

JMG Stories

STORIES ERIBULATIONS

BRISTOL 1994



LOVE
UNIVERSE
RAVE REPEAT

Written by:
Rebecca Sandeman, Emily O'Hara, Alice Holt
JMG Stories

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

— Bristol, 1994 - Love Uni Rave Repeat —

Written by: Rebecca Sandeman, Emliy O'Hara, Alice Holt | Script Consultants: Laine Slater, Alex Lynch



”

MARIA

*I dunno if I'm going to go Lakota this evening.
I might just stay in.*

AMANDA

*Fuck Maria, if you're embarrassed about
sleeping with that guy. He's a dick.*

MARIA

*I'm not embarrassed, I just feel like shit.
I've had three hours sleep in two days.*

Amanda presses a baggie into Maria's hand.

AMANDA

*Just do a key of this and you'll be fine. (Smiles)
So...what top are you gonna wear?*

Maria sighs.

MARIA

Probably the red sparkly one with the low back.

Genre: *Drama series*

Format: *8 episodes of 45-60 mins each*

Targetgroup: *16 - 35 years old*

>>>



PILOT EPISODE

Written by:
Rebecca Sandeman, Emliy O'Hara, Alice Holt

Script Consultants:
Laine Slater, Alex Lynch

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

INT. AMANDA'S PARENT'S CAR LOST IN BRISTOL- LATE AFTERNOON

AMANDA (18, swamped by parental pressure, teetering at the precipice of adulthood) is in the backseat of her parent's car, her belongings piled high around her.

Her parents GREG and VALERIE are arguing over directions. There is an uncomfortable air.

VALERIE

(cool, controlled anger)

Greg, we've been round this roundabout before. Twice.

GREG

(Trying to mimic Valerie's tone)

Perhaps if you were more clear with your directions Valerie. Am I taking the A370 or not?

The car comes to a sudden stop. Amanda and her possessions almost end up in the front seat.

Greg puts up his hands and gestures to the driver in front.

GREG

(shouting)

What the hell mate? It was my right of way! MY. RIGHT. OF. WAY.

AMANDA

Dad, please. Can you just not?

GREG

It's not my fault nobody in cities can drive Amanda.

Greg returns to swearing at the driver in front. Valerie looks back at her daughter with a fixed, determined expression.

VALERIE

Now Amanda, remember what I said about fresher's week.

AMANDA

Er..

VALERIE

(nagging)

A lot of your peers will be using it

as an opportunity to get drunk, take drugs and god knows what else. But this is the time for you to get ahead. Make a start on your reading list. Go see your professors. Make a good impression.

AMANDA
(trying to placate)
Yeah. Yeah of course.

VALERIE
And you are going to join the University orchestra, aren't you?

AMANDA
Yep. Definitely.

VALERIE
Because all that money we spent on your saxophone lessons. It would be a shame to waste it.

AMANDA
(lacklustre)
Yes, Mum. I'll be the first to sign up.

VALERIE
And one more thing.

AMANDA
Yes?

VALERIE
Sit at the front of the lecture theatre, Amanda. It shows you're keen and eager to learn. Professors notice things like that.

'Overcome' by Tricky begins playing.

Close up of Amanda's face. She is trying to let her mum's inane words wash over her.

POV shot of Amanda looking out the window. The vastness and vibrancy of Bristol is enthralling. A complete world away from her small coastal town.

Close up of Amanda's face. She smiles to herself, secretly excited by the possibilities and the chance to escape.

Flash to scenic shots of the 90s Bristol landscape.

EXT. BRISTOL STREET- SECONDS LATER

Abrupt cut of music.

The car drives into a 'Freedom to Party' protest that is blocking the street. Everyone is either stoned, incensed (or both), and dressed in iterations of 90s gear.

Enter CAMI (18, quirky, tenacious, wearing clashing, bright fabrics) who is clearly one of the dominant forces of the protest.

She's chanting and holding a hastily drawn placard saying 'Let the Dykes Dance'.

Greg and Valerie look at this scene in disgust. Greg beeps his horn to try and disperse the crowd.

This does nothing and Amanda slides further down into her seat, looking ready to die from embarrassment.

A STONED GUY pulls down his trousers and squashes his hairy bum against the passenger window. He wiggles his bum on the glass as Greg and Valerie are shellshocked by the mooning.

Amanda looks as if she wishes she was never born.

Cami throws her sign up in the air and slams her hands down on the bonnet of the car, hyped up by the crowd and atmosphere.

Cami and Amanda lock eyes. They share a small smile.

MONTAGE: VARIOUS AUTHENTIC AND SIMULATED FOOTAGE OF BRISTOL IN THE 1990S

'Overcome' by Tricky resumes playing as the shots flash on screen.

Grey, drudgery of people walking in the city centre. Expanse of the Bristol skyline. Street art plastered on the walls, one-piece suspiciously Banksy-esque. The DUGOUT in full swing, sweaty bodies everywhere, grinding. Close up of a RONI SIZE Vinyl. CORPORATE WORKER ANTS attending offices on a packed bus, holding their beige corned beef sarnies. A hazy squat rave littered with rubbish. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS in a Lecture theatre looking bored. Close up of someone yawning. POLICE breaking up illegal rave in an abandoned cotton factory. Graduation Ceremony, line of faceless STUDENTS

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

4.

waiting to receive their Degree diploma. Fake smiles as they shake hands with an old, white CHANCELLOR. GROUP of THREE WOMEN in a toilet laughing, trying to scrape out the last bits of a baggie to snort on a toilet seat.

BEGIN TITLES

'Strobes and Tribulations'

END TITLES

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE STUDENT HOUSE - 20 MINUTES LATER

Abrupt cut of music.

The car pulls up outside the crumbling, decrepit student house. It looks as if it's stuck together by sellotape. The front garden is plagued by weeds and overgrown.

MARIA (geeky, nervous, primly dressed) is waiting on the steps outside with her stuff. She is anxiously chewing her nails and clearly waiting for Amanda.

Once she sees Amanda get out of the car, she looks more at ease. She rushes over.

MARIA

Hi, Mrs. and Mr. Wilson! Hi Amanda!

Valerie and Greg greet Maria warmly, having known her since she was six.

Maria pulls closer to Amanda to whisper to her.

MARIA

I thought you'd never arrive. I didn't want to go in on my own.

AMANDA

So you've been waiting outside?

MARIA

Yeah, for maybe like an hour or so.

Amanda looks at her best friend incredulously but says nothing.

MARIA

I think you should go in first. I'll follow.

AMANDA

Maria, come on. Don't be ridiculous.

VALERIE

Amanda, are you just going to stand around chatting, or are you going to help your dad get all your stuff out the car?

Amanda rolls her eyes at Maria and goes to help her Mum and Dad struggle with her saxophone, duvet and boxes of textbooks.

INT. INSIDE STUDENT HOUSE- MOMENTS LATER

Amanda, Maria, Valerie and Greg are moving the boxes of stuff up the stairs. They are squeaky, filthy and have bits of carpet missing.

Enter ZACH (cool, assured, effortless stylish) who is listening to WAY OUT WEST really loudly in his room. He's thrilled to have new housemates arrive.

ZACH

Hi guys, welcome to Casa del Shit!

Zach throws up his arms theatrically.

Greg and Valerie look horrified at this outburst. Amanda and Marie exchange glances and try to prevent themselves from giggling.

Zach extends his hand to shake Amanda and Maria's.

ZACH

I'm Zachary, Zac, but you can call me anything you like. I won't be offended.

AMANDA

Well, I'm Amanda and this is...

Zach stares at Maria, a flash of recognition.

ZACH

Yeah, aren't you the girl that's been standing outside for ages? I thought

you were lost or something?

MARIA

I don't think it was that long...

ZACH

Okay, anyways whatever. Amanda and...

He looks at Maria for clarification.

MARIA

Maria.

ZACH

Maria. Charmed. So are we going out tonight or what?

VALERIE

(Her tone does not suggest it has been lovely at all)

Well, it's lovely to meet you Zachary, but Amanda has a lot of unpacking to do, don't you Amanda?

ZACH

Oh, leave it till tomorrow. You only get one Freshers. Well..unless you fuck up your results like I did, then you might get a couple. Knock on my door later yeah?

Amanda flashes him a smile that her parents can't see.

Zach closes his door and turns his music up so it shakes the doorframe.

Valerie and Greg are NOT impressed.

INT. AMANDA'S ROOM- A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER

Amanda's room is on the top floor. It's is relatively large, dank, but she's made it as homely as possible. She's got fabric wall hangings, a bookcase full of books, and a few sickly house plants.

Valerie and Greg are getting ready to leave. Valerie is fussing over smoothing the duvet and blanket.

Valerie wants to have a serious conversation, she hesitates a couple of times before starting.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

7.

VALERIE

I think people like Zachary are best kept at arm's length.

GREG

Your Mum's right Amanda. You don't want to be mixing with people like that.

AMANDA

People like what?

Valerie thinks for a moment, trying to formulate her words carefully.

VALERIE

He's clearly very troubled. And those kind of people drag you down. Stick with Maria, she got her feet on the ground.

AMANDA

Mum, you can't know that. You've met him for a total of about five seconds.

VALERIE

When you get to my age Amanda, you can. Now, your Dad and I are leaving, give us a hug and make sure you call every week.

Amanda exchanges awkward hugs with her Mum and Dad.

VALERIE

Every week okay?

Valerie and Greg leave. Amanda exhales and lies down on her bed. She looks torn between her Mum's advice and wanting to do what she wants.

Finally, she gets up from her bed and heads downstairs.

INT. INSIDE STUDENT HOUSE- MOMENTS LATER

POV shot of Amanda knocking on Zach's door. Music is still blasting from his room.

Zach opens the door and beams.

ZACH

What took you so long?

Zach pulls Amanda inside.

INT. INSIDE ZACH'S ROOM- AN HOUR LATER

Zach's room is a tip, half-drunk cups of tea, plates of stale food, and fag butts adorn every corner of the room. His wardrobe is full of expensive-looking clothes with most of the tags still on.

He has a vinyl player with a massive collection of vinyl, which is the focal point of the space.

Zach and Amanda are drinking a can of red stripe each and Zach is showing her some of his music. Amanda is nonchalantly trying to pretend she does stuff like this all the time.

ZACH

With my 35% staff discount at Relay, I barely pay anything.

AMANDA

That's cool.

Zach puts on 'Always be There' by Smith & Mighty. He holds his hands up to the ceiling and closes his eyes as if in a rave.

ZACH

Imagine, it's 3 a.m. You're in some dirty, sweaty, repulsive, gorgeous, little club. Your feet are hurting. Your t-shirt is covered in beer. And you're thinking, should I do another half? Or do I cut my losses and go home? Then this comes on. I mean you fucking take it don't ya?

Zach snaps out of his trance and turns to Amanda. Amanda contemplates how she is even going to respond to that statement. Zach might as well have been speaking Martian.

AMANDA

Yeah, I... course you would.

ZACH

Darling, from the moment I saw you, I knew you were my sort of girl.

Amanda looks nervous for a second, thinking that Zach is hitting on her. Zach senses her tension and bursts out laughing.

ZACH

Oh my God, no. Not like that. Don't worry vaginas aren't really my cup of tea. For starters, I wouldn't have a clue what to do with one.

Zach takes a big swig of his drink and jumps back on the bed, close to Amanda. Amanda and him piss themselves laughing.

There is a knock at the door.

ZACH

Come in at your peril!

Enter Ash (broody, skinny heartthrob) who does a double-take at Amanda reclining on the bed. Amanda also locks eyes with Ash for a second too long.

ASH

And who on earth is this?

ZACH

This?! How very dare you, Ash. This. This is Amanda, our gorgeous, insatiable, fantastic, new housemate. And might I add, my new best friend.

ASH

I thought you said yesterday I was your best friend?

ZACH

That was yesterday. I've moved on. I'm fickle. It's not a crime. And besides, Amanda is much more interesting. She's not a scummy lawyer like you. Are you Amanda?

Zach and Ash look at each other jokingly.

AMANDA

Er no... I'm doing history.

ZACH

History? So you're into like plagues and wars and battles and stuff?

AMANDA

(Sarcastically)

Yeah...I just love battles.

Zach pushes Amanda affectionally. A rapport developing between them.

ZACH

Well, I'm doing English. Total bookworm, right? Anyways, I looked up the courses at UWE, and for English Lit you only have to be in classes for five hours a week. So lads and lasses you're looking at the next Michel Foucault!

ASH

Who's that?

ZACH

I dunno, but he's on my reading list. Honestly, I have to read so many books. Like one a week. Sometimes two.

ASH

(Sarcastically)

For English lit? Really? That's crazy.

ZACH

Yeah, these professors clearly have no social life.

Zach then addresses Ash, suddenly completely serious.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Speaking of social lives. Ash, t-minus two hours. Round up the troops. Shower.

(points at Ash's face)

Do something with your hair. Everyone's here now. Fully occupied at 6 Westfield Road. We're getting on it. So. Fucking. Completely. Rat-arsed. No excuses.

Ash tries to protest. Zachary hushes him.

ZACH

Nope sorry, I said no excuses. You've been dodging me for the past two days, doing fuck knows what. Cami's been off solving world peace. Ryan's been mopping or moping in his room. This ends today. Everyone is going to meet in the living room at 8 pm. Sharp.

Drink vodka. Look sexy. And then go out and get completely off their tits. Okay? Any questions?

AMANDA

How do we know when we are sexy enough?

ZACH

Darling, we are all wrinkle-free, intelligent, and in the prime of our lives. We are all extremely gorgeous. Although, jury's still out on this gentleman here.

Zach gestures at Ash flamboyantly. Ash shakes his head at Zach in mock outrage. He goes to leave the room and turns, briefly looking at Amanda. He exits.

Zach looks at Amanda and raises his eyebrows. It's a look that suggests he is on her wavelength: she thinks Ash is a bit of a hottie.

Amanda takes a long suggestive swig of her drink in recognition.

INT. STUDENT HOUSE - DAY

Maria is sat alone in her room, looking lost.

She sighs, listening to the chatter and laughter echoing through the walls, courtesy of Amanda and Zach.

A clock on the wall is barely moving, the ticking hand stuck on the 6.

Frowning, she unpacks a cassette tape player, carefully selects a nice side for it to go on, blows off any dust, and sticks on some Massive Attack, drowning the laughter out.

Swaying a little to the music, she empties the contents of her suitcase onto the bed. She hangs up framed photos of family members, and one photograph in particular, of her and Amanda, is the biggest of all.

Zach and Amanda pop their heads round the door.

Zach nods his head along to the song.

ZACH

Not a bad choice...

He ducks out, and Amanda and Maria exchange curious glances.

He returns with a cassette tape and swaps them out.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Try this though. Kosheen.

AMANDA

I've never heard anything like this before!

ZACH

Living with me, that's gonna change.

MARIA

I like it!

ZACH

Anyway - we're chilling in the living room, are you coming?

MARIA

In a sec, I'm gonna finish unpacking.

AMANDA

Looks good so far!

Amanda and Zach exit, and Maria continues her tidy organising of her room, twirling a little as she does so, enjoying the music.

There's a knock at the door, only just audible above the loud music.

She walks past and opens the front door.

RYAN (tall, gawky, a little awkward) is standing in the door frame, wearing an England football top, laden down with tupperware after tupperware of food, and six large bags.

His face is blocked from view thanks to the mountain of tupperware.

MARIA

Someone doesn't have faith you can feed yourself. Nice shirt, by the way.

RYAN

(muffled)

Thanks. I'm Ryan. Would you mind helping me with these?

Laughing, Maria unloads an armful, so she can see his face.

MARIA

Maria. Don't worry, I relate. My Mum sorted my outfits into a two week rotation and labelled them with what I should wear on which days of the week.

RYAN

Glad it's not just me!

MARIA

Anyways, does this place have a kitchen?

RYAN

Oh, through the other side of the living room - I've been here a few days - just popped to meet my Dad who said I'd forgotten a few things. He doesn't live far - Gloucester. Turns out I'd forgotten the entire contents of his house, by the looks of it.

Maria giggles.

She lets him into the hallway and he opens the lounge door with his elbow.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Honey, I'm home!

ZACH

Here he is! This lunch for a week, mate?

Ryan and Maria quickly dump the tupperwares by the kitchen door.

RYAN

I see we've got two new housemates.
Just met Maria.

(to Amanda)

You must be - not Maria?

MARIA

(gaining confidence)
Otherwise known as Amanda.

Amanda grins.

RYAN

Pleasure!

AMANDA

Back at ya.

She sniffs.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

What's in the tupperwares?

RYAN

Oh so much food.

AMANDA

Maria's Mum's like that too. I think she thinks we'll have starved within a week.

ZACH

Well. What should we do now, then?

He raises his eyebrows, grinning.

FADE OUT

INT. STUDENT HOUSE - DAY

Zach, a freshly showered Ash, Ryan, Maria and Amanda are chilling in the living room, now, sharing a beer.

ZACH

(standing up abruptly and knocking beer bottles over)

OH! We could do a murder mystery dinner!

RYAN

Noooooo.

ASH

Noooooo.

RYAN (CONT'D)

He's been trying to get us to do one all week.

Zach pouts.

AMANDA

Well, not to be the voice of reason or anything, but how about we plan out like, a food shop, or think about chores, or -

Zach starts snoring loudly. Ryan and Ash laugh.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Rude!

ZACH

Amanda, absolutely-fucking-not. No more talk of this 'food shopping'. That's way too organised for my liking.

MARIA

(to Amanda)

Surely Ryan's got enough Tupperware boxes to last us until January anyway?

Amanda and Ryan smirk at this comment.

Maria disappears into the hallway for a second but quickly returns.

MARIA

Hey guys, what's in this locked room?

She opens the living room door to reveal a battered door painted with rose petals.

AMANDA

How the hell did I not spot that earlier?

ASH

Oh, that's Cami's room. Our last flatmate. She's... well, you'll see.

RYAN

Please don't scold me, Zach, but I do need to do some washing. Ash, you need to do some too, right? Wanna help me work out the machine?

Ash nods, and the pair leave the room and troop down to the basement.

INT. LARGE BASEMENT - NIGHT

Ryan is reading the back of a packet of fairy non-bio, squinting.

Looking confused, he puts the entire liquid pack into the drum of the machine, plus about five tablets.

Ash comes in, carrying a pile of dirty jeans.

ASH
Can I get in on this?

RYAN
Yeah, sure. Um. Have you ever used one of these before?

ASH
Seriously, you're struggling with doing washing?

RYAN
So no?

ASH
Yeah, not once.

Ryan bends over the machine and shoves a load of clothes in. Ash passes him his, and he whacks those in too.

ASH (CONT'D)
What do you put in where?

RYAN
Well, um, a bar of soap in the top bit, then the tablets and liquid shit in the big wheel thing.

Ash considers this, then shrugs.

ASH
Sounds about right.

Ash closes the door and presses a bunch of buttons.

Ryan looks at him.

ASH
Well I figure one of these has to mean start - aha!

The machine whirrs into life, tumbling the clothes about.

ASH
We did it! My Mum's gonna be so thrilled.

There's a horrible noise. Bubbles start spewing out from under and inside the machine, coming out of the soap drawer

too.

RYAN

Hey - does your Mum's machine do that?

ASH

I don't fucking think so?

The bubbles are spewing out of control, now, crawling closer and closer to the boys, until they're nearly knee-deep in soap.

They do what any young adult would: run away shouting.

RYAN AND ASH

FUCK! WE'VE FLOODED THE BASEMENT!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The music is on quite loudly, and everyone is fairly drunk now, except Maria, who is looking uncomfortable, curled up in an armchair in the corner.

ASH (O.C)

HELP! GUYS!

RYAN (O.C)

HELP! GUYS!

AMANDA

What?!

RYAN

(gasping, while Ash nods vigorously beside him, both gesturing wildly)

Basement - help - need - proper - adult.

Maria slips past Ryan and Ash, and out of the room.

ZACH

Come again?

ASH

Just come and help!

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The gang minus Maria are stood in the doorway, jaws dropped.

AMANDA

How the fuck did you manage this?!

RYAN

I don't know!

Amanda spies the fairy liquid covered in bubbles on the floor. She slides a little into the room, picks it up, and shakes it.

AMANDA

Did you twats put a whole thing of this in?

RYAN

Are we not meant to?

ZACH

It's meant to be a cap full, dickheads.

ASH

It was Ryan! He put like nine tablets and a bar of soap in too.

AMANDA

Oh my God, how exactly are we going to clean this up?

Zach slowly breaks into a wide grin.

AMANDA

(looking at Zach)

What?

ZACH

Anyone up for a little game of THE FLOOR IS LAVA?

The gang look unenthusiastic.

Zach sighs.

ZACH

What about THE FLOOR IS LAVA DRINKING GAME?

The gang erupts into applause and cheers.

MONTAGE: FLOOR IS LAVA DRINKING GAME

A wicker basket, a pile of dirty clothes, the washing machine, a few chairs and a rickety table are all safe spots. The aim of the game is to get on top of the machine without

falling in the lava.

Amanda is on the washing machine. Ash jumps from the table to the machine, falling on her a little, and pushing her into the lava. They both have to take a shot.

Ryan jumps onto the wicker basket from a chair, which crumbles, but he jumps and slides on the basket and into the pile of washing, whipping his ankles out of the way of bubbles just in time.

Zach tries to do a front flip from one chair to another. Ends horribly. Has to do three shots to serve as painkillers, and has a rather impressive shiner on his forehead.

Maria is listening to the whooping and laughter from her bedroom, feeling very left out.

END MONTAGE

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Amanda, the clear winner, jumps down into the pool of bubbles.

AMANDA

Right, are we off out in a minute?
I'll just see where Maria's got to. Um
- try and clean this up?

ZACH

Fucking how?

RYAN

How about we designate that as a
tomorrow problem?

Amanda rolls her eyes and exits.

INT. OUTSIDE MARIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda hears sniffing through Maria's door.

She frowns, and knocks.

AMANDA

Maria?

There's no answer.

She pushes the door open, to find Maria, puffy-eyed and

curled on her bed.

Amanda sits gently on the bed, and strokes her friend's hair. Scowling, Maria pushes it off, huffy.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Ree, what's the matter?!

MARIA

Nothing, I'm fine, go away!

AMANDA

Yeah, you look grand.

MARIA

(rolling her eyes)

Shut up!

AMANDA

Come on, tell me.

MARIA

They all think you're fucking great, and hate me! No-one even noticed I was gone. Not even you.

AMANDA

Well I clearly did 'cos I just came to find you, you moron. And they've known you all of two hours, I don't think it's possible to hate you yet.

MARIA

Don't be a smart arse. I just don't like it here.

AMANDA

(smirking affectionately)

Drama queen.

Maria laughs a little.

Amanda sighs. She sits down on the bed, admiring that Maria's stuck photos of her family, and the two of them, up on the wall.

AMANDA

To be fair, they're not sheep. We've not really had to talk to anyone with two legs and no wool before.

Maria jerks her head noncommittally.

MARIA

I mean there's cows in Cornwall, too.

She smiles reluctantly, and Amanda strokes her hair a little.

AMANDA

I'm feeling insecure as shit too, you know.

MARIA

Really?

AMANDA

God yeah. I'm probably going to embarrass myself horribly very shortly. It's only a matter of time. I feel like a fraud, actually.

Maria frowns, and nods.

MARIA

You are a bit of a twat, yeah.

Amanda pulls Maria into a sitting position and rubs her sleeve under her eyes, where her eyeliner has run.

AMANDA

Wait here. And for the love of God, blow your nose.

Amanda disappears briefly. Maria hastily wipes her nose on her sleeve. Amanda comes back in with two shots, one of which she hands to Maria.

AMANDA

You don't have to like it here. You do have to get pissed on our first night at uni.

Maria laughs. They clink glasses, and down their shots.

AMANDA

Come on. Let's go and pick out our clothes!

Maria grins, and takes Amanda's hand.

MONTAGE: GETTING READY

Something Good - Utah Saints plays while the gang gets ready.

Amanda throwing item after item on the bed, grimacing at a couple of Maria's options.

Zach pokes his head in and starts rifling through Maria and Amanda's clothes, pulling faces at various shoe options.

Maria and Amanda having a tug-of-war over a glittery dress.

Zach confiscates the dress Maria and Amanda are arguing over, and presents them both with much more risque outfits - they are horrified, but he insists they put them on.

Maria doing her makeup in the mirror, Amanda shunting her out of the way so she can do hers.

Ash comes in, pointing at his watch and rolling his eyes.

Shots.

Maria crimping Amanda's hair - a little smoke coming off at one point, leading to a panic.

Ryan running around tidying up after them, getting antsy about the glitter in the curtains and the nail varnish in the carpets.

Zach comes in, and takes over Maria's hair, scoffing at Amanda's lack of skills.

The girls ready to go, posing in their outfits.

Zach scrubbing off Maria's makeup and re-doing it, pointing out to Amanda what she did terribly.

Zach chasing Ash with some shocking pink nail varnish.

Zach and Amanda pinning Ryan down while Maria crimps his hair.

END MONTAGE

EXT. STUDENT FLAT - NIGHT

The song continues to play as the newly formed gang files out of the student flat, one by one, looking so nineties it hurts.

You can especially see a visual transformation with Maria and Amanda, who look stunning, and very much unlike the two country girls from the start of the episode.

CUT TO:

INT. FRESHERS PARTY - HAWAIIAN THEMED - NIGHT

The gang is stood in a row at the party, in a sea of people donning Hawaiian shirts, and somebody has tainted the gang's cool outfits by throwing Leis over their necks.

Saturday Night by Whigfield plays, it's cut across their song from the montage.

They all look bemused and disappointed, Pina Coladas in hand.

ZACH

Well, this is fucking wank.

SCOTT THE PLAYER is dancing drunkenly next to an embarrassed and awkward CHLOE. The gang look on in disgust.

Maria walks up to Chloe, and puts on an excited manner.

MARIA

Oh my God, hey! How long has it been?!

Chloe catches on immediately.

CHLOE

Oh no way! You're from Convent Camp, aren't you?!

MARIA

Yes, it's me! Oh my gosh, let's get a drink, we have SO much to catch up on!

They link arms and flit to the other side of the party, leaving Scott looking pissed off.

CHLOE

Thanks. I've lost my friends and that creep's been hanging around me for twenty minutes.

Zach joins the girls.

ZACH

Watch out for him, I've heard some horrible stories.

Zach pulls a face, unwilling to elaborate further.

On the other side of the dance floor, Ash, Amanda and Ryan are sat at the bar, looking thoroughly unimpressed.

AMANDA

Are all student parties this cheesy?

Ryan giggles. He's on his fourth pina colada, complete with a little umbrella.

RYAN

I dunno, I'm quite liking this one!

Maria returns from escorting Chloe.

AMANDA

Oh, hey, what happened to that girl?

MARIA

She found her friends, she's OK now.
Steer clear of that guy we saw her
with, though, apparently he's...
unsavoury.

AMANDA

Ew. I think I'm ready to get out of
here.

RYAN

Ohhh!

(singing)

But I like piiiina coladaaas.

ASH

(helping him off his bar stool and
dragging him toward the door)
We know you do, buddy.

Zach's eyes dart around the group.

ZACH

Guys want me to take you to a real
party?

ASH

Please.

AMANDA

Oh hell yeah.

ZACH

Right.

(clasping his hands together)

We have to go home.

The five look incredulous.

INT. STUDENT HOUSE - NIGHT

The whole gang is sat in a circle, waiting on the floor next to a landline phone.

Zach is smoking a cigarette, looking perfectly at ease, whereas everyone else is confused.

Maria and Ryan are sat next to each other, with Maria furiously trying to keep space between them, her eyes constantly flickering to him.

Amanda clears her throat. Zach looks at her expectantly.

AMANDA

This isn't your idea of the party, is it, Zach?

ASH

No offense mate, but this is shit.

ZACH

Ye of little faith. My guy should be ringing at about 1am to tell us where the rave is.

MARIA

What if it's miles away?

ZACH

Then we find a lift.

ASH

What if there's not a lift?

ZACH

There's always a lift. At the stroke of 1.05am, anyone who's anyone in the city will be headed towards one hallowed location.

The phone rings, making everyone jump.

Zach springs up in excitement, knocking the receiver off of

the wall by mistake as he does so.

ZACH

Archie?

The voice on the end of the phone yabbers a little. Every eye is fixed apprehensively on Zach.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Gotcha.

He replaces the receiver.

AMANDA

Well?

ZACH

Well, let's fucking GO then!

He claps his hands together in delight. The gang is optimistic but cautious about the whole thing. Zach forces everyone to do a shot before leaving.

Zach rushes back into his bedroom to get a small bag of E's.

Ash swings a clanking backpack on before setting foot out of the door.

EXT. ST. PAUL'S - NIGHT

Zach is leading the way as the gang traipse towards an abandoned warehouse which is to be their venue of choice.

AMANDA

Are we nearly there?

ZACH

Yes! Oh - quick warning - none of you, ever, walk around here alone and night. It's the stabbing capital of the city.

Maria looks terrified.

MARIA

Really?!

ZACH

Yeah, but I mean it's fine. Just, avoid it after 9pm unless you're in a large group.

ASH

Um. OK.

Ryan and Ash exchange concerned glances.

RYAN

Um. OK.

Zach turns and winks.

ZACH

Welcome to Bristol, kids!

ASH

So, where are we going, exactly?

AMANDA

Yeah, I'm a little worried you're leading us off somewhere to be murdered.

Zach leads them around a corner, and there, in all its grubby glory, is a very large, tatty building with graffiti all over it, with music blaring out and onto the street.

RYAN

Erm.

MARIA

It, um -

ZACH

Doesn't look like much? Oh, just you wait.

He leads them all inside, hugging the BOUNCER, whom he seems to know, enthusiastically as he does so.

ZACH (CONT'D)

(brightly, turning to the others)
Cami might be inside, too.

CUT TO

INT. RAVE - NIGHT

No Good (Start The Dance) - *The Prodigy* plays. It fills the room.

The gutted shell of a former warehouse is their final destination for the evening. It is hell. It is heaven. It is

everything in-between. The mass of ravers are a municipal body. Moving as one; praying at the altar of bass: the DJ their gurning priest. Kneel. They are not worthy. Sweat dripping onto inexhaustible legs. The sun will never rise. This night will last forever. They'll never come down.

The air is stifling. Heat rising. The furnace of possibility. Dance and repeat. Dance and repeat. Electricity. Nuclear fission explodes on everyone's skin. Eardrums flayed by the speakers. Drop one pill. Drop another one. Eyes wide as the sky. Lights. Reverberations. Serotone-addled craniums.

The bassline... is about to... drop.

The mass stands frozen. Rooted. They know what's coming. Please. Give it to them.

Strobes flash on Amanda, Maria, Zach and the group.

They are dumbstruck by the scene. Maria and Amanda's eyes are on stalks. It's unlike anything they've ever seen before.

There's no official bar, but everyone has a drink in their hands.

CHARLES THE CONDUCTOR is in a corner, talking animatedly to a bunch of saucer-eyed people.

The mass continues dancing. Their face's flushed and shiny; ecstasy coursing through their limbs.

We see Cami with a few spaced-out people we recognise from the 'Freedom to Party' protest earlier.

CAMI
(running towards the group)
GUYS!

ZACH, ASH AND RYAN
CAMI!

ZACH
Cam, this is Amanda and Maria - our
last roommates!

Cami gasps and leaps on the pair of them. There's a moment of recognition between Cami and Amanda from earlier.

CAMI
WOMEN! Thank God. Thought I was in a
sausage house. Help me hand out

flyers!

She pulls Maria and Amanda into the crowd. It's damp, sticky, and pungent. The lights glare and the music blares. The DJ flips another track. The crowd bellows in recognition.

Maria, Cami and Amanda linked hands to form a human chain, the rave commanding intimacy between them. Normal rules no longer apply. Amanda and Maria's heads keep turning, agog, at the pulsating mass.

Finally, they are squeezed up against the stage.

Maria is overwhelmed but doesn't have time to process her anxiety. Amanda feels like she's home.

Cami has shoved fistfuls of flyers into their hands.

CAMI

(making herself heard over the music)

These are all about my new campaign to save the hairy caterpillar. They're one of Britain's most beloved countryside staples but their numbers are dwindling fast. On the count of three? One, two - THREE

The girls start throwing the flyers, like confetti. They grin, faces blasted by the strobes lights.

They can see Zach, Ash and Ryan dancing near the back. Zach shoves a pill down his throat. He reaches out, absorbing the music by apparent osmosis.

Amanda turns to grin at Cami, but notices a horrible, gory red rash on her arm. She leans in to shout in her ear. The noise from the room is deafening.

AMANDA

What happened to your arm?

CAMI

OH! Caterpillar bite. Think it's infected. Come on, let's get fucked up.

Zach approaches Amanda, and holds his hand out, where he's got a pill in his palm, and a mischievous expression on his face, eyes the size of saucers.

Amanda looks alarmed, and shakes her head vigorously.

AMANDA

What the fuck?!

ZACH

Oh, go on, it's just one tiny pill.
Try it, it might change your life.

AMANDA

But what if it kills me?

ZACH

My mate Rory took six of these in a
row and didn't die, you'll be fine.

He pops his and gives Amanda hers. Raising her eyebrows, she steels herself and swallows it.

The music grows louder, faster, the strobes brighter. It's a whole new world.

CUT TO:

INT. RAVE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Amanda is being chatted up at the bar. Maria sits next to her, looking glum. On Maria's other side is Cami, who has her tongue down a skinny girl's throat.

Ryan is dancing near the bar and catches Maria's eye. He beckons, and she shyly slides off of her stool, takes his hand, and they are soon consumed by the crowd, grinning and dancing.

We zoom in on Ryan and Maria as they dance closer and closer together, the light intermittently illuminating their faces. They are really close together. They're shrouded in darkness once more, then when they are next lit up, the two are kissing passionately.

MONTAGE: THE RAVE

Maria, Zach and Cami dancing wildly.

Amanda's perspective; she comes up, the walls and ceiling vibrate with colour. The rush of the music engulfs her.

Amanda dancing with a tall, skinny guy.

A videocamera is seen in the distance. Everyone is too fucked

to pay much attention.

Cami wrapped around yet another girl, kissing her fiercely in a corner. Her previous girl looks over jealously.

Ryan dodging a spout of projectile vomit courtesy of Maria.

Amanda vigorously making out with the tall, skinny guy - and getting caught on camera with her hand under his belt.

Ash scrubbing Ryan's shirt in a dingy, disgusting toilet.

Zach in the middle of the rave, gormless and free, getting caught on camera dropping a pill.

Ash slipping out of the door, unnoticed.

Amanda leaves the rave with her tall and skinny guy, which Maria notices. She tries to run after her, spotting potential danger but gets lost in a maze of faces, sweaty bodies and speakers, unable to reach her.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAVE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The stranger has Amanda pressed up against the wall, and he's thrusting inside of her messily, her legs wrapped around his hips. She pokes her tongue out, and he licks a pill off of it. She grins, then throws her head back, enjoying the moment.

The two of them seem VERY out of it and are trying - and failing, through ecstatic giggles - to be quiet.

Not noticing who it is, Ash walks past, amused, and carries on in another direction.

Amanda and the stranger both gasp, and fall still. He nearly drops her as he sets her back on her feet.

They part ways, flirtatious but ready to reunite with their friends, but, disorientated in a positive way, Amanda goes for a wander down the street.

Unseen by Amanda, an amused cameraman has got a little shot of the pair of them walking away from each other. He grins slyly.

INT. RAVE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Zach excuses himself from the dancing to go and get some water.

He looks sideways and sees DARREN and LEE marching toward him.

DARREN

OI!

LEE

ZACH!

He jumps, and crouches down, expertly weaving his way through a tangle of bodies and objects to avoid running into the guys, who are looking in the direction he disappeared, mutinous expressions on their faces.

DARREN

That thieving little SHIT!

LEE

(indicating and loud over the music)

You go that way, I'll go this way.

Zach makes a run for it, sprinting toward the exit, Darren sees and follows, but gets stuck in the crowd.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAVE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Darren and Lee are panting heavily, outside the rave, looking this way and that, but Zach is nowhere to be found.

Furious, they head back inside, and Zach, who had been clinging to an underside of a car, drops down, with a loud-ish CRUNCH, and looks deeply unsettled, breathing heavily, lying there on the ground.

FADE OUT

EXT. STOKES CROFT - NIGHT

Amanda is walking alone, still tripping, through the unfamiliar city. She's high but also a bit distressed, the sun still an hour or two from rising.

A group of rowdy men walk on the other side of the road to

her, and she ducks into a shadowy doorway until they have passed.

She wanders a few more streets, until she silently rounds a corner to find Ash, in dark clothes and a hat, stood atop a shed-like structure to reach high points, where he's spray painting a mural. It depicts someone, who might have been John Major, fucking a piggy bank with UNI written on it in an ugly font.

He doesn't notice her, and she just watches for a few minutes, mesmerised as his design takes shape.

He looks down, finally, and see's her there.

He is shocked, and a little angry.

ASH

What the hell are you doing here? You didn't see this! If the media gets wind -

AMANDA

(hurt and confused)

Sorry! I was just walking home and -
Jesus, the media? It's only me, relax!

Police sirens.

Ash grabs Amanda around her waist, and pulls her behind a little alleyway, holding her close, his hand over her mouth, until the police have passed.

When it's safe, he lets her go, but they stay quite close together, a little unexpected electricity in the air.

ASH

C'mon. Let's get out of here.

They set off together down the silent streets, their footsteps echoing in the night.

AMANDA

So - secret alterego?

ASH

Something like that.

AMANDA

It doesn't look finished?

ASH

It's not, but I wasn't about to let you walk home alone. What are you doing here?

AMANDA

Well - um -

Ash raises his eyebrows but doesn't make her say it.

ASH

That was dumb, Amanda, it's not safe out here at night.

AMANDA

Why so secretive, anyway? Is graffiti illegal?

ASH

It's not exactly graffiti, but well - yes. But it's more... my family can never know. Ever.

AMANDA

Why?

ASH

We have opposing ideas on some things, let's just say that for now.

AMANDA

(intrigued, but dropping it for now)

OK.

They reach the centre, and cross through to the harbour, and see the sun beginning to rise over the water.

Amanda stops.

Ash looks sideways at her and smiles.

ASH

Wanna watch the sun come up?

AMANDA

(smiling, lots of eye contact)

Yeah, I do.

The pair slink to the bottom of the steps in between the Arnolfini and the Watershed, and take a seat, watching the

sunrise.

INT. FRONT ROOM - MORNING

A man wearing a grease-covered t-shirt and jogging bottoms covered with holes is slumped on the sofa.

It's landlord STEVE (56, male chauvinist who still thinks he is in his 20's), relaxing with a portion of chips and a pot of curry sauce. His feet rested on the table surrounded by empty cups.

As he holds the newspaper with one hand he reaches with his other to retrieve a handful of chips. Dipping them into the curry sauce, splodges of it drip on to the stained sofa.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Half asleep Ryan enters, not noticing Steve who is now peering in through the doorway. Ryan goes straight to the tap and attempts to pour himself a glass of water, the tap isn't turning.

STEVE

Come on Ry, put a bit of elbow grease into it.

Ryan jumps as he turns around to see Steve. He tries turning the tap again and fails.

RYAN

I think I'll just have some juice.

Steve puts down the paper as he walks over to the tap. Determined to make it work he aggressively turns it. Water begins to pour out as well as from the sides of it. He turns it off.

STEVE

See, knew it was fine. Installed that myself. No better person to do a job other than yourself I say.

Steve opens a cupboard and takes a biscuit out from a packet. He begins munching on it. Observing Ryan who is clearly tired as he floats around cleaning up.

STEVE(CONTD)

Heavy night?

RYAN

Something like tha-

Steve cuts off Ryan as he begins to reminisce.

STEVE

Ohh I remember the days staying up late, not going to them rave things like you kids do, but staying up in other ways if you know what I mean. Let's just say I was a regular at fitting pipes.

Steve winks and jokingly nudges Ryan.

RYAN

There's actually a leak in the bathroom, I was gonna' wait till I saw you at work but seeings you're here now, could you have a look?

Steve begins to laugh, Ryan looks puzzled.

STEVE

I honestly would mate but it's my day off. Came round in fact for a bit of peace, can never get 5 minutes to myself in my place without my Mrs chewing my ear off. Say's I don't do anything in the house, Can you believe that? I mean, look at all the hard work I've put into this place. The same goes for my own, but you can't please everyone I guess.

Ryan puts some bread in the toaster then gets a plate out of his cupboard which is padlocked.

RYAN

Well, whenever you get a chance it's just the one on the second floor.

Steve completely ignores Ryan's comment as he continues to speak about himself.

STEVE

I just think women these days don't appreciate when they have a good man, you know what I mean? You'd think she would be all over me, multiple properties, running the best chip shop

in town with queues going down the street with the crispest battered sausage, but nah. Lucky if I get a little foot rub now and again. That reminds me actually, need to grab some of my tools down in the basement.

Ryan begins getting his bag together and putting his coat on. He freezes once he realises the basement is still a complete mess from last night. Steve begins to edge back to go towards the basement. Ryan quickly moves in front of Steve, blocking him from going to the basement.

RYAN

Best chip shop in town? More like the world! You're not looking for any more staff are you? Would be a dream working there. I mean as you said, that battered sausage. To. Die. For.

Steve looks chuffed, smiling ear to ear completely distracted by Ryan.

STEVE

Well, come to think of it an extra pair of hands some days would be great. Obviously with the amount of customers and that...

Ryan forces a fake smile at Steve, still blocking his way to the basement.

RYAN

When do I start?

Ryan puts his coat on, grabs his bag, and places his hand on Steve's shoulder guiding him towards the front door. Forgetting his toast, it pops up just as they leave the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. MARIA'S ROOM - MORNING

Maria and Amanda are sitting at either end of the bed in baggy oversized t-shirts. With half their make-up from last night still on, the two are gossiping. Amanda grabs a packet of make-up wipes from the bedside table and throws one at Maria.

AMANDA

Feel refreshed my child.

Maria begins wiping the makeup off of her half-asleep face.

MARIA

I don't think I've ever felt so rough
in my entire life. I'm never drinking
again.

AMANDA

Well, that's a load of shit, I've
never seen you so confident. Maybe you
should drink more.

Cami walks past the bedroom door with a cup of tea, she stops
as she sees Amanda and Maria in bed talking, she pauses,
waiting for her invitation in. The girls both smile at Cami,
Amanda signals her hand for Cami to come in.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Cami, join us!

CAMI

Morning my beautiful ladies, I know
one of you for sure had a great night.

Cami winks at Amanda as she crosses her legs as she takes a
seat on the floor. Cami looks fresh as a daisy.

AMANDA

I don't think I even asked his name,
shit, what was it?

CAMI

Erm he looked like a David, don't
worry I'm not one to judge. I think I
snogged like... 3 different people
last night?

Maria puts her hands over her face. Cami and Amanda look at
her.

MARIA

Ah fuckkk.

AMANDA

What's wrong?

Maria moves her hands off her face and holds on to her knees.

MARIA

I think... okay, I know I kissed Ryan.

CAMI

Ryan! As in, our Ryan?

Cami looks excited, almost proud of Maria. Amanda is smiling at Maria who is clearly stressed by the situation.

MARIA

Ah, I fucked up didn't I?

AMANDA

No no no, that's kind of cute actually, didn't think he had it in him.

Maria looks around the room.

MARIA

I kind of, well, it was me who kissed him...

Cami pumps her fist in the air. Amanda's eyes widen as she nods her head.

CAMI

Yes! We love a strong woman, going for what she wants!

MARIA

Woah, woah, woah. I don't want him. He's just... a mate.

Amanda sarcastically smiles and nods.

AMANDA

Mmhmmm...

Cami jumps up off of the floor and heads to the door.

CAMI

I'll catch you girls later, have a good day.

Cami blows two air kisses to the girls before exiting the room. Cami closes the door behind her.

Maria gets out of bed and begins putting clothes on from her wardrobe.

MARIA
(Whispers)
What if she tells people?

Amanda looks confused.

AMANDA
It's... Cami?

MARIA
(Whispers)
Yeah? but we've known her like 2
minutes. I should've just kept my
mouth shut.

AMANDA
You'll be fine! I'm sure she's got
much more important things on her mind
than you sticking it on Ryan.

Maria pauses as she takes a look at her clock on the wall.

MARIA
Wait... what's the time on your watch?

Amanda looks at her watch.

AMANDA
Shit, it's quarter to 10!

Amanda jumps out of bed, Maria begins rushing about. The
clock on the wall is visibly wrong.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING ROOM - MORNING

Students are sitting down uninterested as a GEEKY GUY at the
front of the lecture theatre expresses his boring ideas. Cami
is sitting at the very front, listening but rolling her eyes.

GEEKY GUY
Let's discuss something important,
something that impacts all of us.
Library access...

Cami looks at the clock on the wall, she yawns.

GEEKY GUY(CONTD')
Closing at 7 pm simply is not good
enough! What if we want a night of

studying? What if we urgently need another book!

A student lets out a loud snore at the back of the class. The Student Body President SEBASTIAN (21, preppy but still extremely cool) stands up.

GEEKY GUY(CONTD')
University libraries should be open 24hours a day! Now, who agrees?

No one agrees. Sebastian steps in.

SEBASTIAN
Right... thank you for that! Anyone care to suggest any other ideas?

Cami shoots her hand up and stands up as soon as she locks eye contact with Sebastian. The guy awkwardly sits back in his seat.

SEBASTIAN
Great, a new face.

Cami walks down to the front of the lecture theatre confidently and shakes Sebastian's hand, he then sits down.

CAMI
Good morning everyone...

Everyone is still switched off from the previous speaker.

CAMI
(Louder)
Good morning everyone! I'm Cami and what if I were to tell you, that you have to pay to come here.

GUY FROM THE BACK
(Sarcastically)
Come where, Student council?

Some students begin listening and chuckle at the guy at the back of the room. Cami smirks then turns serious.

CAMI
No, to university. In order to get YOUR degree, YOU have to pay a yearly fee.

GUY FROM THE BACK

Ballshit!

More students begin to sit up and listen.

CAM

Ballshit exactly! Why should you have to pay?! Why, because John Major and Tony Blair, they don't care! And that won't even include the cost of your accommodation, stocking YOUR fridge, equipment and having enough spare for a night out. As time passes I fear we are getting closer to the inevitable. The lack of funding per student will result in low-income households being stripped of their right for education! You would not be in this very room simply because you can't afford it. Let's be honest, who would actually be able to afford University? Who knows how much it will be... £300? £500? £1000?! A year! We need to take a stand now and make our voices heard before it's too late!

At this point, every student is sitting up straight immersed in Cami's speech, even the Student Council Advisor. The clock strikes 9:30 am, Sebastian stands up. Cami smiles as she goes to sit back in her seat.

SEBASTIAN

Wow... everyone listening for once, that's a first. Thank you Cami. We shall continue that discussion on Tuesday. Thanks everyone.

The student council sitting on the front row together look over at Cami who is rolling up a rose blunt in awe. The other students scurry out of the room, nodding and smiling at Cami as they pass her. Sebastian walks over to Cami.

SEBASTIAN

So what's the trick?

CAMI

Trick?

SEBASTIAN

You had everyone brainwashed in a matter of seconds! Can barely get them

to listen to me. Let alone someone new.

Cami licks her blunt to seal it, she slots it in the mesh side of her bag. She smiles at Sebastian.

CAMI

If you're not passionate about what you're speaking about, how can anyone else be? People can sense genuine energy.

SEBASTIAN

I sure can, once I graduate I'm positive I now know who will be taking my place. See you Tuesday at 9 am.

Sebastian gives Cami a friendly wink before he goes back to sit with the rest of the student council members. Cami smiles and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE BEGINS:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING - MORNING

Maria is rushing through a swarm of students. There is a mixture of very different groups of people scattered everywhere. The 'Hippies', 'Rich bitches', 'Theatre group' and the guys who think their dicks are heaven-sent. The list is ongoing. Maria clearly doesn't fit into any of them.

After glancing around at all the different people she looks up at the intimidating large building. She takes a deep breath and enters.

INT. MAIN BUILDING - MORNING

Loud chatter and laughter fills the air.

The student bar is to the right where there are a bunch of students already necking down pints and shots.

A freshers event is taking place where keen students are bombarding any passerby with a handful of leaflets and free wristbands. Maria keeps her head down as she gets past.

Maria looks down at her timetable then looks up at the map of the building on the wall which is covered in graffiti of a bunch of dicks. She heads to the stairs.

INT. STAIRCASE - MORNING

Maria is rushing up the stairs, passing a group of girls who look her up and down. Maria scurries off.

END MONTAGE.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Maria catches her breath and continues down the hallway, looking at the numbers on each door. She reluctantly stops two girls walking.

MARIA

I'm really really sorry but do you
know where the lecture theatre on this
floor is?

The girls both look at each other and smirk.

GIRL 1

It's literally right there...

She points to the door just up a bit on the right. The two girls shake their heads as they walk past.

Maria awkwardly walks towards the lecture theatre just as two students stumble out the disabled toilet, clearly, they were just having sex, the guy looks as if he is still cumming. The guy bumps into Maria causing her to drop her bag, the pair quickly walk away giggling together.

Maria quickly picks up her bag and heads into the lecture theatre.

MATCH CUT:

INT. UWE LECTURER THEATRE - MORNING

Zach enters a room assuming it is the correct one for his seminar which he is late for.

ZACH

I'm so sorry I'm...

It's not his seminar. It's a law seminar on tort law, it says it on the whiteboard behind.

The professor stops what she's saying mid-sentence.

ZACH(CONTD')

Erm. This isn't Victorian Literature,
is it?

PROFESSOR

(Amused)

Not unless they have committed any
civil wrongs that can be proven
negligible in a court of law?

Zach looks dumbfounded and starts to edge towards the exit.

PROFESSOR

Maybe try next door?

Zach smiles and leaves quietly. He goes to the next door and
peers in, not wanting to make a scene like last time. He can
see copies of 'Wuthering Heights' on the desk.

He's in the right place at least. He psyches himself up,
uncharacteristically a bit nervous.

INT. ENGLISH SEMINAR ROOM - SECONDS LATER

The ENGLISH PROFESSOR is making a grand point about the
moors. He sees Zach slip in late and Zach mouths the word
'sorry' as he takes a seat.

This doesn't disrupt the professor's flow.

ENGLISH PROFESSOR

Critics often refer to the moors as an
allegory for the state of Heathcliff's
mind after Kathy's death. The cruel,
relentless wildness spilling out into
Bronte's description is vengeful,
spiteful but also barren. It's a
signifier for absence, a purgatory for
his rage and loss...

Zach watches all the students eagerly taking notes as the
professor talks. He has no idea what the professor is saying,
but he gets a pen and notebook out anyways.

In his notebook, he writes 'Heathcliffe is really cross.'
Zach seems satisfied with his analysis.

INT. ENGLISH SEMINAR ROOM - 30 MINUTES LATER

Zach is a bit out of his depth but has grasped the general
plot of Wuthering Heights. He's trying to listen to a

student's point of view about Kathy, Heathcliffe, and Edgar.

GEEKY STUDENT 2

Kathy says, 'Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same.'
When Kathy dies, a part of Heathcliff dies too. They are a cyclical entity. He haunts the moors, as a ghostly presence, as much as she does.

Zach seems jolted out of his daze and decides to speak up, suddenly animated, much to the shock of his peers.

ZACH

Do you know what? Kathy deserves better than Heathcliffe. He's a moody, boring man with no redeemable qualities. I wouldn't fancy him even if he was stark-bollock naked, rolling around in a thorn bush. She should just stick with Edgar, not die and have a juicy affair with a stableboy or something. Problem solved.

Zach looks around, pleased at his 'unique' analysis of the text. He catches the eye of a HANDSOME MALE STUDENT who very much enjoyed his outburst.

Zach notices this and casually bites his lip. The professor doesn't know what to say. There is a small silence.

ENGLISH PROFESSOR

And I think that's probably all we've got time for today. Next week we'll be doing 'The Mill on the Floss' and you'll need to get into pairs for a small 5-minute presentation.

Zach looks back over at the handsome male student and raises his eyebrows. The handsome male student nods in reciprocation.

CUT TO:

INT. LECTURE THEATRE - MORNING

Maria is sitting alone in the corner of the lecture theatre taking notes. She looks very stressed as she regularly keeps playing with the hair bobble on her wrist. There is a clear divide within the room with many cliques. Maria turns a page in her notepad then glances up at the ticking clock, time

slowly passing.

The LECTURER scans the room as he asks a question.

LECTURER

So, what is membrane fluidity?

Maria's hand shoots up as she answers the question confidently.

MARIA

The plasma membranes of cells contain combinations of glycosphingolipids, cholesterol and protein receptors organised in glycolipoprotein lipid microdomains.

The lecturer awkwardly smiles at Maria.

LECTURER

Nice try but that is lipid raft.
Anyone else?

Maria turns bright red as she looks down. A SMUG GIRL sitting in the front raises her hand.

SMUG GIRL

Membrane fluidity refers to the viscosity of the lipid bilayer of a cell membrane or a synthetic lipid membrane. Lipid packing can influence the fluidity of the membrane. Viscosity of the membrane can affect the rotation and diffusion of proteins and other bio-molecules within the membrane, there-by affecting the functions of these things.

LECTURER

Spot on, great work! Right, let's break for... 20 minutes, see you all at half past.

The room fills with chatter as the rest of the students begin to leave. Maria, still embarrassed, goes over her notes and snacks on some biscuits. A girl from the row behind comes down and takes a seat next to Maria. It's JULIE(19, a conservative, nerdy girl) she smiles eagerly.

JULIE

I loveee your blouse! Where did you

get it from? I used to have one just like that, I wore it to death.

Maria smiles at Julie.

MARIA

Ahh thank you! It's probably older than me to be fair. My mum used to wear it when she was my age.

Julie strokes Maria's blouse.

JULIE

Ohhhh vintage? I love that! I'm Julie by the way, what's your name?

MARIA

Maria, but my mates call me Ree, well my one mate...

Maria laughs to herself. Julie smiles.

JULIE

Well, now you have two. I wouldn't worry about getting that question wrong by the way, I once got a question wrong too yearsss ago. Super embarrassing but everyone makes mistakes.

MARIA

Yeah, I mean my brain feels fried already so I'll just keep my hand down in the future.

Maria laughs as she offers Julie a biscuit, after inspection Julie accepts it.

Julie points over to a girl sitting in the corner of the lecture theatre alone, she has a dark hoodie on, ripped tights and a short denim skirt on. Her fringe covers one of her tearful eyes whilst her big backpack guards around her. From an angle, you can see the girl is self-harming with a compass on her arm.

JULIE

(Whispers)

Have you seen what she's been doing?

MARIA

Nope?

JULIE

(Whispers)

She's been cutting her arm with something. Look...

Julie leans back for Maria to see the girl.

MARIA

Ahh, that's really sad... maybe we should go over?

JULIE

That's probably exactly what she wants? Attention. Why else would you do that, come on?

Maria clearly seems shocked by Julie's opinion, but she doesn't want to create any conflict so awkwardly smirks.

The girl turns around to see Julie and Maria looking, she quickly packs her stuff away and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. ZACH'S ROOM - DAY

Zach and the handsome male student are passionately kissing in Zach's room, trying to avoid the piles of mess, clothes, and dirty plates.

Two copies of *The Mill on the Floss* are on Zach's bed. He stops kissing the handsome male student for a moment and throws them both on the floor. Zach starts taking off the handsome male student's clothes.

HANDSOME MALE STUDENT

Wait! (pause) Nobody at Uni knows I'm...

ZACH

What? Shit at doing presentations?

HANDSOME MALE STUDENT

No...gay.

Zach laughs and resumes taking off his clothes. He kisses the handsome male student's defined and ripped torso.

ZACH

Don't worry darling, my lips are sealed.

Zach goes to undo the handsome male student's trousers. He has a huge bulge in his boxers. Zach breathes a happy and contented sigh.

INT. RYAN'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER

Ryan is trying to look at a mountain of textbooks and write an essay on longshore drift. He suddenly hears the sound of Zach and the handsome male student in the throes of passion. They get louder and louder until they reach a crescendo.

Ryan looks over at the shared wall, annoyed, and covers his ears.

CUT TO:

INT. MUSIC ROOM - DAY

A band is counted in and begins playing. Amanda admires from outside the classroom, after a minute she quietly pushes open the door and walks into a room full of students with all different instruments, she stands to the side. CHARLES (Late 20's, stylish and attractive) the band conductor, finishes up his class.

CHARLES

Great work guys, same time tomorrow
and let's try to all arrive on time
please!

Students begin packing away the instruments and heading out. Two girls walking past wink at Charles seductively, he takes no notice. Charles walks up to a smiley Amanda. She puts out her hand for him to shake.

AMANDA

Hey, I saw the posters for the
orchestra so thought I'd stop by... I'm
Amanda

Charles smiles as he shakes her hand, he pauses and looks at her.

CHARLES

Now, where do I... last night! You were
there last night.

Amanda looks slightly confused, she chuckles, remembering it's the guy who was with the DJ all night.

AMANDA

No way you that was you...

CHARLES

And why's that, you think teachers
can't have fun too? That place is like
a second home to me. DJ myself
sometimes. Surprised you can remember
last night, to be honest ...

Charles rubs his nose insinuating that she had taken drugs.
Amanda smirks and shakes her head. Not wanting to admit
taking drugs to a teacher, even though he seems very cool,
she swiftly changes the conversation.

AMANDA

I play sax... I was wondering if I would
be able to join or something?

CHARLES

Sax! That's great, well great if
you're any good of cour-

Amanda abruptly cuts him off.

AMANDA

I am great.

Charles looks impressed by her confidence, he leans back and
folds his arms.

CHARLES

Look in that cupboard over there.

Charles points to a closed large cupboard, Amanda smiles
eagerly but tries to play it cool. She walks over to the
cupboard and opens it where there is an array of instruments.
She spots a saxophone and pulls it out.

AMANDA

Right here, right now?

CHARLES

Nervous?

AMANDA

Of course not.

Amanda begins playing the saxophone, Charles is clearly taken
back by how talented she is. After a short performance, she
stops.

CHARLES

Okay, maybe you are good.

AMANDA

When's the next band practice?

CHARLES

I'll see you here tomorrow at 5.

Amanda turns around and begins walking out of class, as soon as she turns her head from Charles she begins smirking. Charles smiling in the background.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

Zach is in the kitchen cooking spaghetti bolognese for everyone. Looking through the cabinets for extra seasoning but there's only a little bit of salt. Pots and pans are everywhere and some sauce spillage on the floor. He begins plating up the food.

ZACH

Ash my love, come give us a hand!

Ash walks into the kitchen and scans the messy room.

ASH

You planning on giving Ryan a heart attack or?

Zach hands Ash two plates of food to carry. Ash looks down at the child-size portions.

ZACH

Ohhh he can have a day off, do you know how hard it is cooking for 6 people?

ASH

I can see, we on strict portion control too?

Zach rolls his eyes.

ZACH

(Sarcastically)

You know what, you are quite the joker aren't you?

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT ROOM - EVENING

Ash and Zach enter the front room. Cami is sitting at the table in the corner, rolling a rose blunt and then beginning to smoke it.

Ryan and Maria are sitting next to each other on one sofa and Amanda is sitting alone on the other. Zach places the 2 plates on the table then exits to grab the other two from the kitchen. Ash hands the plates to Maria and Amanda. Zach enters and gives the last two plates to Ash and Ryan.

ZACH

Bon appetit bitches. Cheers to surviving our first outing together.

ASH

Just about...

Everyone says thank you to Zach. Ryan looks down at his plate.

RYAN

Is this a slight hint that we should all lose a bit of weight?

ZACH

Look, if you wanna go buy some more spaghetti you're more than welcome to, but I didn't see anything else in those lonely cupboards.

CAMI

He does have a point.

Everyone begins digging into the meal, Maria more so just picking at it.

ZACH

Anyway, who would like to see the top freebies from today's fresher's event? If I learnt anything from that Philadelphia film, it was to stock up on these bad boys.

Zach whips out a bunch of condoms from his back pocket and a random wristband. Looking pleased with himself.

ASH

Here we go, I'm never going with you again by the way. Surprised there was anything left by the time Zach left.

ZACH

The one thing you need to know about freshers week, grab any freebie you can. Doesn't matter what it is or what it does, just take it. And when you run out of rubbers my love, I don't want to hear you knocking on my door.

RYAN

(Passive aggressive)

Oh so that's what you were testing out earlier then I take it?

Amanda seems excited for gossip as she leans towards Zach.

AMANDA

No way! Who was it?!

Zach actions zipping his mouth closed.

MARIA

Wait... what's that smell?

CAMI

Zachary...

ZACH

Fuck.

Zach sprints out of the room.

ASH

To be fair, it was never gonna run smoothly letting him cook.

Cami looks up at the broken fire alarm dangling down from the ceiling.

CAMI

And we really need to get that fire alarm fixed.

Zach returns and slams down a garlic bread which is burnt to a crisp on the table.

Maria looks at it and begins standing up, she places her

hardly eaten plate of food on the table. Zach rolls his eyes.

AMANDA

Where you going Ree?

MARIA

Toilet.

Maria heads to the toilet.

ZACH

(Whispers)

I'm sorry but what human doesn't like spag bowl?

AMANDA

I think she's just a bit fragile from last night. Was a lot different from being in bed by 10pm.

ZACH

I guess so, well she better get used to it. Besides this is just the beginning, last night was nothing.

ASH

Let's just hope she doesn't join any societies at Uni, can't imagine her doing well in an initiation...

CAMI

What, like fucking a pig?

ASH

My older brother knew someone at Oxford and apparently some guy actually fucked a pig there.

ZACH

To be fair, I've fucked a few of those already...

Cami, Ash and Amanda look at each other then look at Zach horrified. He is oblivious.

ZACH(CONTD')

Who wants a drink?

Zach lifts up a half-empty bottle from beside the sofa.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Maria walks out of the bathroom just as the front doorbell rings, she looks confused as to who it could be.

Maria opens the door and smiles. It's SARA (20, Petite, abrupt and confident) Ryan's girlfriend.

MARIA

Hello, is everything okay? I think...
you may have the wrong-

Sara cut's off Maria.

SARA

Erm no, this is number 6 right?

MARIA

Yeah, it is, who are you looking for?

Sara looks straight past Maria, examining the hallway.

SARA

Ryan?... I'm his girlfriend, Sara.
Nice to meet you.

Sara gives a smug smile to Maria as she puts her hand forward to shake hers. Maria shakes her hand, anxiously smiling. Sara walks in straight past her. She peers into the front room before entering.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT ROOM - SAME TIME

Sara walks straight over to Ryan who looks as if he has just seen a ghost. She sits down beside him and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

Everyone looks confused. Zach leans towards her, with a warming smile. Maria strolls in and sits next to Amanda. Amanda nudges Maria.

AMANDA

(Whispers to Maria)
Who the fuck is that?

Maria shakes her head at Amanda. Amanda rolls her eyes.

ZACH
(Softly to Sara)
You alright babe?

RYAN
This is-

SARA
(Abruptly)
Sara, I'm sure Ryan's told you about
me?

Ryan opens his eyes wide to Zach and nods without Sara seeing. Cami spots Ryan nodding, she jumps in.

CAMI
Of course! Sara, sister right?

SARA
Girlfriend.

The home phone begins to ring which saves the awkward silence. They all look at each other, confused at who would be calling. Cami picks up the phone.

CAMI
Er...hello?

Cami's smile turns to confusion, she looks over to Amanda who is looking at Maria. Cami holds her hand against the phone as she calls over Amanda with her hand.

CAMI(CONT'D)
(Whispering)
It's your mum... she doesn't sound too
happy.

Amanda looks confused as she swaps seats with Cami, she puts the phone to her ear.

CUT TO:

INT - AMANDA'S FAMILY HOME. SAME TIME

The front room is full of antique small ornaments and a cupboard of the finest china plates and glasses. The room is sparkling clean, Valerie and Greg sat next to each other on the brown, leather sofa. Valerie holding the remote to the T.V in shock and Greg dabbing his sweaty forehead with his handkerchief.

VALERIE

Turn on channel 3 right now.

CUT TO:

INT - FRONT ROOM. SAME TIME

Amanda grabs the remote from the table. A report about *Pulp Fiction* is on TV, we catch a glimpse before she switches on channel 3, which has footage of last night's rave on, they watch it. Amanda covers her mouth as she spots herself in the crowd, Zach is holding his laugh in as he points to Amanda then to the screen. Cami looks over to Maria who is clearly stressed, wondering if they caught her and Ryans' kiss on camera. Ryan glances at Maria, then to the T.V., Sara is watching intensely.

Amanda puts her hand against the phone to muffle the sound of her mother shouting aggressively down the line.

Crowds of people dancing in the sweaty rave from last night, Amanda is facing away from the camera but is still recognisable. Zach is jumping around with his hands waving in the air, not a care in the world, the video scans around the rave. A REPORTER begins to voiceover.

REPORTER (V.O)

-students mainly, roaming the streets late at night, finding any type of illegal party they can, sometimes lasting for days on end and causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. As you can see to the left of the screen, a young man splitting a blue pill with another party-goer. Ecstasy, the drug of choice, currently sweeping through the younger generation. The effects can-

The video on the T.V. then begins to pan to the area in the rave where Maria kissed Ryan, Maria pounces and turns the T.V. off. Tripping over the phone lead which cuts out the home phone. Everyone looks to Maria.

Amanda finally removes her hand and puts the phone back against her ear.

CUT TO:

INT - AMANDA'S FAMILY HOME. SAME TIME

Valerie and Greg are still watching the TV in shock. Valerie hears Amanda hang up.

VALERIE

Amanda! Explain yourself!

BLACKOUT:

END OF EPISODE.



– *Strobes & Tribulations* –
CHARACTER BIOS



STROBES & TRIBULATIONS



Amanda Wilson, 18

Degree: History

Ethnicity: White British

There's no better place to reinvent yourself than University, and Amanda is the classic archetype. Raised by strict parents who prevented her from having hardly any social life, she's finally able to let her hair down and be the person she's always wanted to be. But this isn't without its teething problems or struggles. Amanda is plagued with doubt behind closed doors and always second-guessing her actions. Her anxiety stems from perpetuating this idealized version of herself and then being found out as a 'fraud.'

Bristol is a revolutionary experience for Amanda. She quickly shrugs off her former geek status and transforms into a popular university student, something that Maria is secretly envious of. Over the course of the series, Amanda's relatively easy assimilation to university life and Maria's implosion causes their friendship to disintegrate.

People are drawn to Amanda's chilled and relaxed attitude, she seems to take everything in her stride, never appearing flustered in her surroundings despite it being all new to her. She's a chameleon who can easily be at home in a sweaty 5 am rave, as well as befriending all the history buffs on her course, offering up opinions on William the Conqueror and the invaluable nature of The Domesday Book.

She's less bothered about the academic side of uni life but still gets good grades. She's often found scribbling all her assignments at the last minute on a comedown. Zachary and Amanda are notorious for switching to Pro Plus after a sesh and banging out a 2000 word essay full of pretentious synonyms as the sun comes up.

Amanda is taken aback that she's suddenly able to take her pick of any guys she likes at Uni. Especially as guys have never shown any interest in her before. Although she definitely avoids the rowing team as they're misogynistic pigs who always get their dicks out in the Student Union. She harbours a crush on her housemate Ash from the start, however she knows that fucking a housemate is practically a crime. And he's not to mention he's got a nice but bimbo girlfriend, Katie, who only talks about the style and temperature benefits of gilets.

She's inducted into the Bristol music scene through University Orchestra conductor Charles who sees potential in her saxophone playing, something she used to be bullied relentlessly for. This gives her the opportunity to take her music in a whole new direction. However, another female DJ, Chloe, isn't so happy with sharing the limelight with another talented woman.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS



Maria Campbell, 19

Degree: Biology

Ethnicity: Person from a mixed ethnic group

Starting University is a great opportunity to meet new people and experience a newly found freedom. However, if you're an introvert like Maria it can also be very daunting. Coming from a small town in Cornwall where her only friends were Amanda and her close-knit family, it's no surprise that the pressure of fitting in, becoming an adult and studying a biology degree all at once is a lot to handle.

Maria has always seen her best friend Amanda as a security blanket, which is one of the only reasons she felt comfortable enough to move to Bristol. Sadly, the cracks in their friendship begin to show almost immediately as Amanda seamlessly settles in whilst Maria blatantly struggles. Accepting the fact she needs help, Maria books an appointment with the University counselor but instead of helping her out, they just seem to make matters even worse.

Always being top of the class back at home was the norm for Maria, which is why it comes as a shock when she begins failing her studies. Going to the prestigious University whilst Amanda studies at UWE, results in Maria being the student who is always sitting alone in the corner of the lecture theatre. Until she makes friends with Julie, the most judgemental 'perfect' student,

but the friendship only lasts a few months before Julie cuts Maria off for 'over sexualising herself' and trying drugs.

Maria is not doing well in University at all, with condescending lecturers and bitchy students her only escape from it all is when she's alone in her room. After falling out with Julie, she is back to being the loner in class and Julie doesn't make that any easier when she begins throwing around indirect comments.

As University and her social life both begin to take a toll on Maria, her mental health begins to plummet rapidly. Initially being against any illegal substance, Maria is pushed towards taking drugs, in hope that they will help her escape her reality. So instead of knuckling down when her grades are low, she begins to swap night revision sessions for sweaty illegal raves with a buffet of baggies.

The horny students of Bristol are always having casual sex, skipping lectures for quickies in the disabled toilets and many early, make-up-smeared walks of shame. The nonchalance of it makes Maria feel an unusual type of pressure. Until now, her lack of sexual experiences and unpopularity with guys has never bothered her. In an attempt to blend in, she begins dressing provocatively and seeking constant validation. However, this only lands her in some vulnerable and dangerous situations. Feeling as if she is not enough and will never be able to fit in, Maria begins to self-harm.

Even though it seems life for Maria is on a constant downhill slope, her relationship with flatmate Ryan is something that blossoms throughout the series. Being able to bond over their pain is a form of escapism for them both. But when Ryan becomes distracted with his own issues, Maria feels completely abandoned and begins self-harming again. Feeling as if there is no chance she can be happy again, she decides to take a walk to the bridge with the intention of never returning.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS



Ash Fielding, 18

Degree: Law

Ethnicity: White British

Ash is a brooding, sensitive and slightly mysterious student who seems to never be revealing himself fully to anyone; you get the sense that he's holding something back. This is because Ash has a secret nighttime hobby as a street artist. When everyone else is comfortably tucked in their beds, Ash is scaling buildings with a bundle of spray cans in his backpack. His pieces are heavily politicized, critical of the government and the excess of 1980-1990s capitalism. Although, of course, Ash wasn't the only one practicing this kind of radical art in Bristol at that time...

Ash has come from a wealthy family of lawyers who expect him to do his law degree and join their law firm after he graduates. This is the last thing Ash wants to do and goes against everything he stands for. He's taken the subject to appease his overbearing mother and will broach the topic at

a later date. Three years is a long time anyways? He also has his perfectly nice but perfectly stupid girlfriend Katie who is a remnant leftover from his 6th form days. Ash likes to believe he has a superior intellect than the average person, but he mainly went out with Katie because she was hot. Throughout the series, it is apparent that their vastly different value system puts them at loggerheads every time she visits, yet he still feels a certain responsibility towards Katie and still loves her in his own way.

Although with Amanda now on the scene, his loyalty to Katie is being tested. It's clear that they have friction and chemistry that is pulling them together. As well as them being each other's shoulder to cry on as they attempt to navigate all the problems growing into an adult can entail. Ash is an empathetic and amicable character within the group, he tries to support everyone despite his tendency to disappear and nobody seemingly able to discover his whereabouts.

His near scraps with the police and his street art over the series, ramp up in intensity until he's chased one evening and left with a serious injury in his leg that's potentially life-threatening. Too scared to go to the hospital to get it checked out through fear of being discovered as a street artist, he ignores it and relies on illegal pain medication he gets from Zach. When it doesn't heal and the infection gets worse, Ash begins taking more pills to block out the pain. Things come to a head when Amanda finds him passed out in his room and sweating, she rushes him to the hospital and hopes it's not too late to save him.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS



Zach Bennett, 25

Degree: English Literature

Ethnicity: White British

Zachary is a mature student, only having just started uni at twenty-five, owing to repeatedly fucking up his A-Levels and taking time out to go “travelling”, in which the furthest he went was Birmingham but he did take a lot of coke. He’s an incredibly likeable character, who is welcoming and outgoing if a little selfish and irresponsible – but his charm and friendliness make it easy to forgive his many flaws. Zach has next to no money, although he puts in a lot of hours at the record shop, he spends an awful lot on his party lifestyle for him (and his friends), and as the series goes on we discover he has increasingly disastrous money issues, way beyond your usual “broke student” line.

Although extremely clever, Zach struggles a lot at uni. His constant partying and money issues mean he has to skip classes in order to work to pay off his debts, and he quickly falls to the bottom of his class. He loves literature but becomes bored with

having to read the assigned books, and when he does attend class, is usually a pain, bickering with his lecturers’ perspectives on certain texts.

Despite being absolutely incapable of sorting out his own life, Zachary is actually very wise, having made most of the mistakes one can possibly make himself at some point, and he’s often the one the gang goes to for advice. Especially drug advice. Zach has been taking drugs for years, to the extent that everybody is mildly surprised he is still alive. He is a generally calming presence, so if anyone is in a K-Hole or having a bad trip, it’s Zach they come to for reassurance that they aren’t going to die.

Everyone gets on with Zach, and Zach gets on with everyone. Cami and he are quite close, having a cute brother/sister bond, and similarly, he and Amanda have an instant, platonic connection. He’s incredibly chilled and usually on such a cocktail of drugs that his mood is usually pleasant.

Zach’s a little unpredictable and has a run of bad luck. His unfortunate occurrences include nearly getting the gang kicked out of the student flat and having to resort to theft to pay back his ever-increasing drug debts. Zach was born and raised in Bristol, knows literally everyone (you can’t pop to ASDA with him without running into five of his childhood acquaintances), and has loads of gossip about people as a general rule.

Zach’s Nan, Connie, lives in nearby Bedminster. She knows Zach is “a bit naughty”, as she puts it, but loves him a lot regardless. He often goes to her when things get a little rough, but, heartbreakingly, he steals from her in an attempt to pay off his debts.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS



Ryan Rose, 20

Degree: Geography

Ethnicity: Black British

Originally from Gloucester, Ryan was encouraged by his dad to move to Bristol for University as he believed it would help him become more independent, but mostly so his son could find some mates. A friendly, caring individual who would offer his last slice of bread if yours was mouldy, a great flatmate to have. Not to mention he is an absolute clean freak. Even though this causes some initial tension in the house, Ryan quickly learns to accept a house full of students will never be clean, especially with the number of after-parties they have.

Part of moving out is learning how to budget and look after yourself financially. Which is the only reason Ryan took up the landlord's offer of a part-time job in his local chippy down the road, after all: "what's fun about being surrounded by grease and dirt?". To be honest, he is probably the best at saving in the house, but that's not a hard title to have when you're living with students like Zachary.

At a freshers' event, Ryan signs up to the University's football team and has trials the following week. At first seeming like a great decision, the rest of the guys on the team turn out to be, to put it bluntly, dickheads. Making fun of any guy who shows a slight bit of emotion and objectifying every girl, Ryan is completely out of his comfort zone and it begins to show.

Ryan doesn't take any drugs, so is always the one looking out for everyone else on a night out. He doesn't mind though, he treats his friends like family and would hate to see any one of them get hurt.

On the surface, Ryan seems completely fine, however, behind closed doors we discover that he is slowly reaching breaking point. After being trapped in a domestic abuse relationship with girlfriend Sara for 2 years, he feels ashamed and believes there is no escape. Bristol was an opportunity for him to get away from her but unfortunately, she unexpectedly moves down too and the constant mental abuse progresses to her becoming physically violent towards him. Ryan hardly ever speaks about his thoughts and feelings with anyone despite Maria who he builds a special bond. Clearly, both being the most unstable within the flat, the two find peace within one another and eventually sleep together.

With the encouragement and support from Maria, Ryan finally finds the power to end his toxic relationship. Nevertheless, Sara finds just the way to get her revenge. After years of abuse and unable to defend himself, one lie from Sara leaves Ryan in handcuffs.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS



Cami Shipton, 19

Degree: Philosophy and Politics

Ethnicity: Chinese British

Cami is, to put it simply, the Phoebe of the group. She does everything from smoking rose petals to life modelling, to shaving her head. She becomes big in the rave scene as the series goes on, which goes hand in hand with her acceptance of every individual for who they are.

Cami grew up in Bath alone with her father, Tom, and is exceedingly clever, acing all of her A-Levels. She chose her degree in Philosophy and Politics, with the aim of eventually getting into politics and changing things for the better. She's in a group organising protests for every cause imaginable, from veganism to feminism to LGBTQ+ issues. Bristol is a great place to do this and she thrives in the environment. She's proudly out as a lesbian, which was still taboo in 1994. Being homosexual in the '90s with the political backdrop of Section 28 and the ongoing AIDS

crisis means that Cami is further incensed to fight for equal rights for herself and her community. Consequently, she has little time for dating, preferring one-night stands, in which she leaves, before anyone gets the chance to pin her down.

Cami is the ringleader when she takes the gang to the protest in London. She convinces them all with a powerful speech and the promise that she'll buy them pizza afterwards. She truly believes in everything she does and stands for, and her resolve and passion are inspiring.

In the friend group, she gets along with everybody. She and Amanda become fast friends, and easygoing Ash immediately takes a liking to her, at times they have a cute, sibling-like friendship, similar to the bond she has with Zach. She is one of the only people to make a bond with Maria and really try and develop a friendship with her, showing how kind she truly is. She's also the only one to voice concern and try and reason with Maria when she gets too deep into the drug scene.

As the show goes on, we see more and more of Cami's true nature, her passion, and talent, with her eventually becoming a key and treasured member of the group. She continues to rise through the ranks of the student council over the course of the series, meeting some tough and bigoted students along the way. Her platonic relationship with the student president Sebastian helps her out of some tricky scraps as she often goes to the extreme to prove her point, including stripping off in the name of feminism and art. Although will her extreme methods of resistance be her undoing? When a narrow-minded student takes a disliking to her showy ways of protest, they vow to take her down once and for all.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

Sara Malarkey

Sara was Ryan's girlfriend throughout secondary school, and for the last six months, their relationship has shifted from toxic and controlling on Sara's part, to plain abusive. During Strokes and Tribulations, Sara drops out of her own university course and moves to Bristol to be with Ryan, leaving him no escape from her disastrous influence.

Connie Bennett

Connie is Zach's Nan, and she lives in Bedminster, Bristol. She is the member of Zach's family that he is closest to, and he often visits her, at least a few times a week. She's a source of comfort and rescue for him. Connie worries a lot about Zach, knowing he's "a bit naughty" as she puts it, with regards to drugs and partying, but loves him dearly and doesn't scold him. Her husband, Nigel, Zach's grandfather, died just one year ago, and she's relied on Zach since to keep her going.

Greg Wilson

Greg is Amanda's father, a fisherman, and he's a thoroughly grumpy man, but OK underneath it all. He's a small-town Cornishman, and he has incredibly strong opinions about literally everything. He and Amanda aren't particularly close, and he has painfully high expectations of her, but there's love there regardless.

Valerie Wilson

Valerie is Amanda's mother, and she's a force to be reckoned with. She's immaculately clean and hasn't missed a day of church since she had food poisoning one Sunday in 1976 - the same year dust was last seen on her mantelpiece. Valerie works part-time at the vets as a receptionist and is a bit of an odd pairing with Amanda's father since he's always covered in a thin layer of residue from his days out fishing.

Steve (the dirty) Landlord

Steve, the landlord is a misogynist lout who frequently turns up to the student house uninvited, never fixing anything that is broken or offering to replace the manky carpets. He's a wheeler-dealer chancer who owns 5 student properties and a greasy Fish and Chip shop as part of his empire. He takes a liking to Cami (who can sweet talk him round) as well as Ryan who he employs in his shop as he sees a bit of himself in the young, clean-freak lad.

Katie Smythe (Ash's girlfriend)

Katie studies fashion design at Oxford Brookes and that's pretty much where her personality ends. She's sweet but dim; everything that Ash tries to talk to her just about goes over her head. An odd couple is an understatement, as the series progresses this becomes more and more apparent. This culminates with her sleeping with a notorious player and leaving Ash to deal with the consequences.

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

Charles (the Conductor)

Charles is a part-time conductor for UWE's orchestra but his main passions lie in the underground Bristol music scene. He sees talent in Amanda and introduces her to his world of producers, trip-hop, and acid jazz. Charles is effortlessly cool, a regular at the raves, and knows just about everyone. He's also sensitive and empathetic towards others, a chance occurrence on Bristol's suspension bridge means he helps Maria in her lowest ebb.

Chloe Green

Some people don't like the idea of sharing the spotlight. Before Amanda came on the scene Chloe was Charles' clear favourite and the apple of all the Bristol producer's eyes. When Amanda starts to gain traction as a musician, Chloe decides to sabotage her opportunities and takes a strong dislike to her. Chloe is extroverted, loves attention, and thinks the world probably does actually revolve around her.

Julie Holmes

Julie, the girl who is keen to be any teacher's pet and is always prepared with a fully stocked pencil case. After noticing Maria was alone in class just like her, she quickly decided to make a friend. Julie is vegan and pretty much allergic to everything and seemingly everyone, especially Amanda when she meets her. She is completely against any illegal substance, which is why their friendship ends just as quickly as it started after she finds out Maria took a pill.

*Darren Thompson AKA Dee5
and Lee Taylor AKA Slimz (Dealers)*

Darren & Lee are always in the rave, observing everyone and selling. We see Lee occasionally slip pills into girl's drinks when they're not looking but luckily, Darren normally slyly chucks them away. They are well known in the rave community and respected, mainly because people are scared of their unnamed boss, not that anyone even really knows what he really looks like. Darren is probably the nicest dealer you can ever imagine and when he is alone he occasionally lets Zachary off paying. Whereas Lee, to put it bluntly, is a complete dickhead and aims to be top of the dealing chain one day.

Tom Spencer

Tom is Zachary's work friend and even though they knew each other prior to both working in the record shop, the outside friendship began to deteriorate after tensions in work grew. Tom is very selfless and helpful, always trying to put others before himself. However, when covering for Zachary starts becoming a bit too much, Tom finds no other option to finally be honest with the boss.



– *Strobes & Tribulations* –
EPISODE OUTLINES



EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 2 – Kill the bill

The episode opens with Amanda's parents driving to Bristol to stage an intervention after seeing Amanda on TV at a rave. Maria manages to convince them Amanda was studying with her on the night in question and it must have just been a doppelganger. They leave satisfied, if not a little suspicious.

October time means that bills on the flat are due and everyone is clueless on how to pay, having never had to pay a bill in their life. Everyone is shocked to realise heat, electricity and water cost money. Zach has to borrow his share from Amanda. A flat meeting is called by Ryan to tell Ash and Cami to stop having such long showers in the morning. They collectively visit a bank to deposit the cash, with a surly bank cashier ridiculing them for their lack of knowledge concerning the process.

Amanda is pulled into the underground Bristol music scene as Charles introduces her to some producers who are impressed by her saxophone skills and introduces her to a Bristol branch of music called 'Acid Jazz'. Amanda is not used to being one of the coolest people in the room due to her instrument playing but manages to make a great first impression. Not everyone is enamoured,

however, with Chloe (a female DJ) immediately taking a dislike to Amanda.

Ryan is horrified to find out that his girlfriend has changed Unis and followed him to Bristol. There's a really uncomfortable atmosphere between them. He starts his job in Steve's fish and chip shop, but when his girlfriend turns up and acts possessive and bizarrely, Steve is quick to offer some terrible relationship advice to his young protegee. Wanting to forge his own path, Ryan joins the university football team but is somewhat hesitant when he has to participate in some humiliating fresher initiation activities.

Zachary goes to see his nan, she tells him that he needs to sort his life out whilst piling him with ginger cake and biscuits. After his visit, he makes a detour to see dopey dealers Lee and Darren, who remind him that he already owes them hundreds on tick. He sweet talks them into extending his already shaky line of credit.

Ash is fired up ready to protest against the police intervention bill and goes to do a night-time piece of art that depicts a policeman/pig hybrid who is in the centre of a rave. This piece is reported in the student union newspaper, in conjunction with his

EPISODE OUTLINES

previous work. Students are starting to recognise his artwork. The police are shown attempting to scrub off the graffiti and taking note of his tag. Ash receives a phone call from his vacuous girlfriend, Katie, he tries to feign enthusiasm but doesn't succeed.

Maria is feeling deflated after her short time at Uni, further exacerbated by her poor performance in seminars and lectures. Her new 'friend' Julie is no help, after coming over for a study sleepover she criticises almost everything in her room and wardrobe, leaving Maria feeling more unsure about herself.

Cami is geared up for the Kill the Bill protest in Hyde Park, she's organised a bus to take everyone down there, but everyone has their own motivations for going. Although protesting

doesn't have to be strictly business, after she hears Zach's got some E, she's very receptive to this idea. When in Hyde Park, Cami manages to convince the main organisers to let her up on stage. She makes an emotional and compelling speech whilst completely off her face.

When the protest starts going south and the police get too hands-on, Ash saves Amanda from being manhandled by some overbearing police officers. Afterward, she falls asleep on Ash on the way home. Feeling like she's not fitting in, Maria gets too drunk at the protest and starts chatting to some shifty-looking guys. They almost convince her to leave with them until Cami tells them to 'fuck off back to whichever troll bridge they live under'.

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 3 – Driving home for Christmas

The gang are planning a Christmas dinner, and do their first big food shop as a group, leading to many arguments, blowing budgets out of the window, and leaving ASDA with mostly just sweets and booze.

The episode opens with Amanda at the tail end of an ecstatic one-night-stand, but, unfortunately, her parents drop in for a surprise visit at the worst moment. Begrudgingly, and while her gentleman caller is slipping out of her window, she invites them to her orchestral Christmas concert that night. This means she has to skip the afterparty and the chance for a second night with the guy from this morning along with it. Her mood is worsened when Chloe poaches her big solo at the concert.

Meanwhile, Maria is struggling. Having excelled in secondary school, she came to university expecting it to be a breeze, but the classes are hard. She feels like everyone else on her course is finding it easy, and she's increasingly lost, struggling to make friends and keep up her grades. For the first time, she tries self-harming but gets a little scared, and panics when she bleeds. She reaches out to Amanda for help, but, as she's busy with her own problems, she doesn't have time for Maria and

forgets their arranged catch-up. Feeling like she's got nothing to lose, she caves on their next night out and tries a few lines of coke, and some sort of pill from Zach. Amazingly, she finds it helps take her away from her problems.

Ryan's girlfriend comes to one of his football matches, and she embarrasses him horribly, before being abusive toward him in secret post-match. Ryan asks her to leave, but she turns up to the Christmas dinner to surprise him at the end of the episode despite his asking her not to.

Things continue to go downhill with Zachary's finances, making him increasingly on edge. He has his friend, Tom cover for him at the shop when he doesn't turn up to his shift. He's too busy trying to strike a deal with suppliers to get more time to pay them back, as he can't afford to lose his job. He finally resorts to stealing money from the tills to try and put a dent in his debt. Meanwhile, he has a quiet Christmas alone with his Nan, Connie, who he spots is getting more and more forgetful. They are each other's only family, so he's at a loss of what to do.

Ash's girlfriend comes to visit and is unimpressed when she hears stories about his party lifestyle

EPISODE OUTLINES

from his new friends, whom she isn't quite comfortable with, leading to tensions running high between them. Things get worse when they begin arguing at the Christmas meal that Cami's been working on for a whole day, sparking off the events which make the meal a complete and utter disaster.

Cami has a busy month, after the success of her speech in Hyde Park, Sebastian cements her as a full-fledged member of the student council as a treasurer. She decides to use this new role to impact and improve the experience for underrepresented groups. She's enraged when another member

of the council makes comments about women should only aspire to be 'silent, pretty and thin'.

She also organises the disastrous Christmas dinner for the gang which will go down in history as the worst they ever had. Things are awkward enough with Cami trying to keep the peace between Ash and his girlfriend, but things hit a crisis point when everyone learns the truth about the emotional abuse Ryan is suffering at the hands of his girlfriend, but the true extent and physical side of this is still kept under wraps. Regardless, there's no salvaging the evening from there.

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 4 – Crappy New Year

Upon everyone's return to the flat, the gang learns that Zach threw a number of raucous parties over the Christmas break, some of which resulted in police visits. Others with a drop in from the paramedics, and one incident in which Zach tried to tumble dry his friend's weed plant to get it to dry out ended with a visit from a fire engine. This did not please Steve the landlord particularly, and consequently, Zach has to break the news that they're all getting evicted. Just to add to the pressure, exam season is in full swing, leaving no time for the reunion parties they'd all been looking forward to.

Cami turns out to be the Knight in tie-dye armour, using her charm and his fondness of Ryan to placate Steve. The pair promise to do a redecoration and ultra-cleaning of the flat, and he offers to work a shift on a Tuesday night when Steve has a date. At the end of the month, there's a football social, which Sara insists on coming to. She causes a scene there, as she is dismayed by Ryan's popularity with the fellow players, and thinks he is not giving her enough attention, and keeps trying to make him leave. They get into such a bad shouting match that Ryan is mortified, and subsequently quits the team.

By the end of January, the group are Steve's favourite tenants and have forgotten they were ever infuriated by Zach. In the stress of this month, Zach's drug habit goes mildly overboard, and Darren lets him off paying once or twice, as his debts are racking up.

Ash is concerned when the police come to the Student Union to do a talk on the dangers of street art and how it can be punishable by up to ten years in prison. With the recent rise in street art in Bristol, the police are cracking down. Ash feels they are staring directly at him whilst they make the speech.

Amanda joins Ash in the dead of night to create a street art piece, which only brings them closer together. They meet someone whom they strongly believe to be Banksy, who's been making waves in Bristol lately, and the pair watch the sunrise together from Brandon Tower. Between getting alone time with Ash and replacing the livid Chloe on a demo track, Amanda's having a pretty great start to 1995. However, the good times never last, and Chloe messes with Amanda's sound equipment at a rave she performs at, to Amanda's extreme fury and embarrassment.

EPISODE OUTLINES

After the sexist council member's comments in the previous episode, Cami decides to shave her head and model for a life drawing class. She's also decided to rebel against the 'heroine chic' body type that was so popular in the 1990s and prove that women are more than just a piece of meat. She brings the artistic paintings of her naked body to the council meetings and throws them on the floor in front of the entire committee. Sebastian backs her up and arranges to hang one of the paintings in the student union bar.

For Maria, however, she's suffering from more than just the January blues. She has sunk into a depression, and is increasingly detached from her peers, and continuously self-harming. After Amanda failed to help her before Christmas, she signed on to see a university provided

counsellor, but this only makes her feel worse and insignificant. The counselor firstly confuses her with another student, then belittles her issues, saying her next appointment is a rape victim, and Maria not being the smartest girl in class anymore is hardly an issue. She means this to sound uplifting - as in, this is an easy fix, but it leaves Maria feeling bitter and unheard. That night, she takes drugs again, and it helps, again. She's not seriously developing a habit, yet, but is just young and a little stupid, and after a quick fix to make her feel better. Late in the episode, she finds herself alone in the flat with Ryan, who is equally lost owing to his situation with Sara. The pair find consolation in each other, which quickly turns into more, and the episode concludes in Ryan's bed...

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 5 – Healing

There's an abrupt and heartbreaking end to Amanda and Chloe's rivalry, when Amanda witnesses Chloe being roofied, and rescues her from a strange man trying to sneak her home. She intervenes, punches the creep in the nose for good measure, and takes Chloe safely back to the flat. When Chloe wakes, she slips out of the flat quietly, to Amanda's disappointment - she'd hoped this would change things between them. However, Chloe returns with a bunch of records to lend Amanda as a peace offering to thank her. The pair have a heart-to-heart and learn they have a lot in common; a genuine bond is formed between them.

Ash sneaks out to do more street art, this time referencing his posh family and the ludicrous elitism to which they subscribe. He is nearly caught and forced to run from the police, who recognise his tag. He gets injured jumping a barbed-wire fence and manages to get back home, where he finds Amanda caring for an unconscious Chloe. While she bandages him up, Amanda tells Ash about the horrors of her night, and he cheers her up with his tale of nearly getting arrested and narrowly missing an artery in his leg. Once again, the night seems to be luring them closer together.

Cami decides to continue life drawing class but this time as a painter, instead of a model. She also convinces Sebastian to be one of the models, with hilarious results. She meets a woman at the class who she's deeply attracted to, and the feeling seems mutual. Later, she runs into her at a rave, and they have a one-night stand. Things get too real for Cami come the morning when the woman

expresses genuine feelings for her, and she makes a run for it like she always does. Cami questions why she can't seem to commit to anyone and does some soul searching.

Ryan tries to distract himself from his woes by spending more time at Steve's fish and chip shop. However, after a cockroach outbreak and an unexpected visit from the health and safety inspector, he and Steve have to resort to extreme measures to eradicate the problem.

Still out of her depth on the drugs scene, Maria meets some unsavoury characters at a rave and gets into a dangerous threesome situation, which she struggles to recall when she wakes, alone, the next day. She comes back to find Ryan (complete with a new cage full of cockroaches in his bedroom following his prolonged breakdown) and they try to put themselves back together. Ryan discloses the extent of his abuse at the hands of Sara, and Maria acknowledges some hard truths about herself, revealing her scars to Ryan. She tries to kiss him, caught up in the intimacy of the moment, but is humiliated when he rejects her.

It's a weird month for Zach. Easygoing as ever on the surface, behind the scenes, his world is crumbling. He's been fired, and plunged even further into debt, and is being chased and threatened by dealers Lee and Darren on behalf of their suppliers. The only silver lining is a new sexual experience, an androgynous person, Ally, whom he shares a few nights of romance with, that opens his eyes to a wider world and gives him that sliver of comfort that he so desperately needs.

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 6 – Escape Artist

It's Easter Break but of course, these guys never have an actual 'break'. It's just their luck that the heaters broke so the whole flat is living in layers and of course Steve, instead of getting a professional, does a botched job of fixing it. After witnessing his girlfriend cheat on him on a night out, Ash goes straight to Amanda, and instead of just innocently confiding in a friend, the two spend the night sleeping together. However, when Ash wakes up in the morning Amanda is nowhere to be seen and assumes last night meant nothing to her.

Feeling like an easy rebound, Amanda decides to make a quick escape after a passionate night with Ash to avoid what she believed would be an awkward awakening. She spends the rest of the month avoiding him, which only makes him believe his assumptions were correct. Confiding in Charles after band practice, the two seem to be getting even closer as he tries to give her advice.

Ash's leg hasn't healed from his near-miss with the police but he's too scared to get it checked out in case the hospital asks questions about how he did it. The gash has become infected and he's trying to get on with his life as if nothing has

happened. He asks Zach if he can get him some strong painkillers from his contacts. Zach happily obliges, whilst skimming a bit off the top as per usual.

Cami campaigns for more LGBTQ+ representation on the student council and comes up against a bigoted student who tries to undermine her campaign. After Cami immediately shuts them down, the embarrassment fuels anger in them, determined to ruin any of Cami's campaigns in the future. At a student council social, the bigotted student tries to convince Sebastian that Cami is too 'emotional' for the council and that she should be removed. Sebastian doesn't take any notice which spurns the bigotted student further. They decide to go behind both Sebastian and Cami's back to collect votes of 'no confidence' to get Cami expelled.

After having an awful month, this one is no better for Zachary. As usual, money is tight and it seems to him the only way to get some is to steal it from his Nan. It's out of character for him to snap at people, but when Maria begins to question him about where he got the money from he begins to unnecessarily dig her out.

EPISODE OUTLINES

But it's time for celebrations as it's Ryan's birthday, so everyone is forced to at least crack a fake smile. Especially as Cami has organised a surprise BBQ for him and has gone out of her way to invite his girlfriend Sara. Which was definitely not a good surprise... With the BBQ coming to an end Ryan's girlfriend takes him upstairs. After finally breaking up with her, Sara hits him in rage and leaves.

After the dangerous threesome situation last month, Maria has been harbouring her dark thoughts and in an attempt to try and forget

about it, she leaves the flat alone to pick up from drug dealer Lee. However, instead of a quick walk to the alley and back, she ends up back at his flat where she sleeps with him all in an attempt to 'distract' herself from her problems, which only causes more regret. When she eventually leaves, she briefly mentions knowing about their money coming in short which leaves Lee with many unanswered questions...

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 7 – The Spiral

Normally soaring through her studies, Amanda starts struggling in class as her unspoken issues with Ash begin to sidetrack her. Determined to get back on track, she decides it's finally time to have a chat with Ash and talk about what actually happened that night. Although when she goes to speak to him, he's passed out, clammy and sweating. She realises something is drastically wrong and bundles him into a taxi and takes him to hospital. His leg injury was almost septic, however, they managed to catch it just in time. When Ash wakes up in the hospital Amanda and Ash have a heart to heart and they both admit to having feelings for each other.

When Ash is released from hospital he decides to throw himself back into art. He begins designing the posters for the end-of-term rave and enlists the help of Cami, she agrees in return for some help from him. Determined to set up a domestic abuse help group at University, she gets Ash to persuade Ryan to attend the student council meeting in the hope to help her highlight that this group is not just needed for women. Despite most of the room agreeing with Cami, the one bigoted student from last time begins questioning everything Cami says in front of everyone and leaves her surprisingly speechless. This is in

tandem with a list of names he shows her that support her being removed from the student council. Sebastian, taken aback by the sudden ambush, doesn't do anything to intervene. He stands in the shadows and just watches as Cami is silenced and embarrassed. Cami looks at him, yet he says nothing, and Cami storms out in anger.

After trying to get away with paying his rent late, Steve threatens to kick Zachary out. Luckily, Ryan's savings can just about cover the costs for them both. In return for his help, Zachary brings home a stray cat for Ryan as a thank you 'gift', unaware that it is riddled with fleas. About to reach breaking point, Zachary visits his Nan and she gives him the reassurance he needs that everything will be okay, along with a collection of rich tea biscuits and a cuppa.

But as everything seems to be calming down, Zachary's unknowingly about to be in a lot more trouble. When Lee blackmails Maria to tell him everything she knows, Lee finally finds out that Darren has been letting Zachary off for months. Even though Maria feels terrible, she was too scared for Lee to spread around that she was 'shit in bed' so keeps the situation all to herself. In a complete rage, Lee begins to plan his revenge

EPISODE OUTLINES

and does not intend on letting Zachary get away lightly and despite liking Zachary, Darren feels obliged to join forces with Lee...

It is group project day for Maria and after getting humiliated in front of the class she has reached her last straw. Writing down a list of all her previous ordeals was a way in which Maria thought she would be able to move on from her past. However, it just triggers an outburst of emotion that is far from positive. Leaving the house in a state, Maria then gets completely blanked by old friend Julie, which makes her even more certain of where the night is leading her. Feeling as if she will never be

truly happy, she stands up at Clifton Suspension Bridge and lets the wind blow through her hair, Charles runs up and grabs onto her arm. Not knowing who Maria even is, he spends his evening comforting her on the bridge, persuading her not to jump.

After breaking up with Sara, Ryan feels the need to open up about his domestic abuse relationship to the rest of the flat. They show him nothing but comfort and support and all promise to help him in any way they can. Unknowingly, he is about to need all the help he can get as Sara lies and reports him to the police...

EPISODE OUTLINES

Episode 8 – Survival

It's the end of term and after all of Cami's palaver with the student council, she is determined to make a change outside of University and start up a group of her own. Luckily, the dance floor on a night out can be a great place to network. This is where she meets a lady who is more than happy to let Cami use her hall for an LGBTQ+ Group she wants to set up. In an attempt to stop Ryan from worrying about the Sara situation, Cami drags him out of his room and brings him along to check out the space. The two discuss ideas of how to spread the word of the new group and after weeks of locking himself in, Ryan finally cracks a smile and seems excited to help out.

At the yearly debate, Cami is poised to take the crown with her reliably impassioned speeches. However, the bigoted student uses it as his chance to try and 'embarrass' her in front of the audience after revealing he saw her kissing a girl, mocking her sexuality. Completely backfiring on himself, Cami stands up proud in front of the audience who fills the room with cheers, leaving the bigoted student to flee the stage in a rage. Sebastian goes up on stage to congratulate Cami and show his support for her; their previous quarrel forgotten.

After admitting their feelings for one another, Amanda and Ash go on their first proper date. Hoping to have a romantic evening, their bubble is soon burst when Ash's parents surprisingly join

the table. They pressure him to join the family law firm over the summer and complain how filthy Bristol looks with street art, it is far from Amanda's ideal first date. Even though Amanda is keen to make an excellent first impression, as soon as she figures out that the girl on the bridge Charles was talking about earlier was in fact Maria, she leaves in a hurry. Finally home, Amanda confronts Maria which results in the two of them both getting a lot off of their chests. Fortunately, they resolve their issues, and both promise to always be there for one another going forward.

With it being the end of term it's without a doubt that raves are about to be even more wild than usual, which surprisingly is possible. Ash and Maria make it their mission to stick the posters on every lamppost and wall, as Amanda and Chloe prepare to collaborate on their biggest set together yet. Wanting to make a statement, Amanda and Maria go on a shopping spree to get matching outfits for the night, the girls are closer than ever.

Everyone is on cloud nine preparing for the exciting night ahead. But as Zachary is on his way back from the shop, he gets shoved into the back of a boot with a sack over his head. After being severely beaten he is left stranded in the middle of nowhere. Not wanting to be late for Amanda's

EPISODE OUTLINES

set, the rest of the flat leave assuming he will turn up on his own. Whilst everyone is dancing away without a care in the world, Zachary is left wondering if he will ever make it home.

To no surprise, the gang are all half zombies the next day and it's not until an aggressive bang on the door when they eventually wake up. Thinking it will just be a visit from Steve, it comes as a shock

when it's actually the police. Not a great view when you're on a comedown. However, the police aren't here about drugs, as it's Ryan who leaves in handcuffs after Sara reports him for 'assault'. The best rave of the year has led to the worst morning and the panic escalates, even more, when Cami notices Zachary never even made it home...

Series Two

Amanda

Amanda returns to University for the second year a little bit unsure where she stands with Ash. After he spent the summer volunteering at his parent's law firm, they barely even had time to talk on the phone. They try to pick up where they left off, but as the series progresses and she is more focused on her music, they drift apart.

This is exacerbated by her continuing to spend long hours in the studio with Charles, who Ash hates and is convinced that Charles fancies Amanda. Ash's jealousy drives them further apart, eventually splitting them up for good.

Charles and Amanda get closer, sleeping together at the studio in the soundproof booth. As Charles doesn't practice conventional monogamy, he opens up Amanda's world to casual dating, including one night where she, Chloe, and him share more than just a bottle of wine... Afterward, things are more than a touch awkward for the friends.

Chloe confesses that she enjoyed the night way more than she expected, and kisses Amanda again after a set they hosted. Amanda is confused, but ultimately knows she doesn't like Chloe in that way. After a heart-to-heart, they decide to stay friends and plan their next steps for global music domination for their final year.

Ash

Ash is feeling the pressure of his parent's expectations and is exhausted by his summer filing papers and court documents. His priorities have shifted and even though he talks the big talk of standing up to the corporate machine, he's a bit of a hypocrite. This is something that Cami is quick to point out which results in them having a massive fallout.

When Ash and Amanda break up over his inattentiveness and jealousy, Ash retreats from socializing with most of the group, instead choosing to spend time with super competitive law students on his course. This includes razor-sharp but domineering Anabelle, who makes Ash her pet project to date and change into a law-loving student like her.

Ash's parents are thrilled that Ash is semi-dating an aspiring lawyer and start planning to induct Anabelle into the family. As per usual Ash doesn't put up much of a fight letting people dictate his life and floats along with it. On Anabelle's insistence, he also joins the uni cricket team and hangs out with a lot of elitist snobs whose behaviour is more than questionable.

On a night out he's taken on a fresher's event where the younger students are hazed and humiliated in order to join the sports team, which

EPISODE OUTLINES

he finds uncomfortable. As well as his new friend throwing money at problems to make their lives slightly easier, including paying people to jump nightclub queues.

However, he is still disappearing every so often in the middle of the night to create his art. When a local paper picks up on the story of his anonymous politized pieces, he worries his identity will be revealed.

Maria

Time is really a healer and after some well-needed family time, Maria is ready to take on second year. With a new positive outlook on life, she is a lot more independent and has now taken up a hobby of painting which helps whenever she is stressed. Unlike in first year, Maria is focused on passing every exam, which will certainly be easier now that she has transferred to UWE.

Wanting to make sure she experiences University properly this year, Maria decides to join the Art Society. President Aiden is clearly fond of Maria straight away and the two begin to get close, Maria misinterprets their relationship in a romantic way. Luckily after a rejected kiss, the pair laugh it off and promise never to bring it up again. After someone breaks into the art room and steals most of the supplies, Maria comes up with the idea to organise an event to raise money for the society which raises more than enough.

Maria unexpectedly rekindles with Ryan. The two begin sleeping with each other but choose to keep it a secret between them. It's not until Amanda stumbles into Maria's room one morning and

finds them both in bed together that their little hidden romance is exposed.

Ryan

Getting arrested for assault at the end of last term has turned Ryan's life completely upside down, until the case is resolved he has been suspended from University. Gossip spreads like quick-fire and nearly everyone in town thinks Ryan is a 'woman beater', which doesn't make any outing enjoyable...

Months pass before Ryan's case is finally dropped and the flat makes sure to throw a massive party to celebrate, which the new neighbours aren't too fond of. Ryan still works part-time at the fish and chip shop, mainly keeping Steve sweet so he doesn't attempt to kick them out again.

When Ryan is finally allowed into University it's clear his heart is not in it, nevertheless, he is determined to finish his degree so begins attending study sessions in the library. This is where he meets Lily, at first seeming like a potential love interest; the romance begins to fade quickly when her friend informs her of Ryan's past. Keen to clear his name, Ryan attends Cami's domestic abuse group where he opens up and shares his story.

A random game of truth or dare in the flat leads to Ryan kissing Maria. From that night on it is clear there is unfinished business between the two and just like old times, they begin sleeping together. Just as Ryan seems content with life Sara turns up to share some news, she's pregnant...

EPISODE OUTLINES

Zach

Series two opens with Zach still missing, but Cami manages to locate and free him, threatening his would-be captors with the police in order to secure his safe return. Unfortunately, his troubles don't end here. When Zach still can't pay back the drug gang, they begin targeting his work, breaking in at night and trashing the place, trying to get him fired, and also his Nan, Connie. She suffers multiple break-ins, roughing up, and Zach receives notes, blackmailing him with the threat of harming her, leading him to be increasingly desperate in his bid to raise money to pay them back.

Meanwhile, as a distraction, Zach once again hooks up with the androgynous love interest from Series one. This is a turning point for him, and he begins to live his life androgynously, believing that gender is more of a construct and less of a binary distinction. Feeling and dressing as neither male nor female was something that was beginning to be discussed in the 1990s (known as non-binary today) but there wouldn't have been the language or terminology to categorize it. Genderqueer was a term first used in 1995 by Riki Anne Wilchins in their academic essay to describe someone who is gender-nonconforming. Zach immediately discloses this to the gang when he's sure of himself, to gleeful support from some and reserved reactions from others, causing friction in the household.

Things are complicated for Zach further, when Darren, one of the drug dealers in charge of ruining his life, repeatedly takes pity on him, and eventually, the pair bond and get together. Lee finds out about their affair and realises this is why the blackmail has stopped working leaving

Darren in the middle of the two of them - this eventually leads to Darren ending up beaten in the hospital.

Cami

Cami is back with a vengeance for year two, throwing herself into causes she feels passionately about. In her free time, which admittedly, there isn't a lot of, Cami launches a domestic support group and helps Ryan connect with other men and women who have been through the same thing as he has. She gets increasingly fierce about her causes, focusing on LGBTQ+ issues and the Kill the Bill, which was huge in '95, but this leads her down a bad path as she becomes disruptive during a protest, leading to her and Sebastian's arrest and the looming threat of conviction.

Amongst all this chaos, at a protest, Cami also meets a love interest, Eshe. Cami tries to initiate a one-night stand, but, sensing a play-girl, Eshe makes her wait until they've been on some all-out romantic dates, right out of Cami's comfort zone, until they know each other properly. This means Cami falls for her, something that has never happened to her before, causing her mind to spin.

Towards the end of the series, we are introduced to Cami's older brother, Josh, who has been sent by her parents to try and bring her home, fearing she has "gone off the rails" following her arrest. Cami refuses, and every time she tries to live her life and ignore the trouble she is in, Josh is there to remind her that she's failing, and in it up to her neck. The series ends with Cami being sentenced to three months of community service in court, and Josh informing her that the family is cutting ties with her.

Series Three

Amanda

Amanda is being hounded by her parents to start a Ph.D. in History after one of her professors sends a letter to her home about her excellent grades. Amanda has no interest in continuing her studies but doesn't know what to say to her parents. She eventually has a showdown with her mother about letting her make her own decisions. Amanda decides to stay in Bristol permanently after University, turning her back on Cornwall.

Her and Chloe's music is really starting to take off. A prominent producer from London comes to listen to one of their sets and offers them studio time to record an album. Just as they are about to record the album, Chloe is offered a dodgy pill that is part of a new, stronger batch. Amanda almost takes one, but at the last moment decides not to. Chloe is rushed to hospital and dies two days later. This event shakes Amanda to her core, at her funeral she vows to never take drugs again. After Chloe's death, she is lost and directionless and Ash is her shoulder to cry on. He helps her through her grief and over time they get closer and they develop feelings for each other again. He is faced with a choice between her and Anabelle; a conventional life or a not so conventional one.

Ash

Ash realises in series three that he's living a lie. His snobby lawyer friends and his sort of girlfriend Anabelle are doing his head in. He starts to spend even more time on his street art but can't completely break the cycle. He turns to Zach and Cami who tell him to ditch the corporate lawyer types and do something meaningful.

After he and Amanda rekindle their bond, his Mum surprises him with a big party for his 21st, with all of his friends invited. The way in which Anabelle acts towards everyone else, makes him realise that he can no longer continue being with a woman so callous. He kisses Amanda in front of everyone and Anabelle and his Mum are furious.

Ash's street art is being noticed after the article in the paper. A photography exhibition of his work is organized and the whole gang goes to visit it. With Amanda and him being the only ones that know his true identity, they find everyone else's responses hilarious. A private collector finds out Ash's identity and offers him a lot of money for an original piece.

Ash and Amanda decide to move in together after the final exams are over. Amanda is going to focus on her music career and Ash will continue

EPISODE OUTLINES

with his street art. They will still have parties, but nowhere near as wild as their University days.

Maria

Transferring Universities was the best decision Maria could have made, now scoring the highest marks in class and being surrounded by friendly students, far from the horrible experiences in her first year. After joining the Art society last year, she is now vice president and is organising a final year exhibition. When she noticing self-harm marks on a member in the society, Maria takes it upon herself to reach out and try to help.

The past year at University has without a doubt given Maria the confidence boost she needed. Believing Ryan is the one for her, she doesn't want to waste any more time so asks him to be her boyfriend. The two become official and Maria is quick to take him on a trip down to Cornwall to meet her family, they adore him.

Even though Maria is extremely busy at University, she decides to take up a part-time job in an antique shop so she can earn some money. The elderly owner Harold instantly see's Maria as a granddaughter and loves sharing his old stories with her. One morning when Maria opens up, she discovers that Harold has peacefully passed away on the big chair out the back. This completely breaks Maria and even more so when she finds out he had been unwell all along. With no family left, Harold had secretly changed his will and left everything to Maria.

When Amanda notices Maria has missed a couple

of her periods she forces her to do a test. The same day she finds out she is pregnant is the day she finds out about Harold's will. Spending the week figuring out what to do she eventually tells Ryan the news, Ryan is supportive and excited to become a dad which comforts Maria's worries. After they both complete their final exams, the two are ready to move to Cornwall and start their little family.

Ryan

After the initial shock of finding out Sara was pregnant wore off, Ryan accepted the fact he was going to become a dad. Working more hours in the chip shop and saving every penny he could, Ryan began trading nights out for nights in reading parenting books. Despite preparing himself for parenthood, on his way home from work one night he bumps into a drunk Sara who is smoking with a bunch of guys. After telling the rest of the flat what he has seen, a smug Sara arrives to admit she was never actually pregnant.

On a night out, Ryan comes across an unconscious girl on the side of the road. He stays by her side as he shouts out for help. When two police officers finally arrive, one recognises Ryan from his case with Sara. After the girl gets safely to hospital, Ryan begins talking with the friendly officer who suggests Ryan should look into police training. This incenses Cami and Ash though, who think he's joining the oppressors and he's turning his back on them.

With Sara out of Ryan's life for good, he can finally relax and learn how to be himself again.

EPISODE OUTLINES

After rekindling with Maria, the pair make things official and it's not too long before he is going to Cornwall with Maria to meet her family. Whilst in Maria's hometown, Ryan begins thinking about life after University and decides to visit the local police station where he discusses the opportunities of police training in Cornwall. He's conflicted, however, when he witnesses how they treat a black prisoner, realising how Britain's police force still has systemic problems with race.

With final year coming to an end there is one more big surprise to come as Maria falls pregnant. Feeling as if this was meant to be, Ryan cannot be more excited as he shares with her his plans to move down to Cornwall and train as a police officer, wanting to change the issues from within. After an unsteady few years, it finally looks like Ryan is about to get the life he wants.

Zach

The season opens with Zach bringing a fully recovered Darren home from hospital, where they decide to move in together. The year begins on a high, with the drug gang seemingly leaving them alone following Darren's beating, and Zach's getting better grades than ever at the start of term.

Things can't stay peachy forever, though. Zach's beloved Nan, Connie, getting diagnosed with lung cancer and being put in residential care. Zach is forced to miss out on parties and spending time with Darren in order to care for her, eventually breaking her out of the care home so she can be there for her final weeks. On New Year's Eve, Connie convinces Zach to leave her bedside and

"go and have some fun." He does so, returning the next evening, to find she'd died, completely alone, while he was out partying and ringing in the new year. The following months see Darren and the gang desperately try and pull Zach back from the edge, as he hits a breaking point.

Between caring for his Nan in her final months, and spiraling out of control following her death, Zach's grades take a hit, and he fails the year. Darren encourages him to retake the year in September, but Zach is disillusioned with University by now, and at the end of the year, he buys them one-way plane tickets to Ibiza, where they're going to spend the summer working in clubs and putting off being real adults - they'll figure out the rest of life as it comes at them.

Cami

Cami begins the year having finished her community service, but this slap on the wrist has not stopped her from trying to get her voice heard when it comes to issues she feels strongly about. She and Eshe are still going strong, but Eshe wants Cami to meet her family, which causes friction between the pair, as Cami is unwilling to stray too far into the family dynamic having just been disowned by hers. Ultimately, seeing Zach's devastation when his Nan is diagnosed with cancer is what changes Cami's mind, and prompts her to write an apology letter to her parents. She receives one back, asking her to please not contact them again.

Following this horrible news, Cami's mental state takes a bit of a dive, and she joins the grief-stricken

EPISODE OUTLINES

Zach going on days-long benders, resulting in her cheating on Eshe, and losing her. Her behaviour also causes her and Sebastian to fall out as he thinks she's on a bad path. Sebastian's disapproval and her breakup sobers Cami somewhat and forces her to take a look at herself and what she's doing with her life.

Trying to vent her heartbreak into something healthy, and distract her from her familial problems, Cami starts volunteering at a local

mental health charity. This, coupled with her work as an activist, makes her rethink what will actually work when it comes to creating change in society. This prompts her to run for the Bristol City Council as an independent candidate. Maybe this proactivity can prompt some of the people who have cut her off to give her a second chance, after all.





JMGStories

WWW.JMGSTORIES.COM