I NSPECTOR GEORGE GENTLY 7 FI LM 1

" <u>GENTLY BETWEEN THE LI NES"</u>

by

Ti mot hy Prager

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Company Pictures 172 Drury Lane London WC2B 5QR

1 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645

AN EIGHT YEAR-OLD BOY, ROBBIE SEDDON, blue eyed freckled faced, innocent fills the screen. He's wearing a shirt that's been handed down a few times before it got to him. He's sweet to look at - and then he speaks:

ROBBI E

Hadaway with ya, you stupid knacker.

The BOY throws a brick and we follow its trajectory to -

A LINE OF UNIFORMED POLICEMEN

No riot shields in sight. They wear their helmets and a look of alarm, bewilderment, anger and on the face of some outright fear. We focus on four Policemen in the line - all members of the same shift, all close friends: PC M CHAEL ASHTON looks astonished by the behaviour of the protestors who are slinging rocks and bottles. PC DAVID BAIRD tries to hide his concern but isn't very successful. PC CHRIS STOCKDALE and PC NEIL SIDWELL share a look of absolute amazement at what they're experiencing.

BEHIND THE POLICEMEN are bulldozers and several huge trucks ready to cart away the debris the bulldozers will create.

IN FRONT OF THE POLICEMEN are the slum houses they are intending to level. LOCAL PEOPLE are assembled. Some watching, others actively resisting the demolishing. BUT there is also a group of "agitators": Students, Anarchists, drunks. Hanging off the wall of one of the buildings are banners and bedsheets with protest slogans on them "GIVE PEACE A CHANCE" - A FLAG flies with a "Peace Sign" on it. The image of A CLENCHED FIST and a tattered bedsheet that looks as though it predates the others with the makeshift plea - "SAVE OUR STREET".

A bull horn announces:

BULLHORN (V.O.)

Please, will you clear the area. For your own safety. Clear the area.

A BULLDOZER'S ENGINE SPUTTERS to life.

THE POLICEMEN walk forward. Bricks and stones begin to rain down on them, thrown by a GROUP OF MEN and BOYS who hide their faces with NEWCASTLE UNITED scarves and standing in front of the soon to be demolished buildings.

1

THE POLICE LINE BREAKS

CONSTABLES rush forward intending to arrest the rock throwing protestors. The protestors flee, throwing bottles, rocks, bricks, as they retreat.

M CHAEL ASHTON

is hit in the middle of his back by a broken brick. He turns and sees his assailant - a YOUNG MAN (CHARLIE SEDDON) - whose angry epithets are muffled by the scarf he's wearing. THE YOUNG MAN darts into the part ruined terrace of slum houses.

ROBBI E

the eight year-old hurls a rock and turns and tears away. He SLIPS AND FALLS face first onto the rubble spilling into the street by the ruined houses. He's skinned his knees and elbows and it hurts.

A HAND

reaches down to help him up. Robbie grabs it and see PC DAVID BAIRD. They know each other well.

ROBBI E

Cheers, Davy.

BAI RD

Robbi e, what ye doin?

ROBBI E

Protecting my street.

BAI RD

Whey aye. Me too. I'm gonna tell your mum..

There's a panicked look in Robbie's eye before he turns and runs into the building shouting back at Baird:

ROBBI E

Get lost ya knacker!

Baird reacts with concern for the boy's well-being.

BAI RD

Robbie! No! It's not safe....

BAIRD walks forward to the entrance of the ruined building -

BAIRD (CONT'D)

Robbi e! Come out of there!

He hesitates for a moment before following Robbie into -

2 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1647 2

Baird enters the building. Moves to roominside. Doesn't feel comfortable. It is too dangerous. He shouts:

BAI RD

ROBBI E!

But nothing. He hears movement in the next room. He moves forward carefully into -

ANOTHER ROOM

Shafts of light cut across the darkness of the room from the damaged roof.

He sees A FIGURE disappear into the darkness further into the ruined building. He thinks about following but decides against it. He turns to leave and finds -

M CHAEL ASHTON4Le047 T. Tw (damaged roof.) T(ASHTON4Le08e.1 1 0 . Mov

STOCKDALE

grabs a fleeing suspect, (TERRY HANSON, 40s), and smacks the back of his legs with his truncheon. HANSON falls to his knees.

BAI RD

drags a Long Haired Bearded Man(SIMON THOMAS) out of his hiding place under a run of stairs.

SI DWELL

moves toward RONNY HANRATTY(50s), who waits for him with his hands in the air and a smirk on his face.

STOCKDALE, BAIRD, and SIDWELL lead their respective suspects to the waiting Black Marias and the chaos of the street becomes -

5 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 1 1810

The chaos of the booking suite. The POLICE have made dozens of arrests. There are voices raised: "What did I do?" "What you arresting me for" Police shouts of "calm yourself". Suspects struggling against their handcuffs.

STOCKDALE is with a hard looking fifty year old suspect, TERRY HANSON, standing in front of STATION SERGEANT, ARCHIE DAWSON, in his shirt sleeves, and sweating heavily:

HANSON

We have a right to protest...We have a right to assemble...

HANSON shouts to the others being arrested in the custody suite:

HANSON (CONT'D)

You are taking away our right to democracy!

A cheer goes up from the others. DAWSON finishes filling in the form He nods for Stockdale to move Hanson on. STOCKDALE shuts Hanson up by pulling his handcuffed arms up behind their back.

HANSON (CONT'D)

Leave it out. There's no need.

SIDWELL delivers another suspect to Dawson.

DAWSON

Name?

A hard looking fifty year-old, RONNY HANRATTY, stands in front of DAWSON.

RONNY Hanratty, Ronald. J.

DAWSON takes out a fresh PINK CHARGE SHEET and begins to fill it in.

RONNY (CONT'D)
You'se have all been bought off,
haven't ye? You can tell me. T Dan
has you lot paid for, don't he?
Tearing down our homes for a
promise... Promise he's never gonna
keep. We see what's happening to
others...moved on with nowhere to
go...We're not blind.

DAWSON begins to fill in a form

DAWSON

The two players still in the game lay their cards down - two pairs, queens and fours, for the first, three nines for the second. Bacchus lays his cards down. Full house Aces over jacks. There's an equal amount of cheers, jeers and groans as JB pulls the coins and notes in the pot towards him

JB glances up and sees ŒNTLY watching. He nods an acknowledgement and then begins to deal the cards for the next hand.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Two shillings to buy a seat...

Coins are tossed into the centre of the table. GENTLY moves to the table and throws two coins in. A CHAIR appears and JB deals Gently in.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Five card draw...

Gently nods. Bacchus looks at the others and indicates Gently:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Have you met? Gentlemen, this is M ster Gently.

Gently goes around the table introducing the other men. These a general chorus of "Wat Cheor" from the men at the table.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

M ster Gently this is "Roy". Car crash. Jimmy "H' from Hexham Fell off a roof.

JIMMY H

I was chasing a suspect.

BACCHUS

We heard he was chasing you.

Laughter from the men as Bacchus keeps going:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

St. Stephen, burned hisself being a hero. "Robert Mitcham" ran into a knife.

JIMMY H

"John Bacchus", Syphilis.

BACCHUS

Which I got from your mother.

ROY

And you Mr. Gently?

Bacchus looks at him and says with a bit of an edge:

BACCHUS

Mr. Gently's just visiting.

Cently refers to the deck of cards and says tersely:

GENTLY

Deal.

11 EXT. GROUNDS. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 1 1925/1

ŒNTLY and JB walk through the grounds. The roar of the ocean underscores their conversation.

BACCHUS

Canny lads here, all of them They don't judge. Friendly. And they're shite at poker.

GENTLY

Handy.

BACCHUS

Keeps me in Tabs.

Cently takes out THE LETTER from his pocket.

ŒNTLY

What is this?

Bacchus knows it is why he came. He says with understatement:

BACCHUS

You got it.

ŒNTLY

I got it.

A MAN about Bacchus' age in a wheel chair is pushed toward them He's slack-jawed, dazed, vacant - his head wound is prominent. Bacchus visibly reacts to the man as Gently continues:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

You couldn't tell me to my face?

BACCHUS

Resignation has to be in writing, doesn't it?

GENTLY

Yes. It does.

BACCHUS

It's in writing.

The two men study each other. After a moment Bacchus says quietly:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Shall we go back inside?

ŒNTLY

Fresh air's good for you. Helps you think.

BACCHUS

They keep telling me. Can't say I'm convinced.

GENTLY

What are you doing, John?

BACCHUS

I'm leaving here end of the week and I have to make some...

Gently tries to make sense of his decision as he says:

ŒNTLY

You've been in here too long.

Bacchus stays resolved as he explains:

BACCHUS

...I have to make some decisions about my future.

GENTLY

Why didn't you speak to me?

BACCHUS

There's no point. I don't think I can be a policeman anymore...

ŒNTLY

Don't think you can or don't want to...?

BACCHUS

What difference does it make? I'm done.

ŒNTLY

What else will you do?

Bacchus thinks for a moment trying to answer the question honestly.

BACCHUS

There are lots of things...you know...

Gently leaps on the lack of specifics:

GENTLY

Lots of things? There's only one thing you want to do...only one thing you do...

BACCHUS

No...I've been thinking...

GENTLY

It helped me getting back to work.

BACCHUS

'Course it did. That's who you are.

GENTLY

It might help you too. To come back.

Bacchus turns on Gently - he's too harsh:

BACCHUS

I'm not coming back. I am not you, Detective Chief Inspector. Can you understand that? I am not .

Silence. Gently considers what to do.

ŒNTLY

One month.

BACCHUS

What?

ŒNTLY

Your notice. You're obliged to give one month's notice. I'll expect you to work it out.

There's a moment of silence as the men look at each other.

12 INT. BACCHUS' ROOM. ST. CUTHBERT'S CONVALESCENT HOME - DAY 12 1935

BACCHUS looks down from his window at GENTLY as he walks away from ST. CUTHBERT'S.

There's a knock at his door. MARGARET enters carrying a small tray with A BOTTLE OF PILLS and a glass of water on it. She joins him looking out the window.

Bacchus lets the drape go and turns to MARGARET.

MARGARET

Ready for your medicine?

She walks over to him He takes her in his arms and they kiss passionately.

Then he turns his attention to MARGARET in earnest and begins to unbutton her uniform. She unbuttons his shirt and as she begins to unbutton his trousers we see -

THE SCARS OF HIS STOWACH WOUNDS

both where he was shot and where the surgeons had to open him up to save his life.

But he still has his eye on the window and the ghosted image, through the drape, of GENTLY'S CAR driving away.

13 INT. A GYM - EVENING 1 2030

13

ŒNTLY, alone, works a heavy bag. Hitting it with a combination of punches. Trying to stay on his toes as exhaustion arrives. Grimacing as his weak arm sends shooting pains through his body.

14 INT. GENTLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1 2320

14

ŒNTLY lays in his bed resisting sleep. Staring at the ceiling. The scars on his leg are visible.

15 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 0600

15

We see POLICE OFFICERS and civilians walking by the front of the station. A couple of uniformed officers enter the station house. We follow them in.

16 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 0602 16

WPC RACHEL COLES checks on the prisoners still occupying the cells. She looks into each and says:

RACHEL

Mor ni ng.

She sees each of them sleeping or sitting eyes closed on the slabs in the cells.

ŒNTLY

Detective Chief Inspector Gently returning your call... How can I help you, sir?

GENTLY listens. But his eyes stay on Bacchus.

21 INT. POLICE HQ. OUTER OFFICE - DAY 2 0746

21

GENTLY has his coat and is heading from his office to leave the building.

ŒNTLY

John?

BACCHUS arrives at the door of the office and asks him

BACCHUS

You want me?

GENTLY

I expect you.

22 EXT. POLICE HQ. DURHAM - DAY 2 0747

22

GENTLY emerges from the building and moves briskly to his car as Bacchus follows - several steps behind. He's just going through the motions.

BACCHUS

What are we doing?

ŒNTLY doesn't answer. He steps into his car.

22A EXT. TYNE BRIDGE. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 0755

22A

ŒNTLY'S CAR moves along the Newcastle street with Tyne Bridge in the background as they make their way to Rye Hill.

22B INT. GENTLY'S CAR. NEWCASTLE. APPROACH TO RYE HILL - DAY **2**2B 0805

GENTLY glances over. BACCHUS looks out the side window. They don't connect.

GENTLY answers the question BACCHUS asked in Durham

GENTLY (O.S.)

Death in cust ody. `They want a thorough independent investigation by a Senior Officer...

23 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 0815

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS arrive in his car outside the police station. It's a modern building - obviously different from the station in Durham

23

15A.

Cently uncovers the body and inspects it for signs of obvious

injuries.

ŒNTLY

What's the name of the deceased?

LEW NGTON

Apparently, we don't know. Might be better for everyone if we leave it that way...

Gently glances at him - unimpressed.

ŒNTLY

How did he die?

Lewington shrugs.

LEW NGTON

We need to get the body out of here...can't afford to stay out of business much longer.

GENTLY

Why was he arrested?

LEW NGTON

I believe he was arrested under the ways and means act.

Gently glares at him He understands the "code".

ŒNTLY

You were looking for a way or means to charge him later?

Lewington continues:

LEW NGTON

A section of the hill was scheduled for clearance yesterday. It's been delayed twice because of squatters and protestors... The council wasn't having more delays. We were asked to secure the area so the bulldozers could get to work.

Cently covers the LONG HAIRED MAN'S face with the blanket.

BACCHUS

Was he a squatter? A "protestor?

LEW NGTON

The Station Sergeant should be able to answer your questions.

ARCHIE DAWSON, a bear of a man, stands behind the custody desk. He sticks his paw out to shake Gently's hand.

DAWSON

Sergeant Archie Dawson.

GENTLY

Hello, Sergeant.

DAWSON smiles at him broadly.

DAWSON

I'm here to help anyway I can.

ŒNTLY

Thank you. Who found the body?

DAWSON turns and calls over to WPC RACHEL COLES on the other side of the custody desk.

DAWSON

Rachel? Could you come over, pet?

WPC COLES moves to join them

DAWSON (CONT'D)

WPC Coles. Doing her rotation with me this month. Just finished her probation.

Bacchus exudes his easy charm He makes eye contact with her:

BACCHUS

Congrat ul at i ons.

RACHEL

Thank you.

Rachel looks away and continues:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I was doing the morning check. When I saw he was...

She can't quite bring herself to say d0:

GENTLY

Do you have the pink charge sheet?

DAWSON

Ave.

Dawson produces it. He hands it to Gently.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

No name on it, of course, because we didn't have it...

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM. - DAY 1 1810 26 26 (FLASHBACK)

> The Long Haired Man is carried, struggling and crying out, across the Charge Room on his way to the cells.

DAWSON (O.S.) No ID on him Wouldn't tell us who he was...On drugs, I figure.

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 0820 27 27

DAWSON

Didn't want to hurt him Put him in a cell to calm down.

ŒNTLY

That di dn't happen...

DAWSON

No. What happened was a great tragedy.

Dawson is hoping to wrap it up and end the conversation. He starts to guide them out of the custody suite.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

If there is anything more we can do... Any other questions you have... I'll fill in my report and get it over to you...

ŒNTLY

Personal effects?

Dawson Looks to Rachel.

DAWSON

Pet? Could you bring 'emfor us.

Rachel moves to get the dead man's personal effects.

20.

GENTLY

Mug shot? Fingerprints?

DAWSON

Never got a chance to take a photo or prints. Pathologist will do it.

BACCHUS

Much easi er to handle now...

ŒNTLY

Did he scream all night?

DAWSON

No. No. They never do, drug addicts. Shouldn't say "never". Rarely.

RACHEL returns and hands GENTLY a small box with the personal effects of the Long Haired Man.

RACHEL

Here you are, sir.

Gently looks in the box - there are old knotted shoelaces, and a belt - as he continues:

ŒNTLY

He cal med down?

DAWSON

Aye.

Cently is moving towards the cells.

ŒNTLY

If he calmed down - why wasn't he booked in? Why no mug shot?

DAWSON

He wasn't on the top of my list to be brutally honest.

28 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 1 1810 28 (FLASHBACK)

The chaos of the charge room on the day of the protestors.

DAWSON (O.S.)

We were knackered. Full up with arrests from that lot obstructing the clearance.

29

29 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CELLS - DAY 2 0822

They arrive at the cells.

DAWSON

Organised, it was. That's what I think. Set out to hurt somebody.

Gently moves to the body. He uncovers it. Rachel turns away. Bacchus notices.

DAWSON (CONT'D)

Not had any trouble with the other clear ances.

Bacchus asks qui et l y:

BACCHUS

You okay?

Rachel waves him of f - embarrassed that he's asked.

RACHEL

Aye.

Gently begins to search the body as Dawson continues:

DAWSON

I think it was agitators like him from elsewhere just looking for trouble. Not going to be local is it? I mean those people will be getting nice shiny new houses, won't they? Won't be them complaining.

Gently finds A SMALL BOOK OF POETRY in the zip pocket of his jacket.

BACCHUS

You think he was an "agit at or"?

Dawson speaks as Gently opens the book...

DAWSON (O.S.)

How would I ken to that? But no one knows who he is and any one of us could tell you the name of every family living in every house on Rye Hill.

....and finds that it is from the Library of "Newcastle University" with a pocket for the lending card and the date in which the book was to be returned written on it.

DAWSON (CONT'D)
People from 'round here know each
other. They don't like outsiders
meddling.

ŒNTLY Perhaps no one liked you.

BACCHUS

They do one for you. .?

We know from the look that its a "no".

30 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 0830

30

GENTLY and BACCHUS watch as THE BODY of the Long Haired Manin a coffin - is wheeled out of the police station on a gurney and pushed toward the black coroner's ambulance. **ŒNTLY**

We'll find a way to find out what happened.

Bacchus deflects his anger with a dismissive despair:

BACCHUS

What kind of job is this?

ŒNTLY

One that has to be done.

BACCHUS

What ever we do won't be good enough, will it?

Bacchus points at the local police constables:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

going to hate us. The

public resent us...

ŒNTLY

That must make it easier for you.

Bacchus looks at Gently as though he must be mad:

BACCHUS

How is it easier?

GENTLY

To justify your decision to resign...

BACCHUS objects talking over Gently.

BACCHUS

I'm not struggling with my decision.

Gently keeps pursuing his logic:

ŒNTLY

...there's no virtue in serving. It's all pointless...It's easier if you just don't care.

BACCHUS

I don't care, Guv. I don't. I had six months laying in a bed teaching myself not to care. Getting myself to a place where I can say it out I oud: "I - don't - care."

Bacchus' words cut Gently. He tries not to react.

25.

Gently hands the BOOK of POETRY he found on the dead man's body to Bacchus. Bacchus opens it and finds the lending page and the stamp of Newcastle University.

GENTLY

Let's try and find out who the victimis...G ve him back his name.

31 EXT. THE LIBRARY. NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY - DAY 2 0900

31

GENTLY and BACCHUS approach the library:

LI BRARI AN (O.S.)

It is significantly overdue...

32 INT. THE LIBRARY. NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY - DAY 2 0900

32

BACCHUS and GENTLY stand at the counter as the YOUNG LI BRARI AN, who has yet to let her hair down, shuffles through the stack of lending cards until she finds the one that matches the book.

LI BRARI AN

Here it is.

She shows GENTLY the card.

LI BRARI AN (CONT'D)

Nine shillings, thrupence.

BACCHUS

Does it have a name on it?

GENTLY

"Simon Thomas".

Gently looks at the Librarian.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

You woul dn't happen to have his home address...?

The Librarian looks in a file. She takes out a student record sheet which has a small passport sized photo stapled to it. The Librarian hands the sheet to Gently.

LI BRARI AN

If you do speak with him could you ask him to return the other books please...?

Gently looks at the clean-cut, fresh-faced image of Simon Thomas at the top of the sheet.

LI BRARI AN (CONT'D)

He has el even unreturned books. It's irresponsible.

BACCHUS

The youth today.

He smiles at her - she glares at him, not buying the charm Gently and Bacchus turn to go.

LI BRARI AN

Who's going to pay the fine?

Without hesitation Gently gestures to Bacchus.

ŒNTLY

He will.

33 EXT. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE. PONTELAND - DAY 2 1000 33

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS arrive in Gently's car in front of the gated drive to the house.

They get out of the car and look at the house and grounds.

BACCHUS

You sure this is the right place?

GENTLY

He died in Rye Hill Police Station.

It takes her a moment to digest this. Her tenor changes:

KATHERI NE

In your cust ody?

GENTLY

In police cust ody.

KATHERI NE

Aren't the police meant to keep us safe? Isn't that what they do?

35 EXT. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE - DAY 2 1010

35

The gates open and GENTLY and BACCHUS I eave the house.

BACCHUS

He ___ abandoned. His family abandoned him That's the reality his mother can't face. You're family's meant to keep you safe -not the police. We've given him a name I think that's the best we'll do.

ŒNTLY

She has a right to expect us to look after him..

BACCHUS

If they can't take care of their own why should they expect the police to do better?

ŒNTLY

Do you?

They reach the car. Bacchus is frustrated and angry.

BACCHUS

Why did you make me tell her?

GENTLY

It's your job.

They hear the wailing of KATHERINE THOMAS as she finally lets the grief wash over her. Gently looks Bacchus in the eye:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

I don't think it is possible to tell someone their son has died and not care.

36 INT. GENTLY'S CAR. A PROSPEROUS DETACHED HOUSE - DAY 2 10116

BACCHUS stares out the window. Gently checks on him He thinks about how to reach out to him before:

ŒNTLY

Have you ever let someone "just slip away", Sergeant? It's not a good feeling to live with. You fight for them - even when you're not sure how to.

He starts the car - and then challenges Bacchus:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

I'm not going to abandon him, John. Are you?

Bacchus looks at Gently. He knows he is trying to force him to re-engage fully.

BACCHUS

I'm not changing my mind....

He looks away.

37 INT. ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY. MORTUARY - DAY 2 1105

37

ANDERTON

It looks as though he was trying to protect his head with his arms.

ŒNTLY

During the riot?

ANDERTON

Reasonable to presume. Recent anyway. Some of the marks are historic...he lived rough?

Gently nods.

ŒNTLY

Cause of death?

ANDERTON

We won't have anything definitive until I've completed a full post mortem. We had the bloods back... Analysis of the vitreous fluid revealed high levels of adrenalin - understandable for someone under stress... but he tests negative for the presence of THC. In fact, he tests negative for all narcotics... not even cough medicine. Not hing.

GENTLY

The station sergeant believed he was "on drugs". Are you sure there's no mistake?

ANDERTON

No mistake. He was not intoxicated - no drugs or alcohol.

Cently's surprise almost immediately becomes concern.

38 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 2 1120

38

GENTLY'S CAR arrives:

BACCHUS (O.S.)

"Struggling, disoriented, violent...

BACCHUS and GENTLY get out of the car:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

... "screamin' like a mad thing." That's what that Sergeant said.

GENTLY and BACCHUS wait by Gently's car. WPC RACHEL COLES walks from the station house to join them

RACHEL

Detective Chief Inspector? Sergeant asked me to take you over to the shift at Rye Hill.

42 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1155

42

ŒNTLY, BACCHUS and RACHEL move from ŒNTLY'S car toward the area where the disturbance took place.

RACHEL

ŒNTLY

There are some who can't imagine they'll ever see those views.

RACHEL

We're losing our faith in things, aren't we? You can see it all around.

RACHEL points to a row of uncleared houses sealed off by police ropes and spigots and still standing. Surrounding them is debris and building work.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

That's where the trouble was.

Gently and Bacchus look -

They continue to walk forward:

42A EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1156

42A

FURTHER ALONG THE STREET

There are A FEW LARGE SHEETS with different protest slogans hanging from the still extant side of a ruined brick building. The FLAG with a "Peace Sign" on it. The image of A CLENCHED FIST and the tattered sheet saying: "SAVE OUR STREET". From the look of the street the plea was apparently in vain.

RACHEL

We never had any trouble before never. We grew up respecting the police. We knew they had taken an oath to serve us, to protect us.

STOCKDALE starts to try and pull the sheet and rip it down. The crowd becomes agitated telling him to stop. ANOTHER brick is thrown. RONNY puts his hand on Stockdale's arm to stop him

STOCKDALE whips around and strikes him across the face with his truncheon. RONNY goes down. I RENE moves to help RONNY.

I RENE

What was that about, Chris? What were ye thinking?

STOCKDALE

He don't listen. You don't do ye?

RONNY

And ye don't learn, lad...

Baird and Sidwell try and disperse the crowd.

BAI RD

Move along now. All of you move along.

STOCKDALE rips the sheets down and as he bundles them up under his arm he sees:

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS watching. The local people begin to disperse except for the kids watching from the ruined buildings. Baird calls to them

BAIRD (CONT'D)

Hadaway from those buildings! It's dangerous... Hadaway from there!

A LAD'S voice shouts back:

ROBBIE (O.S.)

Piss off!

IRENE helps a still dazed RONNY HANRATTY.

BAIRD, STOCKDALE and SIDWELL physically prod the group to disperse them As they reach GENTLY and BACCHUS -

BAI RD

Rachel?

RACHEL

This is Detective Chief Inspector Gently, and Detective Sergeant Bacchus.

Baird's attitude changes immediately.

GENTLY

We're investigating Simon Thomas...

BACCHUS

The long haired fella...

SI DWELL

Ch aye. We think he's probably the one that did Ash over and put him in hospital...

STOCKDALE

Just need a witness.

ŒNTLY

We're looking into his death.

STOCKDALE is outraged.

STOCKDALE

We're spending time and brass on that. Why? Makes no difference to anyone.

GENTLY

Maybe that's why it should make a difference to us.

Sidwell and Stockdale walk away. Baird says quietly and forcefully to Gently and Bacchus.

BAI RD

Don't judge him.. You remember what it was like with your shift when you were in uniform? Brothers. They're my brothers...like. They're my blood. People here tried to kill Ash. People he grew up with, went to school with, who knew his family.

Baird gestures to the local people watching:

BAIRD (CONT'D)

They'd kill me. They'd kill you. Because of what we do. Not who we are.

Sidwell shouts back to him

SI DWELL

Come on, Bairdo.

GENTLY

You the one who arrested Simon Thomas?

BAI RD

Aye. I did.

ŒNTLY

Where? Where was he when you arrested him?

BAI RD

He was hiding. Over there...near where I found Ash...

He points to a mound of debris further along the street bricks, wood, stone. Wherever he was hiding before is now gone.

BAIRD (CONT'D)

If I hadn't arrested him he would have stayed hiding there. Bulldozer would have knocked it down. Killed hi m

Bacchus sees this as a risible self-justification by Baird.

BACCHUS

You saved his life?

Baird shrugs.

BAI RD

I did my job.

GENTLY considers his answers as he watches Baird join Stockdale and Sidwell and the three Constables walk away.

EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - LATER. DAY 2 1200 43 43

> It's an odd sight. On one side it is rubble. On the other the houses are still standing and people are going about their business. THERE are dozens of people standing in front of the houses that are still standing watching and chatting. RACHEL is talking to a group of women as GENTLY and BACCHUS move further along the street.

We hear I RENE SEDDON call out:

I RENE (O.S.) Robbie! Robbie?! Where are ye?

She's walking through the debris and partly demolished buildings looking for her son - concerned.

I RENE (CONT'D)

Robbi e!?

She sees Rachel, Gently and Bacchus.

I RENE (CONT'D)

You haven't seen my wee boy have ye?

ŒNTLY

What does he look like?

I RENE

He looks like the one who just threw a rock at ya or called you a name. Robbi e!!?

I RENE surveys Gently and Bacchus before asking:

I RENE (CONT'D)

You from the council?

BACCHUS

Police.

I RENE

Makes a change. You here to pick up your bungs from the builders...

BACCHUS

Those are normally delivered to the office.

Irene Laughs.

I RENE

'Course. They wouldn't want to get their shoes dirty.

Irene looks around at the ruins.

I RENE (CONT'D)

Nice area...they say it's on the way up. Be too good for us lot soon, won't it? Need a better class of person to live here so they'll fit in.

ŒNTLY

Did you know this man?

Bacchus shows Irene a photograph of Simon Thomas from the crime scene.

I RENE Aye. "Crazy man"? It's what the kids called him Why are you all so interested in him?

ŒNTLY

We're investigating his death.

RONNY HANRATTY moves to join them RONNY looks at the phot ogr aph.

RONNY

He's dead is he?

BACCHUS

Was he "an agitator"?

Ronny doesn't know what he's on about. Bacchus el aborates:

HANSON

Some are going to lose out. You can be sure.

I RENE

And they let the squatters move in...Like "Crazy Man"...

HANSON

Folks disn't like him

RONNY

Aye. Lot of folks.

Ronny looks around. His friends all agree with him

ŒNTLY

Why didn't they like him?

RONNY

Thought he might be a kiddie fiddler.

Gently clocks the remark.

I RENE

He never did not hing, Ronny.

RONNY looks around and plays to the crowd.

RONNY

Used to take care of things like that ourselves.

TERRY HANSON says angrily:

HANSON

These streets...they ran straight down to the Tyne... They're changing them Look, what they've done... ripped the heart out of us...

BACCHUS

This was a slum It wasn't fit to live in.

RONNY glares at Bacchus as though he might attack him

RONNY

What are you? Twenty-nine, thirty? You weren't in the war. When you go away, thinking it's to die, it changes how you feel about where you're from

HANSON

You don't know what it's like to suffer, so maybe we shouldn't blame you.

RONNY looks at Bacchus and Gently and shakes his head.

RONNY

You boys work for the council and their cronies now...not for us...not for the people.

RONNY reaches up to the blood trickling down his face.

RONNY (CONT'D)

Used to be, the police protected everybody.

44 EXT. A STREET. RUINED BUILDINGS. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 424 1210

RACHEL and BACCHUS are talking as they move toward Gently's car.

GENTLY is apart from them looking at the ruins trying to understand the geography of the events. He thinks he hears a cry of "help" in the distance. He turns to look. He hears the cry again. GENTLY moves toward the cry. He shouts to BACCHUS:

ŒNTLY

Ser geant!?

ŒNTLY moves toward the entrance to a dangerous looking ruin of a building. He hears the cry of "help" again coming from inside.

BACCHUS moves to assist him Quickly at first.

GENTLY looks into the darkness of the ruin. He hears the boy's cry. Without hesitation he enters.

BACCHUS sees GENTLY enter the building. He slows as he reaches the dark void of the doorway.

BACCHUS starts to enter the building. He looks into the darkness. He stops. He's initially bewildered by his inability to go into the building - he's surprised - and then terrified.

45 INT. RUINED TERRACE OF HOUSES. A STREET. RYE HILL - DAY 2 45 1212

ŒNTLY

John you have to...

Bacchus snaps. He can't control his anger and frustration:

BACCHUS

Don't you feel anything? Don't you suffer? We were both shot! We both bl ed. Or don't you bl eed? Doesn't anything affect you? Maybe that's what's wrong with you! Not hing affects you.

Bacchus and Gently sense someone watching and look over to find ROBBIE watching them

ROBBI E

You slop?

BACCHUS

Aye, but we mean you no harm

ROBBI E

I didn't see nothing. Or hear it.

We hear Irene's voice in the distance:

I RENE (O.S.)

Robbi e! ? Robbi e!

We see IRENE hurrying across the rubble. Robbie goes. Cently tries one more time.

ŒNTLY

John?

BACCHUS

Don't. Just don't talk.

They start to go as Robbie's mother I RENE arrives. She screams at her son:

I RENE (O.S.)

What were you doing in there?

Cently and Bacchus arrive to see IRENE slap him upside the head.

I RENE (CONT'D)

What were you thinking?

ROBBI E

I was looking for something.

I RENE

What were you looking for?

She whacks him again and as he tries to protect himself he drops his book.

ŒNTLY picks it up for him and looks at it: "Mersey Sounds". He hands it back to him

ŒNTLY

You used to play in the old houses?

ROBBI E

Played "everys" in 'em We all liked goin' there.

Cently refers to the book Robbie's holding:

GENTLY

Where did you get the book?

Robbi e reacts defensively:

ROBBI E

I didn't steal it.

ŒNTLY

Why would I think you'd stole it?

ROBBI E

'Cos that's how police are, aren't they? Think you've always done somet hi ng.

I RENE

Tell him where you got it!

ROBBI E

Crazy Man give it me. Has poems in it by Roger McGough. Scouser, but he writes good poems.

Robbie points to the building where he was standing.

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

He used to live in there after they made everyone leave. Folks thought he mad crazy, aye. As a hatter. We thought he was a villain at first. He weren't no villain. Crazy Man used to sit in there reading beuks...poems. Talking to hisself... I think he was a genius or a hippie or something.

ŒNTLY

You like poetry, Robbie?

ROBBI E

Whey aye. Not the old kind with words nobody uses and no one knows what they mean. But this kind, aye.

ŒNTLY

You have a favourite?

ROBBI E

Lots. He liked Roger McGough.

Robbie points to a poem in the book. Cently begins to read:

ŒNTLY

"Let me die a young man's death, not a clean and in between the sheets...

Robbie begins to recite with him

CENTLY/ ROBBI E

...hol ywat er deat h, not a famous-last-words peaceful out of breat h deat h."

ANDERTON

His liver function markers were very high...as though he'd had some trauma. It's what we see in car accidents. Advanced liver damage can cause Hepatic encephal opathy. Toxins in the blood normally cleared by the liver make their way into the brain.

ŒNTLY

If he appeared disoriented?

ŒNTLY

Someone beat him to death.

BACCHUS

In the cell? It's impossible... Someone would have heard...

GENTLY

They have hear d.

BACCHUS

Duty officer would have reported it.

They pass a stack of copies of the NEWCASTLE MORNING TRIBUNE. We see the headline on the top copy:

"RYE HILL CONSTABLE REMAINS CRITICAL"

ŒNTLY

Unless they were part of it.

BACCHUS

Here we go.

Gently looks at Bacchus.

ŒNTLY

Si dwell thought Si mon Thomas assaulted Ashton...they just needed a witness prove it.

The idea is too horrible to contemplate for Gently:

ŒNTLY (CONT'D)

They beat him to death in his cell and no one says a word... They cover it up.

BACCHUS

(finds it risible)

All of them?

Gently looks at him \mbox{He} 's going to make Bacchus eat his doubting words.

49A INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 1410 49A

DAWSON is sitting on the edge of his desk. Body language suggests he's getting tired of their questions.

GENTLY

Was Mr. Thomas checked hourly in his cell?

DAWSON

Whey, Aye. Of course.

ŒNTLY

He was agitated?

Dawson laughs derisively - he was more than agit at ed.

DAWSON

Aye. I'd say so!

ŒNTLY

You thought he was on drugs?

DAWSON

Aye. Why are we wasting so much time and effort on this? I don't understand it. It's not going to make any difference to anyone.

BACCHUS Looks at him coolly before:

GENTLY

What time did you call the police sur geon?

Cently registers the fact that Bacchus has asked a question. DAWSON looks at Bacchus coldly. He sees the trap.

DAWSON

I didn't call him..

Bacchus gives him no escape.

ŒNTLY

If he was on drugs, shouldn't you have called the police surgeon?

DAWSON

I just wanted to get himinto a cell to calm down.

BACCHUS

Aren't you meant to make sure they are safe?

Dawson raises his voice to overwhelm Bacchus...

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Isn't that your responsibility? Don't patronise me.

DAWSON

Son, when someone's arrested, it is stressful. Puts a strain on them People can die from that...

Bacchus doesn't back down.

BACCHUS (CONT'D) ...it's your duty.

DAWSON ... doesn't take anything else.

DAWSON

Don't you talk to me about duty...

Silence. Dawson looks at Bacchus with concern:

DAWSON (CONT'D)

You're one of , `aren't 'you lad?

BACCHUS

Aye.

Gently regards them both for a moment before -

GENTLY

No. He's one of us.

50 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. OUTSIDE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'550 OFFICE - DAY 2 1425

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS are waiting for LEWINGTON outside the door of his office. Gently says quietly to Bacchus.

GENTLY

I like you when you're a bastard. And you're quite good at it.

Bacchus answers deadpan.

BACCHUS

I had a good teacher.

LEWINGTON arrives. He's not happy to see them

LEW NGTON

Gent I emen?

He glares at GENTLY.

ŒNTLY

We'd like to see pocket books of arresting officer Baird and the other members of his shift and l'd be grateful if you could make them available for interview.

51.

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1440 51

WPC RACHEL COLES enters carrying a box of the CONSTABLE'S NOTEBOOKS.

She sets the box on a table. GENTLY takes each of the "pocket books" out and lays them on his desk.

ŒNTLY opens one of the pocket books and begins to read.

52 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1500 52
PC SIDWELL comes into the interview room GENTLY greets him

GENTLY Sit down, Constable.

SIDWELL sits at the table across from Gently. Gently lets him sit in silence for a moment while he continues to look at his not ebook.

GENTLY (CONT'D)
The day of the clearance...?
It seems like a very tough day.

Sidwell nods.

SI DWELL

Yes sir.

53 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1505 53

Gently is doing his best to make SIDWELL relaxed.

ŒNTLY

How I ong had there been tension?

SI DWELL

Ages. It weren't new. Some people were excited but there were others that didn't take to all the talk about being Brasilia or what ever..." Mlan of the north". Most people went gladly but there were some that weren't having it. We knew about the squatters... We'd been sent down to clear them before. But we didn't expect this...

54 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHBACK) 54

SIDWELL is covering his head and face with his arm as bottles and rocks and bricks rain down on him

SI DWELL (O.S.) Didn't have the gear for it.

He looks up and sees a kaleidoscope of angry faces and hears disjointed sounds of angry people screaming and spitting at him

GENTLY5 To 0 Tw (him) Tj 1 0 0 156.48 Tf 756.48

GENTLY You liked Mke...?

SIDWELL Top man. Proud to serve with him

STOCKDALE
Told everyone. They can't knock it down if there's people inside can they? Expensive business keeping all those men and that equipment waiting.

59 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1600 59

Constable Baird thinks about the events of that night.

BAI RD

They were angry...why at us? Do they think we have power? We don't have any power. We just do what we're told to do. They are the same as us! Don't they see that?

GENTLY

Were you fright ened?

BAI RD

Yes.

As BAIRD reflects we see:

60 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHIMAGE)

PC M KE ASHTON about to confront the protestors. He's ast oni shed.

BAIRD (O.S.) M ke wasn't fright ened.

61 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2 1600 61

Gently and Bacchus watch Baird closely:

BAI RD

He should have been. More amazed. None of us worried about being injured.

ŒNTLY

Who do you think assaulted Constable Ashton?

BAI RD

Si mon Thomas.

BACCHUS

Why did he do it?

BAI RD

I can't tell you. Makes no sense. I don't think he knew what he was doing.

BACCHUS

Why do you think that?

BAI RD

Mainly because he was acting crazy. We were asked to move people on. It wasn't safe there. Maybe Mr. Thomas didn't want to be moved...

BACCHUS

How did you move people on?

BAI RD

Spoke to them

ŒNTLY

Did you threaten them? Hit them?

BAI RD

We did what it took.

ŒNTLY

You didn't mind a little violence?

Baird shrugs. What a ridiculous question:

BAI RD

This is Newcastle.

BACCHUS

All of you?

BAI RD

Aye. We gave back what we were given. None of us shied away from the rough stuff if we had to...to defend ourself.

ŒNTLY

ŒNTLY

Ash enjoys mixing it up with vagrants and squatters...good fun. The rest of you get a taste for it. You didn't shy away from the rough stuff at the end of your shift and you didn't shy away from the rough stuff after you got Simon Thomas in a cell did you?

BAI RD

I don't know what you're on about.

ŒNTLY

You got him alone and set about to teach him a lesson. Pay him back for what he did to your friend...

BAI RD

And when was it I was doing this "pay back"?

ŒNTLY

The night Simon Thomas died.

BAI RD

I was at the hospital praying that Ash made it through the night. And youse two, if you had anything about you, would know that because you would have done the same. But you wouldn't know much about what it's like to see your colleague... your friend... in a hospital bed hooked up to machines that are keeping him alive. You seem to care more about that drug addict, squatter than one of your own. Does Ash need to die before you care about him? Is that what needs to happen?

GENTLY

You beat him to death in his cell! You were all part of it...

BAI RD

Go to hell. I'm not going to listen to this. Arrest me and prove it or let me go back to work.

61AA INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY AND BACCHUS' OFFICE/CORRIDOR - DA'612AA 1615

> ŒNTLY is walking purposefully. BACCHUS, carrying a box containing the PC's not ebooks, is a few steps behind him heckling him

> > BACCHUS

They work all hours...put themselves in danger...

ŒNTLY

Someone must have seen or heard somet hi ng. . .

Bacchus can't hide his contempt.

BACCHUS

...their friend, their "brother officer" is in hospital and we treat them like this...?

Gently turns on Bacchus and snarls at him

ŒNTLY

Without favour or affection.

Si I ence.

GENTLY (CONT'D) That's what we do. That's who we are. There is no other way to be.

BACCHUS

I can't be the things you want me to be. I never could.

BACCHUS dumps the NOTEBOOKS on TAYLOR and busies himself in the outer office. TAYLOR starts to log the not ebooks.

GENTLY, at his desk, watches BACCHUS through the glass partition. Then he turns away.

61A EXT. POLICE HQ. DURHAM - DAY 2 1700 61A

ŒNTLY

Bacchus?

No response.

 \times (CONT' D)

Tayl or!?

PC TAYLOR enters.

TAYLOR

Sir?

Gently looks at him for a moment and can't remember why he called him

ŒNTLY

63 EXT. ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY - DAY 2 1750

63

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS move toward the entrance of the large hospital. Silence. The wound still raw.

64 INT. CORRIDOR. ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY - DAY 2 1752 64

BACCHUS and GENTLY walk down the corridor toward the Critical Care Unit. They are not speaking to each other. Gently moves with clear intention. Bacchus is reluctant - almost anxious about being in a hospital.

65 INT. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1755

65

GENTLY and BACCHUS arrive in the unit. One of the NURSES moves to greet them and speaks in hushed tones.

NURSE

Can I help you?

Gently shows his warrant card.

ŒNTLY

We need to recover Constable Ashton's notebook from his personal belongings.

BACCHUS looks at the Police Constable sitting outside the door of Michael Ashton as the Nurse moves behind the nurses' station.

The Nurse calls to Gently:

NURSE

Detective Chief Inspector?

Gently moves to the Nurse who is standing by a small open locker. Inside are NUR0e68ise calls t3206 Tc52o tones.locker. Inside

The Nurse nods.

GENTLY (CONT'D) Constable Ashton. . . ? How is he? Do you expect him to recover?

The Nurse smiles. She glances around to see if any Doctors are nearby before offering a despairing look and a shake of the head. Gently nods.

He turns to rejoin Bacchus clutching the notebook. Bacchus is nowhere to be found.

INT. A ROOM. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1800 66 66 M CHAEL ASHTON lies in the bed. The ventilator still keeping hi m al i ve.

WE FIND -

BACCHUS standing at the end of the bed contemplating ASHTON, and feeling a kinship with a man he has never met.

67 INT. CORRIDOR. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1801 67 CENTLY arrives at the door to ASHTON'S ROOM. He looks in and sees -

BACCHUS

st anding by Asht on's bed.

Gently doesn't disturb him

INT. CORRIDOR. CRITICAL CARE UNIT. HOSPITAL - DAY 2 1805 68 68 BACCHUS comes out of Ashton's room and finds GENTLY waiting for him Nurses and Doctors go about their work. They look at

each other in silence for a moment before:

GENTLY

It affected me, John. It still affects me. But it won't change me. I won't let them change me, John. I won't give them that power. (a beat) WII you?

Bacchus Looks back at the door to Ashton's hospital room

BACCHUS

How much luck do I have left?

ŒNTLY looks at Bacchus intensely - piercingly:

GENTLY

You saved my life... I never told you I was grateful.

This is awkward for Bacchus.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

I'm grateful. If you let them change who you are, then they killed you in the Cathedral. You're a survivor. We're both survivors. You're more like me now than you ever wanted to be.

Bacchus Iooks back to Gently.

They walk together as they leave the hospital.

69 INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - DAY 2 1820 69

GENTLY is looking through Ashton's notebook.

ŒNTLY

Stockdale says they went to the slums seventeen times in six weeks...It was "Ash's" idea. But Ash doesn't mention it.

He throws the notebook onto his desk. It doesn't make sense.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

There's not hing.

BACCHUS glances at the Newspapers. He sees the photograph of the disturbance and people being arrested. He picks up the newspaper and walks to Gently's desk:

BACCHUS

There were other people in the police station that night. Sergeant Dawson said the cells were full up.

BACCHUS hands the newspaper to GENTLY. We see a photograph of M CHAEL ASHTON in uniform next to a LARGE PHOTOGRAPH of the POLICE ARRESTING PROTESTORS with the headline:

"POLICEMAN I NUURED I N DI STURBANCE"

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Witnesses.

ŒNTLY

But you don't think they did it?

BACCHUS And the witnesses will prove it.

70 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 2 1830 70

BACCHUS watches as RACHEL gets out the files which are in perfect order - incredibly efficient.

BACCHUS How many arrests were made?

RACHEL I would have to check with the

DAWSON enters. He sees them going through the booking sheets.

BACCHUS

This one.

RACHEL

Terry Hanson. Breach of the peace. He has a Rye Hill address.

BACCHUS

What cell was he in?

RACHEL

Seven.

Dawson interrupts:

DAWSON

What are you doing Constable?

RACHEL

We're matching mug shots to the photos from the Tribune.

BACCHUS

Not everyone who was at the disturbance was arrested...I'm trying to categorize suspects. Those that were in the cells... Those that were cautioned...

Dawson nods.

DAWSON

Scientific.

BACCHUS

Not really. Just isolating who was in the cust ody suite.

DAWSON

Carry on then. It seems important.

Dawson moves to his desk. Bacchus asks him

BACCHUS

Can we have the duty roster for that night, Sergeant?

DAWSON

Of course.

Bacchus turns his attention to Rachel.

BACCHUS Who was in the cell next to Simon Thomas?

EXT. THE SEDDON'S FLAT. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 2 1900

GENTLY We're trying to find out how he di ed. . .

Robbie is trying to get his head around what "dead" means when RONNY HANRATTY appears at the door.

BACCHUS

Mr. Hanratty...?

RONNY

Aye?

BACCHUS

We wondered if you could help us

77 OMITTED 77

HANSON (CONT'D)

No one came to see what was wrong. They just left him No one helped him

BACCHUS

We're trying to help him now.

HANSON

You're too late. What's there to solve? He's dead.

He closes the door on them A beat. Bacchus sees the information as exoneration of the Police officers.

BACCHUS

No one beat him

Gently sees it differently:

GENTLY

No one helped him

81 EXT. SECTION HOUSE. - NIGHT 2 2005

81

68.

RACHEL is on her way back to the section house. BAIRD steps out of the shadows.

BAIRD

Hiya pet.

He frightens her at first. She calms down as they kiss. RACHEL breaks the kiss smiles and says:

RACHEL

Hi ya.

They kiss again. She sees he's distracted:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

Baird looks at her for a moment - then speaks very quietly - this is something he doesn't know how to say:

BAI RD

Rachel... Sergeant has asked me to have a word...

Rachel's face as she listens.

INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - NIGHT 2 201582 82

ŒNTLY looks truly disturbed. In his hand is a bottle of whiskey.

GENTLY

This is where we are. This is what we've become. The people they don't trust. We're the enemy. (a beat) How did this happen?

BACCHUS studies Gently and the pain he is in.

GENTLY (CONT'D) Maybe you're right to quit.

BACCHUS

What do we know, Guv?

Cently looks at Bacchus and slowly realises that he has become fully engaged in the case.

ŒNTLY

We don't know when he died and we don't know why...

BACCHUS

We know that he wasn't beaten in the cells. The people we've seen...they don't trust us...but they'd be quick to shout if a policeman had beat en him So we know more than we think.

ŒNTLY

Then where was he beaten? Why didn't the custody officer realise he was in jeopardy? Why didn't they check on him?

BACCHUS

We start again tomorrow?

INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1030 83 83

> BAIRD sits in front of GENTLY and BACCHUS. He is composed. Focused.

> > **ŒNTLY**

You put Simon Thomas in the cell and that was the last time you saw hi m?

BAI RD

Aye. That's correct.

BACCHUS

Do you remember who was on duty in the cust ody suite that night?

BAI RD

No.

ŒNTLY

I'm right in thinking that you all knew who Simon Thomas was?

BAI RD

Aye. By sight. Not by name.

ŒNTLY

You had history with him?

BAI RD

Aye. I guess...

GENTLY

So did M chael Asht on?

BAI RD

Aye.

ŒNTLY

He doesn't mention him in his pocket book.

BAI RD

Doesn't he?

ŒNTLY

Constable Stockdale seems to remember going Ashton doesn't mention it at all. Was he bent?

BAI RD

What?

GENTLY

Why all the visits?

Baird is silent.

GENTLY (CONT'D)
You don't know? You don't remember?
Stockdale called it "Ash's idea"? Did you shake people down? Collect money? Sell drugs?

Baird looks Gently dead in the eye:

BAI RD

That's what you think?

GENTLY

There was history between them Ashton didn't like Simon Thomas. No one liked him No one cared about him Ashton would come down at the end of his shift and knock him around - try to get him to leave...to move on. That's why you think Simon Thomas attacked Ashton. He had a chance to get even during the riot.

Baird considers what Gently has said and shakes his head in dismay at how wrong he is.

BAIRD

Ash's idea was to leave food. Aye, at the end of our shift. A blanket when it was cold. He thought he being a policemen was some sort of social work. I didn't agree with him It encouraged them being deadbeats and it was against the rules - we were meant to move them on not make them comfortable. If the Chief had found out we would have been disciplined. That's why we didn't put it in our pocket books.

ŒNTLY

(incredulous))

You gave food to Simon Thomas...

BAI RD

That's why it's so hard to get your head around it, isn't it? Ash was good to him He had history...but not like you think.

Gently is wrong footed. He's not sure where to take the interview. Silence. Bacchus takes over for him

BACCHUS

Where was Simon Thomas when you arrested him?

BAI RD

He were sitting beneath a run of stairs. Quiet, like. Looked a bit dazed to be honest.

BACCHUS

Insi de one of the houses?

BAI RD

Aye.

BACCHUS

Why did you go in the house?

BAI RD

To try and disperse the protestors.

Baird shakes his head at the impossible perversity of it all:

She starts to leave as BAIRD enters. They look at each other. She goes leaving Dawson's and Baird's faces full of concern.

91 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1115 91

GENTLY and BACCHUS are still waiting. Bacchus checks his watch.

GENTLY

Get her in.

- 92 EXT. SECTION HOUSE. NEXT TO THE POLICE STATION DAY 3 112092
 BACCHUS moves toward the front door.
- 93 INT. SECTION HOUSE. NEXT TO THE POLICE STATION DAY 3 112093

 BACCHUS comes into the entry area. He glances at the pay telephone and the DUTY ROSTER on the bulletin board; the Log book. DAWSON comes down the stairs to greet him

BACCHUS I'm looking for WPCO Bacchus draws himself very close to Dawson and says with a threatening hush:

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Are you obstructing me in the execution of my duty?

Dawson's eyes narrow. He glares at him for a moment before -

DAWSON

She's not here.

BACCHUS

Where is she?

DAWSON

She resigned.

BACCHUS is stunned.

94 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE94-DAY 3 1330

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT LEWINGTON stands in his office with GENTLY and BACCHUS.

ŒNTLY

Can you tell us why she resigned?

LEW NGTON

I think she had the reputation of the police in $\dot{\text{mind}}.$

ŒNTLY

Shéhdminklið it bgspeala6t 58 Mie 52 Tm - 0. 187 (Ch Tw (LEWINGTON) T

LEW NGTON

I don't believe that the Assistant BACCHUS

There's a knock at the door. ARCHIE DAWSON enters. Archie nods to Lewington.

DAWSON

Sir.

LEW NGTON

As it turns out, ye seem to have uncovered an unacceptable level of neglect on our part which we will duly acknowledge and take steps to remedy. I want to thank you for the work you've done in bringing the failure of Woman Police Constable Coles to our attention.

ŒNTLY

WPC Col es?

LEW NGTON

The prisoners were her responsibility. She failed to check the cells hourly as instructed. I'm hoping we can keep this an internal matter. We felt that we might let her resign, with immediate effect, and see the end of it.

DAWSON

She was a good girl. It was a careless mistake.

A beat.

LEW NGTON

What you've done will highlight some of the ways we can make our training more effective.

Gently looks at Bacchus. They share a look of dismay. Lewington opens the door to his office to let them out. He looks at them - hoping the meeting is over. Gently and Bacchus don't move.

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)

I think we're done. You've got your scalp.

95 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 3 1440

95

BACCHUS and GENTLY come out of the station. Bacchus isn't satisfied.

BACCHUS

She's not careless. He said Rachel was careless. She didn't check on Si mon Thomas because she was careless. She's compulsively organised.

ŒNTLY

She's on the duty roster.

BACCHUS

It doesn't make sense.

ŒNTLY

She knew we were investigating what happened that night. She never said she was on duty...

BACCHUS

Is she a liar?

ŒNTLY

Appar ent I y.

BACCHUS

Could you tell? Could you tell she was a liar?

GENTLY

The women I know don't lie.

BACCHUS

The women I know lie all the time.

GENTLY moves toward her. She seems bewildered but not concerned by their presence:

BACCHUS

WPC Col es?

RACHEL

Not anymore.

She smiles thinly. Bravado intact.

BACCHUS

Could we have a word?

RACHEL

I don't have anything to say.

She keeps moving. Gently watches her for a moment and then decides:

ŒNTLY

I'm arresting you in connection with the death of Simon Thomas...

Rachel's bravado is gone. The blood drains from her face. Bacchus didn't know this was coming - he's surprised:

97 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHARGE ROOM - DAY 3 1555 97

GENTLY leads RACHEL into the police station to the Station Sergeant's desk. DAWSON sees them He doesn't know what to think. GENTLY looks DAWSON in the eye and says:

GENTLY

Could you book my suspect, please Sergeant. Suspicion of being involved in the death of Simon Thomas.

DAWSON looks at RACHEL and can't hide the guilt he feels.

DAWSON

Detective Chief Inspector...

ŒNTLY

Please do it, Sergeant. I'd like to interview as soon as possible.

RACHEL stares at Dawson trying to understand how he could have done this to her.

98 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1620 98

RACHEL is sitting at the table. She's anxious. Bacchus has his pocket book to write notes.

GENTLY

Did you try to comfort Simon Thomas after he was put in the cells?

RACHEL

No. Sergeant thought he was dangerous. We put himin an isolation cell and just left him to pass it out of his system

ŒNTLY

Were there any indications that he was unwell?

RACHEL

Besides the fact he was kickin' and screamin' and acting like a mad thing?

ŒNTLY

When did he stop screaming?

RACHEL

I don't know.

ŒNTLY

You must have a general idea. Ten at night? Two in the morning?

Bacchus I ooks at her closely - reads her unease.

BACCHUS

You did check on him hourly?

Rachel hesitates. She wrestles with what to do.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Sergeant Dawson says you did. He says you checked him hourly. Did you?

GENTLY

Answer the question!

Rachel stays quiet.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

The coward's way out...hiding behind silence...I didn't think that's who you were.

Rachel is struggling with what to do. Gently explodes:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

Did you check him'!!

RACHEL

No.

BACCHUS

Why not?

RACHEL

I wasn't there.

I wasn't on duty.

She looks to Gently who regards her with coolly.

ŒNTLY

Are you a liar?

Rachel gasps a little as she is taken aback by the bluntness of the question.

RACHEL

No!

GENTLY

I have a duty roster which indicates you were on duty in the Custody suite on the night Simon Thomas died.

RACHEL

That's not true.

ŒNTLY

I have it here. In Black and White.

RACHEL

It's still not true. I was not on duty.

GENTLY

Why does the duty roster say you were?

RACHEL

I don't know. I wasn't there.

GENTLY

Where were you?

RACHEL

In the Section House. Because I wasn't on duty...

BACCHUS

Did anyone see you there?

RACHEL

I was with another Constable.

BACCHUS

Sleeping with 'em?

RACHEL

Consoling him Our friend was in critical condition in hospital.

BACCHUS

Who were you with?

Rachel considers whether she should answer. She says nothing.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Is this another lie?

RACHEL

I've not lied. I'd prefer not to say.

ŒNTLY

You don't have a choice, Constable.

RACHEL

I have a choice. A Hobson's choice. I was not on duty. I won't hurt anyone else the way they have hurt me. I wanted to be a police officer so badly...

GENTLY

You don't deserve to be a Police Officer.

RACHEL

Aye. That's what they said to me. Women shouldn't be working...should be at home...only fair that a man should have the job. I had to resign or they would say it was my fault that no one checked on that poor, terrified man...Resign or be blamed. That, Chief Inspector, is when you don't have a choice. They wanted me to prove I deserved to be a police officer - just like you...These men, these lying men, have taken my dream away from me.

ŒNTLY

A man died in custody. He has no more dreams...

RACHEL

And if I had been on duty I would have done my best to prevent it. I was not. All you have is my word.

ŒNTLY

It's not enough.

RACHEL

It should be. I swore an oath.

ŒNTLY

It won't be.

RACHEL

Ask yourself what it means to swear it, Detective Chief Inspector. It obviously means more to me than it does to you. I gave my word, "to serve without favour or affection..."

Resignation written on her face, Rachel continues:

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Then ask them Ask them what the truth is, as I've got no proof and you won't believe me.

99 INT. POLICE HQ. GENTLY'S AND BACCHUS' OFFICE - DAY 3 1730 99

BACCHUS is pacing as he flicks through ASHTON'S NOTEBOOK, agit at ed and frustrated. Suddenly he throws the not ebook across the room, getting GENTLY's attention.

BACCHUS

Are you always bloody right!?

BACCHUS

Who was Hobson?

ŒNTLY

Who?

TAYLOR enters. He sets some papers down on BACCHUS' desk.

BACCHUS "Hobsonba9(082 aT- 0g686. 52 Tm - CACCHUS) Tj 1 0 0 1 162. 96

Gently arrives at a new possibility:

GENTLY (CONT'D)

He became disoriented and agitated as the damage to his liver took its toll. The injury didn't have to happen in the cell.

He I ooks at Bacchus.

100 INT. SECTION HOUSE. ENTRY HALL - DAY 3 1755

100

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS come into the Section House. They pass the pay phone and the bulletin board. They look around. STOCKDALE and SIDWELL come out of the DINING ROOM

STOCKDALE

Can I help you?

ŒNTLY

l'd like to speak to Constable Baird.

STOCKDALE shrugs.

STOCKDALE

I haven't seen him

He looks to the bulletin board. BACCHUS follows his eyeline to THE DUTY ROSTER pinned on the board. STOCKDALE checks the Roster.

STOCKDALE (CONT'D)

He's not on duty. I'l'l check in his room

STOCKDALE starts up the stairs calling out:

STOCKDALE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Bairdo!?

BUT BACCHUS' eyes are on the DUTY ROSTER. He moves to it and begins to dig through the pages looking for the Duty Roster on the day that Simon Thomas died in his cell.

We can tell from the way he compares the sheets there is a gap in the days.

BACCHUS

There's a gap...

SI DWELL

Sometimes the sheets fall down... or get lost...

86.

GENTLY Looks up and sees STOCKDALE Leading BALRD down the stairs. BALRD is cold eyed.

BAIRD What do you want?

101 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1825101

BAIRD sits. The table divides him from Gently and Bacchus. GENTLY describes what he thinks happened, punctuated by flash images of the events we've seen:

ŒNTLY

You saw your friend on the ground bleeding from a head wound and you were angry. You wanted to make sure someone paid.

102 EXT. /INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 102 1708 (FLASHBACK)

BAIRD truncheon at the ready going back in the building.

GENTLY (O.S.)

You went back in looking for someone to blame and you found Simon Thomas hiding.

103 INT. /EXT A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 17/0/8 (FLASHBACK)

SIMON THOMAS hiding under the run of stairs. BAIRD drags him out.

104 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1826104

ŒNTLY

You dragged him out and you beat him You didn't hit him in the head or the face - you didn't want anyone to see the marks as you dragged him out of the building. No - you hit him in the back...

BACCHUS thrusts the photograph of the bruises on SIMON THOMAS' back above his liver.

BACCHUS

Your shift, "your brothers" joined you in exacting your revenge.

105 EXT. A STREET. RUINED BUILDINGS. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 05 1710 (FLASHBACK)

THE DOORS to the POLICE PADDY WAGON open. SIMON THOMAS' FACE fills with terror.

GENTLY (O.S.)

You didn't beat himin the cells. You did it at the scene - no one would notice. No one would ever find out.

106 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3 1826106

SIMON THOMAS' FACE is replaced by - BAIRD'S FACE as he denies the accusations:

BAI RD

I never hit him Chris and Neil...they never hit him...

ŒNTLY erupts.

ŒNTLY

Who hit him? Tell the truth, son. Have enough self-respect to tell the truth!

BAI RD

That is the truth.

ŒNTLY

Who were the other prisoners?

Baird shakes his head.

BAI RD

I don't know. I don't remember.

ŒNTLY

You don't remember? You were trying to pay him back for Ashton. No one else was going to know.

THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR and before Gently can answer the door opens. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT LEWeil of 0D 162.96 27LYAshton

Gently tries desperately to control his anger. His voice low, quiet, restrained:

ŒNTLY

We...are..in an interview.

LEW NGTON

Const abl e Asht on has di ed.

Baird visibly reacts to the news. He fights back tears.

LEW NGTON

We think it if your investigation is superceded by a full investigation into the death of Constable Ashton.

BACCHUS hands the newspaper to Gently:

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)

We don't want to muddy things. I'm sure you understand.

ŒNTLY looks at the headline and asks Lewington:

ŒNTLY

What is this?

LEW NGTON

A conclusion.

GENTLY

There's no evidence that Simon Thomas had anything to do with Constable...

Lewington puts his hands up.

LEW NGTON

Let me stop you there. There is evidence. We have a statement from a member of the public who saw Simon Thomas assault Constable Ashton.

GENTLY

Who?

Lewington pushes a hand written statement across his desk to Gently.

LEW NGTON

A local woman. Irene Seddon.

GENTLY looks at the statement. Lewington looks at Gently pointedly:

LEWINGTON (CONT'D)

Go home. You've done enough.

107 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 3 1910

107

CENTLY and BACCHUS about to get into his car. BACCHUS looks at CENTLY and the thoughts flooding across his brain.

BACCHUS

They didn't really want a robust investigation, did they?

ŒNTLY

No. If they did I don't imagine they would have chosen Detectives who were recovering from serious injuries. Do you?

Gently offers a grim smile at Bacchus.

RACHEL comes out of the police station. DAVID BAIRD is standing outside waiting for her. They look at each other.

He reaches out to her. She moves away before he can touch her. BAIRD Looks bereft as she walks away.

BACCHUS

We haven't "done enough", have we?

GENTLY and BACCHUS share a look. That they have a common cause is in no doubt.

108	OMI TTED	108
109	OMI TTED	109
110	OMI TTED	110

EXT. THE SEDDON'S FLAT. RYE HILL NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2000111 111

> CENTLY and BACCHUS arrive at the SEDDON'S flat next to the church. BACCHUS knocks on the door.

IRENE answers the door a crack and checks to see who it is. BACCHUS presses the door open and they see that I RENE'S face is bruised as though she's been punched.

GENTLY

Mrs. Seddon? We need to ask you a few questions about the events...

She looks at Gently as though he's mad and stops him dead sayi ng:

I RENE

He'll hurt my children...

SHE CLOSES the door.

A SMALL STONE hits the wall by the front door. ŒNTLY turns and sees ROBBIE across the street. Once their eyes connect, ROBBIE is on the move. Gently follows. Bacchus goes with him

112 EXT. THE OLD CHURCH. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2005 112

ROBBIE passes the Old Church. He looks back to make sure that Gently and Bacchus are following. He crosses the road and heads for the street and ruined buildings where the demolition is taking place.

113 EXT. A STREET. RUINED BUILDINGS. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHTB 3 2010

ŒNTLY and BACCHUS wander through the rubble looking for Robbie. They look around the darkness of the ruined slum and can't see Robbie.

GENTLY

Robbi e!

GENTLY'S VOICE drifts into the night air.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

Robbi e!

They pass FLOWERS and a NOTE in a child's handwriting: RIP "Crazy Man".

BACCHUS

Robbi e!

GENTLY is hit in the back by a STONE. He turns and sees -

A FIGURE at the doorway of the ruined building. THE FIGURE goes inside. GENTLY follows instinctively going into the ruined building. BACCHUS hesitates - he begins to tremble as he struggles against his fear.

114 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2012/14

GENTLY continues to follow THE FIGURE as it moves through the labyrinth of corridors and broken walls. GENTLY is having trouble keeping up.

GENTLY

Robbi e!

But the figure keeps moving. ŒNTLY moves deeper and deeper into the ruined building of the slums.

115 EXT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2013/15

BACCHUS is overwhelmed by his fear. He tries to will himself to go forward but he can't.

116 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2016/16

CENTLY climbs a section of stairs that looks like it might collapse at any moment. When he gets to the top, he sees THE FIGURE up ahead in the shadows of a section of the building whose roof has collapsed. GENTLY moves toward the figure slowly - there's something not right. The figure looks to big to be a boy.

GENTLY

Robbi e??

GENTLY reaches out to touch "Robbie" when THE FIGURE turns around and we discover it is -

117 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2016/17 BACCHUS turns and finds ROBBIE and his brother CHARLIE.

ROBBI E

We couldn't speak to ye at our house. If he finds out he'll hurt mum.. Charlie and me sawit...

BACCHUS suddenly realises that GENTLY has followed HANRATTY into the house.

118 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 2017/18
THE FIGURE TURNS around GENTLY discovers RONNY HANRATTY.
Hanratty is calmas can be.

RONNY

What'd the little shite, tell you? What'd he talk to you about?

GENTLY

Poet ry.

Hanratty nods.

RONNY

You expect me to believe that? You think you're funny?

HANRATTY has a lump of wood in his hand which he's holding like a club. He moves around Gently shutting off any route of

Pain shoots up through Gently's weak arm across his body. HANRATTY'S hands go to his face. He staggers backward and his foot and leg disappear through a broken floorboard. HANRATTY is trapped - he tries to pull himself back up.

ŒNTLY rushes over to BACCHUS and reaches down to grab his arms. He holds on tight preventing Bacchus from falling.

HANRATTY drags himself up to his feet. He picks up the piece of wood with vicious LONG NAILS protruding from it.

GENTLY sees him coming. If GENTLY protects himself he'll drop BACCHUS. He's got to make a decision as HANRATTY comes within range and is about to swing the club down hard on his HEAD -

A STCNE smashes into the side of HANRATTY'S HEAD. He collapses and falls through a the open beams and flooring crashing into the debris below.

WE SEE who threw THE STONE - ROBBIE. SIRENS can be heard in the distance.

119 INT. A RUINED BUILDING. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - NIGHT 3 204019

BACCHUS - against a wall - smokes, gathering himself. In the background, GENTLY watches as HANRATTY is taken away on a stretcher in handcuffs. GENTLY approaches BACCHUS.

ŒNTLY

Are you okay?

BACCHUS

I'm good.

ŒNTLY

You are.

ŒNTLY touches BACCHUS'S shoulder and moves off. ROBBIE and CHARLIE are waiting for him ŒNTLY smiles at ROBBIE as he draws near.

ROBBI E (O.S.)

He was going to get 'em.. and teach 'em a lesson...

Robbi e's voice becomes -

120 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 4 1005

120

- Gently's as GENTLY and BACCHUS walk from his car toward the police station.

GENTLY (O.S.)

They lured him into the building. Away from anyone else...

121 INT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE1-DAY 4 1020

LEWINGTON listens as GENTLY and BACCHUS explain:

ŒNTLY

He want ed to kill Asht on. He want ed him alone and vulnerable.

122 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1645 (FLASHBACK) 22

M CHAEL ASHTON is hit in the middle of his back by a broken brick. He turns and sees his assailant - CHARLIE SEDDON - whose angry epithets are muffled by the scarf he's wearing.

GENTLY (O.S.)

The boys didn't know what he intended...they had to do their part or he'd beat them

CHARLIE SEDDON darts into the part ruined terrace of slum houses. ASHTON gives chase.

123 INT. RUINED HOUSE. RYE HILL - DAY 1 1646 (FLASHBACK) 123

CHARLIE SEDDON runs into the ruined house and keeps going. ASHTON follows him into the dark forbidding space. From the darkness a brick is thrown and hits ASHTON in the head. He drops his truncheon and sinks to his knees.

Shafts of light allowed in by the damaged roof cut through the darkness and allow us to see ASHTON S body as HANRATTY stones him

He cries out in pain but the noise of the disturbance, and

96.

ROBBIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I liked that about him

GENTLY (O.S.)

He tried to shield Ashton with his body...

HANRATTY, calmly walks forward from the darkness, he picks up ASHTON'S TRUNCHEON and smashes SIMON in the back. SIMON crumples.

GENTLY (CONT'D)

Hanratty arrived. . .

HANRATTY hits him repeatedly in the back with the truncheon as Simon falls face forward into the debris we see what will become the fatal blow. WE HEAR BAIRD'S distant VOICE from outside:

BAIRD (O.S.)

Robbi e! Come out of there!

HANRATTY turns and sees ROBBIE watching him from the doorway. HANRATTY drops the truncheon and calmly walks away into the darkness. ROBBIE moves to SIMON. He gets down with his face next to his. WE HEAR BAIRD'S VOICE getting closer:

BAIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Robbi e!

ROBBI E

Orazy Man... Orazy Man! Get up!

SIMON pulls himself up to his feet. ROBBIE helps him away as -BAIRD arrives in the ruined house.

ŒNTLY (O.S.)

Simon Thomas' liver had ruptured. He was dying but he didn't knowit.

BAIRD sees the figures of ROBBIE and SIMON moving away into the darkness. He turns and sees ASHTON'S BODY.

124 EXT. A STREET. RYE HILL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 1 1710 (FLASHBACK) 24

The doors to the Van open. Simon looks inside. He begins to panic.

GENTLY (O.S.)

When he was arrested he didn't struggle.

(MORE)

He was growing disoriented...he didn't know what was happening...it

BACCHUS and GENTLY share a look. They know this isn't either true or just.

128 EXT. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 4 1030

128

GENTLY and BACCHUS come out of the Police Station. They discover DAVID BAIRD waiting by GENTLY'S CAR.

BAI RD

Thank you.

Gently and Bacchus don't respond.

Dawson face falls as his world collapses around him

130 OMI TTED 130

131 INT. GENTLY'S CAR. RYE HILL POLICE STATION - DAY 4 1115 131

GENTLY and BACCHUS glance at each other.

BACCHUS

The letter I gave you?

Gently waits for the rest -

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Can I have it back?

Gently nods. There's no fuss. No celebration. Gently starts the car. As drives there just the glimmer of a smile.

132 OMI TTED 132

133 EXT. A HIGH RISE TOWER BLOCK - DAY 5 1005

133

GENTLY walks up the steps until he arrives at a flat near the top of the building. HE KNOCKS on a door and then turns to look out at the view across NEWCASTLE - astonished. THE DOOR OPENS revealing RACHEL COLES. She looks him up and down.

RACHEL

Lost?

Gently nods.

GENTLY

Do you remember the oath you took?

INT. CATHEDRAL. NEWCASTLE - DAY 5 1030

100.

135

135 EXT. A SMALL CHURCH. NEWCASTLE - DAY 5 1255

ROBBIE, dressed in his best clothes, sits on a wall and watches the COFFIN of SIMON THOMAS carried into the church. GENTLY sits next to him Robbie nods at the COFFIN:

ROBBI E

Crazy Man.
(a beat)
I gave him his name, you know.

GENTLY

Did you?

ROBBI E

Aye. He liked it.

He thinks and then explains:

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

It weren't 'cos he was a nutter.

Gently waits for the explanation:

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

Something would happen of he'd read a poem or somebody'd say somethin'...he'd think about it and he'd shake his head and he'd say: "That's crazy, man." Al ways said it. About everything.

ROBBIE Looks at the COFFIN as it disappears into the Church. He shakes his head as Simon Thomas would have and says:

ROBBIE (CONT'D)

That's crazy, Man.

136 INT. POLICE HQ. - DAY 5 1300

136

TAYLOR is working at his DESK when WPC RACHEL COLES enters. She looks around.

TAYLOR

Can I help you?

RACHEL

Hi. I'm new.

137 INT. A SMALL CHURCH. NEWCASTLE - DAY 5 1330

137

The very small FUNERAL of SIMON THOMAS is taking place in the side chapel of the church.