

Cherries

Dialogue list

JAMES

So I'm coming outside right? And i see these boys blatantly bogging me out.

BOYS

Oh what...you should have shot them up man.

JAMES

That's what I'm saying man.

BOY

Bang!

JAMES

That's right. I knew what they was about to do...they was about to jack me for my phone. And you know what I did? I pulled out my cosh.

BOY

You should have shanked him.

JAMES

I didn't have my shank though did I. I smashed him over the head and he falls down on the floor like. I was gonna smack him in the face and that. You know it's not really about the violence....but you know I'd do it.

JAMES

What the fuck are you lot laughing at?

CLINT

What's going on Robin, you alright?

ROBIN

Yeah, you?

JAMES

You think you're fucking funny or something Clint?

ROBIN

It's your Mum.

CLINT

I can fuckin read.

JAMES

Ha! Is that your mum? Oi make sure you're home by bedtime yeah. Six o'clock.

JAMES

What the fuck are you looking at?

8

INT. HEADMASTERS OFFICE - DAY

8

MR O'BRIEN

This is so wrong.

HEADMASTER

Is it?

MR O'BRIEN

Come on!

HEADMASTER

Every year they get more selfish, more arrogant. They don't care about anyone or anything...

MR O'BRIEN

Were you any different at 16?

HEADMASTER

I think I was. This might just give them some direction, some discipline...

MR O'BRIEN

I thought that was our job.

9

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

9

JAMES

...Maybe she found you some new trousers at Oxfam - save you from wearing them ankle swingers.

CLINT

Look man, why are you always in my face?

JAMES

Why are you always dressed like a clown?

CLINT

Look yeah...I'm not gay like you and I don't want to talk fashion with you right now.

JAY
Is there something wrong with
you... my boy will batter you bruv.

BOY
Miss you can't touch me.

JAMES
Yeah, we're only messing
about...it's fine.

BOYS
We're joking...

10 INT. HEADMASTERS OFFICE - DAY

10

HEADMASTER
All I'm saying is it's very easy to
look at the negative side, when it
might be good for them. Teach them
some respect, turn their lives
around before its too late.

O'BRIEN
I'm not doing it.

HEADMASTER
You are. (beat) It'd be better
coming from you.

HEADMASTER
We don't have a choice. It's not
our decision. (beat) Phil. It's
your job.

11 EXT. WALKWAY - DAY

11

CLINT
Get out of here man...what you
saying.

AMIR
Hey, hey listen. Don't be jostling
no desi tho.

CLINT
Alright man, jam.

AMIR
I'm joking bro...what you saying.

CLINT
You're a big guy...you know what
I'm saying, you're a big guy.

MR O'BRIEN
Alright, alright. Enough.

MR O'BRIEN
Quiet!

MR O'BRIEN (CONT'D)
Right.
(beat)
Who's been following the coverage
of the war? Who watches the news?

CLINT
I watch it sometimes.

MR O'BRIEN
How does it affect you?

CLINT
Makes me angry, Sir.

MR O'BRIEN
Angry? Why Clint, can you explain.

CLINT
Cos I've put on the telly for
football and that depressing crap
is still on. Does my head in.

MR O'BRIEN
Anyone actually watch it to see
what's going on in the world? How
does it make you feel?

CLINT
Sleepy.

MR O'BRIEN
Robin what about you.

ROBIN
Sad.

JAY
Oh shut up you tart.

MR O'BRIEN
Sad. Why?

14 INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

14

MR O'BRIEN

Nathan. Hand these out would you,
please.

MR O'BRIEN

Nobody open the envelopes until I
say so.

MR O'BRIEN

Clint!

MR O'BRIEN

What did I just say?

CLINT

It's got my name on it.

MR O'BRIEN

Open the envelopes.

15 INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

15

JAMES

Sir, this is a joke, right?

NICK

It has to be Sir. Have you
actually read this?

BOY

Sir, I don't understand.

CLINT

It's bullshit.

MR O'BRIEN

Alright. Quiet, quiet. Quiet!

(beat)

I'm supposed to show you a
presentation which should answer
some of your questions.

PRESENTATION (V.O.)

The Ministry of Homeland Security
is instigating a unique programme
of personal, physical and
intellectual development, which
will provide a rounded education
specifically designed to meet the
needs of today's modern Armed
Services.

(MORE)

PRESENTATION (V.O.) (cont'd)
 As an eligible 16 to 18 year old
 you will be expected to undergo
 compulsory basic training at a
 security centre near you...

MR O'BRIEN

Jesus!

16

INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

16

MR O'BRIEN

I'm not actually sure how helpful
 that is...so I'll tell you what I
 know. Everyone was hoping that the
 war would be over quickly, but this
 doesn't look likely and, even if it
 is, restoring stability could take
 many years. Recently there's been a
 high casualty rate and troop
 numbers have been... depleted. The
 government have done some
 projections and if this goes on a
 long time, well then... then we're
 in trouble..

CLINT

Sir, wait, can you smell that?
 What's that? It's BULLSHIT that's
 what it is, Sir.

JAMES

Shut up Clint.

ROBIN

What does it mean 'training
 duties'?

PETER

Don't you have to be in the T.A or
 something?

MR O'BRIEN

Look I'm sure its just a
 precaution. They want all boys over
 sixteen to start training, so that
 if...

MR O'BRIEN

IF, they have to enlist you, you'll
 be ready.

ROBIN

What if I don't agree with the war
 Sir? I don't want to fight. I want
 to be a conscientious objector.

CHARLIE

You what?

MR O'BRIEN

They're not forcing you to fight Robin, they're only forcing you to train.

CLINT

For now...

ROBIN

Aren't there any medical exceptions? I'm epileptic.

MR O'BRIEN

Maybe there will be.

STEVE

Sir, I've got asthma.

18

INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

18

AMIR

Sir, what I don't get is how come we aint been told nothing about this 'til now?

MR O'BRIEN

They didn't want to create panic or hysteria by letting the press get hold of it.

ALEX

But Sir can't you do something?

BOY

What about our parents?

MR O'BRIEN

I don't know all the answers here, but soon we're going to the hall where representatives of the government and the army will be coming to talk you though everything.

CLINT

What they're here now? That's bullshit!

JAMES

Stop saying that. Don't you know any other words...

MR O'BRIEN
Phones off. Phone off.

BOYS
That's my mum. It must be true.

BOY
Jesus it's happening everywhere.

MR O'BRIEN
Alright, everyone's phones off now.
NOW.

NICK
It's true, same thing's happening
at Northgate.

CHARLIE
Shit, serious?

STEVE
We're fucked.

ROBIN
Isn't your brother in the army?

CLINT
Yeah, and he's a fuckin idiot.

MR O'BRIEN
Clint.

ROBIN
Is he still out there?

CLINT
Trying to clean up the fucking mess
the government made.

MR O'BRIEN
Clint, I won't warn you again.

CLINT
What're you gonna do, shoot me?

BOY
Yeah. Pow!

NATHAN
Has your brother said anything
about this then?

CLINT
Tony ain't exactly in charge if you
know what I mean.

LEO
Surely they can't force us.

JAY
Have you read this dickhead,
'punishable by custodial sentence'.

19

INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

19

JAMES
So what? What are you all pissing
yourselves about? They were doing
some pretty cool stuff in that
video, extreme
sports...everything....

CLINT
Yeah, it's fucking brilliant - 'off
road driving with the added
excitement of roadside bombs
yeah...'

NICK
Jesus Christ! You know it all
don't you? We're just saying, if we
do have to go, it might not be as
bad as we think. My cousin did
National Service in Greece...

MR O'BRIEN
It's true, they have it in Greece,
Austria, Denmark, Brazil...

AMIR
Yeah well they need a bit of
discipline, the Greeks... they're
all lazy fuckers.

CLINT
Innit.

NICK
Who asked you? If you lot could
sort out your own fucking mess, we
wouldn't have to go in the first
place...

MR O'BRIEN
Hold on a minute.

AMIR
You what?

CLINT
He's from Tottenham you prick.

AMIR

I'll have a chicken kebab Nicholai,
when you gotta minute..

JAMES

No wonder your brother's not in
charge. He's clearly a pussy like
you.

CLINT

What did you say?

NICK

You lot start them off young innit -
babies with explosives...

MR O'BRIEN

Boys.

ROBIN

You can't say that.

JAMES

I said your brothers a pussy.

AMIR

You what?

NICK

You heard.

CLINT

You've got a dirty fucking mouth.

AMIR

Come on Stavros.

NICK

Come on. Show me some terrorist
moves...

MR O'BRIEN

Amir calm down, James back to your
seat. Boys!

JAMES

Pussy!

MR O'BRIEN

Alright, everyone. Back to your
seats.
(beat) Enough!

MR O'BRIEN

That is enough.

BOY
This is fucked up. Did you see
that?

20

INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

CLINT
What if.... if all of us said we
weren't gonna do it... They can't
force all of us.

MR O'BRIEN
I'm afraid they can....And they
will.

CLINT
I know what it's like out there.

MR O'BRIEN
Maybe it'll be ok.

CLINT
I'm not doing it.

JAMES
Sir! You can't just let him...

MR O'BRIEN
Leave him.

22

INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

22

MR O'BRIEN
Okay. It's time to go to the hall.

JAMES
Fuck!

24B

INT. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HALL - DAY

24B

SOLDIER 1
No talking. You, forward.

SEARGEANT
Come on lads, get to the back of
the queue...Come on.

SOLDIER 1
Keep in a straight line. You,
forward.

SOLDIER 2
To the desk.

BOY

Sorry.

SOLDIER 2

I'm not interested in 'sorry'.
Through the door. Next. Step to
the desk. Do not move until I say
so.

SOLDIER 1

Move on. Thumb on the scanner.
Other one.

SOLDIER 2

Next.

SOLDIER 1

You. Forward.

SOLDIER 2

Keep your name tags visible at all
time.

SOLDIER 1

Next. Forward. Thumb on the
scanner.

END.