

## **INEXPLICABLES**

By Tom Critch and Alexander J Newall

### **Episode 5 – Consequences**

#### Content Warnings:

- Strong language
  - Panic & anxiety (inc vocalisation)
  - Emotional abuse & manipulation
  - Right-wing rhetoric & prejudice
  - Physical violence & injury
  - Supernatural transformation (inc SFX)
  - Fire (inc SFX)
  - Grief & loss (inc vocalisation)
  - Discussions of: possessiveness, self-hatred & self-recrimination, childhood trauma (inc parental neglect), kidnapping, dehumanisation
  - Mentions of police, food, hospitals, human remains, death, suicide, rehabilitation
  - SFX: growling/animal sounds, coughing, distorted speech, ringing, high-pitched sounds
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#### **ICS OFFICE, CUPBOARD - EARLY MORNING**

[MUFFLED GROWLS AND REPEATED SLAMMING AGAINST THE DOOR]

#### **CHARLIE**

We're all gonna die, we're all gonna die...

#### **SHARON**

Oh god. Oh god. Oh god. Oh—

#### **MEREDITH**

I swear, I'll kill you both myself if you don't shut the hell up!

[SPLINTERING OF WOOD AND THE GROWLING IS NOT MUFFLED]

Oh, just fuck off you hairy, wet-nosed twat! Go maul a bear or something!

**SHUHELA**

M-Meredith?

**MEREDITH**

Shuhela?

**SHUHELA**

Meredith, is that you?

**MEREDITH**

Shuhela, run! Get help!

**SHUHELA**

It's okay. It's okay, Meredith...

**MEREDITH**

It's really not!

[GROWLING HAS SUBSIDED A LITTLE]

**SHUHELA**

(Quieter) It's okay, Barbara. It's okay. It's okay, I'm fine. Shhhhhh.

[CHARLIE WHIMPERS LOUDLY]

**MEREDITH**

Shuhela?

**SHUHELA**

It's okay now. You can come out.

**MEREDITH**

(Unsure) Yeah?

**SHUHELA**

Trust me.

**CHARLIE**

No! Don't!

**MEREDITH**

I'd rather die out there than gag to death on the stink of your pissy pants.

[REMAINS OF DOOR OPENS/CLOSES]

**TRANSITION TO: ICS, MAIN OFFICE**

**MEREDITH**

(Cautiously) Sh-Shuhela?

**SHUHELA**

Ah, it's all right, love. I'm here.

[MEREDITH GASPS ON SEEING WOLF!BARBARA]

**MEREDITH**

Fuck me! It's huge!

[LOW GROWLING]

**SHUHELA**

It's okay, it's okay, shhh. It's Meredith. You remember Meredith, from yesterday...?

**MEREDITH**

Wait... that's... Barbara?

**SHUHELA**

Mmmhmm.

**MEREDITH**

Fuck me!

Uh... Hi Barbara.

(Nervous) Uh, are-are we, a-are we cool, or... um...?

[BARABARA GRUNTS AND PADS OVER TO THE CUPBOARD]

[MUFFLED WHIMPERING INCREASES AS THE GROWLING DOES]

**MEREDITH**

Who's Pinky and Perky?

**SHUHELA**

They ran in here when everything fell apart. I think they thought they could use me as a hostage or something?

**MEREDITH**

Oh shit. You alright?

**SHUHELA**

I'll be okay. Bit worse for wear is all, but Barbara... wasn't happy with them.

**MEREDITH**

Yeah I can see that.

**SHUHELA**

Yeah.

[MORE GROWLING, MORE WHIMPERING]

**MEREDITH**

What happened here?

**SHUHELA**

People were upset about the video. And then Suzy turned up...

**MEREDITH**

Is she alright?

**SHUHELA**

I don't know, I lost sight of her when the crowd got nasty. Frank went out to help her and then they went for him. And that's when Barbara turned up and... well, things deteriorated.

**MEREDITH**

(Snorts) That's a fucking understatement.

Can we, like... turn her back, or...? I mean...

**SHUHELA**

Ah, it's not a proper moon-triggered transformation; looks like an emotional breakout to me. It should wear off soon. Which reminds me, there's a box of lost and found over there, we should find her something to fit.

[FOOTSTEPS, THEN RUMMAGING THROUGH FABRIC]

**MEREDITH**

"Emotional breakout"?

**SHUHELA**

Yeah, lycans tend to be a bit territorial. If they think a loved one is in danger they can... overreact.

**MEREDITH**

Right.

**SHUHELA**

It's actually, uh, sort of flattering, in a way, I suppose.

**MEREDITH**

Sure.

**SHUHELA**

Have you heard from any of the others?

**MEREDITH**

Not since Cressida kicked me out this morning. Why? What, what else has happened?

**SHUHELA**

Um, I don't know. That's what's worrying me.

[DOOR OPENS/CLOSES; FRANK WINCES IN PAIN]

**SHUHELA**

Frank! Oh god, look at you...

**FRANK**

(Fending off) Oh, now, I'm fine. I'm fine.

**FRANK**

(Sitting) How we doing in here? I saw some of them ran inside.

**SHUHELA**

Oh, no need to worry about us. Barbara's been looking after us.

**FRANK**

Ah, so I see.

(Greeting) Barbara.

[BARBARA GRUNTS AND GROWLS TO MORE MUFFLED WHIMPERING]

**SHUHELA**

Where's Suzy?

**FRANK**

Dunno. Lost track of her in the mess. Thought I saw her come in here but if you didn't see her, she must've legged it.

**MEREDITH**

Was she hurt?



**FRANK**

Not when I saw her last. Upset, but still alright.

**SHUHELA**

Oh, we should look for her.

**FRANK**

If she's any sense she'll be miles away by now.

[TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND WINCES]

Besides, we're not in any condition to do much for anyone. I'm guessing Barbara will be reverting any second and Shuhela needs that arm checked out, so...

**SHUHELA**

You don't look much better love, that's a nasty cut.

**FRANK**

(wincing) Yeah.

**MEREDITH**

Okay so, A&E then but how exactly are we going to get a massive werewolf all the way to the hospital without everyone completely freaking out.

[GROWLING, FOLLOWING BY DRAWN-OUT WETLY VISCERAL TRANSFORMATION]

[SOUNDS OF CONCERN AND/OR SQUEAMISHNESS FROM ASSEMBLED OTHERS]

**FRANK**

Ah now, alright, look away. Come on... let's just—

**MEREDITH**

Ah, that is not— Ah...

**FRANK**

Don't look.

**SHUHELA**

Barbara...

You're back, love. Return trip's always the worst bit. Here, let's get this hoodie on you... yep, that's right. Oh, and now the leggings...

[SMALL DISTRESSED SOUNDS FROM BARBARA]

**BARBARA**

(Shaking) Did... did we scare them off?

**SHUHELA**

Yes, for now.

[MUFFLED WHIMPERING]

Well, mostly.

(To others) Right, you can look. We're decent now.

**MEREDITH**

Right! Well, that makes things easier. Hospital then? And what about our new cupboard pals?

**FRANK**

We could lock them in.

**SHUHELA**

Ah, leave them.

**MEREDITH**

You're sure?

**SHUHELA**

We locked all the sensitive info in the safe as soon as things got sketchy so what else are they going to do, trash the place?

[DEBRIS POINTEDLY FALLS WITH A THUMP ACCOMPANIED BY GLASS SHATTERING]

**MEREDITH**

Fair point.

**SHUHELA**

We can call the Police on the way but we've got more important stuff to worry about right now.

**FRANK**

(Wincing) Right. I'll grab the car.

**MEREDITH**

Like fuck you will. Ah, look at you! I doubt you could even get behind the wheel!

[SHUHELA AGREES]

**FRANK**

Oh, fine!

[KEYS JANGLE]

**MEREDITH**

There we go. Right, into the car then, kids! Promise I won't crash us!

**SHUHELA**

Can you stand?

**BARBARA**

(Struggling a little) Er. Yes, more or less.

**SHUHELA**

Come on.

[MILLING FOOTSTEPS; DOOR OPENS]

MEREDITH (DISTANT)

So Frank, what kind of nought to sixty are we looking at in this thing?

FRANK (DISTANT)

(Muttering) God save us.

[DOOR CLOSES]

[CUPBOARD DOOR OPENS]

**CHARLIE**

(Quietly) They gone?

**SHARON**

Yeah, looks like it.

[BOTH EMERGE AND TAKE DEEP BREATHS]

**CHARLIE**

Did you hear anything they said?

**SHARON**

No. Did you hear that monster though?

**CHARLIE**

Yeah.

**SHARON**

Yeah.

[PAPERS RUSTLE]

**CHARLIE**

What are you doing?

[MORE PAPERS RUSTLE; SHARON SNORTS AND STARTS FLICKING A LIGHTER]

**CHARLIE**

Sharon! What the hell are you doing!

**SHARON**

I'm torching this shithole!

**CHARLIE**

Jesus Sharon, this has gone way too far! We were here to make a point, I don't want to hurt anyone.

[FIRE STARTS TO CRACKLE]

**SHARON**

(Angry) You saw them! You want shit like that wandering around near your little sister? No, sooner this place is gone the better.

Besides, it's not like there's anyone else here.

[MORE CRACKLING AND BOTH START COUGHING]

**CHARLIE**

Screw this! I'm out!

[FOOTSTEPS]

**SHARON**

Fucking coward!

Good fucking riddance.

[DOOR CREAKS]

**SUZY**

Who the hell are you?

**SHARON**

Huh?

[VAMPIRIC HISSING AS SHARON GASPS]

## **IRIS' HOUSE - MORNING**

[MOVEMENT AND RUSTLING AS IF PACKING]

### **NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

According to eyewitnesses, the fire at the ICS offices began sometime this morning. There are unconfirmed reports that there may have been people inside the building at the time, but it is unknown whether there is anybody currently trapped inside.

As you can see behind me, fire crews have cordoned off the area—

### **HAROLD**

(Muttering) Where did...? Where the he—

### **NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

—but the structure itself has already begun to collapse making any kind of search and rescue impossible.

### **HAROLD**

Christ, what a shit-show...

### **NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

Mayor William Allen is due to speak on these events later today, but has already offered his assurances to the public that "appropriate actions" are being taken. Police have yet to confirm whether this attack is being treated as a hate crime and, as-of-yet, no arrests have been made, but given the current



suspicion surrounding ICS as an organisation, a political motivation does seem likely.

ICS itself has been unavailable for comment but we can reveal that recently appointed co-CEO, Harold Stonewell, is already pending arrest as part of an ongoing investigation into a fraudulent investment case at private equity firm Hockenhull's.

**HAROLD**

Oh god...

**NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

There is no news yet as to whether Mr Stonewell has been implicated in the suspected arson attack on the ICS building, but it seems highly likely that now a formal investigation is on the cards.

[TV IS TURNED OFF]

**HAROLD**

Okay... Okay... Just think for a moment, alright. Use your head, Harold. They're going to investigate ICS. It's only a matter of time, and when they do, they're going to find out about the skimming. Then – oh god – then they're definitely going to connect you to the fire. Stands to reason you'd want the insurance.

So... What do you do? You... you get whatever you can and run. But the office will be crawling with police so...

So you grab whatever Cressida has, muddy the trail and disappear. Yeah, she'll have something dodgy squirrelled away. Money, records, something... Yeah! Yes, this'll work...

[FOOTSTEPS; DOOR OPENS/CLOSES]

### **HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY**

#### **SHUHELA**

He's been gone a while...

#### **MEREDITH**

Course he has. Hospitals take ages to do anything. He probably asked for a cup of tea and got stuck signing a hundred forms or something.

It's not like he's going to pop his clogs.

#### **BARBARA**

Although concussions can be fatal.

...

Oh! [NERVOUS CHUCKLES] Well, not very often. Only if he gets a blood clot or, or, or a, a brain bleed or... uh...

...

I'll just... I'll just go get us some tea or... or... uh...

[NERVOUSLY STANDS AND HEADS OFF]

**MEREDITH**

Christ, I thought I was bad. Talk about an awkward *paws*.

...

**SHUHELA**

That's not funny.

**MEREDITH**

Oh.

Right.

...

Look, Shuhela, I'm... I'm sorry.

**SHUHELA**

(Sighs) It's fine, love.

**MEREDITH**

No. This... all of this... it's my fault. Everything would be alright if I had just stayed out of it. I never should've come back. Mum was right.

**SHUHELA**

What's that?

**MEREDITH**

She used to say I never knew when to stop, or just leave alone. Said I just destroyed everything. That's why she kicked me out – to protect Harold from all my... my issues. And, and look! She was right. It's all fucked! All this...

I should've just stayed away. I never learn...

**SHUHELA**

Alright, that's enough. I told you before, not everything's about you.

**MEREDITH**

But I—

**SHUHELA**

No. I'm serious. No more of all that 'It's all my fault' talk. Yeah, you made some mistakes, big ones. But all of this? A lot of people had to make choices for this to happen. You're just... you're just beating yourself up for no reason. I don't know what happened with you and your mum, it's none of my business, but right now, you trying to take responsibility for an entire town isn't helping. It doesn't help anyone.

If you want to apologise, if you want to make something right, then do something about it!

**MEREDITH**

But Mum's go—

**SHUHELA**

Screw your mum! She's dead.

You're the one who's here now, so what are you going to do about it? Hmm?

**MEREDITH**

It's too late.

**SHUHELA**

So what? Do it anyway.

**MEREDITH**

What?

**SHUHELA**

Do it anyway. Sometimes you have to do something even if it's pointless. Because... Because it's the right thing to do. And hey, you never know. You might stumble on something useful as you go.

**MEREDITH**

(Sniffs) It's a bit much innit? Did you read that on a get well card or something?

**SHUHELA**

It's not wrong though.

[SIGHS]

**MEREDITH**

You're alright Shuhela, you know that?

**SHUHELA**

Hm. I'm aware.

**MEREDITH**

I think... I think I'm going to go look for Suzy. See if she went back to the church or something.

**SHUHELA**

Good.

You've got my mobile if you need me.

**MEREDITH**

Look after yourself.

**SHUHELA**

Don't you worry about me, my love.

(Pleased) It seems like I've got a bodyguard.

[FOOTSTEPS DOOR OPENS/CLOSES]

**MEREDITH**

Hey, I'm on my way out.

**BARBARA**

Oh right.

**MEREDITH**

Yeah but, um... before I go... I... Sorry.

**BARBARA**

Hmm? For what?

**MEREDITH**

You know, for before, when I told Shuhela about the whole were— I mean, lycan thing. I shouldn't have.

**BARBARA**

Oh, right, ah! Well, I was going to tell her anyway, so...

**MEREDITH**

That's good of you but it was none of my business and I really shouldn't have just leapt—

**BARBARA**

Look, I appreciate it. Apology accepted and all that. Now will you please grab your tea! I've three hot cups but only two hands!

**MEREDITH**

Oh right!

[MEREDITH GRABS A CUP BUT SOME SPILLS]

Sorry!

**BARBARA**

It's fine...

Don't worry about it.

**MEREDITH**

Alright. Thanks, Barbara.

**BARBARA**

It's just tea.

**MEREDITH**

Sure.

[FOOTSTEPS; DOOR OPENS/CLOSES]

**SHUHELA**

Everything alright?



**BARBARA**

Uh, yeah, she's alright. She's doing better than you are.

**SHUHELA**

Like you're any better.

**BARBARA**

I'm fine.

**SHUHELA**

Pffft. A couple of hours after a full transformation? You're only sitting down because your knees are about to give out.

**BARBARA**

Yeah, well. Maybe. Here's your tea.

**SHUHELA**

Aw, thanks.

So. How much do you remember?

**BARBARA**

Bits and pieces. Urgh, feels like someone hit me with a car.

**SHUHELA**

Oh don't be melodramatic. It was only a chair.

**BARBARA**

Could've fooled me.

...

I didn't hurt anyone did I?

**SHUHELA**

No. Though you were acting incredibly stupid for getting involved in the first place.

You have some explaining to do.

**BARBARA**

I'm sorry, Shuhela.

**SHUHELA**

You should be.

**BARBARA**

When I saw you like that, it was— I was so angry. I wanted them all to go, and I... I could make them. I'm sorry if I scared you.

**SHUHELA**

(Snorts) Hardly.

**BARBARA**

Oh, uh... right. Good?

**SHUHELA**

I told you not to stay out of it, but then you rocked up anyway, right into the middle of an angry mob.

**BARBARA**

I needed to save you.

**SHUHELA**

Oh yeah? And how did that go?

**BARBARA**

Well... I mean...

**SHUHELA**

Listen. Barbara. I like you.

**BARBARA**

Oh! Thanks.

**SHUHELA**

But... we don't know each other yet. Not really. It's ridiculous that you would throw yourself in danger like that on my account.

**BARBARA**

I was just trying to help.

**SHUHELA**

It was stupid. You could've been killed. All you actually managed to do was escalate things. The second you got involved things went from bad to worse.

**BARBARA**

I'm so sorry. I never meant—

**SHUHELA**

(Gentler) I know, I know. I don't want you to be sorry, love. I just—

[DEEP BREATH]

What's the point in all that prep you do, if you throw it out the window the second things get hairy? Pardon the pun.

**BARBARA**

You needed my help.

**SHUHELA**

When I need your help, I'll ask for it.

**BARBARA**

Alright. So, uh... So are we still... well...?

**SHUHELA**

You still get a second date. But don't push it.

[DOOR OPENS/CLOSES]

**FRANK**

Hiya

**SHUHELA**

Frank! How are you doing?

**FRANK**

Concussed, apparently.

**SHUHELA**

Oh, no! You're going to be alright, though, right?

**FRANK**

I've seen worse. Did a number on me back though. Argh. I'll be on painkillers for a while.

Uh, where's Meredith?

**SHUHELA**

She's gone to check on Suzy.

**FRANK**

Ah, good. Mind if I check in, see if there's any news?

**BARBARA**

Let me.

[FOOTSTEPS, CLICK OF TV]

**NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

According to eyewitnesses, the fire at the ICS offices began sometime this morning. There are unconfirmed reports that there may have been people inside the building at the time but it is unknown whether there is anybody currently trapped inside.

**BARBARA**

Oh no.

**NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)(BACKGROUND)**

As you can see behind me, fire crews have cordoned off the area but the structure itself has already begun to collapse making any kind of search and rescue im—

**SHUHELA**

You don't think Suzy w—

**FRANK**

(Struggling) I'll see if I can catch up to Meredith, lend a hand.

**SHUHELA**

No!

[FRANKS WINCES AS SHE GRABS HIM; TV IS TURNED OFF]

**FRANK**

I can help.

**BARBARA**

You can barely stand.

**SHUHELA**

We don't know she was in there. You said so yourself, she probably already left.

**FRANK**

I'm not going to sit here and hope everything just works out.

**SHUHELA**

Yes you are!

[GENTLY SLAPS HIM]

You and I both know it's not about fixing everything all the time. It's about making sure you're ready to help when we know people need us. And right now, that means resting up.

**BARBARA**

Well put.

**SHUHELA**

Thanks.

**FRANK**

Aye aye Cap'n. But I'm warning Meredith.

**SHUHELA**

Urgh. She can't do much.

**FRANK**

Well it's better than nothing.

[MOVES TO USE MOBILE PHONE]

(On phone) Meredith? Meredith, it's Frank...

**BARBARA**

I hope everyone's all right.

**SHUHELA**

Me too, love. Me too.



**TOWN HALL - DAY**

[FOOTSTEPS; CROWD MURUMURING CAN BE HEARD FAINTLY]

**LILY**

I'm telling you, Mr Allen, this is a mistake. If you go out there with this speech it's going to be a disaster!

**WILLIAM**

(Chuckles) Are you joking? This morning was just the beginning. All we need is a smidge more fire and brimstone, and we can bring the lot of them to the boil! Do you have any idea how rare an opportunity this is? Think of what we could achieve! What we can finally push through without having to worry about how it's going to bloody poll! Gravesby's making national news today, for god's sake!

**LILY**

I can't allow you to do this.

**WILLIAM**

Oh, I'm sorry, allow?

**LILY**

I... um... well... I just—

**WILLIAM**

If we're talking about 'allowing', how about we discuss how I allow **you** to carry on working with us, when I know all about your secret little packets?

**LILY**

I don't know what you are possibly referring to.

**WILLIAM**

Don't play silly buggers with me Lily. You don't get as far as I do without spotting a snake-in-the-grass. And you, my dear, are a snake. You thought you got away with that little stunt with the car, didn't you?

**LILY**

I'm sorry, William, but I really don't know what you're talking about.

**WILLIAM**

I know, Lily. I knew you'd been on Cressida's take for a while, and after the St Mark's debacle... well, it seemed time to straighten things out. **Dig** a bit deeper, if you know what I mean?

**LILY**

N-No...

**WILLIAM**

I'll admit, I didn't want to believe it at first, but Cressida's not the only one with friends around town. Took a bit of work to figure out, but once I did... eurgh, disgusting! Positively ghoulish! I can't believe the morgue went along with it.

**LILY**

It's... it's not like that... I— Oh god...

**WILLIAM**

The only reason you're still here is because I wanted you where I could see you, to keep you from making any other little **deals** that might interfere. Well, guess what? Times up. Game over, etcetera. You're done.

**LILY**

No...

**WILLIAM**

(To Security) Terrance, Roger!

[FOOTSTEPS APPROACH]

Please show Lily away from Town Hall.

**SECURITY GUARDS (UNISON)**

Yes sir.

**LILY**

What?

**WILLIAM**

Her employment with us has been officially terminated.

**LILY**

Oi! Get off me!

[SOUNDS OF STRUGGLE AS WILLIAM CONTINUES TO PONTIFICATE]

**WILLIAM**

Such a pity Lily, but it's just not appropriate for you to continue to work with us, given your questionable connections to ICS. Our administration simply cannot accept such a conflict of interest. I'm sure you understand.

**LILY**

I show you a conflict of interest, you bastard!

[LILY GRABS WILLIAM AND THEY STRUGGLE]

[MORE STRUGGLING AS SECURITY GETS FURTHER INVOLVED]

**SECURITY GUARD #1**

That's enough!

Let him go!

**SECURITY GUARD #2**

Christ, she's strong!

**WILLIAM**

(Gasping) Please... Miss Jones... there's no need for such violence!

[THE CROWD NOTICES AND THEN IS AUDIBLY SHOCKED]

**LILY**

(Voice distorted) Rot in hell.

[WILLIAM GASPS AS HE GETS HIS BREATH BACK]

**WILLIAM**

It would seem you beat me to it. Well, that first part at least.

[LILY ROARS AND RELEASES HIM BEFORE STALKING OFF]

**WILLIAM**

No, no. Let her go. The last thing I would want is further bloodshed. No matter how justified.

[COUGHS, FOOTSTEPS, CLEARS THROAT BEFORE MIC]

(Amplified) Good morning all. Sorry for the delay there. It would seem I'm dealing with inflammatory situations all over today!

[CAMERAS SNAP, SOME POLITE CHUCKLES]

First of all, I'd like to thank you all for coming here today. It speaks volumes as to the severity of the situation. I am here to talk today about the regrettable arson attack on the ICS offices this morning, which endangered the entire area

and demonstrates the depths to which some people will lower themselves in the pursuit of power and money.

We shall ensure that justice is served against the perpetrators, but we also need to make sure we do not lose sight of the wider issues at play. This building was destroyed by those who have no care for Gravesby, perhaps even the owners themselves.

Regardless, these affronts to the peace cannot be allowed to continue. They will not. Our streets will be made safe and those who would enable this culture of lawlessness which pervades **our** Gravesby will be brought to heel. We did not wish for this confrontation, but as has so often happens in the history of this noble isle, we find it thrust upon us. And to that, I say: so be it!

### **DESTROYED ICS OFFICE - DAY**

[BACKGROUND NOISE OF FIRE FIGHTING]

**MEREDITH**

Holy shit...

**FIREFIGHTER**

You need to move back. There's a lot of structural damage, lot of embers.

**MEREDITH**

Tell me what happened!

**FIREFIGHTER**

There's no use speculating, but I am going to need you to move back.

**NICK**

Meredith!

**MEREDITH**

What are you doing here?

**NICK**

Looking for Suzy.

**FIREFIGHTER**

You both need to step back right now!

**MEREDITH**

Alright, alright, we're going! Fuck!

**NICK**

Listen, Meredith, about before...

**MEREDITH**

Not the time.

**NICK**

Yeah. Of course. Sorry.

**MEREDITH**

...

Did you see what happened?

**NICK**

I'm the one who called it in. I got here and I saw her and some rando woman inside through the broken window. Looked like they were fighting or something. I-I tried to go in but...

**MEREDITH**

Nick?

**NICK**

(Struggling) It was already on fire...

**MEREDITH**

Nick, what happened?

**NICK**

I don't know.

**MEREDITH**

What? You didn't— Suzy didn't leave?

**NICK**

(Tearful) Neither of them did...



**MEREDITH**

(Shaking) Oh my god... Oh god...

[MEREDITH STARTS CRYING]

It's my fault. She was just protecting me, it's so stupid... like I'm worth protecting...

**NICK**

Hey, come on... Meredith, w—

**MEREDITH**

Bastards. Fucking bastards!

**NICK**

Yeah.

**MEREDITH**

I can't believe she's gone...

[MEREDITH BREAKS DOWN, OPENLY SOBBING]

**NICK**

I got you.

...

Come on, let's get up, eh? You don't want to be here.

**MEREDITH**

(sharply) Yes I do.

[MEREDITH STANDS AND STARTS WALKING AND THEN SCRABBLING THROUGH THE DEBRIS]

**NICK**

Meredith?

**FIREFIGHTER**

Oi! What did I just tell you, get back!

You need to get your mate under control.

**NICK**

She's just trying to help. We know the woman who was inside.

**FIREFIGHTER**

She's going to get herself hurt!

**NICK**

So... I guess you'd better give her some gloves or something then, hadn't you?

**FIREFIGHTER**

I—

**MEREDITH**

She was my friend. I need to help.

**FIREFIGHTER**

Fine. Take these. Just... don't draw too much attention, alright? The paperwork for civilian assistance is a nightmare.

**NICK**

Thank you.

[THEY ARE HANDED GLOVES AND START SIFTING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE]

**MEREDITH**

You don't have to.

**NICK**

Yeah.

Yeah, I do.

**TOWN HALL - DAY**

**WILLIAM**

—it is only when we unite as a community that we can push back against the criminals in our midst! Only when we stand firm, hold the line and say no!

[A RAFT OF PHONES START GOING OFF IN THE CROWD]

(Noticing) Uh, no more will we will tolerate such corruption, and, and that you must listen! Listen to the demands of the people in your community who...  
um—

Uh... Who decide what is acceptable and what—

Look, for god's sake, I-I'm trying to give a bloody speech here.

**BYSTANDER**

People have died you prick! Burned alive!

**WILLIAM**

W-What? Now, hang on!

**JOURNALIST**

Screw this. Pack it up, let's get in the van.

[JOURNALISTS START TO DISPERSE]

**WILLIAM**

I am talking. You **will** listen.

## **HOSPITAL, WAITING ROOM - DAY**

### **NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

What started as a scene of tragedy this morning has turned into one of solidarity, as more and more people arrive to assist in the search for the bodies of Miss Suzy Broadbent and Miss Sharon Cartwright. The women were last seen inside the building at the time of the fire, and they are now believed dead at the scene. Fire crews have been unable to hold back the crowd, and have instead begun trying to guide their efforts.

### **FRANK**

Bloody hell.

### **NEWS REPORTER (TELEVISION)**

-The crowd is quite a... uh... mixed bunch, although it's a bit difficult to make out the details through the ongoing smoke. We have heard reports that there are large numbers of the so-called "inexplicable" community amongst the group, although we don't have any details at this time.

## **DESTROYED ICS OFFICE - DAY**

[SOUNDS OF MUCH RUBBLE CLEARING]

### **NICK**

Look, there's a couple of the Siren's girls over there. And I'm pretty sure those three are vamps.

**MEREDITH**

So?

**NICK**

So that's a lot of inexplicables in one place. There's TV cameras here.

**MEREDITH**

Yeah.

Good point.

[FOOTSTEPS]

**LEN**

Hey, uh... Meredith right?

**MEREDITH**

Uh, who's asking?

**LEN**

Len. I lead the vamp support group, met your brother. Listen, me and the rest of the lads we heard about...

We're here to chip in. Where do you need us?

**MEREDITH**

Uh... I dunno. Ask one of the ICS lot.

**LEN**

Well, I mean, none of the others are here, so like... **you're** the ICS lot right now. Officially.

**MEREDITH**

Shit.

Well, officially, I don't know. Um, ask around, see if anyone needs water. Some of them have been here as long as us.

**LEN**

Alright then.

**NICK**

You look good in charge.

[FOOTSTEPS]

**CRESSIDA**

Meredith?

[IVAN RUMBLES]

Meredith, what the hell do you think you're doing?

**MEREDITH**

Digging.

**CRESSIDA**

Those are **television** cameras, Meredith. They're with the nationals, for god's sake.

**MEREDITH**

So?

**CRESSIDA**

So?!

So we need to get these Inexplicables out of here right now. They're exposed.

**NICK**

Too late now.

**CRESSIDA**

And who, exactly, are you?

**MEREDITH**

That's Nick. He's with me.

**CRESSIDA**

(Quietly) Whatever.

Well, Meredith, all this has happened because you revealed one, **one** vampire to Gravesby. How do you think they are going to take all the rest? For god's sake, use your brain, girl!



[MEREDITH CONTINUES TO DIG WHILE TALKING, VOICE STRAINS WITH EXERTION]

**MEREDITH**

Huh. You sound a lot like mum when you're angry.

**CRESSIDA**

Listen here, you gobby little madam!

[MEREDITH SLAPS CRESSIDA AWAY HAVING GRABBED HER]

**MEREDITH**

Oi, get off!

**NICK**

Hey, get off her!

[IVAN RUMBLES]

**CRESSIDA**

You are offering this lot up to the mob on a bloody platter!

**MEREDITH**

Let go of me. Now.

[CRESSIDA MOVES BACK WITH A HUFF]

It's too late. Everyone already knows, Cressida, or if they don't, they're going to. That ship's sailed.

Besides, look around you. I'm seeing a lot of people. There's no way they're all inexplicables.

**CRESSIDA**

(Spluttering) That, that's not the point.

**MEREDITH**

But it is, isn't it? Right now, no-one gives a crap about whether people are different. Everyone just wants the same thing. We're... we're going to find the bodies and then... then we'll take it from there.

**CRESSIDA**

You're being completely stupid, as usu—

**MEREDITH**

Yeah, probably. But, you know, it's been a long day.

**CRESSIDA**

I'm putting a stop to this right now. Ivan, grab those cones! Block the road!

[CONFUSED GRUNT FROM IVAN]

**MEREDITH**

Oh, for fuck's sake! Don't be so melodramatic. Either grab a spade or piss off.

**CRESSIDA**

How dare you! You have no idea what I have done for **this** community.

[FOOTSTEPS]

**LILY**

No. But I do.

**CRESSIDA**

Huh. Lily? What are you doing here? William isn't here as well, is he—

**LILY**

Fuck William! And fuck you!

**CRESSIDA**

Ivan. If you'd be so kind.

[IVAN RUMBLES AND FLEXES AS HE MOVES TO INTERCEPT]

**LILY**

Ivan...

[RUMBLES FROM IVAN AND PANTS FROM LILY AS THEY HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST EACH OTHER]

**NICK**

Wow, she's strong.

**CRESSIDA**

That's enough, Lily!

**LILY**

(With exertion) I am sick of all of you posh, rich shitheads just fucking whispering and scheming about how to control everybody all the fucking time. You and William are as bad as one another!

**CRESSIDA**

No.

**MEREDITH**

Am I missing something here?

**CRESSIDA**

Ivan!

[LILY BREAKS FREE FROM IVAN]

**LILY**

She's been working with William! They've been dealing under the table for years.

**CRESSIDA**

That's enough!

**LILY**

And she's been abducting people from ICS!

**MEREDITH**

What?

**CRESSIDA**

This is utterly ridiculous, and I think—

**LILY**

People have been going missing for months, and Cressida is behind it, I'm certain. Frank knows. We were looking into it when all this started.

**MEREDITH**

(To Cressida) What is she talking about?

**CRESSIDA**

I have no idea.

**LILY**

Tell them the truth, or I swear I will knock you—

**CRESSIDA**

It's true that William and I had an... arrangement. It was mutually beneficial. We'd keep out of his hair and he'd... turn a blind eye.

**LILY**

Oh, you lying little—

**CRESSIDA**

(To Lily) How do you think I was able to keep you **fed**, hmmm? Human flesh isn't exactly available at Waitrose.

**MEREDITH**

What does that mean?

**NICK**

Oh! You're a... ghou!

**LILY**

Well, yes, but that's not important right now. What is—

**CRESSIDA**

Not important? I don't think any of you realise just how important it is. How much I have had to organise, to sacrifice to keep you all safe.

Iris and I gave you everything. We both worked ourselves to the bone to make sure nobody looked too closely at you all. She died at her desk, for god's sake! And now, here you all are just... just throwing it all away! Every moment you spend out here scrabbling in the dirt in front of those cameras is just another insult to her memory.

**LILY**

No, you knew about the missing people, you had lists.

**CRESSIDA**

(Hastily) I... knew... some inexplicables had been going missing and I kept the information on a need-to-know basis so it wouldn't cause a panic.

**LILY**

(Confused) N-No...

**CRESSIDA**

(Re-composed) I'm sorry, my dear, but the reason you can't prove I'm guilty is because I have done nothing wrong.

(Loudly to everyone) This is exactly the kind of thing I am trying to protect you all from! I'm sorry this has happened, I am. But we need to get out of the spotlight now before things get any worse. There's nothing to be gained by being here. It's just ashes. Ashes and... broken pieces of—

**LEN**

Hey! I've— I think I've found something!

**FIREFIGHTER**

Out the way! Clear a path!

**LEN**

Suzy! It's Suzy! She's alive! They both are!

[CHEERS AND SURPRISE FROM THE CROWD]

[NICK HI-FIVES MEREDITH]

**NICK**

I don't believe it!

**LEN**

And... Jesus, there's more people down here— Robbie? And, and you're Hannah, right?

What the hell is this?

**CRESSIDA**

Ivan. Heh. We're leaving.

[STARTS RUNNING]

**LILY**

Like hell you are!

**CRESSIDA**

Ivan! Come on!

**MEREDITH**

Stop her!



**CRESSIDA'S HOUSE, OFFICE - DAY**

[HAROLD IS FRANTICALLY SEARCHING]

**HAROLD**

Come on, come on... there's got to be something...

**HAROLD**

Stupid bloody.

[KICKS DESK]

Argh! Ow, fuck!

Wait.

[KICKS DESK AGAIN, IT SOUNDS VERY SOLID]

**HAROLD**

A safe? Oh, brilliant! Just absolutely fucking fan-fucking-tastic. Shit-bollocksy-fucking shit!

[DOOR OPENS/CLOSES; FOOTSTEPS]

**CRESSIDA**

Hello, Harold.

**HAROLD**

Ah.

**CRESSIDA**

What are you doing here?

**HAROLD**

Cressida! Uh. Hello, hi. Yes. Uh... uh. And Ivan!

[IVAN RUMBLES]

Excellent. Just, uh, just excellent.

[CRESSIDA SIGHS HEAVILY]

Hello. Yes.

**CRESSIDA**

Why are you in my house, Harold?

**HAROLD**

Oh. Well I, uh... I saw on the news there was, um... a ruckus.

**CRESSIDA**

A ruckus?

**HAROLD**

Uh, yes! Aaaaand I-I-I-I thought someone had better come and check that you were... safe, and then I saw the window was open so... but it was, uh... it turns out that you're fine, so haha! Uh... So I'll just, uh, be going...

[IVAN GROWLS]

**CRESSIDA**

You wouldn't have been trying to rustle up something incriminating, would you?

**HAROLD**

Oh no, no, no, no, no, no, of course not!

**CRESSIDA**

Because it seems to me that we need each other now more than ever.

**HAROLD**

We do?

**CRESSIDA**

Oh yes. You haven't even been paid for all of your hard work yet, after all.

**HAROLD**

Oh, well, that's true but I don't see how—

[FOOTSTEPS AND KEYS JINGLE]

**CRESSIDA**

And given the circumstances, I believe you may have been right the first time.

[UNLOCKS SAFE]

Cash-in-hand?

**HAROLD**

What?

[CRESSIDA STARTS FLICKING BUNDLES OF CASH]

**CRESSIDA**

Let's be honest with one another for once, Harold. We both know that you are fleeing an arrest. In fact, since we are being honest, I confess I am astonished that you have managed to evade capture so far. I really didn't think you had it in you.

Regardless, you are going to be needing significant amounts of cash.

**HAROLD**

It's too late.

**CRESSIDA**

To pay your dues, yes. But you'd be amazed at how far one can travel unobserved when one has enough liquid assets.

**HAROLD**

What are you suggesting?

**CRESSIDA**

Well, it just so happens that I find myself in possession of more money than is really convenient. And a large number of people are going to start asking questions as to where all that money came from.

It seems to me that if you were to take the money, along with the... 'credit for its acquirement', we both win. You make a 'clean getaway', as they say, and I avoid any unhelpful suspicion.

**HAROLD**

I'm not taking the rap for your dodgy business!

**CRESSIDA**

Then you will certainly "take the rap" for your own wrongdoings.

What are you afraid of, Harold? Losing your reputation? You are already a laughing stock, and now a criminal to boot. I'm offering you a fair deal here. You shoulder the blame for both of us and I'll make sure you never get punished for either.

**HAROLD**

I don't even know what I'd be taking credit for.

**CRESSIDA**

Would it really make a difference at this point?

**HAROLD**

I've seen the lengths you've gone to, to keep all this quiet. Whatever you're hiding, I'm not going to take the blame unless I know **exactly** what I'm going to be accused of.

**CRESSIDA**

Oh, very well. Ivan, please wait outside. It's crowded enough in here without you lurking.

[IVAN RUMBLES QUESTIONINGLY]

Now, Ivan.

[IVAN RUMBLES AND LEAVES THE ROOM]

Now, Harold. You and I both know there is a certain... 'asymmetry' to the accounts of the ICS.

**HAROLD**

(Snorts) That's one way of putting it.

**CRESSIDA**

Not only do we have all the operational costs of an ordinary social care organisation, there are countless additional considerations. Special medical

care, relocation costs, fines, it all mounts up. And unfortunately, the need for secrecy about who exactly we're helping means any real funding is completely out of the question.

**HAROLD**

Yeah. It's a stupid business model.

**CRESSIDA**

Indeed it is. You mother founded this company, and though I trusted her motives and respected her ambition, her business skills left a lot to be desired. It was always an untenable situation, and the longer it continued the more desperate I became in my search for a remedy. Until finally, one day, we ran out of options.

**HAROLD**

Wait... are you saying what I think you're saying?

**CRESSIDA**

I doubt it.

**HAROLD**

You killed my mother!

**CRESSIDA**

(Incredulous) Oh, for goodness' sake, Harold. Of course I didn't.

**HAROLD**

Oh. Right. Oh, I just thought—

**CRESSIDA**

No. You didn't think at all, as usual.

As I was saying, the business had been stumbling along for years on faith and optimism alone, and eventually both of those came into short supply. It became apparent that we needed an additional revenue stream. Something especially lucrative, otherwise it was finally over and all these amazing, unique people we had worked so hard to protect would be left without anything or anyone.

Your mother was always full of little aphorisms; I'm sure you remember. There was one in particular that she would always trot out: "the solution is in the problem".

And much as it pains me to admit it, she was right in the end. There are private companies that will pay an enormous amount of money for unique biotech. Pharmacology, military, even cosmetics. They are all desperately searching for... unusual DNA.

**HAROLD**

What, what do you mean, "unusual"?

**CRESSIDA**

A cell sample here, a fluid sample there... it was such a small sacrifice to protect the entire community. I started with my own of course.



**HAROLD**

Why would they want your... stuff?

**CRESSIDA**

Why do you think, Harold? Honestly, do keep up.

**HAROLD**

Wait... You're a, a... ONE—

**CRESSIDA**

Inexplicable, yes. A banshee, if we're being specific.

[CRESSIDA LETS LOOSE A NOTE THAT CAREENS UP THE SCALE EERILY]

**HAROLD**

Oh. Urgh!

**CRESSIDA**

I just so happen to know exactly how and when everyone I ever meet shall die.

I'll confess it can be quite depressing, but it did, at least, mean I knew how long we had left to keep your... your dear mother's legacy alive. I did manage it alone for a while as she sickened but... the, the demand was excessive and the bills kept mounting...

**HAROLD**

What are you saying?

**QUICK TRANSITION TO: CRESSIDA'S HOUSE, CORRIDOR**

**CRESSIDA (INSIDE)**

I am saying that I started to ask around. And then... well. I stopped asking altogether.

**IVAN**

(Rumbling) No...

**QUICK TRANSITION TO: CRESSIDA'S HOUSE, OFFICE**

**HAROLD**

So what? You just... kidnapped them?

**CRESSIDA**

(Sighs) It was the only way, Harold. One pint of blood could save a hundred people. And we did save hundreds.

**HAROLD**

Bloody hell! Can you actually hear yourself right now? You sound like a Bond villain!

**CRESSIDA**

It was actually working rather well until you arrived. I'd been using the basement at ICS, but I'd had my eye on St Mark's for months. With the extra money keeping William off our backs we could finally get hold of the church officially. Maybe even look at expansion! We were so close, but then...

[SIGHS HEAVILY]

Ah, well. What's done is done. No sense crying over spilt milk.

**HAROLD**

There's no way I'm going to be a part of... of all this!

**CRESSIDA**

Where did you think your little consulting fees were going to come from, hmm?

**HAROLD**

I don't know!

**CRESSIDA**

Besides, you already were part of it, Harold, if we consider your own provenance.

**HAROLD**

My what?

**CRESSIDA**

Tell me: how much do you remember about your father?

**HAROLD**

Look, I don't know what you're insinuating, but I, I, I'm not—

**CRESSIDA**

Who do you think inspired your mother to set ICS up in the first place? Why use his insurance for something that ostensibly had nothing to do with her?

He was a vampire, Harold. And he couldn't stand it. Alas, maybe if he'd had access to one our support groups at ICS he might have had a better chance.

**HAROLD**

Bullshit.

**CRESSIDA**

Believe what you like, my point still stands. You're already neck deep in all of this unpleasantness. What I am offering you is a chance to leave it all behind. All I ask in return is that you... remove me from the narrative.

**HAROLD**

(Shaken) She'd have said something. We'd have known...

**CRESSIDA**

Look, Harold, I am aware that this is all happening very fast for you, but please don't forget we are under certain time pressures.

**HAROLD**

What?

**CRESSIDA**

Mmhm.

**HAROLD**

(Realising) Oh! Fuck! Shit! Yeah, a-alright, so... uh, assuming I do believe all this, what happens if I do take you up on this? Hmm? Do you just... keep doing what you're doing?

**CRESSIDA**

We'll certainly have to change a few... details. St Mark's remains available, so I suspect we can still pivot across. After all, we have little choice at this point. All those television cameras filming your sister and the others... well, that's quite a lot of mopping up we'll have to pay for.

**HAROLD**

What about Meredith?

**CRESSIDA**

What about her? She'll be the drunken fool who let it happen on her watch. The unfit heir to a wonderful woman. So sad, such big shoes to fill. She'll probably end up in a state-funded rehab programme. Thinking about it, it might actually do her some good.

**HAROLD**

That's not good enough.

**CRESSIDA**

Sentiment, Harold? Really? How very disappointing.

**HAROLD**

No, wait... I-I— No. I'm not doing this, I can't.

**CRESSIDA**

Oh, for once in your life Harold grow a spine and use it!

**HAROLD**

That's exactly what I'm doing!

[FOOTSTEPS AS HE CROSSES TO GRAB CRESSIDA]

**CRESSIDA**

Let me go you... snivelling little—Ivan!

[DOOR OPENS; IVAN ENTERS RUMBLING]

**HAROLD**

Oh god!

**CRESSIDA**

(Struggling) Ivan, you're going to take this man and— Ivan? Ivan, what are you doing?

(IVAN LIFTS CRESSIDA UP, RUMBLING DISCONTENTEDLY)

Put me down!

**IVAN**

(Rumbling angrily) No...

**CRESSIDA**

Ivan, you don't understand, it was the only way! No! Ivan!

[CRESSIDA STARTS TO BANSHEE SHRIEK BUT IS CUT OFF BY IVAN'S HAND]

**HAROLD**

Er... thanks.

[CRESSIDA CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH MUFFLED CRIES]

S-S-S-So what happens now?

...

Right. I uh... I guess I should probably... call the police. Let them know... well, all of it. Unless... you wanted to let me go...? Uh, y'know, as a friend?

[IVAN GROWLS]

**HAROLD**

Didn't think so.

[HAROLD TAKES A COUPLE OF DEEP BREATHS, TAKES OUT MOBILE PHONE AND DIALS, WHICH IS ANSWERED AFTER A FEW RINGS]

**BELFRAGE (TELEPHONE)**

Harold?

**HAROLD**

Hi, John. Uh, yes, sorry, uh, about everything. I've, [DEEP SIGH] I've just been absolutely slammed.

**BELFRAGE (TELEPHONE)**

Harold, where the hell are you?!

**HAROLD**

I'm uh... uh... I'm at Cressida Hynes' house, and uh... I suppose I'm finally free for that interview.

**ST MARK'S CHURCH - ONE YEAR LATER**

[SOUNDS OF A SMALL CROWD]

**FRANK**

Nervous?

**SUZY**

A bit. I know I shouldn't be, but... oh god...

**FRANK**

You'll be fine. Just follow her lead.



**SHUHELA**

(Whispered) Go get 'em!

**MEREDITH**

(To crowd) Right, well, thanks everyone for coming! [CLEARS THROAT] It's, er, really nice to... um...

[SOMEONE GIGGLES]

Ah, fuck it, you all know I'm shit at this bit.

[GOOD-NATURED LAUGHING FROM CROWD]

I did cards and everything this time, I did!

[MORE LAUGHTER]

Screw it! It's more genuine like this anyway.

[FEW CHEERS FROM THE ICS CREW]

So, off-the-cuff then.

**SUZY (BACKGROUND)**

Oh my gosh.

**FRANK (BACKGROUND)**

Don't encourage her. [CHUCKLES]

**MEREDITH**

Um, right. Uh... Uh... let's start with the obvious then: Today makes a year since ICS got burned down and we found out exactly what Cressida had been doing in it.

Yeah. I, um... huh. I still don't really have the words for... for any of that. It was shit. The worst. But, somehow we made it through, and on the way we found so many of the people we thought we'd lost, even if it was in a really fucking horrible way.

I'll tell you what, if you'd told me back then that a year on we'd be here, able to open a new ICS with no weird fucking Dr Evil medical bullshit going on and with a proper building and everything to boot... I'd have probably have thrown my drink at you.

[LAUGHTER]

But here we are, back at St Marks.

Except for Harold, obviously. I visited him last week and he asked me to say hi. I'd be lying if I said I wish he was here—

[SHUHELA COUGHS MEANINGFULLY]

—but, uh... fair play, he did dob Cressida in so I'll lay off him for now.

[IVAN RUMBLES FOR ATTENTION]

Also, uh, thanks again for helping with that, Ivan. Woo!

Yeah... anyway, all that's by-the-by because the important thing, is what happens next. Where do we go from here? And so, with that, I'm gonna get Suzy to come up here as my co-CEO and see what she's got to say cos she's way more prepared than I am, which is why I hired her. So go me I guess. And her, obviously. Crucially, her.

[APPLAUSE AND WHISTLES FROM CROWD]

**SUZY**

(Muttering) Thanks for that.

[CHEERING SUBSIDES]

**MEREDITH**

You're welcome.

**SUZY**

(To crowd) Ah... Huh. So. Uh... Hello, everyone.

You all know me by now, so I won't bother to introduce myself.

...

It took a lot for us – well, for me - to be here today.

...

I honestly thought I was going to die. When the floor caved in... falling in the dark... alone. I reached the bottom and I was ready to... But then, I wasn't alone.

It's impossible to explain what it felt like to see my friends at that moment, even in the dark, and hold on to them. To hold on to them as everything fell apart around us, and then hold on as we got pulled back out of the dark by the rest of you.

But that's what we do isn't it? We pull together, even in the dark times, even when we think there's nothing to do put pick up the pieces. Because, like Meredith says, sometimes you've got to. Even when it's pointless.

**MEREDITH**

(Aside) S'good advice that.

**SHUHELA**

(Aside, smiling) Stop!

**SUZY**

Yeah, so the point is... we kept finding ways to keep going: the check-ins, the spare sofas, the crisis support, the group sessions.

And then it was getting William-fucking-Allen kicked out of office for fraud and profiteering and being a generally shitty person!

[CHORUS OF YAYS FOR ACTION AND BOOS FOR WILLIAM]

Good to see Mayor Lily Jones here, by the way.

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

And then there was all the rest of it – the interviews, the investigations, that bloody documentary!

[GROANS AND MUTTERING AT THE RECOLLECTION]

We had a chance to teach the world who we are, what we're about. And, and I think we really smashed it!

Yeah, I mean, yeah, there are still shitty people out there, and maybe there will always be despite everything we do. But now? Now we've got a place where people can get away from them, and be with people who understand. And that is pretty damn impressive.

...

Getting here hasn't always been easy. But I... I honestly think this is the greatest achievement of my life, to be standing here with all of you and looking around and seeing how far we've all come together.

[SNIFFLING FROM AUDIENCE]

So, uh, with that, I think it's time we opened our new ICS, yeah?

[APPLAUSE, HAPPY SNIFFLING, CHEERING]

**MEREDITH**

(Wiping tears) Oh... uh... yeah. Right. Well anyway, that's enough emotions and all that guff. Now for the sexy bit with the big scissors, yeah!

[MORE CHEERING]

**FRANK (BACKGROUND)**

Careful, they're heavy.

**SUZY (BACKGROUND)**

Oh god, those are so big... a little bit—

**MEREDITH**

Oh, yeah, yeah... Oops

[SCISSORS THUD INTO GROUND]

Christ!

[MUCH LAUGHTER]

(To Suzy) Give us a hand!

[MORE LAUGHTER]

**SUZY**

Oh, uh, right. Right, right. Ready. Ready? Ready.

**MEREDITH**

Yeah, get on with it!

**SUZY**

Okay, okay, so with that – oh it is heavy – we hereby declare the new Inexplicable Community Support Centre... open!

[RIBBON CUT TO MUCH APPLAUSE AND CHEERING]

**MEREDITH**

Thank god for that. Right, show's over! Fuck off!

[LAUGHTER AS THE CROWD STARTS TO DISPERSE]

**BARBARA**

Nice one.

**MEREDITH**

Cheers, Barb.

**FRANK**

Aye, well done, Suzy.

**SHUHELA**

That was perfect, love.

**SUZY**

Aww, thanks guys.

(To Nick) What did you think?

**NICK**

You both look pretty good stood behind a podium.

**MEREDITH**

Damn right we do. Anyway, what are you all stood around for? There's work to do.

[CLOSING THEME]

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## **Cast**

Beth Eyre — Meredith Stonewell

Harry Farmer — Harold Stonewell

Safiyya Ingar — Shuhela

Ian Hayles — Frank

Fay Roberts — Cressida

Mark Nicolson — Abraham Godbolt / Nick

Karim Kronfli — John Belfrage

Savy Des-Etages — Lily Jones

Vera Chok — Suzy Broadbent

Alexander Doddy – William Allen

Alexander J Newall — Ivan

Nikola O’Keefe — Barbara

Hannah Raymond-Cox — Charlie

Lydia Nicholas – Sharon

Frank Voss – Len

Tim Meredith – Security Guard #1

Mike LeBeau – Security Guard #2

Amy Dickinson – News Reporter

Lowri Ann Davies - Firefighter

Marguerite Kenner – Journalist

Ben Meredith – Bystander

*Inexplicables* – E06 – Consequences

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