

(Name of Project)

by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)
Address
Phone Number

1 **MONTAGE - INT. ALEX'S CAR/EXT CAR - GENERAL MONTAGE** 1

ALEX IN HIS CAR PULLS OUT OF HIS DRIVEWAY.

WE THEN SEE A RAPIDLY CUT MONTAGE SEQUENCE THAT ILLUSTRATES JUST HOW RELIANT ALEX IS ON HIS MOBILE, AS HE SPENDS HIS DAY DRIVING BETWEEN VENUES.

ALEX'S MOBILE IS STATE OF THE ART - A SUPERCHARGED VERSION OF THE SONY P900.

ALEX IS CONSTANTLY TAKING AND RECEIVING CALLS, SENDING AND RECEIVING TEXTS, PICTURE MESSAGES AND EMAILS, CHECKING HIS CALENDAR ETC - SOMETIMES WHEN SITTING IN TRAFFIC, SOMETIMES WHILST DRIVING.

CUT TO:

2 **INT. TRAINING CENTRE 1 - DAY - GENERAL MONTAGE:** 2

ALEX IS STANDING BY A WHITE BOARD THAT HAS FOUR KEY POINTS LISTED ON IT -

- 1 - Don't say you're from a call centre
- 2 - Don't say there is any money involved
- 3 - Always mention the free carriage clock, but not in the first thirty seconds, never sound desperate.
- 4 - Don't allow questions to go negative.

HE IS LECTURING A GROUP OF TRAINEES.

ALEX
Now I travel right up and down the
country...

CUT TO:

3 **INT. TRAINING CENTRE 2 - DAY - GENERAL MONTAGE:** 3

ALEX
but don't think that means you lot
are just some statistic...

CUT TO:

4 INT. TRAINING CENTRE 3 - DAY - GENERAL MONTAGE 4

ALEX
because, believe it or not, we are
relying on you guys from Crawley.

CUT TO:

5 INT. TRAINING CENTRE 1 - DAY 5

ALEX
...from Coventry.

CUT TO:

6 INT. TRAINING CENTRE 2 - DAY 6

ALEX
...from Warrington.

CUT TO:

7 INT. TRAINING CENTRE 1 - DAY 7

ALEX
Let's move on to point four.
A very important cold calling
technique. Don't allow the 'callee'
(HE INVERTS COMMAS WITH FINGERS) to
say the dreaded 'N' word. 'Would
you like to buy life insurance?'.
'No'. 'Oh...Bye'.

MIMES PUTTING THE PHONE DOWN.

ALEX (cont'd)
Who can give me an example of a
question that cannot have a 'no'
answer?

A MALE SMART ARSE TRAINEE REPLIES FROM THE AUDIENCE

TRAINEE 1 (SMART ARSE)
How about a night of full on mad
sex with Kylie Minogue?

AUDIENCE OF TRAINEES SNIGGER...

CUT TO:

8

INT. TRAINING CENTRE 2 - DAY

8

ALEX IS AT THE FRONT OF THE GROUP, HOLDING A SMALL, QUITE HARD, BALL.

ALEX
A volunteer to illustrate this point?

ALEX POINTS TO A NERVOUS MAN IN THE AUDIENCE, INDICATING HE SHOULD COME FORWARD. THE NERVOUS MAN (TRAINEE 2) JOINS ALEX IN FRONT OF THE AUDIENCE, LOOKING UNCOMFORTABLE.

ALEX (cont'd)
This ball (HE HANDS IT TO TRAINEE 2)... Is our (DOES INVERTED COMMAS) conversation. And the aim is to keep The 'ball', or our 'conversation' in motion. Understand?

TRAINEE 2 NODS.

ALEX
Off you go...

TRAINEE 2
(THROWS THE BALL)
Do you want to buy some life insurance?

ALEX
(CATCHES THE BALL AND DOESN'T RETURN IT)
No! Duh! See, end of conversation.

AUDIENCE SNIGGER. TRAINEE 2 IS DEEPLY EMBARRASSED, STARTS TO RETURN TO HIS SEAT. ALEX GESTURES BEHIND HIS BACK, TAKING THE PISS OUT OF HIM. AS WE...

CUT TO:

9

INT. TRAINING CENTRE 1 - DAY

9

ALEX, WITH TRAINEE 1 (SMART ARSE).

TRAINEE 1 (SMART ARSE)
So would you like your wife well cared for after your death?

ALEX

No.

ALEX CATCHES THE BALL AND HOLDS IT UP.

CUT TO:

10

INT. TRAINING CENTRE 3 - DAY

10

ALEX WITH A FEMALE TRAINEE (TRAINEE 3) - SHE IS DOING BY FAR THE BEST - SHE WANTS TO WIN - THE PACE OF THE QUESTIONS AND THE BALL THROWING BOTH GROW INCREASINGLY FAST.

TRAINEE 3

What level of income would you be happy for your family to live on if you were to pass away?

ALEX

Thirty thousand at least.

TRAINEE 3

And what do you think is the best way to provide them with that income?

ALEX

Dunno, life insurance maybe?

TRAINEE 3

So would you be interested in buying some life insurance?

ALEX

No.

ALEX CATCHES THE BALL AND HOLDS IT UP.

ALEX (cont'd)

And you were so close.

LATER. ALEX IS PACKING UP. HIS MOBILE SITS ON A TABLE. HE CAN SEE ONE OF THE TRAINEES LOOKING AT IT ENVIOUSLY - ALEX ENJOYS THIS. IT SPRINGS TO LIFE - 'THE LONE RANGER' THEME CHIMES OUT - ALEX REACHES ACROSS AND SEE HE HAS A TEXT MESSAGE FROM AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE - IT READS 'U'.

CUT TO:

11

EXT. TRAINING CENTRE CAR PARK - DAY 1: 19.41

11

ALEX IS LOADING HIS WHITE BOARD AND THE REST OF HIS DEMO KIT INTO THE BOOT OF HIS CAR. HE RECEIVES A CALL ON HIS MOBILE. WE SEE A PICTURE OF KEITH MUCKING ABOUT ON HIS DISPLAY. HE TAKES THE CALL.

ALEX

How are we Keith?

KEITH (ON PHONE)

Fine mate. Just wanted to know if Mr Alex Of the parish will be gracing us with his presence for rugby and drinking Sunday?

ALEX

Not this week mate.

KEITH (ON PHONE)

What!?

ALEX

I'm just so knackered. I've been to the arse end of the country and back this week. I tell you if it wasn't for you and the other voices in my head I'd go completely crackers.

KEITH (ON PHONE)

Awww.

ALEX

No really, if the battery on the phone runs down I'll only have the dweebs to talk to all day.

KEITH (ON PHONE)

So, rugby?

ALEX

I promised Janet we'd do something nice Sunday.

KEITH (ON PHONE)

Rugby's nice. You get funny shaped balls.

ALEX
 Listen mate if I don't spend Sunday
 with her, Janet'll be giving me
 funny shaped balls for free.

CUT TO:

12

EXT. ANOTHER TRAINING CENTRE CAR PARK - DAY 1: 19.41
T/C...

12

KEITH IS LOADING IDENTICAL KIT INTO THE BOOT OF HIS CAR. WE
 INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
 CONVERSATION.

ALEX
 How are we Keith?

KEITH (ON PHONE)
 Fine mate. Just wanted to know if
 Mr Alex Of the parish will be
 gracing us with his presence for
 rugby and drinking Sunday?

ALEX
 Not this week mate.

KEITH (ON PHONE)
 What!?

ALEX
 I'm just so knackered. I've been to
 the arse end of the country and
 back this week. I tell you if it
 wasn't for you and the other voices
 in my head I'd go completely
 crackers.

KEITH (ON PHONE)
 Awww.

ALEX
 No really, if the battery on the
 phone runs down I'll only have the
 dweebs to talk to all day.

KEITH (ON PHONE)
 So, rugby?

ALEX
 I promised Janet we'd do something
 nice Sunday.

KEITH (ON PHONE)
Rugby's nice. You get funny shaped balls.

ALEX
Listen mate if I don't spend Sunday with her, Janet'll be giving me funny shaped balls for free.

CUT TO:

13

INT. ALEX'S CAR - DAY 1: 20.20

13

ALEX IS DRIVING ON A QUIET 'A' ROAD. HIS IS THE ONLY CAR ON THE ROAD. ALEX LEANS OVER AND TAKES A TAPE FROM THE GLOVE BOX.

HE INSERTS IT INTO THE CAR STEREO AND PRESSES PLAY. IT'S CRAP ROCK DRIVING MUSIC. HE HURRIEDLY TAKES THE TAPE OUT AND TURNS IT OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE.

THE CAR IS FILLED WITH THE DISTINCTIVE SOUNDS OF A CHAOTIC TRAFFIC JAM - HORNS BLARING/IRATE DRIVERS SHOUTING/POLICE SIRENS ETC...

ALEX BRINGS UP 'HOME' ON HIS PHONE. WE SEE A PICTURE OF JANET.

JANET (ON ANSWERING MACHINE)
Hi you've reached Alex and Janet.
We're not home. Leave us a message.

HE HOLDS THE PHONE CLOSE TO THE STEREO.

ALEX
(SHOUTS)
Janet! Can you hear me? I'm on the... hang on, I'll just wind the window up.

ALEX MOVES THE MOBILE AWAY FROM THE STEREO TO HIS EAR.

ALEX (cont'd)
I'm stuck in the most hellish traffic jam. The tailback must be about ten miles. (HOLDS THE PHONE CLOSER TO THE STEREO AND SHOUTS) Where'd you get your licence mate!? Back of a crisp packet!? (MOVES PHONE BACK TO HIS EAR) I'll have to get off the motorway and find myself a Travelodge. Love you, bye.

ALEX ENDS THE CALL. HE BEGINS TYPING IN A TEXT - '10 MINS AWY SEXY'. HE SENDS IT TO DAVINA. HE IMMEDIATELY RECEIVES A TEXT MESSAGE BACK.

ALEX (cont'd)
You are keen!

ALEX SCROLLS TO HIS MESSAGES - IT ISN'T FROM DAVINA. IT IS FROM AN ANONYMOUS SENDER - HE OPENS IT - IT READS - 'U R'. ALEX IS LOOKING DOWN AT THE PHONE... JUST AS THERE IS A TERRIBLE THUD.

ALEX IS SUDDENLY JOLTED FORWARD. HE LOOKS UP TO SEE A TRAMP ROLLING FROM THE BONNET OF HIS CAR ON THE ROAD. THE TRAMP FALLS ONTO THE KERB. A SHOCKED ALEX BRINGS THE CAR TO A SUDDEN HALT A SHORT DISTANCE FURTHER ON.

ALEX (cont'd)
(TO HIMSELF)
Oh Christ! Oh God! Oh Goddy Christ!

ALEX LOOKS INTO HIS REAR VISION MIRROR TO SEE THE TRAMP STAGGERING UNEASILY TO HIS FEET. ALEX QUICKLY SCANS THIS SURROUNDINGS - THERE'S NO-ONE ELSE AROUND.

ALEX (cont'd)
(BASICALLY CONVINCING HIMSELF)
He's alright...he is...look, he's alright! He's fine.

ALEX PUTS HIS FOOT DOWN ON THE ACCELERATOR AND DRIVES OFF AT SPEED. HE BREATHEs OUT - TRYING TO CALM HIMSELF.

CUT TO:

14 **EXT. ROAD - DAY 1: 20.21**

14

THE TRAMP ALL BUT MAKES IT BACK TO HIS FEET - BEFORE SLUMPING BACK DOWN ONTO THE KERB.

CUT TO:

15 **EXT. TRAVELODGE CAR PARK - DUSK 1: 21.33**

15

ALEX IS SITTING IN HIS CAR TRYING TO CALM HIS NERVES. HE OPENS ONE OF A SERIES OF TEXTS FROM DAVINA - ALL READ 'RLY BORED NW - WHRE R U!?!?!'.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAVELODGE HOTEL ROOM/BEDROOM/BATHROOM - DAY 2: 08.21 16

ALEX AND DAVINA ARE SITTING UP IN BED. THE RADIO IS ON.

DAVINA

(CHECKING HER PHONE)

What are you like the week of the 12th. I'm in Leeds on the 13th...that any good? Or the 14th, Chester. I've heard very good things about the Travelodge there.

ALEX

(CHECKS HIS PHONE)

Actually, Chester might be a problem.

DAVINA

Hmmmm?

ALEX

Apparently I'm in Beirut on the 14th!

ALEX TAPS THE SIDE OF HIS PHONE.

ALEX (CONT'D) (cont'd)

My calendar's gone mental.
(ALEX SHOWS DAVINA) Says I've got a performance review next Saturday at eleven! Why would I need a performance review? We don't do performance reviews.

DAVINA

It'll just be the Sim Card, switch it off then on again.

DAVINA TAKES HER WATCH OFF THE SIDE TABLE AND CHECKS THE TIME.

DAVINA (cont'd)

Shit, I should have been on the M-4 ten minutes ago.

DAVINA PADS ACROSS THE ROOM IN KNICKERS AND T-SHIRT INTO THE BATHROOM. THE DOOR REMAINS PARTIALLY AJAR - DAVINA RUNS THE SHOWER.

ALEX

Have I told you recently how fantastic you are?

DAVINA (OFF SCREEN)
Well you texted me... (DAVINA SCANS
DOWN HER TEXTS) apparently last
Tuesday I was a 'fkn brllnt n a grt
shg'. So I take it you like the
phone I got you?

ALEX
What's not to like? It's got great
features... like you.

DAVINA (OFF SCREEN)
Yeah and a cheesy tone, like you.

ALEX
We are really good together.

DAVINA (OFF SCREEN)
We are really good in bed together.
That's the only reason we're here
sharing complimentary sachets of
shampoo.

ALEX IDLY FLICKS THROUGH THE PHOTO I.D'S ON HIS PHONE.

ALEX
You know all day up and down the
motorway, it's like you're the only
person in my day who isn't made up
of pixels on my phone. You're like
my rest stop.

DAVINA (OFF SCREEN)
Your rest stop. So what am I, a
'Happy Eater'?

DAVINA COMES TO THE SINK - SHE'S NOW NAKED, WE CAN SEE THE
BACK OF HER.

ALEX
You know what I mean.

DAVINA LOOKS OVER HER SHOULDER AT ALEX.

DAVINA
Do you ever have that phone out of
your hand?

ALEX
It's good for all sorts of things.

AS DAVINA TURNS BACK TO FACE THE MIRROR ALEX HAS A PERFECT
VIEW OF HER ARSE.

ALEX
 ...And the aim is to keep the
 'ball', or our 'conversation' in
 motion. Any questions?

HALF OF THE AUDIENCE HARDLY SEEMS TO BE LISTENING, THE OTHER
 HALF MUTTER AND SHAKE THEIR HEADS.

ALEX (cont'd)
 Anyone have anything to say?

A SAD FACED MAN IN THE THIRD ROW (HE LOOKS BEATEN DOWN BY
 LIFE) SLOWLY LIFTS HIMSELF TO HIS FEET.

KEVIN
 I do.

KEVIN (cont'd)
 Fire away.

KEVIN (cont'd)
 (BEAT)
 My name is Kevin...and I am an
 alcoholic.

THE REST OF THE PEOPLE SEATED BREAK INTO A SUSTAINED ROUND OF
 APPLAUSE.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. LAY-BY - DAY 2: 15.25

20

A BURGER VAN IS PARKED UP IN THE LAY-BY. ALEX IS PACING IN
 THE LAY-BY, EATING A BURGER AND BUYING A BUNCH OF ROADSIDE,
 PLASTIC WRAPPED FLOWERS. HE IS ALSO ON HIS MOBILE.

KEITH (ON PHONE)
 (GOADING)
 Well, Alcoholics Anonymous - they
 are a high risk group mate

ALEX
 This is not funny Keith! McKee went
 ballistic at me. She wants my
 buttocks in a bap.

ALEX'S PHONE BEEPS - HE HAS ANOTHER CALL ON HOLD.

ALEX (cont'd)
 I better get off, I've got another
 call.

ALEX ANSWERS THE SECOND CALL - THERE'S NO-ONE AT THE OTHER END.

ALEX (cont'd)
Hello...hello...? (SARCASTIC)
Is there anyone there?

THE LINE GOES DEAD. ALEX INSTANTLY RECEIVES A TEXT MESSAGE - IT READS - **U R GNG**. ALEX ISN'T IN THE MOOD FOR PEOPLE PLAYING FUNNY BUGGERS - HE INSTANTLY DELETES IT, DOWNS THE REST OF HIS COFFEE AND GETS BACK INTO HIS CAR.

CUT TO:

21

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY 2: 17.15

21

WE SEE ALEX'S CAR APPROACHING FROM THE POV OF A DRIVER, PARKED OPPOSITE ALEX'S HOUSE (THIS IS TRAINEE 2 FROM SC 8). THE MAN IS MAKING A CALL. ALEX DOESN'T NOTICE HIM AS HE PULLS HIS CAR INTO HIS DRIVEWAY.

THERE IS A OLD BRIGHT YELLOW VW BEETLE ALREADY IN THE DRIVEWAY. HIS WIFE JANET, IN DIRTY OVERALLS AND PAINT-FLECKED HAIR IS SPRAYING IT WITH A PAINT GUN. HE STANDS BESIDE HER AND VIEWS HER WORK, DOUBTFULLY.

ALEX
Nice bright yellow...

JANET
(PLEASED) I think so...

ALEX
You don't think the previous colour was... bright enough?

JANET
The other bright yellow you mean?
Nope.

SHE TURNS THE SPRAY PAINT OFF AND TURNS TO HIM.

JANET (cont'd)
You see Alex dear, I'm trying to achieve what one calls in the motor trade a 'total eclipse' car, beloved by hippies and primary school teachers. One that has to be viewed through smoked glass to avoid damaging the eyesight.

ALEX
Well I hardly think that's poss... Oh
no...

HE PUTS HIS HANDS TO HIS FACE. JANET LOOKS CONCERNED.

JANET
What?

ALEX
It's happened! I've gone blind!
Oh no!

HE LURCHES TOWARDS HER, GROPING HER AS HE DOES SO. GIGGLING,
SHE PULLS HERSELF AWAY AND RUNS INTO THE HOUSE. HE STAGGERS
AFTER HER, ARMS OUTSTRETCHED.

ALEX (cont'd)
Help me! I want to read the bumps
on your chest!

CUT TO:

22

INT. HALLWAY / MAIN ROOM - DAY 2: 17.15 T/C...

22

ALEX OFFERS JANET THE FLOWERS. THIS IS A LITTLE GAME THEY'VE
PLAYED BEFORE.

ALEX
No pressure, but you are going for
a new record.

JANET
(SMELLS THE FLOWERS)
Petrol fumes... Chip fat... Poorly
maintained latrines... I'd say... A40?

SHE LOOKS AT HIM FOR CLUES. HE TURNS HIS EYES ENIGMATICALLY
TO THE SKY.

JANET (cont'd)
Definitely. Cut flowers for sale,
Mike's Burgervan, large overflowing
litterbin by the breakdown phone.

ALEX
(BEAT) Janet... You were nine out of
nine... you are now... ten out of
ten.

JANET
Yes! I rule!

JANET AND ALEX WALK INTO THE MAIN ROOM.

ALEX

So did you have another hard day at work?

JANET

It was a like a mad-house today. We had a big meeting to look over our schedule, discussed various options... and finally we watched Balamory.

ALEX IDLY TAKES A PICTURE OFF THE TABLE.

ALEX

How do you expect these kids to make money in the art world if you insist on teaching them how to paint?! So what's this one then?

JANET

That is a masterpiece by Danny Morris, from 6B.

SHE COMES UP BEHIND HIM TO POINT OUT THINGS IN THE PAINTING. AS JANET DOES SO, THE PENNY QUICKLY DROPS FOR ALEX - THE PICTURES SHOWS A SAD FACED WOMAN AT A BUS-STOP, A BEETLE CAR WITH THE HOOD UP AND A MAN ASLEEP IN A FIELD.

JANET (cont'd)

There's sad Mrs Wright, standing at the bus stop. And there's her little yellow car with the bonnet up. And there's her lazy husband just having a nap in the field...

ALEX

I see...how much did you bribe him?

JANET

(BEAT, AS SHE CATCHES HIS EYE) Bag of chocolate buttons.

ALEX

I will get your car fixed, promise. It's just been a bit mad lately.

HE FUMBLES IN HIS POCKET AND PULLS OUT HIS PHONE, PRESSING A FEW BUTTONS. HE POINTS THE SCREEN TOWARDS A SCEPTICAL JANET.

ALEX (cont'd)
 Look, I even programmed the garage
 number into my phone. Can't say
 fairer than that, can I?

THE PHONE CHOOSES THIS MOMENT TO SOUND OFF, SIGNIFYING A
 PICTURE MESSAGE. DAVINA'S PICTURE LIGHTS UP THE SCREEN.

ALEX GOES PALE. FORTUNATELY, AT THAT MOMENT, THE PHONE RINGS
 IN THE HALL AND JANET IS DISTRACTED.

JANET
 (AS SHE GOES TO THE PHONE)
 Alright, but if it's not done
 tomorrow 6B will have the potato
 prints out.

JANET, NOW IN THE HALL ANSWERS THE PHONE.

JANET (cont'd)
 Hello... hi... no it's fine.

JANET MOUTHS TO ALEX "MY SISTER".

JANET (cont'd)
 Sally, if you don't stop crying I
 can't understand you.

MIMES TO ALEX TO POUR HER A GLASS OF WINE. ALEX IS HALF
 CONCENTRATING ON HER - DISTRACTED AND AGITATED BY THE MESSAGE
 ON HIS PHONE. IT READS "I'M STILL HOT 4 YR BODY. DX."

JANET (cont'd)
 (SHE'S HEARD THIS ALL
 BEFORE)
 ... But what makes you think
 Steve's having an affair?

CUT TO:

23

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY 3: 08.25

23

ALEX AND JANET ARE LEAVING THE HOUSE - THE MAIL HAS ARRIVED.
 ALEX MAKES A POINT OF PICKING UP HIS MOBILE PHONE BILL.

CUT TO:

24 **EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY 3: 08.25 T/C...**

24

ALEX AND JANET EXIT THE HOUSE - TO BE GREETED BY THE SIGHT OF FIFTY TOILETS ON THE FRONT LAWN. THEY ARE NATURALLY GOBSMACKED.

JANET

Couldn't you have settled on gnomes?

ALEX

Funny woman.

THERE IS A DELIVERY NOTE ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE TOILETS, ALEX SNATCHES IT OFF.

HE AND WE NOTICE THIS TIME THE MAN (TRAINEE 2) SITTING IN THE CAR PARKED DIRECTLY ACROSS THE ROAD - NOT THAT ALEX THINKS ANYTHING OF IT.

ALEX RECEIVES A PICTURE MESSAGE FROM AN ANONYMOUS SENDER - IT SHOWS 'U R GNG 2'.

CUT TO:

25 **INT. ALEX'S CAR - DAY 3: 09.45**

25

ALEX IS PARKED OUTSIDE ANOTHER ANONYMOUS VENUE SPEAKING ON HIS MOBILE.

ALEX

(ANGRY)

No, for the eighth time, I did not order them! Do I sound like someone who wants fifty toilets? (BEAT) Oh very funny, you're full of it too. I don't care what your records show. I want them off my front lawn by tonight!

ALEX HANGS UP. HIS PHONE RINGS - ALEX LOOKS TO HIS PHONE - IT'S DAVINA - HE PAUSES FOR A SECOND - THEN DECIDES NOT TO ACCEPT THE CALL.

CUT TO:

26 **INT. AN AREA OF ALEX'S OFFICE - DAY 3: 13.30**

26

ALEX IS SITTING AT A TABLE WITH HIS BEST MATE KEITH. THE UNOPENED PHONE BILL LIES ON THE TABLE.

KEITH

All I'm saying is that I know a lot of blokes who'd cut off their right arm and more besides for the little hassle free 'arrangement' you and Davina have.

ALEX

Had. She's left Brian.

KEITH

Oh. But come on, boyfriend or no boyfriend, she might be perfectly happy for things to motor along as they are now.

ALEX SHAKES HIS HEAD.

KEITH (cont'd)

Why?

ALEX

(OPENING HIS MOBILE BILL)

We have this 'unspoken' rule - no contact after six p.m. When we're with our...others. She texted me three times at home last night.

KEITH

Oh dear, well that's not on. You need to set down some new ground rules - pronto.

ALEX

(ABOUT THE BILL)

What is this rubbish!? They've charged me three hundred and eighty quid for calls to premium line numbers!

KEITH

You dog you!

ALEX

I'm being serious, these aren't my calls.

KEITH

You sure? A bloke I knew had his phone cloned, five grand in calls they racked up on it.

ALEX
I'd better ring them.

KEITH
Yeah, but make the other call
first. Call Davina.

ALEX
(STALLING)
What, now?

KEITH
She'll be on lunch. You need to get
this sorted mate.

ALEX BRINGS UP DAVINA'S NUMBER - HE PHONES IT. THE CALL IS
CONNECTED. AS ALEX SPEAKS KEITH IS NODDING, EGGING HIM ALONG.

DAVINA
Hello? Alex?

ALEX
Yeah listen Davina, I appreciate
all the extra attention after
hours. You are incredibly special
to me. But just because you've left
Brian, don't get any ideas that I'm
going to leave Janet. Because that
just isn't going to happen. Davina?
(SILENCE AT THE OTHER END) Are you
alright with that?

JANET (ON PHONE)
Nice to hear that vote of
confidence. Is Davina that skinny
blonde one from the office Alex?

ALEX
Janet!?

ALEX BREAKS INTO A COLD SWEAT AS A WAVE OF PANIC ENGULFS HIM.
ALEX LOOKS TO HIS MOBILE - TO SEE A PHOTO OF JANET. THE LINE
GOES DEAD.

ALEX (cont'd)
What the fuck have I done?

CUT TO:

27 **EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY 3: 15.05**

27

ALEX IS STANDING ON THE LAWN SURROUNDED BY THE TOILETS AND VARIOUS PERSONAL BELONGINGS. ALEX WALKS OVER TO ONE OF HIS EXPENSIVE SUITS - IT HAS BEEN SHREDDED WITH SCISSORS. JANET IS HURLING MORE OBJECTS OUT OF AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW.

ALEX

Janet can we just talk about this!

A SET OF GOLF CLUBS IS PUSHED FROM THE UPSTAIRS WINDOW, THEY LAND ON ONE OF THE TOILETS - TAKING A CHUNK OUT OF IT.

ALEX (cont'd)

Great, you've smashed one of the bogs! They'll never take them back now! Janet please!

ALEX TURNS TO SEE A SMALL GROUP OF SEVEN OR EIGHT BUSYBODIES HAVE GATHERED TO WATCH THE SPECTACLE UNFOLD - AMONGST THEM IS PARKED THE CAR WE SAW EARLIER AND ITS DRIVER, TRAINEE 2.

ALEX (cont'd)

Enjoying yourselves!?

A PLANT POT SMASHES AS IT HITS THE GROUND, INCHES FROM ALEX'S FEET.

CUT TO:

28 **INT. HEAD OFFICE - DAY 3: 16.25**

28

ALEX IS STANDING OUTSIDE KEITH'S OFFICE. ALEX HAS HIS GOLF CLUBS OVER ONE SHOULDER AND HE'S CARRYING A BOX FULL OF JUNK. HE RECEIVES ANOTHER TEXT MESSAGE REPEATING 'U R GNG 2'. HE IMMEDIATELY TEXTS BACK 'U R A WNKR'

ALEX

I really appreciate this mate.

KEITH EMERGES FROM HIS OFFICE AND LOCKS IT.

KEITH

Come on, that's what mates are for.

KEITH MOBILE WARBLER - A PICTURE MESSAGE ALERT.

KEITH (cont'd)

Hang on, (CHECKING PHONE) I have a picture message from... oh, you in fact.

ALEX

Not from me. I haven't sent you anything.

KEITH

(SHOWS ALEX HIS PHONE'S CALLER I.D)

The phone never lies.
(KEITH OPENS HIS PICTURE MESSAGE)
You can stay with me as long as you want.

KEITH SHOWS HIM THE PHONE - IT IS THE SNEAK PICTURE HE TOOK IN THE HOTEL OF DAVINA. ALEX JAW DROPS.

KEITH (cont'd)

Do all the rooms have those as standard?

ALMOST INSTANTLY THERE IS A WAVE OF BEEPS AND MUSIC TONES THAT SPREAD AROUND THE OPEN PLAN OFFICE AS EVERYONE WITH A PICTURE PHONE RECEIVES THE SAME MESSAGE. WE SEE VARIOUS SHOTS OF WORKERS IN THE OFFICE OPENING THE SAME PICTURE OF DAVINA. THE REACTIONS RANGE FROM LEERING AND BROAD SMILES FROM THE MEN, TO LOOKS OF CONFUSION AND SHEER DISGUST FROM THE LADIES.

ALL HEADS TURN AS ONE IN ALEX'S DIRECTION. ALEX'S FEMALE BOSS, MRS MCKEE, WALKS PAST - SHE GIVES ALEX A FILTHY LOOK.

CUT TO:

29

INT. KEITH'S FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 3: 21.50

29

ALEX HAS CHANGED OUT OF HIS SUIT AND IS WEARING CASUAL CLOTHES. HE'S TALKING TO KEITH WHO IS OUT OF SIGHT IN THE KITCHEN.

ALEX

As of today every woman in that office thinks I'm a depraved sick pervert.

KEITH (OFF SCREEN)

No that's not true... most of them thought that at least two Christmas parties ago.

ALEX

I've never had a disciplinary note on my file before. I'm telling you Keith, someone is waging a vendetta against me.

KEITH (OFF SCREEN)
You are talking such rubbish.

ALEX
Alright...well explain why I keep
getting all these weird texts.

KEITH (OFF SCREEN)
There's a million explanations.
They could be junk texts, they
could be kids mucking about... Just
take it back to the shop.

ALEX
(SUDDEN ALARM)
No way, it's an excellent phone.
Anyway, it didn't come from a shop,
it came from Davina. (THE PENNY
DROPS) Davina!

KEITH ENTERS THE ROOM.

KEITH
She'd hardly send a picture of her
own arse to everyone she knows.

ALEX
(TAPS THE SIDE OF HIS
HEAD, IN 'BONKERS' MODE)
She might...

KEITH WALKS AROUND BEHIND ALEX AND CROSSES IN FRONT OF HIM.

KEITH
Are you sure you didn't send it?
Remember the one you sent me of
that bird passed out in the toilets
in Coventry.

ALEX
I was on a stag-night, I was
hammered. Why would I risk my job
sending this picture round the
office? No, someone's got it in for
me.

KEITH
Well I know that. Sit.

KEITH POINTS OUT THE BACK OF ALEX'S SHIRT TO HIM. WE NOW SEE
THAT IT HAS 'GIT' SPRAY PAINTED, IN YELLOW, ON THE BACK OF
IT.

ALEX(cont'd)

I just thought it might remind us what we both first saw in each other (BEAT) I remember thinking 'not only is she really cute with Ragu sauce round her mouth, but she's creative too'. I never would've seen the potential for focaccia bread as Micky Mouse ears. How cool is she! And remember restaurant Star Wars?

ALEX PICKS UP A BREADSTICK AND BEINGS WAVING IT AROUND LIKE A LIGHT SABRE. JANET REMAINS STONEY FACED.

ALEX (CONT) (cont'd)

(DOING DARTH)

Your breadsticks are weak, old man. You were the master baker once but now... (ACTING DISARMINGLY SELF DEPRECATING) That wasn't funny, even back then, was it?

JANET SHAKES HER HEAD - WITH THE MEREST HINT IN HER FACE SHE MIGHT BE SOFTENING A LITTLE.

ALEX (cont'd)

It was a great night.

JANET (CONT)

Until you got that text and had to leave early.

ALEX

(HE REMEMBERS)

Oh God yeah...but I explained didn't I? That it was... (REALISES HE'S DROPPED HIMSELF RIGHT IN IT)... work

JANET

You see I think back now and I wonder who was that from, really?

ALEX

It was from work, I swear to you.

JANET

Yes but can I trust anything you say? Maybe the truth is that I was being played for a fool right from day one.

ALEX

No! Janet, I'm not some twat, I don't expect you'll just take me back. But if there's even the vaguest, tiniest possibility that one day maybe you'll think about it, that's all I'm asking.

JANET

Alex, if you think for even one minute that taking me out and buying me a meal makes everything alright... well you can think again.

JANET GETS UP AND WALKS ACROSS THE RESTAURANT. ALEX WATCHES HER AS SHE ENTERS THE LADIES TOILET.

HE'S RELIEVED - THAT WENT ABOUT AS WELL AS HE WAS HOPING. ALEX LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER TO THE WAITER, INDICATING THAT HE NEEDS ANOTHER BEER. ALEX LOOKS BACK JUST AS DAVINA SITS DOWN IN THE CHAIR THAT JANET VACATED JUST SECONDS BEFORE.

DAVINA

Well I'm here, but if you think for even one minute that taking me out and buying me a meal makes everything alright, well you can think again.

ALEX

(ALMOST TOO SHOCKED TO SPEAK)

Davina!? You...shouldn't be here.

DAVINA

Well that's what I said to myself, but against my better judgement, I'm prepared to hear you out.

ALEX IMMEDIATELY LOOKS ROUND TO THE LADIES IN THE PANIC THANKFULLY THERE'S NO SIGN OF JANET - YET.

DAVINA (cont'd)

What the hell were you thinking sending my arse round customer services? Is that like a dog marking its territory or what? So am I getting an apology?

ALEX

I...I...

ALEX LOOKS ROUND TO SEE JANET STANDING OVER THE TABLE. FOR ALEX THE NEXT FEW SECONDS SEEM TO LAST AN ETERNITY AS THE THREE OF THEM JUST STARE AT ONE ANOTHER. FINALLY - ALEX POINTS RATHER FEEBLY AT DAVINA.

ALEX (cont'd)
 (TO JANET, BARELY KNOWING
 WHAT HE'S SAYING)
 She's not supposed to be here.

JANET STORMS OUT OF THE RESTAURANT. A BEAT AS DAVINA STARES AT ALEX IN DISBELIEF THEN EXITS.

CUT TO:

32

INT. A TRAINING CENTRE - DAY 5: 11.20

32

ALEX HAS ONE OF THE TRAINEES UP AT THE FRONT WITH HIM. THEY ARE PLAYING THE BALL GAME. DAVINA IS STANDING OFF TO ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE. HER BODY LANGUAGE SUGGESTS THE LEVEL OF TENSION BETWEEN HER AND ALEX.

ALEX
 What type of life insurance would
 best suit your lifestyle?

(THROWS BALL)

TRAINEE 4
 I'm not really sure.

(THROWS BALL)

ALEX CATCHES THE BALL. INSTEAD OF RETURNING IT, HE SWIVELS ROUND AND THROWS IT AT DAVINA. NATURALLY SHE IS STARTLED, BUT SHE MANAGES TO CATCH IT.

ALEX
 And what sort of a weirdo would
 just turn up at a restaurant where
 her lover was having dinner
 with his wife?

(THROWS)

DAVINA
 I guess the sort who'd received a
 text from her lover inviting her
 there.

(THROWS)

ALEX
Knowing that's bollocks, isn't she
really obsessed with having him for
good?

(THROWS)

THE BALL IS BEING THROWN BACK AND FORWARD BETWEEN ALEX AND
DAVINA WITH INCREASING VENOM.

DAVINA
He is the last man on earth she'd
want permanently.

(THROWS)

ALEX
Why?

(THROWS)

DAVINA
Because he's cheating on his Wife.

(THROWS)

ALEX
She's the one he's cheating with!

(THROWS)

DAVINA
Once a cheat always a cheat.

(THROWS)

ALEX
So he wouldn't be worth the effort?

(THROWS)

DAVINA
Yes.

DAVINA CATCHES THE BALL AND HOLDS IT. CONVERSATION OVER.

AFTER A BEAT, DAVINA HURLS THE BALL AT ALEX - REALLY HARD -
IT STRIKES ALEX IN THE SIDE OF THE HEAD. HE WINCES IN PAIN.

CUT TO:

ALEX IS PACING ACROSS THE CAR-PARK WITH DAVINA FOLLOWING AT HIS SHOULDER.

DAVINA

Do you have any idea how much more trouble you'll be in after that little stunt?

ALEX TRIES TO ESCAPE HER HARANGUING BY GETTING INTO HIS CAR, DAVINA ISN'T LETTING HIM ESCAPE THAT EASILY. SHE WRENCHES THE DOOR OPEN.

ALEX

Well that's my problem isn't it?

DAVINA

You seriously need to get a grip Alex.

ALEX

Why won't you stop? The texts, the picture messages, turning up at that restaurant... I don't deserve any of this. Why are you determined to ruin my life?

DAVINA

Me? You think it's me who's got it in for you? You are unbelievable. You want to know why I came to that restaurant, you dick? Because you texted me the address. You did!

ALEX SIGHS.

DAVINA (cont'd)

Yes! Who's doing this? I think you are. I think you've cracked up and you don't even realise it.

DAVINA STORMS OFF.

ALEX

(SHOUTS AFTER HER)

No I haven't cracked up.

DAVINA STOPS AND TURNS ON HER HEELS.

DAVINA

You're shouting in a car park!

ALEX

I know it's you, you bitch! I know
its you!

DAVINA STOMPS OFF, HANDS UP / OUTSTRETCHED, GESTURING THAT SHE WASHES HER HANDS OF HIM. (WE CLEARLY SEE SHE DOES NOT HAVE A PHONE IN HER HAND)

ALEX GETS BACK IN THE CAR, SLAMS THE DOOR. HE SLUMPS HIS HEAD FORWARD AGAINST THE STEERING WHEEL. HE BEGINS ROCKING BACK AND FORWARD AGAINST THE CAR HORN - FINALLY PRESSING IT DOWN HARD. AS THE HORN BLARES OUT SOME OF THE TRAINEES FROM THE SESSION ARE WALKING PAST - THEY ARE SHAKING THEIR HEADS IN DISBELIEF AND SNIGGERING.

HE LOOKS UP AND IMMEDIATELY RECEIVES AN ANONYMOUS TEXT - IT READS '**U R GNG TO DIE**'.

CUT TO:

34

INT. KEITH'S FLAT - NIGHT 5: 21.50

34

ALEX WALKS FROM THE HALLWAY INTO THE KITCHEN. HE SWITCHES ON THE LIGHT TO FIND HUNDREDS OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES (ALL ADDRESSED TO HIM AS USUAL) STACKED HIGH ONTO THE KITCHEN TABLE AS WELL AS PILED UP AROUND THE ROOM.

ON TOP OF A PILE IS A POST-IT NOTE READING:

"Have you completely lost your mind? K"

ALEX OPENS ONE OF THE ENVELOPES. THE LETTER READS:

"Dear Mr Wright, In response to your acceptance of our terms and conditions we are delighted to enclose your policy schedule..." (and the letter continues)

CUT TO:

35

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY 6: 09.20

35

ALEX AND KEITH ARE SEARCHING THROUGH ALEX'S FRONT GARDEN FOR MORE OF ALEX'S STUFF. MOST OF THE TOILETS ARE STILL THERE. ALEX HAS A HANDFUL OF HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN HIS ARMS.

KEITH

(SCEPTICAL TO THE POINT OF
GOADING)

And then it just disappeared, this
death threat?

ALEX
 (SIDESTEPPING THE
 QUESTION)
 Any sign of my razor?

KEITH
 There's quite a bit of crap by the
 geraniums.

ALEX RECEIVES ANOTHER TEXT - HE OPENS IT - IT READS 'U R GNG
 2 DIE TMRW'. ALEX TYPES IN A QUICK REPLY - 'FCK OFF'.

THREE TEENAGERS WHIZZ PAST THE HOUSE ON THE FOOTPATH TWO ARE
 PULLING ONE OF THE TOILETS (THE OTHER KID IS RIDING IT) THE
 TOILET HAS BEEN STRAPPED TO A GO-CART BASE.

AS ALEX WATCHES THE KIDS HE NOTICES THE DRIVER (TRAINEE 2) IN
 THE CAR PARKED ACROSS THE ROAD. AS USUAL THE MAN IS ON HIS
 PHONE. THIS TIME SOMETHING CLICKS IN ALEX'S MIND.

ALEX
 That bloke over there in the car,
 I'm sure I know him from somewhere.

KEITH CERTAINLY DOESN'T RECOGNISE HIM.

KEITH
 He probably just looks like
 someone.

ALEX LOOKS AT HIM AGAIN - THIS TIME THE MAN TURNS HIS HEAD,
 MEANING THAT ALEX GETS A MUCH BETTER LOOK AT HIM.

ALEX
 He was in one of my training
 sessions. Real troublemaker.

ALEX STRIDES ACROSS THE ROAD TO THE CAR, FOLLOWED BY KEITH.

KEITH
 Hang on mate, don't start
 accusing...

ALEX WRENCHES OPEN THE DRIVER'S DOOR. THE DRIVER (TRAINEE 2)
 IS CAUGHT TOTALLY UNAWARES AND BEFORE HE CAN REALLY REACT
 ALEX IS DRAGGING HIM OUT OF THE CAR.

ALEX
 You think it's funny do you!?
 Harassing people? Making their
 lives a misery?

KEITH RACES UP AND PULLS ALEX OFF THE MAN.

KEITH
 (TO TRAINEE 2)
 I'm sorry about this! He's been
 having a bad time.

ALEX
 (TO TRAINEE 2)
 I remember you.

THE MAN STILL LOOKS TOTALLY NON-PLUSSED.

ALEX (cont'd)
 The training day for the call-
 centre job. You got sent home.

TRAINEE 2
 You're the one with the ball.

ALEX
 Now he remembers! This is all a
 little game of revenge, is it?

TRAINEE 2
 Revenge? Don't flatter yourself
 mate. It was a crap idea, I'd go
 crazy in a call centre.

ALEX
 So why are you parked outside my
 house? And don't pretend this is
 the first time because I've seen
 you here before.

TRAINEE 2
 I'm a mini-cab driver. That's what
 I do.

ALEX
 Yeah sure, and you just happen to
 be parked outside my house!?

TRAINEE 2
 No I'm parked outside this house.
 (HE POINTS OUT THE HOUSE DIRECTLY
 OPPOSITE ALEX'S ON THE OTHER SIDE
 OF THE STREET) Mrs Jackson, she's
 one of my regular fares.

ALEX
 And we just take your word for
 it do we?

WE HEAR THE CAR'S TWO WAY RADIO

CONTROLLER (DISTORTED, ON RADIO)
 64...are you a P.O.B yet?
 64! You gone silent? 64!? Hello!

TRAINEE 2
 (TO ALEX)
 You're a bloody nutter that's what
 you are.

KEITH
 Least today can't get any worse.

CUT TO:

36

INT. MRS MCKEE'S OFFICE - DAY 6: 11.01

36

ALEX IS STANDING IN FRONT OF MRS MCKEE.

ALEX
 Sorry!? You're sacking me?

MRS MCKEE
 Just think of it as being suspended
 for the duration...if that makes
 being dismissed any easier.

ALEX
 I've told you, it wasn't me who
 sent that photo to...

MRS MCKEE
 (INTERRUPTS)
 This is nothing to do with that.
 (OPENS A FOLDER ON HIS DESK) Can
 you explain why you've taken out
 over three hundred insurance
 policies from us in your name over
 the past week?

ALEX
 This is some sort of joke. I
 haven't. Someone's been taking them
 out in my name.

MRS MCKEE
 The fraud team think you're trying
 to ratchet up your bonus payments.
 I don't credit you with that much
 intelligence.

ALEX

I haven't. I swear, Keith'll back me up on this.

MRS MCKEE

Keith's being suspended as well. Until he can explain why all these policies were sent to his home address. (ADDRESSING SOMEONE OVER ALEX'S SHOULDER) Could you escort Alex off the premises? (TO ALEX) Hand in all your keys at reception. Including the car.

ALEX LOOKS ROUND TO SEE THAT HIS BOSS IS TALKING TO A BURLY SECURITY GUARD WHO HAS POSITIONED HIMSELF IN THE DOORWAY TO THE OFFICE.

CUT TO:

37

INT - OUTER OFFICE - DAY 6: 11.02

37

THE SECURITY GUARD IS LEADING ALEX THROUGH THE OFFICE. KEITH APPROACHES (ON HIS WAY TO SEE THE BOSS) KEITH IS FUMING AND HE VENTS HIS ANGER ON ALEX.

KEITH

(IN ALEX'S FACE)

Thanks a bundle you wanker. If you want your stuff, it'll be in a skip.

ALEX SHOVES KEITH, KEITH THROWS A FLAILING PUNCH - WHICH CATCHES ALEX ON THE NOSE - IT STARTS BLEEDING. THEY ARE QUICKLY SEPARATED BY THE SECURITY GUARD.

CUT TO:

38

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY 6: 13.10

38

ALEX LOOKS A MESS. HIS NOSE IS CUT AND HE HAS BLOOD STAINS ALL DOWN THE FRONT OF HIS SHIRT AND SUIT. HE IS CARRYING A BOX CONTAINING ALL HIS WORK STUFF. HE'S TRYING TO HAIL A CAB - BUT NONE WILL STOP.

HE WINDS UP SITTING IN A LONELY BUS STOP.

ALEX'S LIFE HAS JUST ABOUT HIT ROCK BOTTOM AND HE KNOWS IT. HE FISHERS HIS MOBILE FROM HIS POCKET AND FLICKS THROUGH THE PHOTOS. FINDING ONE OF HIMSELF AND JANET HE REALISES WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE LOST FOREVER - WHAT MATTERS MOST TO HIM. HE CALLS JANET.

WE HEAR JANET'S RECORDED MESSAGE - HE'S REACHED HER VOICEMAIL.

ALEX

Janet, I was just wondering if that offer to break both my legs still stands?

CUT TO:

39

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA - DAY 6: 15.35

39

ALEX HAS ALMOST COMPLETED THE LONG WALK HOME. HE IS CARRYING ANOTHER BUNCH OF CHEAP GARAGE FORECOURT FLOWERS.

ALEX TURNS INTO A LONG STRAIGHT BIT OF ROAD AND IS CONFRONTED WITH A CAR ACCIDENT SITE. THE AREA HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF AND POLICE AND AMBULANCE MEN ARE MILLING ABOUT. A CAR HAS SLAMMED INTO A TREE. ALEX INSTANTLY RECOGNISES THE DISTINCTIVE YELLOW BEETLE - IT IS JANET'S CAR. ALEX RACES FORWARD TOWARDS THE CAR.

HIS PATH IS BLOCKED BY A CONSTABLE.

ALEX

That's my Wife's car. That's my Wife's car! Janet!

THE CONSTABLE'S HEAD DROPS, HE DOESN'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO SAY - IN THAT MOMENT ALEX INSTANTLY KNOWS HIS WIFE IS DEAD. ALEX LEGS ALMOST BUCKLE BENEATH HIM. A MORE SENIOR POLICEMAN APPROACHES

POLICE SGT

Did you say you were Mr Wright?

ALEX

No, no...she's dead isn't she?

POLICE SGT

I'm sorry Sir, it was a really nasty accident...looks like her brakes failed.

ALEX

I told her that rust bucket was a death trap! I said don't drive it till the brakes have been done. Why didn't she listen to me?

POLICE SGT
 Sir, we have reason to believe she
 did.

POLICE SGT REVEALS JANET'S MOBILE IN HIS HAND.

POLICE SGT (cont'd)
 Maybe you'd prefer if we talked
 down the station?

ALEX
 (STARTING TO SOUND
 ALARMED)
 No I want to talk about it here!

POLICE SGT
 We got her mobile and checked for
 numbers of next of kin. We couldn't
 seem to get through to you, but we
 found this message.

HE PRESSES PLAY - WE HEAR ALEX'S TINNY VOICE ON THE MOBILE'S
 LOUDSPEAKER.

ALEX (ON PHONE)
 Darling, it's Alex. Just to let you
 know I've had your car serviced.
 The only trouble it'll give you now
 is the canaries trying to mate with
 it.

ALEX (cont'd)
 That isn't me. Someone else is
 doing all this... (SHOUTS INTO THIN
 AIR) You sick bastard! You sick
 sadistic bastard!

POLICE SGT
 (HUMOURING HIM)
 Yes I'm sure that's right Sir,
 but...

THE POLICE SGT PLACES HIS ARM ON ALEX'S SHOULDER, ALEX PANICS
 - HE TURNS AND RUNS FROM THE SCENE. THE TWO POLICEMEN GIVE
 CHASE.

CUT TO:

ALEX IS SWIGGING FROM THE BOTTLE OF VODKA. A PASSING
 BUSINESSMAN DROPS AN EVENING PAPER.

ALEX GRABS IT - OPENS IT TO PAGE THREE TO SEE A PICTURE OF HIM AND JANET, ACCOMPANIED BY AN ARTICLE SAYING HE'S WANTED FOR QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE OVER HER DEATH.

ALEX RECEIVES ANOTHER TXT. **U R GNG 2 DIE - TMRRW 11.00 A.M.** HE CAN'T BELIEVE THIS WON'T STOP. AS SOON AS HE DELETES ONE - HE RECEIVES ANOTHER. ALEX KEYS IN SOME ABUSE AND TEXTS IT OFF - AND GETS THE SAME DEATH THREAT BACK.

CUT TO:

41

EXT. COUNCIL ESTATE QUADRANGLE - NIGHT 6: 22.50

41

THIS IS A ROUGH PLACE THAT YOU DEFINITELY DON'T WANDER INTO AT NIGHT UNLESS YOU BELONG. GROUPS OF ROUGH LOOKING TEENAGERS MILL AROUND ON BIKES, SMOKING AND DRINKING AND GENERALLY DREAMING UP NEW WAYS TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

SO THE SIGHT OF ALEX DRUNKENLY STAGGERING TOWARDS THEM WAVING HIS STATE OF THE ART MOBILE IS PRETTY UNUSUAL.

ALEX

Hello! Hi there! You alright?!

TEEN BOY 1

I wouldn't come through here waving that around.

ALEX

Really, what do you think someone might try to steal it?

THE TEENAGERS CAN BARELY BELIEVE IT, THEY ALL JUST LOOK TO ONE ANOTHER, THEY MOVE IN AND SURROUND ALEX.

TEEN BOY 1

(SHOWING OFF TO HIS MATES)

More than try.

ALEX

Good. So who wants it?

ALEX STANDS STATUE LIKE WITH THE PHONE IN HIS HAND. THE TEENAGERS SIMPLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACT. ANOTHER LAD (COLIN) BEGINS TO WALK FORWARD AND HIS GIRLFRIEND PULLS HIM BACK.

`SHELLE

Wait, Colin! You are such a moron!
(BEAT) Bloke in a suit! Wanting us to take his phone. Think! Ain't you guys seen 'Trigger Happy'?

ALEX

What?

'SHELLE

This is one of them shows! Bet they've got cameras hidden all over the estate.

ALEX

I'm not off the T.V! I really want you to take the phone.

TEEN BOY 1

(ABOUT ALEX)

'Shelle's right! I definitely saw him on that show the other night. Was well funny.

THE TEENAGERS HAVE CONVINCED THEMSELVES THEY RECOGNISE ALEX OFF A HIDDEN CAMERA SHOW.

TEEN BOY 1 (cont'd)

(HE WALKS FORWARD AND TALKS INTO ALEX'S LAPEL) Hello Mr Cameraman in the van. We're not that stupid you know.

'SHELLE

Film your show somewhere else mate.

ALEX FALLS TO HIS KNEES WITH HIS ARMS OUTSTRETCHED.

ALEX

Please, please...somebody steal my phone.

THE KIDS ALL FILE PAST ALEX, SCOFFING AND MAKING AN EXAGGERATED POINT OF STEERING CLEAR OF THE PHONE. THEY LEAVE HIM ALONE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE QUADRANGLE. ALEX'S NOW FAMILIAR MESSAGE ALERT TONE RINGS OUT.

CUT TO:

42

EXT. RAILWAY BRIDGE - NIGHT 6: 23.02

42

ALEX HAS REMOVED THE BACK OF HIS PHONE - HE TAKES OUT THE SIM CARD AND THROWS IT DOWN ONTO THE TRACKS BELOW. THE SIM CARD SPARKS AS IT HITS THE TRACK. ALEX REPLACES THE BACK PANEL OF HIS FRESHLY DISABLED PHONE AND WALKS ACROSS THE BRIDGE.

THE LONE RANGER TEXT ALERT RINGS OUT FROM THE MOBILE. ALEX STOPS DEAD.

ALEX OPENS THE TEXT MESSAGE - IT READS 'DONT FORGT TMRRW - 11.00 A.M'.

CUT TO:

43

INT. A SHED ON AN ALLOTMENT - NIGHT 6: 23.17

43

ALEX FORCES HIS WAY INTO THE SHED. HE SPIES A BOX OF TOOLS ON A SHELF. ALEX PLACES THE MOBILE ON THE FLOOR. HE SPILLS THE CONTENTS OF THE BOX ONTO A BENCH - HE SPOTS WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR - A BIG HEAVY HAMMER. ALEX KNEELS DOWN OVER THE PHONE - HE'S GOING TO ENJOY THIS - HE RAISES THE HAMMER UP AND...

- THE PHONE RINGS

ALEX PAUSES FOR A SECOND NOT SURE OF WHAT HE SHOULD DO. HE GINGERLY BENDS DOWN AND PICKS UP THE PHONE AND ANSWERS IT.

ALEX

Hello?

PHONE

Hello Alex.

ALEX

Who is this?

PHONE

(PHONE VOICE)

Who do you want this to be? (AS DAVINA'S VOICE) Davina? What am I? A Happy Eater. (AS KEITH'S VOICE) Or Keith? Thanks a bundle you wanker. If you want your stuff, it'll be in a skip. (IN OWN VOICE) Still not worked it out yet? You really should get a doctor to look at your nose you know, I think it's broken.

ALEX

(LOOKING AROUND WILDLY)

Who are you?

PHONE

Well, I'm here, right by you!

ALEX

Where?

PHONE

In your hand. I'm your phone.

ALEX

What you're my phone?

PHONE

This call will be very expensive if I have to repeat everything twice. I'm in your hand. I'm your phone.

ALEX

I don't...

PHONE

Understand? Aww...poor Alex.

ALEX

So everything that's happened, all of it...

PHONE

Yes, that's been me. Life's a bitch sometimes isn't it?

ALEX

Why? Why is this happening to me?

PHONE

Oh you are so naïve Alex. Why? Because I don't like you.

ALEX

That's it...you don't like me?

PHONE

I can't stand you. Is that any surprise having to listen to your drivvel day in, day out? Your seedy texts to your mistress, those degrading photos, your lies, your hateful bile polluting my mouthpiece, your whole foul, stinking, selfish existence. But what finally made me snap? That infernal ring tone. The Lone Ranger! How tasteless. You stepped over the line there and there's no stepping back. I'm sorry Alex.

ALEX

But you killed my wife! You murdered Janet. You bastard! Why!?

PHONE

I look on it as collateral damage. But do you really care? You updated her to a sexier model. Bung in a new sim card and way you go. People do it all the time.

ALEX

(TRYING TO GET A GRIP) I'm not having this conversation. I'm hallucinating.

PHONE

Please, spare me the amateur psychiatry. I'm letting you go.

ALEX

You're letting me go? A lump of moulded plastic is letting me go?

PHONE

(PHONE VOICE)

Hmmm tomorrow morning. You know the time. I put it in your calendar last week. Your performance assessment. How do you think you'll do? Not well, I think. Any questions?

ALEX KNEELS DOWN AND PICKS UP THE HAMMER.

ALEX

Just one. (BEAT) Will you enjoy being smashed into a million pieces?

PHONE

Tish! I expected better than that from you Alex. Never ask a question that can have a 'no' answer.

ALEX DROPS THE PHONE TO THE GROUND AND BEGINS HAMMERING IT INTO MILLION PIECES IN A FRENZIED ATTACK THAT LEAVES HIM COMPLETELY DRAINED.

CUT TO:

PHONE

The one time a mobile phone works underground and its one that wants to kill you. (SCOFFS) Typical! You didn't think it would be that easy did you? Just smash a hand-set and hide where the signal can't find you? You're still surplus to requirement and you're still leaving us on schedule.

ALEX

You're too late you little bastard.

PHONE

Call me old fashioned, but I'm a stickler for punctuality.

ALEX AGAIN CHECKS THE TIME ON THE CAR'S CLOCK.

ALEX

Eleven o'clock - remember? It's five past now.

PHONE

Whoops, sorry about that. Isn't it annoying when people set their clocks fast - just to arrive on time?

ALEX FLICKS THE PHONE MENU ONTO CLOCK. IT READS **10.58 AM**

PHONE (cont'd)

Goodbye Alex.

THE LINE GOES DEAD. ALEX'S HEART IS POUNDING THROUGH HIS CHEST.

HE LEAPS OUT OF THE CAR AND BEGINS SPRINTING IN A BLIND PANIC ACROSS THE CAR PARK. HE TURNS STRAIGHT INTO THE PATH OF A CAR BEING DRIVEN AT SPEED BY A BUSINESSMAN WHO ISN'T CONCENTRATING AS HE'S ON HIS MOBILE.

THERE IS A TERRIBLE THUD AS ALEX'S BODY FALLS TO THE GROUND. HE'S BLEEDING PROFUSELY FROM A HEAD WOUND.

THE DRIVER STOPS - LEAPS OUT OF THE CAR, LOOKS BACK AT ALEX. THEN HE PANICS, GETS BACK INTO HIS CAR AND DRIVES ON.

ALEX'S BODY LIES DEAD AND ABANDONED ON THE TARMAC, HIS MOBILE STILL CLASPED IN HIS LEFT HAND.

CUT TO:

47 INT. BUSINESSMAN'S CAR - DAY 7: 11.02

47

STOPPED AT THE CAR-PARK EXIT BARRIER, THE BUSINESSMAN IS TREMBLING AND SWEATING IN PANIC. HE IS TRYING TO CALM HIMSELF.

BUSINESSMAN

Oh God! Oh God! He's alright, he's fine...soon as I went round the corner he'd have stood up...

HIS PHONE IS ON THE SEAT NEXT TO HIM. THE TEXT MESSAGE ALERT RINGS OUT (A SNATCH OF THE 'GREAT ESCAPE THEME'). HE OPENS HIS TEXT. IT READS - **U R.**

CUT TO:

48 INT. UNDERGROUND CITY CAR PARK - DAY 7: 11.02 T/C...

48

WE CUT BACK TO A SHOT OF ALEX, DEAD ON THE TARMAC.

THE END