

Redemption

By

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1 INT. HABIB'S SHOP. DAY.

GAVIN, (21, pale, short back and sides, blonde hair, gelled spikes), and ROY, (20, spotty, medium length brown hair), are in a shop owned by HABIB, (58, wrinkly, wears sweater vests).

HABIB notices Gavin putting a bottle of cheap cider into his jacket.

HABIB
Put that back please, or I'll
call the police.

GAVIN
No you won't. Come on Tony.

HABIB
I mean it, I'll call the police.

TONY
(Laughing)
Shut up.

GAVIN and TONY start to leave the shop but HABIB bars the way.

TONY confronts HABIB, towering over him getting close. HABIB backs down and GAVIN and TONY push past.

HABIB picks up the phone to call the police, but decides it isn't worth it and hangs up again.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. BEACH. SHORELINE. NIGHT.

GAVIN, ROY and TONY, 18, are sat around a camp-fire. They are drinking and GAVIN pulls out a bag of pills.

GAVIN passes the pills out.

TONY
I'll pass mate.

ROY
Cheers.

GAVIN
Go on Tony, just have one.

ROY
Just take it and enjoy you girl.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Now now, he's entitled to his own opinion.

TONY

Exactly, cheers Ga-

GAVIN

Even if his opinion is that of a girl.

TONY

(Laughing)

Yeah, thanks Gav.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. BEACH. CLIFFTOP. NIGHT.

GAVIN is stood at the edge of the cliff relieving himself off the edge.

Down on the beach below ROY and TONY are sat around the campfire.

GAVIN zips up his pants when his name is whispered almost like the wind is speaking to him.

GAVIN'S face drops instantly. He starts muttering to himself quickly. Terrified.

GAVIN

I'm not coming.

No, not this time.

You can't make me!

Shut up! Shut up, shut up, shut up.

I know how this ends.

GAVIN looks around. Struggles to take a step back but then wobbles forward.

GAVIN

(Crying)

I won't do it.

GAVIN steps forward.

GAVIN

I know how this ends!

GAVIN steps forward again and then jumps.

CUT TO:

4 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. MORNING.

GAVIN jumps awake. GEMMA, (21, brunette, slim build, pretty in a plain way), is up beside him straight away, trying to comfort him.

GEMMA
You scared the life out of me,
are you okay?

GAVIN
Yeah, fine.

GAVIN rolls over, facing away from GEMMA.

GEMMA
Don't be like that Gav, let's
talk about it.

GAVIN
Seriously, I'm fine.

GAVIN pushes himself up in bed and picks up a cigarette tin and pulls out a joint and lights it.

GEMMA
You need to stop smoking that
stuff.

GAVIN
It's medicinal.

GEMMA
Sure. Was it the same dream
again?

GAVIN
Night after night.

GEMMA
Maybe you should go see the
Doctor.

GAVIN
It's just post traumatic stress,
I'll get over it.

GEMMA
I just thi-

GAVIN
I don't care.

GEMMA sighs and looks at the clock: 8:59 AM.

(CONTINUED)

GEMMA
(Sighing)
You need to get ready for your
appointment.

The alarm clock starts to buzz by the bedside. GEMMA gets
up out of bed and starts to get ready for work.

CUT TO:

5 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. MORNING.

GAVIN attempts to put some jeans on but struggles.

GEMMA
Here, let me help.

GAVIN
I'm fine, I can dress myself.

GEMMA
Let me, why struggle?

GAVIN
I've got it.

GEMMA
You're so fucking stubborn at
times, you know that right?

Giving up she heads off to work, she works at a local GP's
as a receptionist, we see this briefly on her ID card.

Once GEMMA leaves, the house phone starts ringing.

PHYSIO RECEPTIONIST
Hi, is this Gavin Robertson?

GAVIN
Yeah.

PHYSIO RECEPTIONIST
It's Sarah calling from Dr.
Allen's office, he wanted me to
call and remind you about your
appointment later today because
you've missed the last few.

GAVIN
(Lying)
I was just about to call, I've
woke up feeling proper sick, I
won't be able to make it in today
sorry.

(CONTINUED)

PHYSIO RECEPTIONIST
Okay I'll let the Doctor know.

GAVIN puts the phone back in its cradle.

GAVIN wheels himself into the bathroom.

FOLLOW TO:

6 INT. GAVIN'S BATHROOM. MORNING.

GAVIN looks at himself in the mirror, red around the eyes. GAVIN opens up a small drawer in a cabinet and takes out four different bottles, taking a pill from each. He gets a glass of water from the bathroom tap and take the pills one at a time.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. STREET/OUTSIDE HABIB'S SHOP. DAY.

GAVIN wheels himself passed, while HABIB is outside the shop putting a sign up. HABIB looks at him and shakes his head, GAVIN keeps going trying not to make eye contact.

CUT TO:

8 INT. GAVIN'S MUMS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. MIDDAY.

GAVIN'S mother, CAROLINE, (42, dyed red hair, roots showing, a large woman), and his little sister Paige, (14, long blonde hair, down to the middle of her back), are sat in the living room. We hear the door open and then GAVIN wheels into the living room.

GAVIN lifts himself out of his chair and onto the sofa. CAROLINE sitting next to him.

CAROLINE
How've you been?

PAIGE
(Excitedly)
Gavin!

GAVIN
I'm alright, you?

CAROLINE
Yeah I'm good thanks.

GAVIN
Hey Sis.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE

Dr. Allen called. He says you haven't been to your physio appointments for a couple of weeks now. How do you ever expect to be able to walk again?

GAVIN

Look Mum I don't need this, please, I've just been feeling a bit rough the past few weeks.

CAROLINE

Look at you, you look fine.

GAVIN

Hey, how's school going?

PAIGE

It's fun. Apart from the bullies, but mum said you just have to ignore the bullies and they go away. So I'm ignoring them.

GAVIN

(Whispering)

You could always shove them. Real hard.

CAROLINE

I heard that! Paige don't listen to your brother.

PAIGE

But they shove me, it's only fair right?

CAROLINE

Look what you've started, you're always giving that girl stupid ideas.

GAVIN

Well she shouldn't have to stand for bullies. I'll go have a word with them

CAROLINE

They're 14 year old girls, you aren't going to go "have a word with them."

PAIGE

Does that mean you'll be walking home from school with me?

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN
Maybe, we'll see.

CAROLINE
You're not Gavin, I know what
you're like, you'll cause a scene
with the parents of those girls.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. OUTSIDE GAVIN'S BEDSIT. DAY.

GAVIN turns the corner into his street. Sat in the garden of the house on the corner are a group of hoodies. Three males, one girl, aged 16-17. GAVIN goes past keeping his head down.

LAD 1
Alright wheels?

LAD 2
(Laughing)
What a mong, can't even handle
his drink.

LAD 1
Hey Gav! Can you hear that? I
think you should listen to the
voices and roll yourself in front
of a car.

LAD 1 finishes the Coke he is drinking and throws the empty can at GAVIN. GAVIN ignores it and wheels towards home, head hung low.

CUT TO:

10 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. 4PM.

GAVIN turns on the TV and clicks play on the answerphone. GAVIN starts to take off his jacket while in the background the answerphone plays.

DR. ALLEN (V.O.)
Hello Gavin, it's Doctor Allen.
You have missed your physio for
the third week running now. I am
not willing to waste the time
allocating appointments with you
if you will not turn up.
(Pause)
Gav, I know you can do this.

GAVIN goes to the answerphone when the message finishes.

(CONTINUED)

ANSWER PHONE

Message deleted. End of messages.

GAVIN lights up a joint and positions himself in front of the television.

CUT TO:

11 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. NIGHT.

GEMMA comes home from work exhausted.

GAVIN is sat smoking a joint, two cans of Red Bull are led, empty, on the coffee table. Empty crips packets are next to the drinks.

GEMMA

For god sake Gavin, I've been out at work all day and you've what? Sat around on your arse all day making this place look like a shit tip?

GAVIN

Gemma, I don't need this seriously.

GEMMA

Oh okay, you don't need this so I won't say anything then shall I? I'll just tidy up your mess, I won't even sit down after I've been out making money for us to live yeah? And will you stop smoking pot in the house, it stinks.

GAVIN

It's medicinal.

GEMMA

You aren't half full of it Gav. Sometimes I don't even know why-

Suddenly there is a lot of noise outside. Things hit the windows. As GEMMA goes to have a look a pipe comes through the letterbox. Shit and piss are poured through.

GAVIN

What the hell? What the hell's that? It's one thing throwing something at me and saying stuff in the streets, but coming to harass me in my own home. Pouring sewage through my letter box.

(CONTINUED)

GEMMA
I'll call the police.

GAVIN
Don't bother.

GAVIN wheels himself to the door and opens it.

FOLLOW TO:

12 EXT. GAVIN'S FRONT GARDEN. NIGHT.

GAVIN tries to grab one lad.

GAVIN
Come on then you prick, try it.

GAVIN swings again but the lad dodges, grabs GAVIN'S wheelchair and turns him around.

LAD 1
You think you're tough down there?

GEMMA comes out of the house right up to LAD 1 and gets in his face.

GEMMA
Piss off, just leave us alone.

LAD 1
(Leaning around GEMMA)
Getting a girl to fight your battles? How sad.

GEMMA pushes the lad back and he stumbles away.

LAD 1
You're a psycho, you know that?

He runs off to join his friends.

GAVIN breaks into tears as the lad runs off. He can't control it anymore.

Tears stream down his face.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. CLIFF EDGE. DAY.

GAVIN and GEMMA are at the cliff of the accident, a fence has been put up. The wind blows. The cliff isn't actually as high as it looked in the dream, but it is still high, about the height of a three story house.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Sometimes I wish I hadn't survived y'know?

GEMMA

Don't say that.

GAVIN

It's true though, what am I supposed to do with my life? I can't even protect myself in my own home.

GEMMA

Why are you giving up? You have a chance to walk again, that's what the physio was for before you blew it off.

GAVIN

Have you seen me Gemma? I can't move my toes, I can't even piss properly and you expect to believe I'll be able to walk.

GEMMA

You've not given it a chance Gavin, it'll take a while sure but it could work. You don't even need to walk to get a job and get qualifications, the world is more accessible now Gavin.

GAVIN looks out to the horizon.

CUT TO:

14 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. EVENING.

GAVIN is out of his chair on the couch, GEMMA is cooking dinner in the kitchenette. GAVIN has the portable phone handset in his hands.

GEMMA

Just call him, you'll get his answerphone, it's not like you'll have to speak to him in person.

GAVIN dials.

DR. ALLEN (V.O.)

Dr. Allen, may I ask who's calling?

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Uh, hi. It's Gavin Robertson.

DR. ALLEN (V.O.)

Hello Gavin, how are you?

GAVIN

Yeah I'm alright thanks, I was just calling about restarting my physio.

DR. ALLEN (V.O.)

Yes that's fine Gavin, I'll get my receptionist to call you in the morning and make an appointment with you.

GAVIN

Thanks.

DR. ALLEN (V.O.)

I hope you know this will be your last chance though Gavin. I'm not willing to allocate time to non-showers when someone else could have had that spot.

GAVIN

Okay.

DR. ALLEN (V.O.)

I'll see you soon then Gavin.

GAVIN hangs up and puts the phone down, he lifts himself into his chair and goes over to GEMMA.

GAVIN

(Smiling.)

You knew he was going to be there didn't you?

GAVIN

Thanks.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. PAIGE'S SCHOOL. 3PM.

GAVIN waits outside the gates for school to let out. He is smoking a normal cigarette. There is a woman in a nearby car, clearly waiting for school to finish. She gives GAVIN a really dirty look. GAVIN glares at her and flicks the butt of the cigarette onto the floor and crushes it with his wheels.

(CONTINUED)

In the background the bell goes sounding the end of the school. GAVIN waits while the kids come out, he see's PAIGE and goes to the exit she is coming out of. As she walks over a girl rushes past PAIGE, pushing her out of the way and comes out of the exit.

GAVIN
(To the girl who shoved
PAIGE)
Hey, who do you think you're
pushing? Leave her alone.

The girl glances at the wheelchair and looks down on GAVIN.

GIRL
Whatever.

GIRL 1 snickers and walks off.

PAIGE sees GAVIN and her face lights up. She hurries over and hugs him.

PAIGE
Hi.

GAVIN
Alright Spud?

PAIGE
Spud? That's a new one.

GAVIN and PAIGE set off together talking but we can't hear this.

CUT TO:

16 INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON.

GAVIN and PAIGE enter the room, CAROLINE is sat watching a day time television show.

CAROLINE
Oh hi Gavin, I didn't expect you
to be coming round.

GAVIN
I thought I'd meet Paige out of
school and come round, get out of
the house y'know.

CAROLINE
Have the police been back in
touch yet? They should have made
the lads clean it up.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

You know what the police are like, no-one got hurt so it'll be a while before anything comes of it, they're useless.

PAIGE

If dad was with us he would've sorted them out for you.

CAROLINE

(Quick glance to GAVIN)
You're right love he would of. Can you go get changed please, I need to wash your uniform.

PAIGE

Sure.

PAIGE leaves through the side door to go upstairs, CAROLINE and GAVIN go into the kitchen.

FOLLOW TO:

17 INT. CAROLINE'S KITCHEN. DAY.

CAROLINE starts moving the dry dishes from the draining board to the cupboards, trying to occupy herself because she knows what GAVIN is about to say.

GAVIN

I can't believe you haven't told her yet.

CAROLINE

Gavin, she's better off thinking the man's dead.

GAVIN

She has a right to know Mum, if I know she should.

CAROLINE

You only know because you were there when he was arrested, she's too young to remember. And she's already suffering at school if I tell her and she lets it slip, think of the amount of even more crap she'll get.

GAVIN

You need to tell her, she has a right to know.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE

Gavin, she's my daughter I'll tell her what I want, and either way whether he's alive or dead she's never seeing him again, so it's better for her to have no dad than knowing he's locked up.

GAVIN

Fine, but you need to tell her soon, she's 15 in a couple of months, she can't be kept in the dark, she isn't an idiot she'll figure it out and if she figures it out before you tell her she'll hate you for lying to her.

CAROLINE

I know.

GAVIN

Good. Okay I need to get home before Gemma does.

CAROLINE

See you later.

GAVIN leaves the kitchen going into -

FOLLOW TO:

18 INT. CAROLINE'S HALLWAY. DAY.

GAVIN goes to the front door.

GAVIN

(Shouting upstairs)
See you later Paige.

A few seconds pass then she comes down the stairs.

PAIGE

See you later, Spud.

GAVIN

(Laughing)
I knew you'd enjoy it, love you.

PAIGE

Love you too.

GAVIN opens the door and leaves.

CUT TO:

19 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. MIDDAY.

GAVIN is sat playing a video game when his mobile phone rings. He digs it out of his pocket. The display says "ROY". GAVIN answers.

GAVIN
Alright?

ROY
Hey, long time no see, how're you
keepin' yourself?

GAVIN
Surviving.

ROY
Good good, I'm having a party
tonight, it'll be a quiet one.
Thought it'd be good to have a
catch up.

GAVIN
A quiet one?

ROY
Yeah, when is it never?

GAVIN
I'll be there.

GAVIN hangs up.

CUT TO:

20 INT. ROY'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

The party is in full swing, clearly it isn't a quiet one.

People are packed into the halls and staircase. Everyone is smoking drugs, getting frisky and getting drunk. A few people say "Hi" to GAVIN.

GAVIN wheels into -

FOLLOW TO:

21 INT. ROY'S KITCHEN. NIGHT.

ROY'S kitchen. GAVIN spots ROY and goes over.

ROY
Alright Gav? Didn't see you
there, we need to get a flag put
on this wheelchair of yours, let
us tall folk know you're coming.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN
(Laughing)
Shut up you bastard. What's that about?

GAVIN points to ROY'S hair, which is longer now, bit of a fringe.

ROY
Grown it out ain't I.

GAVIN
Next you'll be dying it black, you emo.

ROY
(Passing GAVIN a drink)
Have a drink. Help yourself.

GAVIN
I'll have to pass Roy, God knows what it'll do with my medicine.

ROY
Oh go on, one can't hurt.

GAVIN
Seriously, I shouldn't.

GAVIN thinks about it about it a little.

GAVIN
One shouldn't hurt.

He then shrugs accepting the can.

CUT TO:

22 INT. ROY'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT. LATER.

GAVIN has clearly had a lot to drink.

GUEST 1
Someone can't handle their drink.

Head hanging he throws up on himself.

ROY
Come on Gav, time for you to go now man.

GAVIN doesn't respond.

ROY
Seriously mate, time for you to go.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROY (cont'd)
(To GUEST 1)
Get me a glass of water.

GUEST 1 goes away and then comes back with a a glass of water.

GUEST 1
Here.

ROY
Thanks. Gav, get this down you mate, come on.

GAVIN'S head rolls back and there is no response. His arm starts twitching and then it turns in to a full fit when he starts convulsing.

ROY
Oh god, someone call an ambulance.
(Whispering)
Why are you always getting yourself into trouble on my watch Bro?

FADE TO:

23 INT. HOSPITAL WARD. EARLY MORNING.

CAROLINE is sat at GAVIN'S bedside. GAVIN begins to stir.

GAVIN
(Mutter)
Gemma?

CAROLINE
Gemma's not here love.
(beat)
I couldn't get hold of her.

GAVIN
(Sitting up)
You've always been a bad liar mum.

CAROLINE
You told her you wouldn't drink, and you knew you shouldn't have been drinking on all them bloody meds.

GAVIN
I didn't want her worrying, and I know I shouldn't of, I didn't think one can would hurt.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE
Well it clearly did.

GAVIN
You think?

CUT TO:

24 INT. HOSPITAL WARD. MIDDAY.

GEMMA comes into the room. CAROLINE leaves to give GAVIN and GEMMA some space.

GAVIN
Look I'm sor-

GEMMA
No you're not. I can't even begin to describe how pissed off at you I am. You said you weren't going to drink, you told me it was just going to be a few mates playing Xbox all night.

GAVIN
I didn't want you worrying.

GEMMA
You didn't want me worrying? Is that why you lied to me, and put yourself in hospital again?

GAVIN
I am sorry, one thing led to another.

GEMMA
And you're lying to me now! I spoke to Roy, he said it was a party and you knew that. I gave him a good lecture to, he should have known better. I've managed to grow up, why can't you?

GAVIN
I'm trying.

GEMMA
No you're not, and I don't think you ever will be able to, I can't go on like this anymore Gav, it's over. I can't trust you to look after yourself and hell if I'm being your carer.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN
Gemma don't-

GEMMA
Goodbye Gavin.

GEMMA turns and leaves.

GAVIN
Gemma!

CUT TO:

25 INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY. MIDDAY.

GEMMA goes over to CAROLINE.

GEMMA
I'm sorry, but I couldn't cope
anymore.

CAROLINE
Listen, don't worry about it, you
shouldn't have to put up with it,
hopefully it'll make him get his
life into gear.

GEMMA
Maybe.

CAROLINE gives GEMMA a hug and then GEMMA leaves.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. PARK. DAY.

CAROLINE and GAVIN are going through the park. CAROLINE is talking to GAVIN about anything other than GEMMA.

CAROLINE
(Joking)
I can't believe you ended up back
in that place, I thought you'd
want to never go back.
...
I bet Paige is worried about you.
...God it's warm out today isn't
it.

GAVIN
Will you please just stop
talking.

CAROLINE looks at GAVIN shocked.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Sorry.

CAROLINE

It's okay, I'll keep quiet.

CUT TO:

27 INT. GAVIN'S BEDSIT. DAY.

GAVIN wheels into the room and puts his keys down. He sees a note on the coffee table.

It says 'GAV' on the front of it.

GAVIN picks it up and reads it in silence. He crumples up the note into a clenched fist.

GAVIN moves over to the fireplace and takes a photo frame down that has a picture of him and GEMMA in it. He looks at it for a while and then slams it back on the fireplace face down.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. BEACH. CLIFFTOP. DAY.

GAVIN is sat staring out into the horizon. Spliff in hand. He looks TIRED. Eyes red from crying. He goes really close to the small fence that has been built.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. MEMORY. BEACH - CLIFFTOP. NIGHT.

GAVIN is back on the edge of the cliff in his mind.

GAVIN

(Crying)

I won't do it.

GAVIN steps forward.

GAVIN

I know how this ends!

GAVIN steps forward again and then jumps, he starts to fall in slow motion.

SLOW FADE TO:

30 EXT. MEMORY. BEACH. CLIFFTOP. DAY.

GAVIN and GEMMA are at the cliff of the accident, a high fence has been put up. The wind blows.

GAVIN
Sometimes I wish I hadn't
survived.

GEMMA
Don't say that.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. BEACH. CLIFFTOP. DAY.

GAVIN sighs and flicks the end of his joint over the cliff edge.

CUT TO:

32 INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM. DAY.

GAVIN and PAIGE are sat watching the television, CAROLINE is in the kitchen.

PAIGE
Do you ever miss him?

GAVIN
Who?

PAIGE
Dad.

GAVIN
Of course I miss him.

CAROLINE comes back into the room as PAIGE starts talking again.

PAIGE
I wish I could have known him.

CAROLINE
Paige? Can you do me a favour?

PAIGE
Sure.

CAROLINE
Can you go get me my a glass of
water?

(CONTINUED)

PAIGE
But mum, you've just come from
the kitchen.

CAROLINE
Please Paige.

PAIGE
Fine.

PAIGE gets up and goes to the kitchen. CAROLINE looks at
GAVIN.

CAROLINE
Don't you dare Gavin.

GAVIN
You have to tell her, she's been
asking about him more and more
recently.

CAROLINE
I can't.

CUT TO:

33 INT. CAROLINE'S HALLWAY. DAY.

PAIGE comes out of the living room and stops outside the
door listening in to their conversation.

CUT TO:

34 INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM. DAY.

GAVIN
Mum, I'm not being funny but it
can't go on any longer. She's
going to find out.

CAROLINE
How can I tell her after this
long that her dads not -

PAIGE comes back into the room.

PAIGE
Tell me that dad's not what?

CAROLINE
It doesn't matter love.

PAIGE
What's going on?

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE
It doesn't matter.

GAVIN
Mum, what were we just talking
about. Tell her.

CAROLINE
No.

PAIGE
Tell me!

GAVIN
Dad's not dead.

PAIGE stumbles back. The words hitting her like a fist to
the stomach.

PAIGE
He's not...dead?

CAROLINE
No love.

GAVIN
He's in prison.

PAIGE
(To GAVIN)
And you knew about this?

GAVIN
Yes.

PAIGE
How long have you known?

GAVIN
I was there when he was arrested.

PAIGE
Why didn't you tell me?

CAROLINE
I told him not to, I didn't want
you knowing, I thought it was for
the best.

PAIGE
I can't believe this. Dead. You
said my dad was dead. You're
sick.

PAIGE storms out of the living room into the hallway.

CAROLINE
Paige, honey, I was doing what I
thought was best for you.

FOLLOW TO:

35 INT. CAROLINE'S HALLWAY. DAY.

PAIGE grabs her coat off the door peg and storms out of
the front door. CAROLINE rushes to the door.

CAROLINE
(Shouting.)
Paige! Paige come back here,
where are you going?

GAVIN comes into the hallway.

CAROLINE
I can't believe you Gavin!

GAVIN leaves the house.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. BEACH. SUNSET.

PAIGE is sat on the beach watching the sun go down.

GAVIN comes up behind her.

GAVIN
How you holding up?

PAIGE ignores him. Carries on watching the sun.

GAVIN
Paige, I'm sorry, I should of
told you, but at the end of the
day it's mums job to have told
you.

PAIGE
So why didn't she?

GAVIN
She thought it'd be best for you,
I've told her it was wrong.

PAIGE
Have you seen him since he was
arrested?

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN
Three or four times yeah.

PAIGE
Has mum?

GAVIN
She refuses to.

PAIGE
What's he like?

GAVIN
I'll let you decide for yourself.

PAIGE
What do you mean?

GAVIN
We'll go see him, me and you
yeah?

PAIGE
I don't know Gav, I mean yeah I
want to see him but he'll just be
a random man to me.

GAVIN
I think you should see him.

PAIGE
What's he even in prison for?
Something terrible I guess?

GAVIN
You sure you wan-

PAIGE
Yes. I have a right to know.

GAVIN
Dad used to be...violent. He used
to hit mum, never in front of me
until one night she went out with
him and came back without him,
she was covered in bruises. My
babysitter left the house just as
Dad gets out of a taxi and the
babysitter, she just tries to run
past him but as the taxi drives
off he grabs her and pushes her
over, she hit her head hard. She
was in a bad state when they got
her to hospital, she died from
head injuries. I saw it all from
my bedroom window, Mum just
locked the door and called the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN (cont'd)
police, it was over in about 20
minutes. Dad spent all 20 of them
banging on the windows and doors
until the police turned up.

PAIGE sees that reliving that night is hard for GAVIN, she
gives him a hug not knowing what else to do or say.

PAIGE
That's horrible.

GAVIN
I'm not excusing what he did,
but, he's changed in there. He's
had help, he hates himself for
what he did. I guess you could be
glad you don't have many memories
of him from back then.

PAIGE
That's still horrible.

GAVIN
Like I said, I'm not excusing it.

PAIGE
Okay, I'll go. Jeez, Mum is going
to have such a go when I get
back.

GAVIN
When is she never having a go.

PAIGE
Yeah, you're right.

GAVIN smiles at PAIGE.

PAIGE and GAVIN leave to go home.

CUT TO:

37 I/E. PRISON - CAR PARK. DAY.

CAROLINE is sat in the car.

GAVIN and PAIGE are stood outside the car.

CAROLINE rolls her window down.

PAIGE
Are you sure you don't want to
come with us?

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE

Paige, I've told you, I want nothing to do with the man.

GAVIN

Come on Paige, we'll be late.

GAVIN and PAIGE go towards the prison entrance.

CUT TO:

38 INT. PRISON. DAY.

SERIES OF SHOTS - GAVIN and Paige go into the PRISON.

A) Go through the metal detectors and items go through x-ray scanner.

B) They are led by a guard into the main visitation room.

C) They are let into a separate visitation room.

CUT TO:

39 INT. PRISON VISITATION ROOM. DAY.

CRAIG, 45, short black hair, starting to go grey, is sat in his prison issued clothes at a table, waiting.

The door is unlocked. And then opened.

PAIGE goes through first, looking behind her at GAVIN not noticing her father at the table. She looks forward as GAVIN comes through the door and notices CRAIG.

She stops and stares. And then he gets up, goes to her and holds her as she starts crying.

GAVIN waits back giving them their moment.

PAIGE

I thought you were dead.

CRAIG

I know. Maybe it was for the best though hey? I wasn't the nicest of men when you were born.

PAIGE

I wish people would stop telling me it was for the best. I'm old enough to decide.

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG
You're right, I'm sorry... how
are you Gav?

GAVIN
I'm alright thanks.

PAIGE
I can't believe you're here.

FADE TO:

40 INT. PRISON VISITATION ROOM. DAY.

A montage of footage showing time passing. PAIGE and CRAIG talking, with GAVIN mainly just watching but chipping in from time to time.

FADE TO:

41 INT. PRISON VISITATION ROOM. DAY.

CRAIG
So how's Gemma then?

GAVIN
We've split up.

PAIGE
What? But Gemma was lovely.

GAVIN
I know she was.

CRAIG
What happened?

GAVIN
I made a huge mistake, lied to
her about a party I went to, and
I ended up back in hospital,
stomach being pumped.

CRAIG
I thought you would have left
drugs and alcohol at the top of
cliff before you fell.

GAVIN
I guess needed to unwind.

CRAIG
Look, Gav, this is what drugs and
alcohol do to you, it puts you in
a place like this. It may be

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG (cont'd)
through different circumstances
to mine but you'll end up in
here.

GAVIN
I know it's just...

CRAIG
Just what?

GAVIN
I've felt so useless recently, I
couldn't even stop an attack on
my own home. This chair is the
cause of all that.

CRAIG
No, you're the cause of your
problems. It's hard to hear I
know but you have the options
available to get out of that
chair, you're just too god damn
lazy to do it. You need to go out
there, fight it, fight for Gemma
and do something with your life.

GAVIN sits in silence absorbing the advice.

The speakers click on:

PRISON WARDEN (V.O.)
Visitation time will be ending in
five minutes.

CRAIG
I guess you best go.

GAVIN
(Still in thought)
Yeah.

CRAIG
I love you Paige, I'm so happy
you finally know.

PAIGE
So am I.

CUT TO:

42 ACT 3 START! INT. DR ALLEN'S ROOM. DAY.

A couple of weeks have passed. We see this by the length of GAVIN'S hair, he has started to let it grow out.

GAVIN is out of his chair sat on the bed. DR. ALLEN is stood in front of him.

DR. ALLEN
Today should be a good day for you Gavin.

GAVIN
Why?

DR. ALLEN
This is the fifth session since you started, I think it's time we pushed through.

GAVIN
Wait, I can't walk I can only just move my legs.

DR. ALLEN
That's all you need if you think about it. Trust me. There is a railing there to hold on to and I'll be there to support you if you fall. And if you fell of a small cliff and survived I'm sure you can survive a fall to the floor.

GAVIN thinks it through.

GAVIN
Okay, yeah okay, I'm ready.

DR. ALLEN
Right, I want you to lower yourself off the bed with your arms, don't rush yourself, if you don't think you can hold your weight don't stand up.

GAVIN pushes himself forward and then lowers himself the few centimeters to the floor.

Hesitantly he puts his weight onto his feet.

DR. ALLEN moves forward just in case GAVIN loses his balance.

Slowly GAVIN releases his hold on the bed, putting more pressure on his feet.

And more pressure.

(CONTINUED)

More.

Untill finally he is STANDING.

GAVIN lifts his leg forward and takes his first step in over a year.

Encouraged he takes another but his leg gives and he stumbles. DR. ALLEN catches him, stopping him falling.

DR. ALLEN
Steady, don't got too cocky with
it. You have to learn to walk
before you can run.

GAVIN
I'm walking, I just walked.

GAVIN is positively beaming now. He is transformed.

He steps forward again, cautiously but braver.

DR. ALLEN
Well done.

GAVIN
Thank you...for everything.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE. DAY.

He flicks through the address book on his phone and stops on GEMMA'S name. His finger hovers above the call button but he doesn't press it.

44 EXT. FLOWER SHOP. DAY.

GAVIN is in his chair outside the flower shop. The flower shop is across from HABIB'S shop. GAVIN picks some red tulips and goes into the shop.

45 EXT. HABIB'S SHOP. DAY.

GAVIN wheels past HABIB'S shop just as HABIB comes out of the shop. GAVIN looks but averts his eyes. As he moves on his wallet drops from his lap, he leans forward but is just out of reach. HABIB comes forward and picks up his wallet and hands it to GAVIN.

HABIB
I've not seen you around
recently?

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Well you know, thought it'd be best to avoid you. Thought I'd be barred.

HABIB

Was it worth it?

GAVIN

What?

HABIB

The cider.

GAVIN opens up his wallet and pulls out a five pound note.

GAVIN

I think I owe you that, keep the change.

HABIB

Thank you.

GAVIN moves on.

46 INT. CAROLINE'S LIVING ROOM. DAY.

GAVIN is in the front room.

CAROLINE and PAIGE are sat in the front room, GAVIN is in his chair facing his mum and sister.

CAROLINE

Brace ourselves for what?

GAVIN

Behold, the cripple can walk again.

GAVIN lifts himself up from his chair. He bows slightly, impeded though by his back.

PAIGE

Gav, that's amazing!

CAROLINE

Hate to say I told you so...

GAVIN

Go on, I'll let you this time.

CAROLINE

I told you so Gav, going to the physio would help.

GAVIN sits back down again.

(CONTINUED)

GAVIN

Right I have one last place to go.

GAVIN gestures to the flowers in a flower bag on the back of his chair.

CAROLINE

Good luck love.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. GEMMA'S PARENTS HOUSE. DAY.

GAVIN wheels up to GEMMA'S door.

Standing up he gets the flowers behind his back and knocks on the door. GEMMA opens the door and is shocked to see him there, standing.

GEMMA

Gav...what the-

GAVIN pulls the flowers from behind his back.

GAVIN

For you.

GEMMA

Thanks.

GAVIN

Look I'm sorry Gemma, I really am, but I can change, I HAVE changed, I mean look at me. I love you Gemma, I really do, and I always will baby. Everything had got to me, I know I shouldn't have let it, but it did.

GEMMA

Gavin, everyone has problems, you just need to talk about them, talking helps.

GAVIN

Please come home Gemma.

GEMMA

It'll take more than flowers for me to forgive you for lying.

GAVIN

I know, but it's a start right?

(CONTINUED)

GEMMA

Yeah it's a start. Look I need to have a think about everything, but I'll let you know.

GAVIN

Sure, take your time.

GEMMA kisses him on the cheek and then goes inside.

GAVIN sits back down and goes away.

CUT TO:

48 INT. GAVIN'S FLAT. DAY.

THREE MONTHS LATER.

GAVIN has a new flat, it's a nice modern flat, cream walls, laminate flooring. You can tell it is in a nice area just from being in their. GAVIN is no longer on the estate.

GAVIN is wearing a suit, fixing his tie in the mirror.

GAVIN walks to the front door of the flat. Alone.

As he starts to open the door GEMMA looks out of the bedroom door.

GEMMA

You aren't even going to say goodbye?

GAVIN

You were asleep, I didn't want to wake you.

GEMMA

Go on you'll be late.

GAVIN goes over to her and kisses her.

GAVIN

Love you.

GEMMA

Love you too.

GAVIN goes back to the front door to leave, as he opens it GEMMA shouts to him.

GEMMA.

Good luck!