US el en s Story

by lice utter and immy covern

You know why we have law can speak to you like this

R

INT HOLDING ELL DY

elen Ryland sits on a bench She is reading a travel book t's about biza

She hears a metal door swinging open slamming shut

She is suddenly alert nervous

pproaching footsteps steel tipped boots on a stone floor

Those boots getting louder and louder and now they stop right outside her cell

ould this be it ould this be it Yes a key is rattling in the lock and her cell door swings open prison officer

> PR S They're starting again

elen stands and leaves the cell female Prison fficer handcuffs herself to elen

They walk on passing the other holding cells with other prisoners in them They shout encouragement to elen as she goes

She starts to climb the long staircase leading to the crown court

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

elen enters the witness box

URT R Quiet aside Would you like to take the oath on the bible or by affirmation

qually quiet ffirmation Pause don't believe in od anymore

elen affirms She turns to the jury

T You'll notice no longer have anyone representing me told my lawyer was going to take the stand and say to you "Yes did it nd here's why "She said if did that she'd quit nd she has R

US

Pause Yes didit ndhere's why

υгт

THISSENEISNOW UT

ut Ian axfield has loomed up

Х

need you ow

nd lan axfield a man under pressure is moving off confident that ave Price will follow

V PR

Rushing Right there's this Points at another fork lift nd that there Ten minutes practice and you start order picking

ave Price goes after the boss

υгт

T million million

ot quite that t's billion years old Pause ow if you think how long human life has been on earth about years and we live to about seventy years of age well that's not much is it compared to the age of the solar system

υгт

THIS SENE IS NOW UT YELLOW

INT L SSROOM D Y

unch break elen and Siobhan eating packed lunches The noise from the playground elen finishes punching a number into her mobile

f it's on answer 'll kill him

υгт

THIS SENE IS NOW UT YELLOW

INT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS D Y

mobile phone is ringing paramedic closes Rob's eyes e is dead is body is half buried in debris from the accident nother paramedic stands by

ichael watches traumatised lan axfield watches

Two uniformed police officers also watch ther workers stand further off stunned

The paramedic takes the ringing phone from Rob's body his top overalls pocket e looks at the display um

e puts it into a plastic bag held out to him by one of the policemen The policeman puts it to one side

lan axfield stares at the phone still ringing in the plastic bag still displaying um

lan axfield's reaction

υгт

INT L SSROOM D Y

elen listens to her mobile and watches the kids in the playground She bangs on the glass to separate two boys Rob's ansaphone kicks in

> nto phone Sioban's eating your sandwiches What's the point of making them if you're always going to leave them 'm not thick know you do it on purpose Pause on't just have chips

> > υгт

INT HELEN'S KITHEN DY

el en pushes the food around her plate rank her husband eats dry over cooked shepherd's pie

> t was nice an hour ago Pause e should have been back for six

Ρ

elen's reaction a bone of contention this between her and rank

e won't have done that

R irst day t's only natural

υгт

INT HELEN'S LIVING ROOM DY

rank watches football on TV elen paces with the phone

own phone nd he's not answered Shakes her head at rank ave you a number for ichael

elen spots something out of the window and freezes

T' nto phone an call you back in a minute

She cuts the call moves the curtain a police car draws up outside

Two officers get out and start checking house numbers

Stepping back as they pass as if not being seen will send them elsewhere she loses sight of them Waits rigid as the seconds tick tick tick away

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

INT HELEN'S HOUSE DY

RRRR elen's body jars as the bell R Sagain R S loody hell We're in extra time

Ρ We've come to inform you that your son Robert was fatally injured axfield's Wholesalers this at mor ni ng elen's brain refuses to take it in nj ur ed Where is he she in hospi t al R el en Pause e's dead The couple stare blankly at each other inally R Т What happened The cops are eager to get away Ρ 'm afraid we don't have any more information You'll have to call the station for more details gets out a pen writes a number down ор Ρ T' f you ring this number and quot e this reference Without knowing what she's doing el en takes the paper The cops move towards the door Ρ T' You'll need to phone the or oner's

office in the morning o point

own phone Two officers have just been They told me my son my son's been killed They said should

P PRTR V ave you got a reference number

P PRTR V 'mafraid haven't got specific details

υгт

THIS SENEIS NOW UT LUE

elen's disgust t gets to him

R You cope your way 'II cope mine

υгт

EXT INT M XFI ELD'S WHOLES LERS DY

elen's car pulls to a halt lan axfield ave Price and a man in a suit Stephen Sullivan approach

> X You're Rob's other

elen X handshakes etc Ian Ian axfield ood to meet you nd you This is his dad rank R ow d'you do X ow d'you do ave Price general foreman andshakes nd Stephen Sullivan

gain they shake hands

Thanks rank can only nod his thanks Х t was here e hit this section nd the whole lot came down OW Х e lost control of the truck el en looks around She sees the TV camer as Х Т We're checking the cameras want to say that if there's anything we can do we'll do it othing like this has ever happened to us before you see We put the well being of our workers above everything else The boy he was with Sorry i chael Х e'll tell you they did i chael all the ealth and Safety stuff and did it conscientiously but if you've any questions or any problems just shout el en has a question but she's t just so happens that finding it difficult R Thanks Х to el en <u>ave</u> you got a question id he suffer SU V n immediately 0 Too sudden Too too sudden and everyone knows it

X rom what 've heard it was almost instantaneous

Thanks

X to Sullivan 'II walk rank and elen back to the car

υгт

EXT M XFI ELD'S WHOLES LERS D Y

rank elen and axfield walking

Х

You rang him

Sor r y

Х

Thank you

elen embraces axfield and says goodbye rank shakes his hand They get into the car and move off

axfield watches them go

Yeah

Poor man

R

υгт

EXT M H EL'S STREET D Y

house number hangs upside down elen hesitates at the eware f The og sign knocks eanne opens the door with a toddler on her hip

ello

eanne hesitates wants to close the door on elen

s ichael in

e's at work

an come in

eanne thinks about saying no nd elen knows it

Т

Pl ease

nd eanne can't refuse her now

υгт

INT MHEL'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM DY

eanne moves around the cold tiny room picking up clothes etc elen perches on the edge of the sofa

'm sorry about

el en nods distracted

Ρ

US

id ichael say what happened

Ryan what have you got

eanne takes a toy off the child

T Ugh dirty on't put things in your mouth Pause e's probably going to be ages eave your number 'll get him to ring you

f it's alright with you 'd rather wait Pause Where's the dog

We haven't got one The sign's just to keep the smack heads at bay Pause ichael might have called in at his um's he could be

hours

eanne starts at the noise of a key in the lock She concentrates on the door handle as if that will keep it from turning The door opens ichael enters in work gear nods at elen unable to make eye contact

T'

Say hello to addy

eanne passes the child to him to use as a shield

That agency still getting you work

Ryan didn't want to be left at nursery today icked up a real fuss felt awful

umbling een lucky enough to get a full time job

the bloody thing alone for od's sake

R need a fucking shirt

down phone ould you give me his mobile number then please refused 'm coming round

She heads for the door parting shot at rank T on't burn the place down again

υгт

EXT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS D Y

elen's old car drives through the gates and into a parking space She gets out and heads towards reception

υгт

INT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS REEPTION DY

security guard sits bored behind a tiny glass window elen watches the locked door that separates reception from the warehouse buzzing sound as the high security door opens ave Price enters stretches out a hand

V PR ood to see you again

ood to see you

V PR lan's out on business or he'd be talking to you himself

She knows he's lying

've been waiting eleven days for permission to bury my son leven days Ρ

T can't believe for one moment that Ian axfield knows about this because he would not treat a grieving mother in such an appalling fashion So please bring him here

V PR

can' t

Right 'll wait

Perhaps she sits She'll wait for years if necessary and ave Price realises it

need to bury my son you see

υгт

INT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS RE EPTION D Y

lan axfield and Stephen Sullivan walking coming through the security door axfield embracing elen

> X elen 'm so sorry knew absolutely nothing about this 'm gonna get on to everybody right now and it'll all go ahead on Thursday as planned 'm

Thank you

SU V

y fault

X absolutely fuming about this elen t should never have happened 'm so so sorry

Thank you

SU V II my fault objected without consulting lan

You obj ect ed

SU V

Yes

'm sorry to be rude really don't mean to be rude but what's my son's funeral got to do with you

SU V 'm lan's lawyer

elen looks at Sullivan looks at lan axfield looks at ave Price Something has changed

υгт

INT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS RE EPTION DY

elen walking back towards her car She meets ichael She's pleased e's embarrassed

i chael

i

You're working here

Yeah

ull time

Yeah

Per manent

Yeah Well six months probation and then permanent yeah

e said you impressed him you both impressed him

id he

The funeral's Thursday Two o'clock

Ri ght

Ρ

She picks up on something in his tone of voice

You'll be there

an't make it

What

'm working

You'll get time off e died in there ichael they'll give you time off

Sor r y

i chael escapes el en bemused wat ches him go

υгт

T That last morning Winding you up over the cricket

υгт

EXT M H EL'S HOUSE D Y

el en knocks o response She knocks again She pushes her eye against the spy hole movement abbed eanne opens the door

s ichael in

o Pause e's working late know why you lied know you did it for me

don't want to hurt you but

to spare my feelings but need to talk to yoiu about

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

INT HELEN'S HOUSE KITHEN DY

rank is drinking whisky and wallowing in grief elen's leaving an ansaphone message

You were his friend ichael so please ring me

el en cuts the call

R

ow many's that

elen shrugs too many to admit

R T' ads served my time with we stuck together

e drinks el en hat es him drinking

need you to come with me tomorrow

R

Shoul d've let himjoin the navy e'd have learned a trade in the navy Talk about ironic keeping him out the armed forces 'cause it's dangerous and sending him to

e stops ut he has hurt her badly

You're blaming me

R

You are made him go to that place so you're blaming me

R

' m not

0

'm going to the police station tomorrow don't want to go there on my own Will you come with me please

R

eaving Sorry

Т

Pause ut was alive again

υтт

EXT HELEN'S HOUSE DY

The coffin is taken from the house and born aloft by lads in footie shirts into the hearse elen and rank follow it

n attractive young woman is also just behind them

Suddenly elen is looking at lan axfield

You're here so you can say " even attended the boy's funeral your honour"

Pause

X swear that's not why 'm here

You lied to me You told me he didn't suffer ichael lied too but he lied for good reasons You lied for bad reasons money reasons legal reasons god knows what reasons nd you'll pay for it ow please go

lan axfield is devastated

elen and rank walk behind the hearse as it slowly moves off

ehind them come other mourners including another group of lads in footie shirts nd every single footie shirt has Rob on the back

People are holding each other up sobbing

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM DY

Still in his funeral suit rank sits in the gathering darkness smoking and drinking but stone cold grief stricken sober

e can hear elen banging around in the kitchen She enters and attempts to change his ashtray for a clean one n act of aggression Ρ

t stinks nd if don't do it now it will still be here in the morning

R said 'd sort it 'm capable of moving an ashtray

elen picks up the three quarters empty bottle of whisky eyes it eyes rank

R

T'

Yes

She fails to understand e explains

R T' Yes "ave you drunk all this " Yes nd don't even think about bollocking me elen Today of all days don't even think about it 'cause 've got a few home truths for you t's about time

'mlistening

R you heard a few home truths

'mlistening

R

irst nobody gives a shit that Rob is dead Shove your decorum up your arse shove your dignity up your arse 'cause nobody gives a shit Whether he comes from the gutter or not whether we swear at coppers or not nobody gives a shit Second am sick of you looking down your nose at me am sick of you treating me like a child What you see here is grief This is acceptance of grief mature and adult acceptance of grief That's not what see when look at you When look at you see a woman running round like a blue arsed fly 'cause she's too scared too bloody immature to face the fact that our son is dead R S nd all this Sherlock

You're immature you're a big kid When has binge drinking been mature

R

ol mes stuff all this detective shite is not gonna change that fact o you listen to me

When has binge drinking been the answer to anything

R Time for me to do a bit of spouting a bit of pontificating

The row continues see appendix but over it we hear elen

V Sometimes when an ape dies the other animals withdraw stare into space refuse to interact with each other We were worse than animals we turned on each other

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE EDROOM NIGHT

R T ut after five traipsing round Iton Towers and isney and the fishing and the footie he'd remember them nd fifty sixty years after us going he'd still remember them ut he's gone before us nd so are all those memories nd feel so cheated

oments pass

ΤU

Sing to me

R

an' t

Sing to me

e sings softly into her ear

υгт

INT ORONER'S OURT DY

Il rise as the oroner enters II sit as the coroner sits

UR This is an inquest into the death of Robert Ryl and

We focus on elen who's looking at

axfield and Sullivan

UR T ow this may be a little confusing to you but 'm opening and adjourning this inquest

The oroner spelling it out

UR T' because the rown Prosecution Service might bring a manslaughter charge in connection with Robert's death nd they might not of course Pause We'll reopen when they've decided

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

INT SHOOL LISSROOM DY

el en comes into the classroom as the kids settle down Siobhan is gathering teaching materials together Siobhan turns and sees el en They embrace el en has to recover from the embrace She goes to her desk

ood orning R

eneral chorus of ood orning iss

T ow if you could all get out your planners and turn to the week starting

Tegan has her hand up

Т

i ss

Yes Tegan

T iss we got you something the class We all got it

Siobhan watches as Tegan lifts a large plant pot from under her desk and carries it carefully to the front nside is a small tree

> T T' t's to plant for your son

f it was your mother would you leave her out there walk their own bloody kids to school don't want that and this is the price She needs to know on't just leave her in limbo it's cruel and you're a lot of things ichael but you're not cruel Swe pay You don't wanna stay here do you o f we want Ryan to go to a decent school in a decent area this is what it costs

long silence inally ichael opens the door

US

ΤU Т nd said in my statement that we'd had a full ealth and Safety rundown but we hadn't aren ryant weighing things up R We could use ichael's statement to go for Review review of the decision not to prosecute ut it's risky and expensive Pause Your costs could be fifteen grand R ifteen grand R nd if we lose R We won't lose ifteen grand R T' ut if we did you'd have to pay the other side's costs too ould you manage that f we win they prosecute lan axf i el d R Yes We'll get a second mortgage R We can't afford the first mortgage never mind a second We can aren gestures to ichael that they should wkward l eave R 'll leave you to talk R to a disappearing ar en o you're leaving her to talk You're leaving me to listen

Pause

Ρ

R T Who are you doing it for anyway t's not for Rob t's not gonna bring him back

know

R

nd d'you think he'd want it 'you think he'd want us to get up to our eyes in debt just to prove a point

Quietly ow dare you

She turns away from him

rank has been married for far too long to see anything other than defeat t is inevitable

R

The fitted kitchen moment an slices his dick off at work Surgeon says you're gonna get forty grand comp You can have the four inch penis for twenty grand the six inch for or you can have the big eight inch penis for the full forty e fancies the eight inch but his wife's there so teh surgeon says as our lawyer 'II leave you to has just said t al k ive minutes later he's back ave you decided what you're havi ng The man nods We're having a fitted kitchen

elen turns round to him They embrace

υгт

THISSENEISNOW UT REM

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

INT HIGH OURT DY

ore law

elen and rank are there with aren ryant and their barrister The PS are represented by a civil servant and their barrister

Three judges file in Tremendous tension

S R U 'm afraid we won't reach a decision today but we'll meet again tomorrow

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE KIT HEN DY

Id crap flies out of a broom cupboard as elen 'cleans'

INT HELEN'S HOUSE RO'S ROOM NIGHT

verything is as it was the morning Rob left except the bed's made elen picks up a book from beside the bed a bookmark marking a page halfway through

She sits on the bed turns back to the beginning starts to read about biza

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE RO'S ROOM NIGHT

Weary with life and booze rank makes his way upstairs ight comes from the open door to Rob's room e pauses

ully clothed elen lies asleep on the bed e enters picks up Rob's duvet off the floor and covers her

υгт

INT HIGH OURT DY

The court stands as the udges enter elen takes in the formal civil robes a garb that speaks of hundreds of years worth of law She stares hopefully at the lead udge

veryone sits

S R U Thank you for your patience

elen tries to read his facial expression as the court settles

S R U T' realise that we've been deliberating for what may seem an inordinate amount of time Pause ut we felt it was crucial to give this case proper consideration

S You'll be used to doing it in that order then

υгт

INT KROKE R NIGHT

t's Siobhan's local oud busy Somebody murdering a Tom ones number Siobhan shimmies as she carries a tray of drinks across to elen

S

S

eer and

She gestures at the salt and lemons sitting next to a couple of slammers

Т

ccent Tequi I a

'm only staying an hour Siobhan

S

You're not Pause y tight bastard of a husband goes to me last night et your coat on says Why where you taking me e says owhere 'm turning the bloody leccy off Pause f you go home 'll have to as well Pleads So c'mon

elen puts her right hand out and Siobhan fills the dent between thumb and forefinger with salt She hands elen the slammer then repeats the action for herself They raise their glasses

ike there's S ofucking tomorrow S ofucking tomorrow

They clink and down reaching for the lemons and pulling faces elen shakes her hips and does a little tequila inspired mambo

S T 've got me mate back Pause We're having another

υгт

INT KROKE R NIGHT

Siobhan holding the microphone as a man tries to find her song on the karaoke machine

S ver the mike could sing my own version but it would empty the pub

Shouts of "Singit" etc We're on elen throughout most of this

S T t's a bit rude even by my standards s she's waiting 'y went to the doctor's this morning ad a bit of lettuce sticking out my arse e said it could be the tip of the iceberg

elen laughing veryone's laughing The karaoke man is giving up the search

> S T ot gonna find it ohn no 'll sing mine then yeah

She launches into it

S T pair of knickers with a stain between them spot of petrol where you tried to clean them brothel sign that swings These fool ish things remind me of you Some sweaty socks beside an old rench letter dose of syphilis that won't get better h how the ointment stings These fool ish things remind me of you

el en l aughi ng

υгт

US

s at

INTEXT NIGHT

S ST RY

The cab crawls through the late night mayhem

The pain floods back

υгт

INT ORONER'S OURT DY

orelaw

UR ood orning You may remember that last time we met adjourned the inquest into Robert Ryland's death pending the rown Prosection Service's decision on whether or not to prosecute That matter is now settled and so 'm now reopening this inquest

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

Time and time again the law had failed us but clung to the idea that the inquest would right everything that the truth would come out that axfield would be held responsible for my son's death fter all those courtrooms all those knock backs still had hope

Pause was like a battered wife getting hurt all the time but thinking one last go this time will be different

υгτ

INT ORONER'S CURT DY

UR

'd like to hear from the family first rs Ryland would that be agreeable to you

elen nods moment's hesitation and she gets up and moves towards the stand

R RS URT R

elen walks out rank calls after her but she just keeps going

V T

Swiping Rob's pass card elen enters by the workers' entrance

υгт

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

INT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS M XFIELD'S OFFIE DY

s the door opens axfield continues typing staring at the screen e's a busy man used to making people wait

ave you ever been to biza

axfield raises his eyes surprised

T' The arthaginians founded it lived there till the Romans wiped them out Then the rabs went and settled there for years till the atalans laid siege tore down the mosques and built churches

axfield's surprise has turned to total confusion

ow did you get in

The ohemians arrived in the 's and 's turned it into a party island Pause

Rob was saving up to go there

ow did you get in here

is swipe card t was in the plastic bag nother of his effects II his mates knew about biza was clubbing but Rob was different Yeah he'd stay up all night dancing but the day after he'd be wandering around the house with a book in his hand Pause

R

nd after he died found this book on biza beside his bed е was halfway through it never got to finish it Х What do you want rs Ryland rs Ryland want you to say that you're sorry Rob never got to biza that he never made his st Pause r even finished his book Pause Say he didn't need to die in your war ehouse Pause That you coated him in so much so much shit there was none left to stick to you Pause want you to say you're sorry for all that nd when you have then 'll go away and get on with my life

Х

EXT M XFI ELD'S WHOLES LERS NIGHT

The boot opening elen pulls out the petrol

She slams the boot and heads into the darkness carrying the petrol t spills as she walks

υгт

INT M XFIELD'S WHOLES LERS NIGHT

She sloshes the petrol around deliberately sets off a fire alarm

υгт

EXT M XFI ELD'S WHOLES LERS NIGHT

elen leans against the car bonnet watching waiting

n the reflected windscreen the night explodes

nd settles into flames reflected in the glass

The warehouse is ablaze

She hears sirens

nd now lan axfield is here furious

X You know who killed your son Shall tell you who killed your son you stupid bitch billion hinese alf a billion ndians II working for a pound a day 'm paying fifty a day and 'm supposed to compete That's what killed your son you stupid mad bitch

υгт

THIS SENE IS NOW UT

INT POLIESTTION ELL NIGHT

police woman waits while elen slips her belt off and hands it to her She motions at the laces in elen's

INT HOLDING ELLS DY

eat ed

R YR T will resign f you try to justify what you did the jury will convict you the judge'll throw everything at you and you'll go down for years

appreciate your advice aren really do ut ever since Rob died 've used this The brain and it's never worked So hope you don't mind but 'm going to try this eart and soul

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE THROOM DY

fogged mirror hand wipes the condensation from the glass and a freshly shaved and showered rank takes a long hard look at himself

When you lose someone you love it hurts f course it hurts

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE THROOM DY

inally rank picks up a stick of grease paint and begins to paint his face white

ut imagine losing them over and over

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

elen addressing the jury efore this point we should not see that Sullivan and axfield are in the court room listening to elen

very time the law let me down Rob died all over again very time the law let me down let Rob down

υгт

INT HELEN'S HOUSE THROOM DY

rank draws a huge red smile over his own unsmiling mouth

V There's only so many times you can take that

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

elen addresses the ury axfield and Sullivan watch

teach 'm used to being lied to ut the difference between axfield and a child is that when you confront a nine year old child with the fact that they're lying Pause They own up they say sorry Pause nd when you've lost your child an apology isn't all that much to ask Pause wouldn't be here talking to you now if axfield had just said 'sorry '

elen can't go on she has to gather herself find the courage to continue

T' y lawyer said speaking to you like this was stupid that you'd throw the book at me Pause Well fine throw that book R

T' The law's hit me so many times 'm numb won't feel it

υтт

EXT STREET DY

The sounds of traffic Two enormous red clown shoes flip flop their way along the pavement rank's in full clown outfit now

Pedestrians stop and stare and car horns honk but rank's oblivious as he marches on

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

elen looks directly into the faces of the ury

You know why we have law can speak to you like this because 've learned so much 'm an expert 've paid the highest tuition fees in the world you see the death of my son We have law because it's a route to justice ut what if law blocks off that route denies you justice what then

She pauses overcome by the hopelessness of the situation

T' When you go away and consider what 've done 'm asking you to reach a verdict based not on law but on something 've been thirsting for something that Rob deserved and never got something that 'm scared might no longer exist justice Pause 'm asking you to give me justice

υгт

INT ROWN OURT DY

The udge addresses the ury

ΤU U owever sympathetic you may feel el en Ryl and st ands accused of a very serious crime Pause You must put all emotion aside and decide purely and simply on the basis of the evidence rank has entered dressed as a Sudden commotion cl own U Т What's going on here Who are you pl ease R rank Ryland husband of the accused nd yes this is to show my contempt for this court my contempt for any court my contempt for anything to do with the law U R r Ryl and y wife said the law was a ioke and ar gued not because thought she was wrong but U R r Ryl and ut because didn't have her courage T' R f 'd half the guts she has it'd be me in that dock rank turns to elen opens his arms clown suit in full ef f ect T' R 'm sorry U r Ryland have you finished rank nods

U T' 'm going to call an officer of the court 'll deal with you when this case is finished o you understand

The udge waits a second before continuing elen can't take her eyes off rank is gesture has almost finished her off She fights to regain composure

> U y her own admission she set fire to that warehouse and showed total disregard for human life am not going to direct you to return a guilty verdict but all the evidence points to her guilt and she herself has admitted it ff you go

> > υгт

INT FRINK'S HOLDING ELL DY

Yes

rank in his clown's outfit is singing

υгт

INT HOLDING ELL DY

e is singing to elen in an adjacent cell

s at the start of this story a distant metal door groans open and elen is suddenly alert

t slams shut oot steps

INT STEPS TO THE ROWN OURT DY

elen and officers climbing the steps to the court

υгт

Ρ

INT ROWN OURT DY

el en enters

embers of the jury filing through their benches

uge tension axfield and Sulivan are there Siobhan is there ichael is there

URT R embers of the jury are you agreed upon a verdict

R

Weare

URT R o you find the defendant guilty or not guilty of arson and wilful destruction of property

The foreman makes the briefest eye contact with elen er supporters prepare for the worst

R

ot guilty

communal gasp as the room takes this in The udge is disbelieving

URT

R

nd is that the verdict of you all

R

Yes it's unanimous

Silent tears roll down elen's cheeks Shelets out a sob er supporters friends footballers kids from school fellow teachers begin to clap and cheer The dam breaks and she's sobbing sobbing sobbing

ncredulous the udge stares at the ury

U id you say not guilty

elen nods sobbing sobbing sobbing The ury are smiling at her now

She tries to wipe away her tears to say the words she needs to say to them ut the tears keep coming She addresses the ury for the last time

> Thank you Through tears Thank you

> > υгт

INT STIR SE HOLDING ELL RE FRINK'S HOLDING ELL DY_____

fficers leading elen down the stone staircase the officers' steel tipped boots echoing echoing

rank hears them approaching hears too elen's sobs e assumes she's been found guilty

verything stops right outside the rank's holding cell

The key in the lock The door swings open rank and elen look at each other

R

uilty

in tears ot guilty

R

What

ot guilty

rank is in tears now

They embrace

Т

PP X

SENE

rank and elen's row continues

You're a drunk

R 'm nowhere near as drunk as 'm going to be

Where's your self respect

R

Self respect There isn't a man alive who could live with you and survive with his respect intact Pause You go on about your school's anti bullying policy Take a look at yourself you're a bloody bully you want your own way in everything

Il you want is a bloody drink You talk about grief you don't know what grief is you're too sozzled to feel it We'd all like to be numb but some of us have to keep going keep coping