

THE SHARP END: BLUE TUESDAY

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lean and muscled Leon Carr (30) gets out of his car and prowls across to a squalid house in a low-income neighbourhood. He knocks at the door. With no answer, he calls through the letterbox.

LEON

I need to speak to Behrouz. I'm a colleague of Savita. She's concerned that you missed your appointment the other day.

Leon goes to a window and knocks on it.

LEON (CONT'D)

Behrouz?

Leon thinks he hears a noise and goes to the door.

Leon smells something distasteful from inside.

A car alarm goes off.

The front door is opened to the limit of a chain.

LEON (CONT'D)

Hello Behrouz, do you think I could come in for a minute? There's some seriously dangerous gear going round. I can check if you've got any.

BEHROUZ

(in Farsi)

I don't know who you are. Go away.

LEON

I'm Leon. I work with Savita. Savita from Baseline.

BEHROUZ

Savita?

Behrouz unchains the door. He is a traditionally dressed Afghan man in his 40s, weak, delirious. Leon sees the reason why at the same time as he gags at the source of the bad smell...Behrouz's right hand has nearly been severed, the horrific injury ineffectively bound up with a torn sheet.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

A Concerned Dad, late 30s, approaches reception with resentful Teen Daughter.

Behind the desk is Frank, middle-aged and in a surgical smock: a Dual Diagnosis client, meaning he has mental health as well as drug problems.

Teen Daughter checks out the chillout-room style design of Baseline, with rooms off a central area, computers and filing cabinets.

Mellow dance music plays: this and the décor make it unlike any GP surgery or hospital. Posters about the place make Baseline's drugs mandate apparent.

CONCERNED DAD

I'd like someone to see my daughter.

FRANK

They call this place Club Meds.

CONCERNED DAD

Sorry?

FRANK

I'm recommending 500 mill of Amisulpride twice a day during the period you're sectioned. Pottery or watercolours?

From behind Frank comes the real receptionist, cybergoth Dawn Catchpole (mid 20s), all neon and noir.

DAWN

Clear off Frank: you're meant to be with Dual Diagnosis in Room 2.

Frank clears off and Dawn reclaims her place.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Welcome to Baseline.

MAIN AREA

Wendy Tamm - late 20s, no-nonsense clothes - talks to burly Project Manager Javed Phadkar (40).

WENDY

All day it's taken me to find someone to talk about e-testing kits who knows the difference between ecstasy and lookalikes.

Savita Dhatri (early 20s, dressed for a party) traipses in.

JAVED

Savita: your appraisal was supposed to be half an hour ago.

SAVITA

Sorry. I was shopping for Wendy.

Wendy is unimpressed by her purchases - a banana and a small bag of brazil nuts.

WENDY

You're taking the piss. Bananas, I said, not just 'a banana'. And that's nothing like enough brazils.

RECEPTION

CONCERNED DAD

She's been taking drugs.

TEEN DAUGHTER

I told you, I never.

MAIN AREA

Over with Savita, stood lost until Wendy speaks.

WENDY

Go to the supermarket and get bunches of bananas, pounds of brazil nuts. Take £20 from petty cash.

Javed calls to Savita, oblivious to what Wendy just said.

JAVED

I need you over at the hospital with Leon. We need to know what's happening with Behrouz.

RECEPTION

CONCERNED DAD

The test results were positive.

TEEN DAUGHTER

Well the test's wrong, and you're so out of order even asking me to do it in the first place.

Amanda Carr, early 30s, inexpensively but not cheaply dressed, comes into reception and speaks to Dawn.

AMANDA

Leon was supposed to meet me at school. Where is he? He's not answering his phone.

Dawn pauses, and looks to Javed, who comes over.

JAVED
Leon's on his way to the
hospital.

Amanda looks scared for an instant.

JAVED (CONT'D)
He's fine. He's with a service
user who's in a bad way.

AMANDA	CONCERNED DAD
They said they wanted us both there in the meeting.	I want to nip this thing in the bud.

DAWN	TEEN DAUGHTER
I could pass on a message.	You are such a drama queen.

A group of ailing clubbers come in, greeting Dawn and
Wendy: the Comedown Club, here to put their heads right.

The Comedown Club fill in a guestbook. There are five, 20s
to early 40s: a ramshackle bunch.

Concerned Dad assumes they're queue jumping.

CONCERNED DAD
I'd like an appointment for
Hannah and myself.

DAWN
As you can see, we're pretty
busy...

Amanda takes a cigarette out of a packet and heads outside.

MAIN AREA

JAVED
Wendy, have you got the steroids
report ready?

WENDY
Still waiting for Leon's figures.

JAVED
Could you work up something from
his notes?

WENDY
What's the hurry?

JAVED

I've got some community development thing to attend, and a meeting at On Track I need some solid figures for.

WENDY

The sports charity?

JAVED

All in good time.

EXT. BASELINE - DAY

Amanda exhales smoke.

Savita scurries through the door and towards a car.

The Baseline building is inviting compared to its neighbours: shops selling second hand furniture that spills onto the pavement, and a rancid fried chicken eatery. No clue as to what goes on inside though.

SAVITA

I'll tell Leon you dropped in, Angela.

AMANDA

It's Amanda.

EXT. STREET - DAY

An ambulance turns up outside Behrouz's house, siren wailing.

In response, Behrouz once again puts his door on the chain, and screams at Leon.

BEHROUZ

(in Farsi)

They will take me! Savita promised I would be safe, but she lied.

LEON

We need to get you to the hospital, to get your arm seen to.

Two Paramedics come over. They can see enough of Behrouz's hand through the door.

PARAMEDIC 1

(to Behrouz)

There's no way about it, we're going to have to take you in. Do you speak English?

LEON

Not a dickie bird that I've heard.

PARAMEDIC 2

Well, we really need to get your injury attended to, and for that we need to get you into hospital.

LEON

I'm not sure what you'll be able to give him. He's a heroin user, so that'll dull the pain. It's probably making him delirious too. He could be dangerous.

BEHROUZ

(in Farsi)

I have been punished enough for my sins. Never again will I see my parents, the people I grew up with. Why are you doing this?

LEON

Sounded like consent to me.

Leon and Paramedic 1 look to one another in agreement and shoulder Behrouz's front door open, breaking the chain lock. Behrouz screams.

PARAMEDIC 1

You Baseline guys are rock and roll.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

Schoolmarmish project worker Nuala Dunwoody (50) comes in with Baseline's post, to find Dawn staring intently at a blank section of wall. Nuala puts the post onto the reception desk.

NUALA

Any messages for me Dawn?
(Dawn doesn't respond)
Am I missing something? Or do you think we could run a drugs project today?

EXT. RAWDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE - DAY

A rundown place, perhaps an old Victorian former school.
Lots of cars parked outside.

MAN'S VOICE (O/S)
I feel a bit out of place at an
event like this.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

A dozen or so people, representatives of local community
groups, are gathered round a table to hear a speaker.

A bruiser of a man in his 40s, dressed in a pricey suit,
Ollie Maitland addresses the group, which includes Javed, a
Sikh Community Leader, and a woman Senior Police Officer.

MAITLAND
It's called a Community
Development Forum, but the only
way I know to develop a community
is to change its economy, and
that's what I'm about.

(beat)

The development I'm proposing
will bring new money that'll go
into new shops, create new jobs,
and hopefully pull people back
into Rawden - people who've left
the area because of the
reputation it's got.

At this, Javed turns and meets the eye of the Senior Police
Officer, who raises her eyebrows.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Savita is at Behrouz's bedside with Leon. A sombre female
Nurse is with them too.

SAVITA
Oh my god! That's the grossest
thing I have ever seen.

LEON
I just want you to ask him how it
happened.

SAVITA
It's obvious, innit.

The Nurse looks increasingly unhappy with Savita.

SOMBRE NURSE

I don't know how much sense he'll make. He's had the pre-op.

LEON

Assuming the pre-op will be enough given the amount of heroin in his system. He's rattling.

SOMBRE NURSE

Just what we need. Another junkie cluttering the place up.

Leon looks daggers at the Nurse but says nothing.

BEHROUZ

Savita.

SAVITA

(slowly)
You'll be fine.

BEHROUZ

(in Farsi)
They held me down. The man I bought the drug from. He called me a thief, said this is how a thief should be punished.

Leon looks from Savita to Behrouz and back. And again.

LEON

You don't understand him, do you?

Savita looks like she wants to be anywhere but here.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

Wendy brings Concerned Dad and Teen Daughter to a circle of chairs, occupied by the Comedown Club. Comedown Clubber 3 is the biggest of the blokes, a rough looking specimen.

WENDY

Sorry guys, shopping fuck-up this end. We'll be getting plenty of nanas and brazils in soon.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER

I brought some anyway.

The Comedown Clubber hands round a bunch of bananas, and Wendy circulates the small bag of brazils.

WENDY

(to Teen Daughter)
Ecstasy depletes serotonin.
(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

Bananas are full of it, and brazil nuts glue it into your brain. Tuesday afternoon is when you're at your lowest ebb after a big weekend, hence the Comedown Club. What you here for anyway?

CONCERNED DAD

I'd rather discuss this in private.

TEEN DAUGHTER

Anything you want to talk about, I'm happy to talk about with whoever. I told you: I don't smoke blow.

CONCERNED DAD

As I said, this is something I'd prefer to discuss in private.

WENDY

If your daughter -

TEEN DAUGHTER

Hannah.

WENDY

If Hannah's fine here, then it's her wishes I'd like to respect.

(to Comedown Club)

Everything that happens here is kept in confidence, yes?

(to Concerned Dad)

And we'll be waiting another hour if you want a private room anyway.

CONCERNED DAD

Hannah tested positive for cannabis. I brought her here to show what might happen to her.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER

Let this be a warning to you, young lady.

TEEN DAUGHTER/HANNAH

I told you: I don't touch blow.

CONCERNED DAD

Which leaves the question of how you tested positive.

WENDY

Over the counter tests aren't entirely reliable.

CONCERNED DAD

Maybe not, but I know some of her peers smoke cannabis.

HANNAH

You're saying you can't trust the test results?

WENDY

They're accurate something like 99% of the time.

Concerned Dad snorts, as if that proves his case.

HANNAH

Say...something got into my pee. Something I drank. Could that show up on the result?

WENDY

I'm not sure what you mean.

HANNAH

You know about R. Kelly?

WENDY

The singer?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 2

The pervert.

HANNAH

(head in hands)

Me and my boyfriend read about what he gets up to with his women? And Damon says...We both wanted to do it, alright? Watersports, they call it. Anyway, I drank some of Damon's pee, and he'd smoked weed at a party the night before.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 3

Go girl!

WENDY

If your boyfriend had been smoking like you say, then yes, it'd be present in his urine, and traces of it would be found in yours too.

HANNAH

(to Concerned Dad)

It's alright dad, Damon only smokes at parties and that. He's not a waster.

Concerned Dad looks away, unable to look at his daughter. He'd rather she was snorting cocaine than this.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

It's coffee break time. While Maitland gladhands the Sikh Community Leader, Javed talks to the Senior Police Officer.

JAVED

So, what do you think?

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

I think he's short on detail, lacking in sensitivity, and not really very credible. But, there are people here who can ignore things like that when they smell money.

JAVED

But how much money? Can he offer local owners and tenants enough to start up somewhere else?

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

That's not really Ollie Maitland's style.

JAVED

You two have had professional dealings?

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

Could you pop over to see me at the station after this? Ask for Alison Powell at the desk.

INT. BASELINE/RECEPTION - DAY

Spartacus, Baseline's activist turned administrator (mid 30s), is taken by the sight of Dawn flourishing a tape measure, measuring out space on a blank section of wall. She is deep in thought. Still hears Spartacus though, and speaks to him without turning round.

DAWN

Is there something you want Spartacus?

SPARTACUS

How did you know it was me?

DAWN

Nuala always sounds like she
knows what she wants, so I knew
it wasn't her.

Spartacus is upset by this, and the fact that Dawn still
has her back to him gives the casual remark added power.
His attention wanders to singing he can hear in the...

MAIN AREA

The Comedown Club sing a George Formby song (they know it
as I do from a Robyn Hitchcock cover).

Hannah is enjoying them.

Concerned Dad stares into the distance.

Nuala smiles as she walks past to one of the rooms off the
main area.

COMEDOWN CLUB

(singing)

I don't like tomatoes, and I
don't like ice-cream cones, but I
like bananas because they have no
bones...

EXT. STREET - DAY

Wendy gets out of her car and heads towards a nightclub
that looks pretty shabby by day.

INT. NIGHTCLUB/BAR - DAY

Wendy strolls up to early 30s nightclub manager Dean,
stroking his face. He beams at her. While he talks, he sets
up a pair of ladders to inspect some lights.

DEAN

You skiving from school?

WENDY

Maybe. But I want to talk e-
testing kits too.

DEAN

I'm all up for it.

WENDY

Not just here though. How many
clubs does Bernie own?

DEAN

Seven, across the country.

Dean climbs the ladder.

WENDY

I want to get e-testing kits in all of them.

DEAN

You could say it's promoting Es.

WENDY

The police are more realistic now. They'd rather have testing facilities in clubs than have them and the hospitals be dealing with the casualties later. It could do Mr Wragg's image some good.

DEAN

Which could help him get more club licences.

WENDY

See? Plus, Baseline is looking for a new board member. Bernie could be just the bloke we're looking for. Pillar of the community, poacher turns gamekeeper, et cetera. Sold?

DEAN

I'll have a word with Bernie next time he's in a good mood.

(beat)

It doesn't stop with you, does it? Pulling strings, pushing buttons.

WENDY

It's part of my job.

DEAN

It's 24/7 though. Makes me wonder: will I ever get to see you when you're not...strategising, or am I always going to be caught up in some game or other?

WENDY

No. What you mean is that you want me in an exclusive relationship, like that's the right thing to do because so many other people settle for it.

DEAN

Who said I wanted to settle down?

Dean comes down the ladder. He goes to kiss Wendy but she moves her face so he can't press his lips to hers.

DEAN (CONT'D)

You're weird.

WENDY

And you're crazy about me.

INT. BASELINE/TREATMENT ROOM 1 - DAY

Nuala is working with Jack, a homeless man who looks older than his 40 years. He is eccentrically dressed, in a riot of colours and materials, and hasn't washed his hair in a long time.

Jack rolls up his trousers to reveal the mess that he's made of his ankle from injecting there. It's a mix of dead and gangrenous tissue, black and yellow and red, and smelly. Nuala dresses the wound.

NUALA

The femoral vein is thrombosed and so messed up that the leg can't drain itself. I'm doing what I can to clean things up.

(beat)

I can make you safer and I want you to be. But that means listening to what we say about rotating sites, using thinner bore needles, and sterilising water. All the stuff you hear us say every time.

JACK

You're on at me like this every chance you get. Is it any wonder I do drugs?

NUALA

Which brings us back to square one Jack.

(beat)

Is there anything else?

JACK

Asda. They won't let me in at Asda. I haven't been robbing or nothing. It's just 'cause of what I look like.

NUALA

How about you and me go down and
have a word with the manager?

EXT. RAWDEN POLICE STATION - DAY

Javed's car is parked outside.

ALISON (O/S)

Glad you could come over, Javed.

INT. POLICE STATION/ALISON'S OFFICE - DAY

Alison's office is compact. Javed sits opposite her.

JAVED

We have a lot of shared
interests.

ALISON

At the moment, Ollie Maitland.

JAVED

Meaning what, exactly?

Alison leafs through a bulky folder that's on her desk.

ALISON

There's a lot to incriminate
Ollie in a variety of cases. But
not enough to persuade the CPS
that we could convict. Which
isn't to say that the information
we've gathered couldn't be of
use.

(beat)

I'm going outside for a ciggie.
You can wait here if you want.

Alison leaves the room, closing the door behind her.

Javed's phone rings.

JAVED

(after listening)

I think he speaks Farsi, which
means I can understand him. I'm
fifteen minutes away, but there's
something I have to do first.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

Dawn puts on her jacket to pop out. Spartacus sees her.

SPARTACUS
Going anywhere nice?

DAWN
Fish shop.

SPARTACUS
Couldn't pick me up a bag of
chips could you?

DAWN
Sorry, no. It's the other way.

Spartacus looks bewildered as Dawn exits, mentally running through the exchange to see if he's missed anything.

INT. CAFE - DAY

A greasy spoon café. Wendy is here to meet a client, Sonya, who's in her 40s and full of restless energy.

Sonya is poorly dressed and doesn't look after herself, a consequence of her crack addiction. The two women chat over cups of tea.

WENDY
So, how are things?

SONYA
Tell me about your love life.

WENDY
We're here to talk about you
Sonya.

SONYA
What's to say?

WENDY
Man trouble?

SONYA
(sings)
I woke up this morning with a
awful aching head
I woke up this morning with a
awful aching head
My new man had left me, just a
room and a empty bed

Bought me a coffee grinder that's
the best one I could find
Bought me a coffee grinder that's
the best one I could find

(MORE)

SONYA (CONT'D)

Oh he could grind my coffee,
cause he had a brand new grind

The song is 'Empty Bed Blues' by Bessie Smith, and Sonya's rendition is raw, vital, captivating.

Wendy and the Cafe Owner are an appreciative audience, and the song also gets the enthusiastic attention of a Mod-Suited Man in his 30s.

MOD-SUITED MAN

You're Sonya Regan, right?

SONYA

What's it to you?

MOD-SUITED MAN

I recognise your voice. Saw you a couple of times when you were doing backing vocals with -

SONYA

I don't want to hear that name.

MOD-SUITED MAN

You were good. You are good.

(beat)

If you're still performing, I'd love to put you on at this night I'm organising.

(beat)

Assuming you still do that kind of thing.

SONYA

Going to make me a star are you?

MOD-SUITED MAN

A club night, that's all. If you're not interested, then fair enough.

WENDY

Sonya hasn't performed in some years.

SONYA

Wendy's my PA, she gets very concerned about me. I have to remind her: I can fucking look after myself.

(beat)

Fifty quid, I'll meet you and talk about it some more this afternoon.

WENDY

Sonya.

SONYA

I mean it.

MOD-SUITED MAN

Here?

SONYA

In two hours.

The Mod-Suited Man counts out £50 and hands it to Sonya. Wendy is looking upset at what's happening.

MOD-SUITED MAN

Great then. Later. I'm Ed, by the way.

WENDY

I'll see she's here for you Ed.

The Mod-Suited Man exits.

SONYA

What do you mean, you'll make sure I'm here?

WENDY

If you're going to spend that money on crack -

SONYA

Fuck off, you are not my mother.

WENDY

See you later. Or, more like, I'll be here to tell Ed he blew his fifty quid.

Sonya leaves.

INT. BASELINE/MAIN AREA - DAY

Back with the Comedown Club.

Concerned Dad and Hannah as before: her concerned, him distant.

One of the Comedown Club starts to sing a spoof on New Order's 'Blue Monday'.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 1

(singing)

How does it peel?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 3

If Ian Curtis had had a nana, he
wouldn't have topped himself.
Fact.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 1

If I don't get more nanas, I'm
gonna top myself. Where's the
nanas?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 2

(to Concerned Dad)

You wanna have a nana mate,
that'll put a smile on your face.

That does it. Something snaps in Concerned Dad and he
stands up and pushes Comedown Clubber 2 over.

RECEPTION

Dawn on reception doesn't catch the above: she's busy with
a magazine on tropical fish, cutting out pictures of
particularly attractive specimens.

MAIN AREA

The Comedown Clubbers look tense, waiting to see how their
fallen friend will react.

EXT. ASDA - DAY

Nuala and Jack approach the supermarket, Jack slow and
wobbly on his injured ankle. Before they can get inside, an
officious Middle Manager approaches them.

MIDDLE MANAGER

(to Jack)

You know you're not allowed in.

NUALA

According to who?

MIDDLE MANAGER

I've no idea who you are, I'm
talking to him.

JACK

The name's Jack.

NUALA

And I'm his support worker. Would
you like to expand on why Jack is
banned?

MIDDLE MANAGER

We're entitled to decide who gets to come into the store. And your friend Jack doesn't.

NUALA

I want to see the store manager.

MIDDLE MANAGER

She's in a meeting.

NUALA

We'll wait. She can see us afterwards.

MIDDLE MANAGER

And she'll tell you the same I'm telling you: Jack is barred from the premises.

NUALA

I want a solid reason for Jack's exclusion, or I'm taking this further.

MIDDLE MANAGER

He's barred. End of.

EXT. BASELINE/CAR PARK - DAY

The Comedown Clubbers are in the car park with Concerned Dad and a very worried Hannah.

A couple of the Comedown Clubbers are chicken-strutting round the space, trading riffs from the Duelling Banjos theme ('Deliverance') as they do. The two of them get into their role as backwoods moonshine enthusiasts, and the other pair of Comedown Clubbers stomp their heels and clap.

That leaves the central space occupied by Concerned Dad and Comedown Clubber 2 (the injured party). They're circling one another and taking the occasional punch, though no major hurt has been done yet. Bloodied faces though.

Savita pulls up into the car park. She gets out the car, toting two plastic bags groaning with bananas and brazil nuts (not supermarket bags: she's shopped at a market).

No one pays attention to Savita, intent as they are on a resolution to the situation with Concerned Dad and Comedown Clubber 2.

Savita takes in what's happening, and stands between the two men. Going over to Comedown Clubber 2, she touches his stomach gently.

SAVITA

I could do with a hand.

The commotion quiets down a bit at this.

While she's waiting for a response, Savita addresses the group.

SAVITA (CONT'D)

Come on: nanas and nuts for everyone. What are you waiting for?

The bubble bursts, and tension dissipates.

Led by Comedown Clubber 2, who grins at Concerned Dad, Savita leads the Comedown Clubbers back inside. They take her bags.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 2

(to Concerned Dad)

Saved by the belle of the ball.

Concerned Dad and Hannah stay in the car park. There are tears in his eyes, but there no longer seems to be a mile between father and daughter.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

Spartacus is bewildered to see a sheet stuck to the wall, with pictures of fish glued to it; six altogether.

Beneath each picture there is a blank space. Dawn checks out his response.

SPARTACUS

Is this...what is this?

DAWN

An aquarium. It's in its early stages at the moment. I was talking to Wendy. We both thought the reception area could do with something to cheer it up.

(beat)

You can vote for which ones you want.

SPARTACUS

I've not got a pen.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Javed and Behrouz are talking in Farsi. Leon is there too.

JAVED
 (in Farsi)
 Tell me about him.

BEHROUZ
 (in Farsi)
 He is tall, he wears a long coat,
 and gloves. His name is Faraj.

The Sombre Nurse and an Impatient colleague come in to take Behrouz into the operating theatre.

SOMBRE NURSE
 We need to take the patient to
 the theatre now.

JAVED
 A minute, please.

SOMBRE NURSE
 He needs the amputation as soon
 as possible.

LEON
 Just a few more questions.

IMPATIENT NURSE
 You can wait until he's
 recovering. The police will be
 wanting a word too.

The Nurses wheel Behrouz away.

JAVED
 He had a thing for opium back in
 Afghanistan, couldn't find any
 here.

LEON
 So he developed a heroin habit.

JAVED
 Ran up a slate with his dealer,
 turned out to be a hopeless
 shoplifter and couldn't repay
 him. So the dealer called him a
 thief and said he should be
 punished like one.

LEON
 Anyone we know?

JAVED
 Young Asian guy called Faraj,
 tall, wears a coat and gloves.

LEON

Faraj. I'll keep my eyes open.

(beat)

What about Savita?

JAVED

She's next on my list.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

The Comedown Club are chowing down on bananas and brazil nuts.

Nuala comes in with Jack and takes the Comedown Club in: she's got an idea.

NUALA

You guys look like you're at a loose end. Want to do me a favour?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 1

Like what?

NUALA

Call it your good deed for the day.

This is received with derisive snorts.

NUALA (CONT'D)

Here's a quid each to get a can. We're going shopping, OK?

Looks and glances between the Comedown Club. They stir into action, looking like an undead version of Happy Mondays.

RECEPTION

On the way out, Nuala and Jack and the Comedown Club encounter Frank. He is eyeing Dawn's fish poll. Now, there's a pen attached to the wall on a piece of string for people to record their preferences. Frank pauses, and makes a tick under two of the choices. That done, he joins the others and heads out.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Back at the greasy spoon. Wendy sits with a cuppa, and is joined by the mod-suited man, Ed.

ED

You've worked with Sonya a while then?

WENDY

A year or two.

ED

She could teach Adele a thing or two.

WENDY

You reckon?

Sonya comes in. She's changed her clothes to look more like a singer, badly applied some make-up, and smoked crack very recently, making her edgy and paranoid.

SONYA

What's she saying about me?

ED

She was saying how she's been working with you.

SONYA

Yeah?

WENDY

I didn't go into any detail.

SONYA

You want to watch it with Wendy. Sticky-beak, that's what you've got.

ED

This night I'm putting on.

SONYA

Puts her nose in where it's not wanted.

WENDY

Listen to what Ed's saying.

SONYA

You're my PA. You listen.

ED

We've been doing a monthly night and getting audiences around the two hundred mark.

SONYA

Prickly Arsehole. That's what PA stands for, d'you know that?

ED

We've got a good house band that's worked with guest singers before, all good soul and jazz players.

SONYA

You thought I'd forgotten about you, but I haven't. I remember how you ripped me off ten years back.

ED

I wasn't doing any of this then.

SONYA

He was managing our band, and he ran off with all the money from this tour we'd done. You had a pork pie hat then. And that's when I started carrying one of these.

(she produces a knife)

ED

I don't know what you think's happening, but you've got me mixed up with someone.

WENDY

Put the knife down Sonya.

SONYA

Don't give me bossy voice. I hate bossy voice.

Wendy reaches out for the knife. For a second, it looks like Sonya will give it to her.

Sonya snarls at Ed, aims the knife at him.

Wendy blocks the attack, and as a result ends up slashed across her upper arm, producing blood.

The Cafe Owner sees what's happening and comes over.

WENDY

It's not as bad as it looks. I'll sort it out. No ambulance, no police, alright?

(to Sonya)

Come on, we're going.

The two women exit, Wendy taking Sonya by the hand, and get into Wendy's car outside.

EXT. ASDA - DAY

Nuala, Jack, Frank and the Comedown Club approach the store entrance.

The Assistant Manager is around, and skulks away on seeing that the motley-looking newcomers mean to go shopping.

The crew from Baseline variously take trolleys and baskets and make their way into the shop.

INSIDE ASDA

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A) Comedown Clubber 1 approaches a Little Old Lady with a very phallic butternut squash, menacing her with it.

B) Comedown Clubbers 2 and 3 take mops from where they're on sale and use them to play curling with a tin of shoe polish as a puck.

C) Comedown Clubber 4 flicks through the CDs on sale with disdain, all the while dancing to the music playing in the background.

D) Comedown Clubber 5 swaps items in the trolleys of Two Shoppers while they're considering purchases.

E) Frank stands by the automatic doors and approaches them and steps away again so they open and close repeatedly.

F) Two Security People are torn between following Jack and Nuala and monitoring what the Comedown Clubbers are getting up to.

G) The Assistant Manager and a stern Store Manager in her 50s approach Nuala and Jack. In the background and across the foreground, the Comedown Club are still up to mischief.

STORE MANAGER

You've made your point. What is it you want?

NUALA

Your sidekick tells me that Jack here is banned from the store, but she won't give a reason.

STORE MANAGER

We don't have to get a reason.
It's our store, and we get to
decide what sort of people we
want here.

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER

We could talk to the police about
what you're doing here.

NUALA

And I could talk to the media
about the way you're victimising
a man because of his appearance.

JACK

I live on benefits. This is the
cheapest place I can get my
shopping.

NUALA

The people I've brought with me...
have a lot of time on their
hands. They could come here every
day easily, for an hour or two at
a time.

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER

If that's a threat -

Two of the Comedown Club glide past in a shopping trolley.
The Store Manager takes in everything that's happening.

STORE MANAGER

The bar is lifted. Jack is
welcome to come back and shop
here.

The Assistant Store Manager is stunned by this comedown.
The Manager strides off.

OUTSIDE

Jack and Nuala lead the Comedown Club and Frank away,
buzzing with their victory.

JACK

You're a star Nuala. I don't know
what I'd do without you. Here.

Jack passes Nuala a bottle of wine from inside his clothes.

Nuala doesn't take the bottle, just stares at the bottle
and Jack, knowing that the wine is shoplifted.

JACK (CONT'D)

What have I done?

NUALA
You bastard. You absolute
bastard.

INT. LEON'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Leon listens to loud and aggressive rock as he drives. His mobile rings.

LEON
(after listening)
Well if you came into work, you
know what happened.
(beat)
Of course Zak's school is
important to me.
(beat)
I'll be home as early as I can.

INT. BASELINE - DAY

Wendy comes in through the back entrance from the car park, her arm oozing blood.

LEON
Jesus Wendy, what happened?

WENDY
Sonya had a go at me.

LEON
Where is she?

WENDY
I dropped her at home, to stop me
from throttling her.

LEON
You need this seen to. At a
hospital.

WENDY
I need it seen to, yes. And
you're going to do it.

LEON
Excuse me?

WENDY
Stop arguing and get on with it.

EXT. MOSQUE - DAY

Javed's car is parked outside.

MAN'S VOICE (O/S)
So, what are you here for?

INT. MOSQUE/OFFICE - DAY

Javed is with his brother Harith, the imam of the mosque.
He's in his mid 40s, and it was him who just spoke.

JAVED
Can't I just come and see my
brother when I'm in the area?

HARITH
Sure, but the tone of your voice
tells me this isn't a social
visit.

JAVED
I wanted to sound you out on
something Harith. I've found out
that there's a property developer
who's interested in the area
around Baseline, and he's a
crook.

HARITH
So get the police involved.

JAVED
There's not enough to secure a
conviction.

HARITH
But he's a problem?

JAVED
He could close the project down.
We can only afford to operate
from there because of the low
rent, and it's exactly where we
need to be.

HARITH
Sometimes, we're called on to
behave in exceptional ways when
the cause justifies it. Does the
cause justify it?

JAVED
That's what I'm asking myself.

HARITH
In Star Wars, Han Solo shoots
Greedo in the cantina...before
Greedo shoots him.
(MORE)

HARITH (CONT'D)

Later, George Lucas sanitised the scene, used special effects to make it look like Greedo shot first. He didn't.

JAVED

I remember.

HARITH

The fans remember. And they know what sort of a man Han Solo is. Someone you can rely on in a tight spot - more than his creator, you could argue. A creation has its own life, has to make its own choices.

JAVED

Luke Skywalker wouldn't shoot first.

HARITH

Without Han to protect him, Luke wouldn't have lasted long enough to destroy the Death Star.

INT. BASELINE/RECEPTION - DAY

Nuala comes in, still pissed off after what happened at Asda. She sees Wendy and Leon and goes through to the

MAIN AREA

Nuala takes in Leon tending to Wendy with a first-aid kit.

NUALA

What's going on here? Who did that?

Wendy looks at Leon, willing him not to say anything. But Nuala won't let up, sensing that there's an issue here.

NUALA (CONT'D)

That didn't happen on its own.

LEON

Sonya.

NUALA

So why aren't you at a hospital?

WENDY

If I go to a hospital, they're going to ask questions, get the police involved. And that means grief for Sonya.

NUALA

That's exactly why you should go.

LEON

I tried to tell her.

WENDY

Nuala, it's none of your business.

NUALA

When a colleague is being soft in the head, it's very much my business.

(beat)

Would you be so casual about this if a bloke had done it?

WENDY

Today was a chaotic incident that I could have handled better. Sonya's doing well overall, and I don't want her dealing with cops again: it'll take her backwards.

LEON

She needs to be punished. You want to listen to yourself.

WENDY

How will a conviction for an assault she didn't really intend help Sonya sort her shit out?

NUALA

Supporting service users does not include them using us for target practice.

WENDY

Spare me the ethical bollocks please. It's not as bad as it looks.

NUALA

Let her get away with this, and she'll have zero respect for you. See how that impacts your future sessions.

EXT. MAITLAND PROPERTIES OFFICES - DAY

Javed pulls up his relatively modest car beside some seriously expensive motors parked outside.

Javed dials up an app on his smartphone. It's a self-improvement app - New Age music ripples behind the voice.

NEW AGE VOICE

Confidence Boost is designed using state of the art neurolinguistic programming techniques to assist you in accessing the very best of what you've got to give.

INT. BASELINE/RECEPTION - DAY

The Comedown Club, clutching cans, come in and check out the fish poll. Comedown Clubber 3 ticks a couple of favourites, which Comedown Clubber 2 inspects. Dawn watches, proud.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 2

You're not telling me a swordtail's better than an angelfish?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 3

What if I am?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 2

You're wrong.

DAWN

It's a survey, that's all.

Frank comes in.

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 2

But a swordtail? That's just... wrong.

FRANK

(to Dawn)

Who would you say I'm most like: Clint Eastwood, Robin Hood, or a nice man?

COMEDOWN CLUBBER 3

(shaking his head)

Fuck me Frank.

EXT. MAITLAND PROPERTIES OFFICES - DAY

A majorly expensive motor pulls up near Javed's car and out of it steps Ollie Maitland. He comes over to Javed, who is still listening to the app, and raps on the window.

MAITLAND

You having a kip in there? I take it you've come to see me. People usually want one on ones after a meeting like earlier.

Javed gets out of the car and the two men head into the Maitland Offices, through

RECEPTION

Which is lush with corporate bling - crappy abstract paintings bought by the square metre, Scandinavian furniture - and Barbie-style Receptionist, and into

OLLIE'S OFFICE

Expensively furnished, with a water feature.

MAITLAND

You run the drugs project.

JAVED

Baseline.

MAITLAND

And you're worried whether you'll be able to afford to rent somewhere else.

JAVED

Baseline is where it is because that's where drug users are.

(beat)

But then, you know that.

MAITLAND

Rawden's a deprived neighbourhood, yes.

JAVED

You also know it because of your connections with skunk factories.

MAITLAND

Excuse me?

JAVED

There are three properties within a couple of miles of here busted for growing hydroponic cannabis that your name has been linked with.

MAITLAND

I thought it was Vietnamese gangsters behind all that these days.

JAVED

Right. And they need a local partner who knows about property to help them out.

MAITLAND

And you know this how?

JAVED

We get some pretty heavy characters coming through the door at Baseline. They tell us things.

MAITLAND

So why haven't I been arrested?

JAVED

Because you're clever, and either you or your Vietnamese friends know how to leave false trails.

MAITLAND

Just supposing any of this were true. Me hanging round with Vietnamese gangsters makes this a rather dangerous meeting for you.

JAVED

Like I said: my line of work you get introduced to some heavy characters.

(beat)

You know the Delaney family? Big fans of our work. We helped them out with a little addiction issue and they can't do enough for us. Having people like that on our side gives me a real sense of security.

MAITLAND

You're saying all the right words but, you know what? I've been watching the sweat on your face, the pulse in your neck. You're a worried man.

(beat: Javed is nervous)

You'll be hearing from me soon, with a proposal about your project's future, don't you worry.

(MORE)

MAITLAND (CONT'D)

And I wouldn't be inclined to tell anyone else who was at that meeting what you've been telling me. Defamation of character is an expensive business.

INT. BASELINE/RECEPTION - DAY

Jack enters and approaches Dawn. He's holding something behind his back.

JACK

I want to see Nuala.

DAWN

I'll see if she's available.

(calling)

Nuala?

Nuala is over in the main area looking through a report.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Jack wants to see you.

NUALA

I don't want to see him.

Jack moves over to Nuala. He's drunk.

MAIN AREA

JACK

I've come to say I'm sorry. I've brought you these.

(he offers flowers with a flourish)

NUALA

What for?

JACK

You were upset.

NUALA

Why was I upset?

(Jack has no answer)

You were shoplifting right under the noses of the shop. If you want to apologise, for a start you can give them their wine back.

JACK

(furrows his brow)

It's too late.

NUALA

Jack, I have had it up to here with you. I'm barring you for 48 hours.

JACK

You can't do that, you're my worker.

NUALA

And you're barred.

JACK

Just for that bottle of wine?

NUALA

It's not just the wine. There's a whole catalogue of -

JACK

I didn't do nothing with no catalogue.

NUALA

No, I mean -

JACK

I got in trouble with the payments once before.

NUALA

Shut up and listen Jack.

(beat)

I'm excluding you for 48 hours because of your behaviour. No argument. End of.

EXT. ON TRACK BUILDING - DAY

Javed's car is pulled up outside the plush offices of the On Track sports charity.

INT. ON TRACK BUILDING/RECEPTION - DAY

JAVED sits in the fairly luxurious reception area with a cup of tea. With him, a report that has the Baseline logo on the cover.

INT. BASELINE/MAIN AREA - DAY

Wendy, her injury and dressing out of sight, comes in and sees Savita with the Comedown Club. She's impressed with the amount of bananas and brazil nuts that SAVITA has bought.

WENDY

Canny bit of shopping there.

SAVITA

I went to the market. Much cheaper than the shops. and I told him we could put in a weekly order.

WENDY

Nice one.

Javed comes in from the car park and sees Savita.

JAVED

We need to talk.

SAVITA

I'm just -

JAVED

Now, Savita.

The Comedown Club are intrigued by Javed's evident anger.

WENDY

Alright you lot, calm down.

Javed goes into one of the rooms off the main area with Savita.

ROOM 2

JAVED

You told me you were fluent in Farsi. It's one of the reasons you're our Asian Communities Worker.

SAVITA

I can speak a bit.

JAVED

But not enough to be able to deal with Behrouz. Exactly what have you been doing in your sessions with him?

SAVITA

We get on alright, it's kind of like sign language. I show him what to do, and he copies. He uses really safely.

JAVED

You're on a three-month probation period as it is. I'm extending that for another three months before we give you a full contract, and giving you a written warning. Do you understand? And I don't want your uncle breathing down my neck.

(Savita nods)

You need to be asking yourself whether this is the kind of work that suits you.

MAIN AREA

It's the end of the day, and no clients are about.

Gathered round are Wendy, Savita, Nuala, Leon, Spartacus and Dawn. Javed draws everyone together.

JAVED

If I could have your attention please...

The team gather round, curious. Dick Hollis, a fit looking man in his 40s, comes through the rear from the car park.

JAVED (CONT'D)

I'd like to introduce you to Dick Hollis, who works in a senior capacity for the sports education charity On Track. Some of you may remember his career in tennis too. We've shaken hands on a couple of deals. One, Baseline will be providing On Track with a three year needle exchange programme for steroid users, which will be led by Leon.

The team applaud this news. Leon beams.

JAVED (CONT'D)

Second, Dick will be joining the board. As you're aware -

WENDY

You can't do that. This is supposed to be a team. I'd nearly got Bernie Wragg to agree to sign up, and put e-testing kits into all of his clubs.

DICK

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cause any upset. But believe me, there's a lot I can bring to the role.

SPARTACUS

Procedurally this is totally out of order.

LEON

Three years needle exchange work is good for Baseline. Anything else is just detail.

WENDY

Bollocks Leon. How many people will be necking dodgy pills in the next three years? We could have made a real impact.

JAVED

You've got to look at the big picture. Dick brings with him insights into how a much bigger charity than us operates. We can learn from that.

WENDY

Bernie could be a valuable ally, and be great for the board.

JAVED

And he still could be. We'll need other board members in the future.

SPARTACUS

There hasn't been a proper consultation period.

JAVED

Sometimes you've got to respond quickly to capitalise on a situation.

NUALA

Carpe diem.

JAVED

Exactly. The money from this contract can fund new programmes that we're all keen on.

WENDY

If you mean street drinkers, that's not something there's any consensus on at all. There's a big difference between what we do and working with chronic alcoholics.

JAVED

No-one mentioned street drinking. It's a possibility, yes, but there'll be a proper period of deliberation before any decisions are made.

SPARTACUS

Like there's been with Dick?

DICK

I'm partly responsible for what happened today with Javed: I wanted to see if he was serious, and I'm confident he is. I'm hoping there's plenty I can bring to the table that'll mean even more opportunities.

SPARTACUS

Management speak.

WENDY

I just hope you're better at this than you were at tennis.

LATER

The large grouping has dispersed. Dawn is back on the reception desk. Savita looks lost on her own, stacking the chairs that had been in a circle. Wendy comes over to Leon and Spartacus.

WENDY

Fancy a drink to celebrate your next three years?

LEON

I promised Amanda I'd be home.

WENDY

Is it a promise you want to keep?

LEON

Don't tempt me.

SPARTACUS

I'm not happy about this Dick
business at all.

WENDY

But Javed has spoken.

SPARTACUS

I'm going to look into On Track,
see if I can learn anything.

LEON

Sometimes a gift horse is what it
seems.

Leon heads towards the car park. Wendy shakes her head.

WENDY

I wish I could switch things off
that easily.

(beat)

Just you and me then Spartacus. I
can do a pint before I have to
disappear.

SPARTACUS

I reckon.

EXT. TERRACED HOUSE - NIGHT

Leon's car is pulled up outside.

AMANDA (O/S)

They're saying Zak's got learning
difficulties.

INT. TERRACED HOUSE/ATTIC - NIGHT

Children play noisily downstairs. Leon is doing tai chi in
the attic space he's converted into a cross between a gym
and a Buddhist temple.

Amanda comes up the stairs and stands in the doorway.

Leon carries on without acknowledging her presence.

LEON

Or maybe the teacher's got
teaching difficulties.

AMANDA

It's real. He's not listening or engaging, doing his own thing. Wonder who he learned that from?

LEON

Below the belt.

AMANDA

If you spent more time with Zak, you'd realise he does have a problem. And I need you to engage with him, and me, and his school, to do something about it.

LEON

So what do the school suggest?

AMANDA

At the rate he's going, he'll be in a remedial class.

LEON

Meaning they have even lower expectations of him. Don't you see how this works?

AMANDA

I see that you're not getting involved when he needs you.

(beat)

And I can't help wondering if you'd be like this if Zak was your son and not Rob's.

That does it. Leon stops doing tai chi.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

It had to be said Leon.

LEON

You left Rob because he wanted to control you and the kids and he was a total loser with nothing going on in his life.

AMANDA

Rob knew what it is to be a father.

LEON

Well that's one I can't even begin to compete with.

Leon leaves the attic, barging past Amanda as he does: she tries to block the door, but he's in no mood for hanging around.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

It's still early for the club, no punters in yet. Dean is working at his laptop. There's a rough design for a flyer onscreen, the words FREE E TESTING clear.

Wendy approaches.

EXT. TERRACED HOUSE - NIGHT

Leon revs his car up and drives away.

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

I had a word with Bernie, he's well up for this board position thing.

(beat)

And look at these. Just early stages, but see what you think. Flyers for the e-testing kits.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Leon looking furious, driving fast.

NIGHTCLUB

WENDY

It's not happening.

DEAN

You what?

WENDY

Javed sprung this board member on us out the blue.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Leon drives down the road where he earlier visited Behrouz, past Behrouz's house. He's driving slowly now, methodical.

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

You said Bernie could do it. Earlier today, that's what we talked about.

WENDY

It was a possibility, that's all.

STREET

Leon comes to a junction. A tall Asian Man wearing a long coat and gloves is standing nearby.

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

I've made myself look a twat in front of Bernie, and wasted an hour on these flyers, for what exactly?

WENDY

Dean, please.
(beat)
I've had a shit day.

STREET

Leon gets out of the car and goes over to the Asian Man, who is in his early 20s.

LEON

You Faraj?

ASIAN MAN

I might be. What do you want?

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

You've just come and dumped all over my day, and now you want sympathy for yours?

Dean touches Wendy's arm in mock sympathy, just where she was knifed earlier. She winces at the pain.

DEAN (CONT'D)

You're weird enough about kissing, but Christ - look at you.

STREET

Leon lays into the Asian Man. It's a sudden, brutal attack, martial arts skill combined with animal fury.

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

You're a freak, is what I'm seeing more and more. Why else would you be doing the job? You love the buzz, the danger, just like you do with sex.

WENDY

Not fair. That's consensual.

STREET

The Asian Man tries to retaliate, but it's hopeless. Leon is the more powerful fighter on every level.

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

Except when it's you that wants, and all of a sudden the rules change.

WENDY

I don't have to listen to this.

STREET

A flurry of blows, and the Asian Man ends up in the gutter in a very bad way. Leon breathes heavily, panting.

NIGHTCLUB

DEAN

Here comes the strop.

WENDY

Fuck you Dean. Fuck you.

DEAN

So that's what the end of one of your 'relationships' sounds like.

STREET

Another Young Asian Man sees what has happened and runs over to assist the first Asian Man, taking out a knife that he waves ineptly at Leon.

YOUNG ASIAN MAN
Kouros? Who is this guy?

The newcomer and the injured party take in Leon, who is taking in the fact that he's beaten up the wrong guy.

The Young Asian Man looks over to Leon's car, which clearly displays a BASELINE sticker in the back window.

Music plays loud from the car. Soundgarden's 'Rusty Cage'.

CD
You wired me awake
And hit me with a hand of broken
nails
You tied my lead and pulled my
chain
To watch my blood begin to boil
But I'm gonna break
I'm gonna break my
I'm gonna break my rusty cage and
run

INT. BASELINE/MAIN AREA - NIGHT

Javed adds milk to two mugs of coffee, passes one to Dick.

JAVED
This is the point where I'd like
to pour us both a brandy.

DICK
The nightclub owner.

JAVED
Bernie Wragg?

DICK
Was he really a serious contender
for the board?

JAVED
Between you and me, no. You're
better.

DICK
So I gather.

JAVED
No need for false modesty. The
steroid programme is a big boost
for us.

DICK
But you haven't told them about
the other project.

JAVED

All in good time.

DICK

The tests need to go ahead soon, if they're going to go to market and start making money. The window of opportunity for pharmaceutical companies to turn a profit on new products is smaller than you might think.

JAVED

The ones I worked for did alright.

DICK

For a man running an underfunded project who's been offered several grand to trial a substance that can help some of your clients, you're not looking very motivated.

JAVED

I need to have the team with me.

Pause, and take in a computer near where the two men are speaking. It has a webcam and microphone attachment and a light indicating that they're turned on.

INT. SPARTACUS'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spartacus is listening to the conversation that Dick and Javed are having on his own computer through Skype. At the same time, he researches On Track's sponsors in another window: one key benefactor is Hazeldene Bio Solutions.

DICK ON SCREEN

The difference between management and leadership is knowing when to tell people to get in line.

SPARTACUS

His master's voice.

Spartacus turns down the volume on Skype, picks up the phone, and leaves a message.

SPARTACUS (CONT'D)

Wait till you hear what I've found out about the tennis player. Give me a call back -

INT. WENDY'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

There is original art up on the walls, some by Wendy herself. She is listening to 70s reggae. She's got the phone set to receive messages, and ignores the tail end of Spartacus's as she ignites a joint.

SPARTACUS (ON ANSWER MACHINE)
Any time before 11 is fine.

WENDY
Or, maybe we could just chat at work, tomorrow. There is such a thing as too much of a good thing.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Leon turns up to the room that Behrouz is in. He hasn't cleaned up from the fracas earlier, and looks a mess. The Afghan is lying under a sheet, dead. Leon sits by the bed.

From down the corridor, Sombre Nurse can be heard. She and Impatient Nurse are unaware of Leon as they enter, initially.

SOMBRE NURSE
You get to a point where you're blase about it. This one, you think, 'Well, what good were you doing anyone, coming here from who knows where, sticking rubbish in your arms with the taxpayer's money?'

Sombre Nurse knows she's said the wrong thing. Leon throbs with anger, blocks the door to the two women so they can't leave the room.

LEON
Do you know anything about Afghanistan? Or is it just a name on one of those pages you skip over when you pick up a paper? This one's name was Behrouz. Simple to pronounce, if you make the effort. Starts like Beryl, ends like ooze. Easy, isn't it? His country was messed up by the Taliban, who are a bunch of religious nutters, and invaded by the Russians, and Behrouz lived through all that.

Unnoticed by Leon, Impatient Nurse presses a panic alarm.

LEON (CONT'D)

And yeah, he smoked opium. Wouldn't you if you your country was overrun by godbotherers and squaddies, if you weren't allowed to drink? Problem was coming here, and finding out he couldn't get opium but people were queuing up to sell him smack. I didn't know Behrouz. But I know for him and every addict there's a story. I was a bit of a bad boy in my teens and twenties, liked a smoke, had a thing for rock. And you know what? I got it sorted out. Not on my own, but with support. And now that's what I do for other people. Because there's a point when reaching out to someone else is another way of saving yourself.

Leon moves from the door just as two Burly Security Guards come, responding to the alarm. They eye each other up, the Security Guards getting non-verbal confirmation from the Nurses that they're OK, and Leon leaves.

INT. SPARTACUS'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spartacus uses his feet to fool around with his pet cat while dipping a naan bread into some lentil dahl in a takeaway foil container.

Behind him, still silent, unseen, Skype shows what's going on at Baseline:

The limited camera view doesn't show the whole situation, but Dick and Javed are fighting three Thai gangsters armed with knives. Dick and Javed are tougher than the gangsters had bargained for.

Spartacus continues to play footsie with his cat.

INT. WENDY'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A buzz at the door. Wendy gets up to answer. Leon is there.

WENDY

You look like what the cat dragged in.

LEON

Pretty much how I feel.

WENDY

I like a man who looks like he's
been through it.

LEON

You'll love me then. Be the only
one.

WENDY

(assessing his state)
You and Amanda had a ding-dong?

LEON

Worse than that.

Wendy kisses him. Big snog.

WENDY

Why don't you tell me all about
it?

Leon nods, slowly. Takes the spliff from Wendy. Puts the
lit end in his mouth, and blows a concentrated stream of
smoke through the other end into Wendy's mouth.

WENDY (CONT'D)

You give the best blowbacks.

LEON

So the girls tell me.

WENDY

Cheesy bastard.

Wendy leads Leon upstairs.

INT. SPARTACUS'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spartacus mops up the last of the dahl with his naan.

The computer screen still shows a silent violent ballet at
Baseline, as Dick and Javed take on the intruders.

Before Spartacus can see what's happening onscreen, his cat
leaps upon the keyboard, and the computer screen goes blank
just as it looks like Javed is done for, a knife heading for
his chest.

-- THE END --