BUCKET

Episode Three - Matrimonium
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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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'Human beings cannot bear very much reality' - TS Eliot.

FADE IN:

1 INT. SPORTS/EVENTS HALL BACKSTAGE - DAY/NIGHT. DAY 5

MIM and FRAN creep along the backstage corridor of the arena. Mim is looking 'inconspicuous' in a mackintosh and dark glasses, Fran is looking anxious amidst the no entry signs.

They reach double doors. Mim takes off the glasses.

MI M

Be ready.

Unfastening her mackintosh, Mim slips inside.

Fran hovers by the doors. We/she hears inside: EVENT MUSIC: BBC TEST MATCH SONG-SOUL LIMBO/GRANDSTAND THEME followed by the HORRIFIED GASP OF AN AUDIENCE - then a CHEER

Mim bursts back through the doors, naked underneath a foil space-bl anket.

MIM (CONT'D)

Go, go, go!

Fran and Mim run away down the corridor.

EXT. SPORTS HALL - DAY/NIGHT. DAY 5 2

2

MIM and FRAN hide down the back of the hall. MIM, still in SPACE BLANKET makes a tick in her BUCKET LIST NOTEBOOK.

MI M

Well I always wanted to do that. Streak at a major sporting event.

FRAN Looks at her.

FRAN

It was Crufts, mum. (beat)

You ran naked across Heel work

3 *

3 EXT. PAT'S HOUSE DRIVEWAY - NIGHT. DAY 5

FRAN takes bags from the boot. MIM is cheerfully humming 'Here Comes The Bride' or similar.

FRAN

Why are you so excited?

MI M

It's a special occasion.

FRAN

But you don't believe in marriage.

Mim laughs, 'of course not'.

No, \underline{I} am a bird of paradise not to be caged by the tricks and traps of conventi on-

FRAN

Or responsibility.

MI M

But other people's weddings can be life affirming.

FRAN

Can they?

MI M

Free food, free booze, free Lovin' if you're lucky.

Fran grimaces, puts the bag back in the boot.

FRAN

I'm not keen on parties. Can't we just send apologies and see Stonehenge instead?

You're such a foji (said fo-jee).

Fran mutters her necessary correction.

FRAN

It's fogey. And since when does a love of English Heritage make me a-

Foji, dear. A fearer of joining in.

FRAN

Oh. But Mum-

MI M

But Franny. This could be the last wedding I ever go to. At this rate, I'll be going down the aisle before you.

(pause for drama) In a wooden box.

Fran sighs, picks up the bag. They walk to the door.

FRAN

Mum, are you going to tell Pat that you're, y'know, going to die.

MI M

No. And you mustn't either. It's Gemma's wedding. It's not about me.

FRAN

Very noble of you.

Fran rings the bell.

MI M

You know how Pat likes everything to be just-so.

FRAN

Perfect, ordered, calm.

MI M

Exactly. And that's why she needs me here.

(beat)

I'm going to raise hell!

Before Fran can express her concern, PAT opens the door.

FRAN

We're here!

PAT

Get stuffing.

4 INT. PAT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT. DAY 5

4 *

Amidst the clutter of night-before-the-wedding prep, FRAN and MIM stuff sugared almonds into organza bags like slaves.

PAT

12 to a bag, no more no less.

A NSE NERVOUS NANA passes a pile of ORGANZA BAGS. Pat is a2 16,0 123eF

PAT (CONT'D)
The seam isn't straight Val. I think you'd better do it again.

NSE NANA returns to sit with 2 or 3 other LADIES at sewing machines in Pat's pre-wedding sweatshop.

PAT (CONT'D)

Organza first, then linens. We're building the fairy tale, ladies, one favour bag at a time.

MI M

Sounds like a busy night, Pat.

PAT

Night? This is the culmination of months, dare I say a lifetime's, work for Gemma's special day. Yes it's exhausting. But what mother wouldn't dedicate herself to her only child's happiness?

Fran turns to look at Mim, who has stopped working to flick through a wedding magazine and eat the almonds.

FRAN

Lots of people coming Pat?

PAT

<u>Everyone</u> said yes. Gemma's fiance Paul has a big family of course but we got all the Rotary - and a CBE.

MI M

Lots of prezzies then.

PAT

We don't think about that. (sudden worry) What did you get?

Well, I was going to name a star-

PAT

Oh? How thoughtful.

MI M

After myself.

Fran smiles at Pat.

FRAN

Don't worry, we got something off the gift list. Unusual to request a loo seat butPAT

It's mahogany, Fran. Oh and I meant to ask, what happened with your little promotion?

FRAN

I'm taking some time off work actually. Spending it with mum.

PAT

Real I y?

Mim pulls out her BUCKET LIST NOTEBOOK.

MI M

I told you about my bucket list on my birthday Pat.

PAT

Did you? Every brain cell is on the wedding I'm afraid.

MI M

We're going to do it all. Swim with sharks, ride a Harley down Route 66. How's that for mother-daughter bondi ng?

Pat smiles, hint of patronizing.

PAT

Sounds very lively. I took Gemma shoe shopping with high tea at the Ri tz.

FRAN

Oh wow. I'd love that Mum, tea at the Ritz?

MI M

I'm barred.

Pat folds her napkins perfectly.

PAT

Well with all your plans, I'm surprised you made the detour.

MI M

Oh no Pat, there's plenty I can do at a wedding with my bucket...

Pat smiles back, strangely unprovoked. PHONE RING. Pat snaps off an earring to answer, gets up.

PAT

The caterers! (to phone) (MORE) PAT (CONT'D)

Hello. Are you chewing? If one of my amuse bouche is missing, there'll be merry hell...

MI M

Don't forget, mine's a halal meal Pat.

Mim sniggers as Pat's goes. Fran casts a disapproving Look.

FRAN

Okay, what are you planning? (off Mim's look) 'Raise hell', 'plenty I can do at a wedding with my bucket'. What is on your list exactly?

Mim flicks the pages of her notebook.

MI M

Well now, when the vicar asks for any known impediment I'm going to give him one.

FRAN

Please don't.

MI M

I won't really stop the wedding, what I'm waiting for is the reception.

FRAN

Why?

MI M

I didn't get to do all my tricks at Pat's wedding, so this is the perfect occasion. A room full of tables seating the great and good...

FRAN

Whatever it is, don't do it.

MI M

I may be a little out of practice, but it's all about the wrist action and the sudden surprise-

Fran grabs her wrists, to stop her gesturing as Pat returns.

FRAN

I forbid you.

PAT

Crisis averted! 28 pounds of smoked salmon has been liberated from the back up freezer.

Can I stuff any more for you Pat?

Mim mouths 'creep' at her, flicks through her MAGAZINE.

MI M

This sounds good, whale humping in I cel and.

PAT

Did I say, fiance Paul has booked the most magnificent honeymoon. European tour. 5 star.

MI M

What d'you think, Franny, next up on our road trip?

FRAN

Europe? Well yeah I'd love that.

Mim, mouthful of almonds, holds up a MAGAZINE.

Or surgical safari to South Africa, see a giraffe, get your buzzies hoiked. Two for one.

Fran ignores her, she hands Pat a pile of stuffed bags.

FRAN

There you are Pat.

PAT

I think you've earned a little dri nk.

(stops Mim)

Uh-uh. Not you. Finish your favours. Go on Fran, go join the girls in the kitchen-

FRAN

No, really, I'm fine here-

Now don't be shy, they'll all be very happy to see you.

5 INT. PAT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT. DAY 5

GROANS.

FRAN enters to a CHORUS OF CHEERS THAT TURN INTO DISAPPOINTED

BRONA

We thought you were the stripper.

BRONA and BETH (30s/40s married mums off the leash) have turned a kitchen counter into a cocktail station.

BFTH

We're just teasing, Gemma.

GEMMA brings Fran over to join them. She's nervous.

GEMMA

Fran. You've not met Brona and Beth have you? They're my first cousins. But like big sisters really.

BRONA

Old maids of honour.

GEMMA

This is Fran, my second cousin. She's like the olden days.

FRAN

Think she means I like the olden days.

GEMMA

It's kinda both though isn't it?

Brona and Beth pass out shot glasses.

BRONA

Come and have a shot to catch up. To your last night of freedom, Gem-Gem.

BETH

And my first out night in like literally ten zillion years!

Bottoms up, girls.

Beth and Brona cackle, down shots, then lean in to Gemma.

BFTH

Seriously though Gemma, you do not want to get pregnant for at least a year. Because that. Is. <u>It</u>.

BRONA

Life over. Hit me.

Beth fills all the shot glasses. Gemma giggles nervously.

GEMMA

But you do love your kids though?

BETH & BRONA

(qui ckfi re)

Course I love them/my whole world/I would kill for my kids/kill.

Fran Looks over at nervous Gemma - is she okay?

FRAN

How are you doing Gemma? Nervous?

GEMMA

Yes. But Mum got me a book and we're doing the night before part now, cos it's the night before.

Gemma holds up a book - 'HOW TO DO A WEDDING BY THE BOOK'. Beth takes the book pretends to read it.

BFTH

Time for games to relax you.

She smiles at Brona who chucks the book aside.

BRONA

Drinking games, to relax you more! I have never? (pours shots) I have never - had a foursome?

Drink!

Beth and Brona slam their shots. Beth looks to the bottle.

BFTH

We're gonna need a bigger booze.

6 INT. PAT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT. DAY 5

PAT and MIM are at either end of a newly sewn table cloth.

MI M

But it's my party trick, whipping it off in one go.

Pat speaks calmly as one might to a child-guest.

PAT

Put it down please. No-one's interested.

MI M

Your husband might be. He was always excited by what I could tug. Where is he?

Pat won't be riled.

PAT

Over the road. All of the menfolk are staying in a separate house toni ght.

MI M

Shame. He'd Love this.

Mim pulls a tablecloth off a table, with a flourish. Pat barely raises an eyebrow from her sewing.

MIM (CONT'D)

Now, for the tricky part.

She re-lays the table cloth and puts a BAG OF SUGARED ALMONDS and an UGLY LLADRO statuette on it. She lifts the corners of the cloth like a matador, Pat sighs and, gently, stops her.

PAT

know what you're trying to do. I shall not be riled. Now, ribbons, bags, tie.

But Mim grabs TWO ALMONDS and holds them up like nipples.

MI M

Psst, Val, Look -(tweaks the 'nipples') Pat, Pat, you might need to turn the heating up. Brrr. Look.

Pat doesn't look up. Mim flicks the almonds away, what next?

7 INT. PAT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT. DAY 5 7 *

After much raucous screeching, GEMMA, BRONA and BETH all drink. Fran doesn't. They all look at her, incredulous.

BRONA

WHAT? You have never had sex in a windmill?

BETH

A wind tunnel? A Wind sock?

GEMMA

Wait, you haven't touched your shots all game. OMG Fran, have you never?

They look at each other with shocked gasps.

FRAN

Go on, get it out, laughter, judgement, can't say anything my mother hasn't.

After a thoughtful beat, Brona and Beth raise their glasses.

BRONA

That is actually awesome.

FRAN

Okay, she's never said that.

BETH

You must be a special soul, Fran.

BRONA

Wish I'd waited.

(wistful sigh)

I could be living the dream now, curating my own gallery in Denmark. But I defined myself by my sexuality, ran out of choices.

BETH

And you never get it back. It's a precious sacred part of you.

Gemma Looks confused.

GEMMA

I thought it went if you just rode a horse.

BRONA

Integrity and self respect. Body and mind - impenetrable cocoon.

BFTH

That was the title of her A Level art piece.

They put arms round Fran, a drunken sorority.

FRAN

It's not that I don't want to-

BRONA

You'll know when the time's right.

BETH

Don't waste it. Don't give it away because they take it for granted and then they ruin it. Ruin. It.

Beth looks at Gemma who pales.

GEMMA

But you did it with your husbands before you got married, right?



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PAT

Plenty to keep you out of trouble here, Mim, don't you worry.

Pat smirks and chucks a pile of napkins at her.

INT. PAT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN/HALLWAY - DAY. DAY 6

FRAN sits at a beautifully laid table. PAT busying around. BETH and BRONA enter, fist bump Fran.

BRONA

Breakfast of champions. This brain box cleaned out the quiz machine.

BETH

Triv-tastic, what was it you knew?

FRAN

Plantagenet kings, capitals of Europe, oxbow lake formation.

PAT

Where's Gemma?

BETH

Just on the Ioo, Aunty Pat.

BRONA

(whisper aside) Chucking up into it.

BETH AND BRONA

She'll be fine.

PAT

Help yourself to breakfast girls. I have 400 vol-au-vents arriving and a skin tight schedule to keep. Fran, please, would you-

She clicks her fingers for Fran to pass her IPAD.

FRAN

Very strong spreadsheet work here.

PAT

Yes. Fail to plan and you -

FRAN/PAT

Plan to fail!

It's Gemma's day, no time for unknown unknowns.

Ah yes. Any sign of my Mum?

PAT

She's in disgrace. She tried to break in to the men's house last ni ght.

FRAN

0h no.

PAT

The cat flap wasn't big enough, thankfully.

FRAN

I'm sorry, Pat. I apologise for everything my mother has done. And might do.

PAT

No need to do that Fran. There are no problems today.

Pat moves across to snip at large bunches of RED FLOWERS.

FRAN

They're lovely. Bright.

PAT

Yes, I wanted a splash of red. Gemma's wedding colours are muted.

FRAN

That's going to be quite a bouquet.

These are for table centre-pieces.

FRAN

Sort of decoy bouquets then, like Saddam Hussein's many Lookalikes.

It's good you have a sense of humour, isn't it?

A worried looking GEMMA enters, bleating-

GEMMA

Where's Dad?

PAT

Out of the way. Daddy's doing 9 holes with the vicar. Now your bouquet, Fran-?

She gestures for her to pass the RED BOUQUET.

FRAN Woah. What's in this, weights?

MI M

My party trick. Yes, it needs work-

FRAN

That's what you're planning? I thought it was some unspeakable behaviour at the reception.

Mim tuts, affronted. Then after a beat-

MI M

Obviously that too. Weddings are the place for sexy fun.

FRAN

No. They're not. This is a nice day for a normal family. Pat's gone to a lot of effort to show her beloved daughter just how much she cares.

MI M

You're my beloved daughter. I care.

She takes Fran's face in her hands. From the vice like grip-

FRAN

Okay Mum. Sorry.

Mim nods and stares at her, it's love, it's scrutiny, then-

MI M

Time for a wax I think.

And Fran wriggles free, turns to call out to Pat.

FRAN

What else can I do, Pat? I'm all yours.

INT. PAT'S HOUSE - CONSERVATORY - DAY. DAY 6 10

10

Beauty stations are womanned by BRONA and BETH. FRAN enters, MIM turns round, revealing her face striped like a tiger with shades of make-up.

MI M

It's called contouring!

BETH

Just need to blend it in a bit.

GEMMA enters, anxious BRONA pops open a bottle of prosecco.

BRONA

Here she is. Bubbles for the princess. It's five o'clock somewhere right.

Si ngapore.

BRONA/BETH

Legend!

MIM

Tell you what is legendary, the perm I gave your mother for her wedding. Would you like one Gemma?

Gemma looks like she's going to cry.

GEMMA

No thanks.

BETH

Got your extensions upstairs, hun.

BRONA

Franster you can finish the tan

What? No, come on, just nerves. Shall I get your Mum?

GEMMA

Noooooooo!

FRAN

Okay, okay.

GEMMA

You've got to help me Fran.

FRAN

Me? Well I - What about your fiance Paul. Maybe you should talk to him?

GFMMA

It's bad Luck! (sob) Fran you've got to help me pleasssseeeee.

Fran sits down - head in hand like 'The Thinker' only with her forefinger over her top lip - ruminating.

11 INT. PAT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN/ HALLWAY - DAY. DAY 6 11

MIM is dressed in her wedding outfit, studying a TABLE PLAN that is propped up.

PAT'S morning-outfit-heels click across the floor. She picks up Mim's dangerous looking feather accessory from the table and tuts. Mim turns to her.

MI M

Pat, who am I sitting with? Can't seem to find my name.

PAT

No. Well. That's because it's not there.

MI M

What?

Avoiding eye contact, Pat strokes the feather accessory.

PAT

Didn't you read your invitation? You're coming to the evening do.

Mim staggers backwards in disbelief.

MI M

Evening do?!

PAT

That's right.



PAT (CONT'D)

But it's Fran I feel sorry for.
(in for the kill)
Just as well that poor creature
will never marry. Who would walk her down the aisle, eh Mim?

MI M

(choked, desperate) I was a single mother!

And that was no one's fault but your own.

She lets Mim go. Mim scuttles off, meets FRAN in the hallway.

FRAN

Everything okay?

MI M

Everything's fine. Except your face.

Fran has a MOUSTACHE/GOATEE smear from the BRONZER.

FRAN

Pat? We might have a problem.

PAT

Here. And if that doesn't work try swarfega.

She points her to a mirror with a wet wipe, then sorts cake toppers. Fran dabs at the perma-tan tache, cautiously...

FRAN

Actually, it's Gemma. She's a bit upset.

PAT

What am I supposed to do about that? I've a cake to box up.

FRAN

Mm. I think, maybe, she doesn't want to go through with it-

PAT

Too late for that now.

FRAN

Mm. Can't you do something-

PAT

I've done everything! Everything! Everything is planned and perfect, do you understand?

Yes but-

Come on Mum, you said you didn't believe in all this fairy tale bullshit.

MI M

Well no, if you want a happy ending, go get a massage. (swipes a lladro) I'm taking this.

Mim puts it in her BAG, packing up. But Fran ponders.

FRAN

I think she's been dreading this wedding for ages.

MI M

Pat's been planning it for longer.

FRAN

I wish we could do something.

MI M

I already put prawns in her curtains. But perhaps-

An idea hits. Mim pulls put her BUCKET LIST NOTEBOOK.

FRAN

What?

MI M

At least I can get one bucket dream out of this shit-wreck. Look-

FRAN

Eat sushi off a naked sumo?

MI M

Stop a wedding with an impediment!

FRAN

Woah. That's quite a big thing.

MI M

I'm dying! I want to do big things. And Gemma doesn't want to get married, so it's win-win.

FRAN

Maybe we could text Gemma, or have a quiet word outside.

Mim implores Fran.

MI M

Fran. So, I didn't give you domestic bliss, okay I could have baked more cookies, remembered the odd bi rthday-

FRAN

Even one would have been nice.

MI M

But I gave you freedom didn't I? Don't deny it. To yourself, to me, or to Gemma.

Fran is stirred, she reaches for her car keys.

MIM (CONT'D)

So come on Franny, get us to the church in time to ruin everything!

EXT. QUIET COUNTRY ROAD/ CAR - DAY. DAY 6 13

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The CAR drives down a quiet road in a thrilling dash.

The car slows down, sputters a bit, and then stops.

FRAN gets out, runs down the road, then also stops.

FRAN

I don't know where I'm going.

14 INT. STATIONARY CAR - DAY/NIGHT. DAY 6 14

MIM bangs her fists on a window - Graduate style.

MIM

GFMMA!

She sits back, revealing it was the windscreen. FRAN and Mim are stuck in their broken down car.

FRAN

It's too late.

MI M

Oh well.

Mim shrugs, opens up the travel sweets.

FRAN

Oh well? Didn't you always say marriage was a life sentence?

MI M

She only needs to serve half of it and then she'll get the duplex.

Fran shakes her head, incredulous at Mim's volte-face.

FRAN
You know I heard what Pat said. She has no right to judge you, she's the monster. And you know what?

MI M

What?

FRAN

I get it Mum. You never married, you don't believe in the tricks and

That's Lucky.

Mim turns to Fran.

MI M

You know, we're not all that different you and I.

FRAN

Real I y?

MI M

Well, I'm not a pedantic virgin-

FRAN

And I don't wear my bra on my head-

MI M

But we're not fakes. We're true to oursel ves.

FRAN

Yeah.

Fran nods, Mim gives her a maternal knee squeeze.

MI M

So don't worry. It'll happen for you, Franny.

FRAN

Love? Or herpes.

MI M

Never too late for either.

FRAN

Great news.

ORANGE LIGHTS of an AA van off-screen.

What I'm saying is, I get it too. You are who you are.

She pats Fran's knee and gets out. Fran has a moment to reflect on the affirmation.

MIM returns. Wearing a HI-VIS VEST with TWO OILY HANDPRINTS across her bosom/waving a pair of Y-FRONTS/pulling hair from her teeth.

MIM (CONT'D)

And I am who I am.

Pat sits up, a new motivation.

PAT

Grandchi I dren?!

MI M

Start calling on the honeymoon.

PAT

Yes. Yes!

Pat pulls her PHONE from her PURSE.

MI M

Set a notification thingy.

PAT

I could get an ovulation app, time my calls precisely.

Pat and Mim's rapprochement begins.

ACROSS THE ROOM: Fran picks at the buffet when GEMMA enters, drunk, excited, bounds over to her.

GEMMA

Fran!

She hugs her, then sees the bronzer tache as she pulls back.

GEMMA (CONT'D)

Woah! Wait is <u>that</u> why you've never, you're transitionaling?

FRAN

What? No it's your fake tan.

GEMMA

Oh! Sorry! But you know it's fine whatever cos Paul and I have decided to be very open minded- if you are a she-male.

FRAN

No, really-

But Gemma hugs her again, then sways drunkenly.

GEMMA

And I really need to thank you Fran.

FRAN

Thank me? We nearly stopped your wed- (thinks again) Thank me?!

GEMMA

Yes. You told me to talk to my fiance Paul. Sorry, HUSBAND! (screams again, drunk) I'm MARRIED! (deadly serious, drunk) But I took your advice right, told

Fran Looks confused.

FRAN

But if you were unhappy...?

him just how unhappy I was.

GEMMA

About the honeymoon!

FRAN

What?

Gemma leans in, explaining it like it was a death sentence.

GEMMA

I couldn't do it. A boring trip around Europe. I was dreading it. I hate old things. No offence.

FRAN

None taken.

GEMMA

Soooo, now we're going on a two week all-in to the MALDIVES, like NORMAL people! Woo-hoo!

FRAN

Congratulations. I'm really happy for you, Gem.

Gem hugs Fran again.

GEMMA

Wait. I wanna give you something, Franny. Lemme get rid of this. Fuck these weights, right? (shouts) 0i!!

BETH and BRONA appear as summoned, see the bouquet, push Gemma into position, whistle for GUESTS to come through.

BETH

All the single ladies!

BRONA

Bouquet time, girls.

As they herd the group, they nudge Fran.

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BETH

We saved this bit for you, Franny.

With a whoop/grunt of effort Gemma Launches the WELGHTED BOUQUET across the room!

It's heading straight for MIM, now on her feet, excited to catch. PAT sees, she cannot have this. She leaps up.

MI M

Never too late!

PAT

Not her! NOooooooo.

Pat dives in front of Mim and the bouquet SMACKS her in the face. She falls to the floor with a SCREAM. Gemma turns -

GFMMA

Mum?!

The GIRLS/NSE NANAS form a circle around floored Pat.

BETH

She's down.

BRONA

She's a sprayer.

PAT

My nose! My Aquascutum!

Mim retreats. Pat, clutching a blood soaked napkin over her nose, is helped to her feet by Beth and Brona. They are also sprayed with blood. They lead her out.

BETH

Easy now Aunty Pat.

BRONA

Head back, careful.

Blood spattered but buoyant, Gemma bounds back to Fran, with an ENVELOPE and an open BOTTLE OF FIZZ.

GEMMA

For you.

FRAN

The Europe trip? Wow! Gemma, I don't know what to say. Thank you.

GEMMA

You'll appreciate it right? I

dunno, my book said it's romantic

Paris, Venice.

Yeah. Mum, look a grand tour of Europe, That's something real for the bucket list, huh?

Mim doesn't care.

MI M

Fuck you. Just because no one saw, doesn't mean it didn't happen.

FRAN

Sure. I believe you Mum.

MI M

Only one thing left for it then - I'm going to streak again.

BUCKET - Epi sode 3 Pi nk (19/01/2016) SH00TI NG SCRI PT

Fran bundles Mim up in the tablecloth to stop her.