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1 EXT. ROADSIDE CAFE - DAY 1

Establishing shot of a Little Chef style roadside cafe.

Lance's yellow Triumph TR7 is parked in the nearly empty carpark.

2 INT. ROADSIDE CAFE - DAY 2

Lance and Andy are sitting at a table: empty breakfast plates, mugs of tea, their metal detectors propped against their chairs.

A large TV on the wall is showing the news. It's the novelty story at the end of the bulletin: an outside broadcast, the TV PRESENTER is speaking to camera.

TV PRESENTER

...but it was when he checked the hole again and his metal detector gave another beep that Kevin Beadle's fortunes were about to change.

He's here with me now, Kevin tell us what happened next?

KEVIN BEALE is holding a metal detector.

KEVIN BEALE

TV PRESENTER

And am I right to think that you are very new to the hobby of metal detecting?

KEVIN BEALE

Indeed, yes, it was only the second time that I'd been out.

Andy and Lance are furious.

TV PRESENTER

I imagine you're hooked now though aren't you?

KEVIN BEALE

Absolutely Chris. Yes.

TV PRESENTER

Really got the bug.  
And before I let you go, is it true that when metal detectors find gold they do a little celebratory 'gold dance'?

KEVIN BEALE

3 EXT. ROADSIDE CAFE - DAY

3

Low angle on the back wheel of Lance's car as it accelerates away from camera. We hold on a crushed beer can in the foreground that has a wild flower growing through it.

TITLES:

**detectorists**

4 EXT. NEW PERMISSION, FIELD - DAY

4

Andy and Lance are detecting a few metres apart.

ANDY

I haven't been to a job interview  
in years.

(beat)

In fact I've never been to a job  
interview. I suppose I should just  
be myself.

LANCE

Are you joking? Don't do that mate,  
that won't help.

ANDY



LANCE

Well it'll be me, in my natural habitat. She'll get to see the real me. What sort of impression will she get?

ANDY

Hide the signed Linda Lusardi photo.

LANCE

It's already gone.

(beat)

You know? Will I live up to her expectations?

ANDY

I can't believe you've got a grown up daughter.  
Does she call you Lance or Dad?

LANCE

Neither yet. She's skillfully avoided calling me anything. I'd obviously like her to call me dad, but I've got to give her space.

ANDY

I can't imagine it. Out of the blue like that.

LANCE

But it wasn't out of the blue for

He scrapes some dirt off and studies the brooch through his loupe.

ANDY  
What's it say?

LANCE  
Status... Quo.

ANDY  
Good work.

5 INT. ANDY AND BECKY'S HOUSE - DAY

5

A conversation between two rooms. Andy is preparing dinner in the kitchen. Becky is in the lounge with the baby.

BECKY  
Did you see that guy found the Roman hoard in Warwickshire?

ANDY  
No.

BECKY  
Million pounds they reckon.

ANDY  
Whatever.

BECKY  
It was his first time detecting.

ANDY  
Second. Whatever.

BECKY  
Ooh! You did see it! Are you jealous?

ANDY  
No, why should I be?

BECKY  
You are, you're jealous.

Andy caves.

ANDY

ANDY (CONT'D)

Everyone else is sliding around in Roman coins.  
I can't even watch Time Team anymore because I'm jealous.

Becky laughs.

BECKY

Well you'll be safe in Africa. They don't get Time Team in Botswana.

ANDY

I have to get the job first.  
To be honest Becks I'm bricking it.

BECKY

You'll be fine.

ANDY

And if I'm not?

BECKY

Maybe I can retract my notice and carry on working.

They both know this would not be good.  
He comes to the door.

BECKY (CONT'D)

They'll probably just talk through your C.V. And see if you have any questions...

ANDY

I don't have a C.V.

She hands over a piece of paper.

BECKY

I wrote you a C.V.

ANDY

Did you?

BECKY

Yes. So you might want to make yourself familiar with that.

ANDY

I can't ride a horse.

BECKY

They're not going to ask you to ride a horse are they? They won't have a horse with them.



ANDY

Why did you put I could ride a horse?

BECKY

Forget about that.

ANDY

And this paleontology course I attended on the Jurassic Coast...

BECKY

Yes?

ANDY

It wasn't so much a 'course'...

BECKY (CONT'D)

You got a qualification...

ANDY

...as a badge...

BECKY (CONT'D)

You learned a lot...

ANDY

...for cubs.

BECKY

To be honest I was struggling.

ANDY

Well I'm feeling so much better about it.

BECKY

You'll be fine. Relax.

ANDY

No, I'm all right. I'll give it my best shot. For all of us.

He goes back to the kitchen.

BECKY

I've heard you speak so passionately about archaeology. They'll see that passion, if you let them and I'm sure that will make up for your lack of experience.

ANDY

Yeah, definitely.

BECKY

You're so ready for something like this.

ANDY

Yeah?



PETER  
Sorry, that's the kettle, I use it  
for...

SOPHIE  
Please don't tell me.

PETER  
I've been thinking about those guys  
that came into the pub, the Dirt  
Sharks.

SOPHIE  
Yeah?

PETER  
What do you think they were after?  
Do you think they know something?

SOPHIE  
No. They're idiots, they're just  
being nosy.

PETER  
I'm wondering whether I should go  
and see them.

SOPHIE  
Honestly, they're always hanging  
around. They're just afraid they're  
missing out on something.

\*

PETER  
Even so, I feel a bit rude.  
Wouldn't mind apologizing. You  
don't have a number for them?

SOPHIE  
No but they meet at the WI on a  
Thursday night.

As Peter moves some bags Sophie spots a metal detector case.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)  
You got a detector?

PETER  
Oh yes, picked one up second hand.

She pulls over the case and unzips it.

SOPHIE  
Wow it's a good one.

PETER  
Yes, got a good deal on it.

SOPHIE  
You know how to use this?

PETER  
I'll figure it out.

She then also notices a pair of muddy boots but doesn't mention them.

She tries one more sip of tea and then throws the rest on the ground.

SOPHIE  
What will you do when you've found the plane? Will you go home?

PETER  
Well no, actually I was thinking of taking the detector on a tour of duty.

SOPHIE  
Where?

PETER  
Don't know, just drive and maybe visit some historic sites on the way.

SOPHIE  
Sounds nice.

PETER  
Come with me.

SOPHIE  
Really?

PETER  
You have plans for the summer?

SOPHIE  
Not really.

PETER  
Come with me then.

SOPHIE  
Okay.

They kiss.

7 EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - DAY

7

Russell and Hugh walk up the gravel driveway of a suitably large house.

They have their metal detectors and Hugh is holding a carrier bag with a weight in it as if it's a bag of poo. As they approach the house Hugh tries to hand the bag to Russell.

HUGH  
Can you give it to him?

RUSSELL  
You found it. I'm not touching it.

HUGH  
I'm not very good with authority figures.

RUSSELL  
Well the mayor has no authority unless he's wearing his necklace. So don't hand that over until you've got permission to detect on his land. We're doing it for the club. We're on a mission.

\*

Russell leans in, rings the bell and then steps back behind Hugh.

HUGH  
I can't get that image of the mayor out of my head, in the woods.

RUSSELL  
I know. Try not to think about it. Try to imagine him fully clothed.

The door is opened by the mayor, in a grubby dressing gown, slightly too short.

HUGH  
Hello sir. We're the detectorists.

MAYOR  
The what?

RUSSELL  
Metal detectors.  
We found your necklace.

The mayor glances down at their detectors and hops out of the house, pulling the door to behind him. He grabs the bag from Hugh.

MAYOR  
It's called a Chain of Office and you took your bloody time. Is it all there?

HUGH

It might need fixing, I think a few of the links are broken.

RUSSELL

It must have been flung off with quite some abandon.

MAYOR

It got caught on a branch.

RUSSELL

That's right.

MAYOR

Good, well I'll phone Terry about the reward...

RUSSELL

Actually Mr. Mayor instead of a reward we were wondering if you would grant us permission to detect on your land.

MAYOR

What? No. Absolutely not. Out of the question.

RUSSELL

Oh.

MAYOR

Nothing to find there. No.

RUSSELL

(beat)

Well then we won't waste any more of your time.

\*

MAYOR

Good.

RUSSELL

One more thing though.

MAYOR

What?

RUSSELL

It's just that the local paper have been in touch asking whether we have any interesting stories. We know they'd be very interested to hear about your necklace and where you lost it.

HUGH  
 Could get a lot of attention. Could even go national or make the local TV news.  
 Terry says they like a quirky story...

RUSSELL  
 Especially one with a happy ending.  
 (beat)  
 So to speak.

The mayor has gone red in the face.

MAYOR  
 I see. Terry's idea is it? I knew he was bent, even when he was in the force he didn't play by the rules. And now this.  
 There's a word for this.

RUSSELL  
 Is there?

Neither of them have a clue what the word could be.  
 The mayor leans forward and hisses.

MAYOR  
 Have your permission then. I know what you're up to. I've been warned about you.

RUSSELL  
 Have you?

MAYOR  
 But he's one step ahead of you.

RUSSELL  
 Who is?

He turns to go back inside.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)  
 Well, thank you.

Hugh gestures to the bag.

HUGH  
 You might want to give that a wipe.

8 INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

8

Andy enters the reception area of a university building and approaches the desk.

ANDY

Hello. I've an interview at 10.30  
Andy Stone.

RECEPTIONIST

They're running about half an hour  
behind, are you okay to wait?

ANDY

Sure.

RECEPTIONIST

Take a seat.

She points to a waiting area where three other hopefuls are sitting along a wall.

Andy takes a seat and starts to flick through a brightly coloured celebrity magazine. As he does he checks out the other candidates. They all look like proper archaeologists: A WOMAN IN HER TWENTIES, vest top, dreads and piercings, and TWO BLOKES WITH FULL AND IMPRESSIVE BEARDS. Andy self consciously lifts a hand to his face and feels his smooth cheek.

He notices their hands. All three have filthy fingernails. He looks at his own hands, his fingernails are spotless. He decides to do something about it and gets up.

ANDY

(to receptionist)

I'm going to get some fresh air.

9 EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

9

Andy exits the building and walks a short distance to a flower bed. He bends down and grabs a handful of earth and starts to rub it into his fingernails. As he does he spots something in the earth which he picks up and examines. We don't get a clear look at what he's found (or maybe we do (it's bits of clay pipe)) but he starts to see more which he collects and puts in his pocket.

Suddenly he looks up to see a man watching him with a slightly disgusted expression. (We will soon find out this is MICHAEL TENDAI).

ANDY

Morning.

The man continues into the building leaving Andy feeling stupid.

10 INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

10

Later and it's just Andy left waiting, going through the motions of reading a magazine. A door opens and a man, ROBERT KINGSNORTH, appears.



KINGSNORTH  
Andrew Stone?

ANDY  
Yes.

KINGSNORTH  
Sorry to keep you waiting, do you  
want to come through?

Andy follows the man into the room.

11 INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

11

Kingsnorth joins another man at a desk. We recognise Michael Tendai as the man who was watching Andy outside, and Tendai, clearly recognizing Andy, just stares as Kingsnorth does all the talking.

KINGSNORTH  
I'm Robert Kingsnorth and this is  
Doctor Tendai from the University  
of Gaborone, have a seat.

Andy sits.

KINGSNORTH (CONT'D)  
Doctor Tendai is overseeing the  
excavations at Toutswe Mogala.

ANDY  
Right. Yes.

Kingsnorth looks through Andy's meagre C.V. He looks for another page. There isn't one.

KINGSNORTH  
Is there another...?

ANDY  
No, that's it I'm afraid.

KINGSNORTH  
Right.  
Newly qualified I see.

ANDY  
Yes.

KINGSNORTH  
Not much experience in the field.

ANDY  
Not yet no.

KINGSNORTH

Right.  
How much do you know about  
Botswana?

ANDY

Um... I believe bridge is very  
popular...

They don't react.

ANDY (CONT'D)

The card game.

KINGSNORTH

I meant *archaeology* in Botswana.

ANDY

Right yes, it sounds fascinating.

KINGSNORTH

What does?

ANDY

Archaeology.

KINGSNORTH

Yes.  
How much have you studied the Iron  
Age?

ANDY

I wrote a thesis on the Stirling  
Hoard.

KINGSNORTH

Stirling Hoard, the gold torcs?

ANDY

Yes.

KINGSNORTH

Found by a metal detector?

ANDY

Yes.

KINGSNORTH

What are your views on metal  
detectors?

ANDY

I think, as long as they stick to a strict code of conduct, then metal detectors, people using metal detectors provide a valuable service and recover a lot of archaeology that would otherwise be lost to the plough. Hobbyists get a bad press but the vast majority are law abiding, experts in their field and passionate about history.

TENDAI

You're not a metal detector are you Mr. Stone?

ANDY

Detectorist... no.

12

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

12

Andy is by the flower bed we saw him at earlier speaking on his mobile. He is distressed.

ANDY

Oh god! And then I asked him if he was into death metal!  
Curse Lance and his pub-quiz trivia...  
I know... but baby, it was awful, when I shook their hands at the end they recoiled because mine were so cold and clammy. They physically recoiled!

Just then he sees Doctor Tendai come out of the building.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Hang on Becks... Doctor Tendai!

Tendai turns round.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Sorry, I just wanted to say I wasn't picking up cigarette butts.

TENDAI

Excuse me?

ANDY

Earlier. When you saw me out here.

TENDAI  
Oh.

ANDY  
Clay pipes.

TENDAI  
Pardon?

Andy fishes a handful of clay pipe from his pocket.

ANDY  
I just saw some clay pipes in the  
flower bed.

Tendai bends forward to look.

TENDAI  
What are they?

ANDY  
Broken bits of clay pipe. People  
used to smoke them.

Tendai takes them.

TENDAI  
How old are they?

ANDY  
Well these are Victorian but this  
one is early 18th or even late 17th  
century.

TENDAI  
How can you tell?

ANDY  
The older ones had thicker stems  
and much smaller bowls because  
tobacco was so expensive.

TENDAI  
And you found these just here?

ANDY  
Yes.

TENDAI  
Can I keep these?

Andy is obviously reluctant but agrees.

ANDY  
Yup.

TENDAI  
Thanks. Bye.

ANDY

Bye.

TENDAI

Oh, what was the name of that band you like?

ANDY

Crackdust.

TENDAI

Crackdust. I'll check them out.

On the other end of the phone we hear Becky's raucous laugh.

13 INT. SCOUT HALL - EVENING

13

It's the beginning of the weekly meeting of the DMDC. All the gang are there except Peter, and are sitting themselves on foldy chairs.

\*  
\*

Terry is talking to Russell as he moves to the front to start the meeting.

\*  
\*

TERRY

A maverick yeah?

RUSSELL

He didn't actually use the word 'maverick' no, he said you never did play by the rules.

Terry is obviously well chuffed with this.

TERRY

Yeah, he's basically saying I was a maverick. Sometimes you have to throw away the rule book and go with a hunch. I wasn't in the business of bureaucracy and red tape, I was in the business of catching criminals. That was back when I had my Cortina. Eh Sheila?

SHEILA

What's that love?

TERRY

The old Cortina?

SHEILA

Oh! Yes. And your leather jacket.

She pictures him back then.

\*

TERRY

Right! Don't know how many of you heard that but we have some good news. Due to the brave efforts of Russell and Hugh we now have permission to detect on the mayor's land.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LOUISE

Whoa, has that land ever been searched before?

\*  
\*  
\*

LANCE

Never, virgin land.

\*  
\*

LOUISE

How many acres?

\*  
\*

HUGH

Five hundred.

\*  
\*

LOUISE

Come on!

\*  
\*

LANCE

So the rally is on?

\*  
\*

TERRY

Can't see any reason why not.

\*

SOPHIE

Hang on, aren't we forgetting something? This was supposed to be about finding Peter's grandfather, finding the crash site.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

TERRY

Well it's funny you should say that. Has anyone seen Peter?

SOPHIE

I saw him this morning.

We cut to various eyebrow-raised reactions to this.

TERRY

Is he coming this evening?

SOPHIE

Said he was.

Terry holds up a piece of paper.

TERRY

Because I have in my hand a piece of paper that needs some explaining.

LANCE  
What is it Tel Boy?

TERRY  
This is the licence to excavate  
the crash site from the ministry of  
Defence.

\*

ANDY  
Bloody hell. That was quick.

TERRY  
Exactly. Why?  
Because they have full records of  
the crash and there are no human  
remains on board.

SOPHI E



LANCE

She didn't say it wasn't true, she  
said that there was no real  
evidence. Didn't you Varde?

\*

Varde nods.

\*

SOPHIE

You lot are obsessed with gold.

RUSSELL

Come to think of it. The mayor was  
acting suspiciously, like he knew  
something we didn't.

TERRY

So is that it?  
Are we being taken for a ride?

LANCE  
I don't think he knows, Terry.

TERRY  
What's that?

PETER  
Knows what?

TERRY  
That your grandfather didn't die in  
the plane crash?

PETER  
What?

TERRY  
Oh.

Terry, the wind gone from his sails, feebly offers the paper which Peter reads.

TERRY (CONT'D)  
So you didn't know?

PETER  
No.

TERRY  
Oh. Well. Um...  
Congratulations. Your grandfather  
isn't dead.  
(beat)  
Well he might be by now of course  
but uh... he didn't perish in a  
plane crash. Not this one anyway.

SHEILA  
This calls for a celebration.

PETER  
(terse)  
Does it Sheila? Does anyone else  
want to crack open some champagne?

Terry swiftly steps up...

TERRY  
Quick word Peter...

...and takes Peter to one side. He says something very softly and quietly to Peter who nods and they turn back.

PETER  
I'm so sorry Sheila, I didn't mean  
to snap at you.

SHEILA  
Oh that's all right.

PETER  
I was just... this isn't necessarily good news for me. If my grandfather survived the war then it means he made a conscious decision not to come home to his family.

TERRY  
Oh right yes. Didn't think of that.  
(pause)  
Still... All right to dig it up now?... For the rally?

14 EXT. SCOUT HALL - EVENING

14

Peter is walking to his van, agitated. Sophie is close behind.

SOPHIE  
Peter, he didn't realize.

PETER  
I know, I know but god. I came asking for help and he's just turning it into a circus.

SOPHIE  
He didn't know he was going to discover that.

PETER  
I know. I've to figure out where this leaves me. I've got to think.

SOPHIE  
Shall I come?

PETER  
No. I'll call.

He gets in and drives away. She watches him go.

15 INT. LANCE'S FLAT - DAY

15

Lance pours stout from a can into two glasses and hands one to Kate.

KATE  
You're a what?

LANCE  
A metal detectorist.

She looks blank.

KATE

Are you on some sort of register?

LANCE

It's a hobby. We go out looking for metal.

Nothing.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Buried metal. Gold and stuff.

KATE

Treasure?

LANCE

Well, if you want to put it like that, but we don't think of...

KATE

Pirate treasure?

LANCE

Not *pirate* treasure no...

KATE

Have you found any?

LANCE

What gold?

KATE

Yes.

LANCE

No.

KATE

What's the best thing you've found?

LANCE

Let's... why don't we... I've got a surprise...

He opens a cupboard and reaches in.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Here. I've been meaning to give you this...

Lance hands Kate a small present wrapped in bright paper. She

Well, when I thought you were born.  
It's a bit late.  
I saved it.

She laughs.

KATE  
Thanks. I like it.

LANCE  
You'd have probably appreciated it  
more back then.

KATE  
No, I like it.

Lance gets another parcel from the cupboard, this time wrapped in Christmas paper.

LANCE  
And this is your Christmas present  
for that year. It's not much. I was  
a bit skint.

She smiles and opens a small box containing a silver chain and pendant.

KATE  
Wow. I can't believe you saved them  
all this time.

LANCE  
Oh that's not it...

He takes another present.

LANCE (CONT'D)  
This is your first birthday...

And another...

LANCE (CONT'D)  
Second...

Two more...

LANCE (CONT'D)  
And your Christmas presents from  
those years, here's your third  
birthday...

They are starting to pile up now and Kate is a little overwhelmed.

You've bought me a birthday and Christmas present every year?

LANCE

Yes.

KATE

That's over forty presents.

LANCE

Yes.

She kind of slumps.

KATE

This is amazing Lance but I'm freaking out.

LANCE

What do you mean?

KATE

I don't think I even own forty things.

Lance takes an envelope from his back pocket.

LANCE

Well open this at least. The presents can wait.

KATE

What's this?

LANCE

Open it.

She opens the envelope and takes out a cheque for what is obviously a large sum of money.

LANCE (CONT'D)

It's your child maintenance. I put it aside every month until you were eighteen. And it's been gaining interest all that time...

KATE

I can't accept this.

LANCE

What do you mean? It's already yours. It's always been yours. I'm not giving you anything you didn't already own. You just didn't know about it.

KATE

Lance...

LANCE  
Call me dad.

KATE  
No!

Lance is taken aback.

KATE (CONT'D)  
I can't yet. Sorry. This is all too  
much at the moment. I've got to go.

She leaves the cheque on the table, grabs her coat and  
leaves. Lance calls after her,

LANCE  
Wait, just open your sixteenth  
birthday present.

He goes to the cupboard and reaches in.

LANCE (CONT'D)  
I've been looking forward to giving  
you this one...

He pulls out what is clearly a giftwrapped metal detector.

LANCE (CONT'D)  
It's the best one...

But she's gone.

16 INT. ANDY AND BECKY'S HOUSE - MORNING

16

Andy is gathering together baby and metal detecting  
equipment. It's a props nightmare.  
Becky shouts from upstairs.

BECKY (V.O.)  
Postman!

Andy glances towards the window.

BECKY (V.O.)  
You might hear about the job today.

ANDY  
Yeah, I wouldn't hold your breath.  
You should have seen the beards on  
the other applicants.

BECKY  
A beard and BO does not an  
archaeologist make.

ANDY  
Goes a long way towards fitting in  
though.

The letter box clatters and some post falls onto the mat. Andy goes to pick it up. He sees a letter addressed to him and hurriedly opens it, reads. In the background we see Becky come down the stairs with baby Stanley.

BECKY  
Is that it?

He stuffs it into his pocket.

ANDY  
No. Magazine subscription thing.

Beat. Does she believe him? Okay. She hands Stanley over and kisses his head.

BECKY  
Have a nice day with daddy. Say  
hello to uncle Lance.  
Don't listen to any of their  
bullshit.

ANDY  
We don't talk bullshit.

BECKY  
Yes you do.

ANDY  
We talk about all manner of  
philosophical issues. We are at one  
with the Earth when we're out  
there. Operating on a higher plain.  
We put the world to rights.  
Art, religion, science, you name  
it.  
(beat)  
Life.

17 EXT. FIELD - DAY

17

Andy and Lance are detecting a few metres apart. Andy has Stanley in some sort of papoose or sling.

\*

LANCE  
Hear about old Rod McLynn?

ANDY  
What about him?

LANCE  
Dead mate.



ANDY

How?

LANCE

Fell in a vat of boiling soup.

ANDY

What?

LANCE

Yep. He worked over at Billingsgate Foods. In charge of soup. Fell in.

ANDY

Bloody hell.

LANCE

I know. Grim.

Beat.

ANDY

Do you know what flavour?

LANCE

Dunno, but for some reason I'm imagining tomato.

ANDY

Yeah. Me too.

LANCE

He was a legend, Rod McLynn.

ANDY

Didn't people say that he had metal detecting shoes? That he was constantly detecting?

LANCE

Oh there was a lot of stories about Rod. Legend has it he didn't have any batteries in his detector. That's how he got the nickname 'Divining Rod'. He used to detect at the end of each day for loose change on Wimbledon Common.

Andy laughs.

LANCE (CONT'D)

What?

ANDY

Wimbledon Common.

LANCE  
What about it?

ANDY  
Well, it's not a real place.

LANCE  
Not real?

ANDY  
It's fictitious, it was made up for  
the Wombles.

LANCE  
No it wasn't.

ANDY  
Yes it was...