

THE PARTICLE

Written by

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BLACK SCREEN

MALE VOICE/EV (V.O.)  
One small moment before... the Big  
Bang -

Light! Blinding white, travels out - to us.

Particles collide in their trillions, stream outward.  
Elemental, multi coloured rivers swipe forward. Past.

From the point of Creation - a far off sound. White noise,  
louder, mixes into thunder.

Louder. Here, like trains crashing through your head.

So... FUCKING... LOUD.

MALE VOICE/EV (V.O.)  
(yelling)  
And with it, came Life.

EXT: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Among the dreaming spires, a starry sky.

TITLE CARD:-

'Tomorrow evening...'

GOWNED STUDENTS, confident, affluent. Walk, cycle along.

A discreet doorway. A brass plaque:-

'Cryogenics Laboratory Founded by Evangelos Schaeffer'.

The year founded obscured by foliage.

INT: CRYO LAB - NIGHT

An Operations Console, manned by one LAB TECH. A red light  
pulsates, with an insistent ping.

The Lab Tech checks the heavy Lab Manual.

LAB TECH  
Christ.

Reaches hastily for the telephone.

INT: REED'S CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

An Academic's flat. At her desk: PROFESSOR SUZI REED, 40s. At once energetic and gloomy, like a bird of prey. Her phone rings.

Work interrupted. Stands, straightens her attire to answer. The Lab Tech blurts on the other end.

REED  
It's happening now? You're sure?

INT: CRYO LAB - CONTINUOUS

The Lab Tech paces, fights panic.

LAB TECH  
Professor Reed, I am very sure.

INT: REED'S CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Reed gently hangs up. Deep breath.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - NIGHT

A Georgian power statement. Candlelit glow from windows.

TITLE CARD:-

'Schaeffer Family Home - Oxfordshire'

PRE LAP Polite murmur of dinner party conversation.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, DINING HALL - NIGHT

A dozen or so assorted GUESTS at a long table.

Head of the more lively end: CARA SCHAEFFER, 40s (more in wine years), enjoys a MALE GUEST's story.

The less lively end: ALAN, 50s, androgynous rock n roller, spurs never too sharp. Cautious interest as --

-- Housekeeper MRS CAMPBELL, 60s, no bullshit, attracts Cara's attention. Mimes a telephone call.

Cara nods, graciously moves her chair back. Brings her drink.

INT: SIDE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Party noise distant. Cara takes the phone.

CARA  
Thank you, Missus Campbell.  
Professor Reed, it's awfully late -

She listens. Wine glass grip tightens. Slams the phone down.

INT: REED'S CAMPUS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Reed gently hangs up. Gathers a bunch keys from a bowl.

EXT: OXFORDSHIRE COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Cara's Bentley growls through leafy bends.

INT: CARA'S BENTLEY (MOVING) - NIGHT

Thrash metal on the stereo. Cara, agitated, smokes a cigarette. Fingernails flick ash from a gap at the window.

EXT: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

Reed walks up to the Cryo Lab door. Amused, notices Cara's parked Bentley.

INT: CRYO LAB - NIGHT

Reed removes her coat with a flourish. The Lab Tech, tense next to Cara, rushes to Reed.

LAB TECH  
Can I - would you - tea?

Reed smirks, winks at the Lab Tech, who dashes off. Reed turns to Cara as she lights up.

REED  
Cigarette out, please, Cara.

Cara, resolute, smokes.

CARA  
How the hell could this happen? I'm supposed to be a bloody widow.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Sterile, single room. TV set, fixed to the wall, on mute. MEDICAL STAFF busily check equipment.

EVANGELOS SCHAEFFER, 20s, wild hair and beard. Sedated. Hooked to machines, ventilated. His gown slips, reveals healed puncture marks along his arteries.

An idle ORDERLY turns the TV up.

In the chaos, Ev flickers awake. Dazed, glances at the TV. On screen, images of hurricanes, droughts.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)  
... paradox of flood combined with  
drought, along with rising sea  
levels and further wildlife  
extinction, linked to claims of  
global warming, so far ignored by -

Ev's eyes droop shut.

Reed breezes in. Gives the Orderly a look of chastisement. He jerks a thumb to a NURSE. Points the TV remote.

TV off, Reed smiles thanks.

A syringe goes into Ev's arm.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - LATER

Room cleared of Staff. Reed, perched on the corner of the bed, gazes at Ev. He wakes again, properly.

REED  
Hey there. How do you feel?

EV  
Bit tingly.

She laughs.

REED  
Interesting, but I meant - how do  
you feel?

EV  
Terrible. Like shit.

REED  
Better. Good. Speech is clear.

Ev goes to sit up. Reed offers a hand. Ev, uncomfortable, stretches to reach. They shake hands.

REED (CONT'D)  
Welcome back, Ev. Professor Reed.

EV  
We've met.

REED  
Wow. We have. Many moons ago. I'm  
going to be looking after your  
mental health.

EV  
How long?

REED  
I'd say, as long as you like.

Ev casts a warning look.

EV  
How long?

She sizes him up.

REED  
Twenty years, Mister Schaeffer.

Ev, devastated, looks at her, around the room. Lies back.

REED (CONT'D)  
Mm - hmm.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Ev, track suit, sits alone, hunched on the side of the bed. Beard trimmed, hair cut. Angry scar across his skull.

His fingertips trace back across it. Stares ahead. Stands. Solid: still fit. Takes a step, walks to the door.

INT: CRYO LAB ANTE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Reed, behind one way glass, watches him.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Ev walks the corridor. Reed, unnoticed, stalks him.

INT: CRYO LAB REC ROOM / LIBRARY - DAY

Ev wanders the shelves. Selects an old Cosmology text book. Flicks through, smiles, like it's familiar.

In an armchair, scans the book. A heading catches his eye:-

'The Universe is Expanding'.

He stares at it, as if it's wrong. Places a finger over 'Expanding', blocks the 'xpa':-

'The Universe is E\_\_nding'.

Eyes squeezed shut, clasps the book to his forehead.

Reed observes, through fire door glass. Ev jumps up, strides to the door, sees Reed - caught. He bashes the door open.

EV  
Where am I from?

She's speechless.

EV (CONT'D)  
Tell me where I'm from.

REED  
Ev, I - what?

He shows her the book, closed.

EV  
This is all wrong. Why?

Reed, mouth open, stares at him. He crumples, book to his chest. Looks up at her.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - LATER

Ev, asleep, ventilated.

Reed and a JUNIOR DOCTOR stand over him. The Junior sets Ev's mask straight, shakes their head in wonder.

JUNIOR DOCTOR  
It's like a miracle.

REED  
Is it? Physically he's the same.  
His memory seems to be, at times,  
pinpoint accurate, with vast gaps.

JUNIOR DOCTOR  
Yeah. Still, why put yourself  
through this?

Distracted by their talk, they don't notice Ev stir, ever so slightly.

REED  
Wow. Remind me why you work here.

JUNIOR DOCTOR  
You know what I mean. A man out of  
time. He had his life before.

Ev's jaw silently works.

REED  
Exactly. You only get one chance.

Their attention turns back to Ev. Peaceful again.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Curtains closed, calm. Ev reclines on the bed, headphones on. Spots a pamphlet:-

'Your Recovery from Cryo-sleep - The Facts' on his bedside table. Picks it up, flicks it open.

EV  
'Disorientation is perfectly normal  
in participants, especially those  
suspended for a longer time.'

Slaps it back down.

EV (CONT'D)  
I could've told them that.

Settles into his pillow. Closes his eyes.

EXT: CABIL DREAMSCAPE - DAY

A quarry. Ev, work smock, stands alone. Aware of danger, breaks into a sprint.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

The Orderly blusters in, sweeps the curtains open. Sunlight pours in. Ev wakes, shields his eyes, wipes drool.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - DAY

Wood panels, Chesterfield leather. On a side table, a little prescription bottle of pills. Ev, headphones, tired but relaxed on the couch.

Reed sits by him, smiles, both at ease. Motions him to remove the headphones.

EV  
Sorry. My old albums. Apparently.

REED  
Memory still a bit iffy?

EV  
Ify? Stacked. Sharp, but all out  
of order. I think.

Ev indicates the open laptop on Reed's desk.

EV (CONT'D)  
That's new.



REED

A lot's changed during -

EV

I'll bite. Exactly, how long?

Reed waits for his memory to kick in. Faces him.

REED

Twenty years, two months...

The specifics fade into a mumble as Ev reacts. Jaw drops, eyes wide, breath laboured. Struggles to remain upright.

Reed grabs his shoulders. He's too heavy.

REED (CONT'D)

Try to relax. Here, take this.

Rattles a pill from the bottle. He waves it away.

EV

I thought you were going to say a couple of weeks. Months maybe.

REED

I know. A lot to take in.

EV

I don't feel different. Apart from being knackered.

REED

We brought you out of Deep Therapy a while ago, for your muscles and organs. To make sure. You were frozen the first few years. Tech developed and we transferred you. With nutrients and stimulus, it kept you from ageing. Avoided atrophy.

EV

You're kidding. Beauty sleep.

REED

Sort of. We have talked about this.

EV

Why can't I remember?

REED

Scientifically, that's more interesting.

Her chatter sinks away again. Ev tries to engage. Flops back, stares at the ceiling. Reed's voice fades up.

REED (CONT'D)  
... enough for now. We can catch  
up, when you're ready. Just rest  
here, okay?

Ev left on the couch, Reed goes to sit at her desk.

Lost in thought, his eyes dart about as Reed types. He  
breathes heavily. Head lolls, asleep. Twitches.

EXT: CABIL DREAMSCAPE - DAY

Ev runs. The sky shimmers bright blue.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - DAY

Ev wakes. Reed at her desk, proofreads. Ev looks around, as  
if he expected to be somewhere else.

EV  
When am I leaving? I think I  
remember where I used to work.

Looks at his smooth hands, nice nails.

Reed stops her report, focus back on Ev.

REED  
But you're not sure? Keep at it.

EV  
Can't you just bloody tell me?

REED  
Your mind's still very delicate.  
This organic process is vital. As  
for leaving, you're clearly not  
ready.

EV  
Nobody's even been to see me.

REED  
We see you.

Ev scowls at her. She gets up, crosses to him.

REED (CONT'D)  
Point taken.

EV  
I have people, though. Someone.

She touches his shoulder.

REED  
Let the memories come. Allow  
yourself to be gentle with this.

Taps her temple.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Ev watches TV. The BBC News opening theme plays. He notices the Orderly push a wheelchair past his open door. The Orderly pauses, slaps the chair.

ORDERLY  
This'll be you one day, mate.

EV  
I can walk, mate.

ORDERLY  
I've seen lads fitter than you. Get  
to the gate, wallop. Like a bag of  
shit, flat on their face.

EV  
Who?

ORDERLY  
Oh, not here. My last job. Oh yes.

The Orderly pushes off again.

Ev trails back to the TV.

BBC PRESENTER  
(on TV)  
... as Scientists predict the, it  
says here, 'end of time', which I'm  
sure is a typo -

CO-PRESENTER  
(on TV)  
Certainly puts climate change into  
perspective.

The Presenters laugh. Ev switches channel.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - DAY

Ev on the couch. Reed at her desk. Share a quiet coffee.

EV  
Shall we?

Reed taps her laptop screen - 'Record'.

REED  
So what's your last memory, before  
we took you under?

EV  
You want me to cap off a whole  
life?

She grins, shrugs.

Ev searches his mind. Clings to something.

EV (CONT'D)  
'The morning is far away.'

Dizzy, drops the coffee, grips the armrest. Gags.

EV (CONT'D)  
It wasn't me.

Slides to his knees, grabs the waste paper basket, throws up.  
Reed goes to him, pats his shoulder. Offers a napkin.

REED  
That's okay. We should expect  
confusion.

Ev recovers, wipes his mouth. Regains his seat. Reed stands,  
gets the basket. Ev screws his face up, pale, sweaty.

EV  
How is it not me?

She regards him clinically. Wraps the basket in a bin liner.

MOMENTS LATER

Ev, shaky, sips a glass of water. Reed sits opposite, waits.

EV  
It's a sense. A feeling. I keep  
having this same...

His mind wanders.

REED  
Same?

EV  
Vision, I suppose. It is me,  
running. I'm being chased by  
something big. There's people  
screaming behind me. But they're  
not like us. It's like, on another  
planet or something.

REED

Mm - hmmm.

She switches off the laptop. Picks up a pad and pen.

EV

Then, everything goes blue, and  
that's it.

Reed takes notes.

REED

How do you feel when you're there?

EV

Terrified. It's the end. Of  
everything.

REED

How does that make you feel now?

EV

Helpless. Overwhelmed. But it isn't  
real.

REED

What do you think it means?

A knock at the door. Reed tuts, goes to the door. Ev slumps  
as she exits. Pokes her head back in.

REED (CONT'D)

Sorry, Ev. I'll be back soon, okay?

EV

Yeah. I'm tired anyway.

Closes his eyes. The door clicks shut.

INT: CORRIDOR TO REED'S OFFICE - LATER

Reed hurries back.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ev wakes with a yell. Sees he's in the office.

INT: CORRIDOR TO REED'S OFFICE - DAY

Ev bursts out of the office, straight into Reed.

REED

Shit. Oh, sorry.

Ev tries to push past, realises it's Reed. Grabs her shoulders, stares at her urgently.

EV  
I know what it is. I know.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ev, frantic, paces. Reed stands to one side, lets him vent.

EV  
It's a particle. I had the same dream. I know it all. It's a planet called Cabil. I lived there, while my body here was stuck. They knew about it. Scientific, but, still superstitious - highly barbaric. Although they had outlawed sacrifice.

REED  
Sacrifice?

EV  
Yeah. 'Human' sacrifice - didn't work. I was just some random guy, part of the caste system, so I don't know the whole thing. But it's life. All life, in this particle they discovered.

Reed nods in sympathy, quietly gets her pad and pen.

EV (CONT'D)  
Yeah, I know what you're thinking, but it's real. I was there. How else could I know?

REED  
Ev.

He pauses.

REED (CONT'D)  
It could be very real, or it could just be...

EV  
No, I'm not explaining it properly. There's one each, see? They flip, instantly, round the Universe. Constant, but finite, so when one life stops here -

Extends an arm.

EV (CONT'D)  
Another starts... here.

Extends the other arm.

REED  
Right.

EV  
I was here, but because I was in  
Cryo, I could be there, too.

REED  
It sounds plausible.

EV  
There's something else.

REED  
Probably not feasible.

Ev grabs his forehead, looks at her.

REED (CONT'D)  
Do you see?

EV  
There's something else. The Light.  
The Blue Light.

Reed suppresses her doubt. Motions for Ev to sit.

REED  
Okay. The Light.

EV  
Two Lights. Red and Blue.

He stops. Serious. Quiet.

EV (CONT'D)  
Think it's nuts?

REED  
I don't use that word, but -

Ev laughs like a maniac. Reed jumps.

EV  
Oh, God. I don't even remember who  
I am here, but I lived on another  
planet. Sorry. It's bonkers. You're  
right.

Reed shakes a pill from the bottle. Ev takes it, sits.

REED  
Right. I'm telling you to rest now.

He nods.

REED (CONT'D)  
Come on. I'll walk you back.

Ev shambles off the couch, follows her.

INT: REED'S CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Reed, phone at her ear, gazes from her window.

CARA (V.O.)  
(on the phone)  
Another planet?

REED  
Yes, it's fascinating. I've never  
had a subject this convinced.

CARA (V.O.)  
(on the phone)  
Oh, yes. Fascinating, Professor  
Reed. Just, keep me informed.

Cara hangs up. Reed, inspired, smiles at the stars.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, CARA'S STUDY - NIGHT

Cara, at her desk, switches off the speaker phone.

Two dark suited LAWYERS, obedient, sit across from her.

She opens her palms to them, like it's a gift. They nod quickly for her.

LAWYER #1  
Any court would easily find in your  
favour. If not by insanity, then by  
diminished responsibility.

Cara squirms with pleasure.

CARA  
Perfect.

LAWYER #2  
Although, it will take time.

Produces a thick contract, pushes it to her.

LAWYER #2 (CONT'D)  
He signs this, he's finished.



INT: REED'S CAMPUS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Types at her laptop:-

'Participant is showing slight signs of paranoia with possible inclusion of an underlying Messiah complex...'

Keeps typing.

'... delusions of having lived on a planet (Cabil), where he believes there existed a threatening blue light.'

Yawns. Clicks 'Save'. Closes the laptop.

EXT: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - DAY

Reed, in an overcoat, closes her car door. Walks with a broadsheet newspaper to the Cryo Lab entrance. Flips the paper over. Reads:-

'Billionaire Schaeffer Wakes!'

REED  
Oh, Christ.

EXT: REED'S OFFICE - DAY

Seen through the window, Reed paces, blasts on the phone.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

She listens to someone on the phone.

REED  
It's out of the bottle now. Where's your conscience?

The other person talks. Reed cuts in.

REED (CONT'D)  
Don't you understand? If Mister Schaeffer claps eyes on this.

The other person talks.

REED (CONT'D)  
That's exactly why I don't talk to the bloody Press or allow bloody newspapers.

Slams the phone down. It immediately rings. She answers.

REED (CONT'D)  
Hello.

Her face crumples.

REED (CONT'D)  
Hi, Cara.

INT: CRYO RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Ev zonks out to daytime TV.

The Orderly stands, zonked behind him.

TV PRESENTER (V.O.)  
(on TV)  
Coming up in The Papers, the  
incredible story of a billionaire,  
asleep for -

The Orderly snaps to, lunges at the TV.

EV  
Hey.

The Orderly unplugs it, pulls at it from the wall bracket.

ORDERLY  
Ah, sorry, Mister Schaeffer. We - I  
need to have this set looked at.

EV  
Yeah. That's the idea.

Notices the Orderly's tabloid, folded in their back pocket:-

'Schaeffer...', the other side hidden.

As the Orderly struggles, Ev snatches the paper. The Orderly spins round to grab it back. Too late.

Open mouthed, he watches Ev read the headline.

REED (O.S.)  
Mister Schaeffer.

Ev's head jerks to Reed's voice. He holds the paper up. Jabs a finger at his old newspaper photo, just the same as now.

EV  
I'm Evangelos Schaeffer. You knew.

Reed steps forward, tries to gently take the paper. He flings it in the air. The Orderly scoots out.

EV (CONT'D)  
It's coming back. I built this,  
after my mother's death. I'm rich.  
Not just rich, really rich.  
(MORE)

EV (CONT'D)  
I own all this. You, Professor  
Reed, work for me.

REED  
It's not quite that simple.

EV  
I've got a family. I'm married.  
Kids. Two little kids.

REED  
Ev, I would definitely advise -

EV  
Oh, come off it. I'm leaving.

He laughs, crazy-happy, walks past her. She exhales, worried.  
Ev darts back in, extends his palm.

EV (CONT'D)  
I need your car keys.  
She's surprised. Still, doesn't object quite enough.

REED  
I don't think so.  
Ev holds his hand further out.

EXT: CRYO CAR PARK - DAY

Ev shivers. Fiddles with the key, zaps Reed's car unlocked.  
Opens the driver's door, stops.

EV  
What the hell's this?  
Reed catches up, carries a white lab coat, hands it to him.  
He puts it on.

REED  
It's electric.

EV  
It's... what? Why? Are you..?  
She gives a puzzled look. He throws her the keys.

EV (CONT'D)  
Sod it. You drive.  
(off her look)  
If you don't mind.

Reed puffs, gets in. Ev hops in the passenger side. Reed  
starts her car.

EXT: OXFORD CITY CENTRE - DAY

Reed's car, slow in traffic.

Reflected in the car windows, sandstone Uni buildings roll by. HOMELESS PEOPLE: sleeping bags and cardboard on the path.

Ev, in the white coat, privately troubled, sees them.

INT: REED'S CAR (MOVING) - CONTINUOUS

Ev turns to Reed, her attention on the road. They drive on.

EXT: OXFORDSHIRE COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Reed's car speeds along.

REED (O.S.)  
Anything else, family wise?

INT: REED'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Ev, wistful.

EV  
We shepherd the herd.

REED  
You mean flock.

EV  
Same thing. Oil, food, opinions.  
All marketable. Pops, on my  
Mother's side, he started it all,  
working for Whitehall, while they  
put him through Oxford. Their  
Psychological Mechanic.

REED  
Steering the ship.

EV  
Plotting its course. Kept the  
lights on anyway.

Reed glances at her Sat nav. Indicates, off the main road.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - NIGHT

Reed's car, slow through woods on the approach.

INT: REED'S CAR (MOVING) - CONTINUOUS

Ev glimpses lights from the house. Sits up for a better look.

REED

Wow.

EV

Yeah.

REED

How else did the Schaeffers -

EV

Investment, I think. Mostly.

REED

That's a real insight.

He laughs.

EV

Why are you asking me?

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

The car clears the woods. The house sweeps fully into view.

REED (O.S.)

Holy shit.

EXT: REED'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Ev smiles at her, at his home.

EV

Didn't you research it?

REED

Yeah, but... holy shit, Ev.

They go past lawns. On one side, an old Sea King helicopter sits, blades low.

Ev looks with fondness at his old toy.

Reed pulls around in front of the main entrance. Yanks the handbrake on. Ev cringes.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - NIGHT

Ballroom, in shadow. A lady: PIP (PIPISTRELLE), late 20s, dark hair high over fine features. Sips vodka on ice from crystal. Watches through a tall window as --

-- Ev and Reed climb the steps to the main door.

PIP  
(to herself)  
Hello, you.

She turns, faces dim light from the hall. Wears designer wellies, Sea Shepherd t-shirt over a cocktail dress.

Clenches her fist, inhales. Blows it out nervously.

EXT: MAIN ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Reed goes to knock. Ev stiffens, expectantly. Reed notices, pauses. Ev grins at her - stops, doubtful. Warily, tries the handle - it opens.

Relieved, offers Reed to go first.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Reception hall. Lights low, antiques and modern art. Ev stares about in familiarity. A Scottish accent booms at them.

CAMPBELL (O.S.)  
Welcome home, Evvy.

They turn to see CAMPBELL, 60s. A mighty, ex-special forces, Claymore sword of a man.

EV  
Bloody hell. Campbell.

Campbell marches up, shoves out his right hand. Ev grabs it, pulls him in for a hug.

EV (CONT'D)  
Couple more battle scars, I see.

CAMPBELL  
Ah, just souvenirs.

They laugh, release each other.

EV  
Hey. Does my old bird still get up?

Campbell scowls slightly, then twigs.

CAMPBELL  
Oh, the helicopter. She does indeed. For a moment there, I thought you meant -

A stomp of boots from the ballroom distracts them.

Reed and Campbell watch, to see Ev's reaction as Pip enters.  
Ev squints at her, works it out as she puts her glass down.

EV  
Pipistrelle. My Pip.

Huge grin, she sashays to him, arms out. Involuntary skip.

PIP  
Yes. Welcome home, Daddy.

Her eyes shine with love.

He looks her up and down. They embrace tightly, whisper.

EV  
You were so little.

PIP  
And you were so big.

She gazes, spellbound, around his face. Sweeps his hair lovingly back. Ev, equally awestruck.

Campbell goes to take coats.

PIP (CONT'D)  
God's sake, Cammers. Not today.

Ev and Pip part. She laughs delicately, wipes a tear. Turns to Reed.

PIP (CONT'D)  
You brought my Daddy home.

Reed, slight bow of the head.

REED  
You're welcome.

Pip drags the coats from Campbell, chucks them on a chair.

PIP  
It's his bloody birthday.

CAMPBELL  
Sixty-five today, still upright.  
Also, forty-two years I've been  
married to Missus Campbell.

EV  
It is not.

More hugs, backslaps.

CAMPBELL  
We've all a cross to bear.

PIP  
Calls for drinks, I'd say.

REED  
I agree.

Campbell shows an insistent palm.

CAMPBELL  
Which I will fetch.

He heads off.

Ev, Reed and Pip share an awkward moment.

PIP  
Everyone else is out riding.

EV  
Everyone?

REED  
Riding?

PIP  
Mmm. Down on the beach.

REED  
Beach? It's pitch black.

EV  
Yeah. The camels know the beach.

REED  
Right. Camels.

PIP  
Less bother than a horse.

Ev and Pip embrace again. To the rear, a door opens. Alan shuffles in. All heads turn, as he's followed by --

-- Cara: riding gear and crop, saunters in.

CARA  
(to herself)  
Uh. Shit.

Pip, delighted, skips to her. Pause, kiss cheeks.

PIP  
Mummy, look. We have company.

Ev steps forward, takes in the years on Cara. He beams, arms out. Cara, ugly smile, swerves him completely, looks him up and down as she stalks past.

Ev, left hanging, a puzzled shrug to Pip. She waves it off.



Alan mopes to one side. Cara's phone buzzes from her pocket. Turns her back, answers.

CARA  
Darling. Mummy's here.

A lull. Ev turns, smiles, extends a hand to a sour Alan. Campbell, back with a tray of drinks, sees Ev face Alan.

EV  
I don't remember you.

CAMPBELL  
Shit.

Pip intervenes.

PIP  
Shit. Daddy, this is...

Alan avoids eye contact. Accepts a tumbler of booze from Campbell.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Alan is actually Mummy's...

Cara, call finished, faces her guests.

CARA  
Alan. This is Evangelos. My...

EV  
Husband. Alan, pleased to -

CARA  
Ex. Husband.

Realisation creeps over Ev's face. Confused, hurt. His hand remains held out.

Alan looks to Cara, to check. She blanks him.

CAMPBELL  
Evvy. Drink?

Alan swallows hard on his whisky, meets Ev's gaze.

Campbell notices Ev sway. Tray in one hand, grabs Ev with the other.

PIP  
Daddy.

Pip and Campbell take care of Ev as he stumbles. Alan sidesteps, to Cara, checks his empty glass.

Ev recovers, slow, sorting. Smiles sheepishly at Pip and Campbell. Gets to his feet.

Cara sips, regards him with caution.

Campbell, whisky to his lips. It's removed by a woman's hand.

MRS CAMPBELL  
You shan't be needing this.

CAMPBELL  
Ah, hell.

MRS CAMPBELL  
Correct, and we shall avoid it.

Glowers at him. He backs down.

CAMPBELL  
One drink. Ev, remember the missus.

Mrs Campbell turns joyful at the sight of Ev.

MRS CAMPBELL  
Oh. Mother and Father.

EV  
Good evening, Missus Campbell.  
Beautiful as ever.

Quick embrace, cheeks kissed, glass still in hand.

EV (CONT'D)  
I thought you were all riding, down  
by the lake.

REED  
Ah, a lake.

BUD (O.S.)  
We were.

BUD (BUDDHA), mid 20s, built for rugby, strides in. Wipes  
filthy hands on his jeans.

Apart, faces Ev, both expectant. The moment's gone - no hug.

EV  
Bud?

Bud nods, gets a whisky. Knocks it back. Pours another.

EV (CONT'D)  
Bud? Bud.

PIP  
Hey, Buddha. Daddy's talking.

BUD  
I hear him.

Cara clinks glasses with Bud.

CARA  
Just say hello. He's here now.

Bud looks into her eyes, sighs. Doesn't look to Ev.

BUD  
'Hello'. Happy?

EV  
Well, this does bring back  
memories.

Bud stays with Cara. Alan scowls, attention flicks from one to the other.

The Campbells bristle, tongues held.

Pip tip toes next to Ev. Kisses his cheek, tickles his chin. Steps away again. Presents him.

PIP  
Look, everyone. Look.

They do.

PIP (CONT'D)  
He's home.

Ev stands alone. Surrounded.

MOMENTS LATER

Polite murmur. Reed sees it's family time, excuses herself.

REED  
Ev, can you see me to my car?

Ev extends his arm, walks her out.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - NIGHT

Reed stops Ev on the steps, hands him a pill bottle.

REED  
I didn't want to distress anyone.  
Further. It's vital you follow the  
label, for that dizziness, and your  
circulation.

Ev holds the bottle remorsefully.

REED (CONT'D)  
I telephoned the chemist in the  
village.

EV  
Stein's. I remember old Ken.

REED  
No. A young lady. Francesca?

EV  
That was their little girl.

REED  
Anyway, they have the prescription.  
Call me in the morning.

Ev misses her joke.

REED (CONT'D)  
Wow. I'll be here for lunch, and  
you can invite me to stay.

Reed goes to her car. Ev shakes the bottle for a goodbye.

INT: DINING HALL - NIGHT

Frosty. Mrs Campbell serves soup to the seated family, not  
dressed to dine.

Ev drains his wine glass.

MRS CAMPBELL  
More Burgundy?

He leaps up.

EV  
Allow me.

INT: KITCHEN - NIGHT

Campbell on a stool, out by the back door, cleans a shotgun.  
Stops, rolls a cigarette. Ev comes by, two wine bottles in  
each hand, lingers on the second hand smoke.

CAMPBELL  
Settling in?

Ev puts the bottles down, steps out.

EXT: KITCHEN - NIGHT

Looks straight to the stars.

EV  
You want the light on?

CAMPBELL  
Nah. Could do it with my eyes shut.

They soak up the peace.

Distant crash, furniture down a flight of stairs. Ev glances over to --

EXT: THE COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

-- a grand residence in itself, but still 'The Cottage'.

CAMPBELL (O.S.)  
Aye. That'll be Pops.

EXT: KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ev, happily amazed.

EV  
Pops. He's still alive?  
Campbell chuckles, lays the gun down.

CAMPBELL  
You are.

INT: THE COTTAGE - NIGHT

A sideboard scrapes along under an old man's exertion.

EXT: KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ev palms tears from his eyes, deep breath.

EV  
Let's say hello to Pops.

EXT: THE COTTAGE - NIGHT

Ev bounds towards it. Campbell, steady behind him.

POPS (O.S.)  
Ah, fu -.

Through a window, Ev hears the old man grunt.

Ev gets to the front door - tries it. Locked. Hammers his fist on it. Campbell catches up.

POPS: 80s, alpha hippy, flings the door open. Freezes. Stares at Ev.

Ev smiles in disbelief. Campbell smirks alongside.

POPS (CONT'D)  
Sunshine.

Ev, a tiny nod. Grunts as Pops sweeps him in the air.

POPS (CONT'D)  
Ah, fu -.

INT: THE COTTAGE - NIGHT

A Swinging Sixties, Imperial relic. Ev and Campbell sit as Pops holds court.

POPS  
Yet here we are. You, wide awake.

EV  
Mixed reception, I'm afraid.  
Especially Bud.

POPS  
He's just got the PhD blues.

Ev's impressed.

POPS (CONT'D)  
Thinks the world should've fallen  
in his lap.

EV  
What did he study?

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - NIGHT

Ev stands in front of Pip and Bud, seated, post dinner drinks. Only Pip smiles.

EV  
Theology and Subcontinental  
Textiles?

Bud looks uneasy. Pip's smile widens.

BUD  
Yeah.

Ev expects more.

EV  
Okay. What do you believe in?

BUD  
I lean toward Creationism.

PIP  
He still can't explain why there  
aren't any cave paintings of  
dinosaurs.

EV  
What about you?

PIP  
Fashion, darling. Got a first from -

EV  
Fashion?

Pip straightens, defensive.

PIP  
Yes. You know. T-shirts and shit.

EV  
I remember.

PIP  
He can knit his own prayer shawl.

Ev looks away. Pip's giggle gets him going.

BUD  
Piss off, Pip.

Launches himself, storms out. Ev mock pleads with Pip.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Lamplit. Cara tucks herself neatly in. Picks up a paperback.

Alan hangs up both their clothes. Switches lights off.

CARA  
Another legal expense is all he is.

Alan gets in beside her, kisses her forehead. No response.

ALAN  
That's all done. Are you..?

Cara reads.

ALAN (CONT'D)  
Goodnight, then.

Turns his lamp off. Snuggles down.

CARA  
Mm - hmm. Nod off, Alan.

Distracted, loses her page. Flicks back, reads.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, BREAKFAST TERRACE - DAY

Ev, aviator sunglasses, shorts and T-shirt. Tucks into bacon and eggs.

Cara emerges, negligee and gown. Same sunglasses. Pauses on seeing Ev. Sits, pours a coffee.

EV  
Bright today.

She grunts, sips. A twinkle enters Ev's eye.

EV (CONT'D)  
Where's old what's his face?

CARA  
Alan. Asleep.

EV  
Alan. What does Alan do, workwise?

CARA  
He's a singer.

Ev eats, thinks. Very serious.

EV  
What does he sing?

CARA  
Songs. Of course.

EV  
Is that his stage name? Alan.

CARA  
We have his first album out next month.

EV  
We? Ah, 'we' are funding -

CARA  
I am funding.

EV  
With our money - this vanity project.

CARA  
He's expected to be very popular.

EV  
Well I've never heard of him.

CARA  
You wouldn't, would you. Honestly.



Pip, same sunglasses, sits with them.

PIP  
Goodness. Are you still at it?

EV  
Will you be buying Alan's new  
album?

PIP  
Jesus, no.

Butters toast, takes a bite.

PIP (CONT'D)  
I'll get it for free.

Ev rubs his fingers in the cash sign at Cara. She gives him  
the V sign.

Ev smiles lovingly at Pip.

EV  
No Bud?

PIP  
Still in his wank wagon.

EV  
I see.

All three look to --

-- The Gardens, as Campbell drags a PAPARAZZI from bushes.

CARA  
At least Campbell's enjoying your  
return.

Pip taps Ev's thigh, to reassure. Breakfast continues.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Ev and Campbell shoot clays. Campbell works the trap.

EV  
Pull.

Takes a shot, another. Both miss.

CAMPBELL  
Need to get your eye in.

Ev, disgruntled, ejects spent shells.

They swap. Campbell, sly smile, loads his gun. Ev loads the  
trap with clays: thumbs up - ready.

Campbell raises the barrel.

EV  
Campbell?

CAMPBELL  
Yes, Evvy.

EV  
Has anyone ever properly pissed you  
right off?

CAMPBELL  
Well, yes. Pull.

Clays fly. Campbell shoots twice, both dead center.

EV  
Nice. What happened?

CAMPBELL  
The previous Missus Campbell, not  
the loyal type. That kind of thing.

EV  
That. Yep.

CAMPBELL  
I paid the guy a visit one evening.

Ejects the shells, smoke curls across his face. Stares at Ev,  
loads without looking. Snaps it shut.

EV  
Oh, right.

Campbell holds the gun out for Ev.

CAMPBELL  
Then I left. Completely.

Ev takes the gun.

EV  
Thank you, Campbell.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Reed, change of clothes, puts down a small suitcase.

Delicately touches precious ornaments. Ev watches her.

EV  
Pops always said 'Step in a puddle,  
new shoes'.

REED  
Don't you worry?

Ev winds an old wristwatch, slips it on.

EV  
Schaeffers? We... appreciate. This  
was my Nanny's room. Very quiet.

Shows her an adjoining room. Reed contemplates the wealth.

INT: NANNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Reed unpacks her case. Sets out a small framed photo of a young man, British Army officer uniform (LIEUTENANT REED).

EV  
You have a family?

REED  
Most people do.

EV  
You know what I mean.

REED  
Yes. A boy. A man, actually.

Ev considers this.

EV  
You should go and see him.

REED  
That's a little tricky. He's  
overseas, somewhere.

Rapid knock at the door. Ev opens it, to --

-- Cara. Steps in, seductive mode. Ev allows her forward.

EV  
Professor Reed, my... widow. Cara.

REED  
We've already -

CARA  
Pleased to meet you, properly, Ms  
Reed.

REED  
Likewise. I'm acting as Ev's  
biographer, for the interim.

CARA  
Really? Our very own fact gatherer.

EV  
Cara. Be nice.

She smiles, far too much.

CARA  
We'll set one more for dinner,  
unless you've other plans.

EV  
There you go.

Cara pauses, Reed doesn't decline. Cara slinks out.

CARA (O.S.)  
Come along, Alan.

EV  
That would be a coffin nail in  
anyone's marriage. Shall we?

Offers Reed his arm.

REED  
Actually, I do have one idea.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT

Reed places the final chair in a circle.

EV  
They will not go for that.

Reed, disappointed, surveys her plan.

Pip enters, pretend wide eyed. Takes a seat. Bud mopes in.

BUD  
What's going on, then?

Alan opens the door for Cara. She giggles through, sees the assembly. Stops dead.

REED  
I thought we'd all benefit from -

CARA  
Therapy? Honestly?

REED  
Family therapy. Yes.

EV  
Family?

Alan stiffens. Cara steps in front.

CARA  
Suits me.

They circle the chairs, wary. Reed sits first, smiles patiently. Slowly, they take positions.

REED  
Well, then. Who'd like to -

MOMENTS LATER

Bud storms out, door slams. Alan, face buried in his hands. Ev sits, shakes his head. Cara and Pip, blue murder.

CARA  
Darling, you can't possibly imagine.

PIP  
I don't need to. I lived it.

REED  
Please, please, just one at a time.

EV  
It's no good. She won't listen.

CARA  
Absolutely devastated. I was here for you.

PIP  
When? Always up in bloody London.

EV  
Professional shit stirrer.

PIP  
You're right, Daddy.

CARA  
Oh, Daddy. Wonderful Daddy.

REED  
Can we, please, all stop.

It stops.

Cara leaves. Alan follows. Pip bangs piano keys. Ev, justified, smiles at Reed.

EV  
That went well.

Pip chuckles. Trails a finger on the keyboard. Plays scales.

REED  
It's a process.

Ev goes to the piano, listens to Pip. Frowns at --  
-- a framed photo of Alan, headphones in a recording studio.  
Pip notices.

EV  
What does this guy do?

PIP  
Do?

Plays as they talk. Reed jots therapy notes.

EV  
Yes. Do.

PIP  
Mummy said - he sings. And he did a movie.

EV  
What was that called?

PIP  
Gosh, er, it was a remake of -

EV  
A bloody remake?

Pip stops. They burst out laughing. Reed sees the joke.

Ev wipes tears.

EV (CONT'D)  
That's perfect. Goodnight, Pip.

Kisses her forehead. Leaves her, to play.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, LIBRARY - NIGHT

Ev wheels an old fashioned school chalkboard out of his way.  
Peruses a section:- 'Sciences'.

His finger trails along, to:- 'Cosomology'. Selects a book,  
flicks through.

Reed sits patiently nearby.

REED  
It's way late, Ev.

EV  
I know, I know.

REED

You, your brain. You need rest.

He slaps the books shut.

EV

I'm going to tell you everything.

Readies himself. Reed waits, sceptical.

Ev deflates, paces. Reed holds up a stick of chalk. Ev grasps it, makes to the board, draws.

EV (CONT'D)

Like this.

Sketches a large rectangle, bangs on it. Reed flinches.

EV (CONT'D)

This. Completely solid metal.

Jabs dots of chalk.

EV (CONT'D)

But a particle, can...

Streaks a line of chalk, as if through the metal.

EV (CONT'D)

... and this is the amazing part.

Reed suppresses amusement. Ev turns to her: teacher to ill behaved student.

REED

It might surprise you to learn, as a scientist, I am aware of quantum superposition.

EV

It's not your field.

REED

Is that a joke?

EV

Well, there you go.

REED

On a small scale.

EV

On Earth.

Flips the board. Draws two circles. Labels one 'Earth', one 'Cabil'.

EV (CONT'D)  
Not on Cabil.

Reed closes her eyes.

REED  
Of course.

Ev, full steam.

EV  
On Cabil, they discovered that it  
was, is, happening on a Universal  
scale.

Zig zags a barrage of chalk.

EV (CONT'D)  
Constantly.

Reed struggles.

REED  
It's a theory.

He turns, advances on her, chalk thrust out.

EV  
No, Professor Reed. Theories can be  
disproven. This is cold, hard,  
scientific fact.

Reed's hands close around Ev's chalk. She nods in sympathy.  
Ev, intense, looks into her eyes.

EV (CONT'D)  
You will see.

REED  
Perhaps.

Ev goes to his illustration, picks up the eraser. Hesitates.

EV  
I'm here. That's what counts.

Reed, quick to agree, jumps up.

REED  
Yes. For Pip and Bud.

Ev nods, wipes the board, swallows hard.

PRE LAP

REED (O.S.)  
What do you think?



EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Ev, seated on a stool by an easel. His mind has wandered.

Pip sits at her own easel, paintbrush frozen, mouth open.

EV

Sorry, I was... How did you become  
head of the Cryo Lab?

Reed reclines nearby on the grass.

REED

Would you ask a man that?

EV

I don't mean that. You're  
Psychology, right?

REED

So?

Clicks her pen closed.

EV

Wouldn't a medical doctor, or a  
surgeon fit the bill better?

REED

I see, I see. My predecessor was  
surgically qualified. I was chosen  
for my expertise after we realised  
what'd be required for recovery.  
Physics and biology techniques had  
developed. That meant a patient's  
mental recovery was prioritised.

Ev absorbs it. Back to painting.

Reed watches him, clicks her pen open.

REED (CONT'D)

So, what do you think?

PIP

Did you have children there?

EV

I don't know.

Pip stares at him. Realises what she just said. Shakes the  
silly thought from her head.

REED

Were there children there?

EV

Honestly, why should I lie?

REED  
To spare their feelings.

EV  
I wouldn't lie to Pip and Bud.

REED  
Okay.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

Ev, Pip, Bud, Cara (& Alan) argue. Reed takes notes.

PIP  
He thinks we're conduits.

BUD  
Very good, Pip. The only thing  
you're a conduit for is vodka.

Bud mimes drinking and pissing like a girl at the same time.  
Pip gives him a V sign.

Cara regards Bud - he looks down. Ev scowls. Alan fidgets.

Reed's eyes flick back and forth.

CARA  
Children.

All eyes on Cara.

CARA (CONT'D)  
The point is, we're here because  
your father screwed his life up.  
And, yet again, ours.

Alan nods sagely. Ev cocks his head.

EV  
I have? Me alone?

Cara, over the top innocence.

EV (CONT'D)  
Not you, for telling my own  
children I was dead.

Alan tuts. Cara postures, pleased.

ALAN  
What could we do?

Ev shoots him a puzzled look.

EV  
You?

Dismisses Alan, faces Cara again. She offers a slow shrug.

EV (CONT'D)  
The truth ever occur to you?

CARA  
'Daddy's an icicle'.

EV  
Daddy's still alive.

CARA  
It's all about you.

Alan sniggers. Pip scowls at him. He's oblivious.

EV  
My children, Cara.

She waves it away.

CARA  
My children.

Alan clears his throat, folds his arms.

EV  
Why is he here? Why are you here?  
If I'm not dead, and I feel okay,  
she's not a widow, and we're still  
married. Sorry to piss on your  
bonfire, but that means you're not.

Alan frowns, twitches.

CARA  
Shit.

EV  
There you go, kids. Mummy and Daddy  
just got married again.

Everyone stares at Cara.

ALAN  
Is that true?

EV  
I can help you pack, or just have  
whatever belongings are actually  
yours sent on. We wouldn't want any  
confusion, now would we?

Cara glowers at Ev. He smiles back.

PIP  
Daddy?

Ev sees she's upset.

EV  
Darling, I'm only joking. It's just  
a joke. We're not really.

Pip goes to the bar. No one stops her.

BUD  
Maybe you should go back in the  
chamber. Just piss off back to  
Cabil.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Reed slinks along.

Ahead, just around the corner --

-- her footsteps approach lightly. She rounds the corner. Bud  
leaps out.

BUD  
Aah!

She jumps.

REED  
Aah!

BUD  
Oh, it's you.

REED  
Shitty shit.

BUD  
Have you seen Pip?

Reed pulls herself together. Glances over his shoulder.

REED  
I have not.

He shrugs, goes to seek Pip. Leaves Reed, shaken. Pip emerges  
from the shadows, places a finger to Reed's lips.

PIP  
Ssh. I mustn't be seen.

Skips away.

Reed's eyes narrow. Walks on, bewildered.

INT: CARA'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Reed faces Cara. Both have their arms folded.

REED  
He's not stupid.

CARA  
I know.

REED  
So..?

Cara, surprised Reed should question her.

CARA  
What do you want?

Reed, stumped.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Let me guess. You, and your  
condition, want to keep our  
agreement.

Reed backs off.

CARA (CONT'D)  
So, for us both to get what we  
want, keep going.

Goes to the door, holds it open for Reed. She leaves.

INT: DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

Ev, sprawled on a couch, stares into the fire. Pip's laughter just outside distracts him. She stumbles in. Ev cringes.

PIP  
I've found my Daddy.

Ev watches her dance over like a marionette, pretend to cut her strings. Flops beside him.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Daddy the spaceman. Home at last.

EV  
Hello, Pip.

PIP  
'Hello, Pip'. Do you know my real  
name?

EV  
Yes. I named you.

PIP  
Gave me a name, then vanished.

EV  
I haven't really been away.

PIP  
Literally, you were. Whether you  
were gone here, or gone there, to  
me you were just gone. As errant  
father stories go, Evangelos, it's  
a peach.

EV  
Only the best for us. 'Step in a  
puddle...'

She laughs, big, drunk.

PIP  
Quite right. Vodka.

Skips to the bar. Ev follows immediately.

EV  
Enough's enough. Early start.

They fun wrestle the bottle. Pip lets go. Opens another.

PIP  
Come on, Daddy. One won't hurt.

EV  
But you are pregnant.

She gives up.

PIP  
Right again. Aren't you clever.

He guides her from the bar. Sees her wobble off. Shivers,  
reaches for his sheepskin. Digs out the pills Reed gave him.

Holds the label to the light. Can't make it out.

EV  
Ah, so fu -.

Necks a handful.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS, STABLES - DAY

Campbell leads a camel out. Flexes a sore fist as he hands  
the reins to Ev.

EV  
That looks nasty.

Campbell sits the camel down, for Ev to mount.

CAMPBELL  
It'll heal. I pounced on one of  
they guys by the south wall.

They talk across the camel.

EV  
Yes, I meant to say, 'Well done'.

CAMPBELL  
We might be getting sent a  
dentist's bill, though.

Ev mounts. The camel stands.

EV  
Ah, I wish I could... do that.

Campbell grins, shakes his head. Hands Ev a shotgun. He  
slides it into a gun boot on the saddle.

CAMPBELL  
Then why would you want me here?

Ev smiles, concedes.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - DAY

Cara admires Campbell and Ev riding side by side on the lawn.

Alan lingers in the gloom. Places a folder on her desk.

CARA  
Not under current circumstances.  
Sorry, darling. As soon as we can.

ALAN  
Right. When would you look at it?

Cara, sincere as hell, looks at Alan's album artwork.

CARA  
This is a really difficult month.

He accepts. Cara, back to her own business, like he's gone.  
Unsure, he dithers for a moment. Leaves.

INT: THE COTTAGE - NIGHT

Pops takes a big hit from his bong. Fluffs his scalp, wild.

POPS  
Yeah, man. Go see the cats in  
Whitehall. They'll tell you all  
about it.

Reed tries to hide her disdain. Fails.

Ev gurgles on the bong.

EV  
That's why I came back, Pops. To  
tell everyone.

POPS  
Oh? Think they'll want to listen?

Ev, disheartened.

POPS (CONT'D)  
The seduction of finding one's own  
opinion always correct. Simple,  
really. And, how we got all this.

REED  
I see. Of course.

EV  
But it's progression. How to nudge  
people to the other conclusion.

Pops nods.

POPS  
Good answer.

Reed agrees.

REED  
I think we should be encouraging  
Mister Schaeffer's development as  
positively as we can.

Pops ignores her. Ev stares off, lost in thought.

REED (CONT'D)  
Excuse me, Mister Sch -

POPS  
For the love of Shiva, call me  
Pops.

Reed struggles with it. Fails.

EV  
I have to try.

Pops claps a hand on Ev's shoulder. Pats his face lovingly.



POPS  
Yeah. You do. Good kid.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

Ev wheels the chalkboard in. Pip opens a bottle of vodka.

EV  
Hang on. We agreed.

PIP  
Just what I need. A saviour.

EV  
No, come on.

PIP  
You don't believe me? How unlikely.

EV  
Do you really want this baby, Pip?

Pip gazes down to her belly. Her hands hover over it.

PIP  
I felt like I'd been given this  
promise to look after, but it was  
too much, and the promise just  
vanished. I didn't lose it, I  
didn't touch it. It went, and I was  
left with nothing.

Ev places one hand on hers. Puts the top back on the bottle  
with the other.

They sit together. Pip weeps. Ev comforts.

Mrs Campbell quietly leaves a tray of coffees.

The rest of the house file in. Ev smiles up at them. They  
each stare back at his arms round Pip.

Reed, last in, closes the doors behind her.

All seated, Ev takes the floor. Deadly serious, goes through  
his quantum lecture --

-- The chalk illustration - the zigzags, particle ability.

-- His audience, uncomfortable, try to process it.

-- Reed quickly scribbles notes.

-- Lecture delivered, Ev proudly lays the chalk down.

Reed, anxious for him, waits for the reaction.

Pip, narrow eyed, stares at Ev. Bud, sceptical, looks from Cara to Pip, to Ev, round again.

Alan checks his fingernails. Cara places his hand in his lap. He complies. She watches her kids.

Pip goes from sad to upset.

REED

Pip, you seem -

Pip runs out in tears. Ev, helpless, watches her go.

BUD

This fantasy. I'd say you need to  
up the dose, Professor.

Cara, a sly nod. Bud takes her approval. Gets to his feet, points angrily at Ev.

BUD (CONT'D)

You, go and apologise to my sister.

Ev, astonished, takes a seat. Bud casts his hands down in anger. Storms out. Reed's pen scratches away.

CARA

Well done. Is there an encore?

EV

What?

She laps it up.

CARA

She's already lost one baby. And  
no, it wasn't in her handbag.

Reed's pen stops. She looks away, ashamed.

EV

This isn't meant to -

CARA

No, let's hope not.

EV

It's not like I was informed.

CARA

Difficult to keep in touch?

EV

I'm trying to explain.

Cara smiles - it's too good.

CARA  
Pip's always been the sensitive  
one, remember?

Ev, despondent. Cara stands.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Come along, Alan.

Alan drains his cup. Cara stalks past Ev. From the corner of his eye, he sees Reed gently close her notebook.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Bud, grim, stomps along. Stops at a door. Grasps the handle, pauses. Calms himself. Knocks.

INT: PIP'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Pip, all weepy on the bed.

PIP  
Come in.

Ev's head peeps round, sheepish. Carefully crosses to her.

EV  
Hey, you.

PIP  
What's wrong with you, Dad?

EV  
Ah, yeah. Two of a kind, eh?

No dice.

EV (CONT'D)  
Your mother told me what went on.

She sighs.

PIP  
The breakdown? I suppose we are.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Persistent knock at the door. Alan ties his dressing gown. Busies about.

ALAN  
Guess who.

Cara peels herself off the bed. Ties her gown.

CARA  
It's his home, and I'm his mother.  
Goes to the door, opens it, to peeved off Bud.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Come in, darling.  
He steps in. The door begins to close.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev's door shuts. Deflated, he turns to Reed.

EV  
I didn't ask for any of this.

REED  
You engineered it.  
Ev shoots her a look.

REED (CONT'D)  
The chamber, I mean.  
Ev thinks.

EV  
Hmm. That bloody chamber.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Reed pulls on a sun hat, exits the house. Finds Ev, sheepskin on, heroically holding a wooden oar upright.

EV  
I thought we'd visit the island.  
She laughs.

REED  
Of course. You've got an island.

EV  
It's not far. But I'll row.

REED  
Thanks.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS, LAKE - DAY

Ev's row boat cuts through the water.

INT: ROW BOAT (MOVING) - DAY

Ev makes a casual show of rowing.

EV  
It's silly. I could so easily give  
Cara everything she thinks she  
wants.

REED  
Yes. Why don't you?

EV  
Exactly. Why don't I?

Reed, secretly pleased.

REED  
That's your decision.

He laughs.

EV  
It's not my decision at all.

She's confused again. Ev watches her, deciding something.

EV (CONT'D)  
The Particle. Cabil. That's not  
everything.

Reed, professional again, nods.

EV (CONT'D)  
It's irrefutable.

REED  
Wow.

EV  
Yeah. You'll see.

She winces, doubtful. The bow of the boat beaches on the island. Ev leaps out, helps Reed.

EXT: ISLAND - DAY

Ev and Reed sit together on Ev's coat.

EV  
I used to bring Bud here. Pip, too,  
but Bud was the Captain. I was the  
Crew. We'd play shipwrecks. Cast  
off a message in a bottle, that  
kind of thing.

He stares at the water, deeply sad.

EXT: LAKE - DAY

Ev rows Reed back to shore. Reed rests her eyes as they go.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, LIBRARY - NIGHT

Pip contemplates Ev, through a cloud of exhaled joint smoke.

PIP  
So, you're like, the first  
intergalactic poverty tourist.

Bud, sagelike, nods.

PIP (CONT'D)  
There's a claim to shame.

Ev regards them both: hopelessly stoned.

EV  
I suppose that's fair. Considering.

PIP  
It's a perfect assessment, given  
the facts.

Ev, pleased at the lack of aggression. Taps his bicep, does a strongman pose.

EV  
Well, I'm tired. See you tomorrow.

Goes to the door, calls back.

EV (CONT'D)  
And keep off the grass.

PIP  
But Daddy, we're T.H.C.

He pauses, cocks his head. The smokers sputter, giggle.

PIP (CONT'D)  
The High Council.

EV  
Highly amusing.

Walks out, leaves them to it.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev, asleep in bed, stirs. Mumbles, writhes in a nightmare.

EXT: CABIL DREAMSCAPE - DAY

Ev runs in the quarry. Stops. Looks back, terrified, at a huge blue flash.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev, distressed, whispers in his sleep.

EV  
I'm not dead.

Wakes, kicks the sheets, wipes his brow.

EV (CONT'D)  
Oh, Jesus.

INT: REED'S / NANNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ev bursts in, light goes on.

EV  
Still awake?

REED  
What the fu -.

EV  
I need to talk, now.

REED  
Give me a minute.

MOMENTS LATER

Therapy in nightclothes/underwear. Reed, shaky sip of coffee.

REED  
Well?

EV  
I know what happened on Cabil.

REED  
Oh, God. Okay.

Flips open her pad. Ev has the Cosmology book. She sees it.

REED (CONT'D)  
You did not wake me up for this.

He shows her the 'xpa' text, hidden under his finger trick.

EV  
I've seen it. It's why I'm here.  
How I came back. I died on Cabil.  
Shit. Cabil's gone. Destroyed.

Reed lays her pad to one side.

REED  
What do you mean?

INT: DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed, patience low, watches Ev at the chalkboard.

EV  
Okay, you understand Red Light,  
Blue Light.

Reed goes along.

REED  
Yes. Objects moving away give off  
Red Light. Opposite direction,  
Blue.

Ev illustrates it in red and blue chalk.

EV  
Putting it simply, yeah.

REED  
Well, you know. It's not my field.

Ev charges on.

EV  
Once the Blue Light arrives,  
clearly that's too late. Not that  
anyone can do anything. It's just  
like a gigantic reset button. Then,  
we start again. Because...

Circles the whole thing in a ring of chalk.

EV (CONT'D)  
... it's all one big prototype.  
You, me -

He sees Reed is sad, about to cry. Crouches by her side.

EV (CONT'D)  
Hey. No need to be scared.

Reed touches his face, smiles.

REED  
I'm not.



EV  
That's the spirit.

She despairs as he goes back to the board.

REED  
Ev.

EV  
So I was killed here. The particle,  
by some fluke...

REED  
Ev.

EV  
... wakes up with me when I'm  
brought out of the chamber. I'm  
ahead of the Universe, thanks to  
the particle.

REED  
Ev. It's not real. It's your brain,  
processing. It'd speed your  
recovery to concentrate on more  
Earthbound memories.

He's amazed. Points to the board.

EV  
This is going to happen.

REED  
Okay. Let's prove it.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Reed adds a finishing touch to something on her laptop.

Hands it to Ev.

REED  
Based on the, quite frankly, scant  
parameters you've supplied, this  
ought to work.

He sits, ponders the keyboard. Reed smirks, helps.

REED (CONT'D)  
Use this. Work your estimates in.

MOMENTS LATER

Ev's finger hovers over 'Enter'. Click. He sits back, hands  
held out to the sides. Waits.

On screen, the little blue icon buffers.

EV  
I've got it.

REED  
Yes?

EV  
Yes.

Slides it round for her. She's unpleasantly surprised.

REED  
Wow.

EV  
Yes. Wow.

On screen, the cursor points to the result:- '5 DAYS, 14 HRS,  
8 MINUTES, 22 SECONDS' - counting down.

EXT: LAKE SHORE - DAY

Ev and Pip ride camels side by side.

PIP  
Daddy. Haven't you seen Star Trek?

EV  
Not the laws of physics, Captain.

They laugh.

EV (CONT'D)  
Your physics, Pip. Earth physics.

She's exasperated.

PIP  
Okay. How?

EV  
I can show you.

PIP  
You're on.

EV  
And Bud. I need Bud, too.

PIP  
Bloody hell. Now you're asking.

They ride out to --

-- Bud, galloping the shore on his camel. He spots them, turns, rides away.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - NIGHT

Cara's finger jabs the desk speakerphone.

CARA  
Good evening, Professor.

REED  
It's no good, Missus Schaeffer. Is anyone with you?

CARA  
Just us.

REED  
Evangelos is possibly deluded -

CARA  
Possibly?

REED  
He's no danger. In fact, considering everything, he's remarkably well adjusted.

CARA  
I see.

REED  
I hope so, because -

CARA  
Because Ev's welfare is paramount. Is it, Professor Reed?

The line goes silent.

Cara winks across the desk at her Lawyers. They nod wisely. One holds up the legal documents, like a trophy.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Professor?

REED  
I think I was under -

CARA  
A misapprehension.

Silent line. The phone clicks dead from Reed's end. The Lawyers watch Cara drum her fingers.

Ev looks over from an armchair.

CARA (CONT'D)  
You heard. Once you're well again.

Cara holds up a fountain pen. He goes to leave.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Do it for Pip.

He stops dead.

CARA (CONT'D)  
She adores you. Old VHS tapes, all  
your humanitarian visits.

Ev reminisces, considers it.

CARA (CONT'D)  
The only newspaper you weren't on  
was the Daily bloody Planet.

EV  
That's not a real paper, Cara.

CARA  
I know. That's the point.

Lawyer #1 clears his throat. Cara glares at him. Lawyer #2  
walks the documents to Ev. He smacks them across the floor.

#2 squints, offended. Cara's jaw clenches. Lawyer #2 goes to  
collect the papers. Cara raises her hand.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Enough. Remove yourselves.

The Lawyers hesitate. Off her look, they comply. Ev smiles at  
each as they go, cases and coats.

Cara's face drops. She slumps back into her chair. Fixes Ev  
with a low, seductive gaze.

He realises what she has in mind. Turns, follows the Lawyers.  
Pauses at the door.

Her eyes flash as --

-- he closes it, on Cara.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - NIGHT

Ev, restless, wanders the halls.

The uppermost floor. Encounters an open window. Curtains  
billow in. Make him shiver.

Grasps the window handle, glances to the drive, far below.  
His gaze is drawn to --

-- the starlit heavens. Fastens the window shut.

INT: DINING HALL - NIGHT

Cara, almost dressed for bed, lights a candle. A dozen more, already lit.

INT: DINING HALL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Ev wanders, notices --

-- candle glow from the open doors.

INT: DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Cara blows out her lit match, looks up.

Ev stands in the doorway, goes to bow out.

CARA  
You're usually in the land of nod  
by now.

EV  
Lots going on.

She swishes about the table. Pours a glass of red. Another.

CARA  
You can say that again.

Ev just nods. She holds a glass of wine to him.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Help you sleep.

Ev pulls the door, leaving. Cara lets out a little laugh.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Don't kid me you've given up.

He pauses. Opens the door again.

MOMENTS LATER

Stands by Cara at the table. Touch glasses, sip. Ev approves.

CARA  
This, same vintage as your...  
second life?

Ev sips, troubled. Notices --

-- a garish photo frame.

EV  
Do you still go to the Croft for  
Christmas?

CARA  
Of course. Why?

Shakes his head, dismisses it.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Our kiddies giving you a hard time?

EV  
Are you taking the piss?

CARA  
You missed the teenage years, Ev.  
Jesus. Believe me, you're getting  
off lightly. Pip's bloody habit,  
Bud's gender crisis. I cracked all  
that shit by myself.

Ev casts a suspicious look.

CARA (CONT'D)  
By myself.

It resonates with Ev.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Remember when Bud was two, and  
managed to split his head open  
three weeks in a row?

Ev chuckles, refills their glasses.

EV  
The looks from the hospital staff.  
I thought about getting a T-shirt.  
'It wasn't me - honest'.

CARA  
You cherished that crazy little  
bugger.

They laugh, sip, quieten again. She inches closer.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Such a good dad.

Fingertip on his chest. He lets her.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Good at everything.

EV  
Cara, nothing can go back.

Closer still, breath next to his.

CARA  
Do you remember?

Her lips brush his.

EV  
I don't think...

CARA  
Yes. Just enjoy yourself.

They kiss. Hard, passionate. Old lovers. Hands through each other's hair, down their bodies.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

Reed sits, thinks to herself.

INT: DINING HALL - NIGHT

Cara's hands inside Ev's shirt, fingers play under the cloth.

EV  
The process. They -

CARA  
Oh, yes.

Kiss. She pulls the shirt over his head. Kisses his healed puncture wounds. Relishes them.

EV  
Kinky Cara.

Slips out of her gown. Ev strips off. Undressed, scoops her up, lays her on a couch. Hops about, to get his last sock.

She covers her mouth, laughs quietly.

He throws the sock. Lowers himself over her. Embrace again, fuck each other. Cara moans loudly, caresses the wounds.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, BILLIARDS ROOM - NIGHT

Bud lines up a shot. Pip rolls a joint on the bar. Cranes her neck, to some distant commotion.

INT: DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ev and Cara on the couch, roll over. She straddles him.

CARA  
Oh, God. I remember this.

He holds her hips.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Wasn't it enough, Ev?

Magic falters. He squints at her. She gyrates.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Just to survive, mm? You had to  
come up with this other shit, too.

Ev keeps going, lets her talk.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Just sign the papers for me.

He stops. Angry. Picks her up, chucks her back on the couch.

Cara, indignant, bounces inelegantly half off.

Ev grabs his clothes. Strides away, stops at the door. Still  
naked, faces her.

EV  
You haven't changed a bit.

CARA  
I never said I had. Stupid little  
boy. Look at you. Lost. Stuck and  
lost. We have changed, actually.  
All of us. Not you. You're not  
changing at all.

Ev walks out, slams the door.

INT: DINING HALL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Bumps into Pops.

POPS  
Don't mind me.

CARA (O.S.)  
I'm still your wife!

POPS  
Oh. Stepped in a puddle?

INT: DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She yells at the door.



CARA  
You should respect my wishes.

Looks for her gown. Spots the garish photo frame: a Christmas pic, herself and Alan, clearly at the Croft.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Ugh. Clever, aren't we.

INT: DINING HALL CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Pops, consolation face, places a hand on Ev's shoulder. Walks him, naked, away from the room.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Alan reads in bed, goes to turn a page. The bedroom door bursts open. He jumps, startled, book to the floor.

Cara storms in, gown flows behind.

ALAN  
Cara?

CARA  
That man boils my piss.

She stands, livid, hands on bare hips. Hair a mess.

Alan idles in bed.

Cara grips the back of her dressing chair.

ALAN  
Wha - what -

Her eyes dart at him in the mirror.

CARA  
Wha, wha, wha, - what?

ALAN  
Now, you know, there's always  
someone worse off than you.

Her eyes blaze.

CARA  
Right. How does that help?

Alan looks for his book.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Exactly. Some people should just...

ALAN  
What's that?

CARA  
Stick to what we're best at.

Watches herself regain composure.

CARA (CONT'D)  
You know what he tried to do?

Alan peeps from behind the bed to hear.

EXT: BREAKFAST TERRACE - DAY

Cara pours coffee for Bud and Alan. Bud rubs his sore head, receives coffee. Alan, concerned, takes the pot from her.

CARA  
Where's your bloody father today?

BUD  
I guess, asleep?

She grunts derision.

CARA  
How unlike him.

BUD  
Hmm. He has been through it.

She sips, regards Bud coldly.

CARA  
Drink up, darling.

Forces a tear from her eye. Overly brave, a little choked.

BUD  
Mother?

ALAN  
It's nothing. Your father.

Bud's face darkens.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, CONSERVATORY - DAY

Ev and Pip, help to water plants.

PIP  
If you believe it, yes.

EV  
Some of these were tiny. If I told,  
went public.

PIP  
They'd rip the piss.

EV  
I'm getting used to that.

PIP  
Some daft buggers'd believe it.

Ev stops watering, looks hurt.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Ouch. Sorry.

EV  
I think that's more scary, really.

PIP  
God, yeah. Imagine.

EV  
'Cabilists storm Parliament!'

PIP  
'Cabil Day replaces Christmas!'

EV  
'Evangelos Schaeffer...'

PIP  
'... exposed as World's Biggest -'

EV  
Hey.

PIP  
Sorry. Again.

They continue watering. Ev flicks a sprinkle at Pip.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Do not challenge me.

A water fight.

INT: STABLES - DAY

Pip, soaked, walks happily by the stalls.

Bud furiously mucks out dirty straw with a pitchfork. Heaves.

Flings - in front of Pip.

PIP  
You'll put some bugger's eye out.

Gives her a glance, keeps going.

PIP (CONT'D)  
I don't think he's lying.

Bud hurls the fork down.

BUD  
Of course he is. He's lying through  
the teeth of his arse.

Pip gives a quizzical look.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION - BARBECUE AREA - DAY

Pip fills a plate of cooked meats. Ev sits at the table, sips  
a bottle of ale.

Pip places the plate in front of him. Smiles for each other.

Cara walks up, with Bud and Alan. Sit together. Pip fills  
another plate - for Reed. Ev nods hello, tucks in.

Cara touches Bud's and Alan's arms assuredly - stay quiet.

CARA  
I'm ravenous. You must be.

Ev munches, nods. Bud and Alan bristle.

CARA (CONT'D)  
All that time. Not a bite.

EV  
It's funny. I don't remember  
anything like this.

Gets everyone's attention, differently.

EV (CONT'D)  
On Cabil, I mean.

Cara laughs low, jogs elbows. Pip sighs into her lap.

Ev winks at Bud.

CARA  
Really? What do you remember?

Alan grins at her, pours glasses of white wine.

PIP  
Yes, Daddy. Tell us.

Ev goes to answer. Reed steps in.

REED  
I think, maybe, we'll wait until  
our session.

EV  
If they want to know.

REED  
Forcing memories can, er -

CARA  
Surely, his own family can't  
constitute some kind of threat.

Pip sees what's happening.

PIP  
Maybe later. Professor Reed knows  
best, Mummy.

Cara shrugs. Raises a glass to Alan.

CARA  
Darling. Cin, cin.

Touch glasses.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Here's to lunch on Cabil.

ALAN  
Lunch on Cabil.

The rest automatically raise drinks to Cara's toast. Reed  
corrects herself halfway. Ev takes a long beer pull, belches.

EV  
Lunch on Cabil.

BUD  
Lunch it is.

Cracks open a beer.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Alan bimbles along. Tries the handle to his and Cara's rooms.  
Locked, rattles it.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Cara looks to the door, to someone else, in the room. Points  
to the open french doors.

ALAN (O.S.)

Cara.

Reed grabs a green file from the desk, runs to the french windows. Cara chases.

CARA

Coming, darling.

Cara blocks, snatches at the file, shoos Reed out. Reed struggles. Irritated faces at each other.

ALAN (O.S.)

Cara?

Cara firmly squeezes Reed out, keeps the file.

INT: CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Alan worries.

ALAN

Why is this door -

Cara sweeps it open, file behind her back.

CARA

Here we are. Just a bit stiff.

She turns, file title quickly revealed:-

'Evangelos Schaeffer Psychological Report by Prof S Reed'.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - NIGHT

Pip and Bud stroll, stables to house. She slaps his chest, points to --

-- Reed as she creeps from Cara's french windows.

Pip and Bud frown at each other. Tiptoe after her.

Reed spots them, walks properly.

PIP

Hello, there.

REED

Oh, hello.

Walks quickly off, to the main entrance.

Pip whispers to Bud.

PIP

What the hell?

Snigger to each other.

BUD  
Vino?

Pip considers it.

PIP  
Nah. No, thanks.

They part.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Ev and Pip trail arm in arm towards the house.

Bud, drunk, appears on the terrace. Swigs from a wine bottle.

BUD  
Jesus. Here's Jesus. He was a work  
in progress, too, you know.

Pip quickens her pace to intercept.

PIP  
Don't.

Gives a stern look. He passes. Ev stands ready as Bud nears.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Bud.

EV  
It's fine, Pip.

Bud, spittle as he speaks, in front of Ev.

BUD  
Bastard's hardly been here two  
minutes.

Ev blinks at Bud's breath and spit.

BUD (CONT'D)  
My mother's in tears -

Ev can't hide his doubt.

BUD (CONT'D)  
- which I don't find funny, 'cause  
of you. She's been looking after us  
for twenty years.

EV  
You're a grown man now, Bud.

BUD  
No thanks to you.

Ev squints, suspicious. Backtracks.

EV  
How is it because of me?

Bud's lost.

EV (CONT'D)  
You said she's crying.

BUD  
Ah, that's right. She is. She was.

Ev, hands up to placate.

EV  
Let's talk later.

Bud sways. Ev goes round, past. Bud stays, sad. Swigs.

Ev and Pip exchange a look. She gently takes Bud's arm. He turns, adoring, drunken smile.

BUD  
What we doing?

PIP  
Come on. Have a little nap.

Bud complies. They follow Ev back through the curtains.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Pip skips along. Knocks on doors.

PIP  
Memory lane. All invited.

Outside Bud's room, bangs the door.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Memory lane, Bud. Now.

INT: BUD'S ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

Bud, still dressed, leaps up in bed. Checks the clock:-  
'21:33'.

He sags, holds his head.

PIP (O.S.)  
Don't be late.



Bud trudges to the door.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, LIBRARY - NIGHT

Ev in an armchair, ignores Cara and Alan cuddled on a couch.  
Pip rushes in, goes to a projector set up behind them.

PIP  
Lights, etcetera.

Bud hits the lights as he runs in, jumps on a couch. Pip  
gives a joke stern look. Flicks the machine on.

ALAN  
No video cameras in -

SCHAEFFERS  
Waste of money.

He's silenced.

Illuminated on the wall, symbols and numbers run down. Pip  
sits by Bud.

Ev gleefully recognises the first image --

-- in her 20s, Cara's bare legs, wide open, give birth.

Alan scowls. Cara nuzzles the back of his hand.

Pip grins, delighted. Bud yawns.

On screen, Pip is pushed out into the world.

PIP  
Ta dah. Pip is born.

Ev, Cara and Bud look on affectionately. Pip runs forward,  
takes a bow in the flickering image. Moves aside, as if to  
introduce herself on stage.

All view in silence as --

-- Cara, twenty odd years younger, and Ev the same as now,  
fawn over each other and baby Pip.

Bud intently watches --

-- on screen Ev.

Pip, ready to burst. Cara is swept along. Alan looks -  
anywhere but the screen.

Ev, unnoticed, slowly turns his head to see each of them.  
Then back to his girls on screen.

The projector reel ends, flips around.

PIP (CONT'D)

Next.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, KITCHEN - DAY

Bud fills the kettle from the tap, helps Mrs Campbell. Grill, cut, fry.

The kettle boils. Bud takes it. Ev mooches in. Kettle clattered down again, Bud goes to leave.

MRS CAMPBELL

Dear me, Bud. You nearly gave me -  
oh, good morning, Evvy.

BUD

Sorry.

EV

Morning, Missus Campbell. Hey, Bud.  
You don't have to naff off every  
time I enter a room.

Bud shoulders past. Keeps walking. Ev follows.

BUD

Leave it.

MRS CAMPBELL

Oh, more puddles.

EV

For God's sake.

Touches Bud's arm.

EV (CONT'D)

Why're you so almighty pissed off  
with me?

Bud whips round.

BUD

Are you kidding? The day I'm born,  
you vanish. That was that.

That hits Ev. He recovers.

EV

Whoa. When did you think I was...?

Bud seethes, fights tears. Ev comforts, not too close.

EV (CONT'D)

When, Bud?

Bud hesitates.

EV (CONT'D)  
It's okay. I won't tell her.

EXT: BREAKFAST TERRACE - DAY

Ev sits, eats alone. Enjoys the view. Cara, over the top affection, joins him. Spoils the view. Ev forces a smile.

They continue, silent, mutual displeasure. Cara motions to someone inside, behind Ev. Lawyers #1 and #2 traipse out.

Cara, delicious smile, watches Ev. Lawyer #1 lays a red folder by him on the table. Ev eyes it, looks at Cara. Suspicious of that smile, leaves the folder closed.

CARA  
As requested.

Ev slides it slightly to one side. Cara moves her chair back, leaves, Lawyers in tow.

Ev regards the folder warily. Opens it. Smiles - of course.

He leafs through pages of heavily redacted accounts. Holds them to the sunlight. Shuffles it together, slaps it down.

Walks off, folder left behind. Lawyer #2 steps cautiously from just inside. Extends one hand, pinky ring glinting.

Ev leaps back, snatches the folder. Lawyer #2 jumps.

EV  
I'll take that, bollock breath.

Struts off in victory. Calls back.

EV (CONT'D)  
I can read between the lines.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS, STABLES - DAY

Ev, on the lookout for someone, sees --

-- Pip saddle a camel.

Approaches her. She adjusts her bridle, spots him. Serious face, points him off, to --

-- the Chapel.

INT: CHAPEL - DAY

Bud lays along a pew, contemplates the ceiling. Hears footsteps disturb his peace.

Ev nears, stands over him.

Bud's gaze, fixed on the ceiling. Ev lies on the pew behind.

They lie, together. Ev glances over thoughtfully, goes back to the ceiling. Content.

Bud glances over warily. Waits. Back to the ceiling. Satisfied. More footsteps approach.

PIP (O.S.)  
Thought I'd find you two in here.

Ev sits up, smiles.

Bud sees her wink at Ev.

EV  
Hey. Look at this old artefact.

Bud sits up, plays along. Ev hands him an aged, glass Coke bottle. A note still inside.

PIP  
Oh, shit. I remember that.

Bud glances at it, doesn't take it.

BUD  
I don't.

Ev, bottle still held out.

PIP  
Yeah, Bud, remember. When we used to play bloody Shipwrecks. With Dad, out on -

BUD  
Oh! The island.

Checks himself. Ev offers the bottle further, risks an idea.

EV  
Do you want to see if you can still read it?

Bud accepts the bottle. Looks down at it, unfamiliar. Something chimes in his memory. His face softens.

BUD  
Not today.

Ev smiles at him. Pip tries not to dance around.

EV  
Okay. Just keep it.

Bud looks bitterly angry.

EV (CONT'D)  
It's okay to make mistakes, you  
know, Bud.

Bud squints at him.

EV (CONT'D)  
One of life's great quandaries -  
the worst mistakes can give the  
best consequences. I wasn't here  
for you growing up. I missed it.  
The whole thing, just about. But  
you did grow up. You were here. You  
were alive. And you still are. And  
so am I.

Bud overflows with years of grief.

BUD  
Are you back?

Ev nods, serious - almost sad.

EV  
I am back.

They hug. Bud looks through tears at the bottle.

BUD  
Thanks, Dad.

EV  
If our lives are but a series of  
moments, then that... was one of  
the ones worth holding onto.

Bud cringes.

BUD  
Okay. Don't overdo it.

Pip squeals, laughs out loud.

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, LIBRARY - NIGHT

Pip laughs hard as --

-- Bud picks books from the shelves. Passes them to Ev.

BUD  
Prove it, Space Boy.

Bud gets quicker. Ev laughs, can't keep pace.

BUD (CONT'D)  
Here you go. Another, and another.

Ev flinches as books arrive.

BUD (CONT'D)  
Anymore? No?

PIP  
That's enough.

Bud stops. Grins at Pip. Ev shifts books from his feet.

BUD  
Ah, agreed. You know why? 'Cause  
it's bollocks.

PIP  
That's rich.

EV  
At this point, it's relative.

Bud throws his arms up.

BUD  
Perfect answer. Like God's  
relative.

PIP  
What do you suggest, then?

EV  
In theory, just... accept it.

BUD  
I think that's my exact point.

EV  
If I could prove it practically,  
you'd have to accept it.

BUD  
We're back to square one, Dad.

They clear up the books.

EV  
Oh, I've just got to be somewhere.  
Are you two okay to..?

Indicates clearing up. They wave him off - a likely story. Ev  
leaves quickly.

MOMENTS LATER

Pip and Bud finish tidying. Walk out arm in arm.

PIP  
You're calling him 'Dad'.

BUD  
Bugger off, Pip.

Gently shoves her. They part.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Reed waits, just inside the open door, note pad clutched to her chest. Hears someone walk, out in the corridor.

INT: CORRIDOR TO EV'S ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

Pip pads along, dreamy. Reed rounds the door behind her.

REED  
Oh, Pippy.

Pip cartoon scowls, stops dead. Turns.

PIP  
Just Pip, actually. Or Pipistrelle.

REED  
Sorry. Do you have a moment?

Nods to within Ev's rooms.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - MOMENTS LATER

Pip, downbeat, seated opposite a too gushy Reed.

REED  
I was wondering what your personal thoughts are -

PIP  
About Dad?

Reed nods, slides open her pad. Holds the pen to ask 'okay?'.

Pip shrugs.

PIP (CONT'D)  
They all think he's barking.

REED  
Hmm. And you?

PIP  
This is confidential.

REED  
Absolutely.

Pip relaxes, opens up.

PIP  
Really, it's all very exotic.

Reed takes notes.

PIP (CONT'D)  
And seductive.

Reed stops.

REED  
Seductive, how?

PIP  
Death. Transcendence. Immortality.

REED  
Does that appeal to you?

PIP  
Well, Jesus, doesn't it you? All  
very Samsara. The exotic bit.

Reed brings her pen back with a flourish.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - NIGHT

Ev absentmindedly twiddles with a paperweight.

Cara watches, irritated. He notices, stops. She pushes the  
thickened contract across the desk to him.

CARA  
Can you sign?

EV  
Still this. Yes. But I'm not.

CARA  
Fine. Why?

He looks around.

EV  
No suited goons?

She does the sad face.

CARA  
We don't need them.



EV

Correct.

He prods the document, stands, walks off.

EV (CONT'D)

You know, I'm still surprised you  
didn't just have the chamber  
switched off.

She stands, shouts after him.

CARA

Because it's against the law.

He laughs and is gone.

CARA (CONT'D)

(to herself)  
And I do still have a heart.

Looks at the papers. Picks them up, slams them down.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Reed recites her notes.

REED

'It's all very exotic'.

EV

Exotic?

REED

And seductive.

He flops in a chair.

EV

Why're you telling me?

REED

Well, strictly speaking, she's not  
my patient. She's your kid. A  
troubled kid, Ev. Not suicidal, but  
certainly self destructive.

Ev thinks on it.

EV

Shit.

REED

As for Bud...

Ev acknowledges the challenge.

REED (CONT'D)

A slightly different kettle of fish. His background. Just remember, you and I have had longer to digest the existence of Cabil.

She lets that hang. Ev nods, accepts.

LATER

Reed, asleep on the couch. Ev slides her laptop from her bag.

On screen, Ev sees --

-- a file:- 'Schaeffer Wealth'.

Amused, clicks on it. Scans the content - no surprises. His face changes, as if it's incorrect.

Gets the red file, compares redacted columns. Horrified.

Reed stirs, wakes. Sees him in the laptop glow.

REED

Hey. Do you mind?

He looks up. Sharp. Alert.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev stands in darkness, laptop like Moses with the tablets.

EV

What the hell do you call this?

Cara flicks a lamp on, sits up in bed. Bleary eyed glance at the clock. Tolerates the intrusion.

CARA

Most people call that a laptop.

Alan blinks awake. Cara pats him to stay still.

EV

This is what you've been doing?  
Arms deals? Mines in Africa? These  
are bloody slaves.

CARA

Yes. Do come in. That's our  
portfolio.

EV

Ours? What the hell happened to -

CARA

Oh, Ev, grow up. Anyone with a mobile phone, which we also make, can swing an election now.

EV

Impossible.

CARA

Completely possible. Pops and his Whitehall mumbo jumbo, is old hat.

EV

Beside the point. It's morally bankrupt. I won't have it.

Cara laughs at him. Fixes him coldly.

CARA

Who's funding this, Ev?

EV

It's not the money.

CARA

No, no. You, I mean. All this space bullshit. Is it some kind of false flag scenario? You want it leaked to the papers.

EV

You're bonkers.

CARA

Am I?

EV

Yes. You bloody are.

CARA

CIA? UAE? KGB? The Chinese? I don't mind, if they're paying well. It would be colossal. 'The Aliens are Coming'.

EV

They're not. And anyway, to them, you're the fucking alien.

She pretends interest.

CARA

Very well. Worth consideration if you ask me.

EV

People like you -

CARA  
Are the ones taking care of all the  
rest.

EV  
- are destroying the World.

CARA  
If you hadn't been on another  
planet for the last few years, I'd  
be tempted to label this simple  
naivety.

EV  
Don't patronise me.

CARA  
Someone has to pay the bills.

ALAN  
That's right.

Cara glances over, pats him again. He bows his head.

EV  
Not this. Bullets and bombs, paid  
for -

CARA  
'- with children's arms and legs'.  
I remember your speech.

Caught out, averts her gaze.

EV  
You helped write it. Because it's  
true. Blown off. All day. Every  
fucking day. Look at me.

Reed appears at Ev's side, followed by Pip.

EV (CONT'D)  
You. You are doing that.

Cara greets Reed.

CARA  
Take him back to whatever it is you  
two get up to. It's late. Or early.

Flicks the lamp off, rolls over.

EV  
Not yet.

Alan's lamp goes on. He grabs it close, like a club. Stands  
up in bed, chest out, ghoulis light up over his face.

Recognition flickers over Ev's eyes.

ALAN  
Someone ought to teach you a  
lesson.

Bud arrives, to see Alan face --

-- Ev, bold again.

EV  
I'm right here.

CARA  
Now, now. Violence never solved  
anything.

PIP  
It did get rid of Hitler.

BUD  
That is a good point, Pip.

Alan sizes Ev up. Takes his seat in bed again.

Pip and Bud exchange smirks of disappointment.

ALAN  
God Almighty, he's no longer your  
father. He's insane.

PIP  
Screw you, Alan.

CARA  
He's right, Pipistrelle. You should  
get ready to say goodbye. Again.

Reed screws her face up in shame.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Are we done? Good night.

Reed leads Ev away.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Ev, despondent, walks slowly alongside Reed. She looks about,  
as if someone's there to eavesdrop.

Ev kicks at stones. Reed prompts him.

REED  
All families fight.

He laughs.

EV

This family? Poisoned, by all this.

Casts his arms across the trappings of wealth. Reed tries to conceal astonishment.

EV (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. What was the point of being brought back, for this? This tortured existence? I should've stayed asleep, or dead or whatever.

Reed yanks his shoulder, looks right in his eyes. He stares back, slack-jawed.

REED

You want to know why you're here?  
You want to be.

He nods reluctantly.

REED (CONT'D)

Otherwise, there's the fucking lake, Ev. Go and see if you can walk on water.

EV

Sorry. I was feeling -

Tenderly takes his face in her hands.

REED

It's not all about you.

They separate. Walk on. Reed regards Ev with a fearful pity. The moment he's out of sight --

-- she storms off.

PRE LAP

The irritating sound of Cara's gloating laughter.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - DAY

Cara throws her head back, laughs. Spins in her desk chair.

Reed stands, adamant.

CARA

Worked his magic on you, I see.

Reed, chin up. Cara turns sour.

REED

I know what I'm doing, and why.

CARA  
Throwing your life away.

REED  
No. Whether he's right or not -  
Cara sits back, amazed.

REED (CONT'D)  
- that's not a future I'd enjoy.

CARA  
Oh, well, it might take longer -  
Reed turns on her heel. Walks away.  
Cara stares at Reed's back. Stands, knuckles on the desk.

CARA (CONT'D)  
It makes no difference.  
Reed waves over her shoulder.

CARA (CONT'D)  
I got what I wanted.  
Reed, through the door, like a new woman.

EXT: LAKE - DAY

Ev in trunks, lounges in the boat, tied to the jetty. Reed sits there, skirt hitched up, toes dangling - relieved.

EV  
... believes me. It's the light.  
She stifles a giggle. Ev, stone faced, looks over.

EV (CONT'D)  
Yes. It doesn't matter, because we don't really have any time left. Cabil's gone. Soon, we'll be gone.  
Reed scowls. Ev shakes pills from his bottle. Eats them.

REED  
No point making plans, then?  
Ev looks at her sympathetically.

REED (CONT'D)  
What about me? My decisions?  
He relaxes, eyes closed. Reed watches him sadly. He slides off, glides underwater. Surfaces next to her.

EV  
We all die.

REED  
We shouldn't know when. But we do  
all deserve the truth.

EV  
That's why it's a secret.

Back under. She puts a hand to her brow. Ev comes up. Swims  
to her, gently puts a hand to hers.

REED  
Part of my research, I left out.

EV  
Okay. Just tell me.

REED  
I don't have it here. It's back at  
the facility.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - DAY

Ev towels off, gets jeans on. From the bathroom, the sound of  
Reed vomiting.

BATHROOM

Knelt at the toilet, Reed shudders, wipes her mouth. Flushes.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

Sound of running taps. Stops. She enters. Ev's right there.

EV  
Why did you not tell me?

Reed looks guilty.

EV (CONT'D)  
You're sick. We can help.

She blusters past.

REED  
Don't you worry. I'll live my way,  
thank you.

EV  
No. It's an obvious solution.

REED  
On my salary, why recommend it?



Ev casts about for help.

EV

Oh, Jesus. If I am wrong. Happy?

REED

It's a kind offer, I suppose. No freebies. Where are your ethics, Mister Schaeffer?

Ev's mind ticks.

EV

How come this subject's never been raised before?

REED

I've already told her, I want nothing to do with it.

EV

Oh! I'm so stupid. That's why you're here.

REED

Ev, it's not what -

EV

- it looks like?

REED

It's over. It's done.

EV

I know Cara, and I do love her, but if she's got you to do this, I'm damn sure there were strings attached. Just do it.

REED

No.

EV

Why the fuck not?

REED

Look at you.

It sinks in.

EV

Fine. What did you want to tell me?

Deep breath.

REED

It's why you were frozen.

Ev, struck dumb.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Ev and Reed dash down the steps to Reed's car.

EV  
Get me out of here.

INT: REED'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Ev, tense, next to Reed. The front gates, swing open. Reveal the road ahead.

EV  
Ah, shit.

Slams his hand on the dash. Reed jumps, annoyed.

REED  
What? What now?

EV  
I can't leave, can I? The kids.

Reed pulls over, cranks the handbrake.

REED  
I'll call you.

Ev opens the passenger door.

MOMENTS LATER

Ev jogs back to the house. Reed speeds away.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev's landline rings. He answers.

EV  
Schaeffer.

INTERCUT - EV'S ROOMS/REED'S APARTMENT

REED  
I found the papers, from when you were placed under.

EV  
Right. And?

REED  
The signatories. There's the Senior  
Staff, three, as a fail-safe.

EV  
Uh-huh.

REED  
There's Cara, next of kin.

EV  
Yes. And.

REED  
Sorry, I'm getting to it. Cara's  
independent witness, was Alan.  
Her... whatever.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

He stares ahead. Touches the scar on his head.

EV  
It was them. They took my life  
away.

REED  
(on the phone)  
Ev. Hello? I'll be back in -

Bewildered, he hangs up. Rubs at his puncture wounds.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Cara walks in. Ev, already there. Tries to ignore him. Can't.

CARA  
Don't you like your suite?

Ev waits for her to settle. Makes her more unsettled. Finds  
safety, behind her desk.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Jesus. Spit it out.

Holds up the laptop. Plays Reed's voice:-

REED  
(on the laptop)  
'... getting to it. Cara's  
independent witness, was Alan.  
Her... whatever.'

Folds it shut.

She tries not to squirm, gets defensive.

CARA  
 You're dead. We had to have you  
 declared dead before they'd put  
 your precious body on ice, and  
 before I'd get any money, to  
 support us.

Ev stands as Cara's venom spills. She steps closer, rants.

CARA (CONT'D)  
 Don't you get it, moron? Otherwise,  
 you'd still be really dead. When  
 nobody else would pull themselves  
 together, it was me.

She indicates he should speak.

EV  
 Are you expecting -

CARA  
 A thank you. Yes.

EV  
 Piss off, Cara.

CARA  
 Ah, you self righteous fucker. You  
 think you're so in tune. I know a  
 thing or two about death myself,  
 smart arse.

Face to face, prods his chest. He ignores, absorbs it.

EV  
 You're bloody drunk.

CARA  
 I know what it is, to control it.

Waves her off, steps back. She seethes.

EV  
 You're making no sense.

Her shoulders sag. She stares at the floor.

CARA  
 Does any of it?

Her eyes find Ev, intrigued.

CARA (CONT'D)  
 You were dead.

EV  
 Only legally.

CARA  
Effectively, then. So, you know,  
like father...

A smile smears her lips. Ev sickens, a questioning look.

She claps her hands, laughs.

CARA (CONT'D)  
Now he gets it.

EV  
Even for a twisted bitch, that's  
fundamentally flawed logic.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev asleep in bed, unhappy. Fists half clench, biceps twitch.

PRE LAP

The faint sound of Pip's voice.

PIP (O.S.)  
Bud.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - NIGHT

Pip runs across the moonlit lawn after Bud.

PIP  
Stop.

He grins, runs.

PIP (CONT'D)  
Stop!

Bud, straight into bright car headlights, engine guttural.  
His face, lit, changes to terror, arms out to protect.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - NIGHT

Ev in bed, struggles, jumps awake.

EV  
Stop.

Breathes heavily.

EV (CONT'D)  
Ah, you bastards.

Hand to his face, calms down. Flings the covers off. Goes to the window. All is calm.

Turns back to bed. The car headlights instantly surge behind him. Engine noise high, loud.

He wakes in bed.

EV (CONT'D)  
Ah! Ah, come on. Jesus.

Slams his fist down.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Ev, sheepskin, sits on a bench. Stares across the water to --  
-- trees, the dawn sky.

Stands, makes his way towards The Cottage.

INT: THE COTTAGE - DAY

Pops opens the door to Ev, ushers him in.

Pops makes a fire in the hearth.

Upstairs, Ev reflects. Old photos, missed years.

Pops stokes the fire. In his armchair, reads a book.

Ev watches the sky. Picks up the bedside phone.

INT: REED'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Reed's phone rings out.

INT: THE COTTAGE - DAY

Pops looks up from his book as Ev comes downstairs.

POPS  
Well?

Ev, resolute.

EV  
No more puddles, Pops.

POPS  
That's my boy.

They hug, Pops kisses Ev's cheek.

POPS (CONT'D)  
Need a hand?

EV  
No. I know what I need to do.

POPS  
Don't forget this.

Hands Ev his sheepskin.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - DAY

Ev enters, calm greeting to the Lawyers.

INT: CARA'S ROOMS - DAY

Cara, clothed, naps on the bed. Lawyer #1 rouses her.

Cara gives a slight nod. Leaves Alan asleep.

LATER

Cara at her desk. Legals at her side. She slides a pen to Ev.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Reed's car through the main gate. Hurtles up the wooded drive to the house. Campbell, concerned, watches her go.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - CONTINUOUS

Ev leans on the desk by the contract, picks up the pen.

The Lawyers crowd him.

EXT: MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Reed's car slides to a halt in the gravel. She leaps out, runs up the steps.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - CONTINUOUS

Ev signs his full signature, points indicated by the Lawyers.

Cara's eyes blaze with satisfaction.

LAWYER #1  
Here, and here...

Ev signs, signs.

Reed bursts in.

Everyone apart from Ev turns to stare. Cara giggles.

CARA  
Oh, look. Here's little Suzi Reed.  
Come to save you, Ev.

Reed strides to the huddle at the desk, grabs the contract.  
The Lawyers grab it, too. She bites at them, swipes it away.

Leafs through, sees --

-- Ev's signature, page after page.

REED  
What've you done? What've you made  
him do?

Cara's pretend shock face.

EV  
It's fine. It's not important.

REED  
But the money.

EV  
It's just money. It's not real.

Takes the contract from her grip. Drops it on the desk. The  
Lawyers pamper it.

REED  
What if you're wrong?

EV  
I do need a witness, if you don't  
mind.

Offers her a seat. She remains standing.

REED  
She gets it all.

Ev laughs hard. Reed, nauseous. He calms down, looks at her.  
Touches her face, kisses the top of her head.

EV  
Not really.

He angles a framed photo, taken at the Lake: himself with Pip  
and Bud as children.

She stares at it. Ev hands her the pen.

EV (CONT'D)  
Feels good. Like therapy.



REED  
Ah, shit.

Signs.

Ev takes her hand, leads her to the door and out. The door closes behind them, the sound of champagne corks.

EXT: MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Ev, serene, and Reed, dazed, descend the steps.

Reed's phone pings.

Dabs the screen, reads the text. Makes her happy enough for a little jump. Ev's happy for her.

EV  
Good news?

Reed enthuses.

REED  
Yes. Very. My son's been given leave. He'll be home tomorrow. A month early.

EV  
Is that unusual?

REED  
It usually means the shit's about to hit the fan, somewhere. That's the Army, full of surprises. Oh, God, sorry, is that okay?

EV  
Of course.

She spins on one foot. Answers, taps all over the screen.

Ev looks on awkwardly.

EV (CONT'D)  
Why not be there for when he gets home? Leave today.

REED  
Good idea. I will.

INT: EV'S ROOMS - DAY

Reed gathers her belongings. Ev goes to leave, pauses.

EV  
I'll let you get on. Don't go  
without saying goodbye.

Reed, busy, gives a huge smile. Keeps packing.

EXT: MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Ev closes Reed's car boot, motor quietly on.

He leans in the driver's window. Faces close, intimate.

EV  
Well, say hello from me.

REED  
I'll call you. See you next week.

Ev smirks. Reed concedes.

REED (CONT'D)  
Maybe I'll see you next week.

The car edges away, cleanly down the drive. Ev watches her go. Checks his watch. Runs inside.

INT: CARA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cara's bedside phone rings. Sounds of celebration mask the sound. Alan snores away. Raises his head, bleary eyed.

EXT: BREAKFAST TERRACE - DAY

Bud, alone, barely any food left. Ev emerges from the house, pleased to find him. Bud pours Ev a coffee. Ev fidgets.

BUD  
Okay, Dad? It's a bit cold, but -

Ev jerks a thumb at Bud.

EV  
Now. I'll show you now.

Gets his pills out - one left. Takes it. Leaves the empty bottle on the table.

BUD  
No way.

EV  
Get Pip.

Ev runs back inside.

EV (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Now, Bud.

Bud tuts, shoves toast in his mouth.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - DAY

Cara's mobile phone lights up, vibrates across the desk.  
Lawyers #1 and #2 notice theirs. Answer them.

Cara pauses, like she's trying to guess...

INT: SCHAEFFER MANSION, DRAWING ROOM - DAY

Ev rummages in cabinet drawers.

INT: PIP'S ROOMS - DAY

Pip, dressed, towel dries her hair. Cursory door knock as --  
-- Bud walks in.

DRAWING ROOM

Ev finds a bunch of keys. From her study, hears Cara shriek.

CARA (O.S.)  
Evangelos. You motherfucker.

INT: THE COTTAGE, FLASHBACK - DAY

Ev upstairs, very serious on the phone.

EV  
Transfer, please. All of it.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT: DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chucks the keys up, catches them, dashes off.

INT: PIP'S ROOMS - DAY

Pip gives Bud the finger. Bud drags her towel away, tiny tug  
of war. He lets go - she flops back on the bed.

Bud taps his watch, helps her up.

EXT: LAWN - DAY

Ev runs.

EXT: MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Pip and Bud leap down like kids, past --

-- Mrs Campbell, flower-cutting. Intrigued, walks after them.

INT: CARA'S STUDY - DAY

Cara leans hungrily across the desk at her frightened legals.

CARA  
Clowns. How could you not see this?

EXT: LAWN - DAY

Ev dashes across. Scowls as he sees --

-- PAPARAZZI #2 skulk in foliage, lens pointed at Ev.

Veers toward the intruder.

CAMPBELL (O.S.)  
Never fear, Evvy.

Campbell blazes past on foot.

The Pap clicks away, nervous step back.

Ev redirects to --

-- the Sea King.

Campbell reaches the Pap, flying kick. Both down. Leaps up, grabs the Pap by the hair. Punch, punch.

Ev gets in the pilot seat. Pre flight checks.

The rotar blades come to life.

EXT: THE COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Pops opens his front door. Rubs his hands together.

POPS  
Look at this. A family outing.

Ambles toward the chaos.

INT: CARA & ALAN'S ROOMS - DAY

Cara, aghast, hears the heli engines, looks to the window.  
Grabs her Range Rover keys.

INT: SEA KING - DAY

Ev glances, mock sympathy, at --  
-- Campbell fight.

POPS (O.S.)  
Is this a private fight?

CAMPBELL  
Naw, feel free.

Pops body hooks the Pap, straight in the ribs.

The Pap lashes out, lucky swipe, edge of the camera. Campbell staggers, lurches, forehead split. Hand to his left bicep, crumples. The Pap, bloodied, scrambles to his feet, flees.

EV  
Oh, no.

Flight prep stops. He's out.

Races to --

-- Campbell, pale. Flops.

Dead.

Pops just stares in shock. Ev lunges on Campbell.

EV (CONT'D)  
Don't you close those eyes on me.

Thumps Campbell's chest - CPR compression.

Hit, hit, hit, hit. Seals his nose, blows in his mouth.

Hit, hit, hit, hit, seals, blows.

Pip and Bud arrive, watch. Helpless.

EV (CONT'D)  
Come on.

Hit, hit, hit, hit, seals, blows.

EV (CONT'D)  
Breathe, Campbell.

Campbell, lifeless. Ev continues CPR.

Mrs Campbell, on the heels of Pip and Bud.

MRS CAMPBELL  
What in God's name?

Drops the flowers. Breaks into a run.

EV  
Breathe. Do it.

Campbell inhales like a half drowned ox.

EV (CONT'D)  
Yes!

Cradles him as Mrs Campbell runs up behind.

MRS CAMPBELL  
Cam. Cam.

CAMPBELL  
Oh, no. Don't let her -

EV  
Sorry. You might escape death. You  
can't escape your family.

Rests his head back onto the grass.

EV (CONT'D)  
I've got to go.

Campbell nods. Determined smile for Mrs C.

Ev, Pip and Bud wait as she gets there.

MRS CAMPBELL  
What were you thinking, man?

He tries to shrug it off. She bursts into tears.

Ev turns to Pip and Bud.

POPS  
Off you go. He'll be okay.

The Campbells in each other's arms, the Schaeffers go.

Cara strides to the garage.

INT: SEA KING - DAY

Ev flicks switches. Pip leaps in the rear passenger section.  
Outside, Bud hesitates.

Blades rotate. Pip holds her hand out to Bud.

EXT: SCHAEFFER MANSION GROUNDS - DAY

Cara's Range Rover ploughs across the lawn.

INT: SEA KING - DAY

The blades, faster, faster, louder.

Pip pleads, thrusts her hand to Bud, still outside.

His jaw tightens. He looks back as --

-- the Range Rover slides into view.

INT: CARA'S RANGE ROVER (MOVING) - DAY

Cara, intent, knocks down a gear, speeds on.

EXT: SEA KING - CONTINUOUS

Bud takes Pip's hand, jumps up. Fastens himself in. Grip their seats.

Ev takes the stick in the deafening whirl of engines.

The heli pitches forward, levitates.

Pip looks back, sees Cara race toward them. Torn, presses herself to the inside of the heli window. Bud releases his harness. Joins her.

Below, Cara slides to a halt, gets out. Runs in the wash from the blades. From the shelter of her forearm, reaches out with her other hand. Yells unheard.

CARA  
(silent)  
I've changed my mind. I'm putting  
you back in cryo.

The Sea King continues up, drifts across shaken trees.

Cara is left, a shrinking dot on the lawn.

The heli engine fades. Cara turns back to the house. Sees --

-- a tourist coach drive past, up to the house. On its side:--  
'centre point give homeless young people a future'.

Suspicious, she watches it park at the steps.

OCCUPANTS disembark. The luggage compartment opens, spills a pile of brand new sleeping bags.

The Occupants are handed a sleeping bag each, directed up the steps by a JOHN BIRD LOOK-A-LIKE.

Cara's jaw twitches. She looks up again, at the distant chopper.

CARA (CONT'D)  
You... fucking... cu -

PRE LAP

Loud sound of Sea King in flight.

INT: SEA KING (FLIGHT) - DAY

Ev checks his watch, banks left. Looks down at the coach. Slaps his knee, laughs.

The flight continues, away from the setting sun.

INT: SEA KING - NIGHT

Ahead, floodlit, Greenwich Observatory - their destination.

EXT: GREENWICH OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

The Sea King hovers, amateurish.

INT: GREENWICH OBSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

An ELDERLY ASTRONOMER, outraged, stands from their desk.

At the window, recognises the Sea King.

ELDERLY ASTRONOMER  
It's just the bloody Schaeffers.

Sits back down to work.

EXT: GREENWICH OBSERVATORY - CONTINUOUS

The Sea King attempts to land.

INT: SEA KING - CONTINUOUS

Ev on the stick, touch forward, a little back.

Pip and Bud cling to their seats. Each other.

PIP  
Shit. We're gonna fucking die.



Ev, slightly nervous laugh.

EV  
Not quite yet, darling.

His face twitches as the chopper sways about.

Touches the deck. Bounce. Bounce. They jolt about.

BUD  
Aaah!

Down. Ev quickly flicks everything off. Pip and Bud release themselves just as fast.

INT: GREENWICH OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Ev, Pip and Bud at a telescope viewing monitor. Ev operates.

Above, the great viewing dome slides open.

Ev, enthralled, works the monitor. Pip and Bud stand behind. Watch images on screen. Pip glances up.

Her hand finds Bud's. He sees where she's looking. They gaze in wonder. Drawn, take a pace forward.

The black sky tingles pale blue. Builds, and builds.

Floods their faces, the whole inside of the dome.

Ev, academically glued to the screen.

EV  
Look, there, it's coming. Kids,  
look.

Sees his children, hand in hand. Awestruck. Frightened.

Steps behind them, hand on a shoulder each.

EV (CONT'D)  
The morning is far away.

They watch the blue intensify. A whooshing sound fades in, sweeps towards them with the light. Against them.

Eyes closed, bathed in blue.

Louder.

FADE TO BLACK.