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by

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1 A PHOTO OF A 10 YEAR OLD KRISH IN RED TRAINERS 1

KRISH (V.O.)
THE first time I remember seeing my
dad was when he turned up at my
house and bought me a pair of
Adidas high tops. I loved those
shoes.

2 EXT.PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY 2

A cacophony of children's voices in the school yard.

A tightly clenched child's fist, fills the screen. KRISH
(10), brown, tight afro, strides towards Ben (10), white,
black hair. We are still tight on Krish's fist as he reaches
Ben.

KRISH
What did you call me?

BEN
I wasn't...

Krish punches Ben. With the impact of the punch the focus
opens, to include Ben, reeling from the blow... as Ben turns
and runs away, we face Krish, his eyes full of tears.

The shot continues to widen...until eventually, all we have
in shot is Krish, alone in the middle of the playground...

3 INT. LAUNDROMAT - DAY 3

Krish's mother SUHAILA (35), caramel skinned, long braids, is
reading, whilst Krish walks down the laundromat gangway,
closing the machine doors as he goes. As each door slams
shut, we hear the sound of a jail door closing.

KRISH (V.O.)
The second time was in jail...
I idolised him. Even though he was
never there.

4 INT. KRISH'S MUMS HOUSE - BATHROOM - YEARS LATER - NIGHT 4

Krish looking in a mirror. Cheeks wet from crying.

KRISH (V.O.)
The older I got though, I realise
now, the more my dad's absence hurt
me. Within a year, I would be
without my mum too.

5 INT. Yael's HOUSE - KRISH'S BEDROOM - A YEAR LATER - DAY 5

Krish has moved to Liverpool to live with Yael (25), Krish's father's (who is now back in jail), girlfriend, olive skin, pretty, slightly rotund, hair in kanerows and Yael's baby, KALISHA (1), chocolate brown, cute, hair in kanerows.

Krish's bedroom is messy and dull. Krish is lying on his bed, looking up at the ceiling.

KRISH (V.O.)

I was fourteen when I found out I
was going to be a dad myself.

There's a knock at the door. Krish gets up to answer.

6 INT. Yael's HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 6

Krish opens the door to NIKKO (19), tall, pretty, short blonde hair.

KRISH

(a little apprehensive)
Hell-o.

NIKKO

(there's a hesitancy and
tenderness in her tone)
Hiya... you alright?

KRISH

I'm good, I think... You coming in?

NIKKO

Can we talk outside?

7 EXT. OUTSIDE Yael's HOUSE - DAY 7

KRISH

So what's going on?

Krish and Nikko's conversation continues in silence in the background.

KRISH (V.O.)

Of all the scenarios that went
through my head, did I have an STD?
Did she want to get back with me?
Her being pregnant was not one of
them... I still find that weird to
this day.

8 EXT. PARK - DAY

8

Yael and Krish are sitting on a park bench talking. Kalisha is in her buggy.

Yael

You can do this.

Krish continues to stare into the distance.

An errant football from a nearby footy game rolls towards Krish who gets up and, deciding against kicking it back into the fray, opts instead to dribble it into play, joining in the game.

9 EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

9

Krish is running at full pelt. Passing people, cars, noticing none of it, until exhausted, he arrives at a corner shop.

10 INT. CORNER SHOP - DAY

10

Krish walks over to the freezer and pulls out a blue 'Mr Freezee' ice pole.

ASIAN SHOPKEEPER

Krish! How's step mum and baby?

KRISH

(out of breath)

They're good.

ASIAN SHOPKEEPER

Dad?

(silence)

Krish shakes his head.

KRISH

Back...

TITLE OVER: OVER A YEAR LATER

11 INT. Yael's HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

11

Nikko is with her new born daughter JORDAN, light brown, little pointy ears.

Nikko and Yael fret about Krishna's reaction when he gets home.

NIKKO

We could have let him know we were coming.

Yael
 (gesturing towards the
 baby)
 He'll be fine - how could he not
 be?

Nikko
 A bit of a shock though...

Yael
 A good one.

Nikko
 (nervously)
 So am I just gonna hold her out and
 say "Hi!, Say hello to your
 daughter?!"

12 EXT. Yael's Road, Asbridge Street - At the same time 12

Krish, in his school uniform, walking home from school, beat
 boxing while he walks, in a world of his own.

13 EXT. Just outside Yael's front door - Day 13

Krish puts his key in the door and walks into the house.

14 INT. Yael's living room - Day 14

Nikko and Yael hear Krish putting the key in the door and
 ready themselves.

Yael
 Oh shit, he's here, bloody hell!

15 INT. Yael's house - Hallway - Day 15

Krish closes the door behind him.

Krish
 Hiya.

Yael (O.S.)
 Hiya!, We're in here.

16 INT. Yael's house - Living room - Day 16

Krish enters the living room, sees Nikko holding Jordan, then
 looks at Yael.

They both look at Krish.

Krish looks at the baby.

KRISH
 (whilst looking at the
 baby)
 What are you doing here?

NIKKO
 I thought you might want to meet
 your daughter.

Krish looks at Yael.

KRISH
 My daughter?

NIKKO
 Yes Krish, your daughter...

KRISH
 Oh yeah, ok.

(silence)

Yael touches Nikko gently on the shoulder, encouraging her to
 go to Krish with the baby.

Nikko moves towards Krish with Jordan.

Krish reaches out to hold the baby.

NIKKO
 Careful of her head.

KRISH
 (mumbles)
 I know how to do this.

Krish holds Jordan, looking passed Nikko to Yael, who stands
 holding Kalisha in her arms.

KRISH (V.O.)
 I remember looking at her and
 seeing her pointy little ears and
 knowing straight away that she was
 my daughter, because of those ears.

Krish stares into the distance, as he did in the park.

KRISH (V.O.)
 But I also remember just feeling
 so... trapped.

17 TITLE OVER: MANY MONTHS LATER 17

Montage of Krish raving and smoking (use real footage from Brainstorm etc) - should go on for a long enough while.

 KRISH (V.O.)
 The truth is, I ran... Again.

18 INT. NIKKO'S KITCHEN - DAY 18

Nikko, having just prepared a bottle of milk for the baby, puts it down on the counter to cool and immediately starts scrubbing the already clean counter top with a nearby sponge.

Mark comes in and sees what she's doing.

 MARK
 (putting a hand on hers
 to stop her scrubbing)
 You know you're doing a good job?

 NIKKO
 Am I... Sometimes I...

 MARK
 (his hands lightly on
 her shoulders)
 You're doing a good job.

Nikko looks past him, out of the window.

TITLE OVER: 7 YEARS LATER

19 INT. NIKKO'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON 19

Jordan, now 7, comes home from school crying.

 NIKKO
 What is it this time? Have those
 kids been saying stuff?

 JORDAN
 They said I'm moving up from
 Rainbows to Brownies, because I'm a
 brownie.

 NIKKO
 (finding it quite funny)
 Love, don't listen to them. It's
 got nothing to do with you being
 brown. You're seven now, that's why
 you're moving up to Brownies.

Jordan stomps off slamming the door and shouting as she goes.

JORDAN

What are you even on about? I'm not even brown.

20 INT. KRISH'S FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

20

21 year old Krish, sits smoking weed on his own. The living room is messy. The scene is interspersed with the scene where 13 year old Krish is looking in the mirror, crying.

KRISH (V.O.)

The older I got though, the more being absent from my daughters life hurt me. The harder it became to reconcile who I said I was and who I was being. The harder it became to deny that I was doing to my daughter, exactly what my father had done to me.

Krish lies down smoking and we can hear the melancholy music that he is smoking to.

21 INT. HEATHER'S FLAT - NIGHT

21

Krish and HEATHER (25) Krish's girlfriend, 5'4", short blond hair, striking, are talking on the futon sofa in Heather's bedroom. The room is uncluttered, neutral colours, an IKEA cloth wardrobe, a large low bed, white bedding and a large framed print from Cuba on the wall.

They sit facing each other, hand in hand, heads rested on the back of the sofa.

KRISH

She might not want to know me.

HEATHER

That's not your choice.

22 INT. KRISH'S FLAT - NIGHT

22

Krish's flat is a bit tidier. A +254 displays on Krish's mobile and he takes the call.

KRISH

Hey mum.

SUHAILA

Hi love, how lovely to hear your voice. How is everything?

KRISH

I think I'm going to contact Jordan
mum.

SUHAILA

Wow, ok. What's made you change
your mind?

KRISH

A few things. I think it's been
building up for a long time.

23 INT. KRISH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

23

Krish's bedroom is tidier than the last time we saw it.

Krish is writing a letter.

SUHAILA (V.O.)

Krish, I think its wonderful that
you want to reach out to Jordan.
But just remember if she accepts
you, it's for life, so make sure
you're ready for that.

24 INT. NIKKO'S HOUSE - LATER IN THE WEEK - DAY

24

Nikko picks up a letter from her doormat and opens it.

NIKKO

(shouting up to Mark)
Mark! Come down please.

25 INT. NIKKO'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

25

Jordan comes downstairs and there's an awkwardness in the
room. MARK (30), white, mid height, short hair, is avoiding
eye contact as he balances on the brick high fireplace
hearth, in his white Reebok classics. Nikko is just standing
there.

NIKKO

Your dad is black Jord, so when you
mix someone with black skin with
someone with white skin you get
someone, well, like you.

JORDAN

(looking at Mark)
That doesn't make sense.

NIKKO

He's not your dad.

JORDAN
 (eyes boring into Mark)
 Yes he is. What do you mean?

MARK
 Someone else is your dad. Its not
 me. That's why you have different
 skin.

JORDAN
 (almost laughing)
 Someone like who?

NIKKO
 You've never seen him.

JORDAN
 What do you mean, I've never seen
 him?... What are you on about???
 Why are you lying?...
 (now shouting)
 Why are you lying?... WHY??

MARK
 Jord, I...

Jordan glares at them both and storms off again, fists
 clenched, kicking her bag hard as she goes.

26 INT. JORDANS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Jordan's bedroom is tidy and colourful.

Jordan comes in and throws herself on the bed, burying her
 face in the pillows and after a short while, we hear a muted
 scream, as she releases her frustration into the pillow.

She sits up on her bed, pulling her knees up to her chest and
 starts to gently rock, before looking over at a picture on
 the wall of her, Nikko and Mark together. A tear escapes her
 eye.

27 INT. NIKKO'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

27

Mark and Nikko sit next to each other on the sofa. Mark gets
 up to go to Jordan, but Nikko puts a hand on his knee,
 gently, she closes her eyes and shakes her head.

They make and keep eye contact, until eventually, Mark sits
 back down next to Nikko.

28 INT. JORDAN'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT EVENING 28

Jordan is lying on her bed, completely still, looking at the letter on her dresser. After a long while, she springs into action, grabbing the letter and opening it. Her lips move as she reads silently...

29 TITLE OVER: MANY MONTHS LATER 29

30 INT. KRISH'S FLAT - HALLWAY - DAY 30

Krish picks up a letter from the floor and exhales, clearly nervous. It has some shiny Pokemon stickers on it. It's from Jordan.

31 INT. KRISH'S FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY 31

Krish's living room is uber tidy. He places the letter on the table, building up the courage... Then, quickly opens the letter.

Krish reads the letter from Jordan.

JORDAN (V.O.)

Hi, this is Jordan, your daughter.
Nice to meet you.
I Am glad that you decided to write
to me and I do want to get to know
you. I think we should take it
slowly at first though.
I have some questions for you:
Do you have dreadlocks?
What music do you like?
Who is your favourite artist?
What's your favourite colour?
What's your favourite food?
What's your job?
Have you ever played Pokemon?
Why did you leave me and mum?

32 INT. KRISH'S FLAT - DAY 32

Krish is talking with his cousin PETER (25), tall dude with a discerning smile.

KRISH

What if it all goes horribly wrong?
What if she doesn't like me?

PETER

Cuz, just you being there lets her
know who you are. Your job isn't to
be perfect, your job is to be you.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
That's enough. I'm so proud of you
for doing this cuzzy.

33 INT. IN THE CAR - A WEEK LATER - DAY 33

Krish, looking smart and well groomed and his mate IAN (27), slim, white, long hair, are sitting in a slightly run down, cream leather interior, old green SAAB. Krish is staring into the distance - saying nothing, fists clenched lightly on the steering wheel. Ian touches Krish's fist. Krish looks at him and slowly nods and gets out of the car.

34 EXT. OUTSIDE JORDAN'S GRANDPARENT'S HOUSE 34

Krish and Ian stand outside Jordans grandparents house.

KRISH
I feel sick.

IAN
They're lovely.
C'mon, let's do this.

They walk up to the front door.

35 INT. JORDANS GRANDPARENTS HOUSE - DAY 35

Jordan, JORDANS GRANDAD (55), white, wearing dungarees and a welcoming smile, JORDAN'S GRANDMOTHER (60), white, slightly wrinkly, friendly face and shoulder length hair, Jordan's mother, Nikko, now 30 and JORDAN AUNTY LISA (28), white brown hair in a bob, are in the living room.

The living room is immaculate and spacious. Jordan is wearing her favourite, electric blue tracksuit. General chit chat.

There is a knock at the door.

JORDAN'S GRANDAD
We have lift off!

36 INT. JORDANS GRANDPARENTS HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 36

Jordan grandad opens the door to Ian and Krish.

JORDAN'S GRANDAD
Krishna I presume. Lovely to
finally meet you!
Ian, good to see you again, sir!
Come in, the two of ya'.

Jordan's grandad walks Ian and Krish through the hallway into the living room where everyone is waiting. Krish pauses to dust off his trouser leg and take a breath before entering.

37

INT. JORDAN'S GRANDPARENTS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

37

Jordan's grandad enter the living room followed by Ian and Krish.

JORDAN'S GRANDAD
Our very special guest has arrived!

Krish looks around nervously as he enters the room.

KRISH
(acknowledging Nikko)
Hey Nikko...

JORDAN'S GRANDAD
This is granny Jane and this is
aunty Lisa.

Krish shakes hands politely.

JORDAN'S GRANDAD (CONT'D)
(gesturing proudly to
Jordan)
And this one needs no introduction!

Jordan, still seated with her knees pulled up to her chest with both arms, flashes an open hand to say "hi".

JORDAN
Nice to meet ya.

Krish takes a moment and looks at Jordan.
(pause)

KRISH
Nice to meet you too.

(silence)

Jordan and Nikko briefly make eye contact.

JORDAN'S GRANDAD
(to Ian and Krish)
Sit anywhere you like.

Krish and Ian take spare seats in the room.

KRISH
(to Nikko)
No Mark?

Nikko shoot's Krishna an 'abort!, abort! Look.

Ian and Krish make brief eye contact. Ian's look, light heartedly lamenting Krish's opening gambit.

(silence)

IAN

So Jord... how ya doin?

JORDAN

(still hugging her knees
to her chest)

I'm alright.

JORDAN'S GRANDMUM

How was the journey up?

IAN

We drove up yesterday y'know, so,
no issues at all.

LISA

(looking at Krish,
shaking her head in
disbelief)

You just loo the spit!

Krish and Jordan look at each other awkwardly. Jordan shrugs with an 'I guess so' kind of smile.

(silence)

Jordan lets her knees drop, so she's in a sitting position, rubbing her hands down her thighs. Saying nothing, but now in a more open body position...

(silence)

Krish, his fists tightly clenched, takes a deep breath and exhales, glancing around...

Nikko passes him and lightly touches his fist and smiles. He unrolls his fist.

IAN

(to Jordan)

Do you still write poems Jord?
That's something you and Krish
share in common, he likes to write.

JORDAN

(taking her cue)

Oh, you like to write?

KRISH
 (taking his que)
I like to write...
What about you, what do you like to
write? I could tell from your
letter that you're a really good
writer.

Jordan hangs her head and smiles.

The family smiles...

The conversation carries on in the background.

FADE OUT:

38 PICTURE SLIDESHOW OF JORDAN AND KRISH OVER THE YEARS, 38
 FINISHING WITH THE PICTURE OF KRISH IN HIS RED TRAINERS.

END

39 TITLE OVER PICTURE OF ISHA, JORDAN AND KAYNE: 39
 DEDICATED TO MY LITTLE BROTHER ISHA, 1976 - 2015.