

A MIND OF HER OWN

by
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(versi on 5. 0)

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. - PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY

Caption: OXFORDSHIRE - 1991

The school is a modern single story building with a couple of temporary classroom blocks in the grounds.

People, adults and primary school age children, are entering the school. Some of the children are excited and tugging at their parents' hands.

2 INT. - PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL - DAY

A gymnastics display is in progress with lots of small children in leotards doing set pieces to music in the centre whilst their adoring and proud parents look on from seating arranged round the edges of the hall.

Above the stage is a banner reading:

BARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual Gymnastics Display

The music stops as the children end their performance. They break the set piece and stand to attention in a line, smiling, as the parents applaud. Then they run to the end of the hall and sit on the floor.

SOPHIE SMITH (aged 10) gets up from amongst the children and goes to the centre where she stands to attention. The music starts again and Sophie begins her floor exercise.

She is very good and the final sequence of back flips, hand springs and somersaults, from one corner of the mat to the other, ends with a perfectly spotted back somersault.

As she finishes and the music stops, she raises her arms above her head and the audience applauds loudly. She smiles and runs off to join the other gymnasts on the floor.

3 EXT. - SOPHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sophie lives in a large old house set in extensive grounds with its own tennis court.

4 INT. - SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sophie's bedroom is very untidy. Clothes are scattered all over the floor along with soft toys and games

Sophie is sitting at her desk trying to read a children's book which is mostly pictures with just a smattering of large text.

She looks up at the mirror in front of her and pulls a face at herself.

She sighs, closes her book and starts to clear up her clothes. After a few moments, she tires of this and turns on the television.

5 INT. - JAMES' S BEDROOM - DAY

JAMES SMITH (13), Sophie's brother, is sitting at his desk doing his homework and listening to music.

Sophie opens the door and comes in. James looks round as she does. She sits on his bed and he returns to his homework.

SOPHIE

James?

JAMES

(irritated)

What?

SOPHIE

How come you're so clever and I'm so stupid?

James looks round at Sophie and stares at her for a few moments.

JAMES

Go away, will you! I've got a lot of homework to do.

James returns to his books as Sophie sighs and leaves the room, not bothering to close the door.

James looks round and shakes his head.

6 INT. - SOPHIE' S KITCHEN - DAY

JENNY SMITH (40), Sophie's mother, is at the kitchen worktop cutting vegetables for their evening meal. As Sophie comes into the room, Jenny looks round at her.

JENNY

Have you tidied your room, like I asked you to?

Sophie nods and Jenny returns her attention to the vegetables.

SOPHIE

Can I go to Emma's now?

JENNY

Not right now, sweetheart,
dinner's nearly ready.

SOPHIE

But Daddy's not home yet.

Jenny stops what she's doing but doesn't look round at Sophie.

JENNY

If he's not home in time we'll
eat without him, as usual. He can
have his when he does get home.

Sophie frowns as her mother continues chopping the vegetables.

SOPHIE

But I promised her I'd go round
before dinner.

JENNY

Well I'm sure she'll survive
without you for once. (a beat)
You can set the table for me
instead.

Sophie doesn't move but just shuffles her feet and looks down at the floor. Jenny senses that her instructions are not being obeyed. She turns and looks at Sophie.

JENNY (CONT.)

Well, go on, Sophie! Go and set
the table for me.

Jenny returns to the vegetables as Sophie, slowly and reluctantly, heads for the dining room.

At the kitchen door, she stops and turns and takes a couple of steps back into the kitchen.

SOPHIE

But Mum, the thing is, Emma's Mum
said she wanted me to help Emma
with her (homework tonight)...

Jenny rounds on Sophie, kitchen knife in hand.

JENNY

SOPHIE! Please! Just do as I tell
you for once in your life, will
you?

Sophie and her mother stare at each other for a few moments before Sophie reluctantly sidles off towards the dining room and Jenny returns to the vegetables, chopping them with increased vigour.

7 EXT. - PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY

The area around the school is deserted as classes are in progress and all the children are in the school.

8 INT. - PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

A class is in progress with the children sitting four each to a table. They are painting. MISS WATSON (26), their teacher, is at the front of the class giving one of the children a reading test.

At Sophie's table there are only three children. The reason for this becomes apparent when the girl having the reading test returns to her seat next to Sophie.

Sophie puts her hand up as Miss Watson writes in her book.

SOPHIE

Miss?

Miss Watson looks up over her glasses at Sophie.

MISS WATSON

Yes, Sophie?

SOPHIE

Shall I tidy up the paint cupboard?

Miss Watson looks at Sophie for a moment, thinking.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

It's very messy, Miss.

MISS WATSON

Well, go on then. It was going to be your turn to read, but I suppose you can do that another day.

Sophie jumps up from her seat and heads for the paint cupboard.

9 INT. - SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie is lying on her back in bed, reading her book - the same one as before, The Big Friendly Giant.

RICHARD SMITH (42), Sophie's father, knocks on the door and comes in. He goes over to Sophie and kisses her on the cheek.

RICHARD
Goodnight, sweetheart.

Sophie looks up at her father as he straightens up.

SOPHIE
Da-ad, will you read to me a bit?
Like you used to do?

RICHARD
You're a bit old for that now,
aren't you?

Sophie gives him her most appealing look.

SOPHIE
Pleeeeeease?

Richard smiles and sits on the bed next to Sophie as she moves a little to make room for him.

As he sits, Richard grimaces and reaches a hand to his chest. Sophie looks at him, some concern evident on her face.

SOPHIE
You OK, Dad?

Richard smiles at her but it is a forced smile. He nods.

RICHARD
OK! So, what are we reading?

Sophie gives her father the book. He looks at the cover, the book is *The Big Friendly Giant*. Richard casts a sideways look at Sophie.

RICHARD
An oldie, but goodie, huh?

Sophie nods and Richard puts his arm round her. She leans her head on his chest as he starts reading out loud.

10 INT. - JAMES'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

James is sitting at his desk doing his homework as Richard knocks on the door and looks in.

RICHARD
Goodnight, James. Don't stay up
all night.

JAMES
I won't. Goodnight, Dad.

Richard closes the door.

11 INT. - SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny is sitting in an armchair reading a magazine as Richard comes into the room. She looks up and smiles at him.

JENNY
All tucked up?

RI CHARD
Sophie is. James is still doing his homework.

Jenny smiles

JENNY
I think he's going to be Prime Minister one day.

Richard goes to the cabinet and pours himself a whisky.

RI CHARD
Can't say the same for Sophie. She wanted me to read to her. I haven't done that for ages and when I asked her to read a bit of the story herself, she was ... well ... really struggling with it. (a beat) And it was only the Big Friendly Giant! Nothing difficult.

Richard picks up the Radio Times, which is open at the correct day, and looks at it as Jenny speaks.

JENNY
I know. I've asked about it at school but they just said not to worry about it, she's just a bit lazy and she'll catch up soon.

RI CHARD
Maybe she's spending too much time at the gym club.

JENNY
Maybe. But she is very good. Will you be able to make the championships next week?

(MORE)

JENNY (cont' d)
 You haven't seen her perform for
 ages. I know she'd love for you
 to be there.

RI CHARD
 I don't know. I'll see if I can
 rearrange things at work but you
 know what it's like.

Richard drops the Radio Times on the coffee table and goes
 towards the other armchair.

As he sits down, he pulls a pained face and reaches for his
 chest again. Jenny notices.

JENNY
 Richard! What's the matter?

RI CHARD
 It's nothing. Just a twinge,
 that's all.

JENNY
 You sure?

Richard nods and as he reaches for the television
 controller, he puts his hand to the side of his face and
 moves his jaw from side to side. Jenny looks on concerned
 as the television comes to life.

12 EXT. - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

People are going in and out of the hospital. Amongst them
 is Richard, dressed in a suit and carrying a briefcase.

13 INT. - CARDIOLOGIST'S CONSULTING ROOM - NIGHT

The CARDIOLOGIST (45) is sitting at his desk. Richard
 buttons his shirt and tucks it into his trousers as he gets
 off the examination couch. He sits in the chair facing the
 Cardiologist who looks up at him and smiles.

CARDIOLOGIST
 Well, Mr Smith, there's not much
 doubt about it. You've got
 Angina.

Richard looks at him, his face conveying no emotion, just a
 fixed stare. The Cardiologist looks down at his notes as he
 speaks.

CARDIOLOGIST (CONT.)

Considering that you're
overweight, you smoke, your blood
cholesterol level is more than
twice what it should be, your
father had angina and you're in a
very stressful occupation ...

The Cardiologist looks up at Richard.

CARDIOLOGIST (CONT.)

... it's not really that much of
a surprise, is it?

14 INT. - SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sophie is in bed when Jenny comes into the room.

JENNY

Sophie! Why aren't you up? You'll
be late for school.

Sophie puts on her most pathetic look and looks up at her
mother.

SOPHIE

(almost whispering)
I don't feel very well.

Jenny sits on the bed and puts the back of her hand to
Sophie's forehead and then after a moment, passes her palm
across it, pushing Sophie's hair back.

JENNY

You do feel a bit hot and clammy.

Jenny gets up from the bed and heads for the door.

JENNY (CONT.)

I'll get the thermometer.

As soon as Jenny has left the room, Sophie jumps out of bed
and starts exercising vigorously but silently, doing press-
ups and sit-ups.

Sophie stops and looks towards her bedroom door as she
hears her mother's FOOTSTEPS coming up the stairs and
approaching her room. She quickly hops back into bed and
pulls the covers up to her chin.

Jenny comes into the room and sits on Sophie's bed. She
takes the thermometer from its container and puts it into
Sophie's waiting open mouth.

JENNY
It'll be a shame if you miss the
championships next week.

Sophie looks aghast. She takes the thermometer out of her mouth and hands it to her mother.

SOPHIE
Actually, I'm feeling a lot
better now.

Sophie gets out of bed and starts getting dressed as her mother looks on, an expression of surprise on her face.

Jenny puts the thermometer back in its case and gets up from the bed.

JENNY
Well, if you're sure you're all
right.

15 EXT. - PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY

Sophie is walking along the road with a few of her friends as they approach the school. One of them is NATALIE (10).

NATALIE
It's your reading test today,
isn't it?

SOPHIE
Yeah.

NATALIE
How are you going to get out of
it this time?

Sophie gives Natalie a hard push and she bumps into the wall at the side of the road. Natalie, recovers, rubs her arm and gives Sophie a hurt look.

NATALIE (CONT.)
It's not my fault you know.

16 INT. - PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Miss Watson is at the front of the class with Sophie sitting next to her. The rest of the class are sitting at their tables painting.

Sophie is reading from the book she has been given.

SOPHIE
... so Mi s-ter M... Ma... Mac...

MISS WATSON

MacGregor.

SOPHIE

So Mister MacGregor pi... pick...
picked!

Sophie looks up triumphantly at Miss Watson. Miss Watson smiles patiently at her.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

Picked ... up ... the ... sp-ade
...

Sophie looks up as Miss Watson whose attention has wandered to the rest of the class.

Sophie takes her opportunity and without looking at her book rattles off a made up ending to the sentence.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

...and went back into his house.

Sophie claps the book shut and gives Miss Watson a big smile as Miss Watson turns her attention back to Sophie.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

Can I go and do some painting
now, Miss?

Miss Watson takes the book from Sophie.

MISS WATSON

All right, Sophie, off you go.
But you know, you really are
going to have to try harder with
your reading.

Sophie barely hears Miss Watson's words as she is already half way back to her seat.

17 EXT. - SPORTS CENTRE - DAY

Above the sports centre door is a banner which reads:

OXFORD & DISTRICT

JUNIOR GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1991

18 INT. - SPORTS CENTRE HALL - DAY

Sophie is performing her floor exercise. As before, her performance is faultless. The routine includes some artistic, almost balletic moves which prompt Ooohs and Aahs from the audience.

As the routine finishes, the audience cheer and clap loudly as Sophie returns to sit beside her team mates on the bench at the side of the hall. She is smiling broadly and looks into the audience where she spots her mother smiling and clapping vigorously.

19 INT. - SPORTS CENTRE HALL - DAY (LATER)

The trophies and medals are being given out. At one end of the hall the ANNOUNCER and Presenter are standing next to a table laden with the prizes. Behind the table an Assistant is standing ready to pass the appropriate trophy to the presenter.

ANNOUNCER

Next we come to the Girls Eleven
and Under Floor Exercise.

The Assistant hands a gold medal on a ribbon to the Presenter.

ANNOUNCER (CONT.)

In first place, and winner of the
gold medal is Sophie Smith
representing Barton Gymnastics
Club.

Sophie, now wearing her track suit, jumps up off her bench and half walks, half runs to the table.

The presenter puts the gold medal round Sophie's neck and shakes her hand as the Assistant passes the trophy to the Presenter.

The Presenter hands the trophy to Sophie who turns to look at her mother in the audience and raises the trophy above her head in triumph.

20 EXT. - SPORTS CENTRE - DAY

Sophie comes out of the sports centre with Jenny. Sophie is proudly clutching the trophy she has won and still has the gold medal round her neck. She looks up at her mother and smiles.

SOPHIE

Daddy will be proud of me now,
won't he?

JENNY

Your Dad has always been proud of
you. He's proud of both his
children.

Jenny ruffles Sophie's hair with her hand and they walk on towards the car park.

21 INT. - HOSPITAL ANGIOGRAM ROOM - DAY

Richard is lying on a bed with an x-ray machine poised over his chest. A tube runs from his inner thigh into which a NURSE injects a purple dye from a syringe.

The Cardiologist is standing next to Richard looking up at a monitor. Richard follows his gaze.

CARDIOLOGIST

There! Do you see that? Do you see where the purple stops?

RI CHARD

Yes.

CARDIOLOGIST

Well, it shouldn't. That's a blockage in your artery.

22 INT. - HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Richard is sitting up on the bed which is to one side of the corridor. The NURSE brings him a cup of tea. Richard smiles appreciatively and takes a sip.

RI CHARD

Thanks.

Just then, the Cardiologist arrives. He takes the tea cup out of Richard's hand and gives it back to the Nurse. Richard looks at him questioningly.

CARDIOLOGIST

I've spoken to the surgeon and he agrees with me that we can't afford to wait, we're not sure you'll still be here in another twenty four hours. So, he's cleared his list, and we're going to operate this afternoon.

22A INT. - HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Jenny is sitting in one of a row of five chairs reading a magazine taken from a pile on a small table next to the chair.

The Cardiologist walks along the corridor and smiles at Jenny as she looks up expectantly.

CARDIOLOGIST
Let's go into my room.

Jenny gets up and follows the Cardiologist for a few yards until they reach his consulting room.

The Cardiologist opens the door for Jenny, who is looking very apprehensive as she goes into the room.

22B INT. - CARDIOLOGIST'S CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

The Cardiologist follows Jenny into the room and indicates a chair to her as he pulls another chair up close to hers and sits down.

JENNY
Is he all right?

CARDIOLOGIST
I'm afraid his coronary arteries
are quite severely blocked,
dangerously so.

Jenny gasps and her whole body sags with the news. Tears start to well up in her eyes as she looks at the Cardiologist.

CARDIOLOGIST
I don't think we can afford to
delay things so I've arranged for
him to be operated on this
afternoon.

Jenny is stunned and just looks at the Cardiologist as the tears start to spill down her cheeks. She shakes her head as the Cardiologist leans forward and puts his hand on her arm.

23 EXT. - SOPHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sophie and James, dressed in their school uniforms and carrying their school bags, are walking slowly up the drive to the front door of their house.

James inserts his key, opens the door and they go into the house.

24 INT. - SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenny is in the living room sitting in an armchair. She looks anxious. She gets up as she hears the children in the hall and goes to the door.

25 INT. - SOPHIE'S HALL - DAY

Sophie and James look at the living room door as Jenny appears. Jenny smiles at them, a forced smile.

JENNY
Come in here for a minute,
please, both of you. I've got
something to tell you.

Sophie looks at James but he just shrugs. They amble in and sit on the sofa as Jenny sits in the armchair again.

JENNY (CONT.)
It's your father. He's in
hospital.

Sophie and James look alarmed.

26 EXT. - HOSPITAL - DAY

Jenny, with Sophie and James in tow, goes up the steps into the hospital.

27 INT. - HOSPITAL ICU ROOM - DAY

Richard is in the hospital bed. He looks terrible and is connected to an ECG machine which is monitoring his heart. From his chest, below the dressing that covers his sternum, two tubes protrude and disappear into a receptacle beside the bed. Hanging from a pole next the bed is a bag of blood from which a tube runs down to the canula inserted in his hand.

As Jenny and the two children enter the room, Richard looks towards them and smiles thinly. Sophie goes up to the bedside and holds her father's hand. Tears well up in her eyes and spill down her cheeks as James looks on stony faced.

A DOCTOR (28) comes in and checks the monitor. He looks at the children and smiles.

DOCTOR
Don't worry. He's going to be
fine.

The Doctor approaches Jenny who is looking on anxiously.

DOCTOR (CONT.)

Really. He's doing well. A heart bypass, even an emergency one like this, is a routine operation. He'll be as good as new before you know it.

Jenny smiles weakly as the Doctor leaves. She looks towards the bed and a serious expression crosses her face.

28 INT. - JENNY'S CAR - DAY

Jenny is driving with James and Sophie in the back seat.

SOPHIE

I'm going to be like him one day.

JENNY

Like who, sweetheart?

SOPHIE

The doctor who fixed Daddy. I'm going to be a doctor.

JAMES

(unbelieving)

Yeah, right! You can't even read properly.

JENNY

James! Don't be so horrible to your sister.

29 EXT. - SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

Caption: YORKSHIRE - FIVE YEARS LATER.

Sophie (15) is approaching the entrance to a large secondary school, along with lots of other children. She is wearing school uniform and has her medium length hair in two bunches. She stops and looks up at the building and takes a deep breath.

BECKY SHARPE (15) comes up beside her.

BECKY

You new this year?

Sophie looks at her and nods.

SOPHIE

We moved here in the summer. With my Dad's work.

BECKY
It's not so bad. You'll get used
to it. Come on.

The two girls walk up the steps and into the school.

30 INT. - SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Sophie is sitting at a desk to one side of the room. Becky is at the other side.

MISS FRENSHAM (32), the teacher is at the front of the class. In her hand is a copy of Macbeth.

MISS FRENSHAM
Becky, you read Macbeth and ...

Miss Frensham's gaze rests on Sophie who is looking down trying to be inconspicuous.

MISS FRENSHAM (CONT.)
Yees, Sophie, I think you can
read Lady Macbeth. Let's see what
you're made of, shall we?

Sophie looks up, appalled at the idea.

SOPHIE
I haven't got a book, Miss.

Miss Frensham looks at the girl next to Sophie.

MISS FRENSHAM (CONT.)
Alice. Lend her your book.

Alice passes her book to Sophie.

SOPHIE
But I don't know it, Miss!

MISS FRENSHAM
All the more reason for you to
read it. Right, off you go Becky,
from: I have done the deed.

Becky looks across at Sophie and smiles but Sophie just looks petrified. Becky turns to her book and starts to read.

BECKY
I have done the deed. Didst thou
not hear a noise?

When Becky stops reading there is silence. Miss Frensham looks at Sophie who has her head down looking at the page.

MISS FRENSHAM
 Sophie. That's your cue.

Silence as Sophie continues to stare at the book. The heads of her classmates start to turn to look at her.

MISS FRENSHAM (CONT.)
 (sarcastically)
 That means it's your turn to read.

Becky looks at Miss Frensham.

BECKY
 Why don't you leave her alone?
 It's her first day. Let someone else do it.

MISS FRENSHAM
 Oh, do be quiet, Becky.

The silence continues as Sophie slowly looks up at Miss Frensham. By now the whole class is looking at her.

MISS FRENSHAM (CONT.)
 (to Sophie)
 Well?! Are you going to read the line or not?

Sophie rises to her feet, closes the book and looks Miss Frensham in the eye.

SOPHIE
 Not!

Sophie walks out of the classroom as Miss Frensham and the rest of the class watch open mouthed. Becky also watches, she looks concerned but is also impressed.

31 INT. - SCHOOL DINING ROOM - DAY

Sophie is sitting on her own with her lunch. Across the room, James is with a group of boys joking and laughing. He has his back to Sophie and doesn't see her sitting on her own.

Some of Sophie's classmates pass nearby. They titter and give each other knowing looks. From the food counter, Becky sees them.

Sophie looks steadfastly down at her plate as she eats.

Becky comes over to Sophie's table, puts her tray down and sits next to Sophie.

BECKY
Just ignore them.

SOPHIE
Easy for you to say.

BECKY
Yeah, I guess.

There is a few moments silence as the pair eat their food. Then Becky puts her knife and fork down and holds her hand out to Sophie.

BECKY
I'm Becky Sharpe. Rebecca to my ever loving parents. Becks to my friends.

Becky smiles as Sophie looks up at her. Then Sophie smiles too and shakes Becky's hand.

SOPHIE
Sophie Smith. Thanks for standing up for me in there.

Becky hold up her hands.

BECKY
Hey! Why wouldn't I? We're friends. (a beat) Aren't we?

Sophie nods gratefully and they resume eating their food. Suddenly, Becky has an idea.

BECKY
Hey, tell you what. Why don't we
...

Becky whispers into Sophie's ear. Sophie giggles.

SOPHIE
Why not! Should be a laugh.

32 EXT. - SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

Sophie and Becky approach the entrance to the school. They are again dressed in school uniform but are now looking completely different. They are both made up like models and Sophie also has a radically new hair style which has resulted in her hair being cut short and spiked up in a rock chick style. She is also sporting a nose ring and has several large rings on her fingers. Apart from the school uniform, they look as if they have just walked off the page of a teenage magazine.

SOPHIE
Is it Biology first today?

BECKY
Yeah. New teacher though.
Replacement while Ratty has his
piles done.

SOPHIE
Haemorrhoids, please!

BECKY
Whatever.

Some of the boys turn to watch as the two girls walk past swaying their hips provocatively. A couple of the boys whistle at them and snap their fingers as the girls go up the steps to the entrance.

BOY
Whoa! Hot, man! Hot!

He looks at one of the other boys, a big grin on his face as the two of them slap hands in a high five.

As Sophie and Becky walk away from the boys towards the entrance doors, they pass a group of girls, their classmates, who look decidedly frumpy next to the two of them. One of the girls is CARRIE (15), the leader of the group.

CARRIE
(under her breath)
Who do they think they are?

Sophie stops, turns and looks at the girl who spoke.

SOPHIE
What did you say?

There is a few moments silence during which Becky stands close to Sophie, giving her support and staring at the girl who spoke. Another member of the group, SUSIE (15), an overweight girl with acne, who is Carrie's sidekick, speaks.

SUSIE
She said, who do you think you
are?

Sophie turns slowly to look at SUSIE.

SOPHIE
I know who I am. And it's not
some fat cow of a girl with bad
teeth and zits.

Becky laughs as Sophie turns away and walks off, her head held high.

SUSIE
Yeah!? Well it's time you realised that guys like a girl with a brain not some bimbo caked in make-up.

Sophie stops but she doesn't look round. She is hurting and drops her head. Becky looks at her.

BECKY
You OK?

Sophie nods, lifts her head again and continues into the school.

33 INT. - SCHOOL BIOLOGY CLASS - DAY

PETER SIMPSON (26), the replacement biology teacher is at the front writing his name on the blackboard. The class, including Sophie and Becky are sitting at the workbenches chatting to each other. They are all dressed in white lab coats.

Peter turns to face the class.

PETER
OK, listen up class!

The class falls silent and the children look at Peter.

PETER (CONT.)
I'm Mr Brown's replacement. I teach Biology at Denbigh College and I'll be here for the next three weeks while Mr Brown is away on sick leave.

CARRIE
We heard he had piles, Sir. Is that right?

The class laugh and Peter tries not to smile.

PETER
I have no idea why Mr Brown is away. But if you thought you had escaped getting your homework marked, you're wrong. And in the case of some of you, it looks to me like a wake up call is in order if you want to have any chance of getting your GCSEs.

The class is quiet now.

PETER (CONT.)
OK, so today we're going to see
what you know about blood.

Peter holds up a batch of microscope slides.

PETER (CONT.)
I want you to look at these
slides and write down what you
see. Look for anything out of the
ordinary, maybe something you
haven't see before.

Peter hands the batch of slides to a girl at the front who starts passing them out. Peter picks up an exercise book from the top of a pile and opens it, reads for a moment and then looks up.

PETER (CONT.)
Sophie Smith?

He looks around the class as Sophie looks up from what she is doing and holds up her hand hesitantly.

SOPHIE
Here, Sir.

Peter indicates to Sophie to go over to him and Sophie stops what she is doing, puts down the slide and approaches Peter who indicates a chair beside his desk.

PETER
Have a seat.

Sophie sits on the chair as Peter turns towards her.

PETER
I wanted to talk to you about
your homework.

SOPHIE
That bad, was it?

PETER
Not at all! In fact it's quite a
reasonable effort. But ...

Sophie nods her head, she knows what's coming.

SOPHIE
Bad spelling, huh?

Peter looks down at her exercise book, trying to think how best to address the subject.

PETER

Do you think you might have a problem?

SOPHIE

I know I've got a problem! I can't spell.

PETER

According to Mr Brown's notes your practical work is excellent. (a beat) But your written work, well, it doesn't match up. And I've seen something like this once before. Can I ask you something?

SOPHIE

(shrugs)

I suppose.

PETER

Do you have trouble with reading?

Sophie nods.

PETER (CONT.)

Any idea why?

Sophie shrugs again. She's glad someone cares but this is awkward.

PETER (CONT.)

I think you might be dyslexic.

Sophie gives him an uncomprehending look.

PETER (CONT.)

I'd like to arrange for you to have some tests, special tests that will show up whether or not you are. (a beat) What do you think? Are you up for it?

Sophie considers what Peter is saying. She looks a bit mystified.

SOPHIE

OK. Why not.

PETER

Good. I'll let you know when I've organised it.

34 EXT. - DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OFFICE - DAY

Establishing shot of the building which houses the offices of the Dyslexia Institute.

Sophie and her mother approach and go into the building.

35 INT. - DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OFFICE - DAY

Sophie is sitting at a table with ALAN (48), the tester. Alan is a large man with a kindly face and soothing manner.

On the table are two boxes, one containing a collection of wooden pieces of different shapes and sizes and one containing some beads and thread. Also on the table are some books and a pad, on which there is some writing, and a pen. Alan is holding a stopwatch in his hand.

ALAN

OK, Sophie, the next task for you to try is this.

He pulls one the boxes towards him and starts to take the wooden pieces out of the box.

ALAN (CONT.)

What I'd like you to do is to put these pieces of wood together to form a pattern.

SOPHIE

What pattern?

Alan takes a sheet of paper from the bottom of the box and lays it on the table. It has six pictures of different patterns on it. He points at one.

ALAN

That one.

Sophie reaches towards the pieces and starts moving them around as Alan starts the stopwatch.

36 INT. - DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OFFICE - DAY (LATER)

Alan watches as Sophie tries to complete the task.

As the frustration builds up, Sophie starts to move the pieces around faster and faster and tries to force them to fit together.

At last she gives up and in a fit of temper sweeps the pieces off the table. She starts to cry.

ALAN

It's OK. Don't worry. I know it can be frustrating but it helps us to find out what the problem is. And then we can do something to help.

Sophie nods and wipes her eyes with the back of her hand as Alan gives her a sympathetic smile. She looks at him apologetically.

SOPHIE

Sorry!

Sophie gets up and goes to pick up the pieces from the floor but before she can, Alan speaks.

ALAN

Don't worry about those. I'll pick them up later. (a beat)
There's just one more test to do.

37 INT. - SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Peter and Sophie's parents are in the office.

PETER

According to the report from the Dyslexia Institute, the tests indicate that Sophie is quite severely dyslexic.

Jenny takes a deep breath and she and Richard look at each other.

JENNY

I knew there was something wrong. Right from her being a toddler. (a beat) I told her teacher that I was concerned, that she wasn't reading as well as her brother was at the same age. (a beat) But they just blamed it on her, said she was lazy.

PETER

Well, they were wrong. And there's more. The tests indicate that Sophie might also be suffering from Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome which would also affect her reading ability. We'd like her to have some more tests, looking specifically at that possibility.

Jenny looks distressed and Richard puts his hand on hers.

JENNY

I blame myself. I knew there was something not right but I just let them fob me off.

38 INT. - SSS SPECIALIST'S ROOM - DAY

Sophie and her mother are sitting side by side as Sophie is tested.

GERALDINE (32), the SSS specialist, finishes testing Sophie. She takes the coloured lenses she has been using from Sophie.

Geraldine goes to her desk and removes a couple of sheets of paper. She returns to her seat and looks at Jenny.

GERALDINE

There's no doubt about it. Sophie has SSS, Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome.

JENNY

What exactly is that?

GERALDINE

It's an abnormality connected with the way the brain deals with full spectrum white light. It's quite difficult to explain so I use these to try and show what I mean.

Geraldine hands the first sheet of paper to Jenny. It is a normal page of text. Jenny takes it and looks at it briefly before looking up at Geraldine.

GERALDINE (CONT.)

That's what you and I see when we look at a page of text.

Geraldine hands Jenny the next sheet. This sheet has a few letters in the middle of the page which are in focus with all the other text swirled round them out of focus.

GERALDINE (CONT.)

That's what Sophie sees when she looks at a page of text.

Jenny's hand goes to her mouth and she looks at Sophie, a sad expression on her face.

GERALDINE (CONT.)

Unless it's a small word, she can't see the whole word in focus at the same time. She has to build the word up a few letters at a time.

Jenny just stares at Sophie who is looking straight in front of her, not reacting to anything that is said.

GERALDINE (CONT.)

(chirpily)

But it's not all bad news. We can help.

Jenny clears her throat and looks at Geraldine.

JENNY

How?

Geraldine reaches over to her desk and picks up a pair of glasses with red lenses.

GERALDINE

The problem of SSS relates to the high level of contrast normally found with black text on a white background. Reducing the contrast reduces the adverse effect. We need to find the best colour for Sophie. By using a pair of glasses like these, her reading will be improved enormously.

39 EXT. - JENNY'S CAR - DAY

Sophie and Jenny come out of the building and get into Jenny's car. They don't speak as Jenny starts the car and leaves the car park.

As they drive home, it is clear that Sophie is not happy.

SOPHIE

I'm not wearing coloured glasses at school. No way!

40 INT. - SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

It is an English lesson and the class are silently reading a passage from Macbeth. Sophie looks round the room and then as quietly and unobtrusively as she can she takes out her new glasses with their red lenses and puts them on. She starts reading the passage. Suddenly she is interrupted by Miss Frensham.

MISS FRENSHAM

Sophie Smith! Remove those sunglasses. This instant!

Sophie looks up. She looks across the room at her classmates, they are smirking. Then she looks at Miss Frensham.

SOPHIE

They're not sunglasses, Miss. They're to help me with my reading.

MISS FRENSHAM

I won't tell you again, Sophie. Take them off. Now!

The class bursts into laughter, all except Becky who sits staring, stone faced, at Miss Frensham.

Sophie removes the glasses and carefully folds them. Then she closes her book, folds her arms across her chest and looks defiantly at Miss Frensham.

Just then the bell goes for the end of the class.

41 INT. - SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Sophie and Becky are walking down the corridor.

BECKY

That told her.

SOPHIE

Yeah, but it doesn't change the fact that I'm still the laughing stock of the whole school. I wish that Mr Simpson had never come here!

BECKY

You know you don't mean that! I saw the way you looked at him. You had a crush on him, didn't you? All googy eyed whenever he was around.

SOPHIE

I was not! And anyway, I noticed you brushing up against him every chance you got.

BECKY

(wistful)
Yeah well he was a bit tasty, wasn't he?

Becky smiles and Sophie whacks her on the arm playfully.

SOPHIE
You're hopeless!

BECKY
Yeah, well never mind, it's Gym now so we can forget about sexy teachers and the rest of it for a while.

Suddenly, Becky breaks into a run.

BECKY
Last one there pays for both of us!

Sophie runs after her, laughing as she goes.

42 INT. - SCHOOL GYM - DAY

The gymnasts are clearing up at the end of the session, rolling up the mats, dragging the vaulting horses into the store room and carrying the beam and asymmetric bars towards it. KATE (28), the coach, calls out to Sophie.

KATE
Sophie!

Sophie looks round and Kate signals with her arm for Sophie to go over to her. When she gets there, Kate looks up from her clipboard.

KATE (CONT.)
I've entered you for the Nationals next month.

Sophie's face lights up.

SOPHIE
No way! I'm not good enough for that.

KATE
Well, I think you are. So you'd better make up your mind to put in the hours between now and then. I don't want you making a liar out of me.

Kate looks at Sophie and smiles. Sophie is very excited at the prospect. She can't speak, but just turns round and runs to tell Becky. They both jump up and down with excitement.

43 EXT. - SOPHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sophie, still with a big grin on her face, runs excitedly up the drive towards the front door.

44 INT. - SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Inside the living room, Sophie's father is standing at the window, watching as Sophie runs up the drive. Her mother is sitting, ashen faced, in an armchair behind him.

The front door slams as Sophie comes into the hall and then the living room door flies open as she rushes in, bursting to tell her news.

SOPHIE
You'll never guess what!

Sophie looks at her mother and then at her father.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
I've only been entered for the
Nationals, that's all!

She looks at her parents again and starts to calm down as they fail to react to her news with any real interest.

JENNY
That's very good, sweetheart.
Well done.

Sophie realises all is not well.

SOPHIE
What is it? What's happened?

Sophie looks at her father, a concerned expression on her face.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
You're not sick again, are you?

JENNY
No, no, it's nothing like that.

Jenny gets up and approaches her daughter.

JENNY
Go and fetch your brother from
his room, will you. We've got
something to tell you.

Sophie hesitates, wanting to know what is wrong.

JENNY (CONT.)

Please, Sophie. Just go and get him.

45 EXT. - SOPHIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sophie's father is now standing with his back to the living room window.

46 INT. - SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM

Sophie and James are sitting on the sofa. Their mother is sitting in the armchair watching them closely, as their father speaks.

RI CHARD

I'm afraid it means we're going to have to leave this house. And sooner rather than later. I'll start looking for somewhere to rent tomorrow.

The children look stunned.

RI CHARD (CONT.)

Money will be very limited for a while. I've worked out what I'll be able to afford to give you each week but that will be it. There won't be any more. So, I suggest you both try to get Saturday jobs.

Richard looks at his children. Their heads are low. He looks at Jenny, she smiles weakly and gets up. She goes over to Richard and takes his arm. Then she looks at the children and they look up at her.

JENNY

We'll get through this. We'll all get through it. And I don't want you blaming your Dad. It isn't his fault. It's just ... circumstances, that's all.

47 INT. - SCHOOL DINING ROOM - DAY

Sophie is queueing with Becky to pay for their meal. When they get to the till, Becky pays but Sophie shows her free school meals card.

Behind them, Carrie notices that Sophie is on free school meals.

CARRIE
 (to Susie)
 What's the matter, Sophie? Daddy
 lost his job?

Becky rounds on her as Susie sniggers.

BECKY
 Why don't you just piss off! You
 loser!

CARRIE
 Oh, so I'm the loser, am I?
 Hello-o! I'm not the one who got
 kicked out of her house, now am
 I?

Sophie tugs at Becky's arm.

SOPHIE
 Come on, Becks, she's not worth
 it.

They walk off with Becky still looking daggers at Carrie.

48 INT. - SCHOOL GYM LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Sophie and Becky are getting changed after a training session. Becky is sitting on a bench and Sophie is looking for something in her locker.

BECKY
 You don't want to take any notice
 of the likes of Carrie, you know.

SOPHIE
 Yeah, I know. But she's right
 though, isn't she? I am a loser.

Becky stands up and turns towards Sophie.

BECKY
 Hey, cut that out will you!
 Didn't you win yet another trophy
 last month? And didn't you get
 entered for the Nationals next
 month? And you're going to be a
 doctor, for goodness sake!

Sophie turns to face Becky.

SOPHIE
 Becky, I'm dyslexic! I struggle
 just to read a book. And my
 grades are terrible, you know
 that.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (cont'd)
 (a beat) All I want is to be a doctor. But what chance have I got of ever going to medical school?

Becky grabs Sophie by the shoulders.

BECKY
 Don't talk like that! This is not the Sophie I know. The Sophie I know would never just give up. So it's going to be harder for you than it is for other people. Doesn't mean you should give up.

Becky looks Sophie in the eyes and Sophie smiles.

BECKY (CONT.)
 And as for this situation with your Dad and his job, well I've been through that as well, you know. Why do you think I work at the pizza parlour (a beat) The main thing, the most important thing, is to always make sure you have enough money for the things that really matter. (a beat) Like visits to the beautician's!

They both laugh.

SOPHIE
 And a new pair of shoes now and then.

BECKY
 Exactly!

They laugh again.

SOPHIE
 You're a good friend, Becks. Everyone should have a friend like you.

Sophie bends down to pick up her towel.

BECKY
 That's more like it.

As Sophie tries to straighten up, she feels a twinge in her back and puts a hand to it.

SOPHIE
 Aaaah! That hurts!

Becky looks at her friend, who is still bent over, and helps her to stand up.

BECKY

You OK?

Sophie nods, but she is evidently in some pain.

SOPHIE

Yeah. Just pulled a muscle, I think.

Sophie rubs her back and winces.

49 EXT. - G. P. 'S SURGERY - DAY

The surgery is a modern single story building.

50 INT. - G. P. 'S ROOM - DAY

Sophie is pulling on her jumper after her examination as the G. P. (50) sits at his desk. Sophie sits on the chair at the side of the desk.

SOPHIE

It's a pulled muscle, isn't it?
That's all?

G. P.

I don't think so. I think it's a bit more serious than that. There's a problem with one of the discs in your back.

SOPHIE

But it's nothing to worry about, yeah?

The G. P. turns to face Sophie and looks her in the eye.

G. P. (CONT.)

You know, it's not that unusual for gymnasts.

SOPHIE

What isn't?

G. P.

Trouble with joints.
(leans forward)
You're turning into a woman, Sophie. That means some parts of you are bigger than they used to be.

(MORE)

G. P. (cont'd)
 It's perfectly natural and normal, but it does mean that what you do as a gymnast puts a lot more pressure on your joints now than it used to when you were ten years old.

SOPHIE
 Yeah, right! So can you fix me up or not?

G. P.
 Physiotherapy will help and if you rest it then there shouldn't be any long term effects.

There is a moment's pause as the G.P. looks at Sophie and she looks back enquiringly.

G. P. (CONT.)
 But you will have to give up gymnastics.

Sophie doesn't speak or move, she just looks stony faced at the G.P. He shrugs slightly as if to say: I'm sorry, that's just the way it is. Sophie clears her throat.

SOPHIE
 You mean just for now, yeah?

The G. P. shakes his head slowly.

G. P.
 No, Sophie, I mean for good. Otherwise this is just going to be the start of your problems. Next it will be your knees, then your ankles. And you could end up doing permanent damage. You could end up in a wheel chair.

Sophie stares at the G.P., she is fighting back the tears.

51 EXT. - SOPHIE'S NEW HOUSE - DAY

The house is modern and box-like, obviously nothing like the family's former home.

Sophie walks slowly up to the house and goes in.

52 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW KITCHEN - DAY

Jenny is preparing a meal at the worktop as Sophie walks in leaden footed and leans against the door post. She drops her school bag on the floor.

Jenny hears her and looks round.

JENNY
What did the doctor say?

Sophie doesn't answer. Her lip quivers and Jenny comes over to her.

JENNY
What is it, sweetheart? What's wrong?

Jenny reaches out and touches Sophie's arm but Sophie just turns away and runs out of the kitchen.

53 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW HALL - DAY

Sophie pushes past her father as he comes down the stairs. She runs up the stairs, goes into her room and locks the door.

54 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW BEDROOM - DAY

Sophie's new bedroom is small, not much room for anything other than her bed. On the wall are posters advertising gymnastics competitions.

Sophie locks the door and lets herself fall onto the bed, face down, and starts to sob, burying her face in the pillow.

55 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW KITCHEN - DAY

Richard comes into the kitchen.

RICHARD
What's the matter with Sophie?

JENNY
I don't know. She had a doctor's appointment after school, about the pain in her back, that's all I know.

56 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW BEDROOM - DAY

Sophie is still lying on the bed crying when there is a KNOCK on the door. She stops crying and sniffs. There is another KNOCK on the door. She sits up and wipes her eyes.

SOPHIE
(angrily)
What?

RI CHARD (O. S.)
Sophie? Can I come in please?

SOPHI E
Why? What do you want?

Richard tries the door and finds it is locked.

RI CHARD (O. S.)
I want to talk to you, that's
all.

Sophie gets off the bed, unlocks the door and then goes back and sits on the bed, leaning back against the wall and drawing her knees up to her chin.

Richard comes in and sits on the end of her bed.

RI CHARD
Your Mum said you were upset. Is
it to do with the doctor?

There is a few moments silence while Sophie decides whether or not to tell her father anything. Then she nods once.

RI CHARD (CONT.)
What did he say? About your back?

SOPHI E
He said I had a disc out of
place.

RI CHARD
Is that what's upset you?

Sophie nods once.

RI CHARD
But that's quite a common thing.
I'm sure it can be fixed.

Sophie looks at him, pain in her eyes.

SOPHI E
You don't understand. You never
understand!

RI CHARD
What? What don't I understand?

SOPHI E
He said I had to stop doing
gymnastics. Or I'll end up in a
wheel chair.

RI CHARD
Ah. I see.

The two girls leave the locker room arm in arm.

58 EXT. - PUB - DAY

It is Saturday lunch time and the pub car park is full. A family comes out of the pub and heads for the car park.

59 INT. - PUB LOUNGE BAR - DAY

The pub is packed with people enjoying a drink with their bar lunch.

Sophie comes into the room from the kitchen. She looks hot and tired and is carrying two plates of food.

She approaches a family of three. They are Carrie and her father and mother. She puts the plates down in front of Carrie and her mother.

Carrie looks at the plate in front of her as Sophie turns to go.

CARRIE

Hang on! This isn't what I ordered.

Sophie stops in her tracks, drops her shoulders and turns to look at Carrie.

CARRIE'S MOTHER

You've got mine, love. That's all. Here.

Carrie's mother lifts her plate but Carrie just stares at Sophie.

CARRIE

Let her do it! That's what she gets paid for.

Sophie stares at Carrie for a moment and then takes two steps to reach the table, takes the plates, switches them, and drops them onto the table in front of Carrie and her mother.

SOPHIE

(sarcastic)

So sorry.

CARRIE

You better be! Dumbo.

60 INT. - SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Sophie is sitting at a table with her coloured glasses on, reading a book. She has a note pad beside her.

Becky comes into the library looking for Sophie. She sees Sophie sitting at the table with her back to her and goes over to her. She goes round the table and sits opposite Sophie. Sophie looks up.

BECKY

Hi .

SOPHIE

Hi .

Sophie returns to reading her book.

BECKY

Tim said you were in here. Not your usual habitat.

Sophie does not look up from the book.

SOPHIE

If I'm going to be a doctor, I need to get better grades.

BECKY

Sure. (a beat) I'll see you later.

Becky gets up and leaves the library, looking over her shoulder as she does. Sophie just continues to read.

61 EXT. - SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

Sophie is approaching the school as are lots of other students. On the steps near the door, Carrie and Susie are talking. As Sophie approaches, Carrie steps out in front of her, arms folded defiantly.

CARRIE

Quite the little swot these days, I hear.

Sophie tries to go round her, but Carrie moves to block the way.

CARRIE (CONT.)

I heard about you giving up gym. What's it like being ... how shall I put it ... physically challenged?

Carrie looks at Susie, who laughs dutifully.

CARRIE (CONT.)
Not only are you thick, but now
you're a cripple as well.

Sophie puts out her arm and pushes Carrie to one side before walking on into the school.

62 INT. - SCHOOL BIOLOGY LAB - DAY

Sophie walks into the lab and sits on a stool. She slams her books down on the bench in front of her. The lab is empty apart from Mr Brown who is sitting at the teacher's desk. He looks up.

MR BROWN
Good morning, Sophie.

Sophie looks at him for a moment before speaking with an air of resignation.

SOPHIE
Morning, Sir.

Mr Brown returns to marking the exercise books in front of him.

Sophie gets off her stool and approaches the desk.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
Sir?

Mr Brown looks up.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
Can I ask you something?

Mr Brown nods.

MR BROWN
Go for it.

SOPHIE
What subjects do you need to do
at A level to get into medical
school?

MR BROWN
Well, the usual ones are physics,
chemistry and biology.

Sophie looks away and stares out of the window. She speaks quietly to herself.

SOPHIE
Physics, chemistry and biology.

MR BROWN
But you don't just need to do the
right subjects, you need to get
good grades too.

Sophie's head whips back round to look at him.

SOPHIE
(annoyed)
Meaning what?

MR BROWN
Sophie, be realistic. You're
struggling to pass your GCSEs.
And now we know you're dyslexic,
as well.

SOPHIE
Yeah. No thanks to you. It took a
supply teacher to discover that.

There is a long pause as Sophie looks intently at Mr Brown.

SOPHIE
(sarcastic)
Thanks for your help, Sir.

63 INT. - SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Sophie is again working in the library surrounded by open
text books and wearing her red glasses.

Becky comes into the library, spots Sophie and approaches
her. Sophie does not see her at first but when Becky sits
beside her, she looks up.

BECKY
You OK?

Sophie nods and returns to her books. There is a few
moments' pause.

BECKY (CONT.)
I'm going for a manicure. Want to
come?

Sophie looks at Becky and shakes her head.

SOPHIE
I need to get this done.

Sophie returns to her books and Becky waits a moment or two
before speaking.

BECKY

You know, you don't have to work all the time. You can have a bit of fun as well, you know. Now and again.

Sophie puts down her pen and smiles. Then she takes off her glasses.

SOPHIE

You're right! Let's go to the beauticians. For a bit of touchy feely therapy, eh?

Becky smiles as Sophie closes the books, stacks them and puts them in her bag.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

After all, we need to make sure we're always looking our best.

The two girls saunter out of the library, swinging their hips deliberately as they go.

64 EXT. - SUBURBAN HIGH STREET - DAY

Sophie and Becky are walking along the street which is lined with shops.

As they pass a shoe shop, Sophie suddenly grabs Becky's arm and stops her. She looks excitedly at the window.

SOPHIE

Wow! Look at those Becks! What wouldn't you give for those.

A pair of emerald green high heeled satin shoes sit on a small perspex turntable, slowly rotating.

Becky laughs and unhooks Sophie's arm.

BECKY

You can't afford them. Come on.

Becky goes behind Sophie and playfully pushes her away from the window but Sophie is having none of it and they playfully wrestle each other for a few moments before Sophie gives up.

SOPHIE

OK, you win!

They stop fighting and start walking on. Sophie looks back over her shoulder and then turns to go back to the window but Becky grabs her and steers her along the road. Sophie calls back over her shoulder.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
 Don't worry, my little green toe
 warmers! I'll be back.

Becky laughs.

BECKY
 You're hopeless.

65 EXT. - BEAUTUCIAN'S SHOP - DAY

Sophie and Becky are sitting next to each other having
 their nails done.

BECKY
 My Dad says I've got to leave
 school after GCSE and get a job.

Sophie looks aghast.

SOPHIE
 But what about your A levels? And
 going to Uni to be a Physio?

BECKY
 He says he needs me to start
 paying for my room and food.

SOPHIE
 What about your dream? What about
my dream? I can't do it without
 you. You're the only one who
 believes in me.

Sophie stares at Becky, waiting for an answer as Becky just
 looks at her nails being polished.

BECKY
 I thought I'd get a job and maybe
 go to college part time. Do my A
 levels that way.

SOPHIE
 But that'll take forever!

BECKY
 Yeah, well I've got plenty of
 time. It's money I'm short of!

Sophie looks at her sadly.

SOPHIE
 Join the club. (a beat) Anyway,
 you might get such fantastic
 results that your Dad'll change
 his mind.

Becky looks at Sophie sceptically.

BECKY
Yeah, right!

66 EXT. - SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

It is the school holidays but students are standing around outside the school in groups as Sophie and Becky, wearing smart fashionable clothes, approach the entrance.

67 INT. - SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Sophie and Becky approach the table at the end of the hall, at which two teachers are sitting, one of whom is Mr Brown. They wait in the small queue of students.

SOPHIE
Well, this is it. The moment of truth.

One by one, the students arrive at the table and are given an envelope. Some tear their envelopes open hurriedly and either cheer, break down or look unmoved. Others put the envelopes in their pockets and walk out of the hall.

Sophie is first to reach the table.

MR BROWN
Hello, Sophie.

SOPHIE
Sir.

Mr Brown looks through the box of envelopes and pulls one out. He hands it to Sophie.

MR BROWN
Next!

Sophie doesn't open her envelope, she just walks out of the hall.

Becky watches her go.

MR BROWN (CONT.)
Next! (a beat) Come on Becky!

68 EXT. - SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

Sophie walks away from the groups of students and turns the corner of the building. Out of sight of the other students, she turns and leans on the wall.

She looks at the envelope and then slowly and deliberately tears it open. She pulls out the sheet of paper.

Slowly, Sophie slides down the wall until she is in a sitting position. Her hand drops to the ground and she starts to cry.

Becky comes out of the school and looks around for Sophie. She can't see her anywhere.

BECKY
Anyone seen Sophie?

The other students shake their heads and Becky walks to the corner of the building. She sees Sophie and goes over to her and sits beside her.

BECKY (CONT.)
Bad, huh?

Sophie nods and Becky raises her hand, in which she is holding her results.

BECKY (CONT.)
Me too. We'll just have to do better with our A levels, that's all.

Becky looks at Sophie and smiles. Sophie smiles back through her tears.

BECKY (CONT.)
Come on!

Becky stands and holds out her hand to Sophie.

BECKY (CONT.)
I think we could both do with a night on the town.

Sophie takes Becky's hand and Becky pulls her to her feet.

69 EXT. - CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

A bus pulls up at the bus stop and Sophie and Becky get off. They are all dressed up and made up ready for a big night. They have already been drinking and as they walk down the street shouting, passers by look at them.

SOPHIE
Get ready all you beautiful people! Here we come, me and Becks, ready to have a good time.

BECKY

Yeah! So if you don't want to have some fun, just get out of the way. But if you do! Then bring it on! We're ready for you.

SOPHIE

We are so ready!

They pass a couple of men dressed in smart suits coming the other way. Becky goes up to them.

BECKY

Hey, guys, you looking for a good time?

Sophie pulls Becky's sleeve.

SOPHIE

Becky!

Becky laughs as she salutes the men.

BECKY

Sorry, chaps! Looks like I've already got a date.

Becky leans towards Sophie and puckers up. Sophie pushes her face away with her hand.

SOPHIE

For goodness sake, Becks, behave yourself.

The pair carry on towards the night club.

70

EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Sophie and Becky approach the entrance to Gerry's, a popular night club in the city centre. One of the bouncers on the door is MIKE (27), a big burly man.

As the girls approach the door, he puts out his arm.

MIKE

Hold it, you two.

BECKY

What's up Mike?

MIKE

How old are you?

SOPHIE

She's nineteen. So am I. What of it?

Just then two boys start a fight nearby. Mike looks at them and decides to intervene.

MIKE

Cut it out guys!

As Mike goes to separate the boys, Sophie and Becky dive through the door.

71 INT. - CITY CENTRE CLUB - NIGHT

Inside the club the dance floor is heaving with people dancing to the loud music. In the middle of them are Sophie and Becky.

Becky is a good dancer and attracts attention from the boys in the club. When they stop dancing and go to the bar, one of the boys follows her.

When they get to the bar, Becky turns to watch the dancers as Sophie tries to order drinks for them. The BOY (18) approaches Becky.

BOY

Want to dance?

BECKY

No thanks. Not right now.

Becky turns towards the bar but the boy grabs her arm and pulls her round.

BOY

Why not?

Becky looks at him for a moment and removes his hand from her arm. She points to Sophie at the bar.

BECKY

I'm with her.

Sophie hears Becky and turns round. She smiles.

BOY

That's OK, my mate's over there.
I'll go and get him.

BECKY

No, you don't understand! I'm
with her. We're togeth-er. Get
it?

The Boy looks confused and disappointed and backs off.

BOY

Yeah, sure. Whatever.

The Boy walks off as Becky and Sophie burst out laughing.

72 EXT. - SOPHIE'S NEW HOUSE - NIGHT

Sophie and Becky approach the house. They are drunk and are holding each other up as they approach the door.

When they get there, Sophie gets her key out of her bag and opens the door. They go in.

73 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW HALL - DAY

The girls stagger into the hall and Sophie closes the front door as quietly as she can.

SOPHIE

Sssshhh!

Becky stifles a laugh as they head for the stairs.

Just then, the hall light comes on and Richard is standing in the living room doorway.

RI CHARD

You're very late. And a bit drunk as well by the look of it.

SOPHIE

We went for a curry. You like curry, Dad, don't you?

Becky giggles but Richard is not amused.

RI CHARD

You two had better get to bed. We'll talk about this in the morning.

74 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie is sitting alone on the sofa while Richard paces up and down the room.

RI CHARD

Well, that's enough said about that. But I don't expect a repeat performance. is that understood?

Sophie nods meekly.

RI CHARD (CONT.)

So, was it a celebration then? Or were you drowning your sorrows?

Richard waits for a response as Sophie just looks at him, uncomprehending.

RI CHARD (CONT.)

I know you got your results yesterday. I don't live in a vacuum, you know.

SOPHI E

Oh, that.

RI CHARD

Yes, that. (a beat) Well?

SOPHI E

Not good.

Richard sighs.

RI CHARD

How bad?

Sophie's face crumples and Richard's attitude softens. He sits beside his daughter.

RI CHARD

Never mind, sweetheart. Not everyone can be academic. It's not the end of the world.

Richard takes his daughter's hand but she pulls it away sharply.

SOPHI E

You don't understand. I need to get good grades.

RI CHARD

Sophie, it's OK. Passing exams isn't everything.

Sophie rounds on him.

SOPHI E

It is if you want to go to medical school, Dad!

RI CHARD

Oh, Sophie, not that again.

Sophie stares at her father before getting up and heading for the door. At the door, she turns and looks at him.

SOPHI E

I'm not giving up, you know. No matter what anyone says.

Sophie leaves the room and Richard sighs and sits back on the sofa.

75 EXT. - PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Sophie is in the library studying.

76 EXT. - SOPHIE'S GARDEN - DAY

It is a sunny day and Sophie is lying in the sun. Beside her are her school books.

77 INT. - SOPHIE'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie is at her desk working. A small lamp lights the books and papers on her desk.

78 EXT. - BOLTON ABBEY - DAY

Sophie and Becky run across the stepping stones, laughing as they help each other across and pretend to push each other into the river. Then they walk beside the river which flows in the valley beside the Abbey.

SOPHIE

Back to school on Monday.

BECKY

And college starts for me on Thursday. (a beat) I wish you were coming with me.

SOPHIE

Dad says I should stay at school if I want to get my A levels.

The girls lie down on the grass beside each other.

BECKY

It's the end of an era.

Sophie reacts strongly to this.

SOPHIE

No it isn't! We'll still be friends. Just because I'm at school and you're at college, that isn't going to change. You and me, we're two of a kind. We'll be friends for ever.

Becky turns her head to look at Sophie.

BECKY

Yeah, course we will. Got to keep each other focussed. Otherwise we'll never achieve our ambitions.

The girls nod and smile and lie back on the grass, enjoying the balmy summer's day.

79 EXT. - SECONDARY SCHOOL - DAY

All is quiet, the students are all in school.

80 INT. - SCHOOL SIXTH FORM CENTRE - DAY

The upstairs room of the centre is set out for exams with rows of desks covering the floor. Each desk is occupied by a student and at the front an invigilator watches to make sure no one cheats.

At one of the desks, Sophie, wearing her red glasses, is writing her answers to the questions in her first year mock A level Physics exam.

81 INT. - SCHOOL GYM - DAY

A gymnastics training session is in progress. Working with the floor exercise gymnasts is Sophie who is dressed in a track suit which has COACH written on the back.

Kate comes over to her.

KATE

It's good to have you back working with the squad.

Sophie smiles, a bit weakly.

SOPHIE

I'm glad to be back.

KATE

But it's not the same as actually doing it, eh?

Sophie shakes her head and returns her attention to the gymnast she is training.

SOPHIE

Keep your feet together, Lucy!
And your legs straight.

82 INT. - SCHOOL BIOLOGY LAB - DAY

The room is empty apart from Sophie who is sitting on a stool at a workbench with Mr Brown, the biology teacher, sitting on another stool next to her. Mr Brown is trying to be sympathetic.

MR BROWN

Maybe you should think about
doing a less academic subject.

Sophie's head whips round to look at him.

SOPHIE

Like Home Economics, I suppose!
Or something else equally
pathetic!

MR BROWN

Sophie! I'm just trying to help,
that's all.

SOPHIE

Well, you're not helping! And
I've got another class to go to.

Sophie jumps down off her stool and heads for the door.

83 INT. - SCHOOL PHYSICS LAB - DAY

The room is empty apart from MR HARVEY, the physics teacher, and Sophie. He is sitting at his desk and Sophie is standing looking distressed.

SOPHIE

So did I pass then?

The Physics Teacher shakes his head.

MR HARVEY

Not even close. Your paper was
the worst in the class. Here.

He hands Sophie her exam paper. She fights back the tears as she takes the paper, turns and leaves the room.

84 INT. - SCHOOL DINING ROOM - DAY

Sophie walks with her tray to an empty table and sits down. Carrie and Susie follow her and sit down on the same table. Carrie looks at Sophie as she speaks to Susie.

CARRIE

Mr Brown says I'll easily get into medical school if I want, with my grades.

Susie sniggers.

CARRIE (CONT.)

Though why anyone would want to be a pathetic doctor is beyond me.

Sophie turns away slightly but she can't avoid hearing Carrie.

CARRIE

I'm going to be a barrister. My Dad's a barrister. He says it's great. And you get paid loads of money.

Sophie gets up and takes her tray with her unfinished meal to the rubbish bin. She tips the contents of the tray into the bin and almost throws the tray onto the pile of other trays.

As she leaves the room, she can hear Susie's voice.

SUSIE

I think DOCTOR Smith might be just a little bit upset with you, Carrie.

They both laugh as Sophie leaves the room.

85 EXT. - SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

Sophie is walking across the school grounds. She is alone and tears are running down her cheeks. She comes to a tree and leans against it as she cries.

Sophie hears some other students talking as they come in her direction. She quickly takes a handkerchief out of her pocket and dries her eyes before walking on.

86 INT. - SCHOOL CHEMISTRY LAB - DAY

The class is sitting on stools at the benches while MR O'CONNOR, the chemistry teacher, speaks to them. Sophie is in the class.

MR O'CONNOR

These exam results are the worst I've seen from a class in ten years of teaching Chemistry to A level students. (a beat) I am really disappointed with all of you, with the exception of Carrie Boardman, who alone managed to achieve a respectable mark.

Carrie's chest swells with pride as Sophie gathers up her books and puts them in her bag before getting off her stool and heading for the door.

MR O'CONNOR (CONT.)

(to Sophie)

And where exactly do you think you're going?

SOPHIE

I'm leaving.

MR O'CONNOR

No you're not, the class isn't finished yet. Sit down.

Sophie stops and slowly turns to face Mr O'Connor.

SOPHIE

You obviously didn't hear me. I said, I'm leaving. I quit!

Sophie raises her hands, turns and heads for the door again.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

See you.

Sophie flounces out of the door as Mr O'Connor and the class look on open mouthed.

87

INT. - SCHOOL SIXTH FORM CENTRE - DAY

Sophie is sitting in a chair near the window, looking out over the grounds, when MR TRENT, the head of year, opens the door and looks in. He sees Sophie and calls to her.

MR TRENT

Sophie!

Sophie looks round and sees him.

MR TRENT (CONT.)

My office. Now!

Mr Trent stands at the door as Sophie gets up, picks up her bag and walks past him through the door.

88 INT. - MR TRENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Sophie is standing in front of Mr Trent's desk while Mr Trent stands at the other side and lays into her.

MR TRENT

I'm not saying you didn't have reason to be upset, I'm not saying that! (a beat) But that was definitely not the way to deal with it.

SOPHIE

(disinterested)
Whatever.

MR TRENT

If you intend to continue your studies at this school, young lady, you're going to need to do something about your attitude.

Sophie reacts strongly to this.

SOPHIE

Oh, is that right! Well, maybe, just maybe, it's their attitude towards me that's the real problem.

MR TRENT

Oh, Sophie, come on!

SOPHIE

I've had enough of this!

Sophie turns on her heel and heads for the door.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

I'm out of here!

Sophie opens the door and storms out leaving the door open. Mr Trent stares after her shaking his head. He comes round his desk and closes the door.

89 DELETED

90 DELETED

91 EXT. - PUB - DAY

Sophie is cleaning the tables in preparation for the opening of the pub when Becky walks in. Neither of them speaks, they just sit at one of the tables Sophie has been cleaning.

BECKY
Your Mum told me.

Sophie nods.

BECKY (CONT.)
Why?

Sophie doesn't answer.

BECKY (CONT.)
Bad results in your mocks?

Sophie's chin is quivering as she struggles to control herself. She takes a deep breath.

SOPHIE
It's not just that.

BECKY
Then what?

Sophie takes another deep breath.

SOPHIE
They all think I'm thick. Too thick for anything. (a beat)
Certainly too thick to be a doctor.

Sophie gives a half laugh.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
But if I can't get into medical school, there's no point. (a beat) Why can't they see that I'm not stupid? I just have a disability, that's all. Not even that, really! My brain just works differently to everyone else's. But it's just as good. Why can't they understand that?

Becky reaches out and pulls Sophie to her and hugs her.

BECKY
You just have to ignore them. You and I both know that you have what it takes to be a doctor.
(MORE)

BECKY (cont'd)
 Just like we both know I have
 what it takes to be a physio. (a
 beat) And we're going to prove it
 to them! Aren't we?

Sophie looks at Becky. Her face brightens and she smiles at Becky.

SOPHIE
 Yeah! Too right, we are!

Sophie dries her eyes and blows her nose.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
 Do you think they'd have me at
 your place, at Denbigh?

BECKY
 No problem. And we'll be together
 again. You and me against the
 world. Who says we can't be what
 we want to be? Hey, maybe we
 could even share a flat, be
 independent. What do you think?

SOPHIE
 Sounds good to me.

Suddenly a satisfied smile crosses Becky's face.

BECKY (CONT.)
 Oh! And there's another thing!

Sophie looks enquiringly at Becky.

BECKY (CONT.)
 Guess who the Biology teacher is.

Sophie's eyes light up.

SOPHIE
 Not...?

Becky nods knowingly.

BECKY
 So you see, it's true what they
 say. Every cloud does have a
 silver lining.

Sophie has a broad grin on her face now as she stares
 absently into the distance.

It is spring four years later and Sophie (aged 21) has been studying part time for her A levels at Denbigh College ever since leaving her school. She no longer has a rock chick hair style but her mid-length hair is stylishly done and she is fashionably dressed in designer jeans and top and wearing smart high heeled boots.

Sophie walks into the college. There is an air of solidity and resignation about her walk, as if she has accepted her limitations.

93 INT. - DENBIGH COLLEGE LAB - NIGHT

Sophie is early and there is no one else in the room as she enters. She puts her bag on the bench and sits on a stool. She takes a text book out of her bag and starts to read it.

Peter Simpson, the biology teacher, comes in and sees her. He puts his backpack on his desk and goes over to her.

PETER

Hi Sophie. Still working as hard as ever? You don't need to worry, you know. You're going to get a good grade.

Sophie looks up.

SOPHIE

Good enough for medicine?

PETER

If it was up to me, yes. You know I've given you a good reference. If you don't get in, then it's their loss. I think you would make an excellent doctor.

Sophie smiles.

SOPHIE

You're the first person ever to say that to me. (a beat) Apart from Becky, of course.

Sophie looks into Peter's eyes.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

You know, if it wasn't for you I'd have given up years ago.

Peter returns Sophie's look and they lock eyes.

PETER

I seriously doubt that!

There is a noise at the door as another student arrives and Peter looks away towards the door, breaking the moment. Then he looks back at her.

PETER
How's work?

SOPHIE
At the hospital?

Peter nods.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
It's good, yeah, good, thanks. I enjoy it a lot. And it's good experience for me as well, a good thing to have on my CV.

More students arrive and Peter goes to his desk as they approach Sophie and start chatting to her.

94 EXT. - HOSPITAL - DAY

An ambulance SIREN can be heard getting closer. It stops as the ambulance turns into the hospital and pulls up outside the Accident & Emergency entrance.

The rear doors of the ambulance open and a couple of Paramedics jump down and take out the stretcher on which a GIRL (18) is lying, semi-conscious with a canula in her hand. They drop the stretcher wheels and wheel the stretcher into the hospital.

95 INT. - HOSPITAL A&E CORRIDOR - DAY

As the two Paramedics wheel the stretcher in, PARAMEDIC TWO goes to the Reception counter, from behind which the RECEPTION NURSE is watching what is going on.

Paramedic One is joined by an A&E NURSE. He starts pushing the trolley along a corridor. As the A&E Nurse walks beside taking notes and Paramedic Two joins them.

A&E NURSE
What have we got here?

PARAMEDIC ONE
Overdose, heroin most likely. GCS of three. BP one hundred over sixty, heart rate fifty and irregular.

The little group swings round the corner at the end of the corridor into a treatment room four where Sophie, dressed in her "blues" is waiting.

96 INT. - HOSPITAL A&E TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

The Paramedics lift the Girl from the trolley onto the examination couch.

PARAMEDIC ONE (CONT.)
Need us any more?

A&E NURSE
No. We can take care of it now,
thanks.

Paramedic One nods and leaves as Sophie wheels the blood pressure trolley to the A&E Nurse.

The A&E Nurse wraps the blood pressure cloth around the Girl's arm as Sophie collects a kidney dish containing some rubber tubes from the table at the back of the treatment room.

The A&E Nurse watches the monitor as the machine takes the Girl's blood pressure and heart rate.

She unwraps the blood pressure cloth as she speaks.

A&E NURSE
BP is ninety over fifty. Heart
rate is fifty-two.

Sophie notes these readings on the patient's chart as the A&E Nurse walks towards the door.

A&E NURSE (CONT.)
Get routine bloods for an OD and
do an ECG, OK? I'll be back in a
few minutes.

Sophie wheels the ECG machine to the bedside. As she does, the Girl opens her eyes. She looks disoriented and her eyes survey the room before settling on Sophie.

Sophie sees her patient is awake and smiles at her.

SOPHIE
Hi. I'm Sophie. I'm taking care
of you for now. What's your name?

The Girl looks scared and confused as Sophie holds up the ECG leads.

SOPHIE
I'm just going to attach these
little pads to your chest so we
can check your heart, OK?

Sophie puts the leads down and undoes the Girl's top before starting to attach the electrodes to her chest.

Suddenly, the Girl's mood changes and she becomes angry.

GIRL

What do you think you're doing!
Get off me!

The Girl slaps Sophie's hand away.

Shocked, Sophie takes a step back holding the remaining leads in her hand.

SOPHIE

I just need to attach the rest of
these to your chest so we can
monitor your heart. It won't hurt
and it's for your own good.

The Girl struggles to reach across her body and rips the canula from her hand. She looks at Sophie and with a GRUNT she stabs it into Sophie's arm.

Then the Girl pulls the ECG electrodes off and weakly throws them at Sophie.

GIRL

Bitch!

Sophie looks on, amazed and shocked, as the Girl struggles up off the bed and runs, stumbling, out of the room. Sophie, drops the ECG leads on the floor and runs after her.

97 INT. - HOSPITAL A&E CORRIDOR - DAY

The Girl runs down the corridor, bumping into the walls as she runs, with Sophie in hot pursuit.

As they reach the end of the corridor, Sophie catches the Girl's arm but the Girl turns and pushes Sophie away hard. Sophie hits the wall and falls to the ground as the Girl runs out of the building.

98 EXT. - HOSPITAL - DAY

The Girl comes flying out of the hospital and runs out of the hospital precinct.

98A INT. - HOSPITAL A&E CORRIDOR - DAY

Sophie gets to her feet and tries to catch her breath as an A&E DOCTOR comes up to her.

A&E DOCTOR
What happened?

SOPHIE
(breathless)
I was just trying to get an ECG,
and (a breath) she pulled her
canula out and stuck it in my
arm. Look!

Sophie points to the trickle of blood running down her arm.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
Then she just ran off, calling me
a bitch.

A&E DOCTOR
What was she here for?

SOPHIE
Overdose, I think.

A&E DOCTOR
An addict, then?

SOPHIE
Yeah, I think she must be. She
had an arm like a pin cushion.

The A&E Doctor takes Sophie by the arm and leads her through the doors back into the A&E department as he speaks.

A&E DOCTOR
In that case she was high risk
for infection and you need
treatment, now!

Inside the A&E department, Sophie stops and pulls her arm back from the A&E Doctor.

SOPHIE
What are you on about?!

A&E DOCTOR
She was an addict, you know what
that means. There's a risk. OK,
it's a small risk, but it's still
there and it would be stupid to
take a chance with something like
this.

The A&E Doctor grabs Sophie's arm again and drags her, looking alarmed, towards the reception counter.

A&E DOCTOR (CONT.)
Come on! You need to speak to
Occupational Health, right now!

99 EXT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT, STREET OUTSIDE - DAY

Sophie arrives home feeling rather unwell. She trips as she climbs the last few steps to her first floor flat and loses her balance. She almost falls but recovers.

With difficulty, Sophie finds her front door key in her bag. She tries to put it into the lock to open the door but keeps missing the keyhole.

She almost vomits but manages to hold it back as at last she finds the keyhole, opens the door and goes in.

100 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie comes into living room and goes to the kitchen area. When she gets to the sink, she can hold back no longer and vomits into the sink repeatedly.

She reaches for a glass and fills it with cold water. Then she picks up her bag from the worktop, leaves the living room and goes into the bedroom.

101 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT BEDROOM - DAY

Sophie comes into the room with her glass of water. She looks very pale and washed out. She sits on the bed and puts the glass on the bedside table.

She opens her bag and removes the three tubs of anti-viral pills she has been given. She reads the label on one of them for a moment and then throws all three against the wall and falls back onto the bed, exhausted.

102 EXT. - DENBIGH COLLEGE - NIGHT

In the window of the biology lab on the third floor Peter is looking out of the window. He is speaking on his mobile phone. When his call finishes, he puts his phone away.

103 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie ends a call on her mobile phone and puts it on the bedside table. She is now wearing brief shorts and a skimpy vest and is in bed.

She struggles up out of bed and goes into the bathroom. In front of the mirror, she sees how bad she looks and groans.

104 EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE SOPHIE'S FLAT - NIGHT

Peter's car pulls up and he gets out. He is carrying his backpack and a bunch of flowers. He looks at a piece of paper in his hand and then looks around. He sees Sophie's front door, goes up to it and rings the bell.

The door is opened by Becky.

BECKY

Come in.

105 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT HALL - NIGHT

Peter comes in and Becky closes the front door.

BECKY

She's in bed. Not doing too well.
These anti-viral drugs she's on
seem to be really messing her up.

Becky leads the way to Sophie's bedroom door and knocks before opening it.

BECKY (CONT.)

Visitor for you.

Becky stands aside so that Peter can go into the bedroom.

106 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie struggles to sit up in bed as Peter comes in. He approaches the bed and sits on it. He holds up the flowers.

PETER

I brought these for you. Thought
they might cheer you up a bit.

Sophie takes the flowers and puts them on the bed beside her.

SOPHIE

Thanks. I'll get Becks to put
them in a vase later. Assuming we
have such a thing as a vase.

They both smile and sit in silence for a few moments before Peter speaks.

PETER

I was sorry to get your call. Any
idea how long you'll be like
this.

SOPHIE

No. But I have to keep taking these bloody pills for six weeks. I hope I'm not going to be like this the whole time.

Peter opens his backpack and extracts some books.

PETER

I brought you the books you asked for and a list of chapters to read, if you feel up to it.

Peter looks round the room and sees a table. He gets up.

PETER (CONT.)

I'll leave them here for you.

SOPHIE

Thanks.

Peter puts the pile of books on the table and returns to sitting on the bed.

PETER

If you like I could call in now and then and maybe go through the work with you. Sort of tutor you.

Sophie smiles.

SOPHIE

That would be great. (a beat) If you're sure it's no trouble.

Peter looks her in the eye, a serious expression on his face.

PETER

I'd be glad to do it.
(brighter)
Can't have my star student falling behind the rest of the class, now can I?

Sophie smiles and goes all coy.

SOPHIE

I'm not your star student. I'm about the worst in the class.

PETER

Actually, you're not the worst. Not by a long way. I have high hopes of you, Sophie Smith.
(MORE)

PETER (cont'd)
 One day I'm going to be proud to
 say I taught you. When you're a
 top cardiothoracic surgeon.

Sophie stops smiling and looks Peter in the eye.

SOPHIE
 Do you really believe that?

PETER
 Do you?

SOPHIE
 I've always believed it.

PETER
 Then that's exactly what you'll
 be. You are the most determined
 and tenacious person I have ever
 met. You just don't know how to
 accept defeat.

Sophie looks adoringly at Peter.

PETER (CONT.)
 And, judging by your dissection
 work in the lab, you have an
 amazing talent for surgery.

Sophie smiles and lies flat in the bed. She looks up at
 Peter.

SOPHIE
 You can go now. Thanks for
 coming.

Peter smiles and gets up from the bed and goes to the door.
 At the door, he turns and looks at Sophie.

PETER
 I'll call you. About the
 tutoring?

Sophie nods and smiles again as Peter leaves. It is a happy
 and contented smile.

107 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT KITCHEN - DAY

Sophie is dressed and is filling a glass with water. She
 takes a pill from each of the three tubs and puts them in
 her mouth before drinking some water and swallowing them.

108 INT. - SOPHIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie is sitting at the dining table doing college work. She is wearing her red glasses. Suddenly, she realises she is going to be sick.

She gets up and disappears into the bathroom where she is violently sick into the lavatory bowl.

Sophie comes back into the living room looking pale and sits down at the table again. She looks out of the window for a few moments and then returns to her studying.

109 EXT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sophie is working at the dining table. On the table, there is a lamp which is switched on.

As she works, Peter approaches from behind her. He is carrying a mug of coffee. He puts the coffee on the table and sits down.

PETER

Don't you think you've done enough for one night. You need to get plenty of rest as well, you know.

Sophie puts her pen down and removes her glasses.

SOPHIE

OK! So what do you want to do instead.

She looks at him and smiles. He gets up and takes his coat from the chair where it was hanging. He speaks as he heads for the front door.

PETER

Well, I'm going to go home and do some marking. And I suggest you put your feet up and watch TV for an hour and then go to bed.

At the front door, Peter stops and turns.

PETER (CONT.)

I'll see you tomorrow. OK?

Sophie nods and Peter leaves closing the door behind him. Sophie stares out of the window, thinking about things and twiddling her pen.

110 EXT. - YORKSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

It is a sunny day and walkers can be seen dotted around the area. Amongst them are Sophie and Peter.

When they reach a stile, Peter climbs over and turns to help Sophie. She falls into his arms deliberately, steadies herself and looks into his eyes. He looks into hers and their faces start moving slowly towards each other. They kiss, tenderly and deeply and Peter wraps Sophie in his arms and hugs her to him.

When they break from the kiss, Peter looks at Sophie.

PETER

It's a good thing your course is nearly finished.

They turn and start walking along the path again.

SOPHIE

Won't you miss me?

PETER

Why? Where are you going?

Sophie turns and hits him on the arm playfully.

SOPHIE

You know damn well where I'm going! I'm going to medical school.

PETER

When's the interview?

SOPHIE

Thursday. My Dad's going with me.

Peter nods as they walk on into the distance, their arms around each other.

111 EXT. - EDINBURGH TRAIN STATION - DAY

Sophie, smartly dressed for her interview and Richard, her father, come out of the train station. Richard hails a cab and they get in.

112 EXT. - EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL - DAY

The taxi carrying Sophie and her father pulls up outside an imposing building and they get out. Richard pays the taxi driver and the taxi pulls away.

RI CHARD

Well! This is it, sweetheart.

Richard gives Sophie a peck on the cheek.

RI CHARD (CONT.)

Good luck. And remember. Just be yourself and you'll knock 'em dead.

Sophie smiles and turns to go into the building. Richard calls after her.

RI CHARD (CONT.)

Ring me when you've finished and I'll meet you back here. OK?

Sophie raises her hand in acknowledgement as her father watches her disappear into the building.

113 INT. - EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Sophie comes into the impressive, high ceilinged hall. There is a notice board standing near the stairs informing interviewees to go to room 206 on the first floor

Sophie looks round the hall, takes a deep breath and walks along the corridor.

114 INT. - EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL ANTE ROOM - DAY

There is a SECRETARY at a desk to one side of the room and some armchairs arranged in a square around a coffee table laden with magazines.

Sophie is sitting in one of the armchairs trying to read a copy of the Lancet while she waits.

She looks up and sees the Secretary looking at her. The Secretary smiles and Sophie smiles back.

A door to one side of the Secretary's desk opens and the previous Candidate comes out. He walks past the Secretary and Sophie and out of the room.

A few moments later a BUZZER sounds and both the Secretary and Sophie look up. Sophie looks at the Secretary.

SECRETARY

In you go. And don't worry, they don't bite.

The Secretary smiles and Sophie tries bravely to smile back as she gets up and goes through the door.

115 INT. - EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

There are four people sitting at a long table, a woman and three men, and a chair set in front of the table for the candidates to sit on.

The four interviewers look up as Sophie enters. The WOMAN INTERVIEWER (50s) appears to be in charge. She stands as Sophie approaches the table.

WOMAN INTERVIEWER
Sophie Smith?

Sophie nods and they shake hands.

WOMAN INTERVIEWER (CONT.)
Please have a seat.

Sophie and the Woman Interviewer sit down. Sophie sits with her back straight, knees together as the Woman Interviewer looks down at the file in front of her.

116 EXT. - EDINBURGH CASTLE - DAY

Richard is leaning on the battlements looking down on Princes Street. He is deep in thought.

He stands up straight and looks at his watch. Then he turns away from the battlements and starts walking down the hill towards the city centre.

117 INT. - EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Sophie is being interviewed by the panel.

118 EXT. - EDINBURGH, PRINCES STREET - DAY

Richard walks along the street, past shoppers and business people, and comes to a shop window where something catches his eye. He checks his watch and then goes into the shop.

119 INT. - EDINBURGH MEDICAL SCHOOL ANTE ROOM - DAY

The door beside the Secretary opens and Sophie comes out. She closes the door carefully and looks towards the Secretary. The Secretary is busy and does not look up. Sophie notices a girl sitting in one of the armchairs and smiles at her but the girl ignores her. She starts walking towards the door to the landing and leaves the room.

120 EXT. - SCOTTISH EAST COAST SCENE - DAY

An Intercity express train rushes along the coastline.

121 INT. - INTERCITY TRAIN - DAY

Sophie and her father are sitting opposite each other. Sophie is reading a magazine and Richard is reading a book.

Richard looks up from his book. He stares intently at Sophie for several seconds. Sophie looks up from her magazine and sees him looking at her.

SOPHIE

What?

RI CHARD

At least they didn't reject you out of hand.

SOPHIE

Yes, they did! They said I should consider doing a related course first, i. e. not medicine.

RI CHARD

And that if you did well on that, they would seriously consider you for medicine.

SOPHIE

Dad! That would mean four years doing something like biomedical science and then five more years at medical school.

Sophie looks away out of the window, close to tears.

RI CHARD

Yes, but you have to see it from their point of view as well. And at least it's still a possibility.

SOPHIE

Yeah. If you say so, Dad.

Sophie continues to stare out of the window and, after a few moments, Richard remembers something. A smile breaks out across his face.

RI CHARD

I almost forgot! I got you a present. Just something that caught my eye in Edinburgh.

Sophie turns away from the window as her father gets up and reaches into the luggage rack above his head. He retrieves a plastic bag, from which he removes a shoe box which he places in front of Sophie.

When she sees the shoe box, Sophie's expression is one of complete disbelief.

SOPHIE

You bought me some shoes?

Richard nods. He is grinning all over his face as he sits in his seat again.

RI CHARD

I know you have a thing about shoes.

Sophie pulls the box towards her and opens it apprehensively. She removes one of the shoes. It is a bright yellow patent leather shoe with several small pictures of puppies on it.

Sophie looks stunned.

RI CHARD

I bet that surprised you, didn't it?

SOPHIE

Yup, Dad. It certainly did that.

Sophie looks up at her Dad and smiles warmly.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

Thanks, Dad, they're great.

Richard smiles contentedly as Sophie puts the shoe back in the box and replaces the box lid.

122 EXT. - SCOTTISH EAST COAST SCENE - DAY

The train rushes on and disappears into a tunnel.

123 EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE SOPHIE'S FLAT - DAY

A postman walks away from the flats and leaves the precinct.

124 INT. - SOPHIE'S FLAT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie is sitting at the dining table in her shorts and vest with a mug of coffee in her hands. She is staring at a little pile of letters on the floor by the front door.

Becky comes in from her bedroom. She has just woken up. She goes to the kitchen area and switches the kettle on. Then she goes to join Sophie at the table.

On her way, Becky sees the letters on the floor by the front door. She looks at Sophie, who just stares at them and sips her coffee.

BECKY
Urgh! You're hopeless!

Becky goes through to the hall and picks up the letters. As she does, Sophie moves to the sofa. Becky looks through the letters as she walks back to the kitchen. She selects two and puts the rest on the kitchen worktop before joining Sophie on the sofa.

When Becky sits down, Sophie looks at her and holds out her hand. Becky gives Sophie one of the letters and they both open them, take out the sheets of paper inside and read them.

Suddenly, Becky's face breaks into a big wide grin. She throws the envelope and paper up in the air and cheers.

BECKY
YEEEEAAHHHH!!!!

SOPHIE
Good news, I presume?

BECKY
I DID IT! I only bloody went and did it!! (a beat) Three As!

Becky calms down and looks at Sophie, who is very subdued. Sophie folds her sheet of paper and carefully puts it back in the envelope. Becky's brow furrows with concern.

BECKY (CONT.)
How about you? Did you get the grades you needed?

Sophie looks at Becky and nods.

SOPHIE
Looks like I'm going to Edinburgh.

Becky smiles.

BECKY
See! I told you you'd do it.

SOPHIE
Yeah.

BECKY

So what's wrong? You're going to Uni. We both are.

SOPHIE

Yeah, but you're going to do what you really want to do. You're going to be a physio. I'm going to do biomedical bloody science!

Becky's smile fades and she puts her hand on Sophie's arm.

BECKY

For now. But you will be a doctor. I know you will. You just have to do it the hard way, that's all.

Sophie looks at Becky.

SOPHIE

I always have to do it the hard way, Becks.

Becky jumps up off the sofa, turns and grabs Sophie's hands.

BECKY

Well you're not going to mope around here all day! We are two girls who have passed their exams and we are going to celebrate.

Becky drags Sophie up off the sofa.

BECKY (CONT.)

Get dressed, and I mean get dressed, yeah? We are going shopping.

SOPHIE

Not for...?

BECKY

Yep! Shoes!

Sophie's face breaks into a broad smile as the two walk towards their bedrooms.

SOPHIE

Come to think of it, I saw a fantastic pair of red crocodile skin boots in L K Bennett's the other day.

The two separate and go into their bedrooms.

125 EXT. - STREET NEAR COLLEGE - DAY

A pair of red boots walks along the street. Wearing them is Sophie, head high, shoulders back, and next to her is Becky. The two are smartly dressed and wearing make up. They look good.

Outside the college, students are standing around in groups talking about their results.

As Sophie and Becky pass through them on their way into the building, heads turn to watch them

126 INT. - DENBIGH COLLEGE LAB - DAY

Peter is in the lab, tidying up his overhead slides when Sophie and Becky come in. He turns round and sees them and his face breaks into a smile.

PETER

Hello, ladies. You two are looking great this morning.

In unison, the two girls hand him their envelopes, their faces wearing blank expressions. He takes them and opens Becky's first, reads it and nods slowly.

PETER (CONT.)

Congratulations. You'll make an excellent physiotherapist.

Peter returns Becky's envelope to her and looks at Sophie, she is still giving nothing away, still a blank expression on her face. He opens her envelope and reads it and a restrained smile breaks out on his face.

PETER (CONT.)

Good.

He looks up at Sophie.

PETER (CONT.)

I knew you'd do it. Well done.

He hands back Sophie's envelope to her and they look into each other's eyes.

Becky suddenly comes to life, all bubbly and excited.

BECKY

We're going out to celebrate tonight. Me and Liam and Sophie and...

She looks at Sophie and cocks her head. Sophie looks at Becky and then at Peter.

SOPHIE
 (to Peter)
 Want to come? I'm not your
 student any more, so you can be
 seen in public with me now.

Sophie nudges him cheekily and Peter looks at her, not sure how to respond.

BECKY
 Go on, come with us. It won't be
 the same for Sophie if you don't.

Peter looks at Sophie and she nods her agreement with what Becky has said. He nods.

PETER
 OK. I'd like that.

BECKY
 Great! We're going to meet
 outside City Hall at eight. OK?

Peter nods.

127 EXT. - LEEDS CITY HALL - NIGHT

Sophie and Becky walk into the square in front of City Hall and meet LIAM (22), Becky's boyfriend. Liam puts his arm round Becky's shoulders and she puts hers round his waist.

LIAM
 Hi Sophie, how's it going.

Sophie is looking around the square, not really listening to Liam.

SOPHIE
 Good. Yeah, good, thanks.

LIAM
 Thought we'd go to Benny's.
 There's a good DJ there tonight.

Liam starts to move off but Becky holds him back.

BECKY
 Hang on a minute, Liam!

Liam looks at Becky, incomprehension written all over his face.

Just then, Peter arrives and Sophie's face lights up.

LIAM
Oh! Right!

Peter gives Sophie a peck on the cheek.

128 INT. - CITY CENTRE CLUB - NIGHT

Becky, Liam and Sophie are dancing while Peter stands on the edge of the dance floor.

Sophie signals him to join them but he shakes his head so she goes over to him, grabs his hand and drags him onto the floor.

The four of them dance together but Peter is clearly not accustomed to dancing to rock music.

The music stops and a slow number comes on. Liam makes a grab for Becky but she dodges him.

BECKY
I'm dying for a drink. Come on
Liam, let's get a drink.

Becky and Liam disappear through the dancers towards the bar.

Sophie looks at Peter, he smiles back and they embrace and rock to the music. Sophie has a contented smile on her face.

129 EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE CLUB - DAY

Sophie and Peter are walking along arm in arm and Sophie is resting her head on Peter's shoulder. Liam and Becky are a few paces behind them.

LIAM
What's up with them!

BECKY
I think it's really sweet.

LIAM
Pathetic, if you ask me.

Becky whacks him in the stomach with her bag.

BECKY
Well I wasn't asking you.
(to Sophie and Peter)
Hey, you two! Hang on a minute.

Becky and Liam catch up with Sophie and Peter.

BECKY (CONT.)

What do you want to do now? Want to try the new place in Wellington Street?

SOPHIE

We thought we'd call it a night and get a taxi.

LIAM

It's early yet! Too early to go home.

BECKY

Yeah, come on. The night is still young.

Sophie gives Becky a look which tells her to shut up.

BECKY

Ohhhh, I see!
(to Liam)
I think they want to be aloone.

LIAM

Suit yourselves. Come on Becky.

Liam drags Becky off and they leave Sophie and Peter standing there.

Peter sees a taxi with its light on and opens the door for Sophie. She gets in and he follows her and closes the door. The taxi drives off.

130 INT. - TAXI - NIGHT

Sophie and Peter are sitting in the back of the taxi, holding hands. They lean towards each other and enjoy a long kiss.

SOPHIE

Typical, isn't it?

PETER

What is?

SOPHIE

It's finally OK for us to be seen together and I'm going off to Edinburgh in a couple of months.

PETER

Yeah, but it's going to be a great couple of months!

Peter smiles and Sophie grabs his arm and leans her head against his shoulder.

131 EXT. - EDINBURGH CITY VIEW - DAY

The bustling city streets are full of cars and buses and people going about their business.

132 EXT. - EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY BUILDING - DAY

The modern box-like building is set in attractive grounds and surrounded by trees and grass.

Students are coming and going and some are sitting on benches scattered around the grounds, either reading or talking.

133 INT. - EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LAB - DAY

In the lab, Sophie, wearing a white lab coat, is sitting on a stool at a work bench set against the wall with a large window above.

On the work bench is a microscope and she is peering into it. Every few moments she takes her eye from the eyepiece and makes a note on the pad beside her.

Nearby, other students are similarly engaged.

DAVID FAIRFAX (50), the lecturer in charge, is going from student to student. He approaches Sophie.

DAVID
How are you doing?

Sophie looks up from her microscope.

SOPHIE
OK, thanks. But there's something here I haven't come across before.

David looks at Sophie quizzically.

DAVID
Let me have a look.

Sophie moves to one side and David peers down the microscope.

DAVID (CONT.)
You mean those cells with triple nuclei?

SOPHIE

Yeah. They don't look like anything I've seen before.

David stands up.

DAVID

They're neutrophils. This section must have come from a specimen which had suffered some sort of damage.

David smiles at Sophie.

DAVID (CONT.)

That was well spotted.

Sophie gets back up on her stool.

DAVID (CONT.)

You know we're gong to miss you when you transfer to Leeds.

Sophie smiles.

SOPHIE

Thanks. But you know the reason.

DAVID

Love above everything else, eh?

SOPHIE

I'll be continuing my studies. Just as a married woman, that's all.

DAVID

How long to go now?

SOPHIE

Three weeks, two days and ...

Sophie looks at her watch.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

... about twenty one hours.

DAVID

Well, good luck to both of you.

134 EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE WEDDING DRESS SHOP - DAY

Sophie and Becky come out of the shop laughing and chatting. They walk along the street, a spring in their steps.

135 INT. - CITY CENTRE BAR - DAY

Sophie and Becky are sitting at a table, each with a cocktail.

BECKY

It's a bit early for these really but hey, it's not every day your best friend gets married.

SOPHIE

Too right!

They clink glasses.

BECKY

I was wondering, will you be keeping your single name after you're married? For professional purposes, I mean?

SOPHIE

Hadn't really thought about it. But yeah, I think I will. Sort of feels more like you're still a person in your own right, then.

Sophie sips her drink as Becky becomes serious.

BECKY

We'll still be friends, won't we? After you're married, I mean?

Sophie laughs.

SOPHIE

What a stupid question! Nothing's going to break us up. We'll be friends forever, you and me.

Becky smiles and Sophie raises her glass.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

To friendship.

BECKY

Friendship.

They drink from their glasses and then put them down on the table.

SOPHIE

You do like that dress, don't you?

BECKY

It's gorgeous! Just need some shoes to go with it now.

SOPHIE

And you know where I'd like to get those from, don't you?

They look at each other and speak in unison.

SOPHIE

Jimmy Choo's!

BECKY

Jimmy Choo's!

They both burst out laughing.

136 EXT. - CHURCH - DAY

The church bells are pealing and a crowd of wedding guests is outside the church.

As Sophie and Peter come out, they all cheer and start throwing confetti over the couple.

Becky, dressed in a bridesmaid's dress goes up to Sophie and kisses her on the cheek.

BECKY

Congratulations.

SOPHIE

Thanks. Make sure you catch the bouquet.

BECKY

I don't think Liam's ever going to ask me to marry him.

SOPHIE

Don't talk like that! Dreams, girl! Dreams. I haven't given up so don't you dare.

Becky smiles and steps back a few paces and throws some confetti over the couple.

137 EXT. - LEEDS TRAIN STATION - DAY

Caption: TWO YEARS LATER

Sophie is on the platform as a train pulls in and stops.

A little way down the platform, Becky gets off the train. Sophie spots her and calls out.

SOPHIE

BECKY!

Becky sees Sophie and waves and they both start running towards each other. When they meet they hug.

They start walking down the platform towards the exit.

BECKY

I still can't believe I'm
actually a qualified
physiotherapist!

SOPHIE

I know! It's great, isn't it?
Let's go get a drink and
celebrate the fact that one of us
at least, has reached her goal.

138 INT. - ARCADE CAFE - DAY

Sophie and Becky are sitting in an open air arcade cafe. People are walking up and down the arcade, either side of the cafe.

A Waiter brings them a glass of wine each and puts them on the table.

Sophie lifts her glass towards Becky.

SOPHIE

Congratulations.

Becky raises her glass and they clink glasses.

BECKY

Thanks. I couldn't have done it
without your encouragement.

SOPHIE

We encourage each other. That's
what friends are for.

They drink from their glasses.

BECKY

So, how are things with you?
Peter behaving himself?

SOPHIE

Oh yeah, he's lovely. And you
know, the amazing thing is, he
really believes in me. Like no
one else ever has.

Becky gives her a hurt look.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
 Apart from you of course.

BECKY
 And the studies? Are they still
 going well?

Sophie nods.

SOPHIE
 They're predicting I'll get a
 first at the moment.

Becky's mouth drops open and she gasps.

BECKY
 You're kidding! A first! That's
 fantastic! Well done, you.

The two clink glasses again.

BECKY (CONT.)
 Who'd have thought it, eh? Me a
 physio and you on for a first. (a
 beat) We ought to go back to that
 rotten school and show them what
 we've achieved, never mind that
 they thought we were useless.

SOPHIE
 Too right!

139 INT. - LEEDS UNIVERSITY LAB - NIGHT

The lab is empty apart from Sophie sitting at one end, bent over a microscope.

In the corridor, outside the glass panels which form part of the wall of the lab at the other end of the room, HARRY DONALDSON (35), one of Sophie's professors, stops and looks into the room. He sees Sophie and enters the lab.

Harry comes up behind Sophie and she senses his presence.

Sophie looks up from the microscope and smiles.

SOPHIE
 Hi. What are you doing here?

HARRY
 I was just passing on my way out
 and I saw you. It's a bit late.
 Shouldn't you be in a pub or a
 club or something.

Sophie smiles.

SOPHIE

I wish! I'm a bit behind the rest of the class so I thought I'd put in a bit of extra time.

Harry sits on a stool beside Sophie.

HARRY

You have to work twice as hard as everyone else, don't you? Because of your dyslexia.

SOPHIE

Yeah, but I'm used to it now. If I want to be a doctor one day, I have to do whatever it takes.

There is a few moments of awkward pause before Harry speaks again.

HARRY

What are you doing this summer?

Sophie shrugs.

SOPHIE

Don't know. Probably try and get a job, earn some money. It's not fair Peter having to support me all the time.

HARRY

How about working for me in the summer? I could do with an assistant as dedicated as you. What about it?

SOPHIE

I don't know. What would I do?

HARRY

Carry out experiments for me, maybe some preparation of slides. I've noticed how good you are with a scalpel. And maybe it could form part of your dissertation. What do you think?

Sophie thinks for a few moments and then smiles.

SOPHIE

Yeah, OK, thanks. I'd like that.

Harry gets off his stool.

HARRY

Good, that's settled then. We'll talk about it tomorrow. For now, you should pack up for the night and go home. OK?

Sophie nods and Harry leaves. After he has gone, she punches the air with her fist.

SOPHIE

Yes!

140 EXT. - BEACH - DAY

It is a hot summer's day. Sophie is lying on the beach sunbathing when Peter arrives beside her with two ice creams.

Sophie sits up as Peter hands her one of the ice creams and sits beside her.

SOPHIE

This is great!

PETER

Glad you approve of my choice of confectionery.

SOPHIE

No, I mean the whole thing. A whole weekend of no work and nothing I have to do. It's great.

PETER

Yeah, well I thought I ought to prise you away from your microscope for a couple of days. See if you could cope with a bit sunlight.

Peter does an impression of Dracula and they both laugh.

PETER

What's Becky going to do now that she's qualified?

SOPHIE

Go and spit in the face of that lot at Cranfield Park, I think. And tell them I told you so.

Peter laughs.

PETER

I don't blame her. But apart from that?

SOPHIE

She's got a job at a centre for paraplegics. You know, helping them to keep fit and stop their muscles wasting away.

PETER

Doesn't sound like much fun.

SOPHIE

It's what she always wanted to do. She's doing exactly what she wants to do.

Sophie looks out to sea, a wistful expression on her face. After a few moments Peter reaches out and rubs her arm.

PETER

You will too. You're far too determined to fail. No one would dare to refuse you.

Sophie looks round and punches him on the arm. He laughs.

SOPHIE

Edinburgh did.

PETER

That was four years ago. It'll be different this time.

Peter lies back and closes his eyes as Sophie stares out to sea again.

SOPHIE

(quietly, to herself)
Yeah. Maybe.

141 INT. - UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LAB - DAY

The lab is full of scientific equipment and, at one end of the room, there is a large refrigerated box set up in order to enable micro dissection to take place in sterile conditions.

Sophie is sitting on a stool in front of the box with her hands inside. She is peering intently into the box as she carefully cuts sections of a rat's spinal cord and places them on a glass slide.

142 EXT. - PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In an upstairs window, Sophie is visible working at her computer.

143 INT. - PETER'S HOUSE, STUDY - NIGHT

Sophie, wearing her red glasses, is sitting at the desk, typing away. She stops and thinks for a moment and then refers to her notes, leafing through the papers. She finds what she is looking for, reads it for a moment and then starts typing again.

Peter, bleary eyed and wearing a dressing gown, comes into the room.

PETER

It's time you were in bed. It's two o'clock.

Sophie doesn't look up.

SOPHIE

I just need to finish this bit.

She looks round at him.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

Just a few minutes more, I promise.

Peter turns to leave and mutters to himself.

PETER

This is going to be the mother of all dissertations.

Sophie has heard him.

SOPHIE

You bet it is!

144 INT. - HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Harry is sitting behind his desk looking down at Sophie's dissertation while Sophie is across the desk from him looking anxious.

HARRY

This is excellent. I mean really good work.

Sophie relaxes and tries to hide a smile.

HARRY (CONT.)

In fact, I'd like to use some of it in a paper I'm writing at the moment on regeneration of neurons and credit you as co-author.

Sophie can't help smiling now.

HARRY (CONT.)

And ...

Harry looks up at Sophie.

HARRY (CONT.)

... I'd like to present the results of the research you did for me at a conference in March. The conference is in Nice and I'd be really pleased if you could come. All expenses paid.

Sophie is grinning like a Cheshire cat now.

145 EXT. - LEEDS/BRADFORD AIRPORT - DAY

People are being collected and dropped off at the airport as taxis and buses come and go.

In the background, an aeroplane takes off.

146 EXT. - NICE HOTEL - DAY

The hotel is the centre of Nice, facing the promenade.

Harry and Sophie get out of a taxi and go into the hotel.

147 INT. - NICE HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Inside the hotel, Harry and Sophie approach the reception desk.

148 EXT. - NICE CITY STREET - DAY

A taxi drives along the street. In the taxi are Harry and Sophie.

149 INT. - NICE TAXI - DAY

Sophie looks out of the window, as the taxi drives along the promenade.

The taxi drives along the road and turns into the gated entrance to a large building. The sign outside says: CENTRE CONFERENCE DU NICE.

150 EXT. - NICE CONFERENCE CENTRE - DAY

The taxi comes through the gate and pulls up outside the main entrance to the building.

Harry and Sophie get out of the taxi and go up the steps and into the building. Sophie is still looking all around.

151 DELETED

152 DELETED

153 DELETED

154 INT. - NICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The conference room is full of people. Sophie is sitting on the front row.

Harry is on his feet at the podium speaking.

HARRY

... and I'd particularly like to thank the person who conducted much of the research on which this paper is based.

Harry looks across at Sophie and motions her to stand. She gets up from her seat and looks around the audience nervously.

HARRY (CONT.)

This young lady's name is Sophie Smith. It's a name you should remember because she has a very bright future ahead of her.

Harry starts to clap and the audience joins in. Sophie smiles shyly and nods in acknowledgement of the applause before sitting down again.

154A INT. - PETER'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie, barefoot and wearing her shorts and vest, is standing at the fireplace fondly looking at a postcard she sent to Peter from Nice. She passes her hand over it and smiles.

155 DELETED

156 DELETED

157 EXT. - PETER'S HOUSE - DAY

The door of the house opens and Sophie reaches out and picks up the milk bottle on the step before closing the door again.

158 INT. - PETER'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Sophie is in the kitchen putting some milk in her coffee mug when she hears the letter box go as the postman delivers some letters. She leaves the kitchen.

159 INT. - PETER'S HOUSE, HALL - DAY

Sophie comes into the hall and picks up the letters, she looks at them and immediately opens one.

She reads it and an angry look spreads across her face. She starts to shake with anger.

She drops the other letters onto the floor and crumples the one she was reading into a tight little ball before dropping that onto the floor as well.

As she turns to go back to the kitchen, Peter appears in the doorway. She pushes past him through the door, her dissatisfaction clearly written on her face.

160 INT. - PETER'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Sophie comes back into the kitchen and angrily spoons some coffee into her mug, spilling some onto the worktop.

Peter comes into the kitchen. In his hand is the crumpled letter, now straightened out so that he can read it.

As Sophie pours water from the kettle into her mug and then slams the kettle down on the worktop, he reads the letter. Sophie looks at him, still very angry.

SOPHIE

That's the last one. (a beat)
They've all rejected me now.
Again! Every last one of them! (a
beat) I mean what do you have to
do to prove you can be a good
doctor?

Peter shakes his head and sighs.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

I'm going to get a first in biomedical science, I've had my research published and presented at an international conference...

Sophie pushes past Peter again on her way to the living room as she speaks.

SOPHIE

...I've worked for three years in the A and E department of a hospital. What more can they possibly want?

Peter follows her.

161 INT. - PETER'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie comes in with her coffee and puts it on the table. Then she turns to Peter and looks him in the eye.

SOPHIE

And then there's you! you told me I would make a good doctor?

PETER

And I really do believe that.

SOPHIE

You made me believe it could happen! How could you do that to me?!

Peter looks aghast as Sophie turns on him.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

How could you get my hopes up like that?! You must have known it was impossible!

Peter shakes his head. He opens his mouth to speak but before he can, Sophie continues.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

Why didn't you tell me it was hopeless!

Sophie gives him a betrayed look before launching at him and starting to hit out at him.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

You bastard!

Peter puts his arms across his face to protect himself as Sophie's blows rain down on him.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
Bastard, bastard, bastard!

Sophie dissolves into tears as she stops hitting Peter and leans into his chest, sobbing pitifully.

Peter puts his arms around her and hugs her to him, tears now falling from his eyes as he looks heavenward.

162 EXT. - ARCADE CAFE - DAY

Sophie and Becky are sitting at a table, each with a cup of coffee.

BECKY
OK, so here's the plan. First, we do some shopping ...

SOPHIE
For shoes, yeah?

BECKY
Hey, what else? Some things never change.

They both laugh.

BECKY (CONT.)
And then I think a visit to the beautician's is called for.

SOPHIE
Yeah! I could really do with a facial.

Sophie rubs her hand up and down her face.

SOPHIE (CONT.)
All this crying's made a real mess of my skin.

BECKY
Well all that stops, right now. Understood? No more crying over something you can't do anything about, OK?

SOPHIE
Yeah, OK. But it's so unfair. Is it (really asking so much...)

BECKY
Whoa! No more. It's history. And we are going to have some fun. Agreed?

Sophie smiles and nods her acceptance.

163 EXT. - LEEDS UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL - DAY

It is graduation day. Students, wearing their graduation robes, and their parents and friends are milling around outside and wandering into the hall.

164 INT. - LEEDS UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL STAIRCASE - DAY

The graduating students and their parents are climbing the staircase to the Great Hall and amongst them is Sophie, wearing her gown and mortar board.

164A INT. - LEEDS UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL - DAY

Sophie is expressionless as she receives her degree from the Chancellor and turns towards the audience.

Near the front are Peter and Sophie's parents and brother, all smiling broadly and clapping vigorously. Sophie smiles at them weakly.

165 EXT. - LEEDS UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL - DAY

Students and their parents are again milling around and talking. Everyone is smiling. Amongst these groups are Sophie, Peter, Richard, Jenny and James.

JAMES

Well, you did it, Sis. Well done.

SOPHIE

Thanks. A few years behind most people but I got there in the end.

PETER

Don't undersell yourself. It's a fantastic achievement. And I am so proud of my brainy wife.

Sophie smiles but it is a smile tinged with sadness.

SOPHIE

Well, I couldn't have done it without you.

Out of the milling crowd, Harry appears. In his hands he has a bottle of champagne and a cardboard box of six champagne flutes.

Sophie spots him and smiles.

SOPHIE (CONT.)

Were you there?! In the audience?

Harry leans towards her and pecks her on the cheek.

HARRY

Wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Sophie looks at the champagne and box of glasses in his hands.

SOPHIE

This is a bit over the top, isn't it? What have I done to deserve such special treatment? The place is full of people who have graduated.

Harry speaks as he holds out the box of glasses and they each take one.

HARRY

This is true.

(to James)

Grab one for me would you?

James does as he is asked and Harry drops the box to the ground. He starts to open the champagne as he continues to speak.

HARRY

But, they, haven't been offered the chance to do a PhD with one of Britain's top research scientists.

Sophie looks at Harry, not sure what he is saying.

The champagne cork POPS loudly. Champagne starts to bubble out of the bottle and Harry quickly starts pouring the champagne into the glasses.

When he has finished, he takes his glass from James and looks Sophie directly in the eye.

HARRY (CONT.)

Will you do it?

He raises his glass. Sophie doesn't answer for a second or two as a smile spreads across her face. She feigns disinterest as she speaks.

SOPHIE

Yeah, why not? Might be fun.

Sophie and Harry clink glasses and take a sip of their champagne.

Peter watches, glad that Sophie is happy.

166 INT. - LEEDS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LAB - DAY

Caption: THREE YEARS LATER

Just as when Sophie was working there before, the lab is full of scientific equipment and, at one end of the room, there is the same large box set up in order to enable micro dissection to take place in sterile conditions.

Sophie is sitting on a stool nearby. She places a slide in the microscope in front of her, adjusts it's position and peers into the microscope.

Suddenly she pulls her head back from the microscope and looks surprised.

She bends forward and peers into the eyepiece again. She adjusts the focus knob on the microscope whilst she is looking at the slide.

She pulls her head back again and refers to her notes, leafing through the pages to find what she is looking for.

She writes something down on the top sheet and gets up from her stool. Taking her pad, she goes to Harry, who is working in his office at the other end of the lab.

They talk briefly and then both return to Sophie's microscope. Harry sits on the stool and peers into the eyepiece as Sophie waits beside him, her excitement beginning to show.

Harry pulls his head back and looks at Sophie's notes.

HARRY

This is fantastic! If we can replicate these results, it's a breakthrough of massive importance.

Sophie grins.

167 INT. - HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

There are six beds in the ward and Sophie, wearing a white coat, is sitting beside one of them, talking to FRANK (30).

FRANK

Thanks for letting me be part of these trials.

SOPHIE
No problem. But you must remember
that they are trials. There's no
guarantee of success.

Becky arrives at the entrance to the ward. Sophie sees her
and gets up. She pats Frank's hand and he smiles as she
leaves.

168 INT. - HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

Sophie and Becky walk along the corridor.

BECKY
How's it going?

SOPHIE
Good. So far the results of the
trials confirm what we found in
the lab.

BECKY
That's brilliant. You must be so
proud.

SOPHIE
It's not just me. It's a team
effort. I'm just one small piece
of it. The whole team, all of us,
have been working towards this
for the last three years.

BECKY
Even so.

169 EXT. - ARCADE CAFE - DAY

Sophie and Peter are sitting at a table in the cafe with a
glass of wine.

PETER
I still find it difficult to
believe.

SOPHIE
What?

PETER

That the girl I found in a class
I was supply teaching twelve
years ago, the girl who could
barely read and had little hope
of ever passing her GCSEs, is now
conducting clinical trials of a
new treatment which she helped to
develop and which can give new
hope to so many people around the
world. It's just amazing. (a
beat) You are amazing.

Peter holds up his glass.

PETER (CONT.)

Well done. I am so proud of you.

Sophie smiles.

170 EXT. - LONDON CITY SCENE - DAY

The city is bathed in sunlight as the traffic rushes in all directions.

171 EXT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL - DAY

A car drives up to the entrance to the hotel and a Doorman opens the rear door.

Sophie gets out of the car, followed by Peter. She is smartly dressed in a suit, the emerald green shoes she saw in the shop window earlier, and a matching shirt and her hair has been done in a sophisticated style.

172 INT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL, CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

The hall is full of people sitting in their seats and chatting to each other.

At the front is a stage with a lectern, a long table and some seats for the speakers and dignitaries.

Peter comes into the hall and takes a seat on the front row, next to Sophie's parents and brother. He shakes hands with Richard, kisses Jenny on the cheek and raises a hand in acknowledgement to James.

173 INT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL, CONFERENCE ANTE ROOM - DAY

Sophie and Harry are standing together, she looks nervous while he looks confident. Nearby are a few other people including the CHAIRMAN of the conference.

The Chairman approaches Sophie and Harry.

CHAIRMAN
It's time to go in. Are you ready?

Sophie nods.

HARRY
Whenever you are.

174 INT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL, CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

The Chairman opens the double doors into the conference room and leads the group in. They take their seats on the stage as the Chairman approaches the lectern.

CHAIRMAN
Welcome back to this, the final session of this year's conference. (a beat) And for this final session, we are privileged to have with us Professor Harry Donaldson. Most of you will be aware of Professor Donaldson's work on regeneration of neurons in the spinal cord, but he is here today to present the eagerly awaited results of the clinical trials he and his team have been conducting over the last year.

The chairman looks at Harry and nods. Harry starts to get up.

CHAIRMAN (CONT.)
Professor Donaldson.

The Chairman starts clapping and stands to one side as the audience also start clapping and Harry arrives at the lectern.

The Chairman sits down and, when the applause subsides, Harry speaks.

HARRY
Thank you, Sir John. (a beat) As Sir John mentioned, we have been conducting extensive clinical trials of a new treatment for paralysis for twelve months and the time has come to announce the results of those trials.

Harry looks round at Sophie and she smiles.

HARRY (CONT.)

But I thought that, rather than tell you myself, I would introduce to you the person who actually made the initial discovery on which this treatment is based.

Sophie is looking down at her hands in her lap, she is embarrassed by what Harry is saying.

HARRY (CONT.)

She is a remarkable woman, who achieved a first class honours degree in biomedical science, graduating at the top of her year, before being spotted by a certain very perceptive Professor of Neurology ...

There is a titter from the audience and Harry smiles.

HARRY (CONT.)

Yes, OK! It was me. (a beat) Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and great pleasure to present to you Doctor Sophie Smith.

Harry turns to face Sophie and starts to clap. The audience follow his lead as Sophie rises, picks up her speech and makes her way to the lectern.

SOPHIE

Thank you Professor.

Sophie puts her speech on the lectern and looks up at the audience.

SOPHIE

This is a bit scary!

There is tittering from the audience.

SOPHIE

But I think the results I am going to tell you about should speak for themselves. (a beat) In fact, I wish they could!

Sophie smiles nervously and the audience laughs at her joke as she takes her red glasses out of their case.

Sophie spots Peter in the front row and looks at him. He looks back and nods encouragement to her and smiles.

She puts her red glasses on and looks down at her notes before clearing her throat.

SOPHIE

The treatment that these trials
were (set up to test is)

175 EXT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL - DAY

A London taxi pulls up and the Doorman opens the passenger door. Becky gets out of the taxi and helps a man on crutches to get out. It is Frank, the man who was in the hospital undergoing treatment as part of the clinical trials.

Becky holds Frank's arm as, with difficulty and using his crutches, he walks into the hotel.

176 INT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Becky and Frank walk into the lobby. A board in the lobby welcomes delegates to the 7th Annual Conference on Clinical Neurology.

Becky and Frank are greeted by Briony who leads them across the lobby.

177 INT. - DORCHESTER HOTEL, CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

Sophie is still at the lectern, just coming to the end of her speech.

SOPHIE

So, there is still work to be done. But, in conclusion, I can confirm that the trials have been successful and have proved that the treatment is effective in most cases. (a beat) Thank you.

Sophie removes her glasses and looks round at Harry who nods and starts clapping. The audience immediately follow suit and start clapping enthusiastically, none more so than Peter who is wearing a broad grin.

As the applause starts to die down, the doors at the back of the conference room are thrown open and Briony, Becky and Frank come in. Aided by Becky, Frank makes his way to the front and climbs the few steps to the stage.

Frank goes towards the lectern, now moving on his own, as Becky waits beside the stage.

When he gets to the lectern, Frank gives Sophie a kiss on the cheek before turning to address the audience. He is clearly very emotional.

FRANK

As you can see, it has required
some effort for me to be here
today.

The audience start applauding but Frank holds up his hand to stop them.

FRANK (CONT.)

It's not me you should be
applauding, but them.

With a sweep of his arm, Frank indicates Harry, Briony and Sophie.

FRANK (CONT.)

If it wasn't for them, I'd still
be in a wheel chair.

Frank struggles to control his emotions as Sophie looks down at her feet, also very emotional.

FRANK

And this young lady in
particular, Doctor Sophie Smith,
is the best damn doctor in the
world.

Leaning on his crutches, Frank turns to Sophie and starts clapping.

She mouths "Thank you" to him as Peter lets out a whoop and gets to his feet clapping vigorously

Harry also stands and before long the whole audience is standing applauding Sophie as she looks on, blushing but happy.

FADE OUT.