

ASBO Nation
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Characters

JAN PRICE *House wife. 34 years old. Claims benefits
for a back complaint.*

JODIE PRICE *Middle child of Jan. 17 years old.*

CALUM JACKSON *Jodie's boyfriend. He lives with the
Prices.*

BABY *Jodie and Calum's child. 3 months old.*

RYAN PRICE *Youngest son. 13 years old.*

Part 1

Jan Price, a short, well built woman in her early 30s is smoking and hoovering the lounge. Calum Jackson and Jodie Price enter pushing Baby in a buggy. Calum is 20, has short hair and a panther tattoo up his neck. Jodie is 19, slim build with too much make-up.

CALUM *[Almost inaudibly over the hoovering noise]*
Filthy fucking bastards. It's them poles I'm telling yer!

JODIE Hiya Mum. Mum?
She goes to switch the hoover off at the wall.

CALUM I'll ring that man from the council.
Hoover switches off.

JODIE Hiya Mum.

CALUM Filthy, rotten bastards.
He goes to the window SR.

JAN *[To CALUM]* What's up your arse? *[To JODIE]*
Hiya love.

CALUM It's a fucking disgrace!

JODIE Oh ignore him Mam. Someone's dumped a load of rubbish down the alley - he's off on one.

JAN Oh not CCTV again.

CALUM Take the piss all you like! When there's rats climbing under back fence giving Baby all sorts, and them scroats 'anging about round corner shop have set that bastard mattress on fire, and when the bloody council says we 'ave to pay to move it all **you're** gonna **wish** we'd fitted CCTV in't back bedroom!

JODIE All afternoon Mam, on and on.

JAN Oh dear.

CALUM I'm telling you it's them bloody foreigners two streets down. Don't suppose they can read the signs to the tip. Can't speak fucking English half of 'em. I'd catch them out for sure with CCTV.

JODIE Yeah well, if government gets their way it'll be us picking it up.

CALUM Like hell will it.

JODIE Fancy that Gordon what's his face thinking that we should earn our JSA. I heard that local PM bloke were talking to people on the estate last week.

JAN MP Jode, not PM. PM stands for Prime Minister.

CALUM Prize monkey more like! He ain't got a

clue! May's well be swinging off trees, eating bananas! Takes the piss it does! Alright for them dirty foreigners to come over here and get hand outs; no questions asked. They shouldn't even be here. We was born here. We've got rights. We don't owe them shite! And now we've gotta earn our job seekers picking up after the dirty bastards what can't read the signs to the tip?! It totally takes the piss.

JODIE Ain't no surprise that half the estate can't be arsed to get a proper job.

CALUM You two wouldn't know a proper job if it bit you in the arse!

JAN Erm, bringing up a family ain't an easy ride you know Cal. You'll soon see that when Baby gets bigger.

JODIE Well that's why with live with you Mam, so you can do it for us!

JAN Charming!

CALUM It's your job though ain't it? I go out and get the money in so the least you can do is sort the rest out!

JODIE Yeah well you ain't brought no money in for ages. You wanna sort that with Jonno you do.

CALUM Yeah, well. He ain't had much going on lately. You could get your arse in ear an do some cash in hand stuff at the pub, Sheila's always on about how she needs morning cleaning doing.

JODIE I ain't cleaning them pub toilets for no one!

CALUM Yeah well you might have to soon, and for nothing. Working in the community. It's a national disgrace! Whole point is that you're *supposed* to be looking for work, how we gonna do that if we're already working?

JODIE Well I ain't doing it.

CALUM Me neither. Just watch them try and make me work for it! Fucking suits.

JODIE Wanna brew Mam? Let him simmer down a bit. You know how he gets.

CALUM Try living on this estate Gordon 'I'm a fat monkey' Brown!

JAN Yeah. I'll pop this away.

CALUM *continues to look out of the window, muttering under his breath.* **JAN** *puts the Hoover away and* **JODIE** *goes to make the tea.* **JODIE** *pokes her head through the hatch* **USL.**

JODIE You want a brew or a beer love?
CALUM Beer.
JODIE I beg your pardon?
CALUM Please.
JODIE Whole sentences now Cal, I know you can do it!
CALUM You've been un-fucking-bearable since you went on that course. I'll have a beer please. Thank you, please. Thank you very fucking much!
JODIE gives **CALUM** his beer.
I'm going for a shit.
JODIE I'll make up a feed in a bit. You can give Baby a feed when you're done.
CALUM Why can't you do it?
JODIE Coz I had to get up in the middle of the bloody night to feed him!
CALUM And?
JODIE For god's sake Cal!
CALUM You wanna think yourself lucky Jode.
JODIE Oh I do Cal, every day! [*Almost sexily*] I'll make it worth your while!
CALUM You better. I must be fucking soft.

CALUM grabs the paper from the coffee table and goes up stairs. **JAN** enters and sits on sofa SR. **JODIE** enters with two cups of tea and sits on the sofa next to **BABY** in the buggy.

JAN Fag?
JODIE Yeah. Ta.
They smoke.
Town were dead busy.
JAN I told you it'd be rammed.
JODIE You did, yeah.
They smoke. Pause.
Where's our Ryan?
JAN God knows.
JODIE 'Expect he's playin' fotty with his mates or something.
JAN Right.
They smoke. Pause.
Little bastard.
JODIE Mam?
JAN Money missing from my purse.
JODIE Never. Has he done it before?
JAN [*Sheepishly*] No.
JODIE How much.
JAN It don't matter how much. That ain't the point. I checked this morning.

JODIE You sure?

JAN I had money in there last night, and now it's gone.

JODIE Thieving little bastard.

JAN What do you think he wants it for?

JODIE No idea. *Pause.* We used to put all our money in together and get Sal buy a bottle of that cheap vodka from Nettos.
Pause.
She got boobs before all of us and she were dead tall. She looked the oldest. They never asked her for ID you know. I got a baby face ain't it Mam?!

Pause.

JAN I hope he ain't doing drugs Jode. Do you think you could tell?

JODIE Course I could Mam. Seen Cal off his nut enough times ain't I?

JAN You've gotta be careful now Jode. You have.

JODIE Yeah. But you know Cal, he does what he wants.
They smoke. CALUM enters.

CALUM Have you made that feed up yet Jode?

JODIE Not yet, no.

CALUM What've you been doing?

JAN She's been having a chat with me Calum. I'll make up the feed in a bit if you want.

CALUM No, she'll do it. She wants to get off her arse.

JODIE I will, alright?

CALUM Lazy bitch. *[He goes to the kitchen for another beer. Speaking through the hatch]*
Show your Mam that stuff we got for Baby?

JODIE Oh God Mam. You'll love this. Where are they Cal?

CALUM In the buggy.

JODIE Oh yeah. Here they are Mam.
JODIE *pulls out fake designer clothes from a plastic bag.*

JAN Well aren't they grand!

JODIE I'm dead chuffed with 'em.

JAN Bloody hell Jode, who's FCKU?

JODIE Yeah, I know. Supposed to be FCUK, but they're fakes. Gorrum off Tony on't market. Fell of the back of a lorry, apparently.

JAN How much?

JODIE 10 quid.

JAN 10 quid?

JODIE 10 quid.

JAN Not bad.

JODIE Not bad at all I'll say.

CALUM comes out of the kitchen.

JAN Nice stuff this eh Cal?
CALUM Yeah. Total bargain. We love a bargain us. I'm going for a lay down.
CALUM goes up stairs. **JAN** and **JODIE** look at each other. *Pause.*

JODIE Saw Ladder Man this morning.
JAN Oh God. What'd he want?
JODIE I'm telling you it were him what called the pigs last week. None of his fucking business that weren't.

JODIE That were between our Calum and Jonno.
JAN Can't keep his nose out love.
JODIE I know. He were putting bins out this morning right, and he muttered something under his breath what sounded like slag. I dunno Mam, I never heard him. So, Cal booted his bags all over road! Should'a seen his face Mam; He were proper pissed off!

JAN I'll bet he were!
JODIE He well deserved it.
JAN If you say so.
JODIE Too right.
They stare out front. JODIE twists her hair round her finger. Pause.

And them paki's at the top. Always see her curtain going when there's something going on.

Pause.

She come out an helped Ladder Man pick the rubbish up. [**JODIE** looks at **JAN**] It were dead funny Mam. They looked a right sight.

Pause. JODIE looks back out front.

You were on the bog.

Pause.

JAN Right.
JODIE We was in a hurry anyways. Had to get to the market before Tony ran out of all that stuff.

JAN Oh, it is nice isn't it? He'll look dead great in them.
JODIE Yeah. Want another fag?
JAN Go on then.
JODIE Ta Mam.

JAN That's me last two.

JODIE Ooh, I forgot to tell yer. Shelly brung a load back with her from Majorca, she were selling them at the Foundary last night but I only had a tenner. Told her we'd take some off her hands.

JAN Good girl. We'll have to see her later then yeah?

JODIE Yeah.
There is a pause whilst they smoke.
Gonna get Baby's ear pierced next week. I've seen Pam...

JAN Fat Pam?

JODIE Yeah, fat Pam. Said she can get the stuff from work and bring them round here one night.

JAN Right.

JODIE Said she'd do it as like a christening present or something.
Pause.

JAN Are you having a Christening Jode?

JODIE God no! But Fat Pam don't know that does she?!

JAN Right. *Pause.* That's nice of Pam though isn't it?

JODIE Yeah. *Pause.* It's a shame she's fat ain't it?

JAN Yeah. She's dead nice.

JODIE Yeah.
There is a pause whilst they smoke.

JAN [*Casually*] Can she do that then?

JODIE [*Casually*] What?

JAN [*Casually*] Pierce ears.

JODIE [*Casually*] Who?

JAN [*Casually*] Fat Pam.

JODIE Yeah, she hasn't had the training at work yet, but she's seen her supervisor do it a few times and recons it looks dead easy. How hard can it be?

JAN Yeah.
There is a pause whilst they smoke.
I wonder if our Danny's still got his ear pierced?

JODIE Er, I couldn't give a shit Mam and neither should you! And don't call him our Danny, coz he ain't ours no more!

JAN He's still mine Jode. Don't you...

JODIE No I don't. You know I don't. *Pause.*

JAN I've been thinking of maybe going to see him.

JODIE Are you mad?! Calum would go ape shit!

After all he's done for you and this family are you really gonna disrespect him like that?!

JAN I wanna see him Jode and I'm not sure that it's anything to do with Calum if I do or not!

JODIE It's everything to do with Calum Mam. He runs this house!

JAN It's my house!

JODIE *[With venom]* You can't see him and that's the fucking end of it.

Pause.

JAN It's been a year, nearly a year Jode.

JODIE *[Firm, flatly]* You gotta pull yourself together Mam. He ain't bothered about you. If he were he'd have tried to contact you and he hasn't has he?

JAN No, but..

JODIE But nothing Mam. He made his choice and I don't wanna hear no more about it! If Calum finds out you've even been *thinking* about him do you know what he'll do?

JAN *[Sharply]* I've got a pretty good idea Jode, yeah.

JODIE Well that's fine if you want a battering Janice, but I fucking don't. So just stop thinking about it for me yeah? *[Genuinely]* Please Mam? I've got Baby to think about. *[Pause]* Mam?

JAN Yeah Jode, you're probably right.

JODIE You want a drink you do. That's what you want.

JAN *[Almost inaudibly]* Yeah, that's what I want.

JODIE goes to the kitchen. **JAN** takes a small wooden box out from underneath the sofa, checks **JODIE** can't see her, opens it and then quickly closes it and puts it back. **JODIE** re-enters with a large bottle of strong cider and two glasses.

Get that down you.

JAN Right.

They drink the first glass down in one. JAN pours them another.

RYAN enters carrying a school bag.

JODIE And where the hell have you been?

JAN Hiya love.

JODIE *[Teasing]* You been nickin money from Mam's

purse again have yer? You thieving get.
RYAN What?
JAN I know you have Ryan. It don't matter, I just wish you'd ask me.
JODIE [*Teasing RYAN*] Oh, you little shite! She's our mother Ryan. You don't steel from your own, he don't know nowt Mam! Give us that bag, go on then, let's see what you been doing with Mam's money shall we? There best be vodka in here, coz I'll be having that! I'll piss my pants if he's been buying make up and high heels; can you imagine that!!
JODIE *grabs RYAN'S school bag.*
RYAN Give it back.
JODIE Unlucky baby boy!
JAN Buying fags I bet.
JODIE Ooh, let's smell your breath!
RYAN I don't smoke Mum, shut up Jode.
JAN Well your sister was doing it well before your age, thinking I wouldn't notice.
JODIE I thought I were dead clever Mam. Spraying myself with Charlie Red, thinking you wouldn't notice.
JAN You should've just said love. I don't mind.
RYAN It's bad for you. You only do it coz you think it makes you look cool - gonna take more than a packet of fags!
JAN Oh have you heard him!
JODIE Everything's bad for ya Ryan. You wanna grow up you do.
JAN Smoking's better than thieving.
JODIE Too right. Unless you're the one doing the thieving!
RYAN I never stole it. I borrowed it. I needed it.
JODIE Speak up for fuck's sake Ryan. Can hardly hear him, can you Mam?
RYAN I just borrowed it.
JODIE You're such a pussy Ryan.
RYAN Give us me bag back, Jode.
JODIE Er, I don't think so do you Mam?
JAN Oh leave him Jode.
RYAN It's mine. It's private.
JODIE [*Laughing*] Oh my God.
JAN What is it love?
JODIE What are these Ryan?
JODIE *holds up a Tupperware box.*
RYAN Give them back. They're mine.
JAN [*To JODIE*] What are they?
JODIE [*Still laughing*] I don't fucking believe this!

RYAN Give them back!
JODIE *[Shouting]* Calum! Cal! Come down here love and have a look at this; you're gonna piss yourself!
RYAN Give us them back Jodie. They're not yours!
JAN What are they love?
JODIE *[Falling about laughing]* Cakes! Fucking fairy cakes!
RYAN I made them in school alright. Stop fucking laughing at me Jode! I needed the money for the ingredients Mam...
CALUM enters.
CALUM What's so funny then? I was half asleep then as well.
JODIE Check these out.
CALUM What are they?
JAN Fairy cakes - our Ryan made them at school.
JODIE He nicked money out of Mam's purse so he could 'buy the ingredients'!
Pause. CALUM fixes his gaze on RYAN.
CALUM *[Joining in with the teasing]* Is this true?
RYAN *[Nervously]* Yeah. So?
CALUM Think you're Gordon fucking Ramsay do you? You poncy little shite! Ain't it just girls what make cakes Jode?
JODIE *[Laughing]* Yeah, big fat cake eating girls Cal!!
CALUM Are you a fucking girl Ryan? Are you? Are ya?! *[Singing]* Ryan's a girl, Ryan's a fat little girl!! Aren't you Ry? Yeah? You gonna answer me you mousey little prick?
JODIE You best answer him Ryan.
CALUM *[Still teasing]* Are you a fat little girl? Are ya?!
RYAN No.
CALUM Then what you doing making fucking fairy cakes then?
RYAN We done them in school, in home economics.
CALUM Home economics?
JODIE You can do some home economics here Ryan and clean the fucking bog if you like it so much! *[JODIE & CALUM laugh].*
RYAN They're only cakes.
JODIE *[To Calum]* Have you heard him?
JAN Is that what the money was for love?
RYAN Yeah.
JAN That's a lot of money just for a few fairy cakes Ryan.
RYAN *[Faltering]* Yeah...well...I.
CALUM How much money did he take Jan?
JAN Only a fiver this time.

CALUM *[The tone changes]* This time? *Pause.*
JAN Only a fiver. He only took a fiver. That's a lot for cakes right Jode?
Pause, JAN looks to JODIE for support. CAL turns to JAN.

JODIE That is a lot of money for cakes, yeah. Er.. me and the girls used to put money in together so that Sal could buy...?

CALUM Shut up Jode.
Pause.
What other money has he had Jan?

RYAN Mam, I ain't...
CALUM *[Pointing at him but not looking at him]* You wanna shut up you do Ryan, your Mam's about to say something to me - ain't you Jan?

JAN He's only done it once before. Seven quid. Last week. I don't know what he wants it for Cal. I was worried he were doing drugs or something.

CALUM I bet you were Jan. There's a lot of it about. *Pause.* Now you ain't never even smoked a fag Ryan, let alone taken anything stronger. So are you gonna tell me what this money is for?

RYAN I told you, it's for making stuff at school. *Pause.* I made lasagne last week and we did mini steak on skewers and they were dead expensive coz I had to buy all the stuff for the marinade. *Pause.* You have to leave I over night. *Pause.*

CALUM You really wanted the money for cooking?
RYAN *[Head hung]* Yeah. I knew you and Jode would take the piss about it so I never said nothing. *Pause.*

JODIE As sad as it is Cal, I think he's telling the truth. *Pause.*

CALUM *[Calmly]* Cooking then is it Ryan?
RYAN *[Cautious]* Yeah.
CALUM *[Feigning interest]* You like all that baking stuff then do you?
RYAN Yeah. I really like it.
CALUM Do you now.
RYAN I wanna be a chef.
CALUM Really?
RYAN Yeah and Miss Milner thinks that I could go to catering college if I wanted to and..

CALUM *[Calm, yet somewhat sinister]* Ryan. Is Jonno's brother in your 'fairy making' class?

RYAN Supposed to be.
CALUM Was he there today?

RYAN Dunno.
CALUM Was he there today?
RYAN Why?
CALUM Was he fucking there today Ryan?!
RYAN No he wasn't! Why you bothered?
CALUM I'll tell you why Ryan, I'll tell you why I'm bothered; coz if Jonno's brother tells Jonno that he's seen you making fucking fairy cakes then I'm gonna get fucked! That's why!
JODIE You're so selfish Ryan. You only ever think about yourself. Don't you get it?
RYAN They're only cakes.
CALUM *CALUM grabs RYAN's arm.*
CALUM Stop fucking saying that! It's more than just making cakes! Jonno already thinks I've gone soft, coz of Baby. He's tried to sack me off already. Says I ain't got the balls no more. Recons I can't cope. He thinks I'd grass.
RYAN You're hurting me Cal. Get off! I don't know what you're on about!
CALUM The point is Ryan, if Jonno knows I'm letting you go to school and be a fairy cake making bender boy then he'll never take me on a job again, for defo this time.
He releases RYAN.
JODIE And we need the money for Baby remember?
RYAN Why don't you just get a proper job?
JODIE Grow up Ryan.
CALUM You know why.
RYAN *[Stronger]* Yeah I do. Coz you can't be arsed!
CALUM You little prick.
JODIE Don't you dare diss our Cal like that!
CALUM *CALUM grabs RYAN.*
CALUM *[With venom]* If I hear of anymore making cakes or marinate or being fucking soft I swear to God your own mother won't recognise you ...
JAN That's enough Calum, you're gonna hurt him.
CALUM I'll fucking 'ave you!
JAN Leave him Calum, please!
CALUM He needs it Jan. You want him to carry on like this?
JAN No I don't. But I don't want you knocking seven bells out of him neither.
CALUM A good hiding will sort him out Jan.
JAN Leave him, please.
JODIE He's not worth it Cal.
JAN Have another beer love, eh?

Pause.

JODIE Yeah leave him Cal, Mum's right.

CALUM The only person who's right around here is me alright!

JAN Have your beer yeah?

Pause.

CALUM releases **RYAN** and takes the can.

JAN Why don't you two go off upstairs, go on play station or something?

JODIE Yeah Cal. Baby's asleep. Let's go and 'play on the play station' shall we. *She winks.* Come on love, yeah?

JAN You've got some time before tea's up. I'll make your favourite Cal, yeah?

JODIE Come on baby. I need some Calum time.

CALUM What about him?

JAN I'll have a word with him. You two go and spend some time together.

JODIE Ah yeah. Thanks Mam.

JAN Yer alright love.

CALUM I'm gonna fuck your sister Ryan, you wanna be careful I don't have fuck you 'an all mate. Got it?

JODIE *[Teasing]* Ain't never gonna get yourself a girlfriend being a pussy Ryan.

CALUM She'll want more than a fucking fairy cake!

CALUM and **JODIE** exit laughing.

JAN Sit down Ry. Have a fag if you want one.

RYAN No. I told yer I don't smoke.

JAN All these lies Ryan, they'll come out in the end.

RYAN I'm not lying. And I don't want a girlfriend neither.

JAN No?

RYAN Not one like our Jodie anyways.

JAN Right.

Pause.

RYAN I just wanted to...

JAN It don't matter Ry. What matters round here is that you don't stand out. You gotta do your best to fit in Ryan.

RYAN But I don't want to be like them.

JAN Well that's tough, coz that's who you are.

RYAN Couldn't it be different?

JAN Not for us. You live on this estate, you die on this estate. Nothing ever changes. See Ladder Man right?

RYAN Yeah.

JAN He's the only one what works on our road yeah? The only one. And he saved up his wage so his boy could have a swing in the

garden. You remember what happened don't you?

RYAN Yeah. The lads robbed it and stuck it in the middle of the street. They stuck a load of rubbish in the seat and set it on fire. All the seat melted away and it were wrecked.

JAN And why did they do that Ryan?

RYAN I dunno. It were well out of order.

JAN They done it because he thinks he's better than the rest of us. Thinks he can look down his nose at us. Because he wants to get out of this estate, that's why.

RYAN There's nowt wrong with that.

JAN Yeah. There is. People don't like others what are better than them, especially people what don't have nothing.

RYAN But we could have more. If you went to work we could have. If I work hard at school and get me exams then I could go to catering college and...

JAN And who'd pay for that? No way Ryan. You ain't going.

RYAN But Miss Milner said I could get a bursary or something?

JAN I don't think so.

RYAN Mam, I'm good at it. I ain't good at nowt else, but this is my thing. Look.

RYAN *goes to get the Tupperware box.*

Look at these Mam. I decorated them and everything. I forgot to get icing as well, but Miss Milner lent me some.

JAN We don't want no hand outs from Miss Milner Ryan!

RYAN It's not a hand out. She were helping me. I give her a cake to say thank you.

JAN Lord knows where you get your manners from lad!

RYAN I done letters on some of 'em too, a M for Mam and a B for Baby.

JAN Baby can't eat cakes.

RYAN Yeah I know, but I just thought...
Pause, RYAN looks to JAN for some encouragement.

JAN They're nice, love. Dead nice. But they're only cakes. You don't get no money from making cakes.

RYAN Mr Kipling does.

JAN Oh you are soft, lad.

RYAN Do you want one?

JAN Yeah, go on then.

RYAN You have yours. I'll have the B for Baby.
There is a pause whilst they eat.

JAN Listen. If you wanna keep doing this cooking stuff then just ask me for the money. You don't have to tell Calum. You could just ask me.

RYAN But you ain't never got no money. Always saying that we're skint.

JAN Yeah, well we are.

RYAN But Jodie's always got new stuff, new clothes and that. You're always drinking. Why don't I get anything?

JAN Coz Jodie's got Baby now, and she gets tax credits.

RYAN But they should be for Baby. Don't you get credits for me?

JAN *[Changing the subject]* Why don't you get a little job Ryan? You could see if Pete needs a hand down the garage.

RYAN Mr Patel said I could deliver papers for him, if I wanted to.

JAN Yeah, well you ain't working for them paki's. Think what your Dad would say.

RYAN Well Dad can't say nothing can he? Coz he ain't fucking here!

JAN You watch your mouth! Don't be mouthing off about your Dad!

RYAN Why not - he can't hear me you know! He's miles and miles away stuck in his little box! He's a bad man, Mam. He deserves what he got. But we don't!

JAN That's enough.

RYAN No it ain't! Nothing's ever enough! He's gone and left us in the shit coz of his lies and his cheating. He's a shit Dad and I wish he was dead!

JAN *JAN grabs hold of RYAN and shakes him.*

JAN Do you think I wanna be stuck here among all this shite? Do ya? Coz I fucking don't. I was gonna go to college. I was gonna be someone. But I never. I've done as best I can and I've just gotta deal with it. That's life Ry, and life's shite.

RYAN But Danny says...

JAN Don't Ryan!

RYAN Why not?! *Pause.* You may as well know. You may as well know! I've been talking to Danny Mam. Miss Milner lets him ring me in her office after school.

I talk to him once a week. I spoke to him three days ago. *Pause.* That's what the money's for Mam! You knew I was stealing it - I've been doing it for ages - you know I have...