

The Beamer

written by

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SECOND DRAFT FOR THE PILOT OF "THE BEAMER"

SHOT DESCRIPTIONS FOR THIS ENTIRE SCRIPT ARE PRIORITISING THE MASTER CAM (A).

CHARACTERS:

2024:

OLDER PROTAGONIST

PROTAGONIST'S WIFE (OLDER  
LIZZY)

MARY HARDY-JONES  
(PROTAGONIST'S DAUGHTER)

ELLIOT HARDY-JONES  
(PROTAGONIST'S SON)

1978:

PROTAGONIST (KIT HARDY-JONES)

FRIEND 1

FRIEND 2

FRIEND 3

LIZZY (PROTAGONIST'S  
GIRLFRIEND)

HISTORY TEACHER

CORPORAL BROWN

1956:

CHEMISTRY GHOST

1915:

SWIMMING GHOST

1862:

GARGOYLE GHOST

INTRODUCTION: 2024- OLDER PROTAGONIST'S HOME.

IT IS 2025 AND THE OLDER PROTAGONIST'S CHILDREN (TWINS) HAVE TURNED 16. HE HAD PROMISED HIMSELF THAT ON THEIR 16TH BIRTHDAYS, HE WOULD REVEAL THE STORY OF HOW HE CAN SEE GHOSTS/ HOW HE GOT THROUGH HIS A-LEVEL YEAR.

CHARACTERS NEEDED WITHIN THE INTRODUCTION: OLDER PROTAGONIST, HIS WIFE, HIS DAUGHTER (MARY) & HIS SON (ELLIOT) (& EXTRAS @ PARTY- NOT CRUCIAL.)

HIGH ANGLE SHOT OVER THE PROTAGONIST'S DAUGHTER & SON (MARY & ELLIOT) AS THEY BLOW OUT THE CANDLES ON A LARGE ORANGE & BLUE CAKE.

DIAGETIC SOUND ONLY DURING THIS SCENE- STARTING WITH THE END OF THE SONG "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

EVERYONE (- MARY & ELLIOT)

" Happy birthday to you..."

PARTY POPPER IS BLOWN & THE SCENE CHANGES TO THE OLDER PROTAGONIST'S SITTING ROOM. (SHOTS OF OVER HIP & SYMMETRY OVER/ BELOW THE SOFA & ARMCHAIR.)

THE PROTAGONIST SITS OPPOSITE HIS CHILDREN & RUBS HIS HANDS TOGETHER GETTING READY TO TELL THE STORY...

OLDER PROTAGONIST

Right, now the two of you are \*16\* you are of the age when I can reveal to you my secret-life. The haunting reality I have been shielding you until this day.

MARY & ELLIOT LOOK WORRIED- THEIR MUM APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY AND REASURES HER CHILDREN.

PROTAGONIST'S WIFE

Kit- cut the drama, its a pretty silly story really guys, but for what it's worth I think you'll enjoy it.

PROTAGONIST

It is not silly, in fact it is a  
morally important and highly  
educational ghost story-

PROTAGONIST'S WIFE

\*coughs- disapprovingly\*

PROTAGONIST

Anyway

ELLIOT

(yawns & looks up from his phone)

Sorry Dad, missed all of that

MARY

(also looks up from her phone) Huh?

PROTAGONIST

Will you give those to me- you know  
there were no mobile phones in the 70s  
when I was 16.

MARY

(eyes widening as she gives her & her  
brothers phones to her dad) We know-  
if we've got to hear this will you get  
on with it?

PROTAGONIST

Are you sitting comfortably?

ELLIOT

(groans)

## PROTAGONIST

(clears throat) Let me take you back  
to the summer of '78...

SCENE 1: THE BEAMER ITSELF

SCREEN MORPHS INTO DREAM-LIKE FLASHBACK (35MM FILM EFFECT)  
WHICH WILL BE USED FOR THE REST OF THE PILOT (EXCEPT FOR  
FLASHES BACK TO REALITY).

NON-DIAGETIC OLDER PROTAGONIST PROVIDES A VOICE OVER FOR THE  
ENTIRE SCENE. & 70S BACKING MUSIC & DIAGETIC CRICKET &  
AMBULANCE SOUND EFFECTS.

SHOTS WILL VARY FROM ALREADY FILMED FOOTAGE.

## OLDER PROTAGONIST VO

There were two days until the summer  
hols started & I was playing in the  
final inter-house cricket match. Abbey  
vs. School house. We had beaten them  
in the last round for four years in a  
row and they were determined not to  
make it five.

There were five overs remaining and I  
was six runs away from a century. The  
game had been a long, hard one.

I zoned everyone out- it was just me  
and the bowler. Tarquin Hugh-Milton-

## MARY

Gosh he sounds posh-

## OLDER PROTAGONIST VO

Tarquin was a nasty piece of work. He was the best bowler in the school and had a deadly bouncer<sup>8</sup>. We had come to this point in multiple games before. Two years running I had smashed him at this exact point.

He glowered at me as I examined the cracks and checked my stance.

There were only two of us on the pitch at that moment in time- nobody else mattered. This was a fight I would win.

He bowled and I missed. The ball was dead.

5 overs remaining.

The next ball was a bouncer- tarquin pitched and the ball bounced over my head as I ducked.

No-ball.

This time Tarquin shortened his usual run-up. I wasn't ready.

The ball came in quick. Tarquin's poor sportsmanship had kicked in and he had lost control of the ball, it was a high full toss.

I don't remember what happened next.

(MORE)

OLDER PROTAGONIST VO (CONT'D)

Your Godfather Will told me that I was  
knocked out cold and didn't wake up  
until the next morning in hospital.  
Apparently Tarquin disappeared when it  
happened- rightly so!  
And so that was it: The Beamer that  
changed my view on life forever...

FOOTAGE SHOT FOR SCENE 1: THE BEAMER- COMPLETE.

SCENE 2: THE PROTAGONIST'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE GHOSTS:

CHARACTERS: KIT (PROTAGONIST), GARGOYLE, SWIMMING AND  
CHEMISTRY GHOST, VOICE OVERS OF MORTAL FRIENDS.

SET IN THE PROTAGONISTS SINGLE DORM ROOM IN ABBEY HOUSE.

DURING THE OLDER PROTAGONISTS' VOICE OVER INTRODUCTION TO THE  
SCENE WE SEEN BEGINNING OF TERM/ CLASSIC BRITISH AUTUMNAL  
SHOTS AND THEN TRANSITION IN THROUGH THE DORM WINDOW TO THE  
SCENE-

THE VOICE OVER THEN ENDS & WE ARE IN THE DORM ROOM WITH  
DIAGETIC CONVERSATION.

OLDER PROTAGONIST VO

Two months later and we were back at  
school for the Michaelmas term. 1978  
was my last year of school, what we  
called the Upper Sixth. This was the  
year where our A levels began to loom  
around every corner getting closer and  
closer.

(MORE)

OLDER PROTAGONIST VO (CONT'D)

Mary and Elliot, what ever you do this year- please, please don't follow in my footsteps, to be fair, I was still recovering from a near death experience but I did no work whatsoever- I had spent the long summer lounging around in complete and utter denial of the mammoth year that lay before me...

ELLIOT

What so you just partied and did everything you tell us not to do

OLDER PROTAGONIST

That is not true- or fair, as a matter of fact that summer I had developed a new love for 70s funk, roller discos and waiting to speak to my girlfriend on the phone. I had been awarded my army scholarship so I kind of let my self go a bit...

AUTUMNAL/INTRO SCENES ARE INTERRUPTED BY MARY & ELLIOT- WE SPRING BACK TO THE PRESENT DAY.

MARY

Roller discos? You have now reached a new level of weird Dad and are never turning back.

OLDER PROTAGONIST

That is no way to talk to your father!  
 Besides don't you want to hear my  
 story- my life-changing, ground  
 breaking, jaw dropping-

ELLIOT

Why were you waiting for the phone?  
 What did you say when you "talked to  
 your girlfriend"

OLDER PROTAGONIST

Well- believe it or not we only had  
 one in the whole house in those days &  
 I was quite the gentleman- anyhoo- on  
 with the story..

SHOT RETURNS TO 1978- AND TRANSITIONS FROM OUTSIDE INTO THE  
 PROTAGONIST'S DORM ROOM- WE THEN PAN OVER THE DORM, TAKING IN  
 ALL OF THE DETAILS AND THEN STILL OVER THIS SLEEPING FACE.

SHOT CHANGES FROM POV OF GHOSTS LOOKING DOWN AT THE  
 PROTAGONIST TO A THREE SHOT OF THE GHOSTS FROM KIT'S POV-  
 SWIMMING HOLDING A HORN- SUSPENSE-

KIT (PROTAGONIST)

What the f-

EXPLICIT CUT OF AS SWIMMING BLOWS HIS SWIMMING STARTER HORN.

SMALL BREAK FOR GRAPHICS & FEW BARS OF THEME & FREEZE FRAME  
 OF THE SCENE WITH TITLES.

(AFTER EXPLICIT CUT OF THE CAMERA BOUNCES UP TO THE CORK  
 DRAWING BOARD ABOVE THIS BED)

CHARACTERS ON THE SET FREEZE AND COMING OUT OF THE STOP-  
 MOTION ANIMATION- THE CAMERA PANS OVER ALL OF THEM IN THEIR  
 FREEZE FRAMES WITH THE TITLES/ NAMES OF EACH ACTOR

I.E. ? AS KIT HARDY-JONES

SCENE STARTS/ COMES BACK INTO ACTION TO BOY SCRABBLING TO HIS FEET- AFTER HEARING THE HORN. HE IS HOLDING HIS PILLOW/ BEDSHEETS AS A SHIELD.

CHEMISTRY GHOST

Yup- I think you're right swims, he  
can see us

KIT

What is happening (to me right now)

KIT SITS BACK DOWN ON HIS BED RUBBING HIS HEAD WHERE HE WAS HIT BY THE BEAMER.

SWIMMING

You were hit by that Beamer last term  
and- abracadabra- now you're stuck  
with us!

GARGOYLE GHOST

More precisely, you had a seriously  
close run in with the grim reaper  
himself and almost joined us. Ergo you  
are now suspended between life and  
death.

THREE SHOT

We all died in this very school over  
the past few centuries and now have  
the job of haunting you.

PAN OVER EACH GHOST- THEY EXPRESS THEIR CHARACTERS TRAITS WITH WAVES AND INTRODUCTORY BODY LANGUAGE.

FROM BEHIND KIT, WE SEE HIM LOOK OVER EACH GHOST ONE AT A TIME AND THEN FAINT.

SHOT SWITCHES TO BACK IN FRONT OF HIM- WHERE THE GHOSTS ARE STANDING?

SWIMMING BENDS DOWN OVER THE PROTAGONIST WITH HIS FACE EVENTUALLY SYMMETRICAL FROM ABOVE- HE BRINGS THE HORN RIGHT UP TO THE PROTAGONISTS FACE/EAR AND-

SWIMMING

(blows the horn & seems slightly mad)

waaaakkkee uuuuppp!

PROTAGONIST JUMPS AGAIN AT THE SOUND AND IS CONSCIOUS. HE LOOKS AROUND, STILL BEWILDERED.

GARGOYLE GHOST

Yes and I think he can HEAR us as

well- will you desist-

(GARGOYLE TRIES TO GRAB THE HORN OFF SWIMMING WHO THREATENS TO SOUND IT AGAIN). SWIMMING AND GARGOYLE PROCEED TO FIGHT/ PLAY FIGHT EACH OTHER TO GET THE HORN- THEY END UP IN A HEADLOCK.

KIT

Please stop- my friends are right

through that wall!

FRIEND 1

Oi Kit, who are you talking to?

GARGOYLE & SWIMMING CONTINUE TO MUTTER ANGRILY AT EACH OTHER- THEY HAVE COME OUT OF THE HEADLOCK THOUGH.

KIT

Speak of the devil (aside to ghosts)

No-one! (He shouts through the door)

FRIEND 2

It's five in the morning Kit will you  
shut up already!

FRIEND 3

Jeepers Creepers Kit, you're killing  
me.

KIT SITS BACK DOWN AGAIN- LOST FOR WORDS LOOKING AROUND HIM  
WONDERING WHAT IS GOING ON. THE GHOSTS HAVE RESUMED THEIR OLD  
CHARACTERISTICS.

GARGOYLE GHOST

Who is this Kit you fellow peers keep  
referring to? It says quite clearly  
here- (points at trunk) Christopher  
Hardy-Jones?

PROTAGONIST GETS ONTO HIS KNEES AND LOOKS UNDER HIS BED- WE  
SEE A SHOT OF THIS AND THEN SWAP ROUND TO SHOT OF AN EMPTY  
WINE BOTTLE.

PROTAGONIST CALLS BACK THROUGH THE DOOR (IGNORING THE GHOSTS)

PROTAGONIST

Oi Freddo- what's in this stuff you  
snuck in?

FRIEND 2

It's my Dads mate- why?

FRIEND 3:

You feeling the after effects bud?

REPETITION OF PROTAGONIST LOOKING AROUND AT THE GHOSTS  
INDIVIDUALLY SHOT.

PROTAGONIST

Yeh- something like that

ROTAGONIST GROANS AND FALLS BACK ONTO HIS BED- PULLING THE COVERS BACK ONTO HIMSELF.

Eurrrrrrrggggghhhhhhhhhhhhhh

CUT TO MONTAGE OF THE GHOSTS BUGGING THE PROTAGONIST:

SCENE 3: MONTAGE OF THE GHOSTS ANNOYING KIT. BEGINNING- THAT MORNING (SHOWER& SINGING, GETTING CHANGED, CROSSING THE COURTS, ?CHAPEL?). MIDDLE- DINING ROOM (THE GHOSTS CAN'T EVEN EAT) & REPEATED COURTS SCENE. END- GIRLFRIEND SCENE.

NEW SCENE SHOT INTRO OF OUTSIDE A SHOWER RUNNING WITH THE PROTAGONIST SINGING A 70S SONG WITH A RADIO ON THE SIDE- FIELD OF FOCUS IS ON THIS. THE PROTAGONIST WALKS OUT OF THE SHOWER WITH A TOWEL AND LOOKS IN THE MIRROR- HE IS CLEARLY EXHAUSTED- THE GHOSTS POP UP BEHIND HIM (THIS HAPPENS WHILST THIS VO INTRODUCES THE MONTAGE (SCENE 3)).

OLDER PROTAGONIST VO

The few weeks that followed my first encounter with the ghosts were an utter NIGHTMARE. They seemed adamant to ruin my last year of school. I refused to acknowledge their existence with little success...

PROTAGONIST TURNS IN SURPRISE FROM LOOKING IN THE MIRROR AND THE GHOSTS HAVE DISAPPEARED. PROTAGONIST LOOKS CONFUSED BEHIND THE CURTAIN ETC.

SHOT CUTS TO THE GHOSTS POPPING UP AROUND A MIRROR WHILST THE PROTAGONIST TIES HIS TIE & PUTS HIS JACKET ON.

THEY FOLLOW HIM DANCING THROUGH THE COURTS (FILM THE SCENE ONE WAY AND THEN THE OTHER) HE IGNORES THEM THIS TIME.

OLDER PROTAGONIST VO (CONT'D)

They followed me around like a brood of bothersome ducklings...

IN DINING ROOM- THEY FOLLOW KIT THROUGH THE LUNCH QUEUE & AS HE CHOOSES HIS LUNCH THEY POINT AT FOOD, TRYING TO GET HIM TO TAKE IT.

PROTAGONIST

Stop it- I DO NOT LIKE (insert food)

MORTALS LOOK AROUND IN SURPRISE AT THE PROTAGONIST- THERE ARE NO GHOSTS THERE ANYMORE.

HE SITS AT A TABLE ON HIS OWN AND THE GHOSTS APPEAR BEHIND HIM-

PROTAGONIST (CONT'D)

LEAVE ME ALONE- you are dead, I bet

you can't even eat anyway

(PICKS UP FOOD AND VISIBLY ENJOYED IT)

CHEMISTRY GHOST

You're just being a bully now

PROTAGONIST STANDS AND STORMS OUT.

HE WALKS THROUGH CORRIDORS, TRYING TO SHAKE THEM OFF

REPEAT THE COURTS SCENE THE OTHER WAY- THIS TIME THE PROTAONIST TURNS AND SHOUTS:

PROTAGONIST

STOP!

SCENE 4: GIRLFRIEND SCENE ( THEN CONT. MONTAGE)

SET IN PAGENT GARDEN/ BENCH SOMEWHERE.

70S DRESSED GIRLFRIEND (LIZZY) THE PROTAGONIST WALKS OVER WALKS INTO SHOT WITH 2 ICE CREAMS (COLOURS RELATE TO THE COLOUR SCHEME)

AWKWARD HUG AROUND THE ICE CREAMS- HE THEN HANDS ONE TO HER, SHE TAKES IT RELUCTANTLY (IT IS AUTUMN/WINTER).

LIZZY

Erm- thanks I guess.

PROTAGONIST SEES THE GHOSTS APPEAR BEHIND HER AND GETS  
DISTRACTED

PAUSE

PROTAGONIST

No-worries

HE GETS DISTRACTED AGAIN BY THE GHOSTS MAKING FUN OF HIM  
SILENTLY. LIZZY LOOKS AT KIT CONCERNEDLY-

LIZZY

You okay Kit? Fred says you've been  
acting all freaky-deaky (gesticulates)  
the last few weeks?

PROTAGONIST MAKES HUGE EFFORT TO MEET LIZZYS EYES AND NOT GET  
DISTRACTED BY GHOSTS WHO ARE STILL ANNOYING & IMPERSONATING  
HIM.

PROTAGONIST

Huh? Yeh no, I'm "sound as a pound"

TRIES TO LEAN BACK LOOKING COMFORTABLE- ONLY MANAGES TO LOOK  
AWKWARD- HE SITS UP

PROTAGONIST (CONT'D)

Just had a stressy few weeks, that's  
all.

GHOSTS START TO JOKE/MESS AROUND FROM BEHIND THE  
PROTAGONIST.- HE GETS DISTRACTED AGAIN.

GIRLFRIEND:

What are you looking at? (Looks behind  
her) is there something in my hair?

PROTAGONIST

Nah- nothing, sorry- what's your 20 at  
SG

FLIP BACK TO REALITY

ELLIOT

What's your 20?

OLDER PROTAGONIST

It means what's-Zupppp. What is it with you guys and not getting your old dad's 70s lingo.

MARY

I more or less got that one but what is SG?

OLDER PROTAGONIST

The schools were, -and still are, i think,- split between a girls school - Sherborne girls- and a boys school- Sherborne school.

MARY

Is Lizzy you Mum?

MARY TURNS TO MUM WHO IS NOW IN AN ARMCHAIR.

MUM

I guess you'll have to wait and see.  
It's not looking great for your dad at this point though.

BACK TO 78.

LIZZY

Not much, Jen got her hands on Rolling Stones tickets for the summer. We are going to the US of A baby!

(MORE)

LIZZY (CONT'D)

And maths is horrendous, I know i want  
to be an Astro-physicist but this bit  
of the process sucks!

THE GHOSTS ARE NOW BEING RIDICULOUS- MAKING FUN OF KIT &  
LIZZY. HE FROWNS AT THEM AND IS CLEARLY OFFENDED.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

What is it Kit? I was really looking  
forward to seeing you this morning but  
you clearly have no interest having a  
confab with me-

PROTAGONIST

No- Lizzy you don't understand. I am  
seeing things.

HE TURNS DESPERATELY TO THE GHOSTS AND PLEADS THEM TO STOP.

LIZZY

You're doing it again. "Seeing things"  
you are pathetic Christopher.

SHE SHOVES HER ICE CREAM IN HIS FACE AND MARCHES OFF. HE IS  
STUNNED & CAN'T SPEAK FOR A MINUTE. HE IS CRESTFALLEN.

PROTAGONIST

Liz- !

SHE HAS CLEARLY GONE.

PROTAGONIST (CONT'D)

Real mature guys- thanks a lot.

CHEMISTRY IMMITATES PROTAGONIST:

CHEMISTRY GHOST

Hertz donut? (Hurts don't it.)

KIT IS FUMING

## PROTAGONIST

What does?

## GARGOYLE GHOST

Being pushed aside and ridiculed.

Being dumped By your sweetheart.

PROTAGONIST TURNS FROM ANGRY TO SAD. HE WIPES SOME ICE CREAM OFF HIS FACE AND EATS IT. ? CLOSE UP?

CUT

SCENE 5: MONTAGE BRIEFLY CONTINUES:

HE STOMPS, STILL COVERED IN ICE CREAM BACK THROUGH THE COURTS AGAIN. THROUGH THE COURTS. (FILM WITH SCENE 4: GIRLFRIEND SCENE.)

CUT TO LOOKING AT PICTURE OF HIMSELF AND LIZZY. HE CRUMPLES IT AND THROWS IT IN THE BIN. HE THEN LIES BACK AND TURNS OVER- SWIMMING IS LYING THERE WATCHING HIM. HE SHOUTS AND JUMPS UP AGAIN (FILM THIS SEQUENCE DURING SCENE 1)

## OLDER PROTAGONIST VO

I was heartbroken, lonely & exhausted.

Except I was never really isolated as  
the ghosts loomed around every corner.

HE TURNS OVER TO SEE THE GHOST AND YELLS OUT.

CUT.

This was a new low for me.

SCENE 6: OUTBURST IN A MID-WEEK HISTORY LESSON.

THE GHOSTS FOLLOW KIT DOWN CORRIDORS TO HIS LESSON. OLD FASHIONED DESKS.

TEACHER TALKS AT THE FRONT OF A CLASS WHILST PACING. ? HITTING WOODEN RULER ON HIS HAND?

THE GHOSTS ARE WHISPERING AND POINTING WHILST HE TRIES TO WORK. WE HAVE A SHOT FROM THE BACK WHERE WE CAN'T SEE THE GHOSTS WE CAN JUST SEE HIM STRUGGLING TO CONCENTRATE.

PROTAGONIST

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGGGGGRRRRRRH

RHRHHHHHHH- will you SHUT UP.

PROFESSOR STOPS PACING AND STARES AT KIT FIERCELY.

PROFESSOR:

What did you just say to me boy?

PROTAGONIST LOOKS AROUND THE CLASSROOM REALISING WHERE HE IS. HE JUMPS UP AND BOLTS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM.

MORTAL FRIENDS STAND UP- CONFUSED AND WORRIED AND RACE AFTER HIM.

SCENE 7: MORTAL FRIENDS CONFRONT KIT- WHAT IS GOING ON WITH HIM LATELY?

3X MORTAL FRIENDS FIND KIT SCRUNCHED, ROCKING IN A PROPER STATE OF OVERWHELM. HE JUMPS UP AND STARTS TO PACE- HE SEEMS MAD AND A BIT MANIC.

FRIEND TURNS TO HIM CAUTIOUSLY-

FRIEND 1:

What is it Kit?

PROTAGONIST

They are EVERYWHERE! When I shower,

have lunch, see Lizzy, when I am

TRYING TO WORK .

HE THROWS THIS LAST STATEMENT AT THE GHOSTS WHO APPEAR BEHIND THE FRIENDS/ TO THE SIDE/ HYSTERICALLY. MORTAL FRIENDS LOOK BEHIND THEM TO SEE NOTHING.

FRIEND 2:

Who are mate?

## PROTAGONIST

The ghosts of this stupid schools  
past. There's one half blown up in a  
lab coat

## POINTS AT CHEMISTRY WHO POINTS BACK

One who looks as though he has been  
squashed by something

POINTS AT GARGOYLE GHOST WHO CLICKS HIS HEELS AND LOOKS ON  
DISAPPROVINGLY/ NODS CURTLY AT KIT.

And one in some weird old swimming  
costume- he is covered in blood and  
feathers with this bloody starting  
horn!!!

POINTS AGGRESSIVELY/ MADLY AT SWIMMING WHO LOOKS MISCHIEVOUS  
AND WAVES THE HORN- THREATENING TO SOUND IT AGAIN.

## FRIEND 3:

I think you may need to go see the  
nurse Kit-?

ALL THREE MORTAL FRIENDS LOOK WORRIED AND CROWD AROUND AS KIT  
-CLUTCHING HIS HEAD- SLIDES DOWN THE WALL TO SITTING ON THE  
FLOOR- HUGGING HIS KNEES.

## FRIEND 1

You know what- we'll leave you to it  
mate. Feel better soon yeh?!

PROTAGONIST COVERS HIS FACE AND WE LEAVE HIM IN THE  
BACKGROUND. THE THREE FRIENDS TURN AWAY/ OUT OF EARSHOT FROM  
KIT AND TALK IN WHISPERED TONES-

## FRIEND 2

What is up with him?

FRIEND 3

I think the work load this year,  
breaking up with Lizzy And his injury  
last term has got to his head.

FRIEND 2

Yeh but seeing "ghosts"

FRIEND 1:

Kit's always been a bit of a weirdo-  
he'll snap out of it. More's to the  
point, what's he been smoking?

FRIEND 3

Lord knows mate- anyway I've got to  
dash, I've got geometry with old  
(teachers name) - we'd best keep an  
eye on Kit though!

FRIENDS 2 & 3 WALK OFF IMPERSONATING KIT- PRETENDING TO SEE  
GHOSTS AND LAUGHING.

FRIEND 1 TAKES ONE MORE BACK AT KIT- WHO IS IN SAME POSITION-  
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH HIM?

END SCENE.

SCENE 8: OUTSIDE THE DIGBY- THE GHOSTS OPEN UP ABOUT HOW THEY  
DIED AND THEY MAKE PEACE WITH THE PROTAGONIST. END OF PILOT.

SCENE OUTLINE: THE GHOSTS JOIN THE PROTAGONIST ONE BY ONE AND  
SIT IN SILENCE WITH HIM- THEY REALISE THAT THEY MAY HAVE  
TAKEN THEIR HAUNTING A LITTLE TOO FAR. THEY OPEN UP ABOUT HIW  
EACH OF THEM DIED IN THIS ORDER (GARGOYLE- SQUASHED BY  
GARGOYLE, CHEMISTRY WHO BLEW HIMSELF UP DURING A SCIENCE  
EXPERIMENT & FINALLY SWIMMING- PECKED TO DEATH BY SWANS. THEY  
THEN DECIDE TO HELP KIT GET THROUGH HIS LAST YEAR RATHER THAN  
CONTINUING TO ANNOY HIM AND IN RETURN HE WILL TEACH THEM  
ABOUT THE MODERN (1970S) WORLD. THEY SHAKE ON THIS.

WE THEN HAVE A PREVIEW TO THE NEXT EPISODE WHICH WILL NOT BE FILMED THOUGH- THESE WILL JUST BE SNIPPETS TO OUTLINE THE PILOT EPISODES OPEN ENDING TO THE REST OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

AND THEN TITLES/ GRAPHICS.

SCENE OPENS WITH CLOSEUPS AND SHOTS OF THE PROTAGONIST SITTING ALONE ON A WALL PLAYING WITH STONES CRESTFALLENLY. HE IS EXHAUSTED AND SICK OF THE GHOSTS MESSING WITH HIS LIFE.

ONE BY ONE THROUGH A MONTAGE THE GHOSTS JOIN THE PROTAGONIST ON THE WALL AND STARE AT HIM EXPECTANTLY:

PROTAGONIST

What?!- HOW can I help you? I am so tired. I can't work, sleep, eat, chat with my girlfriend... because of YOU

POINTS ACCUSINGLY AT THE GHOSTS (HE IS ON HIS FEET NOW?)

I surrender! I can't ignore you any more. There I've said it now-

SHOUTS UP TO THE SKY-

I acknowledge your existence

SHOT CHANGE TO BEHIND THE SHOULDER SHOT OF MORTAL FRIEND 1 WHO CAN SEE KIT SHOUTING AND POINTING BUT CANNOT SEE THE GHOSTS WHOM HE IS POINTING AT!

BACK TO THE GROUP. THREE SHOT OF GHOSTS CELEBRATING THEIR WIN.

SWIMMING

Whoop-whoop!

CHEMISTRY GHOST

You couldn't possibly have ignored us forever-

GARGOYLE GHOST

Yes jolly good show.

## CHEMISTRY GHOST

Truth is, we don't actually want anything from you. We are just excited because you can see us- you are the first mortal our age to see us for cennnturrrrrrrys!

## SWIMMING

Yeh we've only had that old codger ? Brown? For decades and decades.

## PROTAGONIST

What Corporal Brown From the CCF?

## MARY

CCF?

## OLDER PROTAGONIST VO

Combined Cadet Forces.

## GARGOYLE GHOST

Alas, he can see us too.

## SWIMMING

No wonder there though (impression of the teacher) "blown up here, blown up there" oi sir what happened to your leg- "was blown up by Hitler in the second of the great wars!"

CHEMISTRY LAUGHS HARD FALLING BACK WARDS OFF THE WALL.  
PROTAGONIST SMILES BUT QUICKLY GOES BACK TO SWIMMING.

## PROTAGONIST

Do you ever shut up?

GARGOYLE GHOST

I am truly sorry that Beamer last term  
hit you Christopher-

PROTAGONIST

-kit

GARGOYLE GHOST

(coughs) well, yes, but if it weren't  
for that ball hitting you in the head  
we would never have met you. And  
besides, did it not make you thankful  
for life?

PROTAGONIST

It did until you guys came along. But  
well, yeh, I suppose I am grateful to  
be alive and I am sorry I have been so  
thoughtless flaunting it around all of  
you. Will you tell me about your  
lives? How did you die if you don't  
mind me asking.

GARGOYLE GHOST

(Bristles) How dare you ask such a  
hurtful, intrusive, despicable-

CHEMISTRY GHOST

Come on gargy- you know you love to  
tell the story really.

PROTAGONIST

(smirks) ?Gargy?

GARGOYLE GHOST

Fine- I will relinquish my story on  
One condition- the two of you submit  
yours to Christopher-

PROTAGONIST

-kit

GARGOYLE GHOST

Kit- as well.

SWIMMING

I would be honoured to

CHEMISTRY SHRUGS AND NODS HIS HEAD.

SHOT COMES IN CLOSE TO GARGOYLES FACE AND THE SCREEN MORPHS  
BACK IN TIME TO THE DAY HE DIED IN 1862 ?BLACK AND WHITE?

GARGOYLE GHOST VOICE OVER AND  
78 PRESENT.

The day was Monday March 10th 1862- I  
was in the lower sixth form, making my  
way through the town towards School  
house which was brand new- build by  
William Slater the year before for the  
headmaster. I was tired and had a bad  
case of the morbs that morning which  
is ironic as a truly morbid accident  
loomed only seconds away.

When I look back at what happened I  
see how painfully avoidable the  
situation was however, I was so  
oblivious and naive...

## SWIMMING

Will you get to the point already?

## GARGOYLE GHOST

Do not interupt me! Anyway as I was saying- there I stood, opening the door to the house as the great fanged gargoyle about me started falling, falling faster and faster until it flattened me to my death- my arms and legs flailing beneath me-

SHOT GOES BACK TO 1978 WHERE GARGOYLE LOOKS DRAMATICALLY INTO THE DISTANCE- SWIMMING CUTS HIM OFF-

## SWIMMING

It was not 'fanged' or terrifying- it was an ostrich carrying a horseshoe

SHOT TO UNTHREATENING GARGOYLE OSTRICH STILL STANDING.

## GARGOYLE GHOST

Balderdash- you stand beneath it plummeting down to earth at a speed Newton himself would be shocked by- it may not have had 'fangs' but evil eyes it did!

## PROTAGONIST

LOOKS AMUSEDLY UP AT ONE OF THE GARGOYLES ABOVE WHERE THEY ARE SITTING TRYING NOT TO LAUGH!)

I am so sorry man, such a difficult, unexpected end.

## GARGOYLE GHOST

Well thank you Christopher for hearing my woeful tale. Although they are *far* less riveting and unique- you may now ask my fellow phantoms how they met their pity-full demises-

## SWIMMING

Well, I think we can all agree that flesh eating swans and suffocation are MUCH more thrilling but Chem- you go first so we can save the best till last.

CHEM TAKES OFF HIS BROKEN GLASSES AND ATTEMPTS TO WIPE THEM BEFORE PUTTING THEM BACK ON AND STARING INTO THE DISTANCE:

## CHEMISTRY GHOST

Well- my death is pretty self-explanatory but here we go-

## BACK IN TIME

## CHEMISTRY GHOST (CONT'D)

Back in April 1956, my name wasn't Chem, it was James and I lived in London. The smog was thick as pea soup at the time and I was just relieved to be out of that swirling, sickening environment-

## SWIMMING

Eurggghhh, *James*, we don't give a flying fig about your "town house" we just want the gory deets

## CHEMISTRY GHOST

Alright, I was just setting the scene like Gargy did but here goes-  
Chemistry and the sciences were not my strong suit at school. I was a student of fine art and I'm pretty sure it was the only thing I was good at.

## PROTAGONIST

Nah mate- you're cool

## CHEMISTRY GHOST

You really think so?

## SWIMMING

(groans)

BACK TO SCIENCE LAB-

## CHEMISTRY GHOST

It was break time and I had stayed behind to perfect various practical elements chemistry. I'm not sure what any of the chemicals were but I was fascinated by the colours of the solutions lying around the classroom!

(MORE)

## CHEMISTRY GHOST (CONT'D)

I remember- colour theory was important to me at the time and so I started mixing the liquids trying to create all The colours of the rainbow in one potion. Kit, I know you are an artist too but please don't follow in my foolish footsteps. Everything was fine, bubbling away until-

BACK TO 78- CHEM GESTICULATES & RECREATES THE EXPLOSTION.

BOOM! I was a gonner! The end

FLIP BACK TO CHEM NOW COVERED IN DEBRIS WITH CRAZY HAIR LYING ON THE FLOOR OF THE LAB STARING UP.

SWIMMING CUTS IN AND STARTS HIS STORY STRAIGHT AWAY-

## SWIMMING

My turn! My death day was September 28th 1915- I remember the date as the Battle of Loos had subsided and I had missed my chance to fight in it. Although I was seathing, the number of casualties on the Western Front had been *pretty intense* and so I had decided to join the navy instead of the army. There was one big problem though- I can't swim!

## PROTAGONIST

And you wanted to be in the navy?

## SWIMMING

Of course I see the issue now but I was young, naive and ready to serve my country- I wanted to fight within his majesty's Grand Fleet.

Not having been taught how to swim at a much younger age was something I blame my parents for. It was humiliating and inconvenient- I decided to take the matter into my own hands-

Thus- that terrible Tuesday morning, I snuck out of house early to teach myself to swim.

CUT BACK TO 2024- THE CHILDREN ARE REALLY INTO THE STORY NOW-

## MARY

Noooooo- Swimming was such an idiot!

## OLDER PROTAGONIST

Of course he was

OLDER PROTAGONIST SMILES- HIS CHILDREN ARE AS EXCITED AS HE WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF TELLING THEM THIS STORY! -

BACK TO 1915

## SWIMMING VOICE OVER

SWIMMING RUNNING ON SCREEN

I thought the pool was a bit too public- I am very proud you see and so I managed to get up to Sherborne Castle lake.

(MORE)

## SWIMMING VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

I was on a mission, hurtling up the  
hill like a wild thing.

## BACK TO 1978

I had nicked this trusty starter horn  
which was a superb idea at the time  
although looking back- I didn't have  
anyone with me to sound it!

HE SPINS IN IN THE AIR & WE TRANSITION BACK TO 1915 AND CLOSE  
UPS OF SWANS AND WILDLIFE AROUND THE LAKE FROM SWIMMING'S  
POV:

What I also didn't realise was that I  
was not alone that fateful morning.  
Carnivorous birds inhabited the lake.

## GARGOYLE GHOST

(cough) swans

## SWIMMING

(ignores Gargy). They were huge  
creatures with massive teeth- the  
murderous intent in their screeching  
and hissing still haunts me today

## CHEMISTRY GHOST

A good story is a quick one-

## SWIMMING

Anyway- the next bit is a bit graphic,  
upsetting and

## GARGOYLE GHOST

(coughs again) embarrassing

## CHEMISTRY GLOWERS AT GARGY-

## SWIMMING VOICE OVER

I was going to say traumatic- I slowly got into the water, to be honest I was actually a pretty good swimmer for a few seconds but overlooking the whole carnivorous bird thing was a howler on my part.

## ELLIOT VOICE OVER

They probably had signets! They will have been protecting their babies!

BACK TO 78

## SWIMMING

I don't want to go into the gory details but to summarise- a blend of underdeveloped swimming skills & becoming breakfast to those bally swans was a deathly combo! I was no more or NAPOO (french ascent) as the frogs would have said back then!

## PROTAGONIST

What a bummer dude- that story is off the hook though!

## GARGOYLE GHOST

And that concludes our tales and through that Beamer and your nemesis bowling you very nearly joined us!

PROTAGONIST

I suppose I did-

PROTAGONIST THINKS FOR A BEAT AND LOOKS INTO THE DISTANCE

THE ABBEY BELL RINGS

Shoot- sorry guys, I have supper in  
ten mins. Will you come with? I'd love  
to hear more about Sherborne back  
then- actually I have a massive favour  
to ask-

GARGOYLE GHOST

Go ahead dear chap-

PROTAGONIST

Well- rather than ruining the rest of  
my year, I vote you help me instead!?  
I need help passing my A levels and  
I'm sure you guys want to learn about  
modern life- have a man on the inside-

CHEMISTRY GHOST

Like a vole?

SWIMMING

A mole not a vole you idiot-

PROTAGONIST

Exactly- I will show you the new  
technology we use everyday, try foods  
on behalf of you and all sorts of  
other interesting things

ALL FOUR CHARACTERS START TO WALK AWAY FROM THE CAMER WHICH  
RISES ABOVE THEM-

SWIMMING VOICE OVER

What do you think boys?

THE GHOSTS STOP WALKING AND GATHER AROUND- WHISPERING OUT OF  
KIT'S EARSHOT.

GARGOYLE GHOST

It's a deal

GARGY PUTS HIS HAND OUT TO KIT WHO SHAKES IT- TRANSITION  
THROUGH CIRCLE AND END

END

PREVIEW FOR NEXT EPISODE:

SHOTS OF THE STORY OF THE NEXT EPISODE PLAYING OUT...

SHORT GRAPHICS.

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