James Herbert's

THE SECRET OF CRICKLEY HALL

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For Adult reading only, not to be read by children under 16 years of age.

Episode 1

SHOOTING SCRIPT
Pink Revisions
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Six year old STEFAN runs from the big grey stone slab of Crickley Hall, more institutional than residential.

Children singing.

CHILDREN
On the farm no poor rabbit
Comes to harm because I grab it
They jump and frolic whenever I go by
They know I help 'em to dodge the rabbit pie!

A figure grabs him by the collar and lifts him off his feet.

Stefan kicks wildly in mid-air as he pivots to face his tormenter. Terrified that it might be:

AUGUSTUS CRIBBEN. We don’t see his face yet.

CRIBBEN O.S.
You’re mine.

Stefan screams.

EVE wakes up with a start, next to her husband GABE, still sleeping. She gets out of bed. Present day London.

Eve opens the door to her son’s bedroom. CAM is the same age as the boy in her dream. He’s sitting on the end of his bed, rubbing his eyes. She sits next to him.

EVE
Me too. What was yours?

CAM
I can’t remember.

EVE
Maybe it was my dream and you picked it up. Sorry.

CAM
Why can’t we have our own dreams?

EVE
I know! Do you want some milk?
Coffee.

You’re not getting coffee.

Really milky coffee.

The bedroom light comes on.

GABE turns over and reaches for Eve. Makes grumpy noises in his half-sleep.

Eve is on her laptop in the kitchen, eating cereal. There are several windows open on her screen showing a marking database. A pile of homework books next to it.

Why, love?

Oh I’m sorry. Go back to bed.

Can’t you just wing it?

Never seen you wing it.

It’s a bit tricky with structural engineering. No-one dies if you skim a bit.

You haven’t met their parents.

Gabe hugs her and tries to lift her out of her chair.

You’re working too hard. Even for you.

Let me get through open day and I’m yours for the weekend.
Gabe sees Cam playing with the dog Clyde.

    EVE (cont’d)
    I woke up so he woke up.

    CAM
    We’ve got work.

    GABE
    You know you don’t have to copy everything your Mum does. He’s going to be wrecked the whole day.

    EVE
    You don’t say!

INT. CAM’S BEDROOM – DAY 1

Gabe dumps Cam on his bed.

    CAM
    Let’s play bombs!

    GABE
    What’s bombs? I can’t keep up.

Cam pulls Gabe over to his lego construction. It’s a house. Impressively constructed for a five year old.

    GABE (cont’d)
    That’s a pretty solid job there my man. You know where you get that from don’t you.

Cam retrieves a bowling ball from under the bed and totters towards the lego house with it.

    GABE (cont’d)
    Oi monkey I’ve been looking for that.

Gabe watches bemused, winces.

    GABE (cont’d)
    You’re going to drop that on your toe –

Gabe tries to intercept him but Cam waves him off, determined. Cam drops the bowling ball on his lego house, exploding it utterly. Shouting:

    CAM
    Bomb!

The multicolored bricks scattered over the carpet. Gabe nods, solemnly.
GABE

Good game.

8 INT. LOREN’S BEDROOM - DAY 1

Gabe is trying to wake his eleven year old daughter LOREN.

GABE

Last warning. Or I’m hitting you with the
cold hands up the back of the neck and
down the spine. Loren. Loren.

Loren grunts.

9 INT. CALLY’S BEDROOM - DAY 1

Gabe pulls the bedclothes from his four year old CALLY’s bed.

CALLY

No.

Cally turns over.

GABE

Cally come on!

CALLY

No!

10 INT. GABE’S KITCHEN - DAY 1

Eve is dressed for work. Cam asleep on the sofa. Clyde
sniffing around.

GABE

Dog’s up.

EVE

Well thanks for coordinating everything
with such military precision.

GABE

Go. I’ll get everyone where they have to be.

EVE

I’m walking away.

She kisses Gabe lightly. Scoops up Cam from the sofa.

EVE (cont’d)

Come on boy.

Eve’s taking Cam out when he cries out.
CAM
No! Daddy.

Eve turns back to allow Cam to claim his kiss from Gabe.

When Gabe separates, Cam reaches out to take his hand.

GABE
He doesn’t want to go.

EVE
He’s been saying for weeks he wants to spend the day with me.

GABE
But when it comes down to it ...

CAM
I love you Daddy.

GABE
Do I love him?

CAM
Say it!

EVE
We’re out of here.

Gabe mouths “I love you” to Cam. Cam reaches for Clyde.

CAM
Bye.

Gabe is touched but a little unnerved. Cally stumbles into view behind him.

CALLY
Where’s breakfast?

GABE
You want to help me look for it?

CALLY
No.

11 INT. SCHOOL HALL – DAY 1

Eve meets parents at her school open day.

She keeps an eye on Cam who’s in the corner creche with other little ones supervised by a teaching assistant.
The end of a frantic day. Eve picks up Cam from the teaching assistant.

EVE
I’ve lost the plot. I don’t know what day of the week it is.

CAM
Friday.

EVE
Thank God.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
He’s gorgeous. He’s been no trouble at all.

She plays with his little finger.

EVE
Have you been showing her your magic finger?

Close on the little finger of his left hand - shorter than the one on the right.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
I’d never have noticed. Is it rare?

Eve puts her hands next to his - same feature.

EVE
My mother had it.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Does it mean anything?

EVE
Just that we’re connected. We hear each other sometimes. Don’t we?

CAM
All the time.

EVE
We tend to wake up at the same time.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
That must be ...

EVE
Incredibly annoying.
TEACHING ASSISTANT
I was going to say reassuring.

EVE
It is. Well darling are you happy you came? You made enough of a fuss about it. What did you like best?

CAM
I wanted to be with you.

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Oh God I want one so badly.

EVE
That’s how it starts.

EXT. GABE’S HOUSE – DAY 1
Eve parks outside their house.

INT. EVE’S CAR – DAY 1
Eve reaches for her homework pile on the back seat.

CAM
Slide!

EVE
You are not serious.

CAM
Please.

EVE
Why?

CAM
I didn’t go outside.

EVE
You did go outside! You are such a big liar!

CAM
I need fresh air.

Eve laughs, despite her exhaustion. She gets out his blue woollen hat and pulls it over his ears.

EVE
Okay here it is: you can do the slide or the roundabout or the swings but not all three. Do we have a deal?
CAM
Deal!

EVE
Deal means you promise.

CAM
Deal!

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY 1
A montage of Cam having his fun on slide, roundabout, swings and a few more besides with Eve supplying the momentum with the last of her energy.

CUT TO:
Eve watching Cam with love and deep exhaustion from a bench. He’s still racing around, tireless. She’s catching up with homework marking.

There are other mothers and children around.

CAM
Look at me!

EVE
I am looking. Five minutes.

Clouds pass.
Eve can’t focus on the handwritten scrawl of her pupils.
Cam is standing on the highest part of the climbing frame gazing at Eve.
Her eyelids are drooping.
Cam gazes at her intently. Whispering:

CAM
Love you Mummy.

Even though Eve is too far away to hear she mumbles a response.

EVE
Love you more.

Eve closes her eyes for a moment.
Stefan is carried screaming and kicking back to Crickley Hall. Cribben slams the front door.

A distant cry.

CAM

Mummy.

Eve wakes up with a start.

Surely she’s only been asleep for seconds.

But the playground is empty. No other mothers. No other children.

And no Cam.

Her marking lying on the grass. She wipes her mouth. Stands up.

EVE

Cam?

She looks around, confused.

EVE (cont’d)

Cam?

She runs into the centre of the playground. Just his blue woollen hat on the ground. She picks it up.

She runs to the adjacent path and looks both ways.

EVE (cont’d)

Cam!

Back into the park. Criss crossing. Scans the horizon desperately.

EVE (cont’d)

Please no.

She shrieks into the abyss.

EVE (cont’d)

CAM!!

A full police search is underway where Cam was last seen.
Eve is sitting on the park bench with a WPC. Eve’s gazing at the shortened little finger on her left hand.

GABE
Eve.

Eve stands up as Gabe approaches her. He looks as numb as she is but hugs her tight.

EVE
I fell asleep.

Gabe kisses her.

EVE (cont’d)
I fell asleep.

GABE
Don’t.

EVE
Someone must have been watching us.

GABE
He may have just wandered off.

EVE
Someone must have seen something.

GABE
They said we should go home.

Eve looks at him like he’s insane.

EVE
I’m not leaving here.

GABE
Loren and Cally need you.

Eve is in torment.

GABE (cont’d)
I’ll take over here.

EVE
Will you?

GABE
I’ll stay.
EVE
He might have hurt himself or ... fallen under something. I’ve covered every inch of the park but the streets ... 

GABE
I’ll be here. Go and see the girls.

Eve absorbs a new horror.

EVE
They’re going to ask me what happened.

GABE
It’s not your fault.

EVE
It is.

GABE
It is not and don’t tell them that.

Gabe hugs her again.

EVE
Say we’re going to find him.

GABE
Of course we’re going to find him. How can we not find him.

Eve nods. Fumbles for her keys. Gabe closes his hand round hers.

GABE (cont’d)
They’re driving you.

Eve begins to move away.

GABE (cont’d)
Eve.

He hands her the marking. No reproach from him. But she feels a terrible judgment.

INT. CAM’S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1

Eve sits dazed among the scattered lego bricks in Cam’s bedroom.

LOREN
Mum.

Eve turns to her eldest daughter.
EVE
Sweetheart try to sleep. Please.

LOREN
I can’t stop thinking about it. Why would he run away?

EVE
We don’t know what happened.

LOREN
You were watching so there wasn’t time for him to just wander off. Someone must have grabbed him.

Eve closes her eyes in despair.

EVE
Loren please.

LOREN
Is that what the police think?

EVE
They’re just looking. That’s all they’re doing right now.

CALLY
Mummy.

Eve stands up.

EVE
Oh no. No. We’re not having a conference about this. There’s nothing we can do and we can’t keep turning it over worrying ourselves sick. If you can’t sleep let’s watch TV or I’ll read a book to you.

CALLY
Why can’t you just ask him?

Eve stops dead.

CALLY (cont’d)
You always say you can hear him. Just ask him.

Eve is shaking.

CALLY (cont’d)
Can’t you hear him Mummy?
Eve breaks down. Loren hurries to comfort her. Cally starts crying.

CALLY (cont’d)
Why can’t you hear him?

EXT. PLAYGROUND – DAY 2
Eve returns to the playground at dawn. Gabe still there. Police dispersing. Eve searches Gabe’s face. He shakes his head. They look across the barren dawn landscape.

GABE
He’s gone.

EVE
No.

He holds her as we pull back and:

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. GABE’S HOUSE – DAY 3
Eve returns from the shops laden with bags. Close on her face, she looks hollow.

Caption: Eleven Months Later.
She notices something out of the corner of her eye and stops dead.
A lamp post with a missing cat poster.
She approaches it, astonished.
Underneath we can see another poster peeking out from the corners.
Eve furiously rips away at the missing cat poster.
Gradually Cam’s faded photo is revealed underneath.
Someone has pasted a missing cat poster over her missing child.
She’s crying as she uncovers her son’s face.
She calls out to the surrounding houses.

EVE
Who did this? Who could do this?
She breaks into a run, leaving her shopping scattered over the pavement.

21 INT. GABE’S BEDROOM – DAY 3

Eve washes a pill down with a glass of water.

The door opens downstairs and she hears Loren and Cally.

LOREN O.S.
Mum someone said you dropped your shopping are you okay?

CALLY O.S.
The eggs are broken.

Eve forces herself up. She has to hold it together for them.

22 EXT. GABE’S HOUSE – DAY 3

Gabe returns home.

23 INT. GABE’S LIVING ROOM – DAY 3

Loren’s doing her homework as Gabe enters. Without looking up:

LOREN
Cally’s with her.

Gabe sits opposite Loren. Studies her as she concentrates.

GABE
I need to ask you something.

Loren continues making notes.

GABE (cont’d)
How would you feel about moving?

Loren nods.

GABE (cont’d)
I don’t mean permanently. But out of London. Just for a couple of months. I don’t want her here for the anniversary.

LOREN
She’ll never go.

GABE
She might if it comes from you.

Loren looks up.
If you say you’re finding it too hard.
You could say you can’t concentrate. I know I’m asking a lot. I just don’t think she’ll get through this if we don’t get away from here. And I don’t think she’ll go unless it comes from you.

Where?

There’s a project come up on the coast up North. I can ask for a temporary transfer.

What about school?

They have schools. I know it’s not great on you.

This is more important than school.

I’ll drive your friends up for weekends whatever it takes to make it easier.

I think it’s a good idea.

Thank you.

Gabe opens the bedroom door to see Eve and Cally curled up together asleep. Eve is holding Cam’s blue woollen hat.

Gabe turns away, stricken.

The bedroom is tidied up but still very much Cam’s. Gabe reaches under the bed to retrieve the bowling ball. He slides his fingers into the sockets.

Clyde tries to comfort him.

Gabe pushes him away, wretched.
He sits cross-legged on the carpet, cradling the bowling ball.

He forces himself not to submit to despair.

INT. GABE’S BEDROOM – DAY 3

Eve sleeps fitfully.

DREAM MONTAGE

Close-up images of:

The narrow dormitory window lashed by rain.

Battered orphans’ shoes.

Pendulum from the grandfather clock.

Carbolic soap scrubbing an orphan’s scalp.

Chalk on blackboard.

Cribben’s eyes.

A boy screaming.

Pages turning on the punishment book.

Stefan Rosenbaum. Stefan Rosenbaum. Stefan Rosenbaum.

SWISH-THWACK

INT. GABE’S BEDROOM – DAY 3

The sound of a cane wakes Eve. She looks around for Cam’s blue hat. It’s on the floor.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE – DAY 4

Gabe’s car speeds along a country lane.

Caption: One Month Later.

CALLY O.S.

How far?

GABE O.S.

Ten minutes less than the last time you asked.

LOREN O.S.

Clyde’s going to be sick.
They pass a sign.

CALLY O.S.
Devil’s Cleave! Dad! It’s called Devil’s Cleave! Is that like cleavage?

30 EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY 4

Gabe’s car winds its way through narrow country lanes.

31 INT. GABE’S CAR - DAY 4

Through the windscreen, we see Crickley Hall loom up into view. More institutional than residential. The house from Eve’s dream.

GABE
Big enough for you?

LOREN
It’s a mansion.

CALLY
It’s a castle!

Eve is disturbed as she sees the house. She knows she’s seen it somewhere before. She notices Gabe watching for her reaction. He looks at her with love and some trepidation.

GABE
Too much?

EVE
(SMILING)
Always.

She kisses him.

32 EXT. CRICKLEY HALL - DAY 4

Eve approaches the imposing grey slab of a building. Trying to figure out where she’s seen it before.

EVE
Which way’s the school?

GABE
Two miles ... that way. There’s a school bus for the village they said they’ll make a stop.

(TO LOREN)
Hear that princess? You don’t even have to struggle down to the bus stop.
Gabe unlocks the front door.

GABE (cont’d)
Clyde! Come on! Stop sulking.

Eve looks back to the car and the open back door. The dog is watching them gravely.

Gabe gets some treats from his pocket and shows them to Clyde. But Clyde doesn’t move.

GABE (cont’d)
You are sick.

Eve follows Clyde’s gaze to the narrow top window in the house. An image from her dream she half-remembers.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / DORMITORY - DAY 4

From the upstairs window, a view of Eve in the drive. Hand-held as if the point of view of someone in the house.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - DAY 4

The girls charge up the open stairs which run past the big window. Eve follows Gabe towards a large drawing room in the austere space.

EVE
Was this a family home?

GABE
I don’t know. It’s not been rented in a while. I think they’re pretty desperate. I got cleaners in.

EVE
They’ve really gone to town. What is that smell - carbolic soap?

She remembers a flash image of carbolic soap scrubbing a young scalp.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / DINING ROOM - DAY 4

Gabe opens a window in the dining room.

EVE
Have the police got the landline here?

GABE
He’s got my office and the mobile. I’ll give him this place too.
EVE
People do remember things on anniversaries.

GABE
If they do we’re a phone call away.

Eve nods, trying not to be tearful. Being brave for him.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / DRAWING ROOM - DAY 4

Eve places three photos on the mantelpiece above the fire now burning in the grate. Loren and Cally together. A family group shot with Cam. The third photo – Cam alone. Eve looks at it solemnly.

EVE
We love you baby.

As if in response, Eve hears a tapping sound from the entrance hall.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - DAY 4

Eve looks at the grandfather clock. The pendulum is stationary. The same pendulum from her dream. But she seems to hear it ticking. She looks closer.

Something moves on the stairs, startling her. She looks up the staircase but there’s no-one there.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / LANDING - DAY 4

From the landing, another pov shot from child’s height looking at Eve through the bannisters. Someone is there.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / LANDING - DAY 4

Eve peers at the bannisters. Although she can see nothing she senses someone.

Loren and Cally come down from the second floor back to their room on the first, breaking the moment.

EVE
What’s up there?

LOREN
Junk room. It’s the only place I can get a signal.

EVE
What’s my room like?
CALLY
We gave you the biggest one.

EVE
You’ve been a couple of angels. Has Daddy put you on best behaviour?

CALLY
He said I could have -

LOREN
We like it here.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / CELLAR - DAY 4
Eve descends the stone steps into the cellar. Gabe is working on the boiler in the corner. She approaches the low circular wall round the well. It has a metal safety grille over it. She peers into the pit and hears the rushing sound of fast running water.

EVE
That’s what makes the house cold.

GABE
No that’d be the dodgy boiler.

Eve tugs at the metal grille covering the well to verify it’s well secured.

GABE (cont’d)
I’ve checked it but we’ll ban them.

EVE
Is that a generator?

GABE
They get power cuts.

Eve nods, still looking around. Gabe studies her.

GABE (cont’d)
There’s a B&B a few miles further out.

EVE
No I’d rather it was just us. Good choice.

Gabe moves to the generator.

GABE
Hot water’s back on. I’m just going to check this out before it gets dark.
She watches him with love. He’s in his element. Fixing things.

From far down in the well, a presence seems to wait.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / KITCHEN - DAY 4

Loren is examining the old-fashioned basin and taps.

CALLY
There’s no dishwasher!

LOREN
I’m going to teach you a new game. It’s called washing up.

Loren finds a single cup lying in the sink and picks it up. Mould dribbling out. She looks up and sees an elderly man gazing at her through the window. She gasps and drops the cup. It shatters on the stone tiles.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / CELLAR - DAY 4

Eve is climbing the steps from the cellar as Cally calls.

CALLY
Mummy!

EVE
Stay up. You’re not allowed down here.

CALLY
There’s a man!

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / KITCHEN - DAY 4

Eve enters the kitchen where the back door to the garden is open. Percy is helping Loren pick up the last pieces of the broken cup.

LOREN
It’s all right he just gave me a fright.

PERCY
That’s the last thing I wanted to do Mrs. Caleigh. I’m sorry.

Percy steps forward to shake hands with Eve.

PERCY (cont’d)
Percy Judd. I used to work in Crickley Hall.
EVE
Do you know anything about the generator?

PERCY
That was after my time. The owner got fed up with cold dinners. Brought your candles?

EVE
We’ll work it out.

A pause. So why is he here?

PERCY
You didn’t fancy staying in town then.

EVE
My husband’s working up here for a couple of months. It’s not a holiday.

CALLY
He’s an engineer.

EVE
We’re just here to keep him company.

Percy’s looking at the dog through the window.

EVE (cont’d)
Are dogs not allowed?

PERCY
It’d be best if you keep him outside.

CALLY
No!

EVE
He’s an indoor dog. Will the owners find out?

PERCY
Not from me.

EVE
You must have seen a lot of people come and go.

PERCY
One or two.

EVE
It doesn’t feel like anyone’s lived here for a while.
Percy glances at the girls. Doesn’t want to speak in front of them.

PERCY
You keep your girls out of the cellar and I won’t say anything about the dog.

He places a scrap of paper with a phone number scrawled on it on the table.

PERCY (cont’d)
I hope you settle in. If you get any problems, you call me.

He eyeballs her solemnly.

PERCY (cont’d)
Anytime.

He leaves with a last look over his shoulder at the girls. Closes the door. Eve confronts Loren. Very firm.

EVE
What have I told you.

LOREN
He’s a nice man.

EVE
You don’t know that -

LOREN
You were just downstairs -

EVE
It only takes a second -

Gabe enters, wiping oil from his hands. Eve stops herself, getting too loud and heated.

CALLY
There’s a man who looks after the house.

Gabe gives Eve’s arm a calming squeeze and kneels in front of Loren.

GABE
Show Mum your moves.

Loren makes a fist.

GABE (cont’d)
Where does the thumb go?
Loren carefully slides her thumb out from inside the fingers to rest outside the curled fist.

GABE (cont’d)
Aiming for what part of the nose?

Loren places her fist at the bridge of Gabe’s nose.

EVE
Or: don’t let them in.

Cally’s looking out the window after Percy.

CALLY
Does he know about Cam?

EVE
No darling. Why?

CALLY
He’s sad.

44 EXT. CRICKLEY HALL - DAY 4

Percy stops and looks back at the house. He’s on the edge of tears. On his pov of the house we dissolve back seventy years to:

45 EXT. CRICKLEY HALL - 1943 DAY 3

On the outside not much has changed. On the doorstep is a young woman NANCY, dressed for an interview.

Watching her from the same spot as elderly Percy, is young Percy, seventeen.

46 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - 1943 DAY 3

MAGDA, thirty-ish, answers the door.

Nancy is barely out of her teens. She keeps her right arm concealed and shakes Magda’s hand with her left.

MAGDA
How are things in London?

NANCY
They’ve calmed down.

MAGDA
They’ve bombed the best of it. You must be thrilled at the prospect of getting out.
Magda sees Nancy looking over her shoulder.

A six year old boy is peering through the bannisters on the landing, exactly where Eve sensed someone seventy years later. STEFAN is the boy from her dream.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    Come down here young man.

Stefan trudges down the staircase.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    This one’s the worst. He came to us from Germany. He’s run away four times. Where he thinks he can escape to I have no idea. We have to watch him like a hawk.

Stefan arrives.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    He knows very well where he’s supposed to be. He doesn’t seem to agree with our prayers. Isn’t that right?

Nancy smiles supportively at Stefan.

    NANCY
    What’s your name?

    MAGDA
    Stephen.

    STEFAN
    Stefan Rosenbaum.

    MAGDA
    Understands every word but refuses to speak it.

Nancy gets down to his level.

    NANCY
    You shouldn’t run away Stefan. It’s very dangerous back in London. You’re much safer here.

    MAGDA
    There’s no-one else who’s going to look after you. Go on.

Nancy watches him trudge away.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    Miss Linnet?
Nancy sits in front of Magda in a formal interview situation. Magda enjoying her moment of power, studying Nancy’s references minutely.

MAGDA
You’re an orphanage girl yourself. I suppose you believe that gives you a special insight into our charges.

NANCY
I believe I understand what some of them are going through.

MAGDA
This isn’t the place for sentimentality. That won’t do for these children. They need to learn respect for authority if they’re going to amount to anything.

NANCY
I believe in discipline.

Nancy glances at the empty chair beside Magda. She was expecting another interviewer.

MAGDA
My brother sends his apologies. You’ve been told about his injury I’m sure. You don’t have to pretend. People can’t wait to gossip about misfortune. I’m sure you’ve had your fair share of that.

Magda’s looking at Nancy’s right arm.

MAGDA (cont’d)
May I?

Nancy’s reluctant.

MAGDA (cont’d)
I need to see the extent of your affliction if you’re going to work for us.

Nancy uncovers her withered arm.

MAGDA (cont’d)
Polio?

NANCY
Smallpox.
MAGDA
Do you have any use of it?

NANCY
A little.

MAGDA
Well I daresay there’s no heavy lifting required. There we are so you’ll understand the need for sensitivity in these matters that’s a point greatly in your favour. Welcome aboard.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - 1943 DAY 3

Magda sees Nancy out. Magda looks at the grandfather clock and goes to it to open it and stop the pendulum.

MAGDA
This thing makes a terrible racket.

Nancy looks into Cribben’s study where there seems to be a shape working.

NANCY
I was told Mr. Cribben is fully recovered.

Close on Magda. No he isn’t.

MAGDA
It’s important you understand how much he needs peace and quiet. He can’t tolerate chaotic behaviour of any kind.

NANCY
I should hope I could provide order.

MAGDA
I’m relying on it. I won’t beat around the bush Miss Linnet. My brother needs us to be on our very best form.

NANCY
The children deserve nothing less.

Magda smiles thinly. She closes the door.

EXT. CRICKLEY HALL - 1943 DAY 3

Nancy stands outside Crickley Hall, gathering her thoughts.

PERCY
Allow me Miss.
Percy reaches for her case. Nancy ignores him and picks it up with her good left arm.

NANCY
There’s nothing wrong with me.

PERCY
Can’t argue with that Miss.

She’s shocked at the blatant flirtation.

PERCY (cont’d)
I tend the grounds Miss. Percy Judd at your service.

He offers his right hand but Nancy doesn’t take it.

PERCY (cont’d)
Have you met his Lordship? You might want a stiff drink first.

NANCY
I don’t touch it I’m afraid.

Percy watches her stride off with her suitcase. He’s impressed.

PERCY
You let me know when that changes.

50 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / DORMITORY - 1943 DAY 3

Stefan sits trembling on the end of his bed. MAURICE, 14, the oldest of the orphans, summons him.

MAURICE
Mr. Cribben wants to see you.

Stefan runs out of the dormitory.

51 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / LANDING - 1943 DAY 3

Stefan climbs into a cupboard on the first floor landing and shuts the door. He peeks through the slats and sees a figure climbing the stairs. Maurice comes down from the second floor dormitory and points at the cupboard to the figure looming towards him. Stefan whispers the Jewish Shema prayer to himself.

STEFAN
Höre Israel, der Ewige ist unser Gott, der Ewige ist einzig. Gepriesen sei Gottes ruhmreiche Herrschaft immer und ewig.
Dead of night in present day Crickley Hall. We move in on the landing cupboard now closed up. There’s a tapping noise coming from inside. Gabe approaches, wearing his boxer shorts straight from bed, woken up by the noise. He opens the cupboard. Nothing inside. He sees some pipes running up along one corner. He touches them.

GABE
AH!

EVE
What is it?

GABE
Hot! It’s hot all right! I’ll fix it tomorrow.

EVE
Is it going to bang all night?

LOREN
Mum ...

Loren is at the door to her room, rubbing her eyes.

EVE
Your Dad put the boiler on warp ten.

Gabe heads downstairs.

GABE
Cold showers in the morning. I’m not the one who’ll be crying ...

Eve kisses Loren on the head.

EVE
Go back to bed.

Loren returns to her room. She gets into bed and a thump from upstairs dislodges dust from the ceiling onto her face.

LOREN
(WHISPERS)
Mum. Mum!

Eve comes back onto the landing to meet Loren.
LOREN
(WHISPERING)
There’s people upstairs!

Gabe’s climbing the stairs towards them. Eve waves him to stop. She listens. Silence.

55 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / DORMITORY - NIGHT 4

Gabe turns on the light to reveal the large long room we recognize as the orphans’ dormitory. No-one there.

GABE
Might have been a rat, I heard one in the cellar.

Loren looks at him.

GABE (cont’d)
Squirrels. Cute rats.

Loren opens the cupboard door and there’s nothing there. A box topples from a shelf with a clatter, making them all jump. They look at the contents. Toys and dolls. Nothing plastic. Old-fashioned and old. Eve picks up a spinning top. Rust obscuring the image of dancing children painted around the circumference.

Loren pulls back some dust sheets covering a line of rusted iron beds.

LOREN
They must have had a big family.

56 EXT. CRICKLEY HALL - NIGHT 4

Crickley Hall nestles peacefully in the moonlit valley.

57 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT 4

Eve wakes up in the dark. She’s crying. Short of breath. She looks around the room. Sits up, pulling herself together. She reaches under her pillow to hold the blue woollen hat to her cheek. She can hear Clyde howling. Gabe is not there.

58 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - NIGHT 4

Eve descends the stairs. Clyde has stopped howling. Eve’s feet step into puddles of water on the stairs. She looks up at the ceiling to see if she can spot the leak.

She reaches the foot of the stairs and sees the door to the cellar is open. Eve moves to shut the cellar door. Gabe appears from what used to be Cribben’s study.
Gabie

Clyde’s being a drama queen it’s not that cold.

Eve sees Gabe’s laptop open on the study table. There’s a website on it:

Have You Seen Our Son?

A photo of Cam. A phone number.

On the corner a counter of days missing: 361.

Gabie (cont’d)

We got a couple of emails. I forwarded them on.

He looks more closely at her and wipes the tears from her cheek. No need to ask why.

Eve

No it was a good one. I could smell him he was so close. He said he’s not dead. It’s funny I feel closer to him here.

He holds her. Doesn’t know what to say. He sees the puddles on the stone floor.

Eve (cont’d)

And all the way up the stairs.

Gabie

I didn’t know it was raining. What were you doing in the cellar?

Eve

I don’t want Loren and Cally going down there will you make sure it’s closed after you.

Gabie

I did. Okay I will.

Eve

What time’s it now?

Gabie

Sunday. All day.

They go back upstairs together, his arm around her.

The cellar door swings open.
Nancy rings the bell.

Maurice answers the door. Chewing with his mouth full.

    MAURICE
    Morning Miss Linnet.

    NANCY
    Good morning. You must be Maurice. You’re the oldest here aren’t you?

    MAURICE
    I’m kind of the prefect.

He doesn’t seem too happy about it. A little hunted.

    NANCY
    I look forward to teaching you Maurice.

She notices Maurice is barefoot.

Nancy looks into the study as she passes. The curtains are open and no-one’s in there.

    MAGDA
    Every footstep carries in this place. It’s like an echo chamber. Would you mind?

Nancy looks across to see Magda in her socks.

Nancy takes her shoes off, nonplussed. She glances up and sees a figure cross the first floor landing.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    You can meet him tomorrow. He has a fierce migraine.

Nancy sees an open box by the door. It’s full of new toys. The same ones we saw fall out of the box in present day.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    People keep dumping these on us.

Magda approaches to seal the box up.

    MAGDA (cont’d)
    Toys have to be earned. Like everything else.
Nancy is in the classroom in front of the eleven orphans. She’s writing on the blackboard:

EVACUATION.

NANCY
Can anyone give me another word for evacuation?

Maurice puts his hand up.

NANCY (cont’d)
Let’s give someone else a chance. Susan?

SUSAN, 12, shakes her head, subdued.

NANCY (cont’d)
Brenda.

Brenda looks blank. Stefan puts his hand timidly up.

NANCY (cont’d)
Stefan.

STEFAN
Entweichen.

NANCY
Can you say that in English?

STEFAN
Escape.

NANCY
Well done. Can anyone think of any other famous escapes in history?

MAURICE
The Jews.

NANCY
Maurice?

MAURICE
The Jews are always escaping. That’s how he knew the answer.

Nancy writes on the board: EXODUS.

NANCY
This is another word for evacuation. Why did the Jews want to escape?
MAURICE
They must have been doing something wrong.

NANCY
Stand up Maurice.

Maurice stands up, surprised.

NANCY (cont’d)
Would you like to explain that to the class.

MAURICE
The Jews are always being chased out of one country or another. There must be a reason.

NANCY
What would that be?

MAURICE
They killed Christ.

NANCY
Jesus was a Jew Maurice.

MAURICE
He wasn’t. He hated the Jews. He was always fighting with them.

NANCY
Who told you this?

MAURICE
The Bible.

NANCY
Stefan is a Jew. Do you think Christ hates him? Do you think Christ hates anyone? Would you leave the class please. I’ll discuss this with you later.

Maurice leaves. Nancy is shaken.

NANCY (cont’d)
Stefan? It’s not his fault. It’s just what he’s been taught. A lot of people believe terrible things but that doesn’t make them true. You’re safe here.

Stefan knows that’s not true. Nancy shivers. Goes to the radiator.
NANCY (cont’d)
Is there no heating in this place?

SUSAN
It makes too much noise Miss. For Mr. Cribben.

NANCY
Well I hope you at least had a hot breakfast.

SUSAN
We haven’t had breakfast yet Miss.

Nancy is astonished.

SUSAN (cont’d)
You can’t concentrate if your stomach’s full.

The door opens: Magda stands there with Maurice.

MAGDA
Miss Linnet.

Nancy realize she’s being summoned.

NANCY
Page fifteen. Susan would you read. And when I come back we’ll discuss it.

Susan opens TS Eliot’s Book of Practical Cats.

MAGDA
Sit back down Maurice.

Maurice returns to his place, staring smugly at Nancy as she leaves.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / MAGDA’S STUDY – 1943 DAY 4

Magda leads Nancy into her study.

MAGDA
I hope I haven’t made a mistake. I wasn’t aware we employed you to indoctrinate children.

NANCY
I think his parents have beaten me to it.

MAGDA
Maurice has lived with us since he was two.
Nancy is silenced.

MAGDA (cont’d)
We are doing our utmost to take care of a Jewish boy. As is our Christian duty. But our charity does not extend to the Jewish leaders who provoked this war, this catastrophe which nearly killed my brother and destroyed his peace of mind. Is there any other aspect of our teaching you wish to challenge? Best we have this out now.

NANCY
The children are cold and hungry.

MAGDA
They can wear as many clothes as they like. It’s you who are underdressed. And children learn fastest when they are motivated. Food is a reward not a right.

NANCY
What has Maurice done to earn his reward? He was stuffing himself when I arrived.

MAGDA
Maurice Stafford has a medical condition. I should have thought you of all people would sympathize. When you return to class you will apologize to him and thank him for bringing this matter to me and not my brother. Or I can assure you you’d be on the next train back to London.

Nancy stands at her desk, gathering her thoughts. She looks up.

NANCY
Maurice I’m sorry if I upset you. I know you’re not to blame and I want to thank you for being so understanding. To make it up to you I want you to do a special job for me and you’re excused from the next exercise. It’s a job for a responsible boy. Would you fetch me a glass of this famous water from the well?

MAURICE
Yes Miss.

Maurice gets up and leaves.
Once he’s out of sight, Nancy opens her bag and takes out a couple of sandwiches. She cuts them up and distributes them as well as some sweets.

SUSAN
What about your lunch Miss?

NANCY
I had a huge breakfast.

Maurice climbs down the steep steps into the cellar where there’s a well with a circular wall.

He lifts out a bucket from the black rushing sound and pours out a glass of water. He hears movement in the shadows.

CRIBBEN
What are you doing here boy.

We don’t see Cribben’s face. But Maurice is terrified.

MAURICE
It’s for the new teacher Sir. She told me to.

CRIBBEN
Am I to have no peace in any corner of this house.

MAURICE
I’m sorry Sir.

CRIBBEN
You want to keep your privileges.

MAURICE
Yes Sir.

CRIBBEN
Get back upstairs.

Maurice hurries back up, spilling water on the steps as he goes. We travel over to the well and down into the black roar of rushing water.

We hear barking from inside Crickley Hall.
INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - DAY 5

We track in on the closed kitchen door and the barking inside.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / KITCHEN - DAY 5

Clyde is on the other side of the kitchen door, barking at whatever’s approaching.

EXT. BARNABY’S INN - DAY 5

Gabe, Eve and the girls get out of the car outside the local very traditional pub.

CALLY
Mummy are you sad today?

LOREN
Shut up.

Eve comes to attention. Smiles at Cally.

EVE
Give me a reason not to be sad.

Cally looks around, thinks hard. Eve looking at her with love. Cally points at a newsagents.

CALLY
Sweets!

EVE
I’m happy!

INT. BARNABY’S INN - DAY 5

The locals look up as they enter. Gabe whispers in a cod Northern accent:

GABE
We don’t like strangers round here.

Loren shushes him.

CUT TO:

Gabe getting the drinks at the bar.

LANDLORD
Passing through?
GABE
I’m working here for a couple of months. Staying up at Crickley Hall.

LANDLORD
Big place that. You’ll be rattling round in it.

GABE
Why is it called Devil’s Cleave? Not exactly touristy.

LANDLORD
Ah well now. Centuries ago, the Devil himself tried to cut his way inland from the sea to flood all the villages hereabouts. First he took a bite out of the cliffs and that’s how Hollow Bay came to be. They say after he took his first bite he tried to gnaw his way up to the moors but his teeth eventually got wore down to the gums and he couldn’t get no further. So he sloped off back to sea swearing his revenge one day. And he did, but I’ll leave that for another day.

GABE
Perfect. Thanks.

He takes the drinks over to their table.

GABE (cont’d)
Cally I got a good one.

71 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - DAY 5
The presence stops outside the kitchen door. Then moves forward through the closed door.

72 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / KITCHEN - DAY 5
Close on Clyde’s paws tearing desperately at the back door. There’s blood.

73 EXT. CRICKLEY HALL / GARDEN - DAY 5
Clyde’s barking stops abruptly. Now we hear louder and more frantic sounds as we withdraw from the house. High-pitched keening. An animal in terrible distress.

74 EXT. BARNABY’S INN - DAY 5
Cally gnaws on a stick of rock as they emerge from the sweet shop. Eve looks at the church opposite.
EVE
Can we?

Gabe’s not happy about churches.

GABE
Sure.

75 INT. CHURCH – DAY 5

Eve and the girls light a candle for Cam near the front of
the church. Gabe loiters at the back, fighting resentment. He
scans the memorials on the wall. He finds a large plaque.

In memory of those orphans who drowned in
the Great Flood of 1943.

76 EXT. CEMETERY – DAY 5

Gabe moves among the headstones. He looks down at a
gravestone and sees the inscription and year of death – 1943.
He moves on a couple of paces and sees another with the same
year. And another.

PERCY
Mr. Caleigh?

Percy carries some weeding instruments. He nods towards Eve
at the church door with the reverend.

PERCY (cont’d)
I met your wife up at Crickley Hall
yesterday. Percy Judd.

GABE
You work here?

PERCY
I look after the orphans.

Percy searches Gabe’s face to see how much he knows. Gabe
doesn’t follow. Percy is relieved.

PERCY (cont’d)
You’re settling in all right.

GABE
Everything’s great thanks. And we’ve got
your number.

PERCY
I hope you won’t need it.
Gabe watches Percy head over to a corner of the cemetery where he kneels and begins tending the grave stones.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY 5

Gabe returns to the church entrance where Eve is with the vicar. Gabe indicates the headstones.

GABE
1943 was a bit of a bad year for you.

ANDREW
The flood didn’t reach the church thank God but yes. Sixty-eight people lost their lives.

EVE
How?

ANDREW
It was a flash flood. People were drowned in their sleep.

He glances at Loren and Cally, both rapt.

GABE
Don’t mind them the gorier the better.

EVE
Actually.

LOREN
Oh Mum!

ANDREW
You can get a booklet in the newsagents. Tells you all about it.

EVE
I’ll pick one up tomorrow.

(MOUTHING)
When she’s forgotten.

CALLY
I won’t forget!

EVE
Was Percy here then?

ANDREW
I wouldn’t rely on what Percy says.

EVE
He seems to know about Crickley Hall.
ANDREW
What do you want to know?

EVE
Who lived there.

ANDREW
It’s just a house that never really worked. So are you churchgoers or just sightseeing?

GABE
Sightseeing.

Andrew’s eyes meet Gabe’s. Gabe is radiating polite hostility.

GABE (cont’d)
God doesn’t do anything for us I’m afraid.

ANDREW
How can you say that with two beautiful girls.

Gabe’s got an answer ready but:

EVE
I’d love to come to a service.

ANDREW
We’d love to have you.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY 5

Percy looks up from where he’s tending the graves as Reverend Andrew approaches.

REVEREND ANDREW
Let them be, Percy.

PERCY
If I was staying there with young children I’d want to know.

REVEREND ANDREW
They don’t need to share in our tragedy.

PERCY
What do you know about it. You weren’t even born.
REVEREND ANDREW
I know it’s not right to terrify young children.

PERCY
That’s why they should leave.

REVEREND ANDREW
If you want to keep attending these graves I’m going to have to insist you leave Crickley Hall alone. I hate to do this to you Percy but if you want to respect their memories, you have to let them go.

PERCY
It’s not me who won’t let them go.

REVEREND ANDREW
You decide.

Andrew walks away and we track away to a single headstone overgrown and neglected.

Augustus Theophilus Cribben 1901 - 1943

EXT. CRICKLEY HALL / GARDEN - DAY 5

The kitchen door is open to the garden. Loren at the far end of the garden calling for Clyde. Gabe examining the door lock.

GABE
This wasn’t broken when we left.

EVE
He gave it a real hammering.

She sees the blood in the paw marks.

CALLY
Mummy he wet the floor.

They look at the pool of urine on the kitchen floor.

EVE
Maybe he is sick.

CALLY
He was scared.

EVE
There’s nothing to be scared of here.
Percy’s scared.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - 1943 DAY 4

Percy on his bicycle careens down a country lane to catch up with Nancy.

PERCY
You need a lift Miss?

NANCY
I’m nearly there.

PERCY
Let me take that.

She recoils.

NANCY
I really can manage.

PERCY
What have you got in there the family jewels?

She cracks a smile. He grins: first base.

EXT. BARNABY INN - 1943 DAY 4

They ride in tandem to park outside the village pub and lodgings.

PERCY
Crickley’s not been lived in since before I was born. I just keep it looking nice in case anyone’s stupid enough to buy it.

NANCY
What’s wrong with it?

PERCY
Chap who built it fancied himself an architect. He liked his fresh water so much he built it on a river. Turned it into a refrigerator. Speaking of which have you met Cribben?

NANCY
He was indisposed. I’m sure we all have our off days.

Percy carries Nancy’s case to the door.
PERCY
Not me Miss. I’m not going to waste what time I have left moping around.

NANCY
(LAUGHING)
What are you – all of seventeen?

She realizes.

NANCY (cont’d)
Oh. When are you being called up?

PERCY
Couple of weeks. Make the most of me.

Nancy is silenced.

PERCY (cont’d)
You can come in with me in the morning if you don’t mind starting at five-thirty.

NANCY
Let’s see how it goes.

PERCY
Call it six tomorrow. Give you time to put your face on.

NANCY
Are all country boys as cocky as you?

PERCY
Can I call you Nancy then?

NANCY
You may not. Goodnight Percy.

PERCY
I’m glad those kids have got you to look out for them.

Percy looks into her eyes and takes her right hand. Her withered arm. At first she stiffens.

He lifts it gently and kisses her hand. She’s surprised and touched.

Percy gets on his bicycle and speeds off to his house.

She feels reassured and hopeful.
It’s getting dark as Loren and Gabe walk through the village looking for Clyde.

GABE
When he’s hungry he’ll go looking for people. You need to get your stuff ready for school. You’ve been great about coming out here.

LOREN
It’s only a few weeks. Is it helping her?

GABE
Yes. And it’s helping me.

Loren looks around distracted.

GABE (cont’d)
We’ll do the back road on the way home.

Locked away, Clyde paws at the door of a garden shed, whining.

The orphans hand in their classwork to Nancy on their way out. Stefan is the last in line. Nancy sees a mark on his hand.

NANCY
What happened here Stefan?

Stefan doesn’t answer.

SUSAN
He fell over in the garden.

Nancy examines the mark. It’s a long line across the palm of his hand. She takes his other hand. An identical mark.

Nancy is about to pursue the matter when she sees Maurice watching her from the door.

Nancy kisses Stefan’s palm.

NANCY
Be careful. Oh Susan can I delay you just a moment. I’d like you to prepare a reading for tomorrow.
Nancy alone with Susan.

NANCY (cont’d)
You know how Maurice is Magda’s eyes and ears? I’d like you to be mine. I’d like you to come to me with anything that frightens you. Anything you feel shouldn’t be happening.

SUSAN
Yes Miss.

NANCY
Cribben uses a cane doesn’t he.

SUSAN
I don’t know Miss.

NANCY
You can tell me.

Susan says nothing.

NANCY (cont’d)
You know I’m on your side.

SUSAN
You go home at night Miss.

NANCY
I can still help you.

SUSAN
And if I get sent back to London where will you be then Miss?

NANCY
Has someone threatened to send you back to London?

SUSAN
No Miss. No-one’s threatened anything. What reading do you want me to prepare?

Nancy readies herself to leave Crickley Hall. She has her hat and gloves. She sees all the orphans’ shoes lined up at the foot of the stairs.

She hesitates and looks into the darkened study. She looks upstairs. No-one seems to be around.
The silent grandfather clock.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / STUDY - 1943 DAY 5

Nancy enters the study. The curtains are drawn. She scans the room. The heavy books on the shelves. Medals and trophies.

A framed slogan on the wall:

Train up a child in the way he should go
And when he is old he will not depart from it

PROVERBS 22:6

She does a quick search and finds:

Cribben’s cane.

She gives it a practice swipe through the air. She tries it out on her withered hand.

Swish-thwack.

It leaves the same mark as on Stefan’s.

Cribben in the doorway.

NANCY
He’s only six.

CRIBBEN
Then we’re just in time. For the others it may be too late. I’m sorry we haven’t met.

NANCY
Nancy Linnet.

CRIBBEN
Augustus Cribben. My sister admires you greatly.

Nancy can’t hide her surprise. Cribben is amused.

CRIBBEN (cont’d)
She’s that way with everyone she admires. The more she expects of them.
NANCY
She expects a great deal from children.

CRIBBEN
Indeed we both do. Well observed. Someone expected a great deal from you when you were a child else you’d not turned out as you have.

NANCY
May I speak frankly Sir?

CRIBBEN
My sister tells me you do little else.

NANCY
You don’t need to instill fear to get respect.

CRIBBEN
It’s clear you’ve never been in charge of children.

NANCY
They behave impeccably in class.

CRIBBEN
And why do you think that is.

Running footsteps can be heard upstairs. Cribben bellows.

CRIBBEN (cont’d)
DO YOU WANT ME TO COME UP?

The footsteps stop.

CRIBBEN (cont’d)
It’s not pleasant Miss Linnet. But it is in the nature of children to rebel. It is our duty to meet them with consequence.

Nancy walks nervously past him as he replaces the cane.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / CELLAR - NIGHT 5
The rushing sound from the well increases intensity. The door to the cellar glides open.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - NIGHT 5
We track along pools of water towards the stairs.
Cally is playing with a colouring book. She hears the sound of crying. She turns. It’s coming from outside the room.

Cally approaches the cupboard on the landing. The crying is coming from inside. She looks at the handle to the cupboard. Her hand reaches out gingerly to open the cupboard.

SWISH-THWACK.

A fast blurring movement slicing down on Cally’s hand.

Eve hears Cally scream shrilly. She runs.

Eve runs up the stairs two at a time.

Cally is sitting on the landing in floods of tears, holding the palm of her hand.

EVE
Oh what have you done to yourself!

CALLY
He HIT me!

EVE
Let me see.

There’s no mark. Eve examines Cally’s hand for splinters.

CALLY
I wasn’t being naughty why did he HIT me?

EVE
Who?

CALLY
The MAN!

EVE
There was a man here?

CALLY
He went down there!
Cally points down the stairs.

EVE
Cally I would have seen him. Did you fall asleep?

CALLY
No I didn’t!

Eve leads her downstairs.

EVE
Let’s go and get a biscuit and no more playing games by yourself okay?

CALLY
I wasn’t playing I was trying to help!

EVE
Let’s have another look for Clyde in the garden before we get ready for bed.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / CLASSROOM - 1943 DAY 6

Nancy stands in front of the assembled orphans.

NANCY
I’ve got a special treat for you today.

She takes out an antique Bible.

NANCY (cont’d)
The library has been kind enough to allow me to borrow a very old Bible for you all to look at. But I promised there wouldn’t be any grubby paws so let me check before I pass it round.

The orphans present their hands palm up. Nancy scrutinizes each. There are no marks from Cribben’s cane.

NANCY (cont’d)
Very good. You perform your ablutions admirably. I presume the water is cold.

She arrives at Stefan. He looks pale. She studies his hands carefully. He’s wearing a long sleeved vest under his jacket which stops at his wrists. She releases his hands and Stefan rubs his arms.

MAURICE
He’s got flu Miss that’s why he’s wrapped up.
She looks evenly at Maurice. He’s nervous.

NANCY
Thank you Maurice.

Maurice brazens it out. Nancy looks back at Stefan.

SUSAN
He’ll be fine Miss. Really.

Nancy looks around the class. They’re all terrified.

Nancy can’t decide what to do. She looks back to Stefan. He looks down, utterly subdued. A single tear rolls out.

Nancy considers for some moments. Wrestling with her fears.

NANCY
Maurice you’re going to need to fetch Mr. Cribben for me. Would you do that please.

MAURICE
He’s not to be disturbed.

NANCY
You’ll get him right now or I’ll kick you all the way up those stairs.

The class gasps in unison. Maurice gets up, reddening. Nancy lunges at him.

NANCY (cont’d)
MOVE!

Maurice runs out. Nancy sits beside Stefan.

NANCY (cont’d)
Take off your jacket please Stefan.

Stefan shakes his head.

SUSAN
Don’t Miss.

Nancy strokes Stefan’s hair.

NANCY
This has to stop. This is going to stop.

Nancy tries to take his jacket off. Stefan winces in pain.

NANCY (cont’d)
I’m sorry.
Nancy gets the jacket off but Magda’s in the room before she can get any further, Maurice behind her, breathless.

MAGDA  
You’re fired. Leave the premises immediately.

NANCY  
I’ll speak to the organ grinder not the monkey.

Magda is beyond astonished.

NANCY (cont’d)  
Is it only children he likes to bully? Where is he? Bring him.

Nancy pulls off Stefan’s jumper and opens his shirt.

NANCY (cont’d)  
I’m sorry darling.

Magda moves to stop her.

Nancy slaps Magda. Magda reels back, stunned.

NANCY (cont’d)  
I’m not afraid of bullies.

Nancy peels off Stefan’s vest.

Both arms and back are covered in livid bruises and welts.

NANCY (cont’d)  
Oh dear God.

Magda hurries out to get Cribben.

NANCY (cont’d)  
Everyone up. You’re coming with me. Quickly.

The children rise.

Nancy leads the children out of Crickley Hall.

The school bus is parked outside Crickley Hall. Eve is seeing Loren onto the bus. Cally is waving from the door. Loren waves back sleepily.
Once Eve’s back is turned, Loren sees a girl on the bus Tina waving sarcastically then commenting to her friend and laughing. Loren gets on the bus, nervous.

INT. CRICKLEY HALL / KITCHEN - DAY 6

Eve joins Gabe in the kitchen with Cally. He’s collecting his stuff.

CALLY
What about Clyde?

GABE
He’s probably found a better offer by now.

CALLY
No!

EVE
He’s going to look for him. Why do you think he’s leaving this early.

Gabe kisses Cally.

GABE
He never liked us. He only pretended. First chance he got - whoosh!

CALLY
Stop it!

And Gabe’s off.

EVE
I’m sure we’re going to find him.

CALLY
I think the man took him.

EVE
What man?

CALLY
The man who took Cam.

Eve strokes Cally’s hair.

EVE
We don’t know if that’s what happened. Maybe Cam got lost and a nice woman is looking after him.

She can barely say it.
Loren is by herself at break time, looking through her books as children play around her.

TINA

Loren Caleigh.

Loren looks up at TINA and her two friends.

TINA (cont’d)

Is that how you say it?

LOREN

Yes.

TINA

My Nan works at Crickley Hall. How come you’re on holiday if your brother’s missing.

LOREN

We’re not on holiday. My Dad’s working. I don’t want to talk about it.

TINA

Your Mum fell asleep when she was looking after him and that’s how he went missing is that true?

LOREN

It’s none of your business.

TINA

You should be with social services. Your Mum should be in prison.

Loren punches Tina just as Dad taught her right on the bridge of the nose. The flow of blood is impressive. Tina drops. Some boys watching from a distance break into applause.

Eve is in the dining room. She’s cleaned the rust from the spinning top to reveal the brightly coloured dancing children. She uses a can from Gabe’s tool box to squeeze a drop of oil into the innards.

She puts the top on the table and presses the ratchet. The top spins, emitting a high-pitched hum. Inside the hum Eve hears children’s voices. She stares into the blur of motion, transfixed.
CHILD’S VOICE
Mummy.

Eve gasps.

EVE
Cameron?

CHILD’S VOICE
I’m not dead Mummy.

EVE
I know baby.

CHILD’S VOICE
It’s dark.

Eve can’t bear it.

EVE
Just tell me where you are.

CHILD’S VOICE
I’m cold.

EVE
Are you alone?

CHILD’S VOICE
I can see them.

EVE
Who’s with you?

CHILD’S VOICE
They’re dead.

The top slows down. The voice becomes indistinct.

CHILD’S VOICE (cont’d)
They know where I am.

EVE
Cam! Who knows? Cam!

The toy topples. The sounds are gone.

CALLY
Mummy!

Eve moves out into the entrance hall, in shock.
INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL - DAY 6

Cally is pointing at the window by the stairs. Eve sees a glimpse of an image as if a child ran across it.

CALLY
They’re playing!

Eve moves slowly up the stairs. She sees another figure run past the landing.

Then another figure runs up the stairs to the dormitory.

INT. DORMITORY - DAY

Eve arrives at the dormitory landing and sees through the glass door glimpses of children running around and jumping up and down on beds that are now in their previous place.

She reaches out to touch the door knob.

SWISH-THWACK.

Eve snatches her hand back. She looks back and the children are gone. Cally watching solemnly. Eve looks at her hand. This time there’s a welt.

CALLY
He doesn’t like the children.

EVE
Who Cally?

CALLY
Can’t you smell him?

EXT. CRICKLEY HALL - 1943 DAY 6

Magda leads the orphans back into Crickley Hall, accompanied by a policeman and a nurse. They all look very friendly. A shared laugh. The nurse examines the bruise on Magda’s face. Nancy watches from a distance, tearful as Percy joins her.

NANCY
They said the other children did it. I don’t know what’s more monstrous.

PERCY
They owned up Nancy. And Stefan said the same.
NANCY
They’re terrified! They are in fear of their lives! Who’s going to look after them now?

PERCY
You are.

Nancy looks at him.

PERCY (cont’d)
No running away. I want you here when I get back.

He kisses her for the first time.

105 INT. GABE’S CAR - DAY 6

Gabe’s Range Rover pulls up outside Crickley Hall. Loren in the passenger seat.

LOREN
Do we have to tell her? I don’t want her to hear what they said.

Gabe examines her bruised knuckles.

GABE
Okay you did it playing hockey. I’m not condoning it.

LOREN
You would’ve done the same thing.

GABE
She’s got problems. She’s being brought up by her gran. Her dad walked and her mum dumped her.

LOREN
I’m not surprised. And it’s no reason for her to take it out on me. What she said was horrible.

GABE
It’s what people do when they’re unhappy.

LOREN
I’m not apologizing. If she says sorry I’ll think about it.

GABE
You are so like your mother it’s scary.
Eve leans down to Cally as Gabe and Loren approach.

**EVE**
Now are you going to let me tell them in my own way or are you going to belt it out at the top of your voice.

**CALLY**
Is it a secret?

**EVE**
No it isn’t a secret I just want to say it in the right way.

Gabe and Loren arrive at the door. Gabe looks at Cally.

**GABE**
What are you smirking about?

Cally looks up at Eve, bursting. Back to Gabe.

**CALLY**
We’ve got ghosts!

Loren calls into the darkness, scanning the trees with a flashlight.

**LOREN**
Clyde! ... Clyde!

Gabe and Eve undress for bed. Gabe shuts the bedroom door.

**EVE**
I’m not afraid of ghosts. You don’t even believe in ghosts –

**GABE**
The girls are scared.

**EVE**
Cally’s having the time of her life. A ghost never hurt anyone.

**GABE**
We are not staying in a house where they think there’s dead children running around.
EVE
I heard Cam’s voice.

Gabe stares at her. Suppressed anger. Eve’s unsurprised.

EVE (cont’d)
And that is why I didn’t tell you.

GABE
We don’t get to grieve because you’re in denial for a year and now he’s not just dead he’s a ghost -

EVE
He’s not dead! He’s alive and he’s trying to reach me -

GABE
You.

EVE
Please.

GABE
You think I don’t hear his voice?

EVE
Gabe.

GABE
I hear his voice.

EVE
This is real. It’s the house. Somehow he’s able to reach me here where he couldn’t before.

GABE
Well make the most of it cause we’re going.

EVE
You should be happy! Why aren’t you happy! There’s nothing to be afraid of!

109 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / BATHROOM - NIGHT 6

Loren is washing her bruised knuckles under the cold tap. Cally is emitting a stream of consciousness.

CALLY
There’s a man too and when they did something bad like steal a toy from the cupboard the man would whack them.
LOREN
You’re making that up.

CALLY
Ask Mum. You better not do anything bad or he’ll come and get you.

LOREN
You first.

Loren sprays water at Cally who screams delightedly.

CALLY
No! No! He’s going to get you!

Close on their bare feet making noise as they run about.

110 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / CELLAR – NIGHT 6
View from the bottom of the well looking up. The ceiling of the cellar visible in the circle surrounded by blackness. The point of view rises, something leaving the well.

111 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / ENTRANCE HALL – NIGHT 6
Pools of water on the stone floor. And on the stairs.

112 INT. CRICKLEY HALL / MAIN BEDROOM – NIGHT 6
Gabe and Eve are in bed. Back to back. Eve gently clasps his hand. He returns the gesture.

EVE
Did Loren say anything to you about school?

GABE
No.

EVE
You believe that story about her hand.

GABE
Sounded plausible to me.

EVE
Maybe she’s being bullied.

GABE
Loren can take care of herself.
Loren is in bed, studying her bruised knuckles. She can’t resist smiling at the memory. A little bit proud of herself. She reaches out to turn the bedside lamp off.

As the light snaps off the covers are torn from her bed, exposing her bare legs. She looks up into the dark figure towering over her.

Cribben is in her room. His arm raised holding his cane.

Loren gasps, frozen. Whispers.

Cribben brings down the cane, savagely lashing at Loren.

SWISH-THWACK. On her scream:

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE.