

1. INT. NIGHT.OFFICE.FRIDAY.

C/U on a window gently banging open and shut. The glass has been broken and the latch hangs off. We HEAR papers rustling and drawers being searched.

The back of a 'hoodied' FIGURE, their face obscured, holds a torch and a plastic shopping bag which is quarter full.

The FIGURE flashes torchlight around an office. The torchlight reveals two desks at opposite ends of the room.

The FIGURE approaches one of the desks, opens a drawer and pulls out a folder. It contains a number of EU yearly passports. The FIGURE selects one of them and stuffs it in the plastic shopping bag.

The WINDOW BANGS louder making the FIGURE stop. He stands listening, then turns showing himself to be a YOUNG MAN (JASON 19) with Downs Syndrome.

JASON hurriedly closes the drawer. He lays the torch on the desk, opens the window and clumsily 'falls' out.

2. INT. NIGHT. UNTIDY KITCHEN/DINER. FLAT-NORTH LONDON.

SAME.

A RADIO plays in the background. We HEAR a RADIO DJ.

A MAN (DANNY 35) stands in front of a window. A half empty glass of red wine and a bottle stand on a small kitchen table. He is wearing a T-shirt and jogging bottoms. His feet are bare.

He smokes a cigarette looking out over the NIGHT CITY SCAPE.

RADIO DJ (OFF)

Friday night! Something to get you all in the mood. This one's for Jojo and Fleece from Carla.

She doesn't say where she is...oh well...have a great night...this is for you guys!

His voice trails off and MUSIC kicks in.

3. INT/EXT. VICTORIA COACH STATION.TICKET BOOTH. LATE FRIDAY NIGHT.

JASON stands at the booth. He is wearing the same zip front navy hoodie, but with the hood now down and he carries the plastic shopping bag.

The TICKET SALES WOMAN points to the matrix.

TICKET SALES WOMAN

It's seventeen pounds fifty.

He puts his 'Freedom pass' under the plastic screen divider.

TICKET SALES WOMAN

Can't use your freedom pass here, love...

PAUSE

She points to the till matrix.

JASON hesitates momentarily confused. He puts two twenty pound notes under the screen. The TICKET SALES WOMAN passes him his ticket, his freedom pass and one twenty pound note and his change.

JASON

Thank you.

TICKET SALES WOMAN

(shouting after him, concerned)

Aisle 9....OK...aisle 9.

JASON nods and wanders away counting the change back into his wallet.

3b. INT/EXT VICTORIA COACH STATION.

JASON stands with his back to the wall in the half empty Bus Station. Clutching his carrier bag.

A coach roars in and obscures him from our vision.

4. INT. SATURDAY.EARLY MORNING.BEDROOM.

A FIGURE lies under the covers of a bed in an untidy room. In the dim light a mobile phone vibrates noisily on the bedside table, next to a stained wineglass.

DANNY throws back the covers and picks up the phone.

'10 messages'

He dials and listens to his messages.

DANNY

(Groans) Jason....

5. EXT. FERRY.SEA.

JASON stands at the prow of a ferry, laughing, looking out over... the sea. He throws his head back as the wind rushes through his hair.

6a. INT. ST JEROME'S HALFWAY HOME. CORRIDOR/JASON'S BEDROOM.

DANNY and JAMI(28) walk hurriedly down a corridor of identical room doors. JAMI carries a huge set of keys which jangle as she tries to keep up with DANNY.

They stop at a DOOR.

DANNY

...and he's definitely not with Emily?

JAMI

That's the first place I tried...I think they had a falling out...they broke up.

JAMI selects a key and opens the door.

DANNY

Whatever that means. Sorry.

BEAT.

why!?

JAMI

I should imagine he's upset.

6b. INT.JASON'S BEDROOM.SAME.

They enter the small bedroom. A door opens onto an en-suite WC and wash basin. JAMI goes into the en-suite. DANNY looks at the posters of bands on the wall.

JAMI (OFF)

He took his toothbrush!

DANNY looks at a boxed kettle and a toaster, unopened on a small writing desk. He looks in a draw, socks in a neat row. He looks at a small framed photo of JASON head to head, smiling, with a blue-eyed girl, who also has Downs Syndrome.

JAMI comes back into the room and stares up at a cork 'pin board' on the wall. DANNY joins her and his eyes rest on a Personal Planner pinned up amongst other photo's and drawings.

There is a magazine cutout of a pop-slut-diva, wearing leopard print bra and short-shorts. She stands holding an electric guitar, one arm straight up in the air. Her hair is dyed blonde and big and wild. She pouts aggressively out of the picture.

JAMI

I told you we should have helped him...

DANNY

They'd never fund it...and you know it.

JAMI

...I bloody well told you.

DANNY looks guiltily away. He looks back at the pin board. Notices the city MAP printed from an Internet Search Engine. He looks closely at it, frowns and pulls it off the board.

JAMI

You can't do that!

DANNY turns to leave.

JAMI

Where are you going? Danny? Danny!

DANNY doesn't answer, he continues down the corridor, his face stony set in anger.

We HEAR a TRAM BELL...

7. EXT. TRAM STOP. MUNTPLIEN. AMSTERDAM.

...JASON stares up at the Munttoren tower which looms large.

He jumps back, just in time to avoid a Tram Train.

He gazes down at the crisscross of tram lines in the middle of the square and then up at the network of tram wires over head.

8. EXT. LONDON – CITY AIRPORT.

ANNOUNCER

...would all passengers for flight 117 to Amsterdam Schiphol....

DANNY sits on a seat in the departure lounge. He is leaning forward, his hands on his legs. A small back pack at his side. He stands as his flight is called.

9. EXT. MAGERE BRUG. AMSTERDAM.

JASON wanders over Magere Bridge looking bewildered. He approaches TWO YOUNG WOMEN who point him back across the bridge.

They watch him go. ONE OF THE WOMEN covers her mouth to suppress a giggle, the other WOMAN shrugs her shoulders by way of a reply.

10. EXT. AMSTERDAM - MONTAGE SEQUENCE. SAME.

JASON looks in a pastry shop window pressing his face to the glass. The SHOP KEEPER notices and frowns. He enters the shop and through the window we see THE SHOP KEEPER serve him. JASON leaves followed by the SHOP KEEPER who wipes the outside of the window with her apron, glaring after him.

JASON walks along the Singel Canal. He stops to look at a flower stall on the Bloemenmarkt. He stops and talks to a WOMAN on one of the stalls. She selects a stem: a big white tulip, and hands it to him. He smiles and wanders off carrying the flower heading towards the Magere Brug.

JASON stands on the bridge thrilled by the activity around him; people fly past on bicycles; he waves at barges sailing underneath him; he HEARS fragments of passing people's conversation in Dutch all the while clutching the white tulip.

He approaches the Oude Kerk and is stopped by a shiny object lying in the cobblestones. It is a bronze hand. Fascinated he puts the tulip in his carrier bag and bends down gently placing his hand over the bronze relief. Suddenly he pulls away embarrassed as he sees a breast underneath the hand.

He stands awkwardly looking around him not hearing his mobile ringing from inside the plastic bag.

11. EXT. AMSTERDAM - DE WALLEN- SAME. Mid-afternoon.

DANNY walks along the edge of a Canal holding his mobile to his ear and looking at the Internet Map. He switches the mobile off in frustration stopping a MAN in the street.

'scuse me mate...do you know this place?

Danny points to an area on the Internet MAP.

The MAN wearily points in a direction and walks away.

Annoyed, DANNY dials again. This time it is answered.

DANNY

Where the hell are you? (in reply) I'm here!!In Amsterdam! It's not funny Jace. What Street? Well look!...on a wall. Stay there...don't move...I mean it Jace...Move and you're dead! yes! (Laughs in spite of his anger) yes...on a stick... please mate...just wait for me ok?

He closes the call.

(muttering) Little shit!

12. EXT. CANAL SIDE. DE WALLEN. SAME.

JASON slouches against a bollard anxiously waiting for DANNY tightly holding his plastic bag with the tulip poking out.

Unnoticed by JASON he is being watched by a group of THREE YOUNG LADS. JASON looks in his bag and brings out a bar of chocolate.

YOUNG WOMAN struts down the street. She has a short platinum 'bob', very high heels and very short, red shorts to match her bright red lipstick. She has a black halter neck top on.

JASON watches her, mesmerized by her thin muscular legs; chocolate bar forgotten. She enters one of the many shop fronts in the street.

JASON crosses towards the shop but is stopped by the THREE LADS surrounding him.

LAD 1

What else have you got in that bag?

LAD 1 grabs for the bag.

JASON

Get off it's mine!

DANNY rounds the corner, sees JASON and hurries over.

DANNY

O!

The THREE LADS run off laughing knocking into a DRUNK MAN staggering down the street.

The DRUNK MAN sits on the step in front of the RED SHORTS WOMAN'S shop.

DANNY and JASON stand looking at each other in the middle of the street.

DANNY

You know this isn't the way Jace.

JASON

I can do what I want.

DANNY

And what about Emily?

JASON glares at DANNY.

13. EXT. DE WALLEN. SEX SHOP.SAME.

The RED SHORTS WOMAN comes outside and stands in front of the DRUNK MAN.

RED SHORTS WOMAN

(Loudly in Dutch) Fuck off!!

JASON and DANNY turn at the sound of her voice.

The DRUNK MAN doesn't answer but moves off the doorstep and sits just next to it on the pavement, leaning against the wall. He grins up at her.

RED SHORTS WOMAN

(in Dutch) Wanker!

The DRUNK MAN suddenly stands and lunges at the RED SHORTS WOMAN who reels back.

JASON

LEAVE HER ALONE!

JASON runs over to help her dropping his carrier bag.

RED SHORTS WOMAN watches from the shop doorway as the DRUNK MAN swings a punch at JASON, who ducks and grabs the sides of the DRUNK MAN'S coat. DANNY tries to separate them as they scuffle inexpertly.

The DRUNK MAN stops and looks JASON in the face for the first time. He tries to break free but JASON won't let him go.

DANNY

Come on Jason. Let him go.

JASON hesitates then lets him go. The DRUNK staggers away.

JASON picks up his carrier bag.

JASON (to Red Shorts Woman)

Are you alright?

RED SHORTS WOMAN

(in English) I can handle it...but thank you.

RED SHORTS WOMAN goes back into her shop.

DANNY

Jace...come on, lets just go home.

JASON ignores him and looks straight at RED SHORTS WOMAN through the window.

14.EXT/INT. SEX SHOP. DE WALLEN . SAME.

RED SHORTS WOMAN sits on a high stool absent mindedly applying lipstick.

The light inside bathes her in a warm pink. Her hair and lips shine in a hazy, glamorous glow. JASON takes the now slightly battered Tulip out of the carrier bag and holds it up. She smiles at JASON. JASON smiles back. We see DANNY behind him hold his hands up in defeat and wander back to the bollard.

15.INT.SEX SHOP INTERIOR.SAME.

JASON enters the shop. RED SHORTS WOMAN looks at him. He nervously hands her the Flower.

RED SHORTS WOMAN

You still have to pay.

JASON nods. He takes his wallet out of his pocket and opens it. He hands her some notes. She takes them and looks back at him.

RED SHORTS WOMAN

Have you had sex before?

JASON

Emily doesn't want to.

She turns and walks to a door at the back of the shop. JASON follows.

16. INT/ HALLWAY.BEDROOM. SAME.

RED SHORTS WOMAN leads JASON down a brief narrow corridor, a door opens onto a small room. She enters the room and stands holding the door for JASON.

A pink light bulb overhead casts a glow over them. A single bed dominates the room.

JASON looks around before sitting nervously on the edge of the bed, clutching his carrier bag. She closes the door and stands in front of him, legs astride. JASON looks up at her. She looks back, her head on one side. She gently sways her hips from side to side watching his face and reaction.

He grins his approval. She straddles his legs and sits on his lap, reaching down to unzip his hoodie.He drops the carrier bag.

She pushes the hoodie back over his shoulders and removes it and then pushes him gently back onto the bed.

She looks down into his eyes as she reaches behind her neck and unclasps her halterneck top. JASON stares up at her, His eyes widen with pleasure.

The pink light bulb behind her throws her shape and face into silhouette. As she moves in and out of the light, it shines in JASON'S eyes, momentarily blinding him. We hear the sound of trousers being slowly removed.

JASON all the while, stares up into the light bulb which starts to 'pulse'.

The light swells into a yellow and pink globe which melts into...

17. EXT.DE WALLEN. CANAL SIDE. SAME.

The yellow-orange setting SUN over the canal.

DANNY leans on a bollard, smoking a cigarette. He looks anxiously at the shop door. He stubs out the cigarette where two stubs already lie. He puts his hands in his jacket pocket and looks at the shop doorway.

He stands, but then sits, as JASON appears in the shop doorway.

JASON crosses to DANNY who rises to meet him. They fall into side by side, walking back towards the centre of the city.

DANNY

Well...

JASON laughs and pushes him away playfully. We see, but do not hear, JASON talking six-to-the-dozen to DANNY.

18.INT. CAFE. AMSTERDAM CENTRAL. SAME.

DANNY and JASON sit opposite each other. JASON is finishing off a burger while DANNY watches, a sandwich untouched in front of him.

DANNY looks up at the WAITRESS. She looks directly at him. their eyes meet. She smiles. He looks down quickly, then back up, but she has turned away. He keeps looking back but she is now busy with another customer.

DANNY finishes his coffee. JASON finishes his drink.

The WAITRESS crosses and clears the plates away.

DANNY
Thank you.

JASON smiles knowingly at him.

Come on.

DANNY stands at the counter waiting to pay. JASON hands him a note, which he takes and puts with his own notes. They go to leave.

WAITRESS
Bye then...

DANNY smiles at her. They leave.

19. EXT.COACH STATION. AMSTERDAM. EVE.

JASON and DANNY stand in a queue waiting to get on a coach. They queue silently, holding coach tickets ready for the driver to inspect. JASON shows the driver his ticket and gets on the coach. DANNY hesitates at the foot of the coach steps. A MAN pushes past him and hands the driver his own ticket.

20. INT. COACH. AMSTERDAM.

JASON sits on a seat near the window. He looks down the coach aisle. He sees TICKET MAN walking down the aisle.

JASON looks out the window and sees DANNY standing away from the queue.

21. EXT. COACH STATION. EVE. SAME.

DANNY looks along the coach windows and sees JASON looking out at him.

JASON smiles, waving frantically.

DANNY laughs as he can see JASON soundlessly cheering and laughing from inside the coach. The TICKET MAN looks out over his shoulder.

DANNY waves and makes the 'international sign' for 'I'll call'.

DANNY then turns and heads back into THE CITY LIGHTS OF AMSTERDAM.

JASON cheering, punches the air...the camera slows to a still.

END.