BBC SCOTLAND

TWO DOORS DOWN - EPISODE 1
SERIES ONE

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INT. GLASGOW PUB (EVENING 1) 19.00

(COLIN, ERIC)

The sound of a football match over a busy pub.

Colin is eating nuts - pouring them in to his hand and stuffing them in to his mouth. Eric, wearing a tight Scotland football jersey, is beside him trying not to pay too much attention to him.

COLIN
Come on! They’ll pump this lot. I mean Malta for God’s sake, what have they ever done? A falcon! (now to Eric) Sure you don’t want one?

ERIC
Nah you’re alright. Still on this diet that Beth’s got me on.

COLIN
Diet eh? Oh dear. I’m lucky, I can eat what I want. My father was the same - he ate chips every day of his life and he was like that (hold up pinky finger)

ERIC
Aye some folk are like that. Heart attack he had was it?

COLIN
Three of them aye.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (EVENING 1) 19.01

(BETH, CATHY)

Beth coming through to the kitchen from the hall with a hyper up Cathy following behind her, taking her jacket off and then getting a bottle of wine out of her bag.

CATHY (CONCERNED)

I just couldn’t bear the thought of you sitting on your own all night Beth.

BETH

Oh you didn’t need to worry, I quite enjoy a (night on my own)

CATHY (CUTTING HER OFF)

And besides, I wanted a catch up, hear all your news.

BETH

Well there’s not much to tell really Cathy, Eric’s been at the doctor again

CATHY (CUTTING HER OFF)

(gasp) no!!

BETH

Yip.

CATHY

Oh what a shame. Look!

Cathy now lifts her foot up to show Beth it.

CATHY (CONT’D)

I got my toes done with the semi permanent stuff.

Now drops foot.

CATHY (CONT’D)

It’s so good, kicked the tumble drier shut earlier and it didn’t chip.

Before Beth can properly look and comment, Cathy pushes on

CATHY (CONT’D)

So you’ve been at the dentist?

BETH

The doctor.

(CONTINUED)
CATHY (DEEPLY CONCERNED) Have you?

BETH No, Eric has!

CATHY Oh God. Tell you what, open that bottle, I want to hear all about it.

Cathy makes her way through to the dining area leaving Beth.

CATHY (SHOUTING O.S) (CONT’D) Beth.

BETH What?

CATHY (O.S.) Bring crisps.

CUT TO:
Ian and Jaz are sitting on the sofa. Jaz is flicking through the EPG.

JAZ
Storage wars?

IAN (UNENTHUSIASTIC)
Yeah?

JAZ
It’s not really Friday night though is it? (Beat) Hitlers Henchmen?

A look from Ian.

JAZ(CONT’D)
Some of them were quite good looking. Police Interceptors? I watched that last week – they chased a man over a fence and his tracksuit bottoms came down at the back and they had to blur it out so you didn’t see his crack. (Beat) Game of Thrones?

IAN
We live in Glasgow if we want to watch dwarves stabbing each other we can just take a bus in to the city centre.

JAZ
Ok, what about...Border Force?

IAN
What’s that?

JAZ
Border force? Aw it’s really good. It’s like people trying to get in to Australia smuggling snake meat up their jumpers and Chinese women bursting in to tears when they get caught with home cooked food in their bags and they have to put it in the bin.

IAN
I might just go to bed.

Pause.

(CONTINUED)
IAN (CONT’D)
You coming or you staying up?
Jaz flicks the telly off. Ian gets up and walks towards
door.

Jaz
I’ll come.

Jaz gets up and as he does:

Jaz (CONT’D)
Ian.

Ian
What?

Ian
D’you want to move in with me?

A pause as they look at each other. Ian looks to Jaz before
breaking in to a smile.
3A OMITTED
(BETH, CATHY)

Cathy banging on and Beth running hand and foot after her.

BETH
I mean I knew he was overweight.

CATHY
Oh yeah. Has been for a while, Beth. Remember when we had the barbecue out the back? When he stepped out on to that decking it was like that bit out of Jurassic Park.

BETH
It’s a worry.

CATHY
This is what happens to a lot of Scottish men Beth, nice and chunky when they’re young but then they just turn in to big bloaters.

BETH
They’re saying if he doesn’t do something about it he could be at risk of a heart attack.

CATHY
Oh my God.

BETH
I know. I mean, I don’t know what I’d do if anything happened to my Eric. The thought of being on my own.

CATHY
Beth, Beth. Come on. Anything happens to Eric, I’ll be here for you. I’ll help you get your haircut and set you up a profile on Plenty of Fish.

CUT TO:
OMITTED
INT. GLASGOW PUB (EVENING 1) 19.25

(COLIN, ERIC)

Colin and Eric continue.

COLIN
God I’m still starving. I tell you who’ve got the right idea when it comes to pubs, Eric, the Spaniards.

ERIC
Aye?

COLIN

ERIC
Christ give it a rest with all the chat about the grub will you?

COLIN
Sorry, sorry, sorry. Let’s concentrate on the match, that’ll cheer you up. Come on, let’s get behind these lads. SCOTLAND * SCOTLAND!

There is the sound of another goal being scored.

COLIN (CONT’D)
...oooh shit that didn’t go in did it?

CUT TO:
OMITTED

TITLES: TWO DOORS DOWN

CUT TO:
EXT. BAIRD HOUSE (NIGHT 1) 23.02

(COLIN, ERIC)

Colin and Eric emerge from the taxi - Colin with a bag of chips.

The taxi departs.

COLIN

It’s a disgrace, an absolute disgrace. They were humped out there, humped - by Malta! See the problem is, Eric, our lot just aren’t fit!

ERIC

I know.

COLIN

They can’t keep up! They’re out there trying to compete with these European teams that are in peak condition and they’re just not up to it, they’re not athletes Eric! You wanting a few chips in your pocket to take in with you?

ERIC

Nah you’re alright.

COLIN

Ah, diet! That’s right. Good man, that lot out there tonight could do with taking a leaf out of your book.

ERIC

Aye, anyway, I’m away to my bed. I’ll see you.

COLIN

Good night squire.

Colin walks off, drops his chips, then picks them back up and eats them.

CUT TO:
Freezer door flies open. Eric grabs a packet of oven chips and then switches the oven on. He rips them open, throws them on a tray and, once this is done, he opens the fridge and starts tucking in to a packet of ham like an animal.

CUT TO:
EXT. BAIRD HOUSE (DAY 2) 08.30

A new day.

CUT TO:
(BETH/ERIC)

Beth gets out of bed - we see Eric flat out on his face in the bed - knackered.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (DAY 2) 08.32

(BETH)

Beth waddles in on her bare feet and immediately notices water on the floor.

BETH

What the....

She makes her way over to the fridge and looks and then realises the freezer door is lying open.

BETH (CONT’D)

ERIC!!!

CUT TO:
(ERIC)

Eric’s eye shoots open.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (DAY 2) 08.35

(BETH, ERIC)

Beth continues now with tea towels and kitchen roll, mopping up the water on the floor.

    BETH
    Eric!!

Eric appears at the door.

    ERIC
    What is it?

    BETH
    The freezer door’s been left lying open.

    ERIC
    How the hell....well it wasn’t me!

    BETH
    And it wasn’t you that was cooking oven chips on the big Pyrex dish that’s lying the sink.

    ERIC
    Here, give me a tea towel.

    BETH
    I bet you’ve guzzled that cold meat.

Beth heads to the fridge. Eric stops what he’s doing and moves to block her.

    ERIC
    Beth.

    BETH
    Eric, let me in to that fridge.

    ERIC
    Look Beth, I was starving.

    BETH
    Eric.

    ERIC
    We got beat by Malta Beth.

She barges him out of the way and looks in the fridge.

(CONTINUED)
BETH
Gone. And my lovely big lump of Irish cheddar. Away. I was going to use that for a macaroni.

ERIC
There’s a tin of macaroni in the (now realising he’s eaten it) Oh, actually

Beth starts to haul stuff out of the freezer.

BETH
Look at the state of this, look at it! You’re supposed to be on a diet.

ERIC
And I am!

BETH
Aye, what one? The greedy bastard diet. Step 1, eat as much as you can. Step 2, go to your bed. You should bring out a book, you’ll sell a million. Look at this lovely leg of lamb, the blood’s dripping all the way through on to Ian’s waffles.

ERIC
Can we not re-freeze it?

BETH
Don’t be so ridiculous, look, what does that say there?

She shows him the label.

ERIC
Use by December 2008.

BETH
No not there, there! Once defrosted do not re-freeze.

ERIC
Well we’ll just have to bin it then.

(CONTINUED)
Beth
Bin it?! We will not be binning it. There’s hundreds of pounds worth of food here Eric, I mean the prawns, where’s my lovely tiger prawns?

Beth starts to look in the freezer again.

Eric
Beth, forget about the prawns, you don’t need to worry about the prawns

He pulls her back.

Beth
Why not?

Beat.

Eric
Because I had them with the macaroni.

Beth starts to whack Eric with a garlic baguette. He defends himself.

Beth (As she’s hitting him)
You need to be careful with your health, I’m telling you, if you have a heart attack I will kill you.

Beth stops hitting Eric. A beat before:

Eric
What are we going to do?

Beth
There’s only one thing we bloody well can do. Cook it!

CUT TO:
INT. JAZ’S FLAT – LIVING ROOM (DAY 2) 09.00

(IAN, JAZ)

Ian, in his dressing gown, just finishing a phone call. Jaz enters in his gym gear (vest) and starts to flex/squeeze together his chest in the mirror.

IAN
Alright Mum, see you later.

JAZ
What d’you think?

IAN
It’s the gym we’re going to not a bloody Pride march.

Jaz does joking: I’m hurt.

IAN (CONT’D)
I’m kidding you on. You look fine. Listen, see instead of going to go to the gym, would it be ok if we went over to my Mum’s?

JAZ
Err, yeah, can do. What’s happening?

IAN
She’s making lunch.

JAZ
Oh nice one. What’s she cooking.

IAN
Och just a sort of buffet thing.

JAZ
Let’s do it. Should I bring anything?

IAN
Aye some ear plugs and a bottle of gaviscon would be great.

CUT TO:
Door opens. A woman in her early fifties wearing a fleece and a neck brace, answers it – Christine.

BETH
Hi Christine.

CHRISTINE
Oh hullo Beth.

BETH
How you doing?

CHRISTINE
I’m absolutely shattered. Up the whole night with this bladder of mine.

BETH
Oh dear.

CHRISTINE
Between that, the trapped nerve in my neck and Sophie’s guinea pig getting ready to give birth it’s like a field hospital in here, are you coming in for a tea?

BETH
I won’t just now. Actually I was going to invite you over to ours.

CHRISTINE
Oh I don’t know, Beth, I’m just not at my best just now.

BETH
Och that’s a shame.

CHRISTINE
You know me Beth, I’m a fighter but this business with the bladder’s just about broken me.

SOPHIE (O.S.)
Mum, Dusty’s nearly ready to go.

CHRISTINE
(shouting through) Get a towel down, I’ll be through in a minute. (now starting to close the door) I’ll need to go Beth, what was the occasion anyway?

(CONTINUED)
BETH
Oh it was nothing really, just a
bit of a disaster.

Christine opens the door wide again.

CHRISTINE (NOW INTERESTED)
A disaster?!
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (DAY 2) 12.15

(CATHY, BETH, COLIN)

Beth is in the kitchen up her eyes in food and packaging. Doorbell goes - Beth goes to answer it but Cathy has already stormed in.

CATHY
Don’t panic - I’m here!

BETH
Oh Cathy.

CATHY
Oh give us a hug missus.

Cathy throws her arms around Beth.

CATHY (CONT’D)
How are you holding up?

BETH
I’m fine.

CATHY
I mean if that was me I’d be devastated. Obviously your stuff’s not as dear but even still

COLIN
Here, I’ll give you a wee squeeze too.

Colin hugs her.

COLIN (CONT’D)
There we are, all better, you’re alright eh?

BETH
Well, no-one died eh?

COLIN
Aye, true. Still it’s a fair old kick in the nuts though.

CATHY
What on earth happened?

BETH
Eric left the door open by mistake.

CATHY
Aw no.  COLIN
Aw no.

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
We thought maybe it just broke down because it was so old.

COLIN
And you can’t re-freeze any of it?

BETH
Oh no I don’t think so Colin.

CATHY
Oh no you’re quite right – I did that with chicken breasts and I nearly shat myself in the car.

COLIN
These things can happen to anybody. Just that it always happens to Eric.

CATHY
Remember when you got that lovely bean bag and he had that terrible upset stomach

BETH
Cathy just don’t say anything about it to him please, we’re just trying to put it behind us and get on with it.

CATHY
Course you are, course you are. It’s the last thing you’re needing though isn’t it? I was just saying to Colin, poor Beth’s got enough on her plate.

COLIN
Not any more she doesn’t!!

CATHY and COLIN howl with laughter. On Beth: “very funny”

BETH
Anyway, let’s look on the bright side eh? Chance for a wee get together.

CATHY
Exactly Beth, what are friends for if they can’t get together and eat a load of cheap frozen food.

COLIN
It’ll be like that advert (now mimicking voice over) That’s why Mums go to Iceland.

(Continued)
CATHY
Aye and Dads leave the freezer door open!

Cathy and Colin laugh again. On Beth again “Give me strength”

CATHY (CONT’D)
Aw dear me. Anyway, better let you get on, anything I can do to help just let me know.

Cathy and Colin make off for the lounge but Beth has an idea:

BETH
Well actually you could give me a hand getting stuff in to the oven.

CATHY (SHARPLY)
What now? (catches herself, sweeter) Course I can.

Cathy rolls her eyes to Colin.
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM (DAY 2) 12.18

(CHRISTINE, SOPHIE, ERIC, COLIN)

Eric is with Christine. He’s helping to get her leg up on the pouffe.

CHRISTINE
My heart just about broke when she told me. I know what she’s going through. I had a soda syphon rupture on me at the caravan last year didn’t I Sophie?

SOPHIE
Yeah, you did.

ERIC
Sophie, can I get you a drink of something?

SOPHIE
Just an orange juice’ll be fine Mr. Baird.

Colin enters.

CHRISTINE
Nothing fizzy for her Eric, her teeth canny stand it. Awful soft enamel.

SOPHIE
Mum!!

CHRISTINE
Dentist said her baby teeth were like putty.

Eric exits to get Sophie a drink. Colin enters.

COLIN
How you doing Christine?

CHRISTINE
Oh Colin, not great if I’m honest.

COLIN
Ah well, at least...

CHRISTINE (INTERRUPTS)
I’m back in my collar.

COLIN
Aye I noticed that, I was...

(CONTINUED)
CHRISTINE (PUSHING ON)
And the bladder’s away again

COLIN
Oh dear god.

CHRISTINE (PUSHING ON AGAIN)
It’s the old drips and drops. And then if that’s not bad enough, I’ve started to get this ringing in my ears.

COLIN
Ringing in your ears? Oh, tell you what you wanna do.

CHRISTINE
What’s that?

COLIN
Give your doctor a bell.

Colin laughs with Sophie who tries to hide how funny she has found it. Christine’s not amused – she shoots Sophie a look and Sophie stops smiling.

CHRISTINE
Cheeky wee bastard.

Eric enters with Sophie’s juice.

COLIN
Here, Eric, that was a bit of a boo boo with the old freezer eh?

ERIC
Oh don’t you start. I’ve been getting pelters off Beth all morning.

COLIN
Just as well it didn’t happen to ours. We’ve got one of those ones with the big double doors. You know how many cubic litres Eric?

ERIC
Er no.

COLIN
One thousand two hundred and forty.

ERIC
That’s a few icepoles that eh?

(CONTINUED)
COLIN
I tell you how big it is Eric. I have got, a whole salmon in it! A whole Salmon! Caught it myself when we were up at the timeshare. You want to see the size of this thing, it’s, it’s enormous. You ever actually held a whole salmon Eric?

ERIC
Er..I...

COLIN
Sophie, you ever held a whole salmon?

SOPHIE
No.

COLIN
Christine?

CHRISTINE
Nup. Just fillets.

COLIN
Well. Let me tell you something. I have.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (DAY 2) 12.25

(BETH, CATHY)

Beth and Cathy wrestle with the cooking times. Confusion abounds with the two of them like headless chickens.

BETH
Right, so. How long on the goujons Cath?

CATHY
Twenty minutes at 220.

BETH
Right so they’ll go on at the same time as the apple tart.

CATHY
That was 200 though Beth?

BETH
Right, what else was 200 Cathy?

CATHY
The sausage rolls. And the southern fries.

BETH
Right, southern fries, sausage rolls and the apple tart 200 for 20 minutes.

CATHY
No the southern fries are 15-18.

BETH
Right, so we put them in for five minutes first.

CATHY
Which ones?

BETH
The southern fries.

CATHY
Got you Beth, got you now, all under control.

The oven beeps.

CATHY (CONT’D)
What’s that noise?

(CONTINUED)
BETH
It’s the oven Cathy.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM (DAY 2) 12.25

(COLIN, SOPHIE, ERIC, CHRISTINE)

As the sound from the oven beep drifts through we see the chat continue but Christine desperately trying to shove her finger in her ear to stifle what she thinks is her tinnitus. Meanwhile Colin is continuing.

COLIN
See that drive up to the timeshare, the scenery is absolutely beautiful, see the hills, the lochs, the windfarms, just beautiful. That last time we went up, the weather was smashing so we drove the whole way with the roof down. It was gorgeous so it was. Until we hit the deer.

SOPHIE
Aw no.

COLIN
Aye, it was alright, Cathy had wipes in her bag. Cream leather interior though, some of the stitching’s still a bit pink.

A look from Sophie: Gross.

CUT TO:
EXT. BAIRD HOUSE (DAY 2) 12.46

(IAN, JAZ)

Ian and Jaz arriving. Jaz is slightly over dressed, jeans, dress shoes, blazer and party bag in hand, he is dithering behind, fixing himself up.

IAN
Come on!

Jaz scurries to catch up with Ian.

JAZ
I’ve got the wine.

IAN
Good.

JAZ
Got it. Wine, in the bag.

A smile from Ian.

JAZ (CONT’D)
Can you imagine I dropped it.
SMASH! Broken glass, people
picking it up, trying to be helpful
but then ending up cutting
themselves and your Mum having to
look for plasters.

Ian turns to look at him: WTF?

JAZ (CONT’D)
Sorry.

Beat.

JAZ (CONT’D)
I think I’m nervous.

IAN
Why?

JAZ
Just about telling everyone that
we’re moving in together.

IAN
(beat) See what I was thinking –
I’m not sure today’s the best day
to tell them about that.

JAZ
Oh. Ok.

(CONTINUED)
IAN
Look I’m really really pleased about it, honest, but let’s just hang fire and wait till we see my Mum on her own.

JAZ
Alright, fair enough, (now trying to relax a little) that’s fine.

They resume walking up to door.

JAZ (CONT’D)
(now looks again in the wine bag) Does your mum even drink red wine?

IAN
Give it a couple of hours and she’ll drink anything.
OMITTED
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (DAY 2) 12.46

(BETH, CATHY, IAN, JAZ)

Beth with Cathy. They are at the oven with it open and trying to re arrange trays of food.

BETH
Sausage rolls at the top Cath, brown them.

CATHY
Have you not got another oven glove?

BETH
Shift that pie on to the bottom and we can get some of the waffles in beside that cod.

IAN (O.S.)
Hellooooo!

BETH
Oh there’s Ian and Jaz, right let me give you that, you hold the fort for two minutes.

Beth turns, spots him and hands her trays to Cathy.

Beth exits. Cathy looks pissed off.

CUT TO:
(BETH, CATHY, IAN, JAZ)

Beth emerges from the kitchen.

BETH
Come in, come in.

Beth gives Ian a hug.

IAN
(jokily) Alright Ma. (now winding her up) What’s the smell, something in the oven?

She smacks him playfully on the arm.

BETH
You shut your face. How are you Jaz, nice to see you.

JAZ
Hello Mrs. Baird.

Beth gives Jaz a hug.

BETH
How you getting on?

JAZ
Good thank you.

BETH
That’s good. You back at work yet?

JAZ
Not yet no. Listen I’m so sorry to hear about your freezer.

BETH
Oh don’t worry about it.

JAZ
I said to Ian I can’t imagine anything worse, honestly. Except maybe something happening to your eyes, or having a fall and your front teeth getting smashed.

Beth: ok, awkward.

Ian steps in and hands Beth the bag with the wine in it.

IAN (INTERRUPTION)
There we go, that’s for you.

(CONTINUED)
BETH

Oh what's this?

(CONTINUED)
IAN
It’s just a wee bottle of wine.

JAZ (PROUDLY)
We got it at the petrol station.

BETH
Right come on through.

They all file through.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM (DAY 2) 12.48

(IAN, ERIC, BETH, JAZ, CHRISTINE, SOPHIE, COLIN)

Beth shows Ian and Jaz in to the living room.

Hellos all round.

IAN
Alright Dad.

ERIC
Alright son, how’s it going?

IAN
Aye good, all good. How’s you?

ERIC
Not bad, aye, you alright?

IAN
Aye, aye.

ERIC
That’s good.

And then silence - they’ve not much else to talk about.

Cut to Beth showing Jaz round.

BETH
And this is Christine, she’s from next door.

JAZ
Hello.

CHRISTINE
Oh wait ‘til I get turned here.

Christine makes a show of turning her neck to see Jaz.

BETH
This is Jaz, Christine.

CHRISTINE
So you’re Ian’s gay lover?

SOPHIE
Mum!! Sorry.
Have you met Sophie before Jaz?

Hi, I’m Jaz, I’m Ian’s...I’m Jaz.

Hiya.

Remember I told you Jaz works for the electricity, Christine.

Does he? Oh very good.

But I’m off sick at the minute.  

Christine’s ears prick up.

Are you?

Yeah.

How come?

Stress.

Stress? Oh that’s terrible, come here and sit next to me.

Jaz reluctantly shuffles over in next to Christine.

Cut back to Colin with Ian.

Alright then young man, keeping out of trouble?

Trying my best.

Not like your old man eh?

Aw god yeah the freezer eh? What happened there then?

Ah it was just an accident.
COLIN
What it was was, we were out
watching the football

IAN
Aw yeah, the football, what was the
score?

COLIN
Four nil.

IAN
Cool.

ERIC
To Malta.

IAN
Ah.

Cut back to Christine with Jaz.

CHRISTINE
I’ve had this one here up at the
doctors an’ all Jaz.

JAZ
Have you, what’s the matter?

CHRISTINE
Her scalp’s away again. Pillow like the top of a Victoria sponge. They’re saying that’s stress too.

JAZ
It could be.

CHRISTINE
Is it shite. She spends all day every day sat in the house with me so what in God’s name has she got to be stressed about.

On Sophie: WTF.

Cut back over to Colin with Eric and Ian.

COLIN
Maybe the seal on the door’s away, Eric, I mean you’ve had it a while.

IAN
We saw good deals on freezers the other day, on Amazon I think it was. (now shouts to Jaz) Jaz! Jaz! (MORE)
IAN (CONT'D)
Where was it we saw the freezers that you said to me were a good price.

JAZ
Amazon. Chest freezer. One nine nine.

BETH
One nine nine?!

CHRISTINE
Excellent price Beth.

COLIN
What sort of capacity are we talking about?

JAZ
I’m sorry but I don’t know.

CHRISTINE (TO SOPHIE)
One nine nine Sophie. We’ll need to get a run up to this Amazon place you and me.

ERIC
We’re not getting a new freezer, there’s nothing wrong with the one we’ve got.

CHRISTINE
Mind you every time I see a chest freezer I think about serial killers chopping people up and stuffing them in to wee bags.

BETH
Give me your coat Jaz.
Cathy is sitting with a glass of wine – she looks utterly shell-shocked. It’s a bomb-site. The beeper on the oven is going continuously. Beth enters.

**BETH**

How we getting on?

**CATHY**

Oh you’re back – anything else I can do for you?

**BETH (SLIGHTLY DISMAYED)**

No you’re fine at the minute.

**CATHY**

Okey dokey. Just let me know when it’s time for the broom to go up my arse.

Beth chooses to ignore before she spots something cooking in the microwave.

**BETH**

What’s in there?

**CATHY**

Chicken stock that still had some ice in it.

The oven starts to beep and Beth goes over to inspect it.

**CATHY (CONT’D)**

Just ignore that beeping, I’m timing it on my phone.

Beth looks in the oven – something’s not right. Beth opens it and a small plume of smoke goes up.

**CATHY (CONT’D)**

That’s maybe it ready now actually.

The smoke alarm goes off. Beth takes a tea towel and starts to wave it under the smoke alarm.

**CUT TO:**
The sound from the smoke alarm drifts through. Christine has her finger in her ear again.

CHRISTINE
This ringing’s awful bad today, I’ll need to get straight down to wee McGill on Monday and see about it.

COLIN
Here, Jaz, she was harping on about that earlier. I says to her, just give your doctor a bell.

A blank look from Jaz.

COLIN (CONT’D)
A bell. Ringing.

Vague smile from Jaz.

COLIN (CONT’D)
Ah fuck it.

Meanwhile Ian is plonking down next to Sophie.

IAN (MIMICK GLASGOW)
Y’alright doll?

Sophie smacks him playfully on the arm.

IAN (CONT’D)
So what you been up to?

SOPHIE
Just the usual. Taking my Mum up to the doctors. Taking her to the chemist. Taking her back to the doctors when she doesn’t like what the chemist gave her.

IAN
Sounds like you could do with a bit of a change of scene.

SOPHIE
Aye, it’s alright, she’s got a hospital appointment coming up. How are you?

IAN
Good aye.
SOPHIE
Hungry?

IAN
So so.

SOPHIE
God your Mum’s got so much food to
cook. Lucky she’s got Cathy helping
her I suppose.

IAN
The stuff that was in there it’s
not Cathy she’s needing it’s the
fucking Time Team.
Cut to Jaz with Christine.

CHRISTINE
And of course it was later on, towards the end of 1986 when I took the septic toe while I was on holiday in the Algarve. You ever been to the Algarve Jaz?

JAZ
No.

CHRISTINE
Beautiful beaches but very poorly served when it comes to twenty four hour chiropodists.

Cathy and Beth enter carrying trays of food.

CATHY
Right, here we are. Get stuck in. There’s quiche, chicken wings, apple pie.

BETH
And this is mixed veg, some braising steak and a bit of arctic roll.

People start to stand up and dive in.

CHRISTINE
Sophie, get for me would you. Beth - Sophie’ll plate me up.

(Continued)
IAN (TO SOPHIE)
Plate me up an' all would you Sophie.

CATHY
Col?

COLIN
Just a bit of everything for me Cath. Here Eric, that’s the beauty of a buffet is it no - you can have a wee bit of everything?

BETH
He can’t! No red meat for you Eric, Cathy, give him some of those sprouts on a napkin.

COLIN
Oh sprouts, oh oh.

What?

CHRISTINE
Wind. Sophie’s a nightmare with them. Savoy cabbage as well. I can hear her through the wall when I’m in my bed at night. (now does fart noises - three in a row)

On Sophie: WTF.

Cut to Ian. Jaz, who’s siezed his chance to break away from Christine, plonks down next to Ian.

As Beth approaches Christine with the tray, Christine grabs her arm.

CHRISTINE (OF JAZ) (CONT’D)
Here Beth, you never told me he was...

BETH
(beat) He was, what?

CHRISTINE
Well you know

Beth: He’s what?!

CHRISTINE (CONT’D)
Well....English!

Cut to Ian with Jaz.

(CONTINUED)
IAN
Alright? Nice chat with Christine?

JAZ
Yeah, she was just telling me about her septic toe.

Beth approaches, offering a tray.

BETH
Sausage roll?

Jaz looks at the sausage roll, un-enticed.

Cut to Cathy sitting down next to Colin.

CATHY (TO COLIN)
Well it’s nice to get a seat. (now to Beth) Alright if I take two minutes is it Beth?

Beth looks: “whatever”
CATHY (SOTTO VOCE) (CONT’D)
That alright is it? (and now to Colin) Honestly, she invites you in for lunch and no sooner are you through the door than she’s shoved a tea towel in your hand and’s working you like a donkey.

COLIN
Aw you’ve done a smashing job, it’s a lovely spread. Lovely crunch in this wee, these wee, what is that Cathy?

CATHY
This jumper’s stinking. Cashmere Colin, it’s just grabbing every ounce of fat there is in there - skiddly wee kitchen with no cooker hood, it’s like the fires of hell.

Over to Beth with Sophie.

SOPHIE
What’s that Mrs. Baird?

BETH
It’s just something that was at the back. It’s either pakora or a scotch egg that’s gone for a wander.

Back to Colin and Cathy.

COLIN
I was saying to Eric, if this had happened to us we’d’ve been cooking from now til doomsday with all that stuff in our big doubler.

CATHY
Oh we would have. (to Eric) Was Colin telling you about the salmon?

A look from Beth to Eric - rolls eyes, “here we go with the boasting”

ERIC
He was aye.

Reveal Cathy saw Beth’s look.

COLIN
You want to see the size of it, what’s it like Cathy?

(CONTINUED)
CATHY
It’s a monster.

COLIN
It is. That’s exactly what it is, a monster.

Cathy has an idea.

CATHY
Here Col, awayn’d get it!!

COLIN
Eh?

CATHY (WITH A LOOK TO BETH)
Aways get it and bring it in so everyone can see it. Colin caught it himself, didn’t you?

COLIN
I did aye. Bashed its brains in with this thing that the gilly gave me. What was it called again?

CATHY
A club.

COLIN
A club aye.

CATHY
Gon’、“d bring it in. They’re dying to see it.

BETH
Look Colin, it’s fine, sit and have your food, d’you want a few more...wee brown things.

CATHY (SLIGHTLY SHARPER)
Get it!

COLIN exits.

On Jaz spitting discreetly in to a napkin.

Cathy sidles up to Jaz and Ian.

CATHY (CONT’D)
How you boys doing, I feel as if I’ve hardly seen you. Probably cos I’ve been in that bloody kitchen the whole time, anywaaaay, you ok Jaz yeah?

(CONTINUED)
JAZ
Yeah fine, not bad.

CATHY
Beth was saying you’d been off work with stress.

IAN
He’s going back in a couple of weeks though, aren’t you?

JAZ
Yes. Maybe. Hopefully.

CATHY
Aw that’s good. So what was it caused it then, just a build up of stuff or did you have like a breakdown?

JAZ
Just various things. But I’m feeling a bit better now.

CATHY
That’s good. Mind you it must be tough, being off, just sitting in the house on your own all day, staring at the walls. That’ll get you down as well.

JAZ
I’m not on my own all the time.

CATHY
Are you not?

JAZ
No Ian’s round quite a bit.

CATHY
Are you Ian? How much?

IAN
Aw you know, most days.

CATHY
Not every day though?

IAN
No not every day.

JAZ (TO IAN)
Well it will be every day won’t it?
CATHY
Will it Ian?

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE - KITCHEN (DAY 2) 13.15

(BETH, ERIC, CATHY)

Beth is with Eric. Beth is pulling stuff out of the oven.

BETH
Eric, out the way. Out the way!
This is hot!

She returns to lift another heavy tray out.

BETH (CONT’D)
Where’s Cathy?

ERIC
She’s talking to Ian and Jaz.

BETH
This bloody salmon. Who brings a fish in to someone’s house?

He turns, he has spotted Cathy at the door to the kitchen.
(she has overheard what Beth was saying)

ERIC
Hi Cathy.

CATHY
Beth, you’re not going to believe it.

BETH
What?

CATHY
Ian’s moving in with Jaz. Isn’t it exciting?

She now spots Jaz’s bottle of sparkling wine on the side.

CATHY (CONT’D)
Is that champagne?!

And Cathy makes to grab it.

CUT TO:
INT. BAIRD HOUSE – LIVING ROOM (DAY 2) 13.20

(JAZ, IAN, CATHY, CHRISTINE, SOPHIE, COLIN, BETH, ERIC)

Ian with Jaz.

JAZ
I didn’t know what to say, I just panicked!

IAN
It’s fine, don’t worry about it.

JAZ
She was just talking and staring at me and then I started looking at her facial hair with the bits of make up in it and I lost my concentration.

IAN
Look it’s ok, maybe she won’t say anything.

Cathy enters, popping the champagne cork. We see it spill on to the rug. Jaz looks mortified.

CATHY
Here you go you two!! Here’s to the big move. (realising spill) woops.

CHRISTINE
Sophie, stamp that in with your Pumas.

SOPHIE
What’s going on?

CATHY
They’re moving in together.

Beth enters and stops as she sees Cathy dishing out champagne.

CATHY (CONT’D)
Beth, bring a couple of mugs for you and Eric, get a drink of this.

But Beth heads straight for Ian and is about to speak to him when Colin enters with the salmon.

COLIN
Here she is!!

(CONTINUED)
CHRISTINE
Wait and I’ll just get turned here.
Christ, look at the size of that –
it’s like fucking Jaws.

Cathy hoots with laughter. She starts to do the Jaws tune and Colin moves across the room with the fish slightly in time.

Over to Beth with Ian.

JAZ
It was my fault, I wasn’t meant to say.

BETH (TO IAN)
You could at least have told me you were thinking about it.

IAN
I hadn’t really thought about it though.

JAZ
I asked him to. Last night, after dinner, we had corn on the cobs.

BETH
D’you not think you should maybe you’re rushing in to a bit.

IAN
Mum I can’t stay here forever can I?

JAZ
I wish I could sellotape my mouth shut sometimes.

On Beth: I’d happily do that for you.

Cut to Cathy handing the fish back to Colin.

CATHY
Here Colin, take that, I’m bored of it now. Get a glass Col, Ian and Jaz are moving in together.

COLIN
Oh are they? Oh that’s nice.

Colin steps over and shakes hands with the boys.

COLIN (CONT’D)
Good on you boys, s’cuse my fish fingers. Aye, flatshare eh? No fighting over the biggest bedroom eh?

(CONTINUED)
Polite smiles from Ian and Jaz.

COLIN (CONT’D)
Here Eric, we know where we can go now when we’re fancying a few cans in front of the football.

Cut to Christine with Sophie.

CHRISTINE
Poor Beth. She’ll be heartbroken. I’ll need to make an effort to come over and see her more regularly.

CATHY
Sophie are you eyeing up that fish? She is isn’t she? Does she like salmon Christine?

BETH (TRYING TO COOL THINGS)
Cathy.

CATHY
Colin – show it round, look into its eyes Sophie.

BETH
Cathy!!

Colin makes sure that the fish gets right up close to people and that they get a good look at it.

COLIN
Here, Cath. What say we just give Beth and Eric this as a present. Something to start them off again?

CATHY
Oh that’s a brilliant idea.

BETH
Well, I....

CATHY
Beth, take it, please, I hate salmon.

BETH
Honestly...

COLIN
It’s cos your freezer’s not big enough? Here Cath, she’s worried it’ll not fit. (now to Beth) See if you hack what’s left of its head off and bend its tail back it should go in no bother.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
COLIN (CONT'D)
You got a wee hack saw Eric we’ll just take it off now.

CHRISTINE (TO JAZ)
What’s he saying?

JAZ
They’re going to decapitate the fish.

CHRISTINE
Oh for fuck’s sake.

A look from Sophie.

Colin tries to hand the fish to Eric.

ERIC
Aw listen, we’ll sort it later, cheers, thanks for the thought.

On Beth: What are you doing, Eric?!

COLIN
Not at all squire (now in close to Eric) give her a good rinse under the tap - that bit of the river that I dragged her out of’s not just the freshest, quite near a caravan site know what I’m saying.

Christine drops her glass.

CHRISTINE
Oh ya little bastard, Sophie...

BETH (SHOUTS)
Leave it!

SILENCE.

BETH (CONT’D)
Just, leave it!!

CATHY
Alright Beth, it’s only a cheap glass, no need to get all Mrs. Nippy.

BETH
Cathy. I, have had just about enough.

COLIN
Beth, come on now, Eric, get her a glass of wine, she’s been up to her eyes in breadcrumbs all day.

(CONTINUED)
ERIC

Beth...

BETH (PUSHING ON)
Cathy, thanks for coming over and thanks for all your help and thank you for the offer of the salmon but, we don’t want it.

CATHY
Excuse me?

BETH
As I say Cath, it’s a nice thought but we’ll pass on it thank you.

CATHY
Well...

COLIN
Eric, what’s the problem?

ERIC
Beth...

BETH
Shut up Eric.

CATHY
I came in here today Beth, to help you out, as your friend, as your neighbour, but most importantly, as your friend. And you’ve had me in that kitchen working me like a bastard Beth, scampi that you could beat someone to death with and tin foil and sinks and noises beep beep beep beep beep beep. And then Colin, out of the goodness of his heart offers you a beautiful gift, of a fish, and you throw it back in our face. Is that what you’re doing Beth? Are you throwing fish in my face?

BETH
Now you listen to me Cathy...

CATHY
It’s no wonder Ian’s decided he’s moving out.

And this is too much for Beth.

BETH
Out you go Cath, go on.
CATHY
Fine.

Beth grabs the salmon and shoves it in to Cathy’s arms as she tries to gather her handbag etc.

BETH
Take it.

IAN
Mum!

But he’s ignored.

CATHY
No no Beth, that’s your present, you take it.

BETH
Take the salmon Cathy.

CATHY
No no, Colin tell her, it’s her fish.

COLIN
It’s your fish Beth.

ERIC
Beth just leave it.

BETH
I don’t want it. TAKE IT CATHY, TAKE THE SALMON AWAY.

Throughout the following Cathy and Beth continue to shove the fish back and forth between them.

Eventually Cathy takes it.

CATHY
Right! Give it to me! It would never have fitted in that silly little freezer of yours anyway.

Cathy picks it up and makes for the door.

BETH
Oh would it not?

Beth goes after her and grabs it back and then makes for the kitchen with it.

CUT TO:
INT. BETH’S KITCHEN (DAY 2) 13.25

(BETH, ERIC, CATHY, COLIN, CHRISTINE, SOPHIE, IAN, JAZ)

Beth throws open the freezer and begins to try to ram the salmon in to it.

Everyone is congregated at the doorway with a few of them jostling / untidily trying to peer in to the kitchen to see what’s happening.

After a couple of goes she’s unable to get it to fit.

BETH

Eric, get me a big knife.

Christine - who hasn’t had a clear view - now decides to discard her neckbrace.

CHRISTINE (SOTTO VOCE)

That’s better.

And she now pokes her head more fully through the crowd in the doorway for a better view of Beth with the fish.

Beth takes the knife from Eric and throws the fish on the floor and tries to cut its head off. It’s frozen solid. She beats the knife on it before returning to the freezer and, with brut force shoving it in and slamming the door of the freezer shut against it.

A beat. Beth draws breath. All look on, stunned.

BETH

Right. Happy? Everyone happy now?

Beat. A stunned silent reaction from the onlookers.

JAZ

Mrs. Baird.

BETH

What?

JAZ

That door’s not shut properly.

END OF EPISODE.