EVERY OTHER SATURDAY - EPISODE ONE

"Reunion"

Pre-Credits

1. INT. JAKE'S FLAT. MORNING.

JAKE WALKER (handsome but out of shape, mid/late 30s) stands at the window of his ground floor flat, drinking a cup of tea.

A car pulls up outside.

2. EXT. JAKE'S FLAT. MORNING. MINUTES LATER.

Jake's at his front door. SALLY WALKER (pretty, mid/late 30s) leads a sulky SAM WALKER (15, geeky, wise beyond his years) up the path.

JAKE
Sammy!

Jake gives Sam a very one-sided hug.

JAKE (CONT'D)
In you go, juice in the fridge!

Jake and Sally exchange a tense smile until Sam's out of earshot.

SALLY
So you're back then?

JAKE
It would appear so.

Waiting by the car is HENRY WOOD, (45, debonair, grey-haired). Henry waves awkwardly at Jake who does the same back.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Is *that* Henry?

SALLY
Yep.

JAKE
(*faux* innocence)

Right, right.
(beat)
I thought it might be Henry's dad.

SALLY
(tense)
He's ten years older than me Jake, it's not a big deal.

JAKE
Oh, absolutely not.
(thoughtful)
It would be though, if you were five.

Sally sighs, hands Jake a form.

SALLY
Every other Saturday, until his birthday.

Jake studies the form, without looking up...

JAKE
OK.
(beat)
Does Henry's bath have a door in it?

Sally walks away in disgust.

CREDIT SEQUENCE

(Photos showing the gradual breakdown of the marriage from the happy baby shots onwards. Jake looks terrified in the baby shots and then is desperately trying to steal the limelight, ie Sam is in a basic fancy dress costume, Jake's in a very intricate one. They're at a restaurant. Sally and Sam have small meals, Jake has an enormous lobster dish etc)

3. INT. JAKE'S FLAT. MINUTES LATER.

Jake walks back into his flat. It's compact, the kitchen's open to the lounge. Sam's looking in the fridge.

SAM
I thought there was juice in the fridge?

JAKE

That's just a saying. Come and sit down.

They have to sit on boxes.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Now Sam, as I'm sure your mother's told you
(holds up document)
On your birthday you get to choose your custody arrangements.

SAM
I don't want to talk about that.

JAKE
It's important...

SAM
I'd rather talk about someone, who is technically an adult, reacting to divorce by running away and hiding.

JAKE
I didn't *run away and hide*, I've been travelling!

Sam sighs.

JAKE (CONT'D)
It was hard Sam, I was dealing with different cultures, arcane technology, a
(heavy Spanish accent)
Manana manana attitude.

SAM
You were in Scotland.

JAKE
And I stayed in touch.

SAM
You sent me two e-mails in six months, one of which was a man falling down a lift shaft.

JAKE
That was funny..

SAM
He *died* Dad.

JAKE
I didn't know that when I sent it.

Sam spots something.

SAM
What's all this?

In the corner, Jake's assembled a dining table and chairs halfheartedly coated in streamers and balloons. They're beside glass doors leading to a small patio.

SAM (CONT'D)
I thought we were going bowling?

JAKE
I'm getting to that. As I was saying, on your birthday you get to choose your custody arrangements...

SAM
(exasperated)
And I don't want to talk about it.

JAKE
Neither do I! I just want to say that the last thing, the very last thing, that I want to do is influence your choice.

Jake gets up, puts on his jacket.

SAM
Well, that's good of you Dad...

JAKE
(interrupts)
So, on a completely separate note, we're going to celebrate our reunion with a short memory tour..

SAM
A *what*?

JAKE
...then back here

(points at the table)
For one hell of a party. It's all about you today Sam, it's *probably* going to be the best day of your life.

Beat.

SAM
So we're not...

JAKE
(talks over, ratty)
No bowling no.

4. EXT. PARK. DAY.

Jake and Sam walk through a busy public park. Jake takes exaggerated gulps of air.

JAKE
Breath it in Sammy, breath it in. We came here all the time didn't we?

SAM
Maybe..
(beat)
Once?

JAKE
You know Sammy when you were little, we'd come here with a cricket ball. You'd throw it, I'd fetch it, you'd throw it, I'd fetch it. It went on for hours.

They walk on.

Beat.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I mean, imagine how little I was getting out of that Sam? Where was my sense of achievement? And yet I went along with it out of a sort of loving, dogged loyalty.

SAM

It seems unlikely but is there any kind of plan? I'm pretty sure we've walked in a circle.

JAKE
Ah!

He points at some bushes.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Now, you won't remember this, but there's a decent chance that in amongst those bushes, you came into the world.

SAM
(confused)
I was born *there?*

JAKE
Not *born,* no.

There's a moment's realisation for Sam, then he's disgusted.

SAM
Oh *God*.

JAKE
(in wonder)
Your mother Sam..

SAM
OK...

JAKE
When she's on the Midori...

Sam stops.

SAM
Right, are we done here?

JAKE
(smiling)
No Sammy, no we're not.

Jake grandly produces a cricket ball, smiles heroically.

JAKE (CONT'D)

(rueful)
Would you like to throw the ball Sam, let your old Dad fetch it for you one more time?

SAM
I would actually yeah.

Sam takes the ball and throws it a long, long way. They watch it go. Jake takes a deep breath.

JAKE
(stern)
That's out of order.

He grumpily jogs off in the direction of the ball.

5. EXT. FAIRGROUND. DAY.

Jake and Sam are perched on overly small vehicles (ie ambulance, police car, giraffe) on a fairground carousel.

JAKE
Do you remember when I broke the record at the coconut shy? The guy asked if I was a professional baseball player. He *genuinely* thought I was.

SAM
(looking at his vehicle)
I'm sure these used to be bigger.

The carousel starts slowly moving, Sam's mobile phone beeps. He looks at the message.

JAKE
Who's that?

Sam smiles at the message.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Is it a girl? It's a girl, isn't it? Invite her to the party.

From here on the carousel slowly builds in speed, and their conversation becomes more shouty and frantic, their heads bobbing up and down.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Come on Sammy, take some advice from your old man.

SAM
Really? Like when I was going out with Alice?

JAKE
(defiant)
I didn't like Alice, I didn't trust Alice, and I simply gave my opinion.

SAM
To a radio phone-in!

JAKE
Come on, invite this one to the party.

Sam thinks, reaches for his phone.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Not straight away! Jesus Sammy, show some composure!

The carousel races round, they both grip on to their tiny vehicles.

6. EXT. GRAVEYARD. LATER.

Jake and Sam walk between the graves. Sam finishes sending a text message and puts his phone back in his pocket.

JAKE
So what do you think of Henry then? You can swear if you want.

SAM
He's fine.

JAKE
"Fine"?! Listen Sam...

SAM
(interrupts)
Where are we going, this is creeping me out.

JAKE
It's the last stop on the Memory Tour and, I'm afraid to say, a rather sad one.

Jake stops, sighs theatrically and gestures at something.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Be brave.

Sam needs a moment to take in what he's seeing.

REVEAL a gravestone surrounded by flowers and a few framed photos. The gravestone reads -

JAKE WALKER (1978 - 2012)

DIED ALONE

(WITHOUT HIS SON)

(SAM)

Jake puts his arm round a dumbfounded Sam's shoulders.

JAKE (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Hold it together.

SAM
(in wonder)
You made a gravestone, for *yourself*.

JAKE
Today's all about you Sam. 100%. However, it's worth briefly reflecting upon me and what could happen to me, if you were to make certain choices about certain custodial matters.

SAM
Have you *signed* that?

A photo of Jake is indeed signed - "Keep Smiling! Jake Walker". Jake's a little sheepish.

SAM (CONT'D)
Adele there...

REVEAL framed photo of Adele.

JAKE
Big part of my life Sam, *big* part.

SAM
(sees something)
And..
(beat)
Actually I don't even think I want to...

JAKE
(interrupts)
My Bucking Bronco trophy!

REVEAL a trophy of a man riding a bull. Sam's confused.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Tenerife! Eight rounds I was on that thing! You were there.

SAM
No I wasn't..

Jake's in a world of his own...

JAKE
My arms were on fire Sam, they nearly ripped out their sockets. But I did it, and I did it for you.

SAM
Dad, I was in bed with food poisoning. You bet the waiter I couldn't eat a whole paella.

JAKE
No Sam, *he* bet *me*.

Sam's phone beeps, he checks it.

SAM
Angela says she'll think about the party.

JAKE
Tell her it's a yes/no.

Sam taps away.

Beat.

His phone beeps.

SAM
No.

JAKE
Tell her to think about it.

7. INT. JAKE'S HOUSE. LATER.

Jake finishes putting his signed photo, the Adele photo and his Bronco trophy on display.

JAKE
(claps hands)
Right, let's party prep!

He leads Sam into the kitchen towards a big piece of kit.

SAM
Who's coming?

JAKE
(unconvincing)
The whole gang.

Sam's suspicious, is about to ask again..

JAKE (CONT'D)
OK, ever used one of these?

SAM
I don't even know what it is.

JAKE
It's an industrial deep fat fryer. In Scotland I worked for a few weeks in a truckers cafe called The Road to Hell. It was a tough gig, eight hours a day in the frying cupboard.

SAM
Cupboard?

Jake starts unpacking bags of party food (sausage rolls, scotch eggs, vol-au-vents) and drops them in the fryer.

JAKE
The heat was *Saharan*. But I learnt there's very little you can't cook in one of these. I did spaghetti, fruit salad..
(beat)
Meringues.

Sam frowns. There's a tap on the window.

Waving from outside are TERRY WALKER (38, self-important, smug local businessman), his wife COLLEEN (20s, bimbo-ish), SEBASTIAN (5, their pampered kid) and Jake's mum GRAN (60s, well-meaning, nervous).

JAKE (CONT'D)
There they are!

SAM
(whilst smiling and waving at the visitors)
That's my party?

Jake heads for the door...

JAKE
Oh yeah, we need to have a chat.

8. INT. JAKE'S FLAT. MINUTES LATER.

A bemused Terry, Colleen, Sebastian and Gran sit on an array of boxes.

JAKE
Right, Terry and Colleen, glass of champers, a sherry for Mum and Sebastian, pint of lager?

The others laugh, Sebastian doesn't.

JAKE (CONT'D)
(deadly serious)
Well, I see his sense of humour's not improved.
(urgent)

Sam, give your Dad a hand please?

Jake leads Sam to the kitchen...

9. INT. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS.

They speak in hushed tones while Jake prepares the drinks.

JAKE
Now Sam. Today is, as you know, all about you.

SAM
(dry)
Yeah, yeah, got that.

JAKE
But I also thought it could be a fun time to tell that lot about your mother and I getting divorced.

Sam's genuinely shocked.

SAM
You've *not* told them?!

JAKE
It was hard. You know, Scotland.

SAM
You've had six months!

JAKE
Time passes quickly up there Sam, because of the short nights and the diet.

SAM
I've only just recovered from you telling me, now I've got to witness you tell Gran and Uncle Terry?

JAKE
I know. And then try and picture what that's going to be like for *me*.
(shakes head)
Nightmare! Right, let me warm them up a bit first.

He lifts the tray of drinks...

10. INT. LIVING ROOM. JAKE'S FLAT. CONTINUOUS.

Jake hands out the drinks.

TERRY
(looking around)
So the three of you are in here?

JAKE
(shoots look at Sam)
Yep.

TERRY
(patronising)
Bit of a downsize is it not?

JAKE
It's just a stopgap. I've got a rather tasty PPI pay-out on the way.
(beat)
According to a text message that came in during the night.

GRAN
Well it was just nice to hear from you.

TERRY
Yeah it's been a while. Apart from that horrible thing with the lift shaft...

GRAN, COLLEEN (TOGETHER)
(disapproving)
Oh yes!

JAKE
I didn't realise the guy died.

TERRY
He fell down a lift shaft!

GRAN
You could see people *crying* Jake.

JAKE

I thought they were laughing.

GRAN
(looks around)
So where's Sally?

JAKE
She's away I'm afraid.

COLLEEN
At her sister's?

SAM
No, she's...

JAKE
(interrupts)
In Afghanistan.

Sam's unimpressed.

JAKE (CONT'D)
She was called up, to help with the war.

TERRY
(confused)
She's an estate agent.

JAKE
Exactly. Hearts and Minds.

TERRY
Let me get this right...

The fryer's timer goes off next door.

JAKE
(scarpering to the kitchen)
OK folks, that's the fryer calling and you should never ignore the fryer, so if you could make your way to the dining room...

Terry gestures at the nearby dining set up.

TERRY
(sarcastic)
That shouldn't take long...

11. INT. KITCHEN. JAKE'S FLAT. MINUTES LATER.

As the others take their seats at the table, Jake's in the kitchen emptying heaps of fried food onto a tray. Sam arrives for another hushed summit.

SAM
Dad, you need to tell them, this is ridiculous.

JAKE
Yeah, but you know how judgemental they are Sam, they'll say I'm partly to blame.

SAM
Well, they might not be that..
(beat)
Logical.

Jake has a flash of inspiration.

JAKE
Maybe it would be funnier if it came from you?

SAM
Funnier? Dad, I don't either us would get laughs.

JAKE
You're right, I should tell them. It's probably the right thing to do.

SAM
Probably.

Jake takes a deep breath, finishes plating up the food.

JAKE
What's the latest with Angel?

SAM
Angela. Nothing.

JAKE
Right, text her "Party's started..

SAM

OK.

JAKE
"Mostly chicks."

SAM
Hmm...

JAKE
"I'm thinking of getting a motorbike".

SAM
No.

12. INT. JAKE'S FLAT. MINUTES LATER.

Everyone's sitting round the table apart from Jake. Terry's next to the glass doors, he taps the frame.

TERRY
(disparaging)
Plastic.

GRAN
Poor Sally, over there in Afghanistan.

Terry snorts in derision.

COLLEEN
Oh I know, and with her skin.

Jake arrives with his tray of deep fried delights which he plonks down in the middle of the table. Sebastian goes for the plate...

JAKE
I'd give that a minute kid, or it'll take your hand off...

An alarmed Sebastian pulls his hand back. Jake stays standing.

JAKE (CONT'D)
OK folks, we've got a few things to catch up on but first, I'd like to talk about Sam. He's been through a

lot recently and I thought it would be nice to show him how much he's loved, and how much he'd be missed if, for any reason, he and I would end up seeing less of each other.

Confusion round the table, Sam's unimpressed.

JAKE (CONT'D)
So how about we all dig out our favourite Sam stories!
(beat)
That involve me.

TERRY
(suspicious)
What's going on Jake?

JAKE
Mum! You start!

GRAN
Oh, em, I couldn't really...

JAKE
(intense, pressured)
Come on Mum, come on, come on, come on, come on!

GRAN
(panics)
Well, there was the incident in *Debenhams*?

Pause, Jake laughs gleefully.

JAKE
Yes, mum, yes! Oh that was *superb*.

Sam's mortified.

JAKE (CONT'D)
It was absolutely *explosive*.

GRANNY
That poor woman with the mop.

JAKE
(laughing)

She was really upset!
OK, good start. Terry?

TERRY
(uninterested)
I'll go for Debenhams as well.

JAKE
Right, well you can't really double up.

COLLEEN
(excited)
One time when Sam was very small he came into the kitchen and I was chopping onions. Sam tugged on my apron with his tiny fingers and said 'don't be sad Auntie Colleen, you're too lovely to be sad'.

People look touched. Apart from Jake.

JAKE
OK, I *did* say stories that involve me...

TERRY
I think someone over here might have a story?

He's pointing to Sebastian.

JAKE
Oh *come on*...

COLLEEN
Sebastian, tell us a story about Sam...

SEBASTIAN
Em....

JAKE
(mutters)
Get the Pulitzer ready...

SEBASTIAN
(hesitant, babyish)
Sam and me went to the park.

The rest of the table coo. Jake sighs dramatically.

JAKE
Right, this isn't really working...

GRAN
(nervous)
Was there something about a banana?

Jake reaches over, moves her glass.

JAKE
Alright mum, stop drinking.

TERRY
(weary)
It was an *inflatable* banana, in the sea.

JAKE
Yes!
(points aggressively at Terry)
Better! Sam fell off a banana boat, I got it on video and sent it to *You've Been Framed*, they didn't go for it which was Sam's fault because his fall looked a bit stagey...

COLLEEN
I remember this...

Jake nips back into the lounge...

JAKE
And that was in...

He waits for someone to answer, they don't.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Tenerife, which was the same holiday that I went eight rounds on the Bronco!

He come back holding aloft the Bronco trophy which he puts down on the table.

GRAN
There we go.

She pats Sam's hand.

JAKE
(serious)
What we're saying to you Sam, though some of us don't possess a *huge* amount of storytelling ability
(points at Sebastian)
Is 'welcome home'.

GRAN
What's this 'welcome home'?

JAKE
(carrying on)
And, next time you find yourself with an important decision to make, don't forget the importance of family. A toast to family...

People happily raise their glasses.

JAKE (CONT'D)
And Dads!

13. INT. JAKE'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM. LATER.

Terry's holding court. People are engrossed in his story. Apart from Jake...

TERRY
...so I said 'Fine, I'm walking out the door'. I put my coat on and one pace, nothing, two paces, nothing, three paces and this little voice "OK Mr Walker, it's a deal!"

People laugh, to Jake's disgust.

TERRY (CONT'D)
(grave)
But he didn't buy the pension.

People are disappointed.

TERRY (CONT'D)
(smiling)
He bought two!

Colleen laughs, Gran claps.

JAKE
Is *that* the twist? Not exactly *The Sixth Sense*...

TERRY
I meant to say to you Jake.
(enjoying this)
There was a change of address through on your policy, Sally seems to have reverted to her maiden name?

Gran and Colleen are very concerned.

JAKE
Oh right, yep. What it is...
(beat)
She's using it as a stage name.

COLLEEN
A stage name?

JAKE
She's been doing a lot of mime.

TERRY
What are you up to Jake?

Gran's suspicious now as well.

GRANNY
Jake, what's happened?

JAKE
One sec...

He takes a sip of his drink and holds up a finger for them to wait. He keeps sipping very slowly with his finger up, buying time. Eventually...

SAM
Oh just tell them Dad!

TERRY
Tell us what?

JAKE
OK, OK.

(points outside)
Sam, can you please go out to the patio garden?

TERRY
Garden?

SAM
No problem.

Sam stands, gives Jake a supportive look and goes outside. He can be seen through the patio doors hanging about.

JAKE
Sally's not in Afghanistan, she's not doing any mime, never has done. She doesn't have the flexibility. The truth of the matter is we've been dealing with a bit of a situation here.

TERRY
(smug)
What have you done *now* Jake?

Beat. Jake thinks.

JAKE
It's Sam.

OUTSIDE Sam hangs about on the small patio.

JAKE (CONT'D)
He needed to go away. For treatment.

Terry looks guilty, which pleases Jake.

GRANNY
(worried)
He's sick!

JAKE
No, he's fine. He's just had
(beat)
A little problem.

GRANNY
What *is* it Jake?

Jake looks at Sam, they exchange a sad smile.

Jake sighs to buy time, spots the Bronco trophy.

JAKE
It's animals. Sam has a
(pause, significant)
Thing for animals.

Stunned silence.

COLLEEN
What kind of animals?

Jake's getting into this, he's enjoying the attention.

JAKE
The whole shebang. Elephants down to mice.

The others gasp. They look out in horror at Sam, who smiles sadly back and gives a stoic wave.

JAKE (CONT'D)
We hit rock bottom at London Zoo. Sam offered to go for ice cream. I ordered a triple decker, I'd paid the entrance fees so that was more than fair. A few minutes later we heard screaming
(pause)
Sam had been *distracted*.

People look aghast.

JAKE (CONT'D)
By a particularly coquettish penguin.

They're freshly horrified.

TERRY
Was he arrested?

JAKE
I hushed it up, bribed the wardens, bought a bucket of fish for the penguin.
(sad smile)

I never got my triple decker.

OUTSIDE, Sam gets a text message.

JAKE (CONT'D)
It's been very hard. Particularly
(beat)
For me. Sally's changed her name out of embarrassment, that's why she's not here. She's waiting round the corner at Laser Quest until you leave.

Jake stands.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I'd appreciate it you could go easy on Sammy. He knows he's done wrong.

Jake walks to the glass doors, leaving bewilderment behind...

14. EXT. PATIO. CONTINUOUS.

Jake closes the doors behind him.

JAKE
(upbeat, points at phone)
What did she say?

SAM
What did *they* say?

JAKE
Oh, they're absolutely fine. Best not mention it to them, let it all sink in. So what's the latest?

SAM
She says she's got horse riding but she'll try and come after.

JAKE
OK, *could* be true. Tell her to send a photo of herself on the horse, holding a copy of today's paper.

SAM
Nope.

Jake shrugs, turns for the door.

SAM (CONT'D)
Dad?
(points inside)
Well done.

A flash of guilt from Jake.

JAKE
Cheers.

15. INT. JAKE'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM.

Sam's back at the table, looking relieved the truth is out. People peek at him.

GRANNY
Oh Sam...

SAM
It's OK Gran, it's for the best.

JAKE
Very brave. Dig in folks!

They tentatively eat their dinner. Colleen's struggling to contain herself.

COLLEEN
Terry, I can't take this..

JAKE
(nervy)
So how's the sports club? Are you members of a sports club? Was that you two? Are you sports clubbers?

COLLEEN
(points at Sam)
He was alone with the cats at Christmas.

SAM
Sorry?

GRAN
(desperate)

Maybe the whole thing was a misunderstanding.

JAKE
Of course it was. Right
(holds up tray)
More sausage rolls?

GRAN
(looks sympathetically at Sam)
It must be hard to read a penguin's emotion.

SAM
What?!

JAKE
A few vol-au-vents there, nice and plump...

COLLEEN
(to Sam)
You need help, to control your urges.

JAKE
(desperate)
Scotch eggs going a-begging...

SAM
What's all this got to do with the divorce?

Silence, Jake's gutted.

GRANNY
Who got divorced?

SAM
(accusatory to Jake)
I thought you just told them?

Terry smirks. A devastated Jake puts down the tray.

JAKE
Back outside please Sam.

SAM
No! Right...

(addresses table)
Mum and Dad got divorced. Dad went off for six months in the huff...

JAKE
I *wasn't* in the huff.

SAM
I'm living with Mum and her new boyfriend...

JAKE
He's more of a friend.

SAM
...and seeing Dad every other Saturday until my birthday when this will all be over.
(standing up)
Thank God!

Sam storms out the flat. Jake stands.

Beat.

JAKE
(quiet)
There's choc ices in the freezer. Don't try to fry them.
(beat)
They don't fry well.

He walks sadly out the flat.

16. INT. BOWLING ALLEY. LATER.

Sam's bowling. Jake approaches behind. Sam takes his shot.

JAKE
You're not using The Hand.

SAM
The Hand doesn't work.

JAKE
Oh really?

Jake picks up a ball, steadies himself then unveils an eccentric bowling action centred upon his non-bowling hand being held up to the side. The result is very camp indeed.

The ball hits the gutters.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I'm rusty. They don't bowl in Scotland, they think it's effeminate.

SAM
(dry)
You should show them The Hand.

JAKE
Listen Sam, I know you're angry with me and it's almost entirely justified. All I'm saying is, with you holding the moral high ground as you do it would be disastrous, absolutely disastrous, if you were to smile in any way...

Sam's not smiling.

JAKE (CONT'D)
For example, if I was to mention
(beat)
Double Strike Burgers.

Trace of a smile from Sam...

JAKE (CONT'D)
Ha!

17. INT. BOWLING ALLEY BURGER BAR. MINUTES LATER.

Jake and Sam sit in the burger bar munching on large burgers.

JAKE
Do you remember when I made the Double Strike Burger secret sauce just from stuff in the cupboards?

SAM
Yep.

JAKE
I finally cracked it at three in the morning.

SAM
You woke me up to tell me, I failed my Geography GCSE the next morning.

JAKE
If I was criminally minded I could have blackmailed this place. I could have got free bowling for life, my own set of shoes. I didn't even consider it.

Jake takes a bite of his burger.

SAM
What was the stuff about the penguin?

JAKE
Chinese whispers. Listen, Sammy...

He pushes away his food.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I wanted to say that I'm sorry. About me and your mum. I really am. I wish we'd found a way to make it work.

SAM
So do I.

Beat.

JAKE
But how could it? With your mother's affairs.

SAM
She didn't have affairs Dad.

JAKE
OK, not affairs, *friendships*.
All those people! She'd bring them round to the house Sam, to our *home*.

Sam sighs.

SAM
You shouldn't have run away like that.

Beat.

JAKE
(apologetic)
You know Sammy, I've missed you *appallingly*. But the truth is that I needed time. Up in Scotland it was just me, the bed and breakfast and Adele. I handed myself over to that woman as a pitiful wreck and, with her voice and her sad stories, she pieced me back together. And now here I am.

They share a smile.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Dad's back!
(offers a box)
Have a nugget..

Sam reaches for the box.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Not the big one.

18. INT. JAKE'S HOUSE. MINUTES LATER.

They're back in Jake's house...

JAKE
Right, I was thinking we could unpack together, make it into a sort of game?

SAM
I've got to get back Dad.

JAKE
OK. Take some of this food, your mother's a nutter for the vol-au-vents.

SAM
Henry's cooking a curry.

Jake stiffens at the mention of Henry.

JAKE
A curry? Bit basic.

SAM
He's a good cook.

JAKE
Oh he is, is he?

Jake thinks, then starts rummaging in a box.

JAKE (CONT'D)
You know something Sam, I wasn't going to show you this. I decided it wasn't my place to tell you, that you should find out for yourself. But, if you're eating food prepared by that man, then you need to know.

Jake pulls out a folder.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Sit down please.

They sit on boxes, Jake pulls a big box over as a table.

JAKE (CONT'D)
(gravely)
When your mother told me about
(does quotation marks)
"Henry", I tracked down some photos online....

Jake scatters printed photos of Henry over the box. He points them out in turn for a confused Sam.

JAKE (CONT'D)
You see?
(points to another)
And again?

The photos are very innocent shots of Henry at black tie events, parties...

JAKE (CONT'D)
Here's the clincher.

Henry stands on the first tee at a golf course, three other players beside him.

SAM
What?

JAKE
Sam. I'm afraid that Henry is, quite clearly, a *predatory* homosexual.

SAM
(weary)
No he's not Dad. He's with Mum.

JAKE
(confident)
It's a cover.

SAM
Dad, I know you don't want to hear this, and I don't particularly want to say it, but they have sex.

JAKE
(even more confident)
No they don't.

SAM
I've heard them. We went camping in the New Forest last weekend.

Jake thinks.

JAKE
That was probably a tape.

SAM
OK.
(slowly)
You think Mum and Henry took me to the New Forest, put me in a tent and then played me a tape of other people having sex?

JAKE
Homosexuals are enterprising people Sam, they go to incredible lengths.

SAM

Dad, that's enough.

JAKE
Has Henry ever tried anything on with you?

SAM
(exasperated)
Jesus *Christ*.

JAKE
Or could we tell the lawyers that he has? Just for, you know, a bit of banter?

Beat.

SAM
I want you to take me home *right now.*

19. EXT. JAKE'S FLAT.

Jake and Sam exit Sam's flat and make for his car.

JAKE
I miss her Sam. I think about first thing in the morning, last thing at night.

Sam nods sadly.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I mean, that *voice*.

They reach the car.

SAM
Wait, you're talking about Mum right?

JAKE
Adele.

SAM
Of course.

Sam gets in the car. They drive away. Walking down the road check the numbers of houses is ANGELA (16, pretty), dressed in her

horse riding outfit. She sees them drive away, looks disappointed.

20. EXT. CAR. STREET. LATER.

Jake and Sam drive along in silence.

JAKE
Listen, Sammy. All in all, today was a hell of a lot of fun. And that's what these visits are going to be, straight-up fatherly fun.

Sam smiles despite himself.

JAKE (CONT'D)
And then, on your birthday...

SAM
Dad...

JAKE
I'm just saying, on your birthday you get to choose between living with me or living in a house with Henry peeking round the corner at you like some sort of psycho..

SAM
He doesn't "peek round the corner at me".

JAKE
Oh he's a peeker Sam, that's the very *least* that he is.

Sam's had enough.

SAM
(firm)
Stop it Dad! Just stop it. Listen, I'm not waiting till my birthday, I've already decided.
(deep breath)
I'm going to live with Mum.

JAKE
Hang on...

SAM
I'm sorry, but I've made the decision and you have to respect it. You've got to sort *yourself* out Dad.

Long beat.

Jake pushes a button on the stereo.

MUSIC STARTS - the tearjerker *Adele 'Someone Like You'*.

They drive on.

21. INT./EXT. JAKE'S CAR. STREET. MINUTES LATER.

The music and the silence between them continues.

SAM
That's it here.

They pull up in front of a perfectly nice house.

JAKE
Bit tacky.

A smiling Sally and Henry come out the front door, and approach down the path. Sam waves to them.

SAM
Bye Dad
(beat)
It was really nice to see you.

JAKE
(quiet)
No.

He hits a switch, the doors lock. Sam tries to open it, Jake turns the key.

JAKE (CONT'D)
(louder)
No, no, no, no...

He drives away. Sally and Henry are alarmed.

SAM
What are you doing?!

JAKE
(increasingly manic)
No, no, no, no, no!

He TURNS UP THE MUSIC.

SAM
(alarmed)
Dad!

22. INT./EXT. JAKE'S CAR. STREET. CONTINUOUS.

They're driving fast now. The music's loud, Adele singing earnestly in the background as the below plays out...

JAKE
I want you to promise me that you'll give this a chance. That you'll consider, just consider living with me.

SAM
No Dad, I told you!

JAKE
Fine!

With difficulty, with one hand on the wheel, Jake takes off his jumper and throws it out the window.

SAM
What was *that*?

Jake leans down, starts taking off his shoes.

JAKE
Tell me you'll give me a chance Sam, or I'm losing all my clothes!

Jake chucks his shoes out the window, then leans down and starts taking off his trousers.

SAM
Don't be ridiculous!

JAKE
Up to you Sammy!

The car swerves.

SAM
Jesus Christ!

Jake manages to get his trousers off, throws them out the window. He's down to his pants. Something that they register together.

Jake TURNS OFF THE MUSIC. There's a moment of comparative calm.

JAKE
(slow, significant)
I've not finished Sam.

SAM
Oh no. Dad, no...

Jake nods sadly.

JAKE
(very grave)
That's right Sam. You're going to see everything.
(slow)
The whole sorry situation.

Jake reaches for his pants, that's enough for Sam.

SAM
OK, OK!
(pleading)
I'll do it.
(takes a breath)
I'll give this a chance, and I'll make the decision on my birthday.

JAKE
Promise?
(beat)
On Henry's life?

Sam sighs, he means it.

SAM
Yeah.

JAKE
Thank you Sam. Finally, a bit of *maturity*.

He drives along in his pants.

Pause.

SAM
(reluctant smile)
You're an idiot.

JAKE
(smiling too)
You should swear more. Girls like it.

23. EXT. HENRY'S HOUSE. MINUTES LATER.

A frantic Sally and Henry are very pleased to see the car return. Jake pulls up, he and Sam get out. Jake's in his pants. They're understandably surprised.

SALLY
What is going *on*?

JAKE
(shrugs)
Boys will be boys. See you in two weeks Sam.

SAM
Yeah, see you then Dad.

Sam smiles at Sally and Henry and walks off. A jubilant Jake addresses Sally and Henry.

JAKE
There it is! "Dad". Because, look...
(concedes)
Maybe you're straight.

HENRY
Sorry?

JAKE
And maybe you guys *did* have sex in the woods.

SALLY
(bit sheepish)
Who said that?

JAKE
But *I* am his Dad. And the day's coming when Sam will have to choose. Will he live with
(gestures at Henry)
Des Lynam. Or he will he come and chill out with the champ?
(gestures at himself)

Sally and Henry exchange a worried look.

JAKE (CONT'D)
(very serious)
Let battle commence.

Jake turns and walks grandly away in his pants.

END