

EDGE OF THE GLASS  
Pilot  
Written by Adam Forster

First Draft

Characters:

The Paterson Family (Main Cast)

Lara Paterson- early 30s , Sarcastic Good-natured ex-Offender . Trying to make things right again and forget her past.

Dylan Paterson- Late 30s, Optimistic layabout with a carefree attitude, a bit of a smart ass

Grover Paterson (Dad)- Late 50s, Ex- Lieutenant in the British Army, Strict and Blunt attitude, Set in his ways and can't accept Change.

Jill Ann Paterson (Mother)- Late 50s, Stressed Stay at home mother to Lara and Dylan. A keen Baker

Supporting Cast.

Mike Apple- Early 30s, Lara's Ex-Convict Boyfriend, Mysterious and cunning with a manipulative attitude.

Jason Crow(lawyer)- Early 60s- Mikes family Lawyer mischievous and sly with a blatant disregard for the law.

Lucy Walls( Uber Driver)- Early 30s, A Strong minded LGBTQ+ activist with a questionable belief in karma. Doesn't think before she speaks

Bob Winters- Late 40s, Bob runs the local king of the killer kingdom shop ( Basically games workshop) He's an eccentric collector and a firm believer in the supernatural.

Philip Dunn- 15 years old , Obsessed with the king of the killer kingdom store and its lore. He plays every Thursday with his best friend David Thomas.

David Thomas- 17 years old avid collector of the King of the killer Kingdom merchandise and Best friends with Philip Dunn

Mellone Peters- Late 40s- Works for the local job centre and has a bubbly personality and a carefree look on life.

Becky Swallow (class tutor)- Late 50s, An exhausted and downtrodden Class tutor desperately holding onto a smile.

Sammy Flower- Late 30s, A local gossip that has a blunt and melodramatic view on life

ACT 1

INT. Courtroom-- Continuous \_

We start halfway through the trial of Lara and Mike, The judge begins proceedings

JUDGE

Ms Lara Paterson you stand accused of attempted burglary and multiple accounts of theft from the local shops in our community aided by your significant other, Mike Apple..

(judge continues to read out the list of offences while Lara whispers to Mike nervously)

LARA

This is looking bad what are we going to do ?

(mike is calm throughout the entire conversation while Lara starts to panic)

Mike

Don't worry Love, I'm Telling you this Lawyer I got for us is like the walking law and order.

LARA

Remind me again. How you know him ?

MIKE

He's a friend of the family. The guy has managed to get my uncle off his charges every Tuesday for the past ten years .

LARA

OK, And if this somehow fails do we even have a plan B, I'm telling you I can't go to jail mike.

MIKE

Relax of course I have a back-up plan for us

LARA

OK,What ?

MIKE

If he mucks this up. I have asked Keith to ring my mobile in exactly five minutes and he will act as our Getaway Driver.

LARA

That's a great idea Babe, Your Phone buzzes in your pocket and I'll make an excuse to ask for a quick recess so I can slip off to the toilet. Then we escape just like Bonnie and Clyde.

MIKE

Didn't They both get sho...(mike is interrupted mid sentence)

the court doors swing open and out walks a dishevelled man in a grey suit with a brown coffee stain on his pink tie.

LARA (smug)

Well looks like your guy has arrived.

Jason Crow(lawyer) Approaches the podium and hands a piece of crumpled up paper to the judge before taking a sip of water and giving his statement

JUDGE

Silence in the courtroom, Would Mr Crow please read out your opening statement on behalf of your client.

Jason crow clears his throat before speaking in a commanding manner. while looking around the court room

JASON CROW

Thank you your honour, If It pleases the court I would like to tell you this is a simple open and shut case.

The court looks surprised as Jason grins at mike

MIKE

See.he's bloody brilliant.

Jason opens his case and looks at mike

JASON CROW

I have nothing, you're Screwed.

Jason closes his briefcase and walks out of the courtroom leaving mike and Lara in shock.

LARA

WHAT !

Mike tries to stay calm and collected.

MIKE

Don't worry it's not over yet.

LARA

He's leaving mike, I think its over!

JUDGE.

With the evidence before me today and with no witness testimony or prolonged argument. I Find the defendants guilty of all charges.

LARA.

Oh god mike I'm panicking.

MIKE

Play it cool , My phone will buzz in the next five seconds. And then it's smooth sailing and nice beaches.

The phone loudly rings in mikes pocket and everyone looks over at mike and lara as mike's ringtone plays - ( will young think i better leave)

RINGTONES.

I think I'd better leave right now . Before I fall any deeper . I think I'd better leave right now:  
Feeling weaker and weaker. Think I better leave right now...

Judges gavel slams down and we hard cut to the next scene.

Seven Months Later . Int. Uber

Lara sits silently in the back of the Uber as she is driven to her parents house. She reluctantly begins to make small talk with the driver .

LARA  
So you been busy ?

Lucy Walls  
Actually you're my first pick up today .

LARA  
Starting strong then.

Lucy Walls  
Yeah, So what have you been doing recently ?

LARA  
Mostly time in prison.

Lucy looks visibly shocked and starts to stutter.

Lucy Walls  
Oh I see. Funny how life works

LARA  
What do you mean

Lucy Walls  
Well I mean we're told at a young age not to talk to strangers and then when we get older we're told to look for a relationship, So your telling me talking to a stranger is a bad idea but actively inviting them back to my house and sleeping with them is a-okay. Madness !

LARA  
That's why I plan to die alone. You know easy life, Easy death.

Lucy bites her lip before proceeding to ask a question

Lucy Walls  
Settle a bet..

LARA  
Go on

Lucy Walls  
So me and my partner got married a few weeks ago

LARA  
Congratulations

Lucy Walls  
Thanks, Anyway's we started to binge watch that orange is the new black

LARA  
Go on,?

Lucy Walls  
And I guess my question is, what's prison sex like?

LARA  
Excuse me !

Lucy Walls  
I mean, I would do hard time for that Alex Vause

LARA  
I didn't have time to film a porno, Considering I was locked up for attempted burglary.

Lucy Walls  
Oh I see maybe you could rob a sex shop next time.

Lucy bites her lip again before proceeding to ask another question

Lucy Walls  
Settle a bet, The wife said something interesting the other day.

LARA  
What !

Lucy Walls  
She said they should give an extended sentence for people who attempted burglary because you actively pursued a thought in your head and failed at the task. I mean how can you attempt to burgle something. Doesn't it work like breathing, You never hear anyone say I attempted to breathe but I just failed at the task.

LARA  
What about the dead

Lucy Walls  
Fair point. But you know what I'm saying

LARA  
Well next time I'll ask for more years to be added.

Lucy Walls  
Don't take offence I didn't mean you, I was thinking about another passenger I picked up

LARA

What Other passenger. I'm your first pick up today !

Both Lara and Lucy sit in awkward silence as they approach Lara's house.

Lucy Walls

Hey look we're here.

LARA

yeah well I guess its time to face the music.

Lucy Walls

what music the clash . So do you want to star me on your journey then

LARA

Oh I'll give you some stars in a minute

Lucy Walls

Oh come on , Just Calm down. Listen give me a three star rating and a small tip and we can put the whole conversation behind us

LARA

I can give you the rating but I need money.

Lucy Walls

(sings )

Because you have none ?

Lara slams the car door and walks towards her parents house

Lucy Walls

Come on it was a joke,I'll see you for our next conjugal visit soon then

Lucy drives away in her car while lara stands at her parents front door and psychs herself up.

EXT. Semi-detached House- Day.

LARA

Come on you can do this, Just knock on the door and stay calm. Everything is going to be fine.

Lara knocks on the door and her brother Dylan answers flippantly, wearing a ( flipper got me wet at sea world T-shirt and blue tracksuit bottoms)

DYLAN

I told you I'll pay the water bill when it stops raining !

LARA

I think you have me confused with someone else. Its me !

Lara grabs the door before Dylan can shut it

DYLAN  
Who ?

LARA  
Your Sister .

Dylan looks ecstatic and ushers Lara inside the house

INT. Semi-detached House- Living Room .

Dylan Slumps down on the couch while Lara stands and looks around

LARA  
So what have you been doing whilst I was away ?

DYLAN  
Well I was awarded a trophy.

LARA  
That's great. In what ?

DYLAN  
In Call of Duty

LARA  
So you're still Lazy as ever.

DYLAN  
I'm not Lazy, I just can't be bothered to do anything.

LARA  
That means the same thing (stops mid-sentence ) How's mom doing ?

DYLAN  
Fantastic.

LARA  
Really ?

Dylan picks himself up off the sofa and yells into the kitchen

DYLAN  
Watch this.. MOM I'M THINKING OF JOINING A GANG !

Jill(mother ) screams back from the kitchen

JILL  
Don't do that . I'll Bake cookies for you.

Lara looks visibly upset.

LARA

Ok I get the point she's doing bad. What about Dad ?

DYLAN

Why don't you ask him.

Lara looks around the living room -

LARA

Where is he ?

Dylan hoists himself up from the sofa and points at the garden.

LARA

Where?

Dylan and Lara both stand at the window looking out into the garden.

DYLAN

See that green bush next to the recycling Bin. The one that Dog is peeing against, That's Dad.

LARA

God he looks Devastated. I should probably talk to him.

DYLAN

your Funeral.

Dylan walks back to the couch as Lara opens the garden doors and walks outside.

EXT. House- Garden -Day.

Lara Looks visibly bored as her father speaks at length about the army. We hear small bits of conversation before Lara interjects

GROVER

Like I was saying I will never understand why you didn't join the army like me instead of dating that mike character. You could of learnt how to Stag, That's a useful tool in life. Stagging around the camp, Stagging at the Gate, Stagging in the dead of night.. ( Lara interjects)

LARA

Gees Dad there was less stags in Bambi than this story.

GROVER

Insubordination !, Now as I was saying you could stand for hours on end just waiting and then in the dead of night stand around the barracks waiting ..(Lara interjects)

LARA

Since when did the army replace bollards. Have the cuts got that bad. I just hope that our next invading force is petrified of statues.

Grovers tempter begins to boil.

GROVER

Maybe if you joined the army it would of made you a better look-out and you wouldn't of ended up being caught and sent to prison in the first place.

LARA

OK I see where this conversation is going ..

GROVER

Of course that's where this conversation is going. You brought shame to this family and up until this point we had a clean sheet.

Lara begins to get angry and shouts at her father.

LARA

WE WERE IN THE PAPERS BECAUSE YOU SHOT AT THE SEAGULLS ON OUR ROOF WITH A SHOTGUN !

GROVER

Seagulls ? You mean invaders of the sky, I was protecting this family from getting bird-flu

LARA

You were shooting at our bedroom windows !

GROVER

It's not my fault the enemy moved. I can't be held responsible for a causality of War .

LARA

And who won ?

Grover starts to think before talking again.

GROVER

They may of won the battle but the war is far from over. This is my Stalingrad

Lara gets up from the garden step and walks towards the house

LARA

Forget it, I'm going back inside to talk to mom.

Grover bursts into an aggressive rant.

GROVER

If you think for one second you're going to be joining your brother on that sofa for the next seven years you can forget it. At 0900 hours tomorrow I want you down that job centre and back out with an application form in your hand.

LARA

Fine anything to escape this place.

GROVER

None of us escape we just move .

Lara turns back to face her father while she enters the house she starts to mutter under her breath.

LARA.  
Why did mom marry you ?

GROVER  
Because she was drunk and I was easy

INT. House -Kitchen .

Jill is standing by the oven wearing oven-mits and a cream dress. Around her is used kitchen utensils

JILL  
Don't let your father get to you sweetie, I have baked some cookies for you.

LARA.  
Some !

Camera zooms out to show the entire kitchen covered in cookies in tubberware boxes and cooling on baking trays.

LARA  
How many have you baked ?

JILL  
I honestly don't know I lost count after 2,000

LARA  
Are you ok ?

JILL  
Of course I am. I only bake when I'm disappointed with this family. Which reminds me what do you want on your cookies. I have chocolate chips or thick cream

LARA  
I'm not really that hungry .

JILL  
That's ok sweet pea I'm sure your appetite will come back later when the taste of failure has been washed out.

INT. House – Living room

Lara quickly walks into the living room to speak with Dylan still laying on the sofa.

DYLAN  
I take it Dad wants you gone already ?

LARA  
He sure does.

DYLAN

Well if you're interested I know that The King of the Killer Kingdom is hiring .

LARA  
What's that ?

DYLAN  
It's this new store in town. I heard you can become a Legendary Dragon tamer .

LARA  
That sounds amazing

DYLAN  
Actually we should go now. My friend Bob owns the place so I might be able to put in a good word for you.

LARA  
Really, You might just be the best brother ever !

Dylan rocks back and forward to get up

DYLAN  
Right just give me a second. I have sat here for so long I think I have impregnated the couch  
Dylan tears himself off the sofa and looks back to see a magazine he'd been sitting on. Perplexed he picks it up.

DYLAN  
Nsync live in concert, How long have I been sitting here ?

ACT 2  
camera cuts to next scene.

INT. King of the killer Kingdom – Day -busy store

Bob the owner of the store jumps into frame wearing a wizard costume and a fake wand in his hand he speaks excitability.

BOB WINTERS  
Welcome weary Travellers to the king of the killer kingdom. A place for only the very brave to battle the forces of Gizrook.

Lara blurts out without thinking.

LARA  
Oh crap its nerd shit.

Dylan looks at Lara puzzled

DYLAN  
You didn't honestly think I was talking about real dragons, Did you ?

Lara hesitates before speaking.

LARA

Look Lets not get bogged down in my beliefs, Just tell me what I need to do.

BOB WINTERS  
Well faire Maiden.

LARA

Don't call me maiden unless you want to sound like a ferret inhaling helium .

BOB WINTERS  
Noted, Well warlock Your Job is to commentate on the vicious battles that ensue within the Spikelaw empire.

LARA

So stand around getting cramp in my legs whilst two kids mess around with plastic figures  
The store owner picks up a remote and turns on orchestral music while two young teens enter the store and begin to play with the plastic figures.

BOB WINTERS  
It looks like David has started this game off strong by casting the shield of Milaw onto the battlefield.

LARA

Your right, The mighty carrier bag has knocked over the expensive plastic toy.

Bob glares at Lara and begins to whisper in an aggressive tone .

BOB WINTERS  
Don't break the immersion,

BOB WINTERS (continued )  
It looks like Philip has brought the trolls of triberia to siege the Castle of the elders.

LARA

But what's this, It seems a Dog has wandered in off the streets and ate one of the dwarven figures

Bob glares back at Lara as they begin to argue.

BOB WINTERS  
What did I say about immersion !

LARA  
I Named the figure, Didn't I ?

BOB WINTERS  
Forget it, A dark cloud now sweeps the land and in enters the large breasted succubus. That brings fire to the kingdom

LARA  
Who's this Jordan ?

BOB WINTERS

The succubus uses the spell of Miltoria

Lara interjects..

LARA

Otherwise known as the family credit card

BOB WINTERS

But it looks like Philips Dragon forces have seen through this disguise and take to the air to hunt down the succubus

LARA

With breasts that size you cant exactly miss her. She must stand out like the little orange man on google maps

Bob gets increasingly more angry as he tries to continue commentating.

BOB WINTERS

And yet the dragons fail to find their target !

LARA

How, are these dragons blind ?

BOB WINTERS

The Dragons are blinded from the light admitting from the wand of wonders and feel the need to retreat !

LARA

If all dragons sucked this much. Game of Thrones would be the length of a car advert .

BOB WINTERS

Maybe the Dragon's are just waiting for a time to attack !

LARA

It doesn't look like it.

BOB WINTERS

What's this David has reached the final form of Milaws Shield . Sending out a sonic boom that turns all of the enemy forces to stone.

Lara looks relieved.

LARA

Thank god its over.

Philip reaches into his bag excitably and pulls out a small playing card.

PHILIP DUNN

Not so fast my moral foe I have the power of the forest creatures. To Bring my forces back to life .

LARA  
GOD DAMMIT !

Lara scream out in frustration and the entire store looks at her . After which she anxiously composes herself and answers back.

LARA  
I mean oh dammit David might lose this fight.

BOB WINTERS  
Now with the power of the forest critters Philip now has the power to unleash the army of...

Bob starts to sweat and a crowd gathers around the table while the orchestral music builds in anticipation.

BOB WINTERS  
squirrels

Lara looks puzzled.

LARA  
Squirrels ?

BOB WINTERS  
Yes the Squirrels take up arms and march towards the fortress and with one mighty strike from their blades they destroy the beating heart of David's Empire.

LARA  
So Philip wins ?

BOB WINTERS  
Yes David's army is no more

The crowd cheers and start to shake Philips hand as the kids pack their bags and leave the store .  
Lara walks off to speak with bob.

BOB WINTERS  
I know this can be hard to grasp at first but don't worry. You'll get it after your millionth game

LARA  
How many games !

EXT. Town Centre – Day

Lara walks talking to Dylan who seems confused.

DYLAN  
That's not like Bob to fire someone on their first day. Are you sure you're telling me the truth.

LARA  
Would I lie to you ?

DYLAN

Yes.

LARA

Well come on it was boring in there

Dylan looks smug and teases Lara as they continue to walk .

DYLAN

I guess dad was right.

LARA

Don't start that again.

DYLAN

What, I'm not starting anything ?

LARA

You know what you're doing.

DYLAN

I honestly don't know what you're talking about ?

LARA

You're doing Mom's Guilt trip.

DYLAN

I'm just being honest. You should be looking for a job.

LARA

Why don't you. You're unemployed too.

DYLAN

I'm Thinking

LARA

You have been thinking for the past twelve years

DYLAN

Then I must have a Great plan formulating

LARA

Which is ?

DYLAN

I don't know I haven't thought that far ahead yet.

LARA

That doesn't surprise me. Well I'm going to the job centre to Rub Dad's face in it.

DYLAN

Really, You're planning an Usain Bolt effect, Run in and out with a success story. I'd love to see that.

LARA

I may have been gone for sometime. But I have confidence that the system works.

.Camera – cuts to the interior of the job centre lara is sitting opposite her advisor as she hits the side of her computer.

INT. Job Centre – Day.

MELLONE PETERS

The system is broken again sorry about this. Tell you what. You just tell me about your experience and I'll jot it down in my note pad.

Mellone takes out her pen and note pad before going onto question lara.

MELLONE PETERS

OK, Question one. What experience have you gained in the past few months

LARA  
Prison

MELLONE PETERS

That's great to put on a CV. were you a prison guard.

LARA  
Inmate.

MELLONE PETERS

that's less so, I'll just move onto question two. What sort of work are you looking for ?

LARA

Well I fancy doing something in the financial sector or maybe a managerial position

MELLONE PETERS

I'll just put down Call Centre Operative .

LARA

Why, I haven't used a phone in ages ?

MELLONE PETERS

That's no problem we actually have a course going for people just like you.

LARA

You seriously have a course dedicated to telling people how to pick up a phone .

MELLONE PETERS

Preciously, I'll just get the letter about the start dates if you're interested.

LARA  
Not really.

MELLONE PETERS

Great just wait here for one minute.

Mellone rushes up from her chair and walks off to find the letter while Lara sits and mutters to herself.

LARA

Well Dad Did say to return with an application form, Guess this is a start

Mellone returns excitability waving around the piece of paper and then sitting down.

MELLONE PETERS

Ok, So if you look at the form you'll see the course starts at eight o'clock on the 15<sup>th</sup> and is located ten miles away from your current location. They say if you have any questions just give them a ring at the number listed at the bottom of the page.

LARA

Give them a Ring ?

MELLONE PETERS

yeah you'll need to use the phone to confirm your attending the course.

LARA

So What's the point in doing a course teaching me how to speak on the phone. If I need to speak on the phone in order to confirm my attendance.

Mellone laughs and the gleefully answers back.

MELLONE PETERS

It's silly when you put it that way .But that's how the system works.

Lara gets up from her seat grabbing the letter and exiting the job centre.

INT. Semi Detached house (Dining room) -Tea time.

The family all sit around the table scoffing food into their mouths as they speak about their day. Dylan remains on the sofa until Lara drags him in.

JILL

Lara get your brother in here it's time for tea.

LARA

Come on get up it's family torture time.

Dylan

Funny I was watching a video online with a very similar title

LARA

What was that about. Having said that I don't want to know just get in and suffer like the rest of us

Jill sits looking out at everyone at the table with a small tear collecting in her eye.

LARA  
Are you OK mom ?

JILL  
Fine Dear its just..I have waited three years to have all of us around this table again. It's nice to have the family back together .

Dylan midway through spooning sausages down his throat speaks.

DYLAN  
It's great to have you back sis.

LARA  
It's great to be back .

Grover Slams his hand on the table and yells.

GROVER  
Right you know the schedule by now. How has everyone's day been. I think we'll start with...  
Grover moves his fork around the dinning table with gravy dripping from the end before pointing it at Lara

GROVER  
Our new recruit, Lara. Did you compete the task I set out for you

LARA  
Well dad I got given a letter to start a course.

GROVER  
When do you start ?

LARA  
When I ring them up.

Grover aggressively drops his fork on the plate before shouting at Lara to make the phone call

GROVER  
You Haven't rang them up yet and you've had that form for how long !

JILL  
Please honey lets just enjoy tea first.

Grover puts down his plate and ushers Lara into the living room with the form in his hand

GROVER  
No food until you've completed your task .

Grover marches back into the dinning room and continues to talk to the family

JILL

That's seems a bit harsh . I mean the kid has had a long day.

Grover sits down in his chair and begins to ramble on.

GROVER

She's had a long day During the war I was up for two days straight. Cleaning out the barracks for inspection and then the following day I would sleep for only four hours

Dylan looks up from his plate and sarcastically interjects.

DYLAN

Wouldn't that mess up the sheets if you were sleeping on them.

GROVER

That's why my task was never done.

DYLAN

Why didn't you just make your bed when you heard an inspection was about to take place ?

GROVER

Because that's not how the army works . You should join and find out .

Dylan sighs and look back at his plate before speaking through gritted teeth.

DYLAN

Every-Single-Dam-Meal.

Jill tries to calm the situation and happily asks.

JILL

And what has Grover been up to all day. I bet everyone would love to hear that.

DYLAN

I'm not that bothered .I would rather hear about a tragedy on the news

GROVER

Well if you must know I have been waiting in the garden all day.

Dylan looks up from his plate and hastily answers back.

DYLAN

You haven't been waiting on those seagulls again, have you. Just let it go.

GROVER

No there's a more sinister plot taking place on this suburban paradise. Every morning I wake up to the sight of Cigarette butts thrust upon my immaculate lawn, And now I shall lie in wait to capture the culprit

DYLAN

That actually sounds rather clever to be honest.

Grover Smiles and continues to talk

GROVER

Thank you son, You see in the army I learnt a thing or two about guerilla tactics and..

DYLAN  
I'm Done.

Dylan Throws down his fork and quickly rushes into the living room .  
Jill frantically speaks.

JILL  
Please honey don't go yet. I'll bake cookies

Jill stares at Grover across the table before grabbing the plates off the table and taking them to the sink.

INT. House-Living room- Tea Time.

Lara looks up from the phone to see Dylan enter the room.

LARA  
How was tea ?

DYLAN  
Same as every night, Dad starts his war stories and we all leave the room quicker than prince Andrew in a pizza express

LARA  
Glad I missed that then.

Dylan  
Anyway's you got this course sorted ?

LARA  
Yeah I start tomorrow.

DYLAN  
That's great to hear. Do you want to watch some TV together

LARA  
Sure, What have I missed.

DYLAN  
Well there was a new season of prison break and locked up.

LARA  
Yeah.. Somehow I have went off those shows.

Jill and Grover both enter the room and slowly sit down in the chairs opposite Lara and Dylan

DYLAN

Great, With the family all together. Has anyone got any suggestions of what to watch .

JILL

Who won that bake show competition ?

GROVER

I'm not watching that nonsense

Lara looks back at her father before sarcastically speaking.

LARA

And what's your suggestion, Dad's Army.

GROVER

NO I need something to relax too, Did we finish that documentary about that serial killer.

JILL

For God Sakes Grover. We have just had our Tea.

Grover

Well it fits the theme. He was a cannibal.

DYLAN

Let's just pick something as a family.

JILL

Stick a repeat on

LARA

I'm OK with that.

Dylan switches on an old episode of only fools and horses before grover interjects.

GROVER

Oh.. I think I have seen this one.

DYLAN

We all have. it's a repeat.

JILL

Can we just be quiet and enjoy some TV

the camera shows Grover and Dylan a sleep in the chair whilst the TV shows a black screen and a red-hue can be seen in the dark garden outside. Lara Walks from the living room to the garden and opens the door to see her mother outside.

EXT.Garden- Night

LARA

Mom you're Smoking !

Jill quickly closes the door leading into the garden .

JILL

It's my one vice to help me deal with those two and now knowing it drives your father insane. It's quickly becoming my passion

LARA

Do you want to talk.

Jill sighs and begins to speak.

JILL

You just get sick sometimes of life in general its the same routine day in-day out, Complaints that amount to nothing and arguments that all start to sound the same.

LARA

I see dad hasn't changed

JILL

don't listen to your Father. He cried the day you left

Lara looks perplexed

LARA

Dad produced Tears ?

JILL

Oh yes, Two weeks he was off work praying for his little girl to return. Every night he would sit in front of the fire looking at your old photographs

LARA

That's Sweet

Jill

I think if those photos went back up on the mantle again it would really hurt him.

Lara

That's actually kind of sad

JILL

As for Dylan, He lost his job trying to keep your dad from drinking. He's scared you know.

LARA

I didn't know that, Did I destroy this family ?

Jill looks into Lara's eyes and hesitates before speaking bluntly

JILL

Defiantly sweetie. You destroyed this family in more ways than you can imagine. In fact there's tornados in Florida that do less damage than you have done.

LARA

Don't Worry Mom I'll fix this .

Jill looks back at Lara whilst opening the garden door and entering the house wafting away the cigarette smoke into the night air.

JILL

All I want is for my children to be happy, Can you at least do that .

Jill shuts the garden door and Lara turns around and starts to cry.

INT.House-Morning.- NEXT DAY

Lara is asleep in her bed before the alarm loudly goes off and her father ecstatically bursts into the room.

GROVER

It's time for you to start your course.

Lara still half asleep groans and pulls the pillow over her face.while her father runs around happily shouting

LARA

What time is it ?

GROVER

It's five o clock in the morning

LARA

The course doesn't start until eight.

GROVER

You know what they say. The early bird gets the worm.

LARA

Yeah and the late one orders a take-away

Dylan can be heard in the next room shouting at grover

DYLAN

For gods sake it's five o clock in the bloody morning.

Grover

You kept me awake at one with that laptop of yours

JILL

Please honey some of us are trying to sleep.

Lara stumbles out of bed and slowly heads towards the bathroom. Her father rushes past her down the stairs and begins to shout.

GROVER

Lara, Your breakfast is on the table. I'll be waiting in the car outside.

LARA

Not even a mistress gets thrown out the house this quick .

INTERIOR. Car-early morning.

Lara and her father argue in the car whilst Lara watches people walk by on the street.

LARA

You can't get rid of me fast enough can you ?

GROVER

What makes you think that ?

LARA

We're doing 42mph in a 25 zone.

GROVER

I'm just trying to get you there on time. Other people would be grateful for my reckless driving.

LARA

People crossing the street aren't

GROVER

That's your problem, You're always criticizing others and never taking responsibility for your own actions. Just like when you were with...

Lara drifts off and begins to stare out the window. She sees mike standing outside the corner shop with Jason.

LARA

Mike !

GROVER

That's his name

LARA

No dad I'm sure I have just seen mike. Standing outside that shop on the corner

GROVER

That's impossible he's still locked up. It must just be someone who looks like him.

LARA

I suppose you're right. Must just be my mind playing tricks on me.

GROVER

You get that from your mom's side of the family

LARA

And what did Dylan get from the DNA pool.

GROVER

An unplanned surprise that sits on the sofa all day.

LARA

Will you miss him when he moves out.

GROVER

Not unless Dogs get to expensive to afford

LARA

There really is no love in this family is there ?

GROVER

What are you expecting , The trust still hasn't been gained !

LARA

God, You hold a grudge like a jockey holds a horse.

GROVER

You know during my time with the army we leant how to stay silent for a prolonged period of time.  
Maybe you should try it.

LARA

Fine, Just one last thing

GROVER

What ?

LARA

Did Dylan manage to get a girlfriend ?

GROVER

Surprisingly yes, She's been around the block more times than the ice cream van if I'm being honest.

LARA

I'm surprised she isn't pregnant then ?

GROVER

She Cant get pregnant, Dylan is always hanging around with her.

LARA

Yeah silence sounds like a good idea after all

Lara returns to looking out the window as the car drives along the road .

INT.Course-Classroom. Early day

Lara and the class sit and listen to Becky as she tries to remain upbeat .

BECKY SWALLOW

Welcome to Call Centre Relations . Let me just read out the register and then we can start our ice  
breakers

LARA

I have done more ice breakers than the titanic

Becky looks up from the register swiftly.

BECKY SWALLOW  
And you are ?

LARA  
Lara Paterson.

BECKY SWALLOW  
That's one ticked off the list, Do we have a Keith looking for a Keith.

KEITH  
here.

BECKY SWALLOW  
Do we have a Sammy in the room.

SAMMY FLOWER.  
Yes.

BECKY SWALLOW  
Have we got a Mike Apple

Lara looks shocked and picks up her ears.

BECKY SWALLOW  
Don't tell me. He's not here.

SAMMY FLOWER.  
He wasn't here last week either.

BECKY SWALLOW.  
I know we invited him to attend our recruitment drive three months ago.

LARA  
I'm sorry how long has this course been go on for ?

BECKY SWALLOW  
Well we got the funding five months ago in the spring, So just over four and a half months . Don't let one bad apple put you off this job though. I can assure you PickUpPortable is a fantastic company to work for, Now is there any questions before we start.

Lara raises her hand.

BECKY SWALLOW  
Do you have a question ?

LARA  
Is it okay if I quickly run off to the toilet ?

BECKY SWALLOW

Of course you don't need to ask that .it's just down the hall and to the left.

INT. Toilets

Lara stands looking in the mirror her face blood red as she shouts out loud

LARA

Five months ago how the hell did he..!

Lara stops mid-sentence to think before continuing to rant

LARA

That Git he stitched me up.

As she shouts a cleaner walks by the toilet door and stops to hear Lara ranting out of context.

LARA

Look at all this shit hes put me through and for what. How didn't he end up in the papers.

Lara throws back the toilet door to see the cleaner standing there in shock.

LARA

I'd give it a few minutes if I was you. The place looks like a Jackson Pollock painting

CLEANER

Oh thanks for making retirement look more and more appealing

Lara re-enters the classroom still visibly angry.

INT.Course-Classroom. Early day

BECKY SWALLOW

Great to have Lara back, Now as I was saying, Part of working in a call centre is creating your selling script. This is like a story that hooks your client so I would like to try this with the class and have you provide us with some fun creative writing. Lara could you describe your father in a one sentence

LARA

My Father is the type of man that picks fights with pop-up books.

BECKY SWALLOW

Could you elaborate on that ?

LARA

Certainty, So about 20 years ago..

Inside Book store INT.

We cut-to a flashback to provide visual aid to Lara's story. Lara and her father stand by the children's section in the book shop as her father reads her a pop-up book in a joyful manner

GROVER

It was near tea time and plushy the pink bunny came out to greet his friends with a big hug and a huge smile.

Grover turns over the page and glances down at Lara listening intently to the story. As the page turns over a pink bunny pops up with a huge smile and Grover verbally screams in terror and punches the book.

GROVER  
Terrorist !

Nearby people look over at Grover in the shop as he recoils in terror at the book , now showing a ripped bunny on the page .He tries to reason with the other people in the shop

GROVER  
You all saw it, He came at me with a knife.

LARA  
Dad they're meant to spring up. That's how a pop-up book works.

GROVER  
I know that sweetie. But you know dad doesn't like being surprised , Besides he doesn't look like he's going to try that stunt again.

Grover Turns over the crumpled page of the book and glances back at Lara, the next page reads.  
“ Surprise said plushys friends “ And the pink bunny pops up again

#### End FlashBack

We transition back to the classroom as Lara finishes her story.

LARA  
Fifteen pages later we were asked to leave the store by security as for the effect it had on my father, He wouldn't look at anything with a pink rabbit on for two weeks. Which made buying new Duracell batteries a complete nightmare

BECKY SWALLOW  
OK I think we learnt a little bit about Lara and her willingness to engage with us for this exercise.  
Would you like to say anything else before we continue ?

LARA  
Becky can I ask. Was there a reason why mike didn't show up last time ?

BECKY SWALLOW  
I don't think we can discuss that.

SAMMY FLOWER  
I heard it was because he was tagged .

BECKY SWALLOW  
Yeah but that's just a rumour that we can't discuss.

LARA

I'm just interested.

SAMMY FLOWER

If Mike is your type you might be in with a shot. I heard from Tony that his last girlfriend dumped him.

LARA

Is That So ?

SAMMY FLOWER

Yes and I don't normally gossip but I'm just saying. Tony was talking to Mike and Mike told him his last Girlfriend used to use him to steal stuff

LARA

Like The Tutor Said those are Rumours !

SAMMY FLOWER

Well Joyce, That's Tony's friends mom. Said that Mike was a good man and can never understand why he goes off with these women that treat him terribly.

LARA

Sure is an enigma. I'm sure if he bumps into a girl like me . He'd be surprised .

BECKY SWALLOW

OK we have had a nice chat. Now lets get onto the reason why we are here. Does anyone know anything about PickupPortable ?

SAMMY FLOWER

Well... I don't like to Gossip but I heard they laid off five hundred employees at their New York Office to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit. That multiple women made against the upper echelons of the company .

BECKY SWALLOW

I meant do you know what opportunities they give out ?

SAMMY FLOWERS

Oh right well what I can see on the pamphlet.

BECKY SWALLOW

Let's just go with that. So with a show of hands, How many of you are actually going to apply to work for this company ?

LARA

Does it matter, I mean is there a certain quoter you have to fill,

BECKY SWALLOW

It matters because I don't get to retire until another ten years. So I need some hope for my future students.

SAMMY FLOWER

Well I Don't like to Gossip but I have the feeling no one is gonna join.

BECKY SWALLOW

OK, well with that said we'll call it a day and return next week.

LARA

That was fast we didn't learn anything !

BECKY SWALLOW

Of course you did you learnt about disappointment and patience. That's Two valuable Life skills.

ACT 3

INT. House – Living Room Mid-day

Lara walks into the living room exhausted and taps Dylan to wake up on the sofa.

LARA

Come on get up and let me sit down.

DYLAN

Hey I have been busy all day. Give me a break

LARA

Oh yeah doing what, Conquering the Dream World.

DYLAN

No thinking of new ideas to get me out of here.

LARA

Go on then I'm all ears. Hit me with one

Dylan sits up and faces lara and begins to pitch his idea in anticipation

DYLAN

OK so you know when they say when life gives you lemons make Lemonade .

LARA

yes ?

DYLAN

Well what if life gave you poison ?

LARA

Isn't Poison a Dying Business.

DYLAN

You see I thought that at first. But then I started to watch snow white.

LARA

Which version. The family one or the one on your computer

DYLAN

They both utilize the forest creatures creatively anyway's it got me thinking about that apple scene

LARA

If we needed Food Poisoned we'd let Dad do the cooking.

DYLAN

No I'm thinking about creating a new super food that could kill poison.

LARA

And how would that work ?

DYLAN

Well first we find out what kills us.

LARA

I'd imagine its, Stop breathing.

DYLAN

OK then we beat it with apples.

Lara looks at Dylan as he sits in pure joy looking at Lara for approval

LARA

You Know. Maybe being asleep is better for you.

Dylan

You're just jealous you didn't think of this idea. First I'm out here saving lives

LARA

How ?

Dylan

Well they say an apple a day keeps the doctor away. So what happens to the people with cancer that live on the fruitarian diet

Lara sarcastically answers back.

LARA

and this took you all day to think of

Lara gets up from the sofa and walks into the kitchen to see her Dad sitting with the paper and a massive grin on his face

INT.House -Kitchen .

GROVER

There she is our very own communications expert.

Lara passes by her father and looks in the fridge .

LARA  
Not quite yet.

GROVER  
Nonsense you'll be commanding the lines in no time. Did I ever tell you the story of Duckey  
Mctash.

LARA  
I'll be honest when you talk. I normally zone out

Grover beckons Lara over to the chair opposite him as he lays down the paper and begins his story.

GROVER  
Come, sit you'll love this tale.

Lara sits down and looks at her father

GROVER  
During my first tour of duty we had this Scottish fella we nicknamed Duckey.

LARA  
Why did you call him that ?

GROVER  
He was scared of everything . Always Ducking his head down over any little noise. If a mouse  
farted in a straw, Duckey would be six feet in the air.

LARA  
OK

GROVER  
Anyways one day we're out on patrol and we're passing through this small village in Stanley. We  
keep hearing fighting shaking the houses In the next street. And we look back at Duckey and he's  
not said a word. We pass-through an adjacent alley to see the carnage of a corner shop still ablaze  
with the vibrant hues of flames dance across our eyes as our lungs fill up with the heavy stench of  
smoke and yet Duckey plods on not saying a word...

Grover laughs

GROVER  
It was great for the rest of us because he got on our nerves at points.

GROVER ( continued)  
We Came to a small fork in the road looking out over a large field and with the sounds of  
nature whistling through our ears. You never really appreciate the sound of a bird call until  
you have heard nothing but the sounds of bullets firing for months on end. At that point  
Duckey opens his mouth and tells us to stop. If it wasn't for Duckey we would of walked  
out into an ambush and been shot. So remember what ever role you play you're still a hero  
to someone

LARA

Is that your way of saying you're proud of me.

GROVER

It's my way of telling a story what ever message you take from it is up to you.

LARA

Well thanks dad, So where's Ducky now.

GROVER

He got his cock accidentally roasted at a Nudist barbecue last time I heard .Really makes you think

Grover gets up from his chair and exits the kitchen while Lara sits in complete confusion.

LARA

Think about what dad !

INT. Semi Detached house (Dining room) -Tea time.(night)

Lara and her family sit around the dinning table shovelling food into their mouths.

JILL

So how has everyone's day been.

GROVER

Well I patrolled the perimeter of the exterior and then done some light rescheduling work on the foundations.

DYLAN

Dad, You put up and shelf and poked your head over the neighbours fence.

GROVER

Which is still more work than you have ever done.

DYLAN

Well that's where you're wrong. I have been planning my future.

GROVER

Give over, Not even Marco Polo planned more than you do and he circumnavigated the globe

DYLAN

Well I have bigger plans

Dylan remains blunt and sarcastic as grover leans in and puts down his plate with a chuckle. The rest of the family continue eating.

GROVER

Like what, Name one and I'll lay off.

DYLAN

I'm thinking of becoming a scientist.

GROVER

Really. Go on then, What's the square root of 10

DYLAN

I said scientist. Not mathematician !

GROVER

Ok what have you invented recently other than a permanent crease in our couch

DYLAN

You're always putting me down. But one day old man...

GROVER

One Day what, You'll move.

DYLAN

I did move. I helped out Lara, Didn't I ?

LARA

Are you talking about that shop ?

Dylan slams down his forks and gestures to Lara in an abrasive tone.waving his hands wildly.

DYLAN

Yes thank you, some appreciation !

GROVER

Well I helped a fly out of the kitchen window earlier, So where's my Nobel peace prize ?

DYLAN

This is all because I made fun of your shelf.isn't it. ?

Grover looks down at his plate and mumbles

GROVER

Let's not talk about it

DYLAN

How petulant can someone be ?

Grover glares across the table at Dylan and grits his teeth.

GROVER

It was a good shelf !

DYLAN

So why don't you use it !

GROVER

Because I'm saving it for something special .

JILL

Well Lara has started that course. So maybe we can start putting up some nice pictures of the family again ?

Grover sarcastically replies.

GROVER

Maybe we could just say. I did a good job for once !

DYLAN

Or maybe you could just admit defeat

GROVER

Or maybe you could just move out. It's a perfect shelf

DYLAN

Perfect its on a cavity wall

GROVER

No it's not the thing is more sturdier than the pyramids !

DYLAN

Prove it just do one pull up on it then.

Grover gets up from the table and walks towards the shelf, smugly looking back at the family  
Grover grabs both ends of the shelf and pulls himself up.

GROVER

See sturdy

DYLAN

Well I was wrong. We might as well put Lara's picture on it.

Grover looks smug as he leans towards the shelf, only for it to fall down alongside the wall  
( in a way that reassembles the through the bar skit in only fools and horses\*)

JILL

Honey are you OK.?

Grover quickly jumps up and dusts himself off before sheepishly pointing at the hole in the wall and  
back at the family

GROVER

It's the picture to blame.

DYLAN

Yeah more sturdy than a cow in a hurricane !

GROVER

Just shut up.

As Dylan is laughing grover and Jill continue to eat their food Lara hears the phone ring.

LARA  
I'll Get it.

GROVER  
See someone is doing something

DYLAN  
Yeah she is also remaining on her feet.

GROVER  
Don't start !

As the family start to argue Lara proceeds into the living room to pick up the phone

INT. House – Living Room Night time.

Lara quickly picks up the phone and begins to speak.

LARA  
Hello who's this ?

MIKE APPLE  
Hi babe, glad I caught you. I think I may have some explaining to do ?

Lara sits on the phone in shock and then credits .

FADES TO BLACK.END OF SHOW.  
Song- I get knocked down

