakest swimmer, is behind. James looks at them, glad they are there. They swim in silence.

Davy is upset and accidentally swallows water and chokes. Suddenly he's struggling. Bill, Miles and James look at each other... there is something absurd about this. But Davy is in real difficulty and panics as he starts to go under, coughing and spluttering. Bill goes to his rescue. Bill struggles to hold him and takes him back to the beach. James and Miles watch the rescue with bewilderment.

MILES

Fuck. You nearly out-lived Davy!

James laughs and then gets a spasm of pain and he can't stay afloat. Miles drags James towards him.

James' nerve recovers and he pushes himself free. James treads water. They stare at each other for a few moments.

ON THE BEACH:

Davy tries to run into the water again, but Bill holds him back. Davy struggles to get away but Bill holds him firmly. Davy collapses on the sand. They watch helplessly.

IN THE WATER:

James is exhausted. He struggles then lets himself go under. Miles is unsure what to do. He looks to the shore and sees Bill and Davy. Then he looks at the bubbles rising. Silence. Suddenly James bursts from the still surface, gasping, reaching for Miles... Miles holds him. They stare at each other for a moment... then they laugh.

But the laughter fades...

MILES (CONT'D)

You've ruined this camping trip.
Can we go home now?

James shakes his head sadly.

JAMES

Sorry. If you can't do it. Tell me. I'll swim as far as I can... I'd rather not be alone, mate.

MILES

Jim. Jesus Christ, Jim. I act like I'm special, but it's fake... Jamie... It's fake. I'm scared. Of everything. There's no one to look after me.

JAMES

I think, Miles David Hector Clavell, you are one of the... great men. The stuff of heroes runs through your veins... I doubt you will escape it.

Miles can hardly breath. James stares at him and realises that he can't do it. And the disappointment is crushing.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Please Miles. Do this, this... dreadful, wonderful thing for me.

Tears run down James face. James takes a deep breath. He's shaking and he can't stay afloat.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Miles!

Miles holds him. They stare at each other. This is the end. James is weak and beaten and tired. He looks around at Bill and Davy. He looks at the sea, and the sky... and smiles... he looks relieved.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It's all so....

He looks at Miles. Miles still stares at him, he is petrified. James sees it. They keep fierce eye contact.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(Whispering.)

...We are the maker's of dreams,
and this little life...

MILES

That was the last thing my father
said-

JAMES

I know. I read your book.

Miles nods almost imperceptibly. Miles holds him by the shoulders and they stare at each other.

JAMES (CONT'D)

God speed.

James allows himself to sink under the water.

Miles can hardly breath. He stares down.

James stares up at him. Now Miles sinks with him.

He holds James under.

James breath runs out, and he starts an involuntary convulsion. His face shows the fear and panic and he grabs at Miles' face fighting to save himself - to swim to the surface - but Miles holds him under. Miles fights himself with all his will-power to hold him down. His own breath is running out. The urge to lift James from the water is unbearable. Their eyes never leave each other. Miles can't hold on much longer... Then suddenly James goes limp. He's still alive - staring. Miles has no need to hold him down now. The water has filled James' lungs. The bubbles of air have gone. He sinks. There is stillness. James sees the blue sky behind Miles, the sun light flickering on the surface of the sea behind Miles making him seem to glow.

FINALLY - Miles kicks to the surface. Alone.

He takes great gasps of air. His lungs finally fill. He is breathing. He is alive.

James is still under the surface. Miles stares into his face. James is dead.

Miles drags James' body towards the shore. Waist deep in the water he stands there. He doesn't move for a few moments, unable to believe that James is really gone. He tries to carry the body but he falls.

Davy rushes into the water first to Miles and hugs him.

He looks him in the eyes and hugs him again.

Then he looks at James and reaches under the water to touch him. Davy, Bill and Miles drag James from the water and on to the beach.

Bill, shaking, looks between Davy and Miles. Miles is lost in his own world. He slumps down staring at the sea too.

Davy stares down at James and reaches out to touch his hair but suddenly he stops.

DAVY

He's gone... This isn't him.

Davy arranges James body into a more 'comfortable position'.

He goes to the tent and gets a large towel and drapes it around Miles' shoulders. It is brilliantly white in the morning sun.

Davy looks at Bill and Miles and then at James. Then he runs away towards the steps up from the beach.

CUT TO:

95 EXT. JAMES HOUSE [GILTAR GROVE]

95

A police man and a policewoman walk towards the house. Chloe crosses the garden from the orchard with a bucket of apples. She sees them. She drops the apples. She stands motionless for a few seconds then she starts to pick up the apples quite calmly. She stops looks at the sky... then carries on picking up the apples.

CUT TO:

96 INT. JAMES HOUSE. [GILTAR GROVE] 96

The party scene as at the beginning. Slow motion. James is bending down towards the candles. His happy face illuminated by their flame of 29 candles.

JAMES (V.O.)

I'll raise a morphine syrup to you later, while I'm selling your presents on e-bay. And if over the years you should happen to notice that it's the anniversary of my birth remember that you were loved by me, and that you made my life a happy one... and there is no tragedy in that.

He takes a huge breath and... blows out the candles.

CUT TO:

97 EXT. BARAFUNDLE BAY 97

Davy comes running down the beach out of breath, but focussed. The other two don't look at him. He looks at his watch. He sits on the beach beside Miles.

They look at all the sky. At all the sparkling water.

FADE TO BLACK.

98 CAPTION: 98

James Kimberly Griffith

1979 - 2010

Accidental death by drowning.

FADE TO BLACK:

99 STARS: 99

Amidst the black, a firmament of twinkling stars appears.

JAMES (V.O.)

Listen, the thing about life is... What? (HE GIGGLES AGAIN.) Oh bollocks! We'll start again later... (HE LAUGHS LONG AND HARD.)

The laughter trails away... And for a moment there is
nothing but the universe then...

FADE OUT.