

SCRIPT

**The Wolves, the Sheep and the Shepherd
Ben Steel**

Different angled landscape shots of Hounslow.

- Alexander Gardens/ Dukes Meadow
- Chiswick Business Park
- Brentford High Street
- Green Dragon estate
- The river near Barnes bridge

Three second clips of Alex and Kathy spending time as a happy couple are entwined within our shots of Hounslow.

- Hugging by the river
- Lying in fields
- Holding hands
- Laughing / smiling

After a few shots of Alex and Kathy are shown, twisted and psychological one second clips of Alex's disturbed sleep begin to be placed straight after the happy couple clips to show maximum contrast. Shots are taken in dark bedroom.

- Toes emerging from sheets are contracting
- Twisted fingers clenching
- Teeth grinding
- Sweat trickling down forehead

Intro will consist of these shots shown in the pattern below:
Hounslow Landscape (HL) Happy Couples (HC) Disturbed Sleep (DS)

HL, HL ,HL ,HL ,HL ,HC ,HL ,HL ,HL,HC,HL ,HL ,HL ,HC,
DS,HL,HL,HL, HC, DS ,HL, HL, HC, DS, HL, HL, HC, DS

The sequence will finally end with an unsettling clip of Alex waking up, before showing the film's title.

"The Wolves, the Sheep and the Shepherd"

Bedroom

Room: Dark, bed with creased sheets, messy, blinds closed.

- Alex wakes up in shock. He is sweating, breathing deeply and coughing.
- Camera catches shot of framed photo with Alex and Kathy in it.
- Alex sits up in bed and holds his face in his hands.

- Camera explores room finding; thin ray of light coming through blinds, dirty plates, empty food pots, empty bottles, a full ash tray, a digital clock showing a morning hour.

DRAFT - FIRST 12 PAGES ONLY

Sounds: coughing, sniffing, grunting.

- As Alex sits on the side of his bed, his head still in his hands and slightly rubbing his eyes, the camera explores his body finding; greasy hair, dirty toes, rough hands and exposed veins.

- Alex stands up and his body's bones crack as they adjust. He slowly makes his way toward the bathroom. The camera glides along the floor following behind, also finding dirty tissues, cigarette butts etc.

- Alex turns the light on and after hearing a click, a harsh bright light reveals Alex's sleep deprived eyes, bandages, unshaved and overall dirtiness. He stretches an eye socket while looking close in the mirror.

Alex's Inner Voice:

"When you get eyes like mine it informs your surroundings that you've completely lost interest in anything life has to offer. Some people hide this with make-up or behind a smile, but I won't need either of these, for I have no one to hide it from."

- Alex washes his face with hot water, he scratches at his canines etc, all while looking in the mirror until we notice a girl's hand holding his stomach from behind.

Alex's inner Voice:

"I ignore the hand that appears to be gently rested upon my stomach but I can feel its soft touch. This means that whatever my doctor prescribed me with last week has still failed to take affect. I ignore the warm humidity of her breathing against my spine."

- Alex sluggishly turns and leaves the bathroom and picks up a creased shirt and puts it on as he walks through his bedroom.

- Cuts to Alex sitting down, chin on knuckles staring into space. Alex is in focus but the focus on Alex blurs and switches full focus to drawers/cupboard in the background.

- Camera glides below Alex staring at his dazed face as he walks downstairs. Diegetic sound is not clear and the camera is slightly blurred to create a tired effect.

Kitchen

- Alex is sitting down in the kitchen eating cereal and staring out of the window. Meanwhile we see Alex's mother come in and examines Alex with concern as she works on tasks.

Alex's mum:

Alex it's not raining today (*sensitively*) maybe its time you went and got some fresh air?

- Camera focuses on Alex's jaw. He is crunching his meal and returning no answer.
- Camera pans across letters on the table talking about Alex's failure to attend training.

Alex's mum:

You haven't spoken to Chris in a while, I'm sure he won't have anything too important going on...maybe you should pop in and see him?

- Camera shot of a photo showing Alex and Chris together.
- No response from Alex and now the camera shows extreme close ups of Alex's consuming jaw and tired eyes.

Alex's mum:

Alex I think you need to get out for a bit and just, clear your mind.

- Alex's expression seems more aggressive now

Alex's mum:

I think it would be the healthiest option... I mean it has been a whole month now and ... (*meanwhile Alex stands up from his seat and leaves the room*)

- Camera shows Alex's mum's facial expression which implies concern and sadness.

Balcony - weather is bleak and grey

- Cuts to Alex smoking a cigarette and leaning over his balcony. Camera examines him smoking for a short while until we get an over-shoulder shot of Shane, his mates and their Staffordshire bull terrier on the streets below.
- Alex continues to smoke and stare down at the group who are loitering and laughing loudly.
- The more Alex watches them the more the camera zooms in on Shane's roar of laughter and his dog. However, clips of Shane's sinister laughter are cross cut with short snippets of Kathy laughing playfully with Alex. The cross cutting speeds up but results in a final mid-close up of Shane in a dark climax laughing before quickly changing mood to an angry direct stare at the camera. With a sharp cut we are back with Alex who continues to stare.

DRAFT - FIRST 12 PAGES ONLY

- From a birds-eye view we see Ricky and a couple of his boys pass. Threats are thrown through body language from Shane and his crew toward Ricky and his two mates but Ricky decides not to respond.

- Camera examines Shane and his boys again.

Alex's inner voice:

"Shane and his boys are a typical example of modern day scum with the wild west mentality drilled deep into their minds. Pathetic individuals that wouldn't hesitate to rob an old lady, but together they're capable of damage.

- Camera examines Ricky and his mates.

Alex's inner voice:

"that goes the same for Ricky and his crew. But they are more about drug money and fortunately for them, their trade has caused no personal offence toward Kathy and I."

- A girl across the road wearing a fast food staff uniform exits her house and locks the door.

Alex's inner voice:

"Neither has she, yet the uniform she wears still triggers the cold tear that blurs my vision". *(The shot of the girl locking her door shows the logo or name of the fast food company. The shot blurs and then cuts to a shot of Alex's tired eye producing a tear.)*

- Shot then shows the girl walking towards Shane and his crew but then she crosses the road to avoid them.

- Camera shows Alex exhale, flicks cigarette butt, turn away from balcony ledge and then the shot blacks out.

Bedroom

- After the black out there is a fast sequence of one second shots showing; belt tighten, jacket zip up, shoe laces tighten, hood pulled up *(shot from behind head)*

- Alex sits down on the bed holding his neck with his elbows rested on his knees. Shot changes to reveal more of the bedroom and there is somebody in the bed lying under the duvet. Only their hand is seen hanging off the side of the bed as Alex sits there.

- Close up of the hand with Alex seen sitting in the background of the shot.

DRAFT - FIRST 12 PAGES ONLY

Flash back sounds of **Alex's mum's voice** rings through Alex's head:

"I think it would be the healthiest option, it has been a whole month now. Alex?"

- Close up of Alex's knees from the side show him standing up after short silence.

Outside Alex's Home - weather still grey

- Shot looking along front entrances of council home front doors. Closest door to camera opens and Alex emerges from the door.

- Long shot from behind shows girl with uniform walking down the road. Alex walks into the shot and starts following girl however the handheld camera is now following Alex from behind. As the camera follows Alex, it pans to the left to watch Shane and his crew across the road. The camera then pans back to focus on the girl as she cuts right out of Alex and the camera's vision. As soon as she leaves our vision Alex subtly speeds up and the camera does too until Alex also turns the corner and she is back in both his and our sight.

Inside Random Café

- Shot shows old lady on the phone staring through glass window watching people go by.

Old lady:

"...so I told the police the problem and they still took a good twenty minutes to even show up...well of course I complained but they just wouldn't stop telling me to calm down and that it was a minor issue..." *(Through glass we see girl in uniform walk past and gives the old lady a wave and a smile. The old lady waves and smiles back while talking.)*

Old lady:

"Well I just don't know what to do these days and now that Rupert isn't around anymore it just doesn't feel as safe..." *(We see Alex walk past shortly after the girl but he pays no attention to the old lady. Shot then shows lady looking at Alex with a worried expression as she speaks.)*

Outdoor/ Streets

- From behind Alex we get an over shoulder shot of the girl in the uniform. The camera pans to the left to see a pair of police officers staring at Alex from across the road.

- The camera switches to the front of Alex while he walks and stares as he passes them.

- Back to the over shoulder shot we now catch the girl in the uniform just about to turn into the fast food shop where she works. Just before she walks in we see a flashback of Kathy waving to Alex by the door in the same uniform the girl is wearing. Alex is in the same position as before but he has no hood and is wearing smarter clothing.

- Back to present tense, Alex continues walking down the road and the girl walks into the shop. The camera is still following Alex from behind and the closer we get to the shop the more the camera aims at the shop. When Alex is next to the shop, the camera pans to look through the shop window at the manager (Gordon) who is talking to the girl. As the camera catches Gordon the film almost immediately switches to slow motion, freezes and then zooms into his face.

Inside Fast Food shop

- We get a flashback based inside the shop behind the counter. Camera angles show close ups examining Kathy wearing her uniform.

- Left half of torso showing Kathy's still arm and half the company's logo.

Gordon:

"You can't do a single thing right, can you?"

- Extreme close up of Kathy's eye blink and slightly water.

Gordon:

"You're Pathetic" (*slight chuckle*)

- Shot from behind Kathy showing her shirt's collar, pony-tail and back of work cap.

Gordon:

"Do you want to be working here for the rest of your life?"

- Close up of Kathy's hand from the side (hand is slightly shaking).

- Then we get a shot of Kathy from the front. She looks depressed and slightly intimidated she is staring at the camera lens. Gordon slowly walks in to the shot from the right and stands directly behind Kathy.

Gordon:

"Now keep your mouth shut..." (*He puts his hands on both her shoulders*) "put a smile on that pretty face..." (*He slouches and puts his mouth to her ear*) "and do your **WORK!!!**" (*Gordon shouts 'work' as loud as he can, Kathy immediately flinches and the flashback cuts*).

Outdoor/ Streets

- Close up shot of Alex's face glaring through glass slowly zooms in. All diegetic sound is gone. Alex turns and continues up the road.

Alex's inner voice:

"the cold memories stick to me and linger... just like that salty, spicy smell of deep fried meat that would follow Kathy all the way home."

- Shot of pigeons taking off in slow motion.
- Shot of Alex from behind. He turns his head to watch the pigeons.
- Shot of pigeons Again.
- Alex waits at a bus stop with his head tinted down and eye's closed. Kathy's voice (non-diegetic) slowly builds volume.

Kathy:

"ahh come on you don't see me complaining..."
(Cuts to **Living Room** flashback where Kathy walks in Alex's house and is putting her stuff down, removing work uniform etc, she continues talking to Alex who's playing video games.) "...every time you're back from footy all sweaty an' mingin".

- Shot of Alex from front eagerly playing game.

Alex:

(laughing) "True but at least it's all natural odour".

Kathy:

(While pouring herself a glass of water) "That's disgusting, and body odour smells worse than fried chicken".

- Close up of the two glasses and a small tub of prescription pills. One glass is picked up; put down again half empty implying it has been drank from. The Second glass and tub are picked up.

Alex:

(Voice in background) "But what you serve doesn't exactly smell like chicken now does it"

Kathy:

(Kathy walks over to the sofa where Alex is) "and do you know why that is?" (putting the tub and glass on the small table in front).

Alex:

(still looking at game) "go on..."

Kathy:

"Well the chickens are bred in terrible conditions so they are fed drugs and antibiotics to keep them alive, we have to add allota shit to make these chickens taste nice but what tastes nice doesn't necessarily smell as good"

Alex:

"So your meat is tainted with disease and drugs" (small chuckle)

Kathy:

"My meat? I just work there; I wouldn't eat it if they paid me to"

- Alex laughs again and continues playing. Kathy looks at Alex and then snuggles up to him. They are both smiling softly and staring at the screen. Then Alex stands up laughing and coughing.

Kathy:

(Shouts humorously) "Oh shut up I'll have a shower!"
(then laughs)

Bus Stop- Bus

- Bus horn honks and we are back to reality. Alex is slightly startled. A bus is parked next to the stop and Alex gets on it. He walks up the stairs to the second level of the bus. When he gets to the top he looks to the back of the bus where we see a group of four girls taking up the back seats. This group of girls is 'Christine' and her mates. They are shouting and gossiping loudly over each other.

Christine/ Girl 1/ Girl 2/ Girl 3:

"...and I swear did you hear what she was like yeah?"

"I promise you I will slap her when I next hear her chattin..."

"But fuck it if she was smart yeah she would be all like smiling in her face and..."

"...it's not even worth my time like who is she to ask Christine..."

- Alex sits near the front but the camera shows behind him at the rowdy girls at the back.

Alex's inner voice:

"Kathy usually stayed at mine after work ..." *(camera shows closer shots of girls bitching and using arm gestures)* "...but this is the bus she would catch home..."

(camera shows even closer shots of rowdy girls and close ups show mouths chewing gum and crunching crisps) "...and to a pretty young girl like Kathy, Christine and her friends were a common threat"

- In a similar style to the camera effect on first encounters with 'Gordon', camera stares at Christine from behind Alex's

shoulder, switches to slow motion, freezes and then zooms into her face.

- (Flash back) Kathy is sitting on the bus in a similar seat to where Alex was just sitting. She has her head rested against the window. Christine and her friends are at the back of the bus messing about.

- The loud voices of the girls suspiciously quieten down for a moment and the camera examines Kathy.

- Christine walks to Kathy's seat and stares down at her.

Christine: "you alright?"

Kathy: *(softly)* "oh err yes thanks" *(then smiles)*

Christine: "you know you're really pretty?"

Kathy: "oh *(giggles slightly)* thanks"

Christine: *(chewing gum)* "what's your name?"

Kathy: "Kathy"

Christine: "that's a pretty name"

Kathy: "oh thanks" *(smiles awkwardly)*

Christine: *(sharply)* "oh thanks... *(chuckles)* aren't you gonna ask mine?"

Kathy: "oh sorry, what's your name?"

Christine: "Christine...do you think my names pretty?"

Kathy: "ah yh I like the name christ-"

Christine: "do you think I'm pretty?" *(Laughs to herself)*
(The rest of Christine's friends come over and Kathy goes quiet)

Girl 1: "I like your earrings"

Girl 2: "yh how much were they?"

Kathy: "I-I don't know my boyfriend got them for me"

Christine: "You got a boyfriend?"

Girl 3: "what's his name?"

Kathy: "uh his name's Alex"

Girl 2: "why you working there" *(pointing at her uniform)*

Girl 3: "my dad eats there fam and his breath stinks" *(all girls laugh)*

Christine: "Yh how much were your earrings?"

Girl 1: "where's your boyfriend now?"

Kathy: "well it's really the only job I could find and I don't know"

Girl 2: "Ah that's a shame" *(laughs)*

Christine: "let's see those earrings then?" *(Holding hand out)*

(Kathy pauses in silence)

Christine: "come on man I'm not gonna take them"

Girl 1: "Do you think she's a thief?"

Kathy - "no it's just they're hard to take off an--"

Christine - "Do I look like I care?" *(Girls laugh)* "Come on man hurry up" *(Kathy slowly takes her earrings off)*

Christine - "Hurry Up!" *(hits Kathy over the head and Kathy quickly gives her the earrings)* "She's lucky I don't tear them out" *(all girls laugh as they walk away)*

"Tell your boyfriend to come get his earrings back" *(laughing even louder as they exit)*

- Camera shows Kathy looking terrified and alone

- Back to present day, Alex is still on the bus with the girls behind him acting rowdy. The girls walk towards the camera which is located at the top of the stairs.

- New angle from Alex's level looking up at the girls as they pass. The camera's motion gets slower as Christine passes and we now notice that she is wearing Kathy's earrings.

- Shot of Alex's face staring in a threatening manner towards Christine.

Alex's inner voice:

"It makes me sick..." *(Shot of Christine and her friends getting to the top of the bus)* "... they all move freely without

consequence but my mind still wonders why..." *(Shot of public bus travellers turning heads to avoid trouble from the girls)*

"people's heads turn to avoid confrontation... but mine doesn't" *(Shot of Alex's stare slightly zooming out)* "Mine stays still and focused"

- Blackout

Outdoor/ Streets/ Park

- Alex gets off the bus

Music sequence throughout scene - *music to be decided*

- Alex walks through the park - weather is bleak (possibly raining)

- shots explore Alex from close up (soaking shoes stepping in puddle)

- shots explore Alex from a distance (Alex walking on the other end of a green)

DRAFT - FIRST 12 PAGES ONLY

- Places that Alex visits we receive more pleasant flashbacks (the couple sitting together sharing a drink, holding hands).
- Alex gets to the river where he has more pleasant memories of their relationship being spent along the river (only short 3 second snippets).

By the River/ flashbacks (Different locations)

- Alex sits down on a bench by the river to think
- (Flash back) Alex slowly peeks through a bathroom door to see Kathy quietly crying. New shot is a close up of her work hat on the bathroom floor (hat has some sort of stain on it). New shot shows Alex's extremely concerned face.
- More rough looking flashbacks of Manager Gordon knocking neat looking fast food meal out of Kathy's hands. Then shot of him pointing his finger threateningly close to Kathy's threatened face
- (Present day) Shot of Alex sitting on bench. He seems uncomfortable but closes his eyes again
- (Flash back) shows Alex sitting on his sofa at home, Kathy walks past and camera pans in her direction of walking. Camera now shows Alex's confused face but then switches to her (messed hair/ mild scratches on neck/ ripped bag or collar/ no earrings etc.) Alex calls her over but she gives him a look, either mouths or says "I'm fine" then enters bathroom and shuts the door. Alex stares for a second, picks up the TV remote and raises it toward the TV.
Once again we get another more rough flashback of Kathy walking down the road and getting confronted by Christine and her friends. They push Kathy and shout at her aggressively.
- (Present day) Alex leans forward and holds his head.
- (Flash back) Alex is standing a few metres away from the bathroom door but staring straight at it. The angle used creates an image of rivalry between Alex and the bathroom door which separates him from Kathy. Alex walks to the door, knocks on it and waits but he gets no answer.
- He returns to where he was standing before and spots Kathy's phone on a side table. He looks at the bathroom then looks back at the phone out of suspicion. He picks up the phone and it shows the phones menu. He checks the bathroom door one more time and then he slowly selects 'messages'. There is a selection of messages from 'Shane'. He selects one of them and it reads "pick up ur fone now". Camera shows Alex's bewildered expression. Alex selects another message and it reads "If I catch u wid ur new bf hes gettin knockd out". Alex who is furious and shocked selects

DRAFT - FIRST 12 PAGES ONLY

another. The camera is mostly zoomed in on the message so it is in your face. It reads "I swer imma hurt u."

Music in Background stops

- (Present day) shot from behind bench shows Alex jump up from his seat to throw up over the embankment wall in front. He throws up but when he's finished the camera shows Alex's upper body from the side to show his grief.

- A shadow appears from his other side and we hear Shane's deep, low voice "what's the matter..."

- Alex looks to his right to see Shane's hooded face, towering over his shoulder. Shane says "Do I make you sick?" (slight chuckle) Alex quickly goes to punch him but the shot switches to behind him and catches Alex finishing his blow but there is nothing there. Immediately after, Alex drops to his knees and we see the state he is in.

- Very long shot shows Alex on his knees leaning against the side of the embankment wall.

- There is a sequence of shots showing Hounslow turning from afternoon to evening.

- By the river
- Inside parks
- Flat lights turning on as the sun sets
- Street lamps lighting up roads

Outdoor/ Streets - Night

- Alex is walking down some dark back streets with a handheld camera following behind. His clothes blend into the darkness.

Alex's inner voice:

"The longer I wait...the worse it gets...every day I feel my mind becoming less trustworthy"

- Alex turns a corner to a light opening and there is Shane and his crew loitering in the distance, two of them on bikes.

- Shot from next to Alex showing him watching them

Alex's inner voice:

"My past has been polluted with their actions...and the present day is still dirty" (*Shots examine Shane and his crew smoking, laughing, violent hand gestures, dog barking, looking suspicious and then there is a BLACK OUT*) "...I think it's about time I cleaned up"