

Positive

Stories

For

Negative

Times

Season 5

2026/27

Presented by

**WONDER
FOOLS**

Robbie-O and Yasmin

by Greg McHugh



Writer's Note on Language

This play is written in a mix of East Coast Scots and English, but what is really important to me is that all performers feel comfortable and in control of the words they are delivering. As such, I would encourage groups to adapt any words or phrases which might feel 'alien' to them and replace them with language they feel comfortable with. Enjoy!!

List of Characters

1. Yasmin
2. Tariq
3. Marty
4. Robbie-O
5. Sam
6. Right Chorus
7. Left Chorus
8. Selena
9. Vicky (Right Chorus)
10. Nat (Left Chorus)
11. John (Right Chorus)
12. Chief
13. Officer Davie
14. Chris (Right Chorus)
15. Carrie
16. Steph
17. Postman
18. Rosie
19. Tracy
20. Macruddy
21. Laila
22. Sarah (Scottish Refugee Council)
23. Facilitator

Thanks

As much as I may have 'technically' written this play, it would have been impossible to do so without the help of so many others, who agreed to chat/advise/guide and give feedback throughout this process. I would like to thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

SCENE 1

A very basic bedroom in an 'ex-hotel'.

'Ex-hotel' refers to former hotels which have been converted to accommodate those seeking asylum in the UK.

Yasmin and Tariq are eating a 'Pot Noodle Original'. Tariq seems fairly content, Yasmin is less keen.

Yasmin puts down the Pot Noodle and picks up a drawing pad and pencil.

Yasmin No, I can't- how can people eat that? What even is it?

Tariq laughs. Looks at the pot.

Tariq Well, of course it's 'Pot noodle... Original Curry flavour'.

Yasmin laughs.

Yasmin Oooo, the original? And best?

Tariq Seems like...

Yasmin Imagine the ones they rejected...?

Tariq Okay, you get dinner tomorrow! It's all I had money for.

Yasmin Relax- I'm joking. It was actually delicious.

Tariq Shut up. What are you drawing?

Yasmin Home. Well, hills... sky...

Tariq Show me?

Yasmin No, not until it's finished... I want mum's khoresh.

Tariq Me and you both.

Yasmin picks up the Pot Noodle, looks at it, then puts it down again.

Yasmin But without the noodles...

Tariq Ha! Yes, and in a real pot, with her tahdig...-

Yasmin Don't... crispy rice on the top...

Tariq Fluffy underneath...

Yasmin Golden with saffron...

Tariq Not too many raisins...

Yasmin *(Smiles)* Of course, not too many raisins for Tariq... I can see the steam rising off it... I can almost smell it...

Tariq If it wasn't for the pot noodle!

Yasmin Ha!

Tariq One day, we'll have mum's khoresh and tahdig again, loads of it. I promise.

Yasmin I want to talk to her. Have you heard anything?

Tariq Not for a few days, no emails. But you know what it's like there... *(off her look)* Don't. It's fine, she'll be fine, and YOU know how bad she is with computers... I'll check again tomorrow at the library.

Yasmin Okay.

Tariq picks up Yasmin's unwanted Pot Noodle and starts eating it.

Yasmin Really?

Tariq Really.

They both smile.

SCENE 2

Outside the 'ex-hotel'

Sam enters stage left. They have a mobile phone on a selfie stick and are filming themselves. They find centre stage and address their camera phone.

Yasmin and Tariq remain in the background. Unaware of what is unfolding outside the building.

Sam With impassioned views as polar as the other, the left and right clash here in fair (*insert town*)

Marty enters USR with a saltire placard and a small loudhailer. Sam is unaware of his entrance and continues his speech.

Sam An ancient grudge re-versioned for a disaffected many, where ugly scenes dig ugly divides-

Marty No exactly Shakespeare, is it pal?!- fuck's sake!!! (*To off stage right*)
HURRY UP!!!! C'MOAN YOUS!!!!

The 'right wing' chorus enter all holding saltire flag placards. Sam clears stage left.

Marty N'where's ROBBIE-O?! (*Into loudspeaker*) ROBBIE-O???

Chorus all turn at the same time to look stage right as Robbie-O enters in a floundering way, tripping on untied laces on one shoe, but with no placard.

Marty SIGN? Where's yir sign, ya fud?

Robbie-O Sign?

Marty The sign!!? The placard I gave you wi' the saltire on it?!!

Robbie-O Saltire?

Marty The Scotland Flag!!!! Yir sign with the Scotland flag? Where is it?!

Robbie-O Oh aye, sorry Marty, put it doon when I was tying my shoelace eh? It hud come undone when we were walking... so I thought I'd... "here, I better do that up" in case I... eh... oh. Look! Now the other one's come undone...

Robbie-O starts to go on one knee to tie.

Marty ROBBIE-O, stop yir shite n go find the sign!!!

Robbie-O Aye! Aye, I'll get it the now...

Robbie-O exits at pace stage right.

Robbie-O (O/S) FOUND IT!!!

Robbie-O returns with the sign.

Robbie-O S'Good a sign like Marty- that's solid eh, did you make them?

Marty Aye! Well me n maw made them this morning, I glued the flags on.

Robbie-O Superglue?

Right Chorus SUPERGLUE?!

Robbie-O, admiring the sign.

Marty Whit?

Robbie-O pulls at the flag.

Robbie-O Like this isnae coming off eh...

Marty Would you shut up! *(To chorus)* Tell him.

Right Chorus SHUT UP!!!

Robbie-O Right! Alright!!

*Sam has been surreptitiously filming Marty, Robbie-O and the chorus for the last few mins.
Marty clocks them.*

Marty Haw! What you up to?

Sam Me? I'm just doing some filming, for the protest... today-

Marty slowly, but aggressively approaches them, the Right Chorus follow as one.

Marty You filmin me?! Without my permission, ya tube?! Who you workin for? Better no be the mainstream media?!!! Is it? You working for the BBC?

Sam *(Scared)* NUT!

Marty Well you better no be- I see my face appearing on the BBC, and I'll cut yir balls off and feed them to you through a straw.

The Right Chorus and Robbie-O look momentarily confused at this statement.

Sam Naw, naw, I swear, it's just for my YouTube channel-

Marty *(Cynical)* Yir YouTube channel?

Sam Aye, I'm filming the Protests... like the migrant thing, I'm just covering it... Seeing what people are saying, reporting it- but like, no bias or that, just speaking to folk on both sides...

Marty *(Leans in aggressively)* Well that's jolly fuckin decent of you.

Sam I've got like 2000 subscribers...

Marty Aye?

Sam Ah swear. I've been covering the protests like all over the shop- even went down to London...

Marty You meet Tommy Robinson?

Sam No, couldnae get near him, but he was at one of the protests-

Marty Tommy Robinson, pure legend! *(Looks to his chorus)* I said... pure legend!

Right Chorus PURE LEGEND!

Marty fires a look to Robbie-O, who did not repeat the chant.

Robbie-O What? Aye. I said it, did I no? *(Beat)* Pure legend!... aye, he eh... seems like... a really lovely guy.

(O/S L) We hear the approaching chant of "nae hate, nae fear, refugees are welcome here!" This is being shouted by the Left Chorus and 'Selena' as they enter.

Marty *(Turning to the Right Chorus and Robbie-O)* TROOOOPS! "SEND-THEM-BACK!! SEND-THEM-BACK!"

Yasmin and Tariq run over to the window and peek out to see what is happening. They then quickly sink to the floor to get out of sight.

Right Chorus *(Chants)* "SEND THEM BACK, SEND THEM BACK, SEND THEM BACK...!"

Both groups are chanting as loudly as they can- there's a standoff between the two sides. Tensions mount. Marty squares up to Selena- they are standing face to face.

All of a sudden, the 'hotel sign' is taken from backstage and is walked slowly by a member of the Right Chorus to front stage. Another Right Chorus member slaps a piece of paper/post-it note with 'no' written on it.

The sign now reads 'hotel: no vacancies'

The chanting stops. Silence on stage.

Marty *(To Robbie-O and chorus)* Would you look at that?! You know what that means?!

Robbie-O That there's no vacancies at the hotel?

Marty Aye, obviously! And that's cos the last scrounging 'migrant' freeloader has just got the keys to their suite, and is now gettin changed for the champagne reception before dinner- it's literally full ay them!

Right Chorus LITERALLY FULL AY THEM!

Selena Seriously, Marty, get a grip! Away n stick your thumb up your arse!

Marty Selena, did you just tell me to stick my thumb up my arse?!!

Selena I did just tell you to stick your thumb up your arse! Cos are you honestly telling me that folk who have come to this country for a better life want to end up in that shite hole?

We see Yasmin at the window.

Marty It's a free hotel, ya FUD!!!

Right Chorus FREE HOTEL, YA FUD!!

Robbie-O FREE? Is it? I might stay.

Marty Free for *them*; 'The Illegals' ya numptie- and now it's full, so you couldnae even stay there if you wanted! You honestly tellin me that's right?

Selena We've been through this! They're probably living in one room, Marty, one-room! With no money, not able to get a job, and then they look out the window and see your ugly mug shouting at them!!? That doesnae sound like the all-inclusive deal I'd be after!!

Vicky (*Right Chorus*) I heard they get free chocolates on the pillow every night before bed!

Nat (*Left Chorus*) I heard they're not allowed to work and have often travelled thousands of miles to escape conflicts.

John (*Right Chorus*) I heard the council has no more funding for local housing and it's at breaking point.

Selena I heard that these people are *human* and deserve to be treated with some level of respect!

Marty I heard your maw's a shan* ride! (**Or change to modern day equivalent*) (*Marty laughs*)

Selena WHAT DOES THAT ADD!? YOU Idiot!!! N'what you saying to it, Robbie-O? Bit quiet over there? Or is it only the Führer who's allowed to talk?

Robbie-O Nein, Selena, uv just got a bit of a tickly throat- there's a lot of it going about...

Selena There's a lot of something going about, look at yous, pathetic!

Marty Whit's pathetic about making a stand?

Selena Cos yous don't even know what you're making a stand about!

Marty How do I no?! I'm saying that enough is enough- SEND THEM BACK!!

Marty + Right Chorus SEND THEM BACK!! SEND THEM BACK!!

Robbie-O hides his face with his placard, some audience see that he isn't chanting. More importantly, Marty can't see- he is screaming his chant at Selena.

Selena + Left Chorus NO HATE! NO FEAR! REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE!

O/S the sound of police sirens approaching. Neither group stop chanting...

The Chief of police (female) enters with her assistant (Community Officer Davie, meek)

Chief QUIIIIIIIIT IT!! NOW!!

Officer Davie Now.

The groups stop chanting. Chief takes centre stage in between Marty and Selena. Robbie-O keeps his sign up to cover his face. Sam has their phone up and is still filming.

Chief Marty - what a surprise!

Officer Davie Yes.

Marty You cannae arrest me!! I know my rights-

Chief I've not said anything about arresting you-

Officer Davie But we could.

Chief Davie.

Marty No, you COULDNAE, and you know it, cos this is a PEACEFUL PROTEST SO GET IT ROON YE!!

Chief That didn't sound too peaceful to me and in fact, I've been called here by the owners of the Hotel who have said they feel intimidated by this gathering-

Selena But we've literally just got here-

Marty Aye! You couldnae have got here that quickly! I want to see the phone records! I know my rights!

Chief No, Marty, you clearly don't know your rights!

Officer Davie Clearly.

Chief You need to stop that, Davie.

Marty YOU CALLIN ME STUPID YA... STUPID BOOT!!?

Chief Right, thank you, Marty, it's exactly that level of aggression which grants me the right, under the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, to shut down this little gathering.

Marty Naw, NAW!!! Yer absolute maw! That is where you are sooooo wrong, Chief Wiggum!! Cos, this, this is a *static-peaceful-protest*, you cannae shut it down, it's allowed under (*Through loudhailer*) 'The right to freedom of assembly which is incorporated into Scots law largely through the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Scotland Act 1998!!!' YAAAAAAS!!!! ABSOLUTE YAS, IN YOUR FEDDY FACE, BOOM! MIC DROP! (*Drops loudhailer*).

Right Chorus BOOM! MIC DROP!

Selena I hate to agree with him, Chief, but he's right! YOU CANNAE SHUT THIS DOWN!!

Chief Oh but you see, that's where you're wrong, young '*Greta Thumb-Bird*'. Whilst the Freedom to assemble is a right, the same assembly becomes a crime where there is clear evidence of threatening and abusive behaviour. Of which I have just witnessed and experienced from you both!

Marty Away n shite!

Right Chorus Away n shite!

Chief Enough! This is the third time I've been called out to this place in a week! (*At Marty and Robbie-O*) You two know anything about that?

Marty Nut!

Selena Genuinely no, I've been volunteering at a homeless shelter all week.

Chief Course, you were. Marty?

Marty has a knowing smile on his face.

Marty Well, I did hear something about a windae gettin tanned at the hotel... shame yous lot never got here in time, wis the McDonald's drive-through busy aye?

Officer Davie Actually, it was quite busy-

Chief silences Davie with a look.

Chief I'm warning you, in fact I'm warning ALL OF YOU- if I'm called out to this location again and find yous here, there's gonna be trouble!

Selena What, like on forfeiture of death?

Marty Whit?...

Chief Breach of the peace, at least!!

Officer Davie At least.

Yasmin has by this point fully raised the 'blind'- a Right Chorus member clocks her!

Chris *(Right Chorus)* LOOK!!! LOOK!!! LOOK AT HER!!! AT THE WINDOW!!! IT'S ONE OF THEM!!!

Every cast member turns to look at Yasmin! Yasmin stands frozen. Potential lighting shift to black:

As a strong white 'searchlight' comes on (or members of the cast shine a torch directly at Yasmin's face). The brightness is so great she protects her eyes.

Marty and his chorus all move stage right. Selena and her chorus all move stage left.

Robbie-O lowers his sign and moves centre stage. Half the cast then shine their torches at Robbie-O. Yasmin and Robbie-O are the only two performers who are lit on the stage. Robbie-O is staring at her. Dumbstruck. Cheesy music plays. (E.g. Je t'aime)

Suddenly, another figure from behind her pulls her off stage. Not in an aggressive manner. We cannot clearly make out who it is, but it appears to be a male figure.

Lights shift back to normal state.

Marty + Right Chorus *(Towards the balcony)* SEND THEM BACK!! SEND THEM BACK!

Selena + Left Chorus NO HATE! NO FEAR! REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE!

Chief LAST WARNING!!! GO!! ALL OF YOU!! NOW!!

Robbie-O stands frozen; he's lovestruck. Everyone exits the stage apart from Robbie-O and the Chief.

Chief Son? Are you a wee bit 'hard of understanding'? I said... MOVE IT!

Chief exits. Robbie-O goes to exit.

Robbie-O

(He's in love) Aye! Aye!!! I will!! *(Dances off singing)* I like to move it,
move it! I LIKE TO MOVE IT! *(Pauses, looks back towards window)*
Who was she?!!

SCENE 3

'Ex-hotel' basic bedroom.

Yasmin I-I-I, we need to leave, now, NOW, TARIQ... we have to go! Get your things together...

Tariq YASMIN, listen to me, listen?

Yasmin No, I can't stay here, they want us dead- they're going to kill us.

Tariq They don't, it was mostly kids- young people- it was just shouting-

Yasmin Shouting?!!! They were screaming!! They hate us!!

Tariq I know, I know- it's okay. We'll just keep our heads low. This will blow over, I promise.

Yasmin I can't do this!!! I can't stay here!! I want mum and dad!!

Tariq I know, I do too- but we are here now. Shhhhhh, it's okay... it will be okay. I promise.

Yasmin How can you promise?

Tariq Because we have faced far worse.

Yasmin starts to breathe. She knows Tariq is right- they have faced worse.

SCENE 4

Community centre room. Sam has set up a tripod and camera to film. Selena is already seated.

Sam Cheers for this.

Selena No bother.

Sam As I say, it's for my YouTube channel-

Selena Yeah, I watched some of it...

Sam Aye?

Selena Aye.

Sam What? Did you no like it?

Selena Ehm- put it this way, I've agreed to do this, so that you don't just post those idiots all the time.

Sam What d'you mean?

Selena I mean your channel's just full of right wingers screaming at folk-

Sam No it's no, there's stuff from both sides on it, I'm not biased.

Selena Really?

Sam Aye- I'm just reporting what's going on, like, what is *actually* going on at these protests.

Selena But do you not see what that does- ? Like, when you film these bigots, it pure plays into their hands- it's the perfect propaganda for them.

Sam Why have I asked you to speak to me then?

Selena Well-

Sam Well what?

Selena I'm just saying that on your channel, it's mainly clips of right-wingers-

Sam No way- I'm not havin that, that's what you *choose* to see. You've just noticed them more-

Selena Well that's cos that's the footage that gets shared!

Sam I cannae control what gets shared!

Selena Well, in a way- you can.

Sam I don't get you...

Selena See, the way the right operate is... it's like a club -a club that folk kinda know is... wrong... but they can kinda relate to it as well, right?

Sam But what is it then? Is it just wrong?

Selena It's too easy to say it's all wrong, but what I do REALLY think is that once folk watch others hating... like actively hating... that spreads... more people join the club...

Sam So, like, you can agree with what they're protesting about, but you shouldn't join them?

Selena It's the easy 'out', Sam!

Sam BUT WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY MEAN?!

Selena I MEAN THAT 'small boats' and asylum seekers are not the reason communities are on their arse- it's the fact there's no investment from the government in areas that need it!

Sam So we should just ignore the protests, ignore how local folk feel?

Selena No- we can't do that either... shit... I don't know, I just feel we need more dialogue... not division.

Sam thinks on this.

SCENE 5

Park bench. Later that day.

Sam is sitting on the bench, with phone, reviewing some of the footage from the previous day's protest.

Robbie-O enters stage right.

Robbie-O Alright, mate?

Sam Alright.

Robbie-O approaches Sam.

Robbie-O Is that from yesterday?

Sam Yeah.

Robbie-O Did you see her?

Sam Who?

Robbie-O The lassie at the hotel?

Sam The one at the windae?

Robbie-O Aye! Did you film her?

Sam Did I film her, through the windae... naw, cos that's well creepy.

Robbie-O Naw, I just mean... she was... she was amazing- when I seen her at the windae... it wiz like... she was the sun...

Sam Like, really hot?

Robbie-O Well aye, but I mean, more than that... it was like I ne'er saw true beauty till I pure seen her last night... I need tae meet her!

Sam Aye, well you maybe need to work on your chat-up lines... "Send them back!" isnae the best.

Robbie-O considers as Carrie and Steph enter.

Steph Alright?

Robbie-O + Sam Aye. Alright.

Carrie What yous up to?

Sam Just listening to his shite.

Steph Sounds about right.

Sam You were there yesterday? Can I ask you a couple of questions for my YouTube channel?

Steph Like what?

Sam Why did you go to the protest? I'm not judging-just speaking to all sides.

Carrie My mum said I should go-

Sam Your mum?

Carrie Aye, she says there's loads of paedos in the hotel, and we dinnae know how much paedo-ing they've done before they got here.

Steph Her maw's obsessed, she's set up a Facebook group...

Robbie-O *(To Carrie)* Your mum's obsessed with paedos?

Carrie No!

Steph She is. If you see any of the guys from the hotel acting 'suspiciously', you've to put it on the Facebook group.

Robbie-O So then they're *known* as a paedo?

Carrie S'pose. It's kinda like, 'Where's Wally?' but for immigrant paedos.

Nobody laughs at that.

Sam Okay... what do you make of it all, like the protests?

Steph Eh- it's hard eh? Folk are annoyed at, like, them in the hotel, but like-who's not gonna say yes to free stuff... anyone would? So I kinda get it from both sides...

Carrie And at least Marty is actually doing something, my mum said if we don't stop so many folk coming over, we'll all end up Muslim.

Steph As I say, mental.

Sam And do you believe that?

Carrie Dunno. But I'm not covering my face for any C. Right, we better head. See ye later, Robbie-O!

Robbie-O I'm headin' away. Later.

Sam Aye, later.

Robbie-O, Carrie and Steph exit. Sam stays as a postman walks past.

Sam Mate, excuse me?

Postman Is this about Jesus?

Sam No.

Postman Good. Cannae stand him. Speak!

Sam Ehm... it's about the protests yesterday? About the asylum seekers who have been placed in the hotel. Just wondered if you had an opinion on it?

Postman Aye, okay. (*Considers*) Here's what I think... I have a curry every Friday night. I eat pasta at least a couple of times a week. I occasionally enjoy a House special chow mein, with added fresh chilli, no the chilli oil. So, in short, good luck tae any radge who comes to this country and wants to make it better. Fuck knows, we need all the help we can get.

Postman exits.

Sam Cheers mate!!

SCENE 6

Robbie-O is waiting at a bus stop- it's later that day.

If performers are comfortable and have access to another language: Yasmin and Tariq can speak in their first language. However, if not, the dialogue as written still holds.

Yasmin and Tariq enter and see Robbie-O.

Tariq Don't speak to him, he was there yesterday.

Yasmin I had no intention of speaking to him.

Tariq Good.

Yasmin Good.

Robbie-O Hi? Ehm hi? I'm Robbie, Robbie-O...

Yasmin and Tariq don't reply.

Robbie-O I just wondered how you were settling in?

Tariq Is he for real?

Robbie-O What was that?

Yasmin I think he is, I actually think he might be...

Robbie-O Ehm, so... is this your boyfriend?

Tariq Can I punch him?

Yasmin Shut up.

Robbie-O Sorry, me ehm... no speak ehm, is it Arabic?

Yasmin Farsi.

Robbie-O Oh, right... aye... I don't speak that either...

Tariq He barely speaks English.

Yasmin *(In English)* He's my brother.

Robbie-O Brother?! Brilliant news. Amazing. That is simply superb. *And* you speak English? Result!

Yasmin Yes. So does he.

Silence from Tariq.

Tariq Stupid Shit.

Robbie-O Sorry?

Yasmin *(In English)* Doesn't he!

Tariq *(In English)* A little.

Robbie-O Good, great, well... look... I just wanted to say that, see, yesterday?... I don't know what you think you saw or heard, but I wasn't part of it...

Yasmin Well, what I think I saw was you holding a sign with a Scotland flag and shouting 'send them back'.

Robbie-O No, well, actually- that's *not* true. I wasn't shouting that- my placard was covering my mouth. But my friend Marty, he *was* shouting that, which admittedly, is not great-

Yasmin Your friend?

Robbie-O Well, he's, kinda, well, no- I mean, we've just known each other since nursery...

Tariq And was he a fascist in nursery?

Robbie-O No! I mean, he did used to steal my pom bears, but mostly he was fine back then, the fascist stuff's a more recent thing.

Tariq I see. That's a shame but... "People change", eh? And obviously you're okay with that? You don't mind coming along with him to scream abuse at people who have fled their countries to escape war, persecution, violence...? Because you've known him since nursery?

Robbie-O That's a bit harsh, man- and yeah, I wish I hadn't gone now, but I mean, to be fair, a lot of people in the community aren't happy...

Tariq steps forward.

Tariq No shit.

Yasmin *(To Tariq)* Don't. Please, just let us pass.

Robbie-O I'm not stopping you, eh... I just wondered... What's your name?

Yasmin shakes her head.

Robbie-O No...?

Yasmin *(Shakes head)* No. I don't want to see my name on your next placard.

Robbie-O I wouldn't do that! I swear! Look, I'm sorry about yesterday... maybe I could text you if I knew it was happening again? You could get out of the hotel?

Yasmin Get out of the hotel? And go where?! Thanks, but no thanks. I don't have a phone, and I don't want you contacting me!

Yasmin and Tariq start to exit.

Robbie-O You don't have a phone?! Not that it matters, I suppose- well, not in that way, I just meant...

Yasmin Please, leave us alone.

Yasmin and Tariq exit.

Robbie-O But... *(more to himself)* parting with you is such pure sweet sorrow...

SCENE 7

A street in town centre

Two women (mid 40s) enter with shopping bags stage left. Sam enters with a camera filming. Sam approaches the two women.

Sam Excuse me?

Rosie No son, we huvnae any spare change, and if you flash one of them 'pay by card' things at me then ye cannae be that homeless!

Sam No, actually I just wanted to ask you a couple of questions?

Tracy No, no, no, son, I dinnae have time tae adopt a Baboon. Certainly no this afternoon.

Sam No, please, it's not that- it's about the recent protests in the town? I just wondered if I could get your thoughts on it?

Rosie Well, why didn't you say? Tracy, hold my beer. What would you like to know, son?

Sam Well, obviously there's been a bit of tension in the area over the migrant hotels? What are your thoughts on that?

Rosie Well, I've got a daughter.

Beat.

Sam Right...?

Tracy So have I-

Rosie So has she-

Tracy I do-

Rosie She does, and if you think we should be paying for these paedos to have room service and Jacuzzis and breakfast in bed-

Tracy In the Jacuzzi.

Rosie Before they head out for the day attacking our daughters, then you've got another thing coming!

Tracy Well said, hen. Rosie's spot on. It's bad enough that they come over here on their small yachts- but I mean... WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE?!

Rosie Tracy's right!!! And that's why I've started a Facebook group!

Sam Is this the group about reporting suspicious behaviour from men at the hotel?

Tracy Christ on an electric bike, Rosie, yir famous!

Rosie So you know about it?! Aye! That's my group on Facebook! Here, will this be on TV?! Are you from 'The One Show'?

Sam No.

Rosie Well, stop wasting our time! WE'VE GOT DAUGHTERS!!

Tracy WE'VE GOT DAUGHTERS!!

Sam Yes, you've got daughters- clearly. Can you tell me *why* you're so concerned for your daughters?

Rosie Son, we've told you!! We don't know who they are, they could be anyone?! AND WE DON'T WANT OUR DAUGHTERS NEAR ANYONE!

Tracy And when they arrive, they get free dental care and a gold watch!

Sam Can I ask where you got that information?

Rosie WELL WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU GET YOUR NEWS...? FACEBOOK!

Tracy Only thing worth reading these days.

Sam Right... thank you, ladies. Have a great day.

They go to exit.

Rosie I've always wanted to be famous, Tracy.

Tracy And now you are!! I'm so proud of you, hen!

Rosie Thanks, hen.

Rosie and Tracy exit.

SCENE 8

Outside the 'ex-hotel'

Robbie-O and Tariq are mid-conversation, Yasmin is also there.

Tariq I told you! We don't want to talk to you.

Robbie-O Please, just one minute- look, I've got a spare phone... ah just wondered if you wanted it?

Yasmin What is this? You want to give me this so you can get my number, are you for real?

Robbie-O No, honestly, it's not that- I swear.

Tariq Please. Go! Now!! We don't need anything from you!

Robbie-O Look, I'm just trying to make up for yesterday, please?

Tariq We want nothing to do with you- we don't want your phone!! We don't want your help!!! As much as this sudden change of heart towards us is very touching, Robbie-O, I suspect that you are, how would you say in Scotland, "full of pish"...

Tariq exits. Yasmin is left with Robbie-O.

Robbie-O *(Shouting after Tariq)* That's actually pretty funny, but I swear on ma lazy maw's life I'm telling you the truth!

Yasmin Yesterday you were protesting against us, today you are our new friend. Would you trust someone who did that?

Robbie-O No, but look- I promise, just take the phone... please... I'm trying to say sorry here... come on... okay, well, at least, what's your name?

Yasmin Yasmin. My brother is Tariq.

Robbie-O Yasmin. Nice to meet you.

Yasmin is not sure what to make of Robbie. She goes inside the hotel.

Robbie-O makes a call on his phone.

Robbie-O Selena, it's Robbie-O. Wait, please listen. Can I ask you a favour? I know, I know, but it's not for me...

SCENE 9

Inside the local MSP (Murdo-Henley Macruddy)'s office.

Macruddy Yes, come in, come in. *(Shakes hand)* MURDO-HENLEY MACRUDDY, MSP. Sam, isn't it? Yeah... I had an uncle called Sam, but he actually died last year...

Sam Right.

Macruddy So, you wanted to ask me a few questions about the 'migrant hotels', for your 'YouTube'? Sure, sure thing. Crack on! Do your worst! Ha!!

Sam Yeah, so aye, can I film you?

Macruddy Can you film me? Course you ruddy can! I ruddy love being filmed!

Sam quickly gets their camera set up.

Sam Okay, that's us set. So, yeah- you recently said that you thought that the use of hotels for asylum seekers was, and I quote, "A ruddy disgrace..." Would you like to tell me why?

Macruddy Well, it is a ruddy disgrace! And as I've also made it very clear, not only are these people staying in hotels at the taxpayers' expense, we don't even know who these people are! And as someone who has daughters, that makes me feel incredibly uncomfortable- as it does for many of my constituents!

Sam But d'you think there's a possibility that by insinuating that all these men pose a threat to young women, these men become vilified before they've even been given a chance?

Macruddy Look, young Sam, this is not a ruddy matter of vilification, it's about the very real dangers of inviting unknown strangers into our communities. We literally do not know what they have done before coming here.

Sam Okay, so what if they'd done some good, or even great things before they got here? What if they were going to do great things here, but because of what people like you say, they're never given that opportunity?

Macruddy Oh, I see what's going on here. I presume your YouTube channel is called 'Woke TV', well, son, I think... it might be time *(down the lens on Sam's phone)* you 'woke' up? Now, if you don't mind, I've just remembered I've got a meeting in a few minutes, so I think that's enough, off you pop.

Sam It would be my pleasure.

Macruddy Hope you got that last bit, the 'woke up' bit. That'll work a treat.

Sam gathers their phone.

Sam Well, it's not gonna work a treat cos it's never gonna see the light of day, so get it roon ye.

Macruddy The ruddy impertinence!!! Get out!

Fade

SCENE 10

Park bench. Robbie-O and Selena stand waiting.

Selena Let me make this crystal, I'm not doing this for you. Got that?

Robbie-O Aye. Sound.

A woman (Sarah) approaches.

Sarah Hiya.

Selena Sarah, thanks so much for this.

Sarah No bother, how you doing?

Selena Good, yeah-good. Oh, this is Robbie-O, he may look like a nice guy, but he's actually an asshole.

Sarah I see-

Robbie-O Gimme a break! I made a mistake, now I'm trying to do something about it.

Sarah Well, that's good to hear, and this is with regards to...

Robbie-O Yasmin-

Sarah Who's currently staying at the 'ex-hotel?'

Robbie-O Aye.

Sarah Do you think she'll show?

Selena Well, I wrote the note as requested-

Robbie-O Thanks.

Selena And the staff said they'd pass it on to her, but no guarantees.

Robbie-O *(On seeing Yasmin)* No way.

Yasmin enters- clearly nervous.

Selena Yasmin? I'm Selena, I left you the note at the hotel?

Yasmin *(Referring to Robbie-O)* Is this a trap? Why is he here? I can't do this.

Yasmin goes to leave.

Selena Yasmin, please- wait a sec. It's not a trap, I promise.

Robbie-O It isn't. I swear. Please.

Selena It was actually Robbie-O who asked me to help.

Yasmin I can't trust him.

Robbie-O I made a huge mistake- I did...

Selena That's an understatement- but we can help, Yasmin... this is my friend Sarah...

Sarah Hi Yasmin, I'm Sarah, and I work for the Scottish Refugee Council. Selena said you might be after a bit of advice or need some help?

Yasmin I don't have any money.

Sarah That's not a problem, all of our services are free.

Yasmin Free?

Sarah Completely. We can offer you advice and help. Maybe we could sit down and have a little chat?

Yasmin looks at Robbie.

Robbie-O And I'll leave if you want?

Robbie-O goes to exit.

Selena *(To Robbie-O)* Wait! Yasmin, I hope you don't mind, but I don't think Robbie-O should leave.

Robbie-O Why not?

Selena Because I think you might learn something, but it's up to you, Yasmin.

Sarah Only if you're sure. Only if you're comfortable, Yasmin.

Yasmin No one else is coming?

Robbie-O No one.

Selena It'll be just us four.

It's a difficult call for Yasmin.

Yasmin Okay. Okay. He can stay.

Sarah opens a folder from her bag and starts to speak to Yasmin. They all listen intently. Music could play as the scene fades.

SCENE 11

Returning to the 'ex-hotel' shortly after the meeting with Sarah

Robbie-O and Yasmin enter.

Robbie-O That was great what they were saying about helping you with college as well. You want to study art? Maybe you could show me some of your work?

Yasmin Don't push things, Robbie-O. Is that what you say? Don't push. Okay?

Robbie-O No, sure. Sorry. Yeah. I totally get that. I won't push.

Yasmin But thank you for introducing me to Selena and Sarah.

Robbie-O's phone rings. He ends the call. It rings again. Then numerous texts. He hides his concern. He then takes another phone out of his pocket.

Robbie-O No worries, you're welcome.

Robbie-O's own phone rings again in his other hand.

Robbie-O My mum... she worries about me... look, I swear this isn't because I want your number, but please take this, it must be so hard not having one... it's got a few quid left on it, then you can top it up- use it to phone your family back home?

Yasmin looks at the phone, she looks unsure. But she knows how helpful it could be.

Yasmin Can I trust you, Robbie-O?

Robbie-O Yes. I promise.

Yasmin takes the phone.

Yasmin Okay. Thank you, Robbie-O. See you.

Yasmin exits.

Robbie-O Aye!! Nae bother! See ye later!!

Robbie-O's phone rings again. Robbie-O looks at the screen.

Robbie-O 'SAKE, Marty!!! Just fuck off!!

Robbie-O ends the call.

Int. 'Ex-hotel' room.

Yasmin finds a notebook and types a number into her phone.

Yasmin Please pick up, Mum.

The phone rings out. Fade to black.

SCENE 12

Marty enters and rings the doorbell of Robbie-O's mum's (Laila) house.

Laila (O/S) ROBBIE-O! Door!!

Robbie-O (O/S) Who is it?

Laila (O/S) How am I meant to know?

Robbie-O (O/S) Well, can't you get it?

Laila (O/S) I'm watching 'Loose Women'!! Move your lazy arse and get the door!

Marty *(Shouts)* 'Sake. Hurry up, Robbie-O! It's me, Marty!!

Laila (O/S) Robbie-O, it's Marty!

Robbie-O (O/S) I KNOW, MUM!

Laila (O/S) *(Shouts)* He'll be with you in a minute, Marty.

Few beats.

Marty 'Sake.

Robbie-O enters.

Robbie-O Alright, Marty? Sorry, I was upstairs, that's why I was so long, and my mum was watching 'Loose Women', she loves that-

Marty Shut up! Come here.

Robbie-O What? What is it?

Marty Have you been blanking me, ya wee dick? Why you not pickin up yir phone?

Robbie-O Oh, it was on charge, and I had it on silent, to make it... charge quicker...

Marty Fuck up, listen, so bumped into a boy I know who works in the kitchen at that Migrant hotel- gave me some intel on they two we seen on the balcony... mind the lassie?

Robbie-O Eh, kinda... aye...

Marty Turns out they're brother n sister- and they've already been in London, livin the fuckin freebie highlife, and now they're up here tae bleed us dry...

Robbie-O You sure about that?

Marty Aye, that boy told me- and they speak perfect English- they've been here for ages... they're basically on a freebie tour ay hotels in the UK!! Makes ma blood boil!! They're taking the total piss ootay us!

Robbie-O So... what are ye... sayin?

Marty I'm sayin I'm gonna dae somethin aboot it, the brother- Tariq. I'm gonna leather him, put it online, as a warning tae all the migrant freeloaders- dinnae come here and think you'll get away with it.

Robbie-O Marty, ye cannae batter him, that's mental!

Marty Whit is the matter wi' you? Whit's mental about teachin some 'illegal' a lesson?

Robbie-O shrugs.

Marty You dinnae get this dae ye, ROBBIE-O? THIS IS THE START! Wake up! We need tae nip this in the bud, or *we're* gonna end up the minority... that's what's going on here. That's the reality. You want to be the minority in yir *ain toon*?

Robbie-O Eh- I hudnae really thought about it like that, but like, leathering some boy you dinnae know... I mean, for starters, you'll get charged...

Marty No, I wilnae. No, if it's self-defence...

Robbie-O How...?

Marty His wee sister...

Robbie-O What are you talking about?

Marty Wee Yasmin... that's his sister...

Robbie-O Woah, Marty, calm the fuck doon- what are you sayin here?

Marty Nothin heavy, I just mean if I start windin him up, aboot his wee sister... what big brother isnae gonna react? Take a swing... then... "blocked!" (*Throws a punch*) fuckin BOOM! KO! (*Visualising Tariq is on the ground*) "STAY DOON, SON!"

Robbie-O stares in almost disbelief, but he knows Marty means it.

Robbie-O Mate...

Marty Dinnae 'mate' me... you're gonna help. You're gonna be my lookout, need them away from the hotel so they cannae just run back in... you get me? Boy at the hotel says they always go out together, so you're gonna hang aboot and when they leave the hotel, let me know, then I'll do the rest.

Robbie-O Eh-

Marty Is there a problem here, Robbie-O?

Robbie-O Eh... nut, no problem.

Marty Good. Just mind and keep your phone on?

Robbie-O's mum comes to the door.

Laila Oh Hiya Marty, son? How's tricks?

Marty Aye, great thanks, Mrs O'Montague-

Laila Come on now, Marty, you can call me Laila.

Marty Sure, Laila- I've just been askin Robbie-O here to help me organise a surprise birthday party for my mum.

Laila Oh, here, that's lovely. Good lad. She's been through a lot.

Marty Aye... she deserves it.

Laila Ach, yir a good boy, Marty, so you are. Here, Robbie-O, that's the microwave pinged, yir dinner's ready.

Laila exits.

Robbie-O Right.

Marty I'll text you the details. And Robbie-O? Dinnae be a shite bag. This *has* tae happen.

Robbie-O Eh, aye... no bother. I'll see ye later.

Marty smiles.

Marty Aye. Ye will.

Marty exits. Robbie-O is filled with dread.

SCENE 13

Park bench.

Robbie-O has just explained to Selena what Marty has threatened to do.

Selena Are you serious?!

Robbie-O Aye, that's what he said-

Selena Robbie-O, we need to get the police involved, now!

Robbie-O But we cannae- it's no happened yet, so they wilnae dae anything...
it's just Marty's mad plan- I mean, he might not do it.

Selena We can't take that chance!!

Robbie-O But can you no speak to that Sarah lassie fae the refugee council- get
her to get them oot the hotel?

Selena Did you not learn anything from yesterday? It's not just a matter of
them moving out the hotel 24 hours later- it can take months, years!!
You need to go and warn Yasmin and Tariq!!

Robbie-O Tariq hates me, but.

Selena Grow up, Robbie-O!!!! This isnae *about you!* Go!

Robbie-O exits.

SCENE 14

Outside the 'ex-hotel'. Robbie stands with Tariq and Yasmin, having explained the threat from Marty.

Tariq What are you talking about? I don't understand *(To Yasmin, 1st language)*. Why would he do this?! *(To Robbie-O in English)* And why are you telling us?

Robbie-O Cos I just want you to know what he's planning.

Tariq This doesn't make any sense- I don't trust you, I don't believe you-

Robbie-O Tariq, you need to trust me on this. Marty is dangerous! I'm telling you! Yasmin?

Yasmin Ehm, we should believe him.

Tariq *(1st language)* What? Why? Why do you trust him?

Yasmin I'll explain later.

Robbie-O *(To Yasmin)* Just, I'll get a message to you, somehow... but listen, if you see him, just don't rise to anything he says... you understand me?

Tariq is unsettled by the news from Robbie-O, and Yasmin's reaction.

Yasmin Go. Honestly. It's fine.

Robbie-O I'll be in touch.

Robbie-O exits.

Beat.

Tariq So? Do you want to tell me what's going on?

Yasmin What do you mean?

Tariq I'm not stupid, Yasmin. Something doesn't make sense- you, him? The sudden trust.

Yasmin I just think we should.

Tariq But why? Look at me, why?

Yasmin considers, then knows she can't lie.

Yasmin He has helped us. He is helping us, just now.

Tariq What? In what way? What do you mean?

Yasmin Yesterday, I met with him and Selena and a woman called Sarah who is going to help us get out of here.

Tariq What are you talking about?

Yasmin Robbie-O, he set up the meeting with Sarah-

Tariq How did this happen? Wait, did you take the phone?

Yasmin Not then, but I have... now-

Tariq Not then, but you have now? What?! You have taken the phone from the man who was shouting at us to be sent back?! You hid this from me?! Why?! Why did you do this?!

Yasmin I don't know, but I did, and now it might help us!

Tariq BUT THAT MAN JUST TOLD US I'M GOING TO BE ATTACKED BY HIS FRIEND! HIS FRIEND- THIS IS ALL A SETUP, HE HAS SET YOU UP!

Yasmin It's not. Robbie-O is warning us to stay away from Marty... he's helping us!

Tariq Don't be so naive!!! He's part of it!

Yasmin He's not, he's not! I swear- please, we have to trust him. Please!

Tariq NO!!!

Tariq storms off. Yasmin is upset and left alone. As Tariq leaves, Yasmin's phone rings, it's Robbie-O.

Yasmin Robbie-O? You have to stop him. Tariq has just left, he's on his own!

SCENE 15

Outside the hotel moments later. Marty has been waiting.

Tariq exits the hotel to find Marty.

Marty Well, look who it is, it's the poor wee migrant who lives in a hotel! Just popping out for a nice stroll? No fancy the spa today? How was the breakfast buffet this morning? Up to your freeloading standards, I hope...

Silence from Tariq. The Right Chorus slope on stage. There's an unsettling air from them, in their movement and look.

Marty *(To chorus, brightly)* Oh hiya, you lot. I was just asking Tariq here, it is Tariq, isn't it? About his hotel breakfast, they're cracking eh?!

Right Chorus FULL SCOTTISH BREAKFAST!

Marty That's right, so it will be. What a treat, Tariq? Eh? No? D'you no like a full Scottish? I do. In fact, I love a full Scottish. It reminds me of ma dad. Cos see when I was a kid, my dad took me to Edinburgh for the night and we stayed in a hotel and in the morning we went down and I seen the breakfast buffet, it was all laid out and we'd got up early, might have been the first ones there...and I says to my dad, "Dad, look at that! What can I have?" And he said to me, "You fill your boots, son". Do you know what that means, Tariq? Well, you should- but if you don't- it means 'help yourself' - have as much as you like... and I did... tattie scones-

Right Chorus Tattie Scones!

Marty Black pudding

Right Chorus Black Pudding!

Marty *(To chorus)* SHUT UP! I had everything I could, a full plate of sausages, bacon, beans, white pudding, hashbrowns, scrambled eggs, toast, brown sauce, ketchup. The lot. But then, we had to check out, and get on a train home. And I started to feel sick, and the motion of the train didnae help... chuggedy chug, chuggedy chug... then all of a sudden I was sick! *(Marty makes a sick noise)*

Right Chorus *(The Right Chorus make a sick noise)*

Marty My dad wasn't even that angry with me and a woman with tissues helped us clean it up... I thought my dad would have leathered me, but he just said "Well son, I think you've learned your lesson." And what lesson was that, Tariq? Well, I'll tell you- I'd taken too much. I'd been greedy. And it didn't end well. And I think that's maybe a lesson you need to learn, Tariq, that if you come over here and you take everything that is offered to you, and then more, more than you need, that eventually there will be consequences...

Robbie-O, then Yasmin run on stage.

Robbie-O Alright, Marty?

Marty Oh, and look who it is? It's Robbie-O with his new bestie. Hiya pal, I was just chattin to yir brother here, but he's no very chatty. He's actually quite rude... maybe I could chat to you?

Marty approaches Yasmin and tries to touch her hair as she turns away.

Robbie-O Marty, just leave it eh?

Marty Whit? Leave it? And *why* would I do that?

Yasmin goes to Tariq.

Yasmin *(First language)* Let's go. Now.

Tariq No.

Marty Oh look... it's yir wee sister to the rescue... coming to take you away... Cos I've hurt yir feelings... cos I displayed my democratic right to protest... cos I said I want yous to go home... has that made you sad, Tariq?! Boo fuckin hoo eh? Imagine, me having an opinion- in my own country... in my ain toon!

Robbie-O Let's go, Marty, polis are probably on their way?

Marty I'm no caring.

Beat.

Marty *(Exploding)* WHERE-ARE-YOUS-FROM?!!! Come on... I'm no the government, you can tell me, it's no like it's me who gets to 'grant you asylum' or no- I mean, weirdly, I get zero say in that! We get zero say in that. In't that right, Robbie-O?

The Left Chorus enter at pace with Selena. Followed by Sam filming on their phone.

Marty Oh, here we go, look who it is, it's the return of the wokey brigade!
What kept you? Did you no want to rush in case it offended the slow
community?!

Selena Ha! Your jokes are about as funny as your politics!

Marty Oh nut. Even yir pals are cringin at that one.

Left chorus do look embarrassed.

Sam stops filming, puts the phone down- Marty notices.

Marty Whit are you doing? Keep filming.

Sam No.

Marty I told you what would happen! Keep filming.

Sam No!

Sam puts the phone away.

Marty ROBBIE-O. Get your phone.

Robbie-O No.

Robbie-O is silent. Struggles to make eye contact with Marty.

The atmosphere is tense. Marty smiles.

Marty Oh, I see what's happenin here, you wee shitebag Judas. You're
certainly quieter than you were the other day? Before he seen yir
sister, Ahmed... she is tidy to be fair- shame about where she's from,
where she's been... which is probably wi' her own brother...

Tariq stands ready to confront Marty.

Marty OH AND HE'S UP!!! C'MOAN THEN?!!!

Yasmin TARIQ- STOP!!!

Tariq starts to rage.

Marty What did you say? What language is that?

Robbie-O Marty!

Marty YOU... shut it. *(Pause)* He's after your sister n'all? Did you know that,
TARIQ? This wee dick wants a shot on yir sister...

Yasmin can tell Tariq is about to react.

Yasmin TARIQ.

Marty No, no, Yasmin... dinnae be that annoying wee sister-let him speak... it's all true, he says, true that Robbie-O wants fired into you, true that yous are foreign freeloaders who just go from hotel to hotel... it's all true!?? Go on then, Tariq!!

Robbie-O Marty, you don't understand.

Beat. As the anger builds in Marty, he slowly approaches Robbie-O with menace.

Marty I don't what? I don't understand? And what is it that I don't understand that you do?! Go on!

Robbie-O stares at Marty.

Yasmin Robbie-O, we don't need you to protect us-

Marty Ooft... BUUUUUURN!! "Robbie-O- we don't need you to protect us..." That's you well KB'd then! O ROBBIE-O-O'O, O ROBBIE-O, O, No chance ay a wee fumble in the migrant jungle for you boyo!!

Robbie-O Shut up!! Ya prick!

Marty What did you say...?

Marty squares up to Robbie-O. Yasmin moves in to try and stop the escalation. As she does so, Tariq touches Marty's arm.

Yasmin STOP!!!

Tariq Please-

(Possible strobe lighting) As Tariq's hand makes contact with Marty's arm, we switch to freeze-frame as the touch is held. All focus is on the contact point. Option for lighting to highlight this.

This moment is held momentarily.

The audience focuses on this one piece of contact- an attempt by Tariq to intervene, to stop the escalation- but Marty has been given all the false permission he needs to retaliate.

The action continues, but only in complete slow motion from the performers.

Marty swings in slow motion as he does...

Right Chorus *(In slow-mo speech)* YEEEEEEEEEEEEES...

Punching Tariq in the face. Tariq falls in slow-mo to the floor as Robbie-O then shapes to punch Marty in slow-mo.

Left Chorus *(In slow-mo)* NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

Robbie-O makes slow-mo contact with Marty, who also falls slowly to the ground.

Marty and Tariq lie motionless on the ground. We hold this beat.

*Before the slow-mo is broken by Yasmin, who runs over to her brother, who comes to.
Nobody goes to Marty... who recovers.*

Yasmin *(To Robbie-O and Marty and Tariq)* Why? Why? With men and boys, is this the only way?!!!

Tariq I'm fine.

Marty sits up.

Marty You are deid, wee man.

Yasmin Why, Marty?!

Enter Chief and Officer Davie

Chief Enough! Yous are all in a lot of trouble.

Officer Davie Loads.

Yasmin No! My brother did nothing, he tried to stop them-

Chief Keep *that*, shut!

Officer Davie Quiet, please.

Yasmin No!! I WILL NOT!! Marty, why?! Why do you hate us so much? What is it? What have we done to you?!!!!

Marty gets to his feet. Marty stares at Yasmin with such anger. Marty then sprints off stage.

Chief Davie...?

Officer Davie Oh aye.

Officer Davie jogs off stage after Marty.

Chief Robbie O'Montague, I am going to charge you, but before I do so I must caution you that you do not need to say anything in answer to the charge, but anything you do say will be noted and may be used in evidence. Do you understand?

Robbie-O nods.

Chief *(To Tariq)* I'll need you to provide a witness statement at the station.

Tariq	I won't press charges.
Chief	Makes no odds, Tariq. It's not up to you. We'll take statements and report this to the Procurator Fiscal.
	<i>The Chief guides Robbie-O off stage.</i>
	<i>Enter Rosie and Tracy in a frenzy.</i>
Rosie	DID WE MISS IT?!!
Tracy	F-F-S! WE DID MISS IT, HEN!! I think we missed it, it's all quiet. They're getting carted off!
Rosie	Facebook said it was kicking off!!
Carrie	Mum! Shut up!!!
Rosie	Oh hiya, Carrie- that's my daughter!! That's my daughter I'm worried about!
Tracy	It is.
Steph	Mum!
Tracy	And that's my daughter I'm worried about.
Yasmin	I'm a daughter.
Rosie	What, hen?
Yasmin	I said, I am a daughter.

Beat.

Right + Left Chorus	<i>(In unison)</i> SHE'S A DAUGHTER!!!!
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Fade.

SCENE 16

A community centre room.

Robbie-O, Yasmin, Marty and Tariq sit at a table. They are joined by a neutral facilitator who can be played by any of the chorus.

Restorative justice.

'Tell me, and I will forget, show me, and I will remember, involve me, and I will understand'

*A chorus member enters the stage, stands central with a neutral placard which reads:
'Restorative Justice Meeting'*

Chorus member exits.

Facilitator Thank you all for being here. We've spoken individually before today, and I just want to remind everyone that you've all chosen to take part, and anyone can ask for a break or stop at any point. My job today is only to facilitate the conversation in a neutral fashion. Is that okay? Does everyone understand what I've said?

They all nod.

Facilitator Does anyone have anything they want to say to start the conversation?

Silence.

Facilitator Don't worry, this is the trickiest bit... it's not unusual. There's no rush here-

Yasmin *(At Marty)* Are you here because you want to be, or because it helps reduce your punishment?

Marty Dunno, cos I want to be.

Beat.

Tariq Why do you hate us if you don't know us?

Marty Dunno.

Beat.

Yasmin Did you organise the protest?

Robbie-O looks to Marty.

Marty What?

Robbie-O That boy? Might as well just say...

Marty thinks on this.

Marty I cannae.

Facilitator Marty, this is not an interview room- if you do want to say something, it won't be used against you...

Marty Right... months back this boy chapped my door, he was giving out leaflets... started talking about... like... yous, and the hotels n that... n, ah dunno, he just asked me what I thought about it... and we chatted. Then he came back a few weeks later, n we chatted more... n like, dunno... we got on... he was a good laugh, and he was... dunno, what he was saying made sense...

Yasmin And what was he saying?

Marty You know what... like, yous coming over, getting everything you want, when folk here have nothing... like, if we don't make a stand then we'll be the minority... and that yous'll get all the jobs, and the houses...

Tariq Ha!

Marty Don't start mate-

Facilitator Okay... we're doing well here. Marty, can you tell us a bit more about this man who came to see you?

Marty Eh, said that he was looking for guys who'd give out leaflets for the protest, and he paid me... said there was more money coming if I wanted it...

Facilitator Okay...

Yasmin So they paid you to go to the protest...

Marty They never needed to, I was going anyway...

Tariq Because you believed this man?! This stranger?!

Marty I believed what he was saying cos it's true!!!- It is, and I knew that *before* that guy came to my house... I knew cos it happened to my dad!!

Yasmin What did?

Unsure whether to continue- Marty pauses, then speaks.

Marty See, years ago, my mum and dad split up-after that my dad went off the rails, lost his job- couldnae really cope without my mum. In the end he was sleeping on folks' couches... then folk had enough... n then he was basically... homeless... so he went to the council... and tried to get a flat, joined a waiting list... but see, see- he never got one... not in time... but then you come over and get a fucking hotel!! A hotel!!!! Ma dad never got a hotel... he got fuck all. Cos to the council he didnae matter, but he mattered to me! N he wisnae perfect, my dad, far from it, but he needed help, he really *needed* help, but I couldnae help him... so...

Facilitator That's very tough for you, Marty. I'm really sorry to hear that. Robbie-O? Do you have anything to add?

Robbie-O Eh... not much. Just that, I wish I hadn't gone that day, to the protest.

Yasmin And, why- why did you go?

Robbie-O Ehm... I don't know... cos I just... went with them, with him... (*Marty*) I don't know... I just go... wi' them... n ah wish I didn't... I wish ah hadn't...

Yasmin I don't understand.

Robbie-O I... eh, I just go with the crowd... and I cannae do that now... I need tae... grow up. Make my own decisions.

A sliver of light. Yasmin lightens with Robbie.

Facilitator Yasmin, going back to that day, could I ask you how the protest made you feel?

Yasmin Scared. Scared in a way I hadn't felt since I was home, when the men came for my father -

Tariq I thought people would break in... drag us out... before we got here, we were told people in Scotland were friendly...

Marty It's no as simple as that...

Facilitator In what way, Marty?

Marty Scotland is friendly, but it's also had enough.

Facilitator Enough of what?

Marty I dunno... enough of-

Yasmin People like us?

Robbie-O No-

Marty You know what I mean... like, I dunno... the housing, hotels... it isn't fair...

Tariq I get that, and I know you said about your dad... but can I ask you something, Marty? If you lived in a country which was at war, actually at war, and by staying there your life was literally at risk, would you stay, or would you leave?

Marty I'd stay and fight for my country.

Tariq Even if you were 18 and your dad had been taken, and you had a sister to look after...?

Marty can't respond.

Robbie-O Where is your dad? Do you know?

Tariq looks broken. Somehow Yasmin manages to speak.

Beat.

Yasmin When the war started, at first we did not know it was a war. There was gunfire, word started spreading that men were killing. They shut the university that my mum and dad worked at.

Robbie-O What did they do there? At the uni?

Yasmin Mum was an English lecturer... dad taught maths.

Tariq We knew we had to get out of our country when our father was taken. We didn't know if he was alive or dead- our mother pleaded with us to get out, to take a bus across the border.

Yasmin We did not want to leave her- who would? But she said she would try and get my father home...

Yasmin She gave us all the money she had, and we were lucky we could pay to be taken out of the country.

Tariq We travelled across deserts, across countries, over checkpoints, fearing for our lives on a daily basis.

Yasmin We were hit by border guards, spat on from soldiers. We endured more than any children should have to- because the alternative was to stay in a war...

Yasmin I cut my hair short and dressed as a boy to help my safety.

Tariq It took us 4 months before we arrived in Europe. Italy first, then on to France-

Yasmin The camp we stayed in in France was so dirty- so sad, we knew we could not stay there, we were physically and mentally exhausted-

Tariq When we met a man there who said he could get us driven to London in the back of a lorry- we had very little money left.

Yasmin We gave him every penny we had and thankfully... we arrived in London... with nothing. The driver opened the back doors, told us to get out, and we did...

Tariq No money. Nowhere to stay... no friends, just each other. Six months by this point since we left home. Home.

Yasmin We went to a police station, they asked how old we are...

Tariq We told them, and they didn't believe us. We didn't have travel documents... so we were treated as adults. We were children.

Yasmin They separated us. The only support we had was each other. That day I thought I would die.

Tariq The camp I was taken to was full of men, I was 17. The camp guards fired a pistol every morning at 6 am to wake us up. A camp full of people who had escaped wars... a pistol.

Robbie-O Oh my god.

Yasmin A month ago, we were told we would be getting moved to Scotland, together... to new accommodation. I was so happy, so excited...

Tariq A new start, where we could help each other- in a country we had been told was so friendly, so welcoming...

Yasmin The night we arrived in Scotland was the first night I slept properly in a year...

Robbie-O Does your mum and dad know you're here?

Yasmin can't speak.

Tariq We have tried... but...

Yasmin and Tariq are utterly drained. The memories of what they've been through... to where they are now...

Marty allows this to sink in.

Marty

(To Yasmin) I'm sorry. (To Tariq) I'm sorry.

Yasmin and Tariq nod towards Marty. It's a start.

SCENE 17

Outside 'ex-hotel'

Robbie-O waiting- Yasmin and Tariq enter.

Robbie-O Alright?

Yasmin Hi.

Tariq Hi.

Yasmin How are you?

Robbie-O Okay, ta. Yous?

Tariq Good. We're good. I'll let you two chat.

Tariq exits.

Yasmin Did you hear?

Robbie-O What?

Yasmin Sarah's been in touch. We've both been granted refugee status! She's been helping us sort everything out. We're moving out of the hotel.

Robbie-O Because of the breakfasts?

Yasmin Very funny. No, we've got somewhere to live, and I've been offered a place on an art course.

Robbie-O That's amazing!

Yasmin holds back.

Yasmin It is...

Robbie-O But?

Yasmin It's not here...

Robbie-O Alright... where is it?

Yasmin Aberdeen.

Robbie-O Shit. Right... it's freezing there.

Yasmin So I've heard.

Robbie-O Ehm. So, when do you leave?

Yasmin Couple of days.

Robbie-O Okay...

Yasmin I was thinking maybe we could go for a coffee tomorrow? For my leaving party?

Robbie-O I don't drink coffee-

Yasmin Oh-

Robbie-O But I like hot chocolate?

Yasmin Ha! Such a child. Oh, I wanted to give you something...

Yasmin reaches into her bag and pulls out a drawing. It's a hand-painted 'lion rampant', fierce and strong in colour and shape and meaning.

Robbie-O That's brilliant- you're brilliant. Thank you.

There's a smile between them.

Yasmin See you tomorrow.

Robbie-O Aye. See ya tomorrow.

Robbie-O exits. As he does, Yasmin's mobile phone rings.

Yasmin looks at the number and does not recognise it.

Yasmin Hello? Hello? *(Beat)* Mum? Mum?!! Yes, I can hear you!!!!

End.