

SLAG

by Scott Herford

7th October 2010
© Scott Herford, MAY 2004
NSW 2024, AUSTRALIA
e: scott@skreenrz.com

EXT - SHORT BEACH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The afternoon sun shines over the rooftops of Short Beach High School. The concrete grounds are empty.

INT - HALLWAY

The corridors of the school are also deserted. There are PHOTOCOPIES plastered over one wall, but we cannot make them out from this angle.

EXT - MAIN QUADRANGLE

The school looks like a ghost town till a school bell rings and all hell breaks loose.

INT - HALLWAY

MANY YOUNGER STUDENTS pile out of classes throwing papers and tripping each other up as they race down the corridor. These scenes are shot so that we do not directly see any of the children's faces.

EXT - MAIN QUADRANGLE

STUDENTS of various ages stampede across the main quadrangle.

Three senior boys TIGER, OLLY and DENHOLM (all 17) are standing around a locker area on an outdoor walkway on the first floor. They are talking among themselves, but we do not see their faces either. Another senior, BRENDON STAMMER (17) arrives and pushes through the others. His is the first face we clearly see. The other boys turn to nudge and joke with him. Brendon reaches his locker and opens it up. Clearly written on the inside of the locker door in the style of a graffiti tag is "SKOT FRI PICTURES." Brendon closes the locker and keeps joking with his friends. A few JUNIOR BOYS AND GIRLS try to cut through these seniors' turf and the seniors tease and push them back, before allowing them through.

A crane shot pulls away from the locker area to reveal the building's brick wall exterior. As we track down the wall we see a sign that reads "NO BALL GAMES ALLOWED". Beside the sign is a large spray painted graffiti that reads "WHITE HOT PRODUCTIONS." As we pan down further we see two middle school boys REUBEN and ZIGGY (both 15) finishing off the graffiti with a spray can each. Another middle school boy, G.B (14) stands against the wall holding a box full of spray cans. A tennis ball narrowly misses his head as it bounces off the wall. Two more

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS move into shot as they play handball against the wall. The camera tilts to the concrete below to reveal another title clearly written in chalk in the style of a hopscotch game.

The camera tilts back up as two attractive female prefects arrive, SANDY (17), who is wielding her clipboard like a weapon and OLIVIA (17) who looks very annoyed. Reuben and Ziggy bolt, but Olivia grabs G.B by the scruff of the neck. Brendon arrives with a knowing look towards Olivia and takes G.B away with him as two other seniors Tiger and Denholm run past laughing at G.B.

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - FLASHBACK

We see a school GIRL's legs walk down an empty hallway. This is DENISE DIXON (17), but we do not see her face. A few pieces of A4 paper have fallen face down on the floor as she walks.

EXT - SCHOOL FENCE - DAY

DENHOLM, TIGER and MANY OTHER STUDENTS jump over the school gates in succession. Another KID tags a sign on the gate with a felt tip pen before running off.

Plastered on a telegraph pole near the fence are two posters. One is a photocopied "NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GRAFFITI TASKFORCE MEETING" (WITH A "RESISTANCE FIST" ON IT), while the other looks like a street poster, but features another "PRODUCTION CREDIT". The hand of a KID IN HOOD begins spray-painting over both.

MORE KIDS jump over the fence. One girl ERICA AZZI (15) is caught jumping over the fence by Brendon. They both head back into the school. Across the street OTHER KIDS run off laughing.

Across the road is a sign that says "WELCOME TO SHORT-BEACH", but someone has grafittied SHIT over SHORT so that it reads, "WELCOME TO SHIT-BEACH." The kid in hood finishes spray painting the posters on the pole. We see another photocopy that reads "DO YOU HAVE EVIDENCE?" Below this is a notice about a local scout hall that was vandalized and burnt down. HEATHER (18) and SAM (18) prepare to jump over the gate. The kid in hood skates over to the gate on his skateboard and helps Heather over the fence. He grabs Heather's wrist as she jumps down and pulls off his hood to reveal he is SIMON ELLIOTT (17) He kisses Heather on the lips and they head off in the direction of the beach.

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - FLASHBACK

We continue to track with DENISE DIXON'S legs as she walks down the corridor. She stops and turns towards a side wall which is covered in several black and white photocopies. The tracking shot slowly turns with her as she moves towards the wall covered in photocopies.

EXT - SCHOOL QUADRANGLE TO DETENTION AREA - DAY

We head back over the school quadrangle through a stream of kids' legs, gradually lowering down to foot level. In an outdoor hallway we see several kids scraping chewing gum off desks. This is the detention area. We move through a row of students to find a sweaty G.B. He looks up at a wall clock, wipes his brow and exchanges looks with another punished student ERICA, who is cleaning a desk next to him. A shift in focus reveals BRENDON watching closely as he stands nearby. The kids on detention are all working hard except SKANKY BOY (15) who drops his scraper and makes a break for it. Another pull focus + movement reveals other prefects OLIVIA, OLLY and SANDY, walking down the corridor as Skanky Boy runs past. Further down the hall is school principal PAMELA STAMMER, who has stopped for a moment to admire one of her portraits. She doesn't appear to be watching, but as Skanky Boy runs past she grabs him in a skillful wrist lock and throws him against a row of lockers.

MS STAMMER

Going somewhere?

SKANKY BOY

Nowhere Miss.

Ms Stammer releases her grip and Skanky Boy trudges back to detention as Sandy, Olivia and Olly walk past.

Back at the detention area we hear the chiming of an arriving text message. As Erica checks her phone Brendon leans over to confiscate it. On Erica's desk is a love heart graffiti with the lead actors names inside. As we pull in closer Erica's hand rubs a cloth covered in turps over it and the graffiti disappears. We pan to another desk and see three more names of the supporting actors in another love heart. These are also rubbed out by another STUDENT.

EXT - SHORT BEACH TOWN - DAY

The streets of Short Beach town are urban yet lined with palm trees. TIGER and DENHOLM walk down the street to a

GROUP OF TEENS who are hanging out on the street corner eating hot chips. Denholm steals a hot chip from one of the kids, eats it and keeps walking. The kids follow them through the town centre. They pass a group of tidy SMALLER SCHOOL KIDS and keep walking. A SKATER KID skates by and pops an impressive kick flip. One of the BOYS in the group following Tiger and Denholm grabs a shopping trolley from outside a grocery store. Another GIRL steals a piece of fruit and jumps into the trolley as the boy pushes her down the footpath like a queen.

A SHOP-KEEPER steps back in slight fear of the group and shakes sand from a door matt into the gutter in front of his shop.

The group passes a Milk Bar where several school students including a prefect, SANDY, are drinking milkshakes. They notice the others but do not acknowledge them.

The group crosses the road and passes a traffic-light control box that has been heavily tagged and GRAFFITI-ED. TIGER steals another chip from one of the kids throws it into the air, a SEAGULL snatches the snack and the scene ends on an empty blue sky.

EXT - ABOVE SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH - DAY

From the same CLEAR BLUE SKY we pull down to show SCHOOL GIRLS arriving at a grassy patch near the beach. A Holden panel van has pulled up nearby and a few SURFER BOYS, led by a SURFER GIRL walk by with their surfboards to the beach.

EXT - ANGLE ON PEAK OF ABOVE SHORT BEACH - DAY

The SCHOOL GIRLS reach the peak of Upper Short Beach and kick off very short school skirts and blouses to reveal they are all wearing bikinis. A heavily vandalized sign that says; "KEEP SHORT BEACH BEAUTIFUL," is surrounded by piles of garbage bags and other trash. We rise up to reveal the beach as the girls slip down the bush track. On the beach we can see numerous high school kids sun-baking and kicking about in the water.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH - DAY

On the water we see YOUNG MALE and FEMALE SURFERS cutting up the waves. Others including TIGER and SIMON are body surfing. Nearby on a sand dune HOT ROD looks out towards the water. He takes off his school shirt to reveal a tattoo of a red and yellow hot rod.

We see a close up of a girl's foot taking off a school shoe and slipping on a knee high boot in the sand. As we pull out we see EMO BOYS and GIRLS pass a bottle of vodka among each another as each of them takes a swig.

We cut to another close-up of a GIRL eating an ice-cream that is melting down her hand as she stares out over the beach.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH - DAY

A group of YOUNGER GIRLS are sitting on the sand in their school uniforms reading a notebook and giggling. One of the girls applies lip gloss to her lips and as we close in on the lip gloss container we see another "PRODUCTION CREDIT" written on the side.

SENIOR GUYS are waxing up surfboards and putting on sun-oil, others are walking around looking buff. We close in on one of the surf boards and see another "Production Credit" in the shape and style of a surfboard logo.

EXT - KIDS' BEACH LOWER STEPS- DAY

BRENDON, OLLY and OLIVIA walk down the steps as they finish taking off their school clothes. Olivia is wearing a short one-piece swimsuit and beach skirt in her signature orange and red colours. She has a prominent tattoo on her right shoulder. She's carrying her school uniform in her hand and shoves it into Brendon's school bag. Brendon hi-fives a COUPLE OF GUYS as they pass and takes off towards the water. MORE KIDS cheer and hi-five him as he runs. Olivia walks straight to her POWER POSSE GIRLS who are made up to the nines: VIOLET "V" LOUIS (has a tattoo of an angry butterfly near her belly button and SENNA ALLEN (17), has several piercings on her face. They are sitting on their beach towels with a middle-school GIRL, LINDA CHILD (15), who is unpacking sun-spray and other beach gear from her bag.

EXT - BINOCULAR VIEW KIDS' BEACH - DAY

We see the beach from a distance through a pair of binoculars. A group of girls are playing with a ball in the water and we pan back to see V, SENNA, OLIVIA and LINDA fixing their beach outfits.

REUBEN (O.S.)

Would yah hit that?

We cut to see REUBEN and ZIGGY hiding behind a bush. Reuben is looking through the binoculars as Ziggy flicks through a

porno magazine.

ZIGGY

Would you hit that!?

REUBEN

I have hit that.

Reuben and Ziggy are rarely seen without a large satchel containing a sizable stockpile of pornographic magazines (their mobile shop). G.B appears exhausted wearing a french legionnaires' cap and panting heavily. Reuben is aware of his presence, but continues looking through the binoculars.

REUBEN

How did you go soldier?

G.B

It's all set.

Reuben continues to stare intently down the binoculars. We cut back to his POV and see a group of girls lying about in the sun. One girl has undone her bikini as another is about to apply sunscreen. As she squirts some sun screen on her back the girl jumps up screaming. Apparently G.B has planted pepper spray in the sun cream. The girl runs to the beach topless and Rueben stares on. We cut back to the boys as Reuben finally lowers the binoculars.

REUBEN

Top marks G.B. You've earned yourself five minutes.

Ziggy hands G.B a fresh porno mag from their collection and G.B eagerly flicks through the pages.

INT - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - FLASHBACK

We continue tracking into the wall of photocopies as Denise's legs stand still in front of them. As we get closer Denise walks out of shot. We can slowly make out the images on the photocopies which are all the same; a busty naked woman from the chest up. The breasts of the girl in the photocopies have a graffiti tattoo written over them and the girls face has been obscured by the word SLAG.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

G.B. puts down the porno momentarily and his large eyes cast out towards a deserted part of the beach. G.B. looks away, but it's too late. Reuben has seen what G.B. was

looking at and picks up the binoculars to double check. From Reuben's POV we see a GIRL lying alone in the sand, but can't make out her features. Reuben knows exactly who it is.

REUBEN (CONT'D)

Hey, G.B. yah girlfriend's back!

G.B. looks embarrassed and turns away. Ziggy frantically grabs the binoculars to see for himself. From Ziggy's POV we see the same girl lying in the sand, but again can't make out any facial features. Ziggy lowers the binoculars.

ZIGGY (MIMING BOOBS)

Bigger and better than ever!

G.B.

Get off.

Another 8th grade boy, SKANKY BOY, crawls up and forks out \$10 to Reuben. Ziggy extracts a magazine, puts it in a brown paper bag and hands it to him like a seasoned professional.

INT - IN THE SURF - DAY

Splashing in the water, SIMON nudges BRENDON to bring his attention to the GIRL sunbaking alone. Brendon smirks then acts serious as he swims over to Denholm. Denholm has already seen her. He starts mimicking having sex whilst holding a firm staring grin at Brendon as he gyrates. Brendon cracks up and returns a knowing smile and also rocks back and forth.

EXT - CAR SCRAP YARD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

We see a close up of an old rusted car frame rocking back and forth. Within the car emanates the sound of two people having sex.

INT - CAR - CAR SCRAP YARD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A FULL MOON is visible and partially silhouettes a GIRL'S face and body. It is Denise Dixon with long hair. A MAN whose face we do not see, is having sex with her rather forcefully and she does not appear to be enjoying it.

EXT - CAR SCRAP YARD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A wider shot reveals the car containing DENISE and the MAN has no wheels and is badly vandalized with smashed in windows. It rocks precariously amid the sprawling scrap

yard. Denise lets out a scream from within the car.

DENISE
Get out.

The car stops moving.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH SHORE - DAY

BRENDON chats with DENHOLM, SIMON, OLLY and TIGER at the shoreline as they stare at DENISE.

BRENDON
It was Denise Dixon all right,
going it slag style.

DENHOLM (INTERUPTS)
Every player. Every position.

BRENDON
Who's telling this?

All the boys fall silent.

DENHOLM
You didn't even believe me until
you found out it was true.

Brendon looks towards Denise Dixon's hand scratching her legs as she sun bakes.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

Reuben & Ziggy keep going on G.B.

REUBEN (TO G.B.)
You gonna ask her out this time?

G.B.
I don't want her!

EXT - KIDS' BEACH LOWER STEPS- DAY

Heather Chick enters the beach from the path and kids are patting her on the back.

We pull to ANOTHER EMO KID in the foreground who smiles as they turn to complete a SMS message on their phone.

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA is standing up looking over to the long grass and Denise. She sits back down with her Power Posse; SENNA, V

and LINDA. Olivia has an orange/red towel that matches her bikini. V has a hot pink towel, bikini and lips and Senna is sporting a blue theme with her bikini and towel. Linda, has much less makeup than the other girls and sits on a kids' bunny towel. She is clearly letting the team down, but the Power Posse tolerate her. Olivia turns back to the others after a quick peek over to Denise off screen.

SENNA

You didn't think she'd be back.

Senna looks in Denise's direction and then back to Olivia.

V

And a boob job?

OLIVIA

You kidding? You don't just wipe off...

V & SENNA

A tattoo.

The girls all giggle.

INT. - SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - FLASH BACK

We are still tracking in on the wall covered in photocopies of the naked girl with slag written across her face and a tag graffittied over her breasts. The shot finishes on a close up of one of the photocopies.

EXT. - SEA SHORE - CONTINUED

DENHOLM walks down the beach and grabs a SPRAY CAN from his bag on the sand.

DENHOLM

Wait until you check this out man.

Behind him are following, BRENDON, TIGER, SIMON and OLLY. Denholm continues up the beach.

BRENDON

How much'd you pay for that?

DENHOLM

It's worth it. So everyone in the community can know.

Brendon is not entirely impressed with the spray can.

BRENDON

You know those things are banned
till I say so.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B are still infatuated with Denise.
Ziggy is staring down the binoculars as Reuben and G.B
watch on. We see a brief shot of DENISE in the sand from
Ziggy's POV.

ZIGGY
They're a lot bigger.

G.B.
No they're not.

REUBEN
We know fake titties dude.

REUBEN
Built a career around 'em.

ZIGGY
And she's got 'em.

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA continues talking to her Power Posse, V, SENNA and
LINDA.

OLIVIA
She doesn't only draw it like any
normal person. She gets his tag
fully tattooed right on her tits.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN continues chatting with ZIGGY and G.B

REUBEN
Everyone knows she'd been seeing
this graffiti artist -

ZIGGY
Tagger.

REUBEN
Whatever. And Denise knows the big
deal for this dickhead is getting
his graffiti tag put everywhere.

ZIGGY

'Specially real hard to get to places.

REUBEN

So she gets every letter of it done man!

ZIGGY

In black ink across her breasts.

G.B

That is bullshit!

EXT - STREET OUTSIDE CAR SCRAP YARD - DAY

BRENDON, DENHOLM, TIGER, OLLY and SIMON walk up to a large fence surrounding a car scrap yard. The fence is made of metal roofing and is bordered with barbed wire. Denholm takes the spray can and in large letters writes "DENISE DIXON IS A SLAG FROM HELL" He giggles as he steps back to admire his handy work. The other guys all give him high fives as they head back to the beach .

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B. are still chatting in the sand dunes.

REUBEN

Then she takes a photo. And this thing shows everything okay. Then she whacks that fleshy li'l surprise in the mail.

ZIGGY

With some card or note or some shit... And she waits.

REUBEN

For him to call her back.

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA, V, SENNA and LINDA are still chatting and looking over at DENISE. It appears Olivia is getting irritated by the situation.

OLIVIA

Now, she thinks she can just turn up like nothing ever happened.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B are still chatting among the sand dunes.

G.B.

Never?

REUBEN

Nada.

EXT. NEAR SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

BRENDON talks to SIMON, TIGER, OLLY and DENHOLM as they walk over to OLIVIA and the POWER POSSE.

BRENDON

Can't wait till she sees it.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B are still chatting among the sand dunes.

REUBEN

True story man, about a month later, Ziggy's bro got a message on his phone from this dude.

Ziggy pulls out his mobile and clicks open a photo. It's the same photo from the photocopies on the wall on the hall without the alterations and features a topless DENISE with a tattoo of graffiti over her breasts. Reuben and G.B. land on the sand below. Ziggy hands the phone to G.B who is gob smacked.

REUBEN

Recognise the girl? Recognise the titties?

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

BRENDON, TIGER, DENHOLM, SIMON and OLLY arrive at OLIVIA and the POWER POSSE GIRLS. Linda looks away from Denise, surprised that she is so affected by her return. Brendon moves in to kiss Olivia but stops short.

BRENDON

So who bet me 50 bucks that she was gone forever?

Olivia is further irritated. Brendon squeezes on to her

towel.

BRENDON
Okay, you can owe me.

Olivia turns away from Brendon to stare straight at Denise.

OLIVIA
She's got problems Bern, stay away from her.

BRENDON (MIMICS)
"Stay away from her."

Denholm holds back a chuckle and Olivia looks back at Brendon.

OLIVIA
God she's dirty.

BRENDON
Buy her a make-over then.

Denholm grins to Brendon who smirks back.

OLIVIA
You think I'm joking?

BRENDON
Forget about her.

OLIVIA
I have.

With this Olivia stands up, pushes past Brendon and Denholm and heads for Denise.

EXT. - BEACH STEPS ENTRANCE - DAY

SMSing KID looks up from his phone.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B notice something is afoot and Reuben lifts the binoculars to his eyes. From his POV we see OLIVIA march over to DENISE who is still sun baking.

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

BRENDON, TIGER, OLLY, DENHOLM, SIMON and the POWER POSSE are all fixed on OLIVIA who is now not far from DENISE.

EXT. - BEACH ROCKS - DAY

Emo girls turn to notice.

EXT. - LONG GRASS - BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA approaches DENISE, who is still staring vacantly at the sky.

OLIVIA

Slut!

Denise looks up at her but says nothing.

OLIVIA

Think we didn't notice 'Graffiti
Tits'?

We cut back to everyone's various perspectives.

EXT - SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH DUNES - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B stare stunned.

REUBEN

Gold.

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

BRENDON, THE BOYS and the POWER POSSE are somewhat surprised by Olivia's outburst. DENHOLM starts to laugh till OLIVIA shoots him "The Mean Reds" and he stops.

EXT. - LONG GRASS - BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA leans in to DENISE, pushes up her own breasts to emphasize her point.

OLIVIA

Stop bugging us. Leave us alone.

Olivia kicks sand in Denise's face and she does her best not to react. Denise simply packs up her things as Olivia walks back to her group.

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

Brendon is stone faced, silent. Denholm is subtly impressed. The POWER POSSE are still shocked, but V giggles as OLIVIA walks back over releasing a victory smile.

EXT - SCHOOL QUADRANGLE - DAY - FLASH BACK

As YOUNGER DENISE walks out of the school corridor into the main quadrangle we slowly move up from her legs to her body and finally to her face and we realise this is the old Denise. She looks different with long shining gold hair. Mascara is subtly running from her eyes as tears run down her cheeks. She tries to pull herself together as she walks through the quadrangle.

EXT. SHORT BEACH KIDS' BEACH - STEPS - DAY

DENISE has her school uniform back on and is walking past staring eyes on the beach with her shoes in her hand. As she walks up the steps an UNKNOWN STUDENT calls out.

UNKNOWN STUDENT

Yo Denise! We got fresh meat for ya!

Denise feigns a smile and continues up the stairs.

EXT - OCEAN BATHS - DAWN - FLASHBACK

The scene starts with some beautiful shots of a swimmer doing laps on an ocean pool. From below the ocean we start to recognise a YOUNGER BRENDON swimming gracefully through the water. A shot tracks beside him, half submerged in the water. The shots of Brendon are soothing, given the tension of the previous scenes. We see a close up of YOUNGER DENISE with long golden hair smiling into a camera phone and pouting as she applies GOLD lipstick. Dawn sun shines in the background as she takes a photo of herself, she's a picture of teen-punk-chic. She turns to see Brendon climb out of the pool. He is much dorkier looking with braces on his teeth and an uncool haircut.

DENISE

Keep swimming!

Brendon is surprised to see Denise and walks over to her.

BRENDON

Dixon, what are you doing here?

EXT - STREET OUTSIDE CAR SCRAP YARD - DAY

DENISE walks from a grassy footpath onto the road as she passes a car scrap yard. On the fence is a sign reading "SHORT BEACH SCRAP YARD 555-9911." The road is so hot that it stings and Denise does not notice the graffiti Denholm wrote earlier on the fence. She quickly moves to the

gutter on the other side of the road where she puts her school shoes on. As she stands up she turns to clearly see the graffiti painted earlier, "DENISE DIXON IS A SLAG FROM HELL." It physically shocks her, but she tries to pull herself together and continues walking down the road.

INT. DENISE'S HOUSE - DAY

Denise arrives home. She runs into the house and up the stairs. She is visibly upset. Her mum GAIL, 40's emerges from the lower floor and calls to her.

GAIL
Denise. Denise?

Denise does not respond.

GAIL
How was school?

She is answered with the sound of a slamming door.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Denise falls backwards onto her single bed. She pulls the pillow under head and wraps it around her ears, holding it tight trying to block out any sound. She rolls into a foetal position and her eyes well up with tears. She begins humming a simple tune to herself.

We see an old photo of Denise, Linda and Olivia at the beach stuck on her wall, although Olivia's head has been scratched out. Denise falls silent as she goes to sleep.

EXT. SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA, V, SENNA and LINDA are still talking at the beach, but the boys are no longer there.

OLIVIA (TO SENNA)
You should know where it all began.

LINDA (TO OLIVIA)
I thought you wanted to 'forget about her'?

Olivia ignores this.

EXT - KID'S BEACH - DAY - FLASHBACK

A group of girls sit together at the beach. In the group we recognize a YOUNGER OLIVIA, YOUNGER V, who is not as cool and has no tattoos, and a longhaired, happier YOUNGER

DENISE.

PRESENT DAY OLIVIA (O.S.)

Don't you want Senna to know the truth?

PRESENT DAY LINDA (O.S.)

From you?

V (TO DENISE)

How many cute boys in our grade have you kissed?

DENISE

Depends how you define cute.

V (TO OLIVIA)

My point is people we know are kissing people we know. So who knows how many people we have inadvertently snogged?

Olivia acts like she didn't hear that.

OLIVIA

I can't believe you kissed him.

DENISE

He's alright.

Olivia squirms at this.

DENISE

I don't expect you to 'get him'. Brendon doesn't fit in - coz he's gonna be too big for Short Beach.

V

Aww.

OLIVIA (TO DENISE)

He's just like every other guy.

DENISE

How would you know?

OLIVIA

Cause I was with him the same night as you.

DENISE

Why? You knew I liked him.

OLIVIA

I knew he liked you, but you never let on that the feeling was mutual.

DENISE

How could you, you're my best friend.

Denise runs away from the group, shocked at Olivia's revelation.

BEACH - STEPS TO ROAD - DAY - FLASHBACK

DENISE walks up the stairs to the road crying. She turns back to Olivia and something changes in her eye. She has vengeance on her mind, not for Olivia, but for Brendon.

EXT - BEACH ROAD - DAY - FLASHBACK

A PROMOTIONAL 4WD radio station Vehicle is stopped at the top of the stairs leading down to the beach and we can hear the station blaring out of two speakers mounted to the roof.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Don't forget Tod Turner is personally taking the VIP wagon out to Short Beach as we speak. Drop in to say G'Day to the legend in the flesh and you could also score yourself a copy of this month's New Idea.

As the above radio broadcast is made, the charismatic TOD TURNER (35) opens the door of the 4WD with a bunch of New Ideas. He is surprised that no one is there to meet him. DENISE walks towards him with a look of extreme confidence on her face. Tod smiles, thinking that at least someone has turned up to see him. Denise walks straight up to Tod and pashes him on the lips.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

And there it is, a slag is born!

EXT - SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA, V, SENNA and LINDA are still chatting on the beach.

V

Oh yeah.

Senna seems mystified by this story.

INT - TOD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

YOUNGER DENISE enters a swanky apartment in a long sleeved 70's dress. The apartment has been decked out for a party with a 70's theme and is full of retro gear and lava lamps. Around the room there are plenty of OLDER GUYS and GIRLS getting drunk and stoned. An Aussie hit from the 70's being covered by a modern female Aussie artist blares out from the stereo. Denise finds her way to TOD TURNER who is talking to TWO FEMALES. When he spots Denise he runs over to her and gives her a kiss. He takes her by the hand and leads her to his bedroom. Denise is unsure about entering the bedroom and breaks free from Tod's grip for a moment. She then enters.

OLIVIA (V.O)

That night she gives him the performance of a lifetime.

EXT. SECLUDED PART OF BEACH - DAY

OLIVIA, V, SENNA and LINDA are still chatting on the beach. Senna is still dumbstruck by the rumour. Linda steps in to silence Olivia and jolts Senna back to the group.

LINDA

That's not right! We don't know that!

OLIVIA

You don't! You were a little kid with a 6 o'clock curfew back then!

LINDA

It was 10 o'clock and I'm the only one she actually told about what happened back then!

OLIVIA

And you remember telling me she slept with him. In every possible way.

LINDA

Yeah, but -

OLIVIA

You didn't even know she'd had so much dick she was pregnant.

LINDA

She wasn't!

OLIVIA

Was too! I've heard you telling it!

LINDA (UNEASY)

Uh um.

OLIVIA

How else do you explain the abortion?

LINDA

What abortion?!!

V

The first one!

OLIVIA

Brendon was devastated.

Linda gets up and picks up her school bag as a group of OTHER GIRLS walk by.

LINDA

Why don't you tell Senna you lied, when you told Denise you'd been with Brendon?

OLIVIA

Why don't you blow me bitch face?

This gets smirks and giggles from V and Senna as well as the other girls walking by. Olivia returns her attention to V and Senna as Linda walks off the beach.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

BRENDON, TIGER, OLLY, DENHOLM and SIMON are walking down the beach. Denholm is telling another story about Denise.

DENHOLM

Cause it's about this time she meets up with Fast Eddie Berber.

BRENDON

I love this story.

EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

DENISE runs out of a house wearing undies and a small t-

shirt.

DENHOLM (V.O)
Eddie is straight out of boy's town
and looking for trouble.

Denise sees a man 35-40, EDDIE BERBER breaking into a car. He motions for her to join him. She looks back to the house then jumps in the car with him. They kiss while Eddie hot wires the car and they burn off.

DENHOLM (V.O)
They start going out.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Denise picks up her mobile phone and starts talking. We cannot hear the conversation.

DENHOLM (V.O)
Then one day she gets a phone call
from some other guy. Said he'd got
her number off a friend.

Brendon (V.O)
Which is just the way any slag
likes it.

EXT. BEACH SHORE - DAY

BRENDON, TIGER, OLLY, DENHOLM and SIMON are still walking down the beach as Denholm continues telling the story.

DENHOLM
So she's got both of these guys
now. But that's not good enough.
She's gotta dump Eddie. Only thing
is, Eddie just doesn't get it.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - DAY

DENISE is sitting up in her bed talking on the phone to Eddie.

DENISE
Look Eddie, it's over. Don't call
me.

Denise puts the receiver down. She leans back to reveal that she is in bed with a new man. This is RORY BLACKMAN (30). Denise notices something out their window.

DENISE

Eddie?

Standing out in the garden is Eddie.

EXT. BEACH SHORE - DAY

BRENDON, TIGER, OLLY, DENHOLM and SIMON are still walking down the beach as Denholm continues telling the story.

DENHOLM

You heard this before?

OLLY (Sarcastic)

Nah.

DENHOLM

You got Eddie outside now and he's standing in the front garden like some little lost puppy.

EXT. DENISE'S HOUSE - GARDEN - NIGHT

DENISE walks out the front door of her house to confront EDDIE. Eddie is clutching a video camera.

DENISE

Eddie, what are you doing here?

EDDIE

I got this for you.

Eddie extends the gift to her.

DENISE

Eddie? You swiped it.

EDDIE

For you.

Rory exits the front door of Denise's house annoyed.

RORY

What's going on?

Denise tries to stop them.

DENISE

Go back inside Rory.

RORY

We're on mate!

DENISE

Rory, you don't understand.

EDDIE
You don't return my calls. And
I've been calling.

RORY walks up and stands in front of him.

RORY
Well maybe you should stop calling?
Go inside Denise.

Rory shoves Eddie.

DENISE
RORY!

Rory punches Eddie. Eddie tries to defend himself but goes down. Denise tries to nurse him as Rory lays in.

DENISE
RORY STOP!

RORY stops, confused.

RORY
I SAID GET INSIDE BABE!

Denise blocks Rory.

DENISE
Rory stop! He's my uncle.

INT. BOYS CHANGE ROOM — OCEAN BATHS — DAY

BRENDON, TIGER, OLLY, DENHOLM and SIMON are now entering the boys change room at the swimming baths. OTHER BOYS are already there, including, REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B. Denholm continues telling the story.

DENHOLM & TIGER
H-E-'S M-Y U-N-C-L-E!!!

The guys laugh and boo at this.

DENHOLM
Ask me how I know!!

Denholm points to Tiger.

DENHOLM
We got a second cousin right here!

TIGER

Heard it for real at a christening.

Olly is struck by this story and remains silent as he processes it.

OLLY

Are you really a second cousin.

TIGER

True Story.

Brendon speaks loud enough for everybody in the change rooms to hear.

BRENDON

We came here to swim, not listen to you talk about your sweetheart! You guys ever wonder why he's always talking about the Slag?

DENHOLM

Well what are you talking about?

This gets laughs. Brendon waits a BEAT.

BRENDON

Why don't you tell everyone how stoked you were when you slept with her?

Random groans. Ziggy watches Denholm in disbelief.

BRENDON

Tell 'em the way you told me!
About all those hand-jobs she gave you!

Ziggy is extremely annoyed.

ZIGGY

That's it! I'm telling Mum.

DENHOLM

Don't be an ass! He's just going for laughs.

BRENDON

And you...PAID...HER...FOR...IT.

More sounds of disgust. Ziggy comes in to hit Denholm, but is held back by Reuben.

ZIGGY (TO DENHOLM)
 YOU DIRTY BARSTARD! You're bringin'
 home freaking...

ZIGGY & REUBEN
 Cooties!

The group crowds around laughing and jeering. Ziggy breaks free and heads straight for Denholm. Brendon nonchalantly trips Ziggy up. He falls hard on the floor below Denholm. Brendon has disappeared.

DENHOLM
 That's right. Laugh it up.

Reuben takes a mobile phone from his magazine satchel and speed dials Ziggy and Denholm's home. He throws the phone to Ziggy on the floor. Denholm is as quick with his arm around Ziggy's neck as they both grab the phone.

DENHOLM
 If you mention one word of this to
 Mum...

Denholm finesses the phone.

ZIGGY
 No you're sick! She's sick and
 just thinking about it makes me
 wanna be sick!

A middle aged man, Phys. Ed teacher, COACH MURRAY (38) enters.

COACH
 Ladies and Ladies! Two Minutes.

The boys start heading out of the change room. Denholm is left sitting alone. Brendon helps him up.

BRENDON
 Mum's the word.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHANGE ROOMS - OCEAN BATHS - DAY

Brendon exits the change rooms to see the OTHER BOYS, including, TIGER, OLLY, SIMON, G.B, REUBEN and ZIGGY in a line formation. They part for him. He walks through to see a LINDA looking straight him.

LINDA
 We need to talk.

Brendon is silent. DENHOLM walks out of the change rooms and sees Brendon talking to LINDA. Linda indicates to Brendon that they need to talk in private.

LINDA

Please?

Denholm pushes through the line of boys towards them.

BRENDON

Alright, talk.

LINDA

Not here.

Brendon follow Linda away from the group. Denholm comments to the other boys.

DENHOLM

He's a sex machine!

Brendon turns back to Denholm, he looks like he's going to rebut but says nothing. Linda tugs on Brendon's towel.

EXT. PONTOON – OCEAN BATHS – DAY

The coach blows a starting whistle and a row of BOYS dive into the ocean and begin a swimming race.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHANGE ROOMS – OCEAN BATHS – DAY

BRENDON is talking with LINDA beside the changer rooms.

BRENDON

So what do you want?

Linda looks at him in disbelief that he doesn't know why she wants to talk with him.

LINDA

Be an idiot then, see if I care.

Brendon is silent.

BRENDON

I have to go train.

Linda is silent.

EXT. PONTOON – OCEAN BATHS – DAY

DENHOLM stands on the pontoon staring at the far off BRENDON and LINDA. SIMON stands with COACH MURRAY

watching the ST. QUENTINS BOYS assembling down the other end of the pontoon.

OLLY

What the hell are they doing here?

COACH MURRAY

Renovations to the St. Quentin's complex.

OLLY

Bastards.

Nearby, a group of SHORT BEACH HIGH SCHOOL SWIMERS sit on the pontoon. ZIGGY, REUBEN (still wearing satchel) and G.B. are also there, quite close to REUBEN

REUBEN

She'll cure your virginity and you don't have to pay her.

Reuben turns to Denholm.

REUBEN

Right?

Denholm continues staring at Brendon and Linda: Linda is appealing to Brendon, who seems resistant. She steps up to him and whispers something in his ear.

DENHOLM

She advertises her mobile number inside toilet cubicles mate... You don't go there.

ZIGGY

Apparently you do.

Denholm walks towards Brendon and Linda.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHANGE ROOMS — OCEAN BATHS — DAY

DENHOLM yells at BRENDON as he gets closer to him and LINDA.

DENHOLM

You coming buddy?

BRENDON

Won't be a sec.

LINDA

Bye.

Linda runs out as Denholm walks in and nudges Brendon.
COACH MURRAY sounds a horn and OLLY runs up to them.

OLLY
C'mon St. Steroids are here!

EXT. OCEAN BATHS — PONTOON — DAY

A relay race is in the final leg and BRENDON prepares to dive off the pontoon. Standing next to him are DENHOLM and TIGER who have already finished their leg. Beside them are four other teams of four from Short Beach and four from St. Quentins. SIMON is swimming as hard as he can, but is well back in the field as he hits the wall of the pontoon. Brendon dives in impressively and moves very swiftly through the water. He eventually passes all the other swimmers and finishes comfortably in first position. There is a loud cheer from Simon, Denholm and Tiger and a mild cheer from other SHORT BEACH KIDS standing nearby. REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B are sitting at the finishing line with a stopwatch and clipboard. ZIGGY is also checking over his merchandise.

DENHOLM (BREATHLESS)
The scientific reason is because her body produces an overload of Androstenedione and her brain does a horn-alert.

Brendon gets out of the water.

BRENDON (TO ZIGGY)
He oughta know.

DENHOLM (TO BRENDON)
Do you mind, mate?

Coach Murray pulls Reuben up and in the background of we can see him yelling something Reuben and confiscates his current load of stock. Murray walks casually to the handrails on the edge of the pontoon. Reuben hurries back to his position.

BRENDON (TO DENHOLM)
Why don't you fuck her again and get it out of your system?

DENHOLM
Why don't you?

Coach Murray is still in the background leaned back casually on the handrails reading a porno with a keen interest.

BRENDON
Coz I don't sleep with slags in general. It's insanitary.

DENHOLM
Doesn't stop your Dad.

This comment stops every member of the swim team cold. Looks of fear abound. Brendon looks back, unmoved, silent.

BRENDON
Can you back up those sentiments in her office tomorrow? Expect a suspension. Mate.

Brendon exits.

DENHOLM
Come on!

EXT. BEACH - SUNSET

Brendon sits on graffit-ed over cement steps as he looks out on the water. Denholm arrives.

DENHOLM (TIMIDLY)
You've gotta expect some flack from me when your mother's the principal.

BRENDON (SERIOUS)
You better watch yourself. She'll expel you again. You want that?

Brendon SMIRKS. Denholm gets he's been had and throws him a can of beer which Brendon starts drinking.

DENHOLM
You're a freaking nutter!

Brendon grins.

BRENDON
I can make her do it man.

DENHOLM
You probably did the first time. You wanna know what your problem

is?

BRENDON

No.

DENHOLM

You got too much power. How many guys do you know that have year 10 chicks chasing them around the pool?

He lights a joint and offers it to Brendon who rejects it.

DENHOLM

You screwing her too?

BRENDON

She came over to tell me that you're full of shite.

DENHOLM

Huh?

BRENDON

She's screwed up man. Talking about Denise. Telling me we didn't know what she's been through.

DENHOLM

You're just as bad.

BRENDON

No. I'm brilliant.

DENHOLM

What'd she say?

Brendon says nothing. He smiles to himself and drinks.

EXT. CHANGE ROOMS - FLASHBACK FROM SCENE__ - DAY

Linda steps up to Brendon. She interrupts him by whispering into his ear. (USE LINE GUIDE TRACK FOR SLO-MO SYNC EFFECT.)

LINDA

I know you care. She needs you.

Brendon is momentarily stunned and impacted.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK

DENHOLM

What'd she tell you?

BEAT.

BRENDON

She had a go at me and you, that's all.

DENHOLM

Yeah well what does she know?

BRENDON

That's what I said.

They drink and smoke some more.

DENHOLM (TO SELF)

God she's a bitch.

BRENDON

Linda?

DENHOLM

Denise.

BRENDON

How far did you actually go with Denise?

DENHOLM

You obsessed?

BRENDON

You are!

DENHOLM

She'll suck for a light. She'll fuck for a ride.

BRENDON

I reckon you still want her though.

DENHOLM

So how regularly are you administering Olivia with the hot beef injection?

Brendon is shocked by Denholm's question and beer spills out the side of his mouth.

DENHOLM

That much hey?

EXT. SHORT BEACH TOWN - NIGHT

Denise walks through the town in the night, she wears a hood. She glances at a neon lit shop window. Far across the street two boys in black hoods (Reuben and Ziggy) throw a brick through a window of a local Newsagency they stand back almost startled when we hear it connect with the glass. They look to each other a moment before they run towards the damage. Suddenly BOYS startle Denise as they drive by in a car.

BOYS
\$5, \$5 suckie suckie!!

INT. OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brendon is on top of Olivia kissing her neck as they roll around her bed.

BRENDON

Can we?

Olivia says nothing, smiles and puts a finger to Brendon's lips to silence him. She plays coy and they play around a little more. By this point Brendon's shirt is falling off. He throws it over his JERSEY plastered with head boy/swim captain accolades. Brendon bites open her blouse. Olivia smiles for a moment then proceeds to take control. Almost like a black belt she flips him over and gets on top pinning his arms down under her knees. Brendon closes his eyes in anticipation.

BRENDON

I thought we'd never do it.
I thought you were just frigid

Olivia delivers a MIGHTY SMACK to Brendon's face.

BRENDON

Hey, what the -

OLIVIA

I'm not sleeping with you Brendon.

BRENDON

I'm not interested in 'sleeping'...
Oh, I get it.

He wriggles out of her grasp, grabs her and kisses her.

OLIVIA

Don't touch me Brendon.

He keeps trying and gets an even harder kiss in, she then kneels him in the groin. He doubles over in pain.

BRENDON

You bitch!

OLIVIA

You can't control everything. When I tell you 'NO' it means 'No'.

He's silently fuming, he's cowered over, his eyes are welling up with tears of pain.

BRENDON

Why are we still together?

Brendon is silent. He gets up and moves into her space.

OLIVIA

Because... We're together.

BRENDON

Do you love me?

OLIVIA

I'm not sleeping with you!

BRENDON

I don't give a fuck about that. Do you love me?

OLIVIA

Yeah.

Brendon looks deep into her eyes. He's uncertain at first but soon smiles. He kisses her again. She responds warmly for about 4 seconds. As he reaches for her bra clip she stops him cold.

BRENDON

We've done it before. Don't tell me you didn't enjoy it.

Brendon has backed down now and Olivia is calmly in charge again.

OLIVIA

What's gotten into you?

BRENDON

This isn't a relationship. You don't do anything.

Olivia appears deeply hurt by this comment.

BRENDON

Sorry. I don't have to always be in charge. It's just Linda got me edgy today and -

OLIVIA (INTERUPTS)

What are you talking about?

BRENDON

Nothing.

OLIVIA

What's she been telling you?

He says nothing. She's silent a BEAT.

OLIVIA

I need a little time that's all Bern.

He's heard this all before. He starts putting shoes on.

OLIVIA

Brendon please, I promise we'll do it again.

He's not stopping. She gets angry.

OLIVIA

You begged! You begged me to be with you, when no one else would. And I could've had anyone.

INT/EXT. OLIVIA'S BEDROOM/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

She watches him leave out her front yard.

OLIVIA

Brendon, that's not what I meant!
Brendon!

EXT - SHORT BEACH TOWN - NIGHT

Brendon walks down the road and stops for a moment. In the background of an otherwise desolate street corner Rueben and Ziggy are catching their breath from running out of the local newsagency with mouths covered in chocolate. Their hands full of lollies, cash and a stack of new pornographic magazines.

A police siren is heard from far off. They scamper off

into the night as Brendon kneels down feels something at his back. He reaches back, pulling out his missing sock.

Walking across the street he sees SOMEONE spray painting further down the road. His initial instinct is to lay down his own brand of school captain's discipline, he raises his hand to tell them to stop but something makes him stop.

He realises he is hidden in the shadows. It is Denise spraying out the huge DENISE IS A SLAG FROM HELL graffiti. She senses a presence, stops what she's doing and drops the can as she runs off. Now alone, Brendon walks over to the graffiti that now says: D__I__E SLAG FROM HELL.

EXT. OCEAN BATH - DREAM - DAY

Brendon is in a race against 3 St. Quentin's boys. He breaks away from the pack to start leading.

EXT. OCEAN - DREAM - DAY

He stops and looks around bewildered. He's alone treading water in the middle of a vast empty ocean. He looks down into the deep water and notices SOMETHING DEEP BELOW reflecting light.

EXT. OCEAN UNDER WATER - DREAM - DAY

Brendon dives down. He sees long haired Denise still dressed in school uniform laying unconscious on the sea bottom. Brendon swims straight down. He tries to pull the unconscious Denise up to surface.

EXT. OCEAN - DREAM - DAY

He gasps for air as he pulls her up to surface. He gives her mouth-to-mouth in the middle of the ocean. She starts coughing. She's surprised and disappointed to see him.

DENISE (DAMNING)

You?!

INT - ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

SONG PLAYS - Brendon wakes up with a start in a English class. He looks around to see Denise sitting diagonally in front of him and a MALE TEACHER, MR. CHRIS writing furiously on the board about Shakespeare's play Othello.

Denise sits alone, slightly away from the rest of the class. A stack of papers is being passed around the room. Denholm sits a few seats to Denise's left and daintily

tosses the last of the stack of papers to her (as if she is contagious). Brendon inconspicuously leans over to Denise.

BRENDON (WHISPERS)

Denise.

She looks away. Denholm pretends to be dying from a disease. A girl puts up her hand for the teacher. She stands up to answer the teacher's question, Mr, Chris seems partly satisfied with her answer but not quite.

Brendon writes something down on a scrap of his exercise book. Denise makes eye contact with Denholm a BEAT. Brendon looks again for his opening. She turns back to see Brendon's note on her desk. She stares at it for a moment before reading.

"D - Can we talk after school pls (qualifiers)? Remembr the tech room? :) - B." Brendon looks back at her anxiously as she ignores him.

EXT - SHORT BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

Reuben, Ziggy and G.B. are still in the playground out during class time selling their wares. They've found a customer and waste no time.

We travel around another corner we steadicam over to see Olivia, V and Senna looking at tattoo/fashion magazines. Emo girls M&M are smoking. The power posse whole heartedly approve when Olivia confiscates the M&M's cigarettes and then proceeds to distribute them amongst the Exclusives (power posse) and lights up.

INT - ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Denholm sends an SMS message to Tiger on the other end of the classroom. Mr. Chris is feverishly banging his chalk against the word "jealousy" which is central in a blackboard drawn up around the play Othello.

Olivia, V and Senna roll into class like they own the place. Mr. Chris is shocked, not to mention a few students including Brendon. Sandy tries to ignore her and looks to her notes. Some students smirk as Mr. Chris sets to explode while others cower in fear. Neither V, Senna nor Olivia appear phased.

Tiger opens Denholm's SMS message that reads "DO IT!" He hasn't read it as he's transfixed by the power posse's latest move. Even Hot Rod and Heather Chick are stunned.

Before them on the desk is a manila folder with a class roll (their names are not marked off.) Mr. Chris prepares to issue them all with some sort of punishment. Before he gets very far, V leans in towards him suggestively so he can easily see her cleavage. He is interrupted by this display and Olivia and Senna catch Mr. Chris looking inappropriately at V. (If only for a second.) A moment later Olivia is looking back disapprovingly, V teases by acting innocent then smirking, Senna is already ticking off their names on the roll as having attended the class. A calling card reading "Exclusives - Senna" lands next to the ticked off role. Nearby two other cards reading, "Exclusives - Olivia" and "Exclusives - V" are already dropped nearby.

Mr. Chris is speechless as they stroll towards their desks. As they do, Tiger looks down at the phone in his hands and the message. He brings his fist to his mouth and coughs the word.

TIGER
Slag.

Some of the class giggle and Denise closes her eyes momentarily, not to react. A moment later the period bell rings out and students start piling out. Mr. Chris is still gathering himself.

MR. CHRIS
Now I need your assignments on
Tuesday people, I'm not kidding!

The whole class (including Denise) starts pushing out the door as another enters. SONG ENDS Brendon chases Denise.

BRENDON
Denise?

She turns to shake her head in the word 'no'. OLIVIA tries to see what is going on but she is pushed away by throngs of students.

BRENDON
Gimme a second chance Denise.

Denise sees that Senna and others can see and hear him say that. She dismisses this. Brendon has not backed down.

DENISE
No.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Reuben (sporting satchel/shop) follows Denise as she walks out of another class. He slaps her on the back.

REUBEN
How's it going Denise?

Denise tries to push past him, he sticks to her.

REUBEN
Bad time of the month?

Denise is about to walk away. She sees Ziggy standing a few meters away with OTHER YR 9 DWEEBS all laughing at Reuben's crack. Denise knows about Reuben's satchel and with her free hand deftly lifts the satchel and spills his porno's everywhere. Dweebs and others laugh. Reuben is furious as he picks up magazines in the busy corridor.

REUBEN
Bitch...

Reuben silences as Mr Chris walks straight over to Denise. He leans against the wall as he talks to her. She smiles, he pulls out some notes and gives them to her. As they talk the boys watch.

Denise gets going quickly. She has a note stuck on her back:

"SLAG SEX: CHEAP"

Ziggy and G.B. are watching nearby:

ZIGGY (TO G.B.)
She can't make it any clearer than that.

Reuben is now with Ziggy, G.B. and others.

G.B.
She's not interested.

REUBEN
So you'd like her to be?

G.B.
No!

REUBEN (SNIFFING)
I smell denial.

ZIGGY
He's a sick man. Sick with lurve!

EXT. INT. ANOTHER SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Denise walks quickly with brendon's note in hand. She approaches V and Senna standing in a group with Olivia, but they turn away to ignore her. Denise sees Linda down the other end of the hall. Linda is talking to TWO SENIOR BOYS; TIGER and Simon. As she walks past Linda pulls the note off Denise's back and hands it to her. Denise is unimpressed but grabs it and sticks it back on her back.

INT. TECH ROOM - DAY

Denise enters the room cautiously and finds her self momentarily alone. She tries to tidy herself up a bit, sheds a tear or two and checks her back again for notes. Denise looks up to find herself face to face with Olivia.

OLIVIA

Scared?

Denise goes to leave, Olivia blocks her.

INT. SCHOOL HALL WAY - DAY

Brendon bounds up the stairs. On the hallway wall he stops at the end of a row of school photos: All sports victories. At the end of the row is a photo of the school swimming team holding the state finals cup up with pride. He looks at the plaque that reads - SHORT BEACH SWIM SQUAD, STATE FINAL VICTORY 1981.

Pamela Stammer appears out of nowhere. Brendon hides his surprise.

PAMELA

We're all watching you, Brendon.

She starts neatening down his hair.

BRENDON

Mum!

PAMELA

I've asked you not to call me that here, haven't I?

Period bell rings. Kids walk by Brendon and Ms. Stammer, people smirk at Brendon being cleaned up by his mother, a kid pats him on the back.

PAMELA

Don't embarrass me Brendon.

BEAT

You know how much this victory
means to the school..

Pamela points to the GO SWIM TEAM banner and then back to herself. Brendon looks up at the swim team banner and down, but his mother is gone. He walks off alone down an empty corridor.

EXT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

Brendon gets changed from sport. He checks his watch and quickly throws on a shirt. He pulls his phone out of his school bag. He has a text message from Olivia. He turns off the phone without reading the message.

INT. TECH-ROOM - CONTINUED

OLIVIA

Why do you love fucking me up?

Ignoring this, Denise goes to leave again. Olivia pushes her back in a corner and continues.

OLIVIA

We used to be best friends?

DENISE

You hate me. You all do.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Brendon runs to the tech-room. He can't bring himself to pass two year 8 girls fighting over a glittery headband. Brendon steps in to settle the fight. He accidentally breaks the band, then acting as though on purpose gives each girl a piece before running off.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUED

Denise is still cornered by Olivia

OLIVIA

You've been bitter and jealous of
me for years.

DENISE

Believe whatever you want.

OLIVIA

It's not what I wanted.

BEAT

Denise, you don't know what I've
been through.

Denise is extremely annoyed and tries to push past Olivia
by shoving her back. Olivia responds with a harder shove.
Denise calmly deflects it. Olivia appeals to Denise.

OLIVIA
Can't we go back?

Denise is not moved by this.

OLIVIA
To like we were?

Olivia leans in and kisses Denise hard. Denise flinches
quickly pulls her self together, holds fast and doesn't
move.

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUED

Brendon runs down the stairs leading to the Tech Room.

INT. TECH ROOM - CONTINUED

Olivia moves in closer, Denise is in control. Denise
pulls away and holds Olivia over with dawning awareness.

DENISE (WHISPERS)
You don't...want me.

Denise lets go of Olivia. Olivia quickly moves in again
to kiss Denise even more passionately. Denise starts to
struggle and her blouse buttons get ripped. Brendon's
footsteps approach. Suddenly BRENDON ENTERS and stops
dead in his tracks.

BRENDON
Olivia? What's going on?

Olivia is revealed standing alone.

BRENDON
Where's D-

OLIVIA
Denise? Told me to meet you here.

From behind an incinerator door Denise crouches
disheveled. She can hear muffled voices from behind the
door.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

If you must know, she told Linda to tell me.

BRENDON (O.S.)
They'd never - they HATE you.

Denise laughs to herself. Olivia distracts him by kissing him. Denise opens the door a little to see Brendon push out of Olivia's arms.

BRENDON
Why are you here?

OLIVIA
Can I help if I felt sorry for the slurry?

Brendon turns to leave. Olivia pulls him back. She pulls his hand under her skirt. Denise carefully enters. Olivia's fingers stroke his face and move down his chest before he pulls back. Denise is now standing behind them. Olivia picks up that Denise is there and moves close to Brendon again holding his eye line.

OLIVIA
Why can't you get that I care? I only want things to be perfect.

Olivia wraps her arms around him, climbs up on him. Denise peers from behind the door can only see Olivia's legs wrapping around Brendon's.

OLIVIA
You are so much to me, even when no one else felt the same way.
Haven't I always told you that's because you're gonna be bigger than Short Beach.

BRENDON
I know but...

OLIVIA
No one 'gets you' like me.

Denise is flabbergasted at Olivia hijacking her own words from two years before. Olivia kisses Brendon who resists her.

OLIVIA (WHISPERS)
Let's go.

The sound of Olivia undoing Brendon's fly as the fire door swings shut on Denise's secret storm out. Denise slams her palms against the brick wall. She kicks and kicks. INSIDE, Brendon pushes Olivia off.

BRENDON

No.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DUSK

A small service door in the side of the building opens and a dirty looking Denise steps out. She leans against the wall, shuts her eyes and breaths. She sees Linda on the far side of the grounds, walking and flirting with a GROUP OF BOYS. Denise walks quickly to Linda, grabs her by the arm and leads her away. The boys start to heckle Denise. Denise leads Linda a short distance from the pack.

LINDA

Ow, let go of me!

Denise spins Linda around, looks her in the eye. Linda pulls away.

DENISE

What do you think you're doing?

Denise persists.

LINDA (INTERUPTS)

You're not the boss of me.

... I'm not a kid anymore.

Denise realizes she has soot all over her face.

LINDA

You called me stupid.

DENISE (APPEALS)

I meant me!

LINDA

Don't!

Linda starts walking off.

DENISE

You've always done exactly what you wanted to do, because you only used what I told to you to stab me in the back with Olivia.

Linda returns as she returns fire.

LINDA

Why'd you even tell me if it wasn't true?!!!

DENISE

You weren't there!

LINDA

I've been trying to make Olivia stop.

BEAT

And I told Brendon. I did!

DENISE (SARCASTIC)

Yeah.

Linda is visibly upset. A car pulls up with TEENAGE GUYS FROM ST QUENTIN'S inside.

LINDA

I fucking did!

As the car revs up Denise still looks at Linda through the window like she's lying. Linda looks away from Denise's piercing stare and runs over to kiss a St Quentin's BOY at the wheel. She looks back, Denise is unmoved, Linda is feeling rattled, but jumps in the car and it drives off.

INT. DENISE'S HOUSE - EVENING

The sound of a key in the lock is heard. Denise pushes the front door open, she steps inside and drops her school bag on the floor. She stops still for a moment and looks around the house. It is eerily silent. Nearby is the home telephone and answering machine. The answer machine flashes with NINE NEW MESSAGES. Denise considers this as she pushes the button.

BRENDON (ON MACHINE)

Hey Denise, same number! It's Brendon.

Denise erases the message.

OLIVIA (ON MACHINE)

Denise, hi. I was just wondering what you're doing tonight? We (need to talk)

Denise erases the message. A new message begins.

OLIVIA

Me again. I just tried Brendon -
he's busy tonight - Call me.

Denise erases. A new message begins.

OLIVIA
It's 6 o'clock -Erase. I got
confused. I need to talk.

Denise slaps down the erase button, she heads for the
kitchen.

INT. REFRIGERATOR - DENISE'S KITCHEN

Denise reaches in for supplies. Olivia's next message
continues clear in the background.

OLIVIA
Is your family away again? I'm
coming over coz this is crazy.

BEEP. Denise freezes in shock. She quickly downs a little
handy white wine from the bottle as there is a loud
knocking at the door. She throws the bottle of wine back
in it's place. She rushes past the machine as:

LINDA (message)
Denise, I...

Denise automatically erases this. She picks up the
machine, trying to get Linda's message back. The knocking
gets louder. She goes to the door and opens it
regardless.

DENISE
Dad?!

A middle aged MAN (dad) falls in with many bags.

PHIL
Sorry Princess. These things weigh
a tonne.

The phone rings again. Denise goes to the phone as it
switches to message after one ring. Phil drops his bags.

PHIL
Surprise!

Denise picks up the phone and pulls out the telephone
cable.

LINDA (PUTTING DOWN MESSAGE)

Denise!

Phil speaks from behind her.

PHIL
What's going on?

INT. LINDA'S BEDROOM

Linda is at home with a dead tone on the line.

INT. DENISE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

PHIL
Don't I get a kiss hello anymore?

Denise stares at him in shock. He puts his arms out.

PHIL
Come on! Before Mum barges in and
kills our ambiance.

Denise does a mocking guffaw at him before falling into father's arms. Phil turns the hug into a little dance where Denise dances on his feet a routine they look like they've been doing for years.

PHIL
You're looking good... Mon Cheri.

Phil lifts Denise off his feet and stops dancing.

PHIL(cont.)
Now, go get cleaned up. Mum and I
have some big news.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Silence over the dinner table. Denise is aware of Mum watching her eat.

PHIL
This is nice, what is it?.

GAIL
Take away.

PHIL
Denise, since you've been having a
bad time of it -

Gail gives him a look that says "not now".

PHIL (to Denise)
Denise, I met up with Barry,
Simon's Dad in the Qantas club, he
was telling me about a girl at your
school whose sleeping with
everyone, even the teachers.

GAIL
Phil?! We don't want to hear you
talking about some slut from
Denise's school.

DENISE
I'm fine now.
(TO MUM)
If you could leave me alone.

GAIL (To Denise)
I don't deserve that Denise.

DENISE
I don't deserve YOU.

BEAT
You come into my bedroom while I'm
away and rearrange my things. Ever
heard of privacy?
(TO PHIL)
She's treating me like a baby!

GAIL
You don't clean up.

DENISE
Yeah!

PHIL
Denise she only cares about you
sweetheart.

BEAT
I know it's been difficult and
that's why -

DENISE
You don't know anything!

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Denise lies on her bed, staring up at the ceiling. After
a moment she rolls onto her side and opens up her bedside
table drawer. She pulls a pile of photos out of it and

begins to flip through them. She starts to hum quietly. The first photo in the group is an old photo of Denise with her parents. She is very young in the photo and her long hair is in pig-tails. Denise touches the images of herself. The rest of the photo is more of picture of Denise having fun at the beach with Olivia & Linda. She puts them away.

As she puts them away she notices a photo that isn't in the stack. It is an old picture of Denise and Brendon. Brendon looks very different.

His hair is longer he's dressed like a rebel and they both have cheeky smiles on their faces like they've done something bad. Denise drops the photos, turns onto her side and falls asleep.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Denise stands in front of a huge wall of lockers. She opens her locker and a SMALL NOTE falls to the floor. She bends and picks it up. It reads:

Denise - what happened yesterday?? PLS MEET me 4pm today at the same place - Bren.

She sees Olivia walking with her remaining friends down the hall. She watches Olivia with a dirty look. She looks like she is going to throw the note away, but stuffs it in her pocket.

EXT. CANTEEN AREA - DAY

Brendon hanging around a playground area playing poker with Tiger and he beats him with a bluff. He looks up from his game to see Denise staring him in the face.

DENISE

Who do you think you are? I'm not your freaking toy Brendon Stammer!

LOITERING BOYS AND GIRLS start looking over. Brendon seems uncomfortable, he gathers himself to stand firm.

DENISE

Go screw yourself.

This gets looks from younger students who anticipate Brendon's usual punishment for this.

BRENDON (UNFAZED)

And you wonder why everyone hates

you?

Students are confused.

DENISE
You're an asshole. You always have
been.

Denise throws the note at him.

DENISE (TO BRENDON)
Give it up with the notes in my
locker.

Brendon looks baffled, Denise thinks he's faking.

BRENDON
What are you talking about?

Denise looks up to the wall clock that says 4.12 PM. She looks back at the note realizing that it doesn't make sense and runs off. Brendon runs after Denise.

EXT. NEARBY BUS AREA - CONTINUED

Nearby a loading school-bus Brendon finally catches Denise. He pulls her towards him.

BRENDON
What's going on?

Brendon is silent and doesn't let go.

DENISE
Fuck off.

BEAT
I don't care!

BRENDON
You used to.

DENISE (SARCASTIC)
Yeah!

BRENDON
Yeah.

She rips her arm out his grasp and slips away.

DENISE
Leave me alone.

He rejects this. He sticks to her like glue.

DENISE

When you had your tongue down
Olivia's tonsils 2 minutes after we
were together. Just forget it.

BRENDON

I don't wanna forget it.

DENISE

If I were the dickhead you were, I
would!

BRENDON (Re: Her Past)

Well, what about you?

Denise stops and is silent a LONG BEAT. In the background
Reuben, Ziggy and G.B. walk down to the gate.

DENISE

I don't hate you.

BRENDON

Aw, come on I didn't...

Denise can't stand the frustration, she turns away from
him as though he's toxic. She starts away as she says
pretty much to herself:

DENISE

I pity you.

Brendon is stunned.

BRENDON (To self but loud)

I don't have to listen to this.

She's still walking. Then he runs up to her.

DENISE (she won't look at him.)

You've never listened.

He tries to block her path.

DENISE

You didn't care enough to ask ME
about what you've heard... Even
once.

BRENDON

I couldn't.

He holds her still, she still wont look at him. Brendon is speechless a BEAT as he realizes what he has lost.

BRENDON
I - I hated you for it.

DENISE (to BRENDON)
Come on? You should have told me.

BRENDON
I fucked up.

Denise agrees and begins turning to leave.

BRENDON
I've been living someone else's life. I didn't know who I was anymore... I want us back.

Denise remembers it, moves in for moment. She stops his talking as she realises Olivia must be waiting in the tech-room and wrote the note. She breaks away and Brendon is stunned. She runs from Brendon towards the tech room.

INT. TECH ROOM - CONTINUED

Denise bursts in - before she can say a word OLIVIA STARTS BABBLING EXCUSES.

OLIVIA
I'm so sorry Denise, you didn't answer the phone, I wanted to talk
-

DENISE
Shut up.

OLIVIA
I only want to talk.

DENISE (sarcastic)
Yeah.

OLIVIA
I want to make so we can be friends again.

DENISE
I don't care!

Olivia shakes her head and moves in for another kiss. Denise winces and pushes her back aggressively.

OLIVIA

Why? We've been together before.

DENISE

When we were kids?! Get over it.

OLIVIA

You didn't know what it felt like.

DENISE

Yeah, it's been so tough for you
and you can tough it out without
Brendon.

OLIVIA

Is that how they taught you to act
in rehab?

SLAM - Denise slaps Olivia hard enough to send her down.

DENISE

You don't know anything about me!
You never have and you never will.

Olivia starts to cry. Denise leaves.

INT. BUS - DAY

REUBEN, ZIGGY and G.B. are sitting up the front of the
bus. At the back of the bus DENHOLM is chatting to SIMON
and TIGER.

DENHOLM

She's not a slut man, she's a slag.

SIMON

Hang on, I thought a slag was a
slut?

DENHOLM

No way, a slag isn't the same as a
slut. Not by a long shot.

TIGER

Oh, and you're the authority on
slags?

One of the BOYS gets off at his bus stop and BRENDON jumps
on and walks directly past Linda sitting alone in Denise's
seat. He walks to the back of the bus and interrupts
Denholm's story.

BRENDON

Just the guys I want to talk to.
This is serious.

Denholm and the others fall silent.

BRENDON

I've have enough of this Slag B.S.
Denise Dixon. She isn't so bad.
She's pretty cool. Why's she got a
reputation?

More and more boys and girls look around on this line.
Looks respond with 'isn't it obvious'.

BRENDON

Because she's hot. You know it, I
know it. I'm looking at me with
Olivia, and compared to Denise
she's not half the woman that girl
we call a 'slag' is. That's it.

Brendon is momentarily paralyzed. Denholm and Tiger look to him deeply disappointed, upset and betrayed. Denholm stands up and stares Brendon deep in the eye in a kind of mini stare-out. Brendon doesn't flinch; his expression is steadfast straight-faced and pure. Silence across the bus. Then Denholm breaks the silence as he lets loose in a fit of unadulterated laughter.

DENHOLM

Hmmn, hmm heh hahaha! Brilliant.
You are Brilliant! You totally had
me. Just beautiful. The way you
just totally grossed us out. That
image of disgusting skankdom
polluting m' mind!

Brendon becomes clearly aware of his gap between expectation and result. He starts laughing an (at first) pained laugh of patheticness, directed at himself and the inevitable difficulties he's created for himself. Denholm is still laughing and now others have joined in and others are calling out about how hot Denise is.

DENHOLM

Yeah baby!

The bus starts its route from the school.

EXT. SHORT BEACH BEACH - DUSK

Linda is sitting silently by the water, reflecting on her

situation.

In the far background, further on the beach a group of teenagers are shouting and opening bottles of alcohol as a kid runs up with a shopping trolley full of beer. V and Senna have joined the party and are singing and laughing loudly.

EXT. ROAD - DUSK

Brendon is walking by himself, looking reflective.

INT. DISABLED TOILETS - DUSK

The lights in this room are screwy and they flicker on and off. Olivia is looking at herself in the toilet mirror. She's looking bewildered, disgusted and angry; she starts ripping down her heavy make-up and hair extensions. Stuffing them into the sink She opens her blouse, and tears off a small, painful looking corset. We can see clear marks on her skin, caused by the of the corset.

EXT/INT BRENDON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Olivia looks more conservative now with a subtle touch of punk chic. It still looks like it took hours for her to get ready. She turns up at Brendon's front door and knocks. Pamela Stammer answers.

OLIVIA

Pam - Ms Stammer. Is Brendon there please?

PAMELA

Olivia, haven't the two of you broken up?

OLIVIA

No! Well, yes. I mean, we had a fight. That's all. I want to tell him I'm sorry.

Brendon, has been watching TV which has 2 musical sequences on it. He stands up hiding to the side of his mother, waving his hands and mouthing "I'm not here."

PAMELA

Olivia, I'm sorry that Brendon would do that. And we've missed you.

Brendon is cringing at the thought, Pamela can see this

out her peripheral vision.

PAMELA

But, here he is...

Brendon is fuming. Pamela is smug and jabs with her elbow as she turns back in.

BRENDON

Olivia.

OLIVIA

You!

Olivia pulls him in and shuts the door behind him, pulling him into her.

BRENDON

Hey!

Brendon pushes her away.

BRENDON

Get the hell off me.

OLIVIA

Don't fuck with me!

BRENDON

It's over. I'm sorry.

OLIVIA

This isn't the 9th grade. You were nothing!

She slaps him. He takes it.

OLIVIA

Look at me. It's the slag, isn't it?

BRENDON

You mean Denise.

OLIVIA

Say it!

BRENDON

I love her.

OLIVIA

She doesn't want you!

CUT TO: Int. PAMELA STAMMER'S Study. Pamela looks up to hear Olivia's scorn with a wry grin.

EXT. POOL - DAY

It is daybreak. Brendon swims laps by himself. He gets to the end of the pool and sees some other swimmers looking over at him as they mill about outside the boys change room.

INT. BOYS CHANGE ROOM - CONTINUED

Brendon walks in and a deathly silence falls over the room. All the boys pause for a moment before quietly minding their own business (a little too much). Brendon senses something is wrong.

BRENDON

What?

A couple of boys look up innocently.

DENHOLM

Oh, hey man.

SIMON

How's it going?

BRENDON

Fine.

DENHOLM

Good good.

Denholm looks back down again and tries desperately to hold back a grimace.

BRENDON

Someone gonna start telling me what's going on?

DENHOLM

Should anything be going on?

BRENDON

Should it?

BEAT

DENHOLM

How much'd you pay her? On average?

Scattered muffled guffaws and ONE OF the other boys tries to hide the word "Fuckwit" in a cough. On instinct Brendon swiftly grabs the boy and barely holds a flex to punch him.

BRENDON

Who do you think I am?!

Denholm raises a smile as COACH MURRAY strolls in.

COACH MURRAY

Stammer! See me outside.

Brendon stares fiercely at the boy for a moment before relaxing his grip.

EXT. BOARDWALK BY POOL - DAY

Coach Murray approaches Brendon.

COACH MURRAY

What happened in there?

Brendon shrugs.

COACH MURRAY

Cut the act.

BEAT

Why are YOU of all people letting this get in the way of OUR team, 3 days before we swim? Now I know some'd be shallow enough to put you down as being an over exalted Mummy's-Boy, Brendon. I reckon you can at least be a man about this.

Brendon remains silent.

COACH MURRAY

You think your personal behavior is fair on the rest of us?

BEAT

Leave Denise Dixon alone, boy. I don't care who you are, you screw around you screw the team around.

BRENDON (INTERUPTS)

That's not right, I wasn't doing anything.

COACH MURRAY

You can't make your own rules with this! Look at her. Don't you think she's been put through enough already?

BRENDON

You know what? You're right, Coach Murray. I don't wanna screw this team around.

COACH MURRAY

All right then!

BRENDON

I quit.

EXT. BUS STOP NEAR POOL - CONTINUED

Brendon walks out, Olivia is waiting. Olivia looks to V, who pulls up in her PINK CAR. He tries not to act surprised. He walks past them until Olivia pulls him up.

OLIVIA

Give it up.

BRENDON

It's over.

OLIVIA

I will not be treated this way Brendon. It's totally unacceptable.

BRENDON

We broke up. IT IS OVER.

V gets out and watches the exchange.

OLIVIA

I'm not accepting it.

BRENDON

'Over' means 'over' Olivia.

OLIVIA

I lost my virginity to you! Do you have any idea what I've spent on my formal dress? Have you even thought about my reputation?

BRENDON

Have you thought about mine?

OLIVIA
I slept with you?!

BRENDON
I had a life before you.

OLIVIA
What about Denise's old life?

BRENDON
Piss off.

V (TO BRENDON)
You're crazy.

OLIVIA (TO VIOLET)
Shut up!

INT. SCHOOL HALL WAY - DAY

Brendon bounds up the stairs. All is quiet. Too quiet. On the hallway wall he stops at the end of a row of school photos: All sports victories. At the end of the row is a photo of the school swimming team holding the state finals cup up with pride. He looks at the plaque that reads - SHORT BEACH SWIM SQUAD, STATE FINAL VICTORY 1981. The period bell rings somewhere off in the background. To the right of the victory photo the wall is completely empty.

Brendon looks around to see that apart from the a couple of younger students walking by, M&M (the Emos) are standing there like the twins from "The Shining" but they are looking at him with pride and admiration. He smiles an uncomfortable smile at them and they giggle. He turns to away and his forced smile turns col, he is face to face with Olivia (returning to class halfway in session) V and Senna are slipping in the classroom behind her. Olivia stares at Brendon like the prelude to a gun fight, Brendon almost shakes his head before he starts his charge towards the door and Olivia. Olivia disappears into the room.

INT. CLASSROOM/ HALLWAY - DAY

In a full classroom, Tiger and Heather Chick pass a SECRET NOTE to each other. Others are staring intently to the front of the classroom. Standing in the front of the room is MISS. GIBSON, 30s. She's virtually leaned against the board, she is dressed in a business like manner not withstanding a suitably short skirt. She seems hardly interested in what she is teaching from her teacher's edition but her legs keep the students staring straight at her. Denise sits alone studying. Brendon barges in.

BRENDON

Denise!

Miss Clare stops teaching, clearly unhappy.

MISS GIBSON

Hello?

BRENDON

I'm sorry, Miss. Clare I really have to speak to Denise Dixon now.

BEAT

BRENDON

It's official - school business.

MISS GIBSON

Do you want to explain what kind of school business this is?

Brendon nods for a second with no idea what to say.

BRENDON

Yes... It's... Serious.

Denise smiles. The teacher looks skeptical.

BRENDON

School... Business... About the school?

Denise hides her head, embarrassed as Brendon stumbles.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Brendon is shut out of the class room. He walks down the empty hall, disappointed with him self. He turns his back to the IN EMERGENCY BREAK GLASS panel nearby. He unassumingly cracks it with a jab from his elbow.

The fire alarm and sprinkler system are set off. Students pile out of classes. Brendon is sopping. He stands still as students run frantically around him. He smirks as the trophy photos get soaked. Denise stands before him.

BRENDON

I quit. I quit the swim team and I broke up with Olivia.

DENISE

No.

BRENDON

I want us back Denise. I want us to start again. We're taking it back. No mistakes.

He pulls her into him to kiss her. Students are still running by. She resists at first, then falls into the kiss. After a moment she pushes away.

DENISE

Brendon, this is a mistake. I can't do this.

BRENDON

What mistake? We've been happy once. I've been asleep. That's all.

DENISE

Wake up.

Denise leaves. Brendon stands dumbfounded.

EXT. VIDEO BLOG (SHOT AS CINEMA) OCEAN BATHS - DAWN

Young Brendon (longer hair, braces) is swimming laps in the late afternoon. He hits the end of the block, looks up and sees Young Denise stretched back on the pontoon, filming him on her mobile phone watching him, she also uses the phone camera as a mirror to help her up the finishing touches on her lipstick.

YOUNG DENISE

Keep swimming!

Brendon pulls himself out of the pool and picks up his towel.

YOUNG DENISE

I want to see you back in there.

Brendon walks back to Denise.

Young BRENDON

Dixon?

Denise pretends to ignore him and looks at her nails.

DENISE

Do you think this is the right shade of gold, Weirdo?

Brendon turns away.

DENISE
So you're coming?

BRENDON
Where?

DENISE
To the party of course.

BRENDON
Hmph, sure.

DENISE
V hasn't invited you?

EXT. ROOF OF DENISE'S HOUSE - LATE DUSK

Denise is crouching on the low roof covering her front door/walkway. She is smoking a cigarette. Brendon climbs up.

BRENDON
Could you maybe turn on your mobile phone, once in a while?

DENISE
Not if I've incinerated it.

BRENDON
So what are you doing, Dixon??

DENISE
What does it look like, Wierdo? -
Studying at the library.

INT. DENISE BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Denise leads Brendon into her bedroom.

DENISE
Come here, Weirdo.

They quietly lay on her bed. Brendon smiles and she strokes his face.

DENISE
We have to talk.

BRENDON
I've made my mind up. I want you.

He tries to kiss her. She pulls away.

BRENDON

Don't you like me?

DENISE

We need to be able to talk first,
it's important.

They're silent for a while. He kisses her. She shyly
kisses him back, he kisses her neck and she starts getting
turned on. She tries to resist the feeling. She wraps
around him and holds him close.

BRENDON

I want you.

He starts taking her top off, she soon stops him.

DENISE

I know... Give it time.

BRENDON

I don't get it?

DENISE

I do need you - but not like
this... You shouldn't have quit the
swim team Brendon.

BRENDON

I did it for you.

DENISE

I didn't ask you to.

BRENDON

I know.

DENISE

This town needs a hero and that's
you Brendon.

BRENDON

But I don't want to be a hero, I
just want you, don't you get it.

DENISE

Brendon. I'm not ready to go out
with you.

BRENDON

Why?

DENISE

I just can't right now. Give me some time and we can be strong together. And in the meantime, win the interschool championships. The school needs it, your mum needs it and god knows you earned it. Don't give up now.

Brendon smiles and soon moves into her again. They kiss. His hands move to her breasts and she pulls back. Denise looks away and BRENDON LOOKS BAFFLED, DENISE CATCHES THIS LOOK.

DENISE

What'd you expect?

She stares him down.

BRENDON

Not this.

She turns from him slowly and sits up.

DENISE

You need to go... Get out.

EXT. OCEAN BATHS — PONTOON — DAWN — FLASHBACK

Denise follows Brendon.

DENISE

I can get you on the list.

BRENDON

Nobody wants me at that party.

DENISE

I want you there.

EXT. STREET NEARBY DENISE'S — DAWN

Brendon walks alone in his school uniform staring at the ground. He walks over D I E SLAG FROM HELL

INT. BUS — DAY

Linda sits alone silently looking out the window. Denise sits alone near her old seat. Denise sees Linda also sitting alone but doesn't acknowledge her. Denise looks down to the back of the seat in front of her. It reads:

WARNING: YOU ARE IN THE SLAG EXCLUSION ZONE

Senna smirks and looks back at Linda and Denise.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Denise eats her lunch alone. Kids tease her from afar.

INT. LOWER LEVEL HALLWAY - DAY

Under a GOOD LUCK SWIM SQUAD STATE FINALS banner Brendon sees Linda getting berated by Reuben and his porno collection. Brendon steps in front of Linda and breaks Reuben off her. Linda seems scared and runs out.

EXT. NEAR THE REAR EXIT OF THE SCHOOL - CONTINUED

Brendon chases Linda down.

BRENDON

Linda stop.

Linda seems afraid of Brendon.

LINDA

Leave me alone.

BRENDON

Can't I thank you?

Linda is silent. She's leaning as far away from him as possible. Brendon registers how hostile she is and backs away from her.

BRENDON

That's all I wanted to say.

Guys in the school start to take notice. Linda doesn't believe him and starts hitting him. Brendon tries to defend himself but she's coming on so strong.

LINDA

What have you been saying to people? About me? What've you been saying about me?

BRENDON (INTERUPTS)

Nothing?!

LINDA

You're a liar.

Linda slips out. Brendon is confused. He catches his breath as he leans on a wall.

DENHOLM (O.S.)
 All power corrupts. Even Zig
 coulda told you that one.

Brendon sees Denholm leaning against the bubblers.

BRENDON
 What are you blagging about?

Denholm approaches.

DENHOLM
 Between you and me. You're not the
 only one whose felt like a little
 Slag Time on the side now and
 again... Right?

BRENDON (LYING)
 Right.

DENHOLM
 How's Olivia been taking it?

BRENDON
 We're broken up.

DENHOLM
 Man, what'd you expect?
 She walked in on you!

Brendon acts dumb.

DENHOLM
 You, Denise and Linda all going for
 it?! ... Can you blame her?

BRENDON
 Apparently not.

BEAT

DENHOLM
 How much'd you pay them?

Brendon doesn't respond.

EXT. NEARBY SCHOOL GATES - DAY

Brendon and Denholm walk together.

DENHOLM
 We want you back on the team dude.
 You are the team. Let's finish

this year off the right way.

BEAT

You're fourth on the relay.

BRENDON

How much do you want it?

DENHOLM

What do you want?

BRENDON

Will you promise to leave Denise alone?

DENHOLM

What's wrong with you?

BRENDON

I'll come back if you promise you'll stop attacking Denise.

DENHOLM

Alright I promise. Now can we beat those St Quentin fags once and for all?

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

SONG; There are "Finals" Banners over an Olympic pool at St Quentin's High School. St. Quentins students and Short Beach kids are packed around the pool. Senna, Olivia, Heather and other girls are out front of the other students cheering as the SHORT BEACH SEA-WEEDS. The teams are all preparing getting ready to race when Brendon enters the area to take part in the race. TIGER, DENHOLM and SIMON smile and pat him on the back as he arrives. The first swimmers in 8 teams all line up on the diving board as an announcer makes a statement.

ANNOUNCER

The next race is the final of the mens open four by one hundred relay. Racers take your marks.

The first swimmers move to the blocks.

ANNOUNCER

Ready, set.

A starting gun goes off and the swimmers all dive into the ocean. The race goes according to plan and Brendon finished the fourth leg in first place, coming from almost

a length behind. The whole of Short Beach High erupts in celebrations. Brendon climbs out of the pool and is embraced by his team mates. He looks into the stadium to see that Denise has been watching the race. She smiles at him.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

School bell finishes ringing. A 10th GRADE GIRL opens a window on the top floor of a school building and calls out to a school yard full of existing students.

10th GRADE GIRL
No more school!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Lots of Students mill quickly through the hallway. Brendon seems to in slow motion. "He walks under the "GOOD LUCK SWIM SQUAD IN STATE FINALS" banner.

INT. DENISE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Denise gets home from School. She presses play on the answering machine.

BRENDON
Denise, I really need to talk to
you so PLEASE call me. Okay?
Tonight?

Denise stands still, staring at the machine. It spools through a few beeps with no message. Denise HOLDS DOWN DELETE. Suddenly the silence is broken by the LOUD TELEPHONE RING. Denise pulls out the phone from the socket.

EXT. ST QUENTIN'S - TRAINING COMPLEX - NIGHT

Ziggy and G.B. are dressed in camouflage gear. They wait outside the imposing building. Reuben opens a window from a party going on inside. He throws down a LIBRARY BAG with something heavy inside. It clangs on the ground.

REUBEN
Go go!

Reuben exits quickly.

INT/EXT. DENISE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Denise pours a glass of milk nearby the fridge. Denise notices her mother Gail has followed her in.

GAIL

Denise darling, we need to talk.

Denise tries to ignore her and walks past.

Outside on a nature strip below, Reuben, Ziggy and G.B. assemble. They are dressed in black clothes, black beanies and camouflage face paint. G.B. is trying to hide.

Reuben (to Ziggy)

Hold him Zig.

Ziggy grabs G.B. to stop him escaping. Reuben and Ziggy are giggling to each other. Ziggy holds a MEGAPHONE to Reuben's mouth. Reuben sports a PAIR OF BINOCULARS that have SLAGWATCH painted on them.

REUBEN(ON MEGAPHONE)

Attention Please: Is Denise there?

ZIGGY(Holding G.B.)

Is Denise in da house?

REUBEN & ZIGGY

Denise Dixon has left the building.

The kitchen window slams up with almost shattering force. Reuben freezes, shocked to see Denise's mum. Ziggy is carried away enough to keep at it.

ZIGGY

We're looking for a Dixon, Denise Dixon.

REUBEN (TO ZIGGY)

Shut up!

GAIL (TO BOYS)

Who is it?

Ziggy (ON MEGAPHONE)

Ah um.

GAIL

Piss off!

Reuben snatches the megaphone out of Ziggy's hand.

GAIL

I can see your faces. I'm calling your parents!

REUBEN(ON MEGAPHONE)
 Actually I think we can clarify
 this misunderstanding, we were just
 -

GAIL
 Shut up! Do you think I'm stupid?
 I've seen you before, if any of you
 come ANYWHERE NEAR MY DAUGHTER

Denise freezes by the kitchen door as she witnesses her Mum's display. They boys are nicely obscured by a tree. They step back to get away, G.B. looks the wrong way as he falls under a light patch.

GAIL
 Little Gregory Bowman is that you?

G.B. reacts on impulse. He is starting to cry.

ZIGGY (with a small voice)
 It's just me, G.B!

G.B. is trying to Silence Ziggy as him and Reuben are laughing.

ZIGGY CONT. (with a small voice)
 I just wanted to tell Denise I love
 her!

G.B.
 I'm sorry Mrs. Dixon.

Reuben quickly gags him, as he does so he drops a large library bag. They drag him about meter before he drops. Reuben runs back for the library bag.

Gail turns around to see that Denise is gone.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Denise stands with her back to the door. There is a crack as a pebble hits her bedroom window. Denise is frightened by the sound but she doesn't move. Another tiny pebble hits the window. This time Denise moves over and opens the window.

DENISE (HOARSE)
 Hey! Get lost, you little...

Denise stops as she sees Brendon standing silently below. Brendon sees Denise move back away from the window, frustrated. After a BEAT she returns.

DENISE

What do you want Brendon?

BRENDON

Come to the party... I want to explain. I've got it Denise! I know what you need. Come with me tonight. I'll show you I've changed.

DENISE

My idea of a good time doesn't include hanging around with a bunch of hypocrites.

BRENDON

But I've got it. I need to make a stand - for us.

Denise stands silently at the window.

BRENDON

Come with me tonight, Denise. Come to the party and I'll tell everyone about us. I'll tell the world!

DENISE

No one wants me at that party.

BRENDON

I want you there! Come on Denise. All I've been thinking about is you. About how we used to be and how dumb I've been. Then I figured it out. I care about you and I'm willing to do whatever it takes. Come with me.

Denise remains silent. A micro-smile begins to creep across her lips.

BRENDON

It's you and me Denise.

DENISE

Our school captain hasn't got the guts.

BRNENDON

Oh yeah? You just watch me! There's something else I've got to let you know but I've got to make

everything alright before I do that.

DENISE
You don't understand.

BRENDON
No I didn't, I know now.

She doesn't believe him.

DENISE
No way.

BRENDON
Denise PLEASE! You've got to.
Come with me. We'll show them all.

DENISE
I'm not going to that party
Brendon.

Brendon turns away.

DENISE
I'm not invited.

BEAT

DENISE
I don't believe you.

BRENDON
Believe me.

DENISE
No!

BRENDON
Come!

Denise is getting frustrated.

BRENDON
Denise, you showed me that I lost
sight of things, but that's it.
They'll do pretty much anything I
tell them. And I'm telling them...

She smiles a sweet smile.

BRENDON
Hold it right there. You're

beautiful! Don't ever not smile
again.

He turns around and runs over to a GUY CROSSING THE
STREET.

BRENDON (CALLS TO GUY)
She's beautiful!

Brendon calls even louder to her from where he is.

BRENDON
Give me twenty minutes and then
come. I promise everyone will know
by then. Promise me you'll come in
twenty minutes.

Denise stands at the window and smiles to herself almost
embarrassed. In an unspoken agreement she smiles and nods
as she watches Brendon run off.

INT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Denise shuts the window. She looks into a mirror on her
wall. She smiles uncomfortably to the mirror. Then she
smiles a little stronger. She then smiles because she can
smile. She turns to see her mum standing in the darkened
doorway.

GAIL
I'm sorry.

Denise says nothing. Gail Dixon sits on the bed and a
tear wells in one eye.

GAIL
Denise, we didn't understand. Why
didn't you tell us? Didn't you
know we'd be there for you?

Denise shakes her head as a tear wells up.

GAIL
I know.

BEAT
Sticks and stones, baby sticks and
stones.

DENISE
Oh Mum, I'm sorry.

Denise falls into Gail's arms.

GAIL

It's not your fault. No it's not. I know - I know.

DENISE

I know it's not. But then it is.

Denise lifts her head to look her Mum.

GAIL

We all have accidents.

DENISE

Mum, we all know it wasn't an accident.

She hugs Gail tightly .

DENISE

That was the old me. I'm not going back there.

They talk over each other's shoulders.

GAIL

I know, I know. Baby.

DENISE

Mum?

GAIL

Yes.

DENISE

Thankyou.

Gail embraces Denise even stronger.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - NIGHT

Brendon runs along the street towards the party. He jumps up and slaps a street sign as he passes underneath it.

EXT. PARTY - NIGHT

From the view of binoculars we look over a large house. Many senior students are piling in.

G.B. (O.S.)

I told you this was a stupid idea.

ZIGGY (O.S.)

Don't mess with m'mojo Geeb.

P.O.V focuses on a LARGE HEDGE surrounding the backyard. We see Reuben, G.B. and Ziggy still in army fatigues and black camouflage paint.

REUBEN (to G.B.)
Never forget that we did this for
you soldier.

EXT. PARTY - BACKYARD - CONTINUED

G.B., Reuben and Ziggy infiltrate the party by climbing and tumbling over the back hedge. Reuben and Ziggy high-five each other again.

REUBEN
Alright. See? Geeb - you almost
seem 'cool' now.

G.B.
Leave me alone. I'm not going in
there. We'll only get bashed.

REUBEN
Bashed!? Did we get bashed at St
Queertons? Did we get bashed at
Denise's?

G.B. looks scared.

ZIGGY
You stay out here like a good
little boy and we'll go get drunk
and laid.

REUBEN
She'll be asking about you. Want
me to send her out here for a
little backyard action?

G.B.
Whatever.

Reuben and Ziggy smile to each other as they creep up the door. They look around to see if anyone is watching and slip inside.

EXT/INT. PARTY HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUED

Brendon arrives at the party and takes a deep breath. He opens the front door. Standing directly in front of him drink in hand swaying slightly is Olivia. She looks at him and smiles.

OLIVIA

Brendon.

Brendon walks straight by her. As he walks through the party he passes Violet and Senna passing a joint around with some other girls. The party is rocking and everyone is drinking. Some have already had too much. Scenes vary from bad dancing to drunk kissing. Brendon moves through looking for his friends. A drunk Heather strolls up to him.

HEATHER CHICK

Hey Swimmer! Why are Pirates called
Pirates?...Coz they Arrrgh!

She reaches down and Brendon jumps. As he backs away his butt is grabbed. He turns to find another girl falling towards him with intent. All around him he sees people whispering. He shouts out:

BRENDON

You all need to stop talking about
Denise. The rumours have gotten out
of town. She needs us.

This gets laughs, bad laughs.

PARTY (V'S BACKYARD) - NIGHT

Out in the back yard, the hot pink theme continues. Pink cupcakes, and the band play on a large pink faux-cake.

The party is raging in the backyard as the band gets started, V and Sandy are talking in the backyard with party goers around them. A boy is running back to the girls with cups of drinks.

SANDY

Sure he's trouble ...

V

But that's just not enough for you
anymore, right?

Hot Rod runs up to Sandy and V with two pink fizzy drinks (champagne?) V hardly acknowledges him before sending him off to check on the band before getting back to Sandy.

EXT. PARTY - BACKYARD - CONTINUED

Brendon bursts through the backdoor into the yard. He doesn't see G.B. still camouflaged by the foliage.

Brendon shouts out.

BRENDON (RE: HIMSELF)
Bloody hell!

G.B. surprises him.

G.B.
Don't hurt me.

BRENDON (STARTLED)
Farr..! What are you doing here -
little weed?

G.B.
I got brought here - I didn't
wanna come.

BRENDON
So go.

Brendon sees Olivia standing inside. He catches her looking at him as she talks to M&M and others (who also look at him).

G.B.
Well, now that I'm here, I kinda
don't wanna. Well, there's this
girl see and I think she likes me.

BRENDON
Tell me about it.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUED

Denise walks around a palm tree on an urban corner, hears and then sees the party up the street. She stops a BEAT considering her position.

EXT. PARTY BACKYARD - CONTINUED

Suddenly, the back door bursts open as all the boys cheer and grab G.B. inside. Simon spots Brendon, cheers with excitement then sticks with Brendon.

OLLY
Brendon's here.

SIMON
Hey!

Brendon says nothing. Denholm, Tiger and Simon swagger out. DENHOLM (TO SIMON, eyeing Brendon's shirt that is the

same style as his own)

DENHOLM

I ought to smack him just for that.

BRENDON

I'm only here for Denise and me.
Understand? I love her.

DENHOLM

Oh fuck man, do you understand?
They're gonna crucify him, right
after they kill him.

Brendon steps in between them, face to face with Denholm.

BRENDON

You want her for yourself.

Denholm pushes him back.

DENHOLM

Get off it!

Brendon

The stupidest thing I ever did was
listen to you. You told me she was
a slag, so you'd have her for
yourself.

DENHOLM

You're full of shit! You wanna hit
me?! Or you gonna try to expel me
again?

Brendon backs off.

BRENDON

You're not worth it.

INT. PARTY - CONTINUED

G.B. is being held flat on the table. Simon, Reuben & Ziggy unveil the stolen swim trophy; full to the brim with beer. They pour this down G.B.'s throat. Hot Rod is now exhausted helping V. He sees her across the garden pointing at him to do more, he stops a moment and SMSes the party address out to recipients before pretending to go do more things for V.

RANDOM BEDROOM - CONTINUED

A kid takes the SMS and posts the party as an event on a social networking site. He attaches a photo of graffitied tits (the same one as on the school wall in Scene) and other kids on-line start adding themselves to the event; their icons start peppering the screen.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - CONTINUED

Denise arrives at the front door. She listens against it a moment, then tentatively opens and enters.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUED

Denise enters. Piercing gazes come from all directions. Denise freezes for a moment and then moves quickly through the lounge room to the kitchen. Linda is sitting in an armchair surround by 2 NEW ST QUENTIN'S BOYS.

LINDA

Oh God.

Linda gets up, following Denise.

OMIT 192

INT. PARTY - KITCHEN - CONTINUED

As Denise pushes through the kitchen door, she's face to face with a surprised Olivia, Vi and Senna.

DENISE (to OLIVIA)

Where is he?

OLIVIA

He's only setting you up as a laugh for his mates Denise .

Unwilling to listen. Denise pushes through.

INT. PARTY - CONTINUED

Denise exits the kitchen and sees a YOUNG MAN enter a bedroom upstairs which could be Brendon. As she runs she brushes past G.B., Reuben and Ziggy notice this. Linda lets Denise run up alone.

EXT. PARTY - CONTINUED

A large group of kids barge into the party. An OLDER BROTHER and OLDER SISTER approach V who is chatting with Sandy and 2 other girls.

OLDER SISTER

Violet, dad didn't say -
 (you could invite
 the whole town)

V

I told you not to call me that
 anymore!

INT. PARTY - CONTINUED

G.B (TO ZIGGY AND REUBEN)

Who told her I'd be here?

INT. PARTY - BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Denise enters the bedroom. DENHOLM is sitting on the bed,
 but his back is turned and he looks like Brendon.

DENISE

Bern -?

DENHOLM

Denise.

He stops rolling the joint he is making and turns around.
 Denise goes to leave.

DENHOLM

Denise wait!

Denise stops.

DENISE

What?

DENHOLM

Let's - give it another try.

Denise is dumbfounded. Denholm pauses for a moment before
 lunging at Denise, trying desperately to kiss her. Denise
 shoves Denholm away, he hits the floor. Denholm,
 undeterred is back to his feet, pinning Denise against the
 wall. Denise is struggling. Suddenly V and Senna burst
 into the room.

V

What the?

V and Senna grab Denholm, pulling him away from Denise.

V (To DENISE & DENHOLM)

Get out of my room!

Denholm looks at V angrily before leaving. Senna blocks Denise's exit.

V (to DENISE)

Not you.

Denise says nothing, Senna blocks the door. V sits on her bed and beckons Denise to join her. Denise is confused she sits down at a safe distance. V reaches out to stroke Denise's short hair. Senna loosens off her top as if to make herself more comfortable in the heat. V is locking the door. Senna reaches to touch Denise's arm.

SENNA

What's it like?

V and Senna go in for the kiss. Denise pushes them away, clicks the door unlocked and runs out the door.

INT. PARTY - BATHROOM - CONTINUED

Denise bursts into the bathroom. She looks at herself in the mirror with total disbelief. After a BEAT she refocuses her gaze and sees the words DENISE IS A SLAG written in lipstick. She begins to cry and starts smudging the lipstick. A drunken G.B. enters.

DENISE

One minute!

G.B.

Denise?

Denise turns and stares at G.B. with disbelief.

G.B.

It's me. Let's quit these games.

G.B. walks in.

G.B.(CONT.)

I didn't think it was true. For so long - I thought they were lying.

G.B.'s hand starts to undo his fly. He doesn't get very far before... WHAM! Denise slaps him. G.B. falls in a heap in the bath. Denise is shocked, G.B. is mumbling. She steps back to the basin to get him some water, she drops the cup in the basin as she sees Brendon reflected in the mirror.

INT. PARTY BALCONY

Denise turns out on the hall to Brendon looking over the party. She shoves him into V's open room.

DENISE

Hey!

BRENDON

Denise I...

Denise shoves Brendon in the chest, forcing him into V's bedroom. Denise goes head to head with Brendon.

DENISE

What've you 'told em'?

Brendon is dumbfounded. He can't answer the question. Suddenly out comes:

BRENDON

I've told Denholm.

Denise SCREAMS AN EXTRAORDINARY SCREAM, piercing, vibrating on the glass and around the house.

INT. PARTY - LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUED

At in the lounge room lights are being dimmed for a singing/dancing performance by V, who is starting the intro of a song she will dance to from a little ghetto-blasters. The scream travels through the house and the song skips, she bangs the thing to get it working.

In the lounge room everyone hears the scream. Whispers of Denise and Brendon pass through the party.

EXT. PARTY - BEDROOM - CONTINUED

Denise goes to leave.

BRENDON

Don't leave! I'll do it right now.

Denise pauses, she looks like she's about to cry.

DENISE

It's too late.

EXT. PARTY - LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUED

V gets started again to dance, and the intro has already finished. She puts her first foot down in a move when Olivia calls out in front a very excited mob of about 60-80 party goers.

OLIVIA

She's in there naked with him!

Brendon storms out of the room. He now stands on the balcony face to face with the mob. V's starting to get peeved as no one is looking at her.

V

Hey!

Brendon tries to address them against the booing and jeering. Linda breaks through the mob to the front where Olivia stands.

LINDA

Stop it! You bunch of liars!

Denholm quickly GRABS AT Linda, trapped between the wall and crowd.

DENHOLM

SLAG LOVER!!

The mob descends on Linda, attacking her. Screams of 'GET HER' and 'SHE'S ANOTHER ONE' can be made out. Linda is swamped, unable to defend herself. Partly oblivious to this, Brendon is still trying to shout 'I want to say' 'listen to me' etc - he can't be heard.

Denise bursts out of the bedroom, jumping off the stair-rail down to the ground and into the mob with such force that everyone is stunned into silence. Denise picks herself up. Linda is on the ground hurt.

Denise is untouched, encircled by the now, silent crowd. The faces around her show lust and hatred. She tries to say something, she opens her mouth, nothing comes out. Olivia bursts through the crowd.

OLIVIA

You bitch! You dirty dis-gust-ing
little Slag...

Before Olivia has a chance to finish, Denise pulls her into a passionate kiss. Olivia falls into this. The crowd is stunned. Brendon is frozen. Denise pulls away, still holding Olivia's gaze.

OLIVIA

Denise...

In an instant, Olivia realizes what she has done. A look

of extreme embarrassment and shame overcomes her. She gets up to run out of the room, she is caught by 2 MOB BOYS who grope Olivia, a shocked V steps regardless to remove Olivia from the messy group, partly to dress her down about interrupting her performance.

V is ELBOWED badly in the FACE. Girls react en mass. V DOUBLES OVER a BEAT. With a couple of groggy steps, without looking, she lets fly with an off-the-cuff SCISSOR KICK, unexpectedly connecting with one of DENHOLM'S MATES, sending him flying. V looks up with a bleeding nose. MANY ANGRY GIRLS descend on those boys. A couple of other guys head for a bewildered Olivia, they seem to be helping and promptly grab her breasts. Further girls descend with focused fury. The mob turns in on itself. It's GIRL VS. BOY.

DENHOLM

We gonna have ourselves a SLAGBAKE!

But not how he'd like one: These girls fight like they've been violated and there are more of them, taking the guys by surprise - they out scratch, kick and bite. Many guys hit hard but are too drunk. Olly and Skanky Boy are FACING OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS and are both warding off WARRING GIRLS with their fists including Sandy. Boys use everything they have to push them back.

EXT. DENISE'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

We see YOUNGER DENISE sitting in her underpants looking into a large mirror on her dressing table. We see her from behind. She is looking at the photocopy of her half naked self with the word SLAG written across her face and tattoo on her breasts. As we pull back from her face we see that she actually has a huge tattoo printed over her breasts. She stares at herself in the mirror unable to comprehend how she has become this mess. She looks back at the tattoo then drops it on the dresser. She picks up a pair of large scissors and starts cutting large chunks out of her hair. We see large clumps of hair fall to the floor. When we cut back to Denise all of her long hair has been cut off. She continues staring into the mirror before picking up a Stanley blade. She slowly brings the blade towards the tattoo on her chest and attempts to cut it off with the blade. Blood pours down her chest, but she continues to cut the tattoo off her chest. She has clearly lost all sense of reality.

EXT. PARTY - LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUED

Just as Heather crosses the screen riding some helpless

boy. Erica starts swinging the leg of a coffee table in front of her and boys start falling like flies. In another part of the room Hot Rod is jumping and dodging. V's older brother and sister are running for their lives and hiding.

Other kids are filming this on their phones and sending the film on to other kids.

EXT. PARTY - LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUED

Linda and Denise find themselves on the ground. Fighting builds over their heads.

LINDA

I'm so sorry. I tried...

Denise quickly covers her mouth signaling that she understands, then pulls Linda's head to her left as a guy's leg comes down where she was. Denise elbows the inside of the boy's knee as another girl pile drives him. He's history.

Denise

See an opening and run, get out.

LINDA

What are you gonna do?

DENISE

I'll worry about me.

Olly and Skanky Boy both finally have the upper hand on the FIGHTING/KICKING GIRLS. In another part of the house Sandy goes flying out a window, she lands on the grass, grabs a branch of a tree and goes running back in. Olly and Skanky Boy both seize their opportunity to retreat, and inadvertently SWITCH POSITIONS, to be faced with NEW FEMALE ENEMIES. They now FIST FIGHT BACK TO BACK. Between the two guys nearest to Denise and Linda, one flies back as a girl falls back to land on her hands and send a stunning two-legged kick to his mouth at 45 degrees. He in turn body slams the boy and girl behind him.

Older Brother and Sister fly out the window.

DENISE

Now!

FLASHBACK INT. HOSPITAL

Denise looks like she could be in a hospital. Looking in a

mirror, she starts cutting off all her hair. We will use a wig to show Denise with very short hair by the time it is freshly cut.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

V is kicking off two guys, as they hit the floor she picks up a broken chair leg and looks for support from Senna who is nowhere to be seen.

V
Get out of my house!

V pulls out her phone and speed-dials Senna.

V
Where are you?

SENNA (O.S.)
I'm here.

V
Where?

Senna is revealed to be on top of another guy strangling him.

SENNA
I'm here at the party!

V
Don't lie to me!

V and Senna are revealed to be standing right next to each other facing opposite directions.

V
I thought we were friends!

SENNA IS BATTLING TWO GUYS NOW

SENNA
We are!

V
Do you think I'm an idiot?

Neither can see each other, but Senna knocks out a guy who is about to hit V. He hits the ground.

INT. PARTY - NEAR ENTRANCE - CONTINUED

Near the door, Reuben and Ziggy have evaded most of the

fighting. The head to the front door escape as 5 ST QUENTIN'S SWIM TEAM ENTER, a couple carry cricket bats. They are momentarily stunned, bemused. Reuben has the BATTERED SWIMMING TROPHY in his arms. He bends over to hide it and shuffle back. POKER PLAYING KIDS barge in, other kids are now video phone filming and betting on fights, they come to Hot Rod who is still ducking and diving but has an ANGRY LOOKING YEAR 8 BOY with a telephone directory guarding him. They immediately have to fight.

Olly and Skanky Boy are now merely deflecting kicks and punches. A BOY HITS THE GROUND to evade a FLYING kick. Olly cops a kick that sends a stiletto heel into his face. Bleeding he starts pulling himself up. Erica runs up to thwack him with a lampshade and he thumps her out cold first.

OTHER BUNCH OF BETTING KIDS hand over cash to Hot Rod who is book-making the event, no-one expected that to happen.

EXT/INT. PARTY HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

The band run out from the garden which is being torn up by M&M who are swinging pool filter or other apparatus.

OMIT 216

INT. PARTY FROM MEZZANINE - CONTINUED

On the BALCONY, G.B. EMERGES FROM THE BATHROOM holding his swollen head. He looks down over the balcony to fight in progress below. The first thing he notices is REUBEN AND ZIGGY GETTING PUMMELED BY GIRLS. He triple-takes, groans and heads back into the bathroom, locking the door behind him.

INT. PARTY - MAIN FIGHT - CONTINUED

Brendon sees Denise go down, he runs into the crowd, fighting his way towards Denise who is on the floor. At first he uncomfortably defends himself against girls. He see Denise's dragged away by other guys (a couple from the swim team), he's soon fights other guys to get through the small bunch surrounding Denise. TWO random guys grab him twisting his arm. He is screaming.

BRENDON

Denise!

Olly is cornered by a group of marauding girls, he gets one decent hit in and is then knocked out cold. Olivia has crawled under a coffee table. She sees Brendon's struggle and screams.

OLIVIA

Hey! He hasn't done anything! He hasn't done anything!

It's useless. She pulls herself up from the ground. She charges at the boys holding Brendon. She jumps up on one of boys shoulders, riding him from behind in a TIE UP where she starts GOUGING HIS EYES. She holds back tears as tries help Brendon.

OLIVIA (TO BRENDON)

Get in there!

Stunned by disbelief, he freezes. The boy under Olivia is trying everything to throw her and Olivia is now being over powered.

OLIVIA

Move!

Brendon keeps fighting towards Denise.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUED

The ST QUENTINS SWIM TEAM CONTINGENT see Brendon fighting near other members of the swim squad i.e Simon. Team St Quentin's head directly to Brendon, they're bigger and they're armed. They also fight the swim team, with two motives (1) Retrieve their trophy (2) Cause pain. The ST QUENTIN'S SWIM CAPTAIN is given Brendon, who seems done for between his own team and theirs. In a moment and look between the two men, the Captain realizes that Brendon is also fighting against the group. The St Quentin's Captain assists Brendon fight through his own crazed team.

Brendon gets through to Denise. He pulls one guy off her it is TIGER, then he is face to face with Denholm on top of Denise. Brendon picks him up and rips him off her. We can make out that she has been badly hurt. In a split second Brendon delivers a series of almighty blows to Denholm's shocked face.

DENHOLM (SPLUTTERED THROUGHOUT)

I liked her.

Brendon stops short of killing Denholm, Brendon's face is wet with tears. He looks at Denise, we cannot see her, only his pained reaction. He touches her gently before he climbs up on the couch.

BRENDON (TO EVERYONE)

STOP!

The fighting continues outside of the circle created by Brendon and St Quentins. Brendon picks up bottle and smashes it.

BRENDON

STOP!

(BEAT)

STOP!

People either stop fighting or get knocked out. Brendon tries say something but he can't get the words out. All he can say is.

BRENDON

Please stop.

(BEAT)

How'd I listen to you? All this time? I don't hate you for it, but... I love her.

Total silence.

Senna notices V standing on the other end of the room, she is adjusting her strapless dress in a piece of broken mirror on the ground.

SENNA

Oh my god, there you are!

Before V can look up, a nearby boy smacks Senna out. V looks around and gets back to fixing up her hair. Olly rises from the ground from being punched out cold. Brendon looks around for Denise.

BRENDON

Denise...?

He looks back, she's gone. He runs out the door.

EXT. LOCAL STREETS

Brendon runs through the streets, desperately searching. Out of breath he stumbles on.

EXT. BEACH ROAD NEAR SHORT BEACH DUMP - NIGHT

Denise is walking slowly, hurt, down the street as Brendon sprints up behind her.

BRENDON

I told 'em.

She keeps slowly pushing on, she looks ahead only. She is standing outside the SHORT BEACH DUMP we have seen twice before in rumour and dream.

BRENDON

Denise, I did it. I made a stand.
I told them.

Denise is unimpressed.

DENISE

I know, I saw you.

BRENDON

I did it.

BEAT

I did it.

DENISE

Brendon, it doesn't matter.

Brendon's out of breath, in shock. He grabs her and pulls her towards him. She turns to him. Now he's reminded that she's been pretty hurt.

BRENDON

I did it Denise. You were right.

Denise shoves him away and continues walking.

DENISE

I trusted you.

BRENDON

I told them. I love you.

She stops. He stops. After a moment, she turns to him and smiles. He smiles back. She strokes his face. He closes his eyes in anticipation.

DENISE

You're a nice guy Brendon.

She turns and starts walking away. Brendon is still anticipating a kiss. When he doesn't receive one he opens one eye and then the other. He can't believe she is

walking away.

BRENDON

You can't just walk away. I just
walked fire for you. Don't you
understand that I love you? I'm in
love with you.

She keeps slowly walking. She pauses for a beat, we can
detect some indecision on her face before she continues
walking. Brendon starts breaking down.

BRENDON

What the hell? This is bullshit!
You're not going to give me a
chance? I hate you.

Denise's eyes well with tears, she still walks away from
him.

BRENDON

I hate you.

He falls to his knees.

BRENDON

Denise, I've never loved anyone in
my entire life ever. I'll do
anything for you. Anything... What
am I gonna do?

Brendon looks at the ground despondent. He looks up to see
her standing above him. She smiles, her eyes are red with
tears. They may never be together but they are together in
heart right now.

DENISE

Make something up.

The End.