

SCRIPT TITLE

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GEMMA SIDES

4 **EXT. YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTION - ENTRANCE - DAY (08:10)** 4
(ALICIA, BELLE, CHARLIE, ELLE, LILY, LOUISE, MAX, NOEL,
ROBYN)
(GEM, NS GUARD)

GEM - 17, wiry, dark, street-wise - collects is let out of the gate by a NS GUARD, who mutters something like 'behave yourself today', and closes the gate behind her. She takes a single breath of temporary freedom before it isn't ruined by a voice calling.

BELLE (O.S.)
Hello dear!

She looks over sourly to see BELLE - 40s, large and jolly with a Caribbean accent and colourful clothes - waving from her parked car. Reluctantly, GEM walks towards her.

CUT TO:

6 **INT./EXT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN/STAIRWELL - DAY (9.10)** 6
(BELLE, GEM)
(NS HELPER)

GEM has an apron on over her clothes and wears a hair-net. Vegetables have been chopped on the side, a big pan of water boils on the hob. GEM is chopping another onion, wiping tears, while another young NS Kitchen HELPER is taking her apron off. BELLE enters.

BELLE
Yes dear, can you clean the windows
in the hall please? They are
disgraceful!

The NS HELPER exits and BELLE approaches GEM who ignores her.

BELLE (CONT'D)
Ah Gemma, you are crying.

GEM
The onions.

BELLE
Good things come from suffering you
know!

She stirs the pot of boiling water absently.

BELLE (CONT'D)

You've been a good girl this week?

GEM looks at the pot of boiling water intently, looks at BELLE.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Mm Gemma? You've behaved yourself?
Not long left for you now eh? Then
you can work here full time.

BELLE, absorbed in the pot of water, doesn't notice GEMMA shifting away slightly.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Remember, true freedom comes from
diligence. Hard work cleanses your
soul. Eh Gemma?

She looks round just in time to see GEM raising a large wok over her head. She brings it down on BELLE's head with a sickening clang. BELLE stumbles a little, clutching her head, then flops face down on the floor. GEM stares in horror a moment, then drops the pan and runs, through the kitchen, out the back and down into a stairwell. On the stairs she stumbles, falls and just catches her self on the railing, landing heavily and painfully on her chest. She gasps in pain and, clutching at her chest, sinks to the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - KITCHEN - DAY (09:20)

(CONNIE, ELLE, GEM, HAYLEY, JACOB, KARIM, ROBYN)
(BELLE)

GEM creaks the door open and peers in. She is hunched a little, still feeling her ribs. BELLE is still face-down on the floor in a small pool of blood. GEM creeps over and checks her. To her relief she is still breathing. She rifles through her pockets and takes her wallet and phone. She opens the wallet and pockets the money, then dials. She holds it to her ear as it rings.

GEM

(Into the phone)

Hello? Yeah. I... I need an
ambulance. There's an unconscious
bird on the floor.

She eyes BELLE nervously. What has she done?

CUT TO:

INT. PARAMEDIC STATION - ENTRANCE - DAY (10:30)

(IAIN, JEZ, GEM)

(NS PARAMEDICS)

IAIN parks the ambulance and gets out. JEZ follows.

IAIN

I'm serious. If there was anything going on you'd be the first to know, but there isn't. Lily's just a friend.

JEZ

Think we've already established you wouldn't tell me if your trousers were on fire mate.

IAIN

Don't pout. Come on ask me a question. Ask me anything. I'll tell you.

There's a banging on the ambulance door.

JEZ

What's that noise?

They look round. GEM has entered the depot. She grins at IAIN.

GEM

Alright bruv? Nice costume.

IAIN and JEZ stare.

GEM (CONT'D)

Don't recognise me huh. I recognised you straight away. Even in your fancy uniform. Not changed much in eight years.

GEM picks up the basketball, bounces it absently, gazing at the ambulances. The penny finally drops for IAIN.

IAIN

Gem?

GEM

So you live in a garage now?

IAIN

I... It's a depot. Gem-

GEM
Looks like a garage.

JEZ
Iain? Who is she?

GEM
(flirty)
Name's Gem, pretty boy. Gemma Dean.
What's yours?

IAIN
She's my... sister.

GEM
But don't let that stop you.

She blows him a kiss.

JEZ
Sister? You've got a sister?

IAIN
Jez mate, can you...

He waves him away.

GEM
I've embarrassed him.

IAIN
Tell control I have a... an urgent
domestic problem. Might be a while.

He stares hard at JEZ who reluctantly goes. GEM waves him off.

GEM
You know what. You ain't that
pleased to see me are ya.

She chucks the basketball towards the hoop but gasps. IAIN looks at her. She tries to hide the pain.

CUT TO:

INT. PARAMEDIC STATION - STAFF ROOM - DAY (10:40)
 (CONNIE, ELLE, GEM, IAIN, JACOB, LILY, ROBYN, WILKINSON)
 (NS PARAMEDICS)

GEM wanders about, fiddling with things, looking in cupboards, generally being nuisance. IAIN makes a cup of tea.

IAIN
 Don't touch that.

GEM
 I didn't.

She ducks out and turns on the orange signal light.

GEM (CONT'D)
 Cool.

IAIN
 Oi! Get back in here.

GEM
 Thought you might at least of come to granddad's funeral.

IAIN
 I... I didn't know he died.

GEM
 Nah. 'Cos you disappeared didn't you.

IAIN
 Look, Gem-

GEM
 They're knocking his old flat down. It'll be like he was never there. Just me and Mum left.

IAIN hands her a cup of tea but she moves away.

IAIN
 How is Mum? Is she still...

GEM
 (angry)
 What do you think?

IAIN
 Look... It's great to see you and that but... Why're you here?

GEM
Mum kicked me out didn't she. Need
a place to stay.

She looks at him.

IAIN
What. With me?

GEM
Just til I get my own place! I've
got a good job and everything.
Please, just a couple of weeks...

IAIN studies her. He notices her skin rising up as if air is
trapped underneath.

IAIN
What's that?

IAIN moves towards her, to examine her, she flinches away and
gasps in pain as she jerks her ribs.

IAIN (CONT'D)
Let me see.

IAIN lifts her top and sees the bruising round her ribs.
There are other marks, old burns, old bruises, some with a
very clear shape to them.

IAIN (CONT'D)
What are these?

GEM
What do you care?

IAIN
Gem. Your ribs look broken. We
should go to hospital. Get you
checked over properly.

GEM
You want to dump me with someone
else-

IAIN
No!

GEM
Run away and leave me again. That
it?

IAIN hesitates. Thinks.

CUT TO:

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INT. PARAMEDIC STATION. ENTRANCE/STAFF-ROOM - DAY (10:55) 21

(IAIN, LILY)
(GEM)

IAIN meets LILY rushing her inside as soon as he sees her. She carries a small first aid kit.

IAIN
Lily! Quick! She's not breathing right.

LILY
Who is this? Why can't you bring her to hospital? I'm on duty-

IAIN
It's my sister.

LILY
Your sister?

IAIN
I'll explain later. She hurt her ribs and now she can't breathe-

They enter the staff-room. GEM is lying on her back gasping, turning blue, more air inflating the skin around her collar bone. LILY immediately gets to work.

LILY
Looks like a pneumothorax. Her rib must've punctured the lung.

IAIN
Gem? This is Lily she's gonna help you, you're going to be ok?

LILY
Gemma?

She hesitates, but decides now isn't the time.

LILY (CONT'D)
Gemma, I'm going to insert a needle into to release the air from your chest cavity ok?

She takes out a needle decompression kit.

LILY (CONT'D)
I need you to hold her still.

IAIN is clearly traumatised, grips his sister tightly. She writhes, gasping for breath.

IAIN

Ok, ok, you're going to be ok.

LILY confidently drives the needle home and air rushes out. GEM gasps. IAIN finally exhales himself. LILY looks at him.

LILY

We need to talk.

IAIN

About what?

LILY ignores him for now, focuses on securing the needle. GEM looks between IAIN and LILY, instantly worried.

CUT TO:

INT. PARAMEDIC STATION - STAFF ROOM - DAY (11:10)
 (CONNIE, GEM, IAIN, JACOB, KARIM, LILY)
 (LILY, NS PARAMEDICS)

GEM is shaky, her previous cockiness shattered. She sips a cup of tea. IAIN is furious. LILY watches from a distance.

IAIN
 You lied to me.

GEM
 Didn't think you'd like the truth.

IAIN
 Too right! You put someone in hospital, on the run from a prison you shouldn't even be in, in the first place!

GEM doesn't look at him.

IAIN (CONT'D)
 Three weeks from being free! You know they'll put you away longer now, don't you?

GEM
 No. 'Cos I'm not going back.

IAIN
 You must be joking.

GEM
 Help me. You're my brother-

IAIN is hurt by this, doesn't know what do.

IAIN
 How- How can you be so stupid?

GEM
 I couldn't take it anymore!

IAIN
 Three weeks Gem!

GEM
 Not prison. Prison's a doss. It's her!

IAIN
 (confused)
 Her? Who?

GEM

Belle!

LILY

The woman you attacked? She was trying to help you.

GEM scoffs, pulls her top up, showing the bruises and burns.

GEM

You call this help? She's a psycho.

IAIN

Gem come on.

GEM

Every little thing I do wrong, any time I talk back to her. She says it's for my own good. I need to learn she says. But she gets off on it I swear.

LILY

That is a very serious accusation.

GEM

It's the truth!

She looks between LILY and IAIN. LILY and IAIN look at each other.

CUT TO:

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INT. AMBULANCE STATION - STAFF ROOM (12:00)
(BELLE, CONNIE, GEM, IAIN, JACOB, LILY, WILKINSON)
(WILKINSON, LILY)

28

IAIN checks GEM's needle.

IAIN
How're you feeling?

GEM
Breathing hurts.

IAIN
I'll... Don't worry. I'll look
after you.

She looks at him, needily.

GEM
You believe me don't you. About
Belle.

He's a little awkward.

IAIN
If she's doing that to you-

GEM
She is!

IAIN
Then you need to tell someone.

GEM
I told you.

IAIN
Tell the cops I mean. Or someone at
the prison. If she's doing it to
you, she's done it to other girls
as well.

GEM
They won't believe me. My word
against hers. No one ever believes
me. 'Cept you. Right?

IAIN hesitates.

IAIN
I'll look after you. Whatever
happens. I promise.

GEM smiles. Then there's a knock on the staff-room door. It's PC WILKINSON with LILY. GEM is horrified.

GEM
You dobbed me in?

IAIN can't look at her. GEM looks for an escape route. There isn't one.

CUT TO:

30

INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (12:30)

30

(ALICIA, BELLE, GEM, IAIN, LILY, LOUISE, WILKINSON)
 (WILKINSON, NS RECEPTIONIST, NS PATIENTS, NS STAFF)

LOUISE walks past reception and looks over to see NOEL is no longer there. She frowns.

LOUISE
 Where's Noel?

The NS RECEPTIONIST shrugs and busies herself with work. LOUISE looks concerned. GEM is brought in by IAIN and LILY on a gurney, flanked by WILKINSON. She looks distraught, furious. IAIN leans in, speaks quietly.

IAIN
 I know Wilkinson. She's a good lass. Just tell her what you told me.

GEM
 Get away from me.

IAIN
 Gem-

GEM
 You're supposed to be my brother.

ALICIA meets them. IAIN starts the handover.

IAIN
 This is Gemma Dean, 17, she's got broken ribs, punctured lung resulting in a tension pneumothorax-

GEM
 Keep him away from me.

Everyone is stunned, IAIN winces.

IAIN
 Gem, we need-

GEM
 I don't want him here get him away from me!

LILY takes control.

LILY
 It's ok Iain, I'll take it from here.

ALICIA
What's going on?

LILY
Iain? She'll be ok. Let her calm
down.

She turns to ALICIA as they wheel her on.

LILY (CONT'D)
We need to do a chest drain as soon
as possible...

IAIN hangs back and let's them whisk GEM away.

CUT TO:

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INT. ED. CUBICLES - DAY (12:45)
 (BELLE, IAIN, LILY, WILKINSON)
 (GEM, NS STAFF, NS PATIENTS)

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WILKINSON stands outside GEM's cubicle. BELLE approaches.

BELLE
 How is she officer?

WILKINSON
 Through the worst of it I think.
 They said they want to keep her in
 for a few days. Which means I'm
 stuck here on guard duty for now.

BELLE
 Could I speak with her?

WILKINSON
 Not sure you'll find her very
 receptive.

BELLE
 We have a special relationship. I
 understand her.

WILKINSON
 This 'special relationship' usually
 involve you being knocked
 unconscious?

BELLE chuckles.

BELLE
 I do not think that will happen
 again, but I am glad you are nearby
 to help if she tries it!

WILKINSON stands aside and BELLE goes in, closing the curtain
 behind her. GEM looks at her, scared. BELLE approaches.

BELLE (CONT'D)
 Oh child. What a mess...

She talks softly, strokes her cheek.

BELLE (CONT'D)
 What a mess you have got yourself
 in now.

GEM clams up, withdrawing into herself.

BELLE (CONT'D)
You will have a much longer
sentence. Much more time for you to
learn your lesson.

She leans in very close, whispering.

BELLE (CONT'D)
You told him didn't you? Your big
brother, you are so proud of.

GEM looks at her, BELLE can see the truth in her face.

BELLE (CONT'D)
He did not believe you did he? I
told you. No one will believe you.
Because you are a bad girl. You are
still a bad girl.

She pulls away, stands over her, looming.

BELLE (CONT'D)
But do not worry. Now I have much
longer to fix you.

She smiles, malevolently. GEM wants to disappear.

40

EXT. GRANDAD'S FLAT. ROOF - DAY (13:55)
 (GEM, IAIN)

40

IAIN finally corners GEM on the roof. She stands facing him, clutching her chest and backing away towards the edge.

IAIN
 Gem stop! It's me. Just me.

GEM
 You didn't bring the rozzers?

IAIN
 Promise.

GEM hesitates. She looks broken, lost.

GEM
 Remember the Euro 2008 final?
 England weren't in it so we'd
 picked a team each. I went with
 Spain, you picked Germany. And we
 watched it here. In grandad's flat.
 On his stinky old sofa.

IAIN
 I remember.

GEM
 Spain won.

IAIN
 Yeah. You rubbed my face in it for
 hours.

GEM smiles wanly.

GEM
 That's the last time I remember
 feeling happy. Last time I remember
 feeling safe.

IAIN
 Come back with me.

She takes another step back, perilously close to the edge.

GEM
 I'm not going anywhere with you. I
 never should've trusted you in the
 first place. You're no brother.
 You're just like the rest-

IAIN

I know what happened with Belle. I know. I should never have doubted you.

GEM stops.

IAIN (CONT'D)

Let me help.

GEM

You can't help.

IAIN

The only way this gets better is if you face up to her. Tell the truth. Do your time. Start again. Running is never going to solve it.

GEM

You ran. You ran and you left and you never came back. You were meant to look after me-

IAIN

I was wrong. I know that. I've let you down. Let me make it up to you.

GEM is wracked with doubt.

IAIN (CONT'D)

I'm not going to abandon you again. Never.

He holds out his hand. She looks at him.

CUT TO:

41

INT. ED. RECEPTION - DAY (14:30)
 (BELLE, CONNIE, ELLE, GEM, IAIN, LILY, WILKINSON)
 (NS PATIENTS, NS STAFF)

41

CONNIE corners ELLE.

CONNIE

Don't think that just because you helped save him I've forgotten it was you that put him resus.

ELLE

Excuse me?

CONNIE

Karim. I told you I didn't want him discharged.

ELLE

You never suggested you thought anything like this was going to happen!

CONNIE

I told you to respect my professional judgement. I knew something was going on and I needed more time. Once again you showed that you're instincts are not fit for task.

ELLE is hurt and angered by this but before she can respond the doors go. IAIN walks in with GEM, protectively close. WILKINSON comes to meet them, with BELLE in tow. LILY follows them, she shares a look with IAIN.

WILKINSON

Well you've given us quite the run around.

BELLE

Oh child I'm so glad your safe!

GEM

I'll never be safe with you around.

BELLE

What?

IAIN

Let's get you treated first-

GEM shakes him off and pulls her top off, showing everyone the bruises on her body.

GEM

She did this. She's been doing it
for months.

A crowd has formed, WILKINSON looks at BELLE, questioning.

BELLE

Oh dear oh dear... Poor girl, the
things you say.

IAIN

It's the truth.

BELLE

Of course you're her brother, you
would-

IAIN

Look at the bruises.

WILKINSON does. BELLE fumbles her hand and finds her ring is
missing.

LILY

Lost something?

She steps in and presents the ring next to GEM.

LILY (CONT'D)

Very specific shape aren't they?

She looks at BELLE. BELLE's mask drops.

BELLE

You little snake-

She launches herself and LILY but IAIN throws himself
protectively between them as WILKINSON restrains BELLE. ELLE
and NS STAFF rush to help WILKINSON with a roaring BELLE.

ELLE

Stop this! Stop!

GEM watches with grim satisfaction. So does CONNIE.

CUT TO:

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INT. ED. CUBICLES 3 - DAY (15:00)

43

(ALICIA, CAL, CONNIE, DAVID, DUFFY, GEM, HAYLEY, IAIN, JEZ, KARIM, LILY, MAX, ROBYN)

GEM is back in bed, LILY is finishing obs. IAIN stands by awkwardly. GEM is very quiet and still.

IAIN

(nervously joshing)

Don't remember ever seeing you so quiet.

GEM doesn't look at him.

LILY

We'll need to keep her under observation for a day or two but she's ready to moved upstairs.

IAIN

I'll take her.

GEM

No.

IAIN

Gem?

GEM

You abandoned me. Then, when I needed you most, you didn't believe me. I reached out to you and you turned me in. Sent me back to her. You're not my brother. Not been for eight years. We're done.

IAIN looks at her distraught.

CUT TO: