Good Vibrations

by

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BLACK

TERRI (V.O.)

(coughs)

Wait, before I tell you all that I have to tell you this

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

'English Country Garden' plays.

A terrace of pre-war houses and their small, neat gardens. The colours are fairy-tale bright.

TERRI (V.O.)

(dreamily)

Once upon a time, in a land far away, there lived a boy named Terry, with a Y.

One particular house, with a large shrub in the garden has a poster in the front window: VOTE HOOLEY FOR A GENUINE ALTERNATIVE

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And everything in Terry's world was rosy...

A tomato bursts against the window, obliterating the poster.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D) ... well, nearly everything...

An egg follows the tomato; stones land in the garden along with arrows from a kid's bow. The FOUR BOYS doing the throwing and shooting are all under ten.

The window of a neighbouring house shuts and 'English Country Garden' is replaced by 'I Saw the Light' from a Salvation Army band passing the end of the street.

BOY 1

(throwing an egg)
Commie bastards

TERRI (V.O.)

(with an edge)

... until the day he discovered he just couldn't keep his fucking head down.

The shrub seems to vibrate with rage. CHILD TERRI pops up.

CHILD TERRI

My da's not a communist, he's a socialist.

An arrow hits him in the eye. The FOUR BOYS run. From inside the house MAVIS HOOLEY screams

TERRI (V.O.)

And then Terry was Terri with an I.

A siren.

CUT TO:

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

Commotion. TWO AMBULANCE MEN tend to CHILD TERRI's eye. MAVIS and GEORGE HOOLEY look on helplessly.

AMBULANCE MAN 1

(preparing a syringe)
I'm just going to give him
something here, Mrs Hooley, for
the pain.

MAVIS

(frantically)

Is he going to lose it? Is he going to be blinded?

**GEORGE** 

He's going to be all right.

MAVIS

(rounding on him)

Are you a doctor now as well as a prophet?

GEORGE

I'm only saying.

MAVIS

That's your trouble, what you say. That's our trouble. I'm tired telling you, this isn't England. People here don't give tuppence for 'Left' and 'Right'. They're happy as they are hating each other.

CHILD TERRI

(sings)

No more darkness, no more night./ Now I'm so happy, no sorrow inside,/ Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

MAVIS and GEORGE have stopped arguing to stare at their son.

MAVIS

What was that you gave him?

AMBULANCE MAN 1
(shows her the syringe)
yen't even given him anything

I haven't even given him anything yet.

He does now. CHILD TERRI looks beatific.

CHILD TERRI

(sings)
I saw the light, I saw the
light...

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - DAY

Ambulance makes its way through the city. CHILD TERRI, Hank Williams and the massed ranks of the Grand Ole Opry sing 'I Saw the Light'

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - EVENING

An ambulance stencilled with *Peace* and *Love* pulls up. The rear door opens and TERRI, now twenty, steps out. He has a bag of records on one arm and a bundle of newspapers under the other.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - EVENING

TERRI bounds up the stairs to the top room almost getting jammed in the doorway with the barman GERRY, who wears distinctive heavy-framed glasses and who is coming the other way with a tray of empties.

A voice carries from inside the room.

MARTY (O.S.)

So in conclusion, there is no evidence whatsoever that the American government is prepared to scale down its criminal activities in Vietnam.

TERRI and GERRY shuffle past one another. Inside TWENTY OR SO YOUNG PEOPLE are sitting at or on the bar tables. 'STOP THE WAR' banners adorn the walls. MARTY is on his feet.

MARTY (CONT'D)

If anything, recent events in Quang Ngai province point to an escalation in brutality.

Applause, in which TERRI joins, setting the papers on a table occupied by red-haired NED and a HIPPY GIRL.

ANDY hugs MARTY as he takes over from him at the mike.

ANDY

Thank you, Marty. Now before our next speaker, I'd just like to run through the itinerary for next week. Monday...

TERRI sits. The itinerary for the moment is background noise.

NED

The late Terri Hooley... as usual.

TERRI

Ned. Are you not going to introduce me to the future Mrs Hooley?

HIPPY GIRL turns her chair towards NED's.

ANDY is still on the itinerary.

ANDY

... Thursday we'll meet round at mine to sort out the placards for Friday's anti-nuclear march through the city centre.

TERRI's head emerges above the rest of the audience.

TERRI

(on his feet now) What about Wednesday?

ANDY

What?

TERRI

Wednesday. I didn't hear anything for Wednesday.

NED has picked up one of the newspapers.

ANDY

Terri, it's the only night of the week we're not doing something.

TERRI

Speak for yourself, Andy. I was going to propose a sub-committee on Laos, but if you lot aren't taking this seriously maybe I'll have to form a splinter group.

MARTY

(sarcastically)

Another one.

NED leaps to his feet, waving the paper.

NED

What's this?

TERRI

(with pride)

The next stage in our campaign.

NED

The group raises £20 for you to do up a newspaper and you give us this? *Ego*?

(turns a page, reads)
'a bumper year for Black Mountain
mushrooms'

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

TERRI and his friend ERIC are tripping, looking out over the lights of Belfast.

TERRI

It's like a fallen Christmas tree with all the lights on.

At his side, Eric collapses.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS HALF-TIMBERED BAR - NIGHT

TERRI

Consciousness-raising.

NED

(turns another page,
 reads)
'The struggle for world peace'

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

The police are dragging Terri away from a CND sit-in

FIRST COP

You're one squirmy bastard, Hooley.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS HALF-TIMBERED BAR - NIGHT

TERRI

We all have our part to play.

NED

(turns another page;
 reads)
'The Big Interview'

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

TERRI approaches a shock-haired and shaded DYLAN.

TERRI

Why don't you follow Joan Baez's lead and refuse to pay taxes until your country leaves Vietnam?

DYLAN

(disbelieving)

Why don't you fuck off?

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS HALF-TIMBERED BAR - NIGHT

NED

You've put yourself on every fucking page.

OTHER PEOPLE are grabbing copies of the paper. The noise level goes up.

NED (CONT'D)

You're a clown, Hooley. A fucking clown.

Before TERRI can respond GERRY appears at his shoulder.

GERRY

(quietly)

You're wanted downstairs.

TERRI nods at him and hoists the record bag.

TERRI

You'll have to excuse me, comrades, I have some other constituency work to attend to (bends to whisper to HIPPY GIRL)

You haven't lived you know until you've made love to a one-eyed man.

HIPPY GIRL

Dream on.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRWELL HALF-TIMBERED BAR - NIGHT

TERRI hands GERRY a copy of Ego.

TERRI

And a copy for you too, friend.

GERRY doesn't even look at it but rolls it into a baton and carries on downstairs. TERRI is in any case distracted by ERIC, who has been conducting some business on the landing with a FURTIVE (and now fleeing) STUDENT.

ERIC

I've a wee present for you.

He glances round before handing TERRI a miniscule joint.

TERRI

(looking at it in the palm of his hand) You're all heart.

ERIC

Don't underestimate it. Acapulco Gold laced with opium.

TERRI

What'll it do?

**ERIC** 

Who knows? Just try to pick your moment. Don't want to scare the locals.

TERRI

(genuine now)

Tell you the truth, I'm a bit skint at the minute.

They start downstairs together.

ERIC

Well, you are my most valued and recklessly experimental customer. Besides, since you and your subversive friends started meeting up there the cops seem to have lost interest in me. So enjoy.

They have reached the door to the downstairs bar.

TERRI

You dancing?

ERIC

You playing 'Gloria'?

TERRI

Course.

ERIC

I'm dancing.

CUT TO:

### INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - LATER

Beneath a poster saying BELFAST'S NUMBER 1 DJ, TERRI is holding a microphone to a Dansette record player on which 'Gloria' by Them is revolving. ERIC is dancing. The dance floor is compact and crowded.

The record finishes. TERRI dexterously replaces it with the Maytals, 'Do the Reggay'. DANCERS stop and look at him. This is something entirely new. For a moment it appears he could be losing them then one or two shuffle from foot to foot. Soon the rest join in.

CUT TO:

## INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - LATER

'Hold me tight' by Johnny Nash plays: 'Just think about tomorrow, girl, our future's bright...' DANCERS now include MARTY and ANDY from the meeting. HIPPY GIRL is there too, right at the front. TERRI is in his element. He takes a nip from a hip flask; stacks up five records on the turntable.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The end of the night. HIPPY GIRL emerges from the shadows. She adjusts her clothes, looking not displeased by the one-eyed man experience. TERRI follows, looking fucked, frankly. He stops by rear door of the bar, watching HIPPY GIRL join the throng out on the street.

The door opens. It's NED. He gives TERRI a murderous look then runs down the alley after HIPPY GIRL.

TERRI lights the joint ERIC gave him. He looks at it: Fuck me. He takes another very, very deep draw and goes back in.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - NIGHT

The room is in semi darkness. GERRY is sweeping up. He has paused to look at the turntable on which the last of TERRI's records has just dropped: the 13th Floor Elevators' warped, droning version of 'It's All Over Now, Baby Blue'.

TERRI

So what did you think of the music tonight?

**GERRY** 

Not my kind of thing.

TERRI

What's your kind of thing then?

**GERRY** 

The old stuff.

TERRI

(hopefully) Hank Williams?

**GERRY** 

The Irish stuff.

TERRI

(suddenly looking very tired)

You want to open your ears to what's going on around you, friend.

TERRI slumps against the wall. The room has got darker, the record even more distorted. GERRY stops sweeping; leans on his brush.

**GERRY** 

And you, friend, want to open your eyes.

(MORE)

GERRY (CONT'D)

You and your mates go on and on about Vietnam, but I never hear you mention the problems in your own backyard.

TERRI

(trying to rouse
himself)

Don't start that, we've been marching.

**GERRY** 

Of course: marching! Do you seriously think holding hands and singing campfire songs is going to change anything in this country? There's only way to get yourself heard...

TERRI

(closing his eyes, covering his ears)
Man, I don't want to hear this shit.

He opens his eyes and is confronted by a scene of carnage. The floor is littered with dead bodies. GERRY sweeps around them, lifting limbs to get at the dirt underneath.

**GERRY** 

When someone points a gun at you you don't stick a flower in the barrel, you bomb their arsenals, you bomb their banks, you bomb the places were they go for their bread and milk.

As GERRY speaks, TERRI gets to his feet, utterly freaked, grabs his jacket and record bag and backs out of the room. GERRY's voice follows him, undiminished.

GERRY (CONT'D)

You'll all come round to my way of thinking. Wait and see. Wait and see.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST STREET - NIGHT

Still the 13th Floor Elevators. TERRI is disoriented. Smoke and flames everywhere; the Peace and Love ambulance is burnt out. Projected on the walls of buildings are images from the early years of the Northern Irish Troubles: the Battle of the Bogside; troops marching into Belfast; Internment day raids; Bloody Sunday; Bloody Friday;

the blasted interior of the Abercorn bar; the Loyalist Workers' Strike: every turn of the head a new horror.

TITLES

In the course of which TERRI wanders up the path of his parents' house. The shrub from scene 1 is on fire. He walks through the open door.

CUT TO:

INT. HOOLEY FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

TERRI sits down before a television on which the kind of images he has just walked through are being screened. The Elevators peter out as a large explosion fills the TV screen, which for that moment is our entire screen.

The TERRI we see in the next instant is not the TERRI we saw before. He sits in an armchair next to GEORGE. His hair is longer, his trousers wider. He is wearing a brown lab technician's coat with KODAK over the left breast. He stares at the TV a moment longer as though catatonic; shakes himself.

TERRI

What a fucking nightmare.

MAVIS

(appearing behind him) Mind you your language.

**GEORGE** 

And they call this a revolution?

TERRI gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN - EVENING

It's raining. Bleak. The shrub is bare and blasted looking.

THE FINAL TITLE: GOOD VIBRATIONS

CUT TO:

INT. DARKROOM - EVENING

TERRI is developing photographs.

TERRI (V.O.)

So here's a question: what do you do then when the place you live in goes insane?

He walks along a line of photos hanging by pegs. The first shows a schoolboy in knee socks with a Parachute Regiment beret falling over his eyes and an SLR rifle across his lap; the second is of an elderly man in an Orange Sash holding a ceremonial sword, between his teeth; the third is a coffin draped in a Starry Plough flag; the fourth of masked men 'on patrol' in a city street.

TERRI pegs up one final photo. A mother and father sit on a sofa either side of their daughter who wears a black balaclava; the parents grin as though it is the funniest thing they have ever seen.

TERRI pulls the light cord.

CUT TO:

EXT. KODAK LABORATORY - EVENING

TERRI has just locked up. He picks up a bag of records and walks off.

TERRI (V.O.)

I reckoned that as my home town was now one big asylum the only real rebellion was to stay normal.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST STREET - EVENING

YOUNG MOTHER stands on her doorstep calling down the street.

YOUNG MOTHER

Karen, Julie! Your dinner's
ready.

TERRI nods as he passes her.

TERRI (V.O.)

To carry on as if nothing had changed.

KAREN and JULIE run up the street.

At the end of the street SOLDIERS searching a family car have taken all the seats out and set them on the pavement. The MALE OCCUPANTS are spread-eagled against a wall.

TERRI might be a ghost for all the notice anyone takes as he passes.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Not despite what was going on. Because of it.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - EVENING

Windows blacked out; a steel cage around the entrance. Terri walks towards it and presses a buzzer.

He takes his eye out and holds it up to the security camera. The gate is opened.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - EVENING

The banner still says 'BELFAST'S NUMBER ONE DJ'. TERRI, though is playing to a room empty but for the BAR STAFF and an OLD BOY at the bar doing Spot The Ball. He takes a swig of brandy and slaps the next record on. Roxy Music, 'Street Life'.

TERRI (V.O.)

Which in some people's eyes made me the biggest lunatic of the lot.

The BAR MANAGER approaches him.

MANAGER

(handing TERRI £5)

Here.

TERRI

I thought we said ten?

MANAGER

Ten for the whole night. That's you finished, I'm pulling the plug.

TERRI

Why?

MANAGER

Why? Look around you. No one wants to come out any more.

TERRI

(nods)

She does

A young woman has appeared out of nowhere and is dancing hypnotically alone in the centre of the floor. This is RUTH. TERRI and the MANAGER look on.

MANAGER hands TERRI another £5.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - LATER

TERRI watches RUTH order a drink from the bar while the OLD BOY tries to engage the MANAGER in conversation.

OLD BOY

Come here, that fella used to work behind the bar here - know the one - glasses - that wasn't him I saw on the TV...

A loud scratch as, mid-song, TERRI changes tack. Dion, 'Born to be with you'. The OLD BOY looks round, confused. TERRI winks at him and skips down from the stage.

RUTH is putting change in her purse.

TERRI

Are you here on your own?

RUTH

I was out for a walk and heard the music. Thought I'd come in and see if it was as lively as it sounded.

The OLD BOY sneezes.

TERRI and RUTH look at him, then each other, then laugh.

TERRI

Wait'll I tell you, there were nights here when you had to queue just to get on the guest list.

RUTH

(with a glance around)
I don't mean to be cheeky, but
you don't look like a man with
that many friends.

TERRI

Do you want to know the truth of it? I used to have lots of friends.

(MORE)

TERRI (CONT'D)

Lots of anarchist friends, and Marxist friends, and socialist friends, and pacifist friends, and feminist friends, and vegetarian friends, and friends who were fuck all. Then the first shot was fired, and the first bomb exploded and suddenly I didn't have any more Marxist, or feminist, or anarchist friends: I just had Catholic friends and Protestant friends. And I don't consider myself either. So...

RUTH

So now nobody likes you?

TERRI

Now I'm just a bit more choosy about my friends.

(realising he should lift the mood) Do you have a pen?

RUTH

(produces one)

I'm an English student, it's compulsory.

TERRI reaches over behind the bar for a note pad.

TERRI

Here, stick your name at the top.

RUTH

Why?

TERRI

I'll tell you once you've written it down.

She shrugs, writes, gives the note pad back.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(squinting at the page)
Are you Martian? Is that even
writing?

RUTH

(tries to snatch it back)

Stop it.

TERRI

... hieroglyphics? Am I supposed to guess what your name is?

RUTH

It's Ruth.

(pointing it out)

R-U-T-H

TERRI

Well, R-U-T-H, congratualtions, you're the first name on my new guest list.

He smiles. RUTH smiles back and spins in her seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - NIGHT

RUTH pushes TERRI back against the steel security cage. They start kissing.

TERRI

(up for air)

Do you want to go back to my mum and dad's?

RUTH

No. Do you want to go back to my mum and dad's?

TERRI

No.

They kiss again.

RUTH

I think I know where there might be a house party.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - NIGHT

The house has a deserted appearance. TERRI and RUTH stand at the front door ringing the bell.

The door opens halfway, a young woman, MARILYN HYNDMAN, peeks out.

MARILYN

Ruth!

The door swings open.

RUTH

Marilyn. Thought I'd find you here. Davy here too?

MARILYN

Reluctantly.

CUT TO:

INT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - CONTINUOUS

A huge contrast to the view from outside. The house is full of conversation, music, PEOPLE.

TERRI

What is this place, a bomb shelter?

RUTH

Belongs to one of my lecturers. He calls it the Lifeboat. Upstairs is where it's usually all at.

(touching his arm)
You go on. I'll see if I can get
us a drink.

So upstairs TERRI goes. He tries a couple of rooms before he finds one that is wall-to-wall vinyl. And deserted.

CUT TO:

INT. RECORD ROOM - NIGHT

TERRI is picking out LPs: Velvet Underground, Gram Parsons's, Love, Richard Harris.

A bushy-bearded man in college lecturer casual watches from the doorway like he owns the place. Which he does.

LIFEBOAT OWNER

You all right there?

Half a dozen other YOUNG LECTURER TYPES drift in, sitting on the arms of chairs, on the floor, the bay-window-sill.

TERRI

Just admiring you collection.

He holds up a copy of Sonny Bono's Inner Views

TERRI (CONT'D)

A misunderstood genius. Do you know 'Laugh at me'?

(sings)

'Why can't I, be like any guy...'

The LIFEBOAT OWNER cuts him short, taking the record and replacing it on the shelf.

LIFEBOAT OWNER

Collector's item. A lot of them are.

TERRI

What good's a record if it's not being played? I DJ in town. Come down one night. We'll blow the roof off the place...

LIFEBOAT OWNER

I don't think so.

Laughter from some of the other LECTURER TYPES.

TERRI

Am I missing something here?

LIFEBOAT OWNER

Only the whole point.

TERRI

And what's that?

LIFEBOAT OWNER

People come here so they don't have to go out there. They come here to forget where they are for a night. Spiritually migrate, you might say.

TERRI

Spiritually migrate?

LIFEBOAT OWNER

Yeah. Spiritually migrate.

TERRI

Fuck they must love you.

LIFEBOAT OWNER

Who?

TERRI

The IRA, the UVF, the Brits, the Cops, all those fuckers who want us to hide away in our ghettoes and fucking lifeboats so they can keep us under control.

There is silence. The LIFEBOAT OWNER starts a slow handclap.

TERRI clenches his fists just as RUTH appears in the doorway carrying drinks and accompanied by MARILYN and DAVY HYNDMAN.

LIFEBOAT OWNER

So, let's get this clear, we go into town and play some music and lo and behold the darkness lifts, the beasts sleep and peace reigns for ever? I mean if John Lennon can't do it...

TERRI

John Lennon? Wait'll I tell you about John Lennon...

LIFEBOAT OWNER

(not waiting at all)
... although as you've obviously
been dropped in by the United
Nations... Or who is it is paying
your wages exactly?

TERRI

Kodak.

LIFEBOAT OWNER

Kodak, oh, well...

TERRI glares then walks across the room and pulls the curtains open.

LIFEBOAT OWNER (CONT'D)

What do you think you're doing?

He pulls the curtains shut.

TERRI

I was going to open a window.

As he says this TERRI tries to do it again. There's a scuffle. TERRI and LIFEBOAT OWNER fall. Others try to jump in, but DAVY HYNDMAN gets there first and separates them. A glass is dropped, breaks, and TERRI sees RUTH rush from the room.

He gives DAVY the slip and follows.

CUT TO:

INT. MALONE ROAD VILLA HALLWAY - NIGHT

TERRI pushes through the GUESTS who have crowded round to see what the fuss is about.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - MOMENTS LATER

TERRI looks this way and that.

TERRI

Ruth?

No answer. And then a bin lid rattles.

TERRI walks up the side of the house and stops before a galvanised bin. He hesitates before reaching out a hand to lift the lid.

CUT TO:

INT. BIN - NIGHT

The lid is lifted. TERRI looks down quizzically.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - CONTINUOUS

TERRI is looking at RUTH, curled up tight.

TERRI

I'm taking this as a symbolic agreement with my contention that your man was stinking the place up with the shite he was talking: even a bin smells better.

RUTH

Another minute I'd have swung for him myself. Sometimes I have to hide to stop myself doing something worse.

TERRI

Sometimes it's all I can do to stop myself jumping out a window. (pause) Is there any room in there?

It should look physically impossible.

RUTH

Afraid not... Wait.
(lifts a single milk
bottle cap)
Try now.

TERRI puts one leg over then the other. He disappears as though in a variety show magic act. One hand reappears and replaces the bin lid.

TERRI (O.S.)

I've got a glass eye.

RUTH (O.S.)

So shut it.

TERRI (O.S.)

Remind me to tell you that John Lennon story some time.

RUTH (O.S.)

Shut it.

Long pause. The bin rocks.

TERRI (V.O.)

Like I said, sometimes being normal is the best rebellion.

CUT TO:

INT. REGISTRY OFFICE - DAY

The lid lifts off a bin in one corner of the foyer and TERRI and RUTH step out, he in a brown, flared corduroy suit, she in a long, 'non-wedding' dress and carrying a bouquet.

RUTH's mother gives RUTH a hug. Her FATHER stands close beside along with DAVY and MARILYN HYNDMAN. ERIC forms a second small group with GEORGE and MAVIS.

CUT TO:

EXT. COLLEGE STREET - DAY

TERRI and RUTH leave the registry office under a token shower of confetti. They have to squeeze through a turnstile, passing ANOTHER COUPLE on their way in. TERRI and RUTH get into a waiting taxi.

CUT TO:

INT. TAXI - DAY

TERRI and RUTH sit in the back as close as two fully clothed people can sit. A little way up the street is an army checkpoint.

TAXI DRIVER

(affably)

Yous just married?

TERRI AND RUTH

(as one)

Yes.

TAXI DRIVER
(frowning, moving off
into traffic)
Yous aren't wise.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - DAY

Bag and boxes the length of the hallway. TERRI and RUTH are moving in, DAVY and MARILYN HYNDMAN are lending a hand. The front door is open. ERIC appears in it, looking self-conscious, as well he might under a white cowboy hat. TERRI comes into hallway from the other end, does an exaggerated double take.

TERRI

Don't tell me, it's Hank Williams's birthday? Roy Rogers'? Sugar Puffs are giving away cowboy hats free with three box tops and an SAE?

ERIC is unable to get a word in before RUTH passes.

RUTH

Nice hat, Eric.

ERIC gives up. He picks up a lamp, which he carries, distractedly, through most of the rest of the scene.

MARILYN comes out from a side room into the hallway. She stops by a pile of boxes and reads what's written on the side.

MARILYN

Terri, Terri, Terri... (has to bend to see the last one)

Terri.

She looks around, sees TERRI.

MARILYN (CONT'D) Are these all your clothes?

TERRI

(points to a black bag
 on the floor)
These are my clothes.
 (points to the boxes)
These are my records.

DAVY goes to pick up a box.

TERRI (CONT'D)

You OK with that?

DAVY

I spend half my life hauling boxes from one building to another. I'm not a printer any more, I'm a removal man.

TERRI

It's our volatile property market.

DAVY

(lifts the box) Where do you want them?

TERRI

Back bedroom for now.

TERRI stands on the doorstep and lights a cigarette. ERIC joins him.

CUT TO:

EXT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - CONTINUOUS

ERIC

Listen, I came to say my goodbyes. I'll not be around for a while.

TERRI

Was it something I said?

Eric tries to raise a smile, without success.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Something somebody else said?

ERIC looks over his shoulder.

ERIC

I got lifted the other night.

TERRI

Cops?

ERIC

I wish.

The scene behind ERIC suddenly darkens. He isn't standing on doorstep any more, but on a stool. He is naked and shivering, his hands covering his groin. HOODED MEN stand around him. ERIC, however, continues to talk as though to TERRI.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Your old mate Marty was there, you know, from the anti-war movement.

MARTY's whips off his mask with one hand, with the other he brandishes a pair of sheep shears.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Only he seems a bit more pro these days.

The other HOODED MEN hold shears too now. They advance on ERIC.

TERRI, very much on the doorstep, winces as the shears flash and snap.

TERRI

Eric!

One by one the HOODED MEN step back; MARTY is last to go. The lights behind ERIC change again.

His hand shakes as he takes off the hat. His hair has been savaged.

A KID runs up the street laughing.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Fuck me.

ERIC

Said if I didn't pay their new drugs tax it'd be my balls next time and the time after that...

TERRI

Where will you go?

ERIC

London probably.

He puts the hat back on so that DAVY coming downstairs doesn't see his hair.

ERIC (CONT'D)

You might want to keep under the radar yourself for the next while

TERRI

I'll try.

ERIC

Do.

TERRI goes to shake his hand, do something, but ERIC clearly wants to keep things low-key. They smile.

TERRI watches him go. DAVY comes out to doorstep.

DAVY

Fucking hell, it's like a record shop up there. All you need is a till.

TERRI pats him on the shoulder, goes back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. KODAK LABORATORY - DAY

An alarm sounds. WORKERS, sandwiches hanging out of their mouths, rush along a corridor in the darkroom door.

CUT TO:

INT. DARKROOM - DAY

TERRI and a MIDDLE-AGED COLLEAGUE are sharing a lunchtime joint. Max Romeo's 'War ina Babylon' plays on the portable turntable. TERRI sings along.

TERRI

'War ina Babylon, tribal war ina Babylon, let me tell you, it sipple out there...'
(talking now to COLLEAGUE)

I'm telling you, you have to have this, this is the business.

COLLEAGUE

The wife wasn't so hot on the Lee Perry one you sold me last week.

TERRI

(shaking his head, banishing the objection)

This is so good I'm not even going to sell it to you, I'm going to give it to you, and I swear by Monday your wife'll be here pressing the money into my hand telling me how it changed your lives...

A muffled thump. TERRI and COLLEAGUE look at the door. TERRI nicks the joint; waves smoke away; nods. COLLEAGUE opens door and is face to face with a BOMB DISPOSAL MAN, or bomb disposal blimp as he appears.

BOMB DISPOSAL MAN

(indistinctly)
Get the fuck out!

TERRI and COLLEAGUE run. A second later TERRI returns, grabs the turntable.

CUT TO:

EXT. KODAK LABORATORY - DAY

BOMB DISPOSAL MAN trails a wire as he walks away backwards from a suspicious package. TERRI, COLLEAGUE, other WORKERS and TV NEWS CREW shelter behind an armoured car.

BOMB DISPOSAL MAN flicks a switch. A dull thud. The sky is suddenly spawning leaflets.

DISEMBODIED VOICE

Hoax!

TERRI jumps and catches a leaflet, which is an advert for a revivalist meeting.

TV CAMERAMAN

Here, you couldn't do that jump again?

TERRI stares a moment.

TERRI

Sure, why not.

He leaps in the air, grinning.

The screen in that instant becomes a hundred TV screens showing TERRI leaping; back on the radar.

CUT TO:

INT. KODAK LABORATORY - NIGHT

TERRI is locking up.

CUT TO:

EXT. KODAK LABORATORY - NIGHT

TERRI puts keys in his pocket and turns for home. The street is deserted.

A car appears on the far side of the street, traveling in the opposite direction. TERRI pulls his chin down into his collar as it passes him. The sound of the car fades into the distance, leaving only TERRI's footsteps. Another car appears, moving slower. We see faces at the car windows. TERRI retreats further into his collar. When the car has travelled a few yards beyond him it performs a Uturn and before TERRI has time to run pulls up at the kerbside.

CRONY 1 and CRONY 2 jump out. They pull TERRI's coat over his head and drag him towards the car. TERRI resists.

CRONY 1
Quit wriggling, will you.

TERRI struggles even harder. At one stage his head is inside the car. He sees NED in the driver seat.

TERRI

Ned?

NED

(lifting a wheel brace)
Here, hit him a whack with this.

Headlights appear further up the street.

CRONY 2

Car!

NED

Quick, get in.

CRONY 1 and CRONY 2 give one last tug. TERRI's coat, sweater and shirt come off. His elbow catches NED's cheekbone. He lands on his arse in the street. The car screeches off. After twenty or thirty yards the coat falls to the ground. The shirt and jumper continue to flap from the rear door

NED (CONT'D)
 (holding his hand to his
 face)
You're a dead man, Hooley!

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

TERRI, in coat but no shirt, is throwing brandy into him, pacing the floor, telling RUTH the story.

TERRI

Here's me shouting after them, 'dead man? What am I supposed to die of, the cold?'

RUTH is trying to get him to sit down.

RUTH

And you say you knew this fella?

TERRI

I knew him all right. He was a prick then and he's a prick now, only now he's a prick with a gun.

He sits finally, closes his eyes. RUTH sits on the arm of the chair beside him. Her gaze roams over his face. She loves this man.

RUTH

Do you think maybe it's time we got out of here?

TERRI's eyes snap open. He can't seem to get RUTH in focus. Wherever his eye alights there are records. Downstairs now as well as up, the house is, as Davy Hyndman said, like a record shop.

TERRI

(the idea is taking shape)

I think it's time we did something.

He reaches for the phone and pulls it over on to his lap.

TERRI (CONT'D)

What's Davy Hyndman's number?

CUT TO:

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

A down-at-heel three-storey building in a late-VIctorian terrace. TERRI and DAVY HYNDMAN look up at the frontage.

TERRI (V.O.)

I didn't know if I was going to die that night, but I was fucking sure I wasn't going to die a lab assistant.

DAVY

You'll have to use a bit of imagination.

They go in.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

It's a wreck.

DAVY

So, I've already someone interested in a whole-food shop down here.

TERRI looks at the dead pigeon on the future whole-food shop floor, before following DAVY upstairs.

DAVY (CONT'D)

I'll be running the community printing press out of the top floor.

TERRI and DAVY have arrived on the first floor landing.

DAVY (CONT'D)

And you'll be here in the middle.

TERRI walks the floor.

TERRI

One big happy family.

DAVY

I prefer 'loose collective'.

TERRI looks out on to Great Victoria Street: boarded-up shops; litter.

TERRI

Brilliant. Now who's going to be mad enough to give us the money?

CUT TO:

EXT. LEAFY SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

TERRI and DAVY walking at (TERRI's) speed.

DAVY

I wouldn't get my hopes up.

TERRI

They got the Nobel Prize, Davy. A million pounds to promote peace and love! I and I is bringing reggae to the people of Belfast.

They have stopped before a sign: PEACE PEOPLE.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(hugs DAVY)

One love.

They go in. Nothing happens; nothing happens; nothing happens. Then TERRI comes out, DAVY follows.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Fucking hippies.

DAVY

Have you looked in the mirror?

TERRI

I'm not that sort of hippie.

DAVY

I don't think the John Lennon story reassured them.

TERRI

I put John Lennon straight on a few matters concerning Northern Ireland politics... Anyway, those people took a million quid from the man who invented dynamite. Who are they to look down their noses at me?

CUT TO:

# INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

TERRI and RUTH face one another across the table. He is brooding. She reaches under the table for her bag. She takes out four £10 notes and lays them on the table.

TERRI

What's that?

RUTH

Start-up.

TERRI

Your mum and dad?

RUTH

An advance. I got a job.

RUTH takes out an ID card and sets it on the table. TERRI picks it up and reads it.

TERRI

Truant officer?

They look at each other a long moment then TERRI stretches out across the table and beats his fist in disbelief.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

BANK MANAGER

(leaning forward) Say that again.

TERRI

I want to open a record shop.

BANK MANAGER

On Great Victoria Street?

TERRI nods.

BANK MANAGER (CONT'D)

'Bomb Alley'?

(looks at desk: Ruth's

four tenners)

And this is your collateral?

TERRI nods.

BANK MANAGER (CONT'D)

Do you know how long it's been since I had someone in here telling me he wanted to open something?

He looks at the tenners again. He is tempted. He is also a bank manager.

BANK MANAGER (CONT'D)

You haven't anything a bit

more... substantial?

TERRI

You mean like a house?

BANK MANAGER's face brightens.

CUT TO:

INT. PHONE BOX - DAY

TERRI

(to RUTH)

No, it was all pretty

straightforward. I think it was

the forty quid swung it.

(runs a finger round the phone's change drawer

on the off-chance)

But, here, I just have a couple

of other things to do then I'll be home.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOOLWORTH'S - DAY

TERRI enters past signs announcing BOMB DAMAGE SALE.

CUT TO:

INT. WOOLWORTH'S - CONTINUOUS

TERRI walks through the store to the record department. He indicates the LP racks to the SALES ASSISTANT

TERRI

I'll give you twenty quid for the whole lot.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - AFTERNOON

To the accompaniment of Johnny Guitar Watson, 'Gangster of Love', TERRI enters with a couple of very full Woolworth's bags.

Along one wall are two tables, a wary distance apart: LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES at one (ANDY is there, a twitchy, haunted-looking version of his 1960s self, as is NED, bruising still around his eye); REPUBLICAN PARAMILITARIES at the other (MARTY is head honcho).

TERRI (V.O.)

They say if you sup with the devil you need a long spoon.

TERRI stops before the tables.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

For a bunch of cunts like these I'd recommend cut-price LPs.

He empties a bag on one table, a bag on the other and spreads the records out.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Don't all dive at once.

They all dive at once.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - LATER

The tables are closer together. REPUBLICANS and LOYALISTS are looking at their albums.

FIRST REPUBLICAN (halfway along table)

Desperado? I already have this one.

TERRI takes it back, gives him Leo Sayer's Endless Flight, passes Desperado to the Loyalist side.

TERRI

Right, everybody happy?

Nods, murmurs: they're happy.

TERRI (CONT'D)

OK, now, can I ask you something in return? See when this shop opens, there's to be no coming round looking a donation for the Republican Prisoners...

(looks left)

... or the Loyal Orange Widows...
 (looks right)

And one other thing, there's to be no trying to kill me. Anybody.

Silence.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Now what about one for the road?

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF-TIMBERED BAR - AFTERNOON

TERRI stands at the door, smoking. ANDY comes to stand beside  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{him}}$ .

ANDY

That was a great performance you put on there.

TERRI

I try my best.

ANDY

See those ones in there, though? They're not the ones you have to worry about. Even crazies like Ned remember the times before this all started. It's the ones coming up behind them you're going to have to watch out for.

He nods across the street to where a couple of young skinheads wait: JOHNNY and SKELL (who has a distinctive spiderweb tattoo on his neck).

ANDY (CONT'D)

It'll take more than a few LPs to buy them off.

TERRI

You underestimate my record collection.

ANDY

(pats TERRI's cheek,
 without affection)
You haven't changed a bit. I
don't know if that's a good thing
or a bad thing.

He crosses the street. JOHNNY and SKELL fall in behind him.

CUT TO:

#### EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

A life-sized hardboard Elvis comes out the door. TERRI is behind, carrying it. He sets it on the footpath. The words *Good Vibrations* are painted in red below Elvis's knees. His left index finger points the way back up the stairs.

CUT TO:

## INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI is stacking shelves, the Wailers' Catch a Fire on the turntable. Footsteps on the stairs. He turns expectantly: customers!

A UNIFORMED RUC MAN enters and takes up position to the left of the doorway. DETECTIVE SERGEANT DUNLOP follows.

TERRI

(under his breath)

Here we go.

(to Dunlop)

Detective Sergeant, I haven't had the pleasure in a long time.

CUT TO:

#### EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Continuation of flashback of CND demo from p.6. DUNLOP waits by the door of the police van towards which TERRI is being dragged. He cuffs back of TERRI's head as he passes.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

DUNLOP is having a good look around the shop.

DUNLOP

I heard there was a very interesting meeting last week.

TERRI

It would destroy my faith in the Royal Ulster Constabulary if you hadn't.

DUNLOP

You think you're very funny, don't you. I tell you what's going to make me laugh, though, closing you down.

TERRI

(genuinely nonplussed)

For what?

DUNLOP

TERRI

It's a record shop!

DUNLOP

So you say. But see if I so much as find two Rizlas in the same room, it'll be an ex-record shop.

He sets down the sleeve on his way out; turns at the door.

DUNLOP (CONT'D)

By the way, is your man out the front anything to do with you?

TERRI walks to the window getting there just as the track  ${\it ends.}$ 

TERRI'S P.O.V. GREAT VICTORIA STREET

**GEORGE** 

(pointing same way as Elvis, shouting to passersby)

Don't let the name fool you. Good Vibrations? Naked capitalism is what it is!

TERRI (to himself) Fuck sake, dad.

CUT TO:

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

It's the end of the day. Elvis is entering the building, TERRI, as previously, behind.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

TERRI counts the float.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

TERRI is walking. He stops to light a cigarette. A horn sounds. He starts, drops the cigarette down his jumper. He looks round. It's MARILYN.

MARILYN

Do you need a lift?

TERRI has one hand down his jumper the other hand up. The up hand retrieves the cigarette, the down hand beats his chest. He gets into the car.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - NIGHT

MARILYN

Did I scare you.

TERRI puts the bent cigarette in his mouth.

TERRI

What gives you that idea?

A siren. A police land rover passes at speed, then another. They pull in up ahead, before a Victorian concert hall, the Ulster Hall. There is a melee out front. It's hard to make out what's happening, but between the land rovers odd-looking urchin creatures can be glimpsed: PUNKS

MARILYN

I wonder what's going on there tonight.

I don't think it's Nana Mouskouri

TERRI looks over his shoulder as MARILYN drives him past.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

A busy Saturday in the shop. 'Looks is Deceiving' by the Gladiators on the turntable.

At first the customers flicking through the racks will seem to be exclusively in their later 20s or even 30s: a HAWKWIND FAN here, an UNRECONSTRUCTED ROCKER there; and PUGWASH - all wild hair and beard - in a category of his own. Gradually, though, younger customers appear, moving in an out of them: the same urchins as were glimpsed outside the Ulster Hall. The PUNKS have found Good Vibrations.

One SHORT-ARSE punk makes his way to the counter where TERRI stands, a cigarette burn in his jumper from the previous scene.

SHORT-ARSE PUNK

Have you 'Orgasm Addict'?

TERRI

SHORT-ARSE PUNK departs to be replaced by LANKY PUNK

LANKY PUNK

Fuck off?

TERRI

What?

LANKY PUNK

The Electric Chairs: 'If you don't want to fuck me fuck off'.

TERRI

(writes that down)
It's coming too.

A third punk, GORDY, approaches.

TERRI (CONT'D)

You looking 'Fuck off' and all?

GORDY shakes his head and hands TERRI a rolled-up poster.

GORDY

I was wondering if you'd stick this up for us.

TERRI unrolls it. It has clearly been knocked up in someone's bedroom: JANUARY 12TH - RUDI AND THE OUTCASTS - THE POUND, TOWNHALL STREET.

TERRI

Rudi? Is that you?

GORDY

Nah, it's a band from here. They used to be shite but they're class now.

TERRI

What about the Outcasts?

**GORDY** 

They used to be class, but they're...

TERRI

... shite now?

GORDY smiles. TERRI looks at the poster again.

TERRI (CONT'D)

You weren't one of the ones rioting outside the Ulster Hall the other week?

GORDY

The Clash gig?

TERRI

Is that what it was?

GORDY

The bastards banned it at the last minute and we were just shouting, you know, 'fuck sake let them play' and then the next thing the cops came and got tore into us.

That settles it for TERRI. He turns to the wall behind him, looking for a space. When he can't see one he takes down a bill for a Rory Gallagher gig - in the Ulster Hall.

TERRI

Sorry, Rory.

A throat is cleared behind him. PUGWASH is at the counter.

PUGWASH

(handing TERRI a Shangrilas album)

Just the one today, Terri.

TERRI

Ah, Pugwash, beehives and teenage suicide - we obviously share the same taste in women. That's three pound.

PUGWASH pays him, takes the bag from TERRI then just as he is about to go turns.

PUGWASH

Here, you couldn't order me one of those Fuck Offs too, could you?

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

TERRI lies on the living room, a sheet of writing paper on his chest, listening to a radio, which plays the Fall.

RUTH comes in.

RUTH

What are you doing?

TERRI

(not moving)

Stock-taking. I finally worked out where those kids were hearing all the records they were asking for.

The Fall end. JOHN PEEL's voice is heard.

JOHN PEEL (O.S.)

I'm John Peel and that of course was the Fall and this is John Cooper Clarke.

'Suspended Sentence' starts.

TERRI

Anything he plays I'm ordering ten of.

RUTH lifts the sheet of paper, looks down the list.

RUTH

'John Willie's Ferret', the Oldham Tinkers?

(raises his head) What do you think, eight?

RUTH looks sceptical.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Five?

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

The shop is closed. TERRI sits at the counter reading by the light off the only bulb left on a punk fanzine, ALternative Ulster. DAVY comes in.

TERRT

(glancing up)
Did you print this?

DAVY

(turns his head sideways
to see)

Yeah.

TERRI

It isn't a kick in the arse off the things I used to put out.

DAVY

Although these kids can actually spell.

TERRI

Who's doing it?

DAVY

Couple of wee waifs from Bangor. They're in every week with pages and pages of stuff: boredom, despair...

TERRI

well at least they're making a magazine out of it.

He stands, nods towards the Rudi poster.

TERRI (CONT'D)

I was even thinking of going down to this. You up for it?

DAVY leans forward to read it then takes a step back.

DAVY

The Pound? Are you mad?

TERRI

Davy, if a bunch of kids can go there we should be able to. And like, 'Rudi', that's a proper name for a band. They might be all right.

DAVY

Is Ruth going.

TERRI

(lifts jacket)

Sure it'll only be for an hour.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH STREET - NIGHT

TERRI and DAVY and their echoing footsteps are walking away from the city centre.

DAVY

You know they used the Pound as a morque on Bloody Friday.

TERRI

Fuck sake, Davy.

They pass in front of the Albert Clock, round a corner, round another, and there is the Pound, a once-fine bar now barely standing. (For authenticity the name above the main door should actually be RODDY'S.) TEENAGE PUNKS swarm around the side entrance. They part for DAVY and for TERRI, who recognises GORDY in among them.

TERRI (CONT'D)

See if these bands actually are shite, you're barred.

CUT TO:

INT. POUND - NIGHT

It's another city, another world entirely, in there: the crush of people, the noise. On a stage lit by a single fluorescent bulb, four crop-haired teenagers are exercising their snarls and wrenching out a song, Justa Nother Teenage Rebel (basic even by punk standards) from their instruments. These are the OUTCASTS.

The journey from the door to the bar is a crash course in teen vice, 1978 vintage: gropings, playful (but still painful-looking) headbuttings, surreptitious glue-sniffing.

TERRI and DAVY squeeze in at the bar. Amid the KIDs counting out their coins their pound notes are conspicuous, so of course the barman makes straight for them.

POUND BARMAN

What can I get yous?

Resentful looks from the KIDS at the bar, is what.

CUT TO:

INT. POUND - LATER

TERRI and DAVY are standing towards the back of the room as the OUTCASTS finish their set.

DAVY

What do you reckon then?

TERRI

I've been here ten minutes, I've been spat on twice, called a cunt four times, the beer tastes like piss and these characters sound like they've been blackmailed into becoming a band. It's the best night I've had in Belfast in ten years.

DAVY

(points towards door)
Well it looks like it's coming to an end.

A number of RUC MEN have come in and are nabbing anyone who looks underage (and plenty do), taking names, asking for pockets to be turned out.

TERRI pushes his way through the crowd and buttonholes the NEAREST COP who is writing down the name of a PUNK GIRL.

TERRI

Excuse me, officer, I know what you're doing here is very important and all, but once you're finished I'd like to report a civil war outside.

NEAREST COP

Step back, sir.

TERRI

No, really, take your time. The bombing, shooting, intimidation, that can all wait while you smell her breath to see if she's been drinking.

NEAREST COP

(to PUNK GIRL)

Stay you there.

(to TERRI)

And, you, I've warned you once: step back.

TERRI steps forward. NEAREST COP's hand moves towards the gun at his hip. Suddenly a single guitar chord sounds. Another band has taken the stage. What they lack in snarls they make up for in cheek. This is RUDI.

Down on the floor TERRI and NEAREST COP are still squaring up.  $\hspace{-1em}$ 

RUDI's singer RONNIE MATTHEWS leans into the mike.

RONNIE

(more spoken than sung)

We hate the cops.

TERRI and NEAREST COP finally look at the stage where RUDI are ripping into 'Cops'. The audience have forgotten about the actual RUC MEN among them and are singing along.

POUND PUNKS

We hate the cops, we hate the cops.

TERRI joins in, right in NEAREST COP's face. The atmosphere has changed, the RUC have lost control.

By the the door of the bar DET SGT DUNLOP, who has clearly been in command, gives the signal to withdraw. NEAREST COP leaves reluctantly. DUNLOP makes eye contact with TERRI who is giving it all he has got.

RUDI/POUND PUNKS/TERRI

(chanting) SS RUC, SS RUC.

When the last cop has gone there is pandemonium. TERRI is in the thick of it, hugging RANDOM PUNKS, getting head-butted (accidentally? Maybe not, though he appears not to mind).

RONNIE

OK, now that we've cleared the air a bit...

(the audience cheer)

... this is 'Big Time'.

At guitarist BRIAN YOUNG's opening riff the audience surge towards the stage. Suddenly the fluorescent stage light falls from the ceiling. RUDI play on regardless in the gloom. GORDY reclaims the light, still lit, and swings it above his head.

TERRI looks around him - at the kids, at the band, at the waving light - and it is all too much. He starts to cry. Then he jumps up and down with everyone else.

CUT TO:

INT. POUND - LATER

The end of the night. TERRI makes his unsteady way through the remnants of the crowd. RUDI, at the bar, watch his approach warily.

TERRI

Boys, where have you been all my life?

He hugs each one in turn, unaware quite how little RUDI want to be hugged.

BRIAN

Do we know you?

TERRI

Me? Maybe. Terri Hooley. I run a record shop and that 'Big Time' song...

(he sings the riff)
That's up there with 'Gloria'. I
want that in my shop.

RONNIE

You can want all you like.

TERRI

Are you telling me you haven't recorded it?

BRIAN

'Alternative Ulster' were thinking of maybe doing it as a flexi-disc.

TERRI

Flexi-fucking disc? Did 'Be-Bop-a-Lula' come out on flexi-disc? Did 'Leader of the Pack'? Raise your expectations, for fuck sake. That song belongs on vinyl.

RONNIE

We know it does, but no one's ever going to come to Belfast to sign us, so that's just the way it is. We don't care.

(after a pause)

Well, I'm going to put it out.

BRIAN

You're blocked... And one of your eyes is missing.

TERRI puts his hand to his face. For the first time he (and the audience) realises that during this entire conversation his glass eye has been missing.

TERRI

None of that matters. I'll put that record out. I'll put the 'Cops' one out and all.

BRIAN

How?

DAVY arrives at TERRI's shoulder just in time to hear...

TERRI

I'll set up a label.

RONNIE

Just like that?

TERRI

Aye.

(it dawns on him, he

can)

Just like that.

(to DAVY)

How hard can it be?

RUDI look at one another and laugh.

BRIAN

Whatever you think, mate.

TERRI feels a tug on his sleeve. He looks round, then down. The SMALLEST PUNK yet hands him the glass eye.

SMALLEST PUNK

This yours?

TERRI

Cheers, kid.

He pops the eye back in, blinks, and sees four wide-open RUDI mouths.

TERRI (CONT'D)

I'll be in touch during the week. You're making a record, fellas.

TERRI and DAVY head for the exit.

DAVY

I'm not saying you shouldn't, but we are meant to be a collective.

Before TERRI can answer GREG COWAN, the Outcasts singer, approaches.

GREG

Here, will you sign us too?

TERRI

I'm not that fucking drunk.

CUT TO:

EXT. POUND - NIGHT

The crowd outside the bar disperse in different directions through the surrounding streets.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

RUTH opens the front door. TERRI staggers past, grinning.

RUTH

(anger mixed with relief)

Where were you? I've been sitting here for the last hour listening to the police radio. I thought you were lying dead somewhere.

TERRI doesn't answer; his head is elsewhere.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Terri, are you listening to me? I asked you where you were.

TERRI shakes his head.

TERRI

I'm not sure I know how to tell you.

RUTH

(exasperated, heading for the stairs)
Well, I know where I have to be at half eight in the morning.

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

RUTH is sleeping. Terri is awake staring at the ceiling.

TERRI's POV: the ceiling is a movie screen; TERRI wearing Hank William's famous white suit, with rhinestone music notes, is on stage at the Pound with RUDI and the OUTCASTS and a host of POUND PUNKS singing 'I Saw the Light'.

CUT TO:

EXT. WIZARD BOUTIQUE - DAY

Wizard is the 70s viewed from the wrong end of the telescope, a land of loon pants and tie-dyes, presided over, very visibly from the street, by DAVE SMYTH. TERRI and BRIAN YOUNG enter, becoming part of the window display. Handshakes all round. DAVE SMYTH puts on his coat. They leave and turn down an alleyway.

CUT TO:

EXT. WIZARD STUDIO - DAY

The exterior is unpromising: basic warehouse. DAVE SMYTH unlocks a door. He and TERRI and BRIAN YOUNG enter.

CUT TO:

INT. WIZARD STUDIO - DAY

The interior is a revelation: a proper studio.

TERRI

What do you think?

BRIAN

(nods)

Sound. How soon can we get in.

TERRI looks at DAVE SMYTH who narrows an eye as though consulting an inner diary. An inner blank diary.

DAVE SMYTH

Let me see now, let me see... Tomorrow morning looks free.

TERRI

Fuck sake, Dave, we're music people.

# DAVE SMYTH (correcting himself) Tomorrow afternoon.

CUT TO:

INT. WIZARD STUDIO - DAY

TERRI stands behind DAVE SMYTH at the desk, watching as RUDI do 'Big Time'.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

Close up on the 'Big Time' Good Vibrations label as the record spins on a turntable.

TERRI stares mesmerised. On the counter a pile of singles in their Good Vibrations sleeves, PUNKS picking them up and looking at them.

CUT TO:

INT. HOOLEY FAMILY HOME - EVENING

TERRI and RUTH are having dinner with MAVIS and GEORGE. Throughout, MAVIS attempts to keep up a hostess's (and mother-in-law's) politeness.

TERRI

Pass me the salt there.

MAVIS

Please.

TERRT

Please.

RUTH

The potatoes are lovely.

MAVIS

They're George's own. You should get him to take you round the garden after dinner. You wouldn't think it, all the size of it, but he could feed half the street out of it. And many's the time he has. Haven't you, George?

GEORGE grunts in reply. He has been biding his time.

**GEORGE** 

(to TERRI)

So you're a record company boss now too, are you? What did you do, leave the Jag round the corner?

MAVIS

(to RUTH)

Those peas are his as well.

TERRI

Catch yourself on, dad. It's not like you think. There are no contracts. Everything's split fifty-fifty.

RUTH looks a little anxious.

MAVIS

(to RUTH)

What about your work?

RUTH

(one ear on TERRI and GEORGE)

I'm doing grand. I'm up in Ballysillan mostly.

**GEORGE** 

It's the most rotten industry there is: bribes, payola, cartels. You'll either end up a crook or you'll go broke.

TERRI

I'll never be a crook.

MAVIS

(to RUTH)

It's the parents need the talking to, not the kids. Kids will only do what they're let get away with.

TERRI

(to GEORGE, but with his
 good eye on RUTH)
Actually, I'm thinking of taking
a couple of the groups out on the
road next month.

GEORGE

(throwing down his fork)
And now he's an impresario! The
Lew Grade of Great Victoria
Street.

TERRI goes to speak, but doesn't. Ditto RUTH. They eat.

MAVIS

Anyone for more gravy?

CUT TO:

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI is loading up a minibus, aided by GREG and GETTY from the Outcasts, LANKY PUNK and SHORT-ARSE PUNK.

BRIAN YOUNG arrives carrying a guitar case, as GETTY staggers out of the shop with an amp.

BRIAN

Are these the Rudi roadies?

GREG passes, carrying a box.

**GREG** 

Ha fucking ha.

TERRI

(to BRIAN)

Meet your new label-mates.

BRIAN

You've changed your tune.

TERRI

Well, I'd have grown old waiting on them changing theirs.

GETTY walkd back towards the shop, rubbing his sides, feigning laughter.

BRIAN

Anyone else coming on this tour?

TERRI

Tearjerkers...

SHORT-ARSE PUNK

Can we come?

TERRI

(without missing a beat)

... these two...

BRIAN puts his guitar case in the minibus.

BRIAN

God help Ulster.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A stylised, almost pop-up rural picture, right out of a Visit Northern Ireland ad. The bassline of 'Public Image' by Public Image starts. The minibus, amps and faces tight against the windows, passes across the screen.

CUT TO:

INT. MINIBUS - DAY

'Public Image' plays. GETTY drives. TERRI, by the passenger window, drinks.

**GREG** 

(shouting over the music)

Where the fuck are we?

TERRI

(a swig from the bottle) We're on the road to Damascus.

RONNIE

I could have sworn that last sign said Loughbrickland.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

The minibus carries on. 'Public Image' too.

CUT TO:

INT. RURAL HALL - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP BRIAN YOUNG

BRIAN

Hello, Damascus, we're RUDI.

RUDI play 'I-Spy'. The rest of the Good Vibes crew huddle in front of the stage. The dance-floor is otherwise empty. The walls are lined with LOCAL LADS looking daggers and LOCAL GIRLS looking torn. TERRI stands to one side, oblivious to tensions.

Halfway through the song BRIAN beckons to someone down the hall. A RURAL PUNK kid comes forward, baited by the LOCAL LADS; when he reaches the front he closes his eyes and pogos like his life depends on it.

#### INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE - NIGHT

The TEARJERKERS play 'Love Affair'. Still the glares from the sides of the room, but more kids on the dance-floor.

CUT TO:

## INT. HOTEL FUNCTION ROOM - NIGHT

The OUTCASTS play 'You're a Disease'. The dance-floor is full, although as the song goes on it starts to get a bit rough out there. GREG jumps from the stage and thumps a LOCAL who has been hassling LANKY PUNK.

CUT TO:

#### EXT. HOTEL CAR PARK - NIGHT

TERRI and the GOOD VIBES CREW pile into the minibus, leaving behind a mini-riot between SAVAGES and CONVERTS. As the minibus pulls away 'Public Image' is again the soundtrack, through to the final echoing lyric: 'Goodbye'.

CUT TO:

#### EXT. RURAL ROADSIDE - NIGHT

The minibus is parked, doors open. The GOOD VIBES CREW are lined up, pissing into a ditch. Only TERRI and GETTY remain in the bus. TERRI is looking for a light. He empties his jacket pockets on to the dashboard: half a dozen cassettes.

TERRI

People keep handing me these fucking things. They wouldn't be doing it if they knew how broke we were.

**GETTY** 

How broke are we?

TERRI

Don't worry, we've enough for the petrol home.

**GETTY** 

And paying us?

TERRI

Getty, please, don't insult me.

He pulls out another tape. A handwritten label: the Undertones.

TERRI (CONT'D)

I don't even remember where the half of them came from.

There is a rustle in the bushes, then lights, shouts.

SOLDIER 1

Everybody down on the fucking ground!

SOLDIER 2

(trailing TERRI out of

the minibus)

Out! Out! Out!

SOLDIERS everywhere, faces blackened, guns poised. TERRI is forced to the ground beside GETTY who has been dragged round from the other side.

TERRT

Whoa! Whoa!

SOLDIER 1

I said fucking down.

SOLDIERS are frisking the prone punks. They drag them all up on their feet again.

SOLDIER 2

What the fuck have we here? Fucking scarecrow convention?

TERRI

Listen, fellas, we've been playing some dates. We're on our way home to Belfast.

SOLDIER 1

And where are you all from in Belfast?

FOUR VOICES SIMULTANEOUSLY

East - West - South - North.

They look down the line at one another as it registers.

SOLDIER 1

(in BRIAN's face)

Are you taking the mick, Mick?

BRIAN's face says that he wouldn't dream of it.

SOLDIER 1 (CONT'D)

(turns to TERRI)

You telling me some of these cunts are Protestant and some of them are Catholic?

It never occurred to me to ask.

SOLDIER 1

(relaxing)

You ever think of setting up a political party?

TERRI

You don't want to know what I think of political parties.

SOLDIER 1

You don't want to know what we do either.

(calls to his patrol)

All right, let them back on to their bus.

The GOOD VIBES CREW climb on board, cocky again. Sound of the soldiers' radio as the engine starts.

SOLDIER 1 (CONT'D)

(taps TERRI's window)

Just getting reports in on the radio. You might want to watch yourselves going West when you get to Belfast. And North. A bit of trouble in the East too.

TERRI

What about the South?

SOLDIER 1

You should be OK if you get going now.

The bus pulls off: two bare arses pressed against the back window.

CUT TO:

INT. MINIBUS - NIGHT

TERRI looks at his hand. He has been holding the Undertones cassette all through the last scene. He looks at the cassettes sliding about on the dashboard and puts the Undertones one back in his pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

TERRI creeps into the bedroom where RUTH sleeps. He kisses her forehead.

RUTH stirs as he exits.

RUTH

Terri?

She gets up and pulls a mohair sweater over her nightdress.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

RUTH on the stairwell peers over the banister into the living room.

The GOOD VIBES CREW are strewn around, competing for sleeping space, using their coats for pillows. TERRI, in an armchair, has the phone on his lap. LANKY PUNK sits on the floor in front of him.

TERRI

(to LANKY PUNK, mid dial)

...4371?

LANKY PUNK

Aye.

TERRI finishes dialling. Listens a moment.

TERRI

Oh, hello, is that Mrs... (hand over mouthpiece) What's your surname?

LANKY PUNK

Creggan.

TERRI

Mrs Creggan. Sorry to be ringing you at this time, but my name's Terri Hooley - that's right - no, he's fine, he's sitting here.

TERRI kicks LANKY PUNK

TERRI (CONT'D)

Say hello to your mother.

LANKY PUNK

(holds phone like it's
been dipped in sewage)

Hello, ma.

He hands the phone back without waiting for her reply. TERRI shakes his head.

Things are a bit rough out there tonight. I told him he could stay here. I'll get him home in the morning.

As he hangs up he notices RUTH on the stairs. He picks his way across.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Sorry, sweetheart, I didn't mean to wake you. It's just...

RUTH

It's OK.

The toilet flushes. GETTY emerges, passes RUTH on the stairs.

**GETTY** 

Ruth.

RUTH

Getty. How was the countryside?

**GETTY** 

Weird.

He carries on downstairs.

RUTH

(to TERRI)

I'd better be getting back to bed. Long day tomorrow.

TERRI

I know, first punk night in the Harp Bar.

RUTH

The what...? Oh, the Harp.

TERRI

Pretty Boy Floyd and the Gems. Should be good.

RUTH

Yeah.

She leans over and kisses him and almost as soon as they break apart TERRI turns back to the living room.

TERRI

(to SHORT ARSE PUNK)

Right, you, number.

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - MORNING

RUTH steps over sleeping punks to the front door.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST STREET - MORNING

'This Perfect Day' by the Saints plays, as it does through the next few scenes.

RUTH waits for a bus, reading a book of poetry.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - MORNING

RUTH sits by the window, still reading.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - MORNING

RUTH gets off one bus, gets on to another.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINY HOUSING ESTATE - MORNING

RUTH gets off the bus. Every lamppost has a Union Jack or an Ulster flag. There are ESTATE KIDS sitting on a nearby wall. She walks over to them, starts to talk.

CUT TO:

INT. HARP BAR - NIGHT

PRETTY BOY FLOYD AND THE GEMS are doing (not very well) a cover of the Saints track just heard. TERRI is at the bar, bending someone's ear. RUTH is at the front, in the mix. Some of the KIDS AROUND HER look as young as the estate kids she was talking to earlier.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

RUTH and TERRI fucking with abandon. This perfect day indeed.

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI straightens the albums by the window. Stops, distracted by a movement outside: LANKY PUNK is running.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

LANKY PUNK running. A few seconds behind and gaining are a gang of SKINHEADS with JOHNNY and SKELL to the fore.

LANKY PUNK ducks in the doorway of No. 102. The SKINHEADS follow and find themselves face to face with TERRI.

JOHNNY and SKELL make as if to go in.

TERRI

(arm across the doorway) You're barred.

**JOHNNY** 

You can't bar us, we've never even been in before.

TERRI

Well, for giving me lip you're definitely barred now.

JOHNNY

(inches from TERRI's
 face)

I know people. I could have you shot.

TERRI

I know the same people you know. I could have you sent to bed without your supper.

JOHNNY glares a moment longer then knocks his arm out of the way. The Good Vibes CUSTOMERS are massed on the stairs. GORDY will be there, PUGWASH etc. Even a few of the WHOLE-FOOD BODS. JOHNNY contemplates the odds, thinks better of it.

**JOHNNY** 

(parting shot)

See from now on? You better make sure you have someone with you every time you turn your back to piss, because I'm the fucking bogeyman and I swear to fuck, sooner or later, I'm going to get you.

He turns and floors Elvis with a single punch. SKELL lingers for a sneer. Elvis, rebounding, nearly hits him in the face as he turns to go.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

Cheering from Good Vibes CUSTOMERS. TERRI walks up the stairs. DAVY, at the top, presents him with his post. All the envelopes are brown.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - CONTINUOUS

TERRI walks behind the counter and opens a drawer, which is already full of bills. He closes it quickly.

He turns up the volume on the record that's playing: 'Give Him a Great Big Kiss', by Johnny Thunders. He stares at the envelopes DAVY gave him then looks up. The CUSTOMERS are singing along. All of them.

He opens the drawer, crams the new bills under the older ones, turns the volume even higher and joins in.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

Another day in the shop, but quieter. (PUGWASH is there; PUGWASH nearly always is.) It's like the hangover from the scene before. TERRI indeed looks the worse for wear.

An intense, dark-haired teen in polo neck and parka approaches: FEARGAL SHARKEY. He is in no mood for idle chitchat.

TERRI

Something you're looking for.

FEARGAL

Aye, you.

TERRI

If you want to beat me up I ought to tell you there's a queue.

**FEARGAL** 

I sing with a band called the Undertones. We gave you a tape ages ago, but we haven't heard a thing.

I have a shop to run. I'm a busy man.

FEARGAL

Have you even listened to it yet?

TERRI hesitates a second.

FEARGAL (CONT'D)

Great. I trek all the way down from Derry and you haven't even listened to it.

TERRI

I didn't say that. Jesus, you Derry ones.

FEARGAL

So, did you like it?

TERRI

(non-committal)

It wasn't bad.

**FEARGAL** 

Wasn't bad? There's no way you listened to it then. Every song on that tape is a hit.

TERRI

It's too early in the morning for this shit.

He pats his pockets.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Where are my fags?

He can't find any.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Fuck sake. Anyone got any fags?

CUSTOMERS look up and shake their heads.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Call yourself punks.

(to FEARGAL)

You any fags?

FEARGAL

Smoked them all on the bus.

TERRI shakes his head as comes round from behind the counter.

Steer the ship while I'm away, Pugwash.

TERRI leaves. FEARGAL follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI strides along; FEARGAL keeps up the pace, and chat.

FEARGAL

I still think you're bluffing.

TERRI

(without turning)

All right, the wanking one. I liked that.

FEARGAL

Wanking? We've no songs about wanking.

TERRI

Aye, you have. Wanking all night. I forget what it's called.

FEARGAL halts a moment, mouthing the words 'wanking all night', trying to puzzle this out.

TERRI (CONT'D)

The thing is - what did you say your name was?

FEARGAL

(in pursuit again)

Feargal. Feargal Sharkey.

TERRI

Feargal. The thing is, Good Vibrations isn't really a proper label. We don't sign bands, we just put out singles. I'm going to see a band tonight about releasing a couple of their songs - A side, B side - but after that there's no money.

**FEARGAL** 

All we want is a single out. If we don't record it soon it'll be too late. We're breaking up.

TERRI stops dead.

Aw, now don't lay that on me.

**FEARGAL** 

I'm just saying how it is.

They are at a pedestrian crossing. TERRI looks across the road to a newsagent's then back to FEARGAL.

TERRI

Tell you what. I'm going over there to buy some fags. When I get back I'll give you an answer. OK?

**FEARGAL** 

OK.

TERRI crosses over and goes into the shop. He emerges a few moments later, unwraps the packet, takes out a cigarette, lights it; puffs away,

Across the street FEARGAL sways from foot to foot.

City centre traffic flashes between them. Finally TERRI flicks the cigarette away. He crosses the road again.

TERRI

I must need my head examined.

He walks on, leaving FEARGAL smiling in the street.

CUT TO:

INT. WIZARD STUDIO - DAY

FEARGAL, backed by the other four UNDERTONES sings the opening lines of 'Emergency Cases'. He is a man transformed.

DAVE SMYTH listens in the control room. TERRI, who has just come in, unloads beer, crisps, sandwiches, Mars Bars from carrier bags.

FERGAL stops abruptly, takes off the headphones.

DAVE SMYTH fades up his voice.

**FEARGAL** 

That's bollocks, that is.

DAVE SMYTH

It's sounding fine in here.

FEARGAL

All I'm getting is echo, echo, echo,

DAVE adjusts level.

DAVE SMYTH

OK, try it from the top again.

He shuts down the studio link. FEARGAL silently counts himself in and starts to sing again.

TERRI

Hard going?

DAVE SMYTH

They'd never been in a proper studio two hours ago, now the ugly one thinks he's Phil Spector

TERRI

Derry ones, they're never satisfied.

FEARGAL has stopped again.

TERRI (CONT'D)

What do you think, will we just cut our losses here?

DAVE SMYTH

Cut our losses? Did you hear that first track they did?

TERRI

The wanking one?

DAVE shakes his head, puzzled, carries on talking.

DAVE SMYTH

That was the best thing I ever recorded. That was the best thing anyone in this city ever recorded.

TERRI

(sceptically)

Better than 'Gloria'?

DAVE looks over his shoulder at TERRI. It is written on his face: 'Better than Gloria.'

TERRI walks slowly to the glass between control room and studio. He spreads his hands against it.

#### INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

TERRI is on the phone, an ashtray and a newly opened packet of cigarettes on the counter beside him, a freshly lit fag in his hand. Beyond that is a bottle of brandy. By his other hand is a pile, several hundred deep, of A3 pages.

TERRI

(mid conversation)
You can? That's brilliant. About
seven? Dead on. I'll see you
then.

He presses his finger on the black buttons, starts dialling again straight away. He smokes while he waits, takes a drink.

TERRI (CONT'D)
Brian? It's Terri here... Not
bad, not bad. Listen, I'm looking
a big favour of you...

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - LATER

The ashtray is fuller, the brandy bottle emptier. TERRI is still on the phone.

TERRI

A couple of hours... An hour, even... Half an hour... Whatever you can manage... Good man, I knew I could count on you.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - LATER

TERRI is fuller than the ashtray. He has become more verbose.

TERRI

It's a special event, like the last session of 'A Day in the Life'. Here in the shop. Fucking everybody's coming. I can't tell you. You'll see when you get here.

Finally he puts the phone down. He lifts an A3 sheet from the pile: the 'Teenage Kicks' sleeve in its unfolded state. He reaches for the cigarette box: empty again.

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

TERRI holds up the A3 'Teenage Kicks' to an audience of UNDERTONES, OUCASTS, RUDI, REGULAR CUSTOMERS, DAVY, MARILYN, RUTH.

TERRI

Right, are yous watching? You line up the record with the top edge, fold along the bottom line, like this, then fold down this side and then this...

(holds it up)

And, up your hole, EMI, there you have it. Again?

(repeats routine only

faster)

Here, here, here, and here. Right, now, let's get started.

To a soundtrack of 'True Confessions' the mass folding of 'Teenage Kicks' EP sleeves begins. There is beer, there is larking about, and then coming in the door in the middle of it all there is GEORGE.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Dad?

GEORGE

Don't take this the wrong way. I'm here to support the people you're exploiting through this piecework.

TERRI

Of course.

(turning to a couple of OUTCASTS behind him)

Make a bit of room there for this man.

**GEORGE** 

Sit where you are. I'll find my own wee corner.

TERRI rolls his eye.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I brought you something we could listen to.

TERRI looks at the tape GEORGE has handed him.

TERRI

You're kidding me?

GEORGE isn't. TERRI goes to the sound system, puts in the tape.

'The Internationale' plays: 'Stand up all victims of oppression/For the tyrants fear you might...' GEORGE, in his corner, looks satisfied; everyone else in the shop looks perplexed, but carries on.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - LATER

Only a few people remain in the shop. George has gone, so has his tape. Johnny Thunders plays again, 'You Can't Put Your Arms Around a Memory'.

The 'Teenage Kicks' EPs are wrapped and packed in boxes ready for dispatch. Behind them TERRI is stretched out. RUTH lies with her head on his chest.

TERRI

Do you notice something about those boxes?

RUTH

What?

TERRI

The addresses?

RUTH lifts her head, looks more closely.

RUTH

(after a moment)
All Northern Ireland.

TERRI

You know what I'm thinking?

RUTH

(lies down again)
I've a pretty good idea.

TERRI

And?

RUTH

What have you got to lose?

CUT TO:

## INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

A very well-scrubbed TERRI is testing the limits of a plastic bag by cramming it with copies of 'Teenage Kicks'. When he has finished that he turns to the suitcase at his feet, which PUGWASH narrowly avoids putting his foot in.

Mind where you're walking for fuck sake.

RUTH rushes in.

RUTH

I snuck away for half an hour to wish you luck.

She takes in his polished shoes, his shirt so new the fold marks are still visible.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Could you not at least have run an iron over that.

TERRT

I've to be on the boat in an hour and a half.

RUTH

Calm. You'll be grand.

TERRI

I'm glad you think so.

RUTH

(lowering her voice)
They'll never have met anyone
like you. I know I hadn't. Still
haven't.

TERRI

(looks about him)

I don't want to fuck this up.

RUTH

You won't.

(kisses him)

Come home to me safe.

She turns to leave, but stops in the doorway.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Just promise me you won't tell the John Lennon story.

TERRI

(hand on his heart) Swear to Bob Marley.

He bends to put more copies of the record in his suitcase. His hair falls over his eyes. He pushes it back then straightens up, grabbing handfuls of hair, front, back, sides.

He goes round to the till where there's a small mirror.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(to no one)

Fuck sake, I can't go looking like this.

He roots in a drawer and pulls out a pair of scissors. A PUNK GIRL is looking at the button badges.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Come here a second.

PUNK GIRL looks up.

TERRI (CONT'D)

I haven't much time. Short back and sides.

PUNK GIRL

(folds her arms)

Do it yourself.

TERRI plops himself in the chair by the till. He rips the cover off an NME and tucks it into his shirt collar.

TERRI

Would you let a one-eyed man cut your fucking hair?

She takes the scissors.

CUT TO:

## EXT. KNIGHTSBRIDGE - DAY

A hand lifts the knocker on a glossily painted townhouse door. Which is opened, at length, by ERIC, dressed in a long white kaftan and white sandals. His expression turns in an instant from open and welcoming to absolute horror.

ERIC

Shit, they finally got you too, man.

TERRI (whose hand, of course, it was) is scalped. Even with his good eye closed he could have done better himself

TERRI

Nah, I volunteered for this. But look at you. I don't know whether to hug you or ask for your forgiveness.

ERIC

Forgiveness, this kaftan's just washed, Can I help you with those bags.

He holds out a hand, a little tentatively: rings on every finger. TERRI takes the hand, turns it over. The nails are fabulously manicured. He lets go, picks up the bags himself.

TERRI

Just lead the way.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIC'S PAD - DAY

A huge, white, mirrored palace.

TERRI

Holy fuck.

ERIC

All right, isn't it? Amazing where charm, business know-how and labyrinthine narcotics connections can get a young man these days.

TERRI has stopped to look at the signed photos on the wall. Sly Stone, Keith Moon, the James Last Orchestra.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Drink?

TERRI

Only a nip. I'll need to keep my wits about me for these meetings.

ERIC

(disbelieving)

A nip?

CUT TO:

INT. ERIC'S PAD - LATER

Van Morrison sings 'Cyprus Avenue'. TERRI and ERIC lie blissed-out on the floor either side of an empty brandy bottle, passing a very large joint between them.

ERIC

You know if I didn't think they'd murder me the minute I set foot in the place, this song would make me desperately homesick for Belfast.

TERRI

Remember Them's first American tour?

(MORE)

TERRI (CONT'D)

We went to the airport because we thought it would be like the Beatles, hundreds waving them off? We were the only two showed up.

And there indeed they are in Smash Hits photo-story style, in the corner of the screen: Van fans on a mission.

ERIC

(laughing)

Yeah

(sits up suddenly; the
 Smash Hits bubble
 bursts)

No, wait, that wasn't me.

TERRI sits up too.

TERRI

Fuck, don't tell me I went on my own.

He shakes his head.

TERRI (CONT'D)

What time is it?

ERIC

I don't know. Twelve? One?
 (locates his wrist, his
 watch)

Two.

TERRI is on his feet, looking for his bags.

TERRI

I've got to get going here.

He turns in circles. He's going nowhere at this rate. He slaps his face with both hands.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Tube map, tube map.

ERIC walks nonchalantly to a hat stand from which a familiar white cowboy hat hangs. He puts his hand inside the crown.

ERIC

Why take the tube...
(produces a small bag of white powder)
when you can fly?

INT. OZ MAGAZINE - DAY

It is, cartoonishly, 1969. TERRI is sitting on a giant beanbag being ignored by an OZ SECRETARY. There is the sound of a party somewhere close at hand.

TERRI (V.O.)

(a mile a minute)
Back in the late sixties I was
the Belfast correspondent for Oz.
I'd send them bits and pieces on
the scene there: bands, protests,
the stuff they didn't tell you on
the news. The truth. Anyway, they
seemed to like what I was doing,
said if I was ever passing
through London... So I was
passing through one day. In fact,
I took the boat over specially,
and I was told the editor was to
busy to see me, but maybe if I
hung around...

A pause in which the volume goes up again on the party.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D) I was raging, but I'd nowhere else to go. So I waited.

TERRI from his beanbag looks at the clock.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D) And waited. And in the end I thought, fuck it.

He stands up.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But just as I was about to leave,
who do you think walks in?

OZ SECRETARY practically falls over scrambling to get the door.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

John Lennon.

JOHN LENNON, long-haired and bearded, nods hello to OZ SECRETARY and breezes past TERRI towards where the party sounds are coming from.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D) Well, I wasn't having that.

He leaps to his feet.

OZ SECRETARY

Mr Hooley... I mean, man...

JOHN LENNON stops in his tracks, turns.

TERRI (V.O.)

And here's Lennon
(JOHN LENNON's mouth
forms the words as
TERRI speaks them)
'Terri Hooley? I love your stuff,
man.'

OZ SECRETARY is at once on the phone.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And then he says, 'Terri, it's
fucking awful what's happening in
Belfast.' 'Tell me about it,' I
say and he goes quiet a moment
and leans in really close and
says 'Come round here tomorrow
and I'll have cheque for you for
a thousand pounds. I want to buy
guns for the people of Ireland.'
Here's me...

TERRI (CONT'D)
(pulling back from
LENNON)
Fucking guns?

OZ SECRETARY looks up from phone.

CUT TO:

INT. RECORD COMPANY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TERRI is in a meeting with THREE EXECUTIVES all of whom have copies of 'Teenage kicks' in front of them.

TERRI

(caught up in his own
 story)
'It's not fucking guns the people
of Ireland need,' I said, 'it's

of Ireland need, I said, 'it's drugs!' And then, I don't know, I just lost it.

CUT TO:

INT. OZ MAGAZINE - DAY

TERRI lands a punch on JOHN LENNON's nose.

TERRI

Fucking weekend revolutionary.

JOHN LENNON puts his hand to his face; sees blood; sees red. He lands one on TERRI in return.

CUT TO:

INT. RECORD COMPANY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TERRI

Give peace a chance? Give me a fucking break.

The THREE EXECUTIVES are stony-faced.

CUT TO:

EXT. RECORD COMPANY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TERRI is being escorted off the premises.

TERRI

Wait, wait, I got sidetracked.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND RECORD COMPANY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TERRI is in full flow, leaning across a table at the other side of which sits a RECORD EXEC, younger than those in the previous scene, but just as stunned. He barely removes his cigarette from his mouth between puffs, and he puffs a lot.

TERRI

(mid story)

... so he gives me this address and says 'I'll meet you there tomorrow at twelve.'

CUT TO:

INT. LOCK-UP GARAGE - DAY

The Sixties again. TERRI crosses the floor to a car beside which JOHN LENNON stands, crop-haired now, beardless. LENNON opens the boot.

TERRI (V.O.)

Full of fucking guns.

TERRI looks from guns to LENNON. A beat. He punches him.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND RECORD COMPANY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TERRI is shaking his hand as though the punch had just that moment happened.

RECORD EXEC
(finally stubbing
cigarette)
Excuse me, just a moment.

He leaves the room for an animated conversation, beyond the glass partition, with TWO COLLEAGUES.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND RECORD COMPANY VESTIBULE - AFTERNOON

RECORD EXEC walks towards the door with TERRI, who struggles with his coat and bag of records. The COLLEAGUES are close behind. It all looks amicable, but there can be no mistake (except perhaps to TERRI himself) TERRI is getting the bum's rush.

TERRI

Did I leave you my number?
 (hands a record to a
 PASSING EMPLOYEE)
Play that for all your friends in
the tea break.

CUT TO:

INT. APPLE OFFICE - DAY

The BEATLES and YOKO ONO are in a meeting with ALLEN KLEIN when the door bursts open: TERRI. LENNON tries to climb out the window.

CUT TO:

INT. THIRD RECORD COMPANY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A BEARDED EXECUTIVE holds the door. TERRI picks up 'Teenage Kicks' and walks through it without a backward glance.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONDON STREET - AFTERNOON

TERRI is attempting to hand out copies of the record to passers-by, who to a man, woman and child shy away.

TERRI

What's wrong with you? It's a gift? Is there not one person in this city recognises genius when it's handed to him?

A thought hits him. He runs to the kerb, hails a cab.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(opening door)

John Peel.

CUT TO:

EXT. BBC PORTLAND PLACE - EVENING

TERRI, patting down his hair, gets out of the cab and makes for the entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. BBC PORTLAND PLACE - CONTINUOUS

TERRI comes through the revolving door towards reception desk, visibly trying to keep himself in check: this is his last chance.

RECEPTIONIST

(brightly)

Can I help you?

TERRI

I have a record here for John Peel.

RECEPTIONIST

(takes clipboard from under counter)

Is he expecting it?

TERRI

No, but he'll understand as soon as he hears it.

RECEPTIONIST

It's just that all packages have to be signed in. Security.

TERRI

(displays it)

It's a piece of vinyl.

RECEPTIONIST

New regulations.

TERRI

Can you sign for it?

RECEPTIONIST

I'm afraid not.

TERRI

(low and urgent)

I've come a very long way and to tell you the truth I've fucked up a bit today.

RECEPTIONIST

Sorry.

TERRI

Please.

RECEPTIONIST

No.

TERRI drops to his knees on the far side of the desk. He moans. In the background SECURITY GUARDS step forward, but before they get anywhere near a BBC employee, DES, comes through the revolving door.

DES

Terri?

The moaning stops.

DES (CONT'D)

Terri Hooley?

TERRI looks up, gets up, as though he had simply been retrieving something from his bag.

DES (CONT'D)

I can't believe it.

TERRI clearly hasn't the first idea who DES is.

TERRI

Me neither.

RECEPTIONIST

(to DES)

Is this man a friend of yours?

DES

I was doing a story in Belfast at Easter and wandered into his record shop. He had a Thirteenth Floor Elevators album...

TERRI

(the record at least is
 coming back to him)
 (MORE)

TERRI (CONT'D)

Easter Everywhere, International Artists deleted it the year after it was released.

DES

... I'd searched all over London for it.

(to TERRI)

What are you doing here?

TERRI

I've got a record for John Peel.

RECEPTIONIST

It has to be signed for.

DES

Not a problem.

DES takes the clipboard and, like that, it's done. He looks at TERRI, shakes his head, still finding it hard to credit.

DES (CONT'D)

Terri Hooley.

CUT TO:

INT. RADIO STUDIO - NIGHT

The very last seconds of 'Teenage Kicks' play and as the record finishes a hand lifts the needle from the run-off groove.

JOHN PEEL (O.S.)

Isn't that the best thing you've ever heard? It's so good I'm going to do something I've never done before.

The hand sets the needle on the start of the record again.

The lyrics appear karaoke-style on the screen. The audience  $will \ \mathrm{sing}$ .

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

Still 'Teenage Kicks'. TERRI and RUTH jump around the living room in celebration. The phone rings. RUTH answers.

RUTH

Hello, Davy. I know, I know,
isn't it amazing? Twice in a row!

The doorbell rings. TERRI goes out into hallway, opens door. There are a BUNCH OF KIDS on the doorstep. KID 1 has a transistor round his wrist. He holds it up like a holy relic.

KID 1

Are you listening to this?

KID 2

I thought the radio was broke when he put it on again.

TERRI stands aside, the BUNCH OF KIDS wander in. TERRI goes out on to the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

Doors are opening. A few LIKE-MINDED NEIGHBOURS appear. No one can quite believe this. TERRI simply stands in the street. TERRI simply stands in the street, face tilted towards the sky.

TERRI

(murmurs)

I still say it's about wanking.

Inside Number 12 the phone is ringing again. It is answered. A few moments later RUTH comes out on to the doorstep and calls to TERRI.

RUTH

Terri there's a fella on the phone says he's from Sire Records.

TERRI thinks for a moment.

TERRI

Tell him if he wants to talk to me he can come over here and do it.

CUT TO:

INT. ALDERGROVE AIRPORT - DAY

SOLDIERS and armed RUC MEN check IDs in the arrivals lounge. The 'fella from Sire' PAUL McNALLY makes his way, nervously, through them.

TERRI holds up a placard on which are written two words: 'The Man'.

PAUL

(sets down bag)

Terri Hooley by any chance?

TERRI tosses away the 'Man' placard.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Paul McNally.

TERRT

Have you any fags? I'm right out.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALDERGROVE AIRPORT - DAY

TERRI is setting a brisk pace across the car park.

PAUL

Seymour Stein was knocked out by 'Kicks'.

TERRI

'Kicks'?

PAUL

(oblivious)

He turned to me straight away and said, 'I want that band'. That's the way he was with the Ramones: 'I want that band.'

TERRI stops before a dilapidated Transit van.

TERRI

Wait'll I tell you, Paul, you don't have to sell Seymour Stein to me. This is the man the Shangri-las phoned when they wanted to go back into the studio.

PAUL

You know that all came to nothing?

TERRI

Still, they phoned him. The Shangri-las.

He opens the passenger door. GETTY is in the driver's seat.

TERRI (CONT'D)

This is Getty, he's driving us to Derry.

(to GETTY)

Paul McNally.

GETTY salutes. PAUL goes to get in the front.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Hold on, you're in the back.

PAUL

(about to get out)

Sorry.

TERRI

Only kidding. I'm in the back. We'll swap at Bellaghy.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELLAGHY - DAY

The dilapidated van passes the 'Welcome to Bellaghy' sign without stopping.

TERRI (O.S.)

Definitely Dungiven.

CUT TO:

INT. CASBAH BAR, DERRY - NIGHT

The UNDERTONES are ripping through '(She's a) Runaround'. In the crowd PAUL is enraptured. He nods at TERRI, smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. FEARGAL SHARKEY'S HOUSE - DAY

The UNDERTONES, TERRI, MRS SHARKEY are in the sitting room, along with a serious number of holy pictures. PAUL stands off to one corner, talking on the phone.

PAUL

Seymour? I have the band here. I'm passing you over to...

MICKEY BRADLEY has been pushed forward.

PAUL (CONT'D)

... John.

MICKEY

Mickey.

PAUL

(correcting himself)

Mickey.

MICKEY

(takes phone)

How are you, Mr Stein? Yes, Paul

has told us the offer...

(listens a moment)

Well, me and the rest of the band

have been talking it over...

(turns to look at the

others who nod in encouragement)

And we want the same as the Rich

Kids got from EMI...

(turns again, sees

FEARGAL mouth the figure)

Sixty.

He pulls his head back to avoid the torrent this unleashes from the other end of the line.

TERRI lets himself out of the sitting room

CUT TO:

INT. FEARGAL SHARKEY'S HALLWAY - DAY

TERRI shares the hallway with a Jack Russell, which worries at his trouserleg. The sitting room door opens again. There are raised voices. MRS SHARKEY comes out with a tea tray.

MRS SHARKEY

Should you not be in there advising them?

TERRI

Those boys should be advising me.

SPARKY growls.

MRS SHARKEY

Is that dog annoying you?

(before TERRI can say

anything)

Brits, Sparky! Brits!

Sparky adopts the position, paws spread against the wall.

MRS SHARKEY carries on into kitchen. SPARKY doesn't move.

TERRI

Down boy.

SPARKY's tail trembles, but he keeps his paws on the wall.

TERRI goes back to the sitting room and the raised voices.

CUT TO:

# INT. DILAPIDATED VAN - DAY

Moorland. Rain. Only one windscreen wiper is working. Through the cleared part of the window we see a road sign: Airport 45. A scratchy version of Adam and the Ants, 'Young Parisians' plays.

PAUL

(over his shoulder to TERRI, who is in the back again)

I thought for a moment back there the whole thing was off. Never heard him quite so angry.

TERRI

Well, you got your band, didn't you?

PAUL

And what about you, Terri?

TERRI

What about me?

PAUL

Well, you recorded 'Kicks'. It's on your label.

The tape deck cuts out. GETTY thumps the dashboard to get it going. The sun visor falls off.

TERRI

You've got the wrong idea about Good Vibrations. People who wouldn't piss on me when I was hauling the record around London have been on the phone offering me twenty thousand pounds for it. I told them all to fuck off.

PAUL

(with a glance at GETTY,
 clearly thinking TERRI
 is negotiating)

Well, we can talk about it later.

TERRI

We can talk about it now. Getty's as much a part of Good Vibrations as I am. They all are. I don't blame the Undertones for trying to get whatever they can out of you, but it was never about the fucking money for me.

There is a silence, ended by GETTY noisily changing gear.

TERRI (CONT'D)

How much did you say that van was you were looking at, Getty?

**GETTY** 

(in the mirror)

What's that?

TERRI

The van you were looking at over the road from the shop.

**GETTY** 

That one? Five hundred and fifty, but I'll get him down to five hundred.

TERRT

All right then, Paul. Five hundred quid.

PAUL turns in his seat to face TERRI, trying to decide if he is being serious. GETTY in the mirror is clearly wondering the same thing.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(rising to the occasion)
Five hundred quid and a signed photo of the Shangri-las.

PAUL starts to laugh. TERRI starts to laugh. GETTY continues to watch in the mirror.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALDERGROVE AIRPORT - DAY

PAUL hugs TERRI.

CUT TO:

INT. DILAPIDATED VAN - DAY

TERRI closes the door. GETTY starts the engine.

**GETTY** 

I thought at least you'd have held out for the five magic beans

TERRI

Getty, it's very simple. If they can't buy you they can't own you.

**GETTY** 

What does that mean?

TERRI

It means you and Rudi are going to be even bigger than the Undertones anyway, aren't you?

**GETTY** 

(emboldened)
Fucking right.

TERRI

Fucking right.

He looks out the window as PAUL practically skips towards the terminal. TERRI's expression could almost be taken for doubt, but only for a second. He takes a bottle of brandy from the glove compartment. Looks out the window again.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - DAY

TERRI (in the overcoat he wore on the night he met Ruth) is looking out the window. This and scenes immediately following replicate Ruth's earlier cross-town journey.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - DAY

TERRI gets off one bus and on to another. He has a brown paper bag in his hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINY HOUSING ESTATE - DAY

TERRI gets off bus. The flags as before: all red, white and blue. He turns up the collar of his coat and looks about him before striking out somewhat arbitrarily to the left.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINY HOUSING ESTATE - LATER

TERRI comes out of a newsagent's opening a new packet of fags; looks about him then strikes out to the right.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINY HOUSING ESTATE - LATER

TERRI is still walking and smoking, still holding the brown paper bag. After a few more moments he stops.

RUTH is walking along the street towards him. They meet.

TERRI

(holding out paper bag)
I brought you your lunch.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS SHELTER - DAY

RUTH and TERRI look out over the city, eating sausage rolls. Or at least TERRI is eating.

TERRI

Of course in my day it was all mushrooms round here.

RUTH

I think whoever designed these estates must have had a couple of handfuls. They can't have agreed with him.

She bites a small corner off her sausage roll. TERRI watches her slowly chew.

She replaces the sausage roll on the bag, keeps looking dead ahead.

TERRI

Something the matter with your meat slurry sandwich?

RUTH grimaces.

TERRI (CONT'D)

I feel like I've hardly seen you lately.

RUTH

Maybe I should go to the Harp more.

TERRI

Are you still pissed off about the Undertones deal?

RUTH

Why would I be pissed off? Didn't the Outcasts get a new van?
(softening)

I'm pissed off that three months later they still haven't sent you

your Shangri-las picture.

She lets him put his arm around her.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I always loved you in that coat.

TERRI

Why do you think I wore it?

They sit in silence.

TERRI AND RUTH

(simultaneously)

I've got some news.

TERRI

You first.

RUTH

No, you.

TERRI

I got a big order phoned in this morning. A guy in Sweden.

RUTH

That's great.

TERRI

So, your news?

RUTH

(long pause)

I'm pregnant.

TERRI

Thank fuck. For a moment there I thought it was something serious.

She thumps him. He rubs her stomach.

RUTH

You remember the taxi driver who picked us up after the wedding?

TERRI

Grumpy old fucker?

RUTH

Told us we weren't wise. I wonder what he'd say to this?

TERRI

He should be thankful there are still people here want to have kids.

RUTH

(recites)

'I am not yet born; (MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

O hear me/ Let not the bloodsucking bat or the rat or the stoat or the/ club-footed ghoul come near me.'

They sit.

TERRI

(looks at watch)
Shit, I was to pick up posters
from Davy.

RUTH

I'd better be getting back to work here anyway.

She brushes pastry flakes from her lap.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Thanks for lunch.

She kisses him and walks off. A bus comes.

TERRI

(shouting after her)
We'll be absolutely fine. I'll
work twice as hard.

RUTH

(turns)

Just be there.

The bus with TERRI on it pulls away.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - DAY

The flags on the lampposts have changed from red, white and blue to green, white and orange. TERRI sits forward suddenly in his seat. Something has caught his eye.

A street protest fronted by women wearing only blankets and carrying pictures of young IRA men above the words 'Political Prisoner'. Others have posters saying 'Smash H Block'. The whole thing is eerily silent.

CUT TO:

INT. WIZARD STUDIO - DAY

TERRI stands beside DAVE SMYTH, watching RUDI record 'Pressure's On', which runs beneath the next several scenes

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST STREET - DAY

TERRI is pasting up posters for the Harp Bar. He hesitates before a wall that already has a poster on it: 'Smash H Block: Support the Blanketmen.' He pastes the Harp poster over it.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI is taping up boxes of records addressed to Sweden.

CUT TO:

INT. HARP BAR - NIGHT

TERRI is sitting at a table by the door, a cashbox open beside him. A PINK-HAIRED PUNK approaches, frisks herself in an exaggerated search for money. TERRI stops the pantomime and with a glance over his shoulder waves her in.

CUT TO:

INT. HARP BAR - LATER

TERRI is breaking up a fight. Music down.

TERRI (V.O.)

I was true to my word. I did work twice as hard.

Music up. TERRI makes BELLIGERENTS shake hands, hug.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And I was there, like Ruth asked.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

TERRI and the former BELLIGERENTS, now the best of friends, are at the centre of an impromptu late-night party.

TERRI (V.O.)

Just not always on my own.

RUDI are singing 'The pressure's on me and you, the pressure's on me and you...'

RUTH, heavily pregnant and very tired-looking, walks upstairs and turns towards the bedroom then changes her mind and lifts the lid off the laundry basket. She climbs inside as the song ends: 'The pressure's on me and you.'

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - EVENING

Sound of a bomb going off. Objects rattle on the counter. TERRI ignores them. He is searching through papers. DAVY HYNDMAN comes in.

DAVY

Fuck me, that was a big one.

TERRI

(distractedly)

Yeah.

DAVY goes to the window.

DAVY

Looks like it's down around the Europa.

TERRI

Right.

DAVY

Just when you thought it was safe to start hoping they crank it all up again. It's these prison protests.

Only now does he register that TERRI isn't really listening. He turns from the window. TERRI's search continues.

DAVY (CONT'D)

Lost something?

TERRI

(eventually)

Was I telling you about the big order from Sweden?

DAVY

About fifteen hundred quid's worth?

TERRI

Seventeen.

(he lifts another bundle
 of paper and spreads it
 out on the counter)
They haven't paid me.

DAVY

Have you sent them a reminder?

TERRI stops searching finally, looks at DAVY.

TERRI

I think I threw out the address.

DAVY

You think?

TERRI

Sort of know.

DAVY

Seventeen hundred quid?

TERRT

Actually, it might have been eighteen... -fifty.

DAVY

Fuck sake, Terri, that order was covering your arse. What are you going to do?

TERRI thinks.

TERRI

Well, I had been thinking of heading to the Siouxsie and the Banshees gig later. But, fuck it (hits the lights)
I'm just going to head round now.

He hits the light leaving DAVY in darkness.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - EVENING

RUTH is watching the early evening news.

NEWSCASTER

Now, two years ago there were near riots when London punk rock band the *Clash* came to the Ulster Hall. Tonight the venue plays host to another London band, Siouxsie and the Banshees. Have things moved on in the interim? Our reporter David Capper has been speaking to Belfast's own 'punk godfather' Terri Hooley.

EXT. ULSTER HALL - EVENING

TERRI appears to have found time for a drink, or two, on his way from the shop.

TERRI

(to DAVID CAPPER)

People go on all the time about the Clash gig, but we'd already had nearly ten years of riots then. You won't see any Union Jacks or Tricolours here tonight. These kids aren't the problem for Belfast, these kids are the solution.

CUT TO:

# INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - EVENING

RUTH watches as TERRI gets claps on the back from the solutions to Belfast's problems then switches off the TV on her way through to the kitchen. She takes a step towards the sink. Stops. Her face registers alarm.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

TERRI stands in the wings, drink in his hand, listening to SIOUXSIE, out of shot, singing 'Love in a Void'.

CUT TO:

# INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

RUTH is by the phone, clutching her stomach, frantically flipping through her address book. She dials a number. It rings and rings and rings.

RUTH

Oh, please, pick up.

She puts the phone down, flips the pages again, dials another number. It's engaged. She bangs the phone on the wall, crying out in pain and frustration.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES have just come off stage. Applause and foot-stamping can still be heard from the auditorium. Bottles are being opened. TERRI is being introduced to the band.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - NIGHT

RUTH wipes her eyes with the back of the hand that holds the address book. The phone at the other end of the line rings and rings and rings and, just when she is about to despair, is picked up.

GETTY (O.C.)

Hello?

RUTH

(her relief verges on disbelief) Getty? Are you not at the gig?

**GETTY** 

Well, I went, but I met this girl and...

RUTH

(cutting across him)
You've got to come and get me.

GETTY

Well...

RUTH

Getty, this baby's coming.

Sound of phone being dropped at the other end of the line.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

The after-show party is in full swing. Lots of noise, lots of LIGGERS.

TERRI has cornered SIOUXSIE and is telling her a story; a lip-reader would make out 'fucking guns?'

He clicks his fingers and JOHN LENNON appears, a little bewildered to find himself in the back of the Ulster Hall. TERRI punches him on the nose.

LENNON looks more bewildered, and bloody. TERRI clicks his fingers again. LENNON disappears. SIOUXSIE creases up laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

The all-new Outcasts van speeds through the streets.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTCASTS VAN - NIGHT

RUTH is hanging on, just. GETTY looks from her to the road, to her, to the road...

**GETTY** 

Just another couple of minutes. I can see the gates.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

The van passes under the Royal Victoria Hospital sign.

GETTY parks as close as he can to the hospital doors. He runs round and helps RUTH out. TWO NURSES are just leaving. GETTY nabs them. They take RUTH inside.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

The party is still going on. TERRI is no longer with SIOUXSIE. He's standing by himself, smiling, swaying.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL DELIVERY SUITE - NIGHT

RUTH pushes herself up on her elbows with an enormous yell.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

RUTH is propped up in bed, sipping a cup of tea. The BABY is asleep in a hospital crib beside her.

A nurse enters through the curtains drawn around the bed.

NURSE

(disapprovingly)

Someone to see you.

She steps aside. GETTY enters. If RUTH is disappointed she doesn't let it show.

**GETTY** 

(shivering)

Sorry, I fell asleep in the fucking van.

RUTH puts her finger to her lips. The nurse frowns. GETTY doesn't quite know where to put himself.

GETTY (CONT'D)

So, was it all, you know, all right?

RUTH leans over and pulls the crib blanket down a touch.

RUTH

A wee girl.

GETTY peers in at her.

**GETTY** 

What are you going to call her.

RUTH looks at her daughter.

RUTH

I was thinking Anna.

**GETTY** 

(forgetting himself)
Class! Short for Anarchy?

The NURSE tugs the curtains shut.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - DAY

RUTH sleeps. A moment more; a moment more. She comes awake, startled. TERRI sits in a chair at the side of the bed, wearing the clothes he was wearing the night before.

RUTH

How long have you been here?

TERRI

Ten minutes.

RUTH

You should have woken me.

TERRI

Sleep when the baby sleeps, that's what my mum says.

ANNA stirs. TERRI and RUTH laugh at the coincidence. RUTH lifts her.

RUTH

What do you think?

TERRI

She's like her mummy. She's gorgeous.

RUTH

(to ANNA)

This is your daddy. He's an old charmer.

(to TERRI)

Do you want to hold her?

TERRI

(almost recoiling)

My hands are shaking too much. I'd be afraid of dropping her.

RUTH tries to disguise her hurt by fussing over the baby.

TERRI (CONT'D)

It's just nerves. If you'd seen me last night talking to Siouxsie...

RUTH

Please, Terri, no stories.

RUTH remains focused on ANNA a few moments longer. She is thinking something over. She reaches her decision, looks up

RUTH (CONT'D)

I think maybe I need to get out of Belfast for a while.

TERRI

Out of Belfast?

RUTH

My aunt has a house in Helens Bay.

TERRI

Are you telling me you're leaving me?

RUTH

I'm telling you there's still time if you want to stop me, but things have to change. You have to change.

ANNA mewls. RUTH opens the front of her nightdress to feed her. TERRI turns his head away.

TERRI

I'm just going out here for a smoke.

RUTH takes no notice of his leaving.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - DAY

TERRI walks along a corridor, past a room in which MEN and PREGNANT WOMEN smoke, and out through a set of double doors.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - DAY

Shangri-las, 'He Cried'. TERRI leaves the hospital, unlit cigarette in his mouth. He keeps walking.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST STREET - DAY

TERRI walking, cigarette still unlit. He passes the front door of a bar. A moment later he returns and goes in.

CUT TO:

INT. HELENS BAY HOUSE - EVENING

RUTH plays with SIX-MONTH-OLD ANNA. The phone rings. She ignores it.

CUT TO:

INT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - EVENING

TERRI sits in an armchair, glass in one hand, cigarette in the other, phone receiver on his chest, ringing tone coming from the earpiece.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI traipses up the stairs. A couple of would-be customers - IDENTIKIT 1980 MODS - are already waiting.

MOD 1

We were starting to think you weren't opening up today.

TERRI

It's only

(looks at watch, is
 evidently surprised,
 though he tries not to
 show it)

Twenty to twelve. The real music fan never gets out of bed before half-ten.

He lets them in. They go straight to the Bargain Singles rack. TERRI shakes his head. DAVY HYNDMAN appears.

DAVY

I was starting to think you weren't opening up today.

TERRI doesn't say anything. The MODS don't say anything.

DAVY (CONT'D)

I picked these up for you.

He hands TERRI a bundle of bills. TERRI doesn't even look at them, but automatically goes to put them where he has put all the others. They won't fit.

DAVY has walked towards the window.

TERRI

Don't!

DAVY stops.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Do you not think I've enough troubles without you going looking out there for more?

DAVY laughs, turns and looks out the window. The laughter dies.

DAVY

Oh...

TERRI is already on his way.

TERRI

Didn't I tell you to keep away? Is that my dad?

A police land rover is parked at the kerb before the shop. DET SGT DUNLOP stands by the driver's door talking to the RUC MAN inside.

TERRI (CONT'D)

That's that fucker from the Drug Squad.

TERRI throws up the sash window.

CUT TO:

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI leans out the window, shaking a fistful of final reminders.

TERRI

Do you think if I was dealing drugs I would have all these?

He slams the window shut. DUNLOP smiles: he's getting to him.

CUT TO:

INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI

(walking away from
window)

Right, shop's shut.

MOD 1

Sure you've only just opened.

TERRI

The real music fan doesn't give a fuck.

MOD 1 hands TERRI a 7"

TERRI (CONT'D)

(in a tone that suggests
 the band's name says
 everything about 'real
 music' fan)

Merton Parkas? Ten pee.

The MODS depart. TERRI puts the coin straight into his pocket.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(to DAVY)

In case I need to make a phone call later.

CUT TO:

INT. HARP BAR - AFTERNOON

DAVY sits at a table with eight glasses on it: two empty pints, two half-drunk, two just poured, and two brandies.

At the far end of the bar TERRI hunches over the pay-phone. He hangs up and strides down the floor towards DAVY.

TERRI

I don't believe it. She answered.

DAVY

And?

TERRI

And she's coming up to Belfast tomorrow night. Party up the Malone Road.

DAVY

You know where that will be?

TERRI

Not that fucking 'Lifeboat'.

DAVY

Think 'yacht'.

TERRI takes a drink.

TERRI

Do you think I should go?

DAVY

Did Ruth say you could?

TERRI

She didn't say I couldn't.

DAVY

I don't think you should.

TERRI takes another drink.

TERRI

I'll go.

DAVY looks at him in disbelief.

DAVY

It doesn't matter what I say, does it? Doesn't matter what anyone says: you go your own sweet wee way. T-e-r-capital I.

TERRI

Well, good man, Davy, get stuck in there.

DAVY sinks his pint.

DAVY

(a tremor in his voice)
Your dad's right, you're not a
socialist at all, you're a oneman fucking show.

He gets up and leaves. TERRI watches him go then looks down at the table.

TERRI

(half turning, halfhearted)

You didn't drink your brandy! (mutters)

Stalinist.

He moves the glasses so that Davy's brandy and his own are lined up in front of him. He lifts the first.

TERRI (CONT'D)

'From each according to his ability.'

(drains glass, sets it down, raises the next)
'To each according to his need.'

The second glass is drained. TERRI looks at his watch. He goes back up to the bar.

CUT TO:

INT. HARP BAR - MUCH LATER

TERRI is still at the bar. A band plays. Call them the HOPELESS CASES, because that's what they sound like. LANKY PUNK is on bass. There is despite their incompetence the usual melee on the dance-floor.

Something in the corner of the room catches TERRI's eye. SHORT-ARSE PUNK (though from afar unidentified) appears to be going through a pile of coats.

TERRI sets his glass down and walks over to SHORT ARSE.

TERRI

You looking for something?

SHORT ARSE turns, clearly hiding something under his jacket.

SHORT-ARSE PUNK No, it's all right.

TERRI

Because it looked to me as if you were committing the cardinal sin of stealing from a sister or brother.

SHORT-ARSE PUNK Swear to God, Terri, I wasn't stealing anything.

TERRI says nothing, but neither does he move. SHORT ARSE has no option. With a quick look round he opens his jacket to reveal a gun butt. TERRI pulls the jacket shut for him.

SHORT-ARSE PUNK (CONT'D) I was trying to bury this under all them coats so as I could go up for a bop.

TERRI

What the fuck are you doing with it in the first place?

SHORT-ARSE PUNK
It's not real, you know. It's
only to scare people if they try
to jump me.

TERRI

Listen, I'll give you the money for a taxi home. I'll pay your taxis from now to Christmas, just don't bring that fucking thing out with you again.

SHORT-ARSE PUNK
I'm OK going home, it's the
Spides who've started coming in
here I'm worried about.

TERRI looks at the dance-floor, his eye lighting, as though only just noticing them, on one shaved head after another.

CUT TO:

INT. HARP BAR TOILETS - LATER

TERRI stands at the urinal. Suddenly a nudge in the back.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Careful you don't get it all over your shoes.

JOHNNY moves into position on his left, SKELL on his right.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Didn't I tell you to watch your back in the bogs.

TERRI

Should you not be out scaring old ladies?

JOHNNY

You're very funny.
 (speaking across TERRI)
Isn't he, Skell? Isn't he very funny?

SKELL grunts.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I was actually hoping I'd run into you. Me and Skell's in a band now. Aren't we Skell?

SKELL grunts again.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Tight wee unit.

everything.

SKELL sniggers.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Fuck sake, Skell, behave.
 (to TERRI)

Thought you might be interested in our demo tape. We were going to call it 'The Only Good Wog's a Dead Wog', then we thought 'The Only Good Taig', but then we thought 'The Only Good One's a Dead One' covered pretty much

TERRI

I'd sooner sell bog rolls than Nazi shite like that.

JOHNNY wags his head.

JOHNNY

Aw, fuck, Skell, you were right.
(to TERRI)
(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Skell here said we should just smack you and have done with it, but, no, I said, we'll talk to him.

The door opens.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(in an undertone)

I fucking hate it when I'm wrong.

THREE PUNKS come in. JOHNNY shakes himself.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

We'll see you around.

(looks down)

Sorry about the shoes. It's Skell, his aim's all over the place. I'm the steady one.

(zip up)

Ask the fellas you used to say would put me to bed.

The THREE PUNKS fill in around TERRI at the urinal. His eyes are closed.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALONE ROAD - NIGHT

TERRI wears the coat Ruth has always liked him in. He carries a brandy bottle from which he swigs as he walks.

He turns into the driveway of the villa he and Ruth went to the night they met. The driveway is packed with cars: Mercs, Audis, BMWs.

TERRI looks at himself in a wing mirror. He's a mess.

TERRI (V.O.)

The worst thing about drinking on your own is the loss of perspective.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(murmurs)

You haven't lived till you've fallen back into bed with a one-eyed man.

He smiles unconvincingly at his reflection.

CUT TO:

# INT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - NIGHT

Janice Ian sings like punk never happened. Hair is long here, knots are Windsor; there is corduroy aplenty. These are the YOUNG LECTURER TYPES from the earlier party, grown older, more affluent.

TERRI moves through them, up a staircase and along a landing. His passage does not go unnoticed; it provokes smirks, the odd catcall.

RANDOM PARTY-GOER Your bin-liner at the dry-cleaner's, Terri?

TERRI walks on. He tries a couple of doors before arriving at party central. He sees RUTH sitting on a sofa, looking relaxed, vivacious. He hovers in the doorway. Someone squeezes past: the LIFEBOAT OWNER with whom TERRI clashed all those years ago.

LIFEBOAT OWNER My God, Terri Hooley.

RUTH, hearing the name, looks up, sees him. The life seems to go out of her. TERRI is shocked by the transformation; mortified.

LIFEBOAT OWNER (CONT'D) I see your plan to bring peace to the city of Belfast really worked.

TERRI turns. RUTH looks as though she will follow, but a WOMAN at her shoulder speaks, distracting her, and the moment is gone.

LIFEBOAT OWNER
(calling after Terri)
Here, is it true Frank Ifield and
Sid Vicious have done a duet? 'I
Remember You... You Fucking
Bastard.'

TERRI stumbles through a door.

CUT TO:

INT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - CONTINUOUS

TERRI is in a sparsely-furnished bedroom: double bed, lava lamp. The curtains are open on the sash window.

He sits on the bed. Weird shadows from the lamp and the trees outside. He watches them for a while, swigging from the brandy. Then, very deliberately, he sets the bottle on the floor and stands up.

The music has changed to Michael Jackson, 'Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough'.

TERRI drags the bed frame towards the window. He pulls the sheet off and knots one end to the foot of the bed. He pushes the window up, has another look at the end of the sheet still in his hand then ties it around his neck and climbs on to the windowsill.

TERRI (V.O.)

Actually, the worst thing about drinking on your own is drinking on your own.

At the last moment he looks back over his shoulder; the brandy bottle is stranded in the middle of the floor. Fuck it. He jumps.

(Beat)

An exaggerated rip, followed by a soft crumple.

TERRI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Oh, for fuck sake.

CUT TO:

INT. MALONE ROAD VILLA - NIGHT

In party central Michael Jackson still sings. A few PARTY-GOERS have started to dance after a long-haired, Windsor-knotted fashion.

RUTH sits exactly where she was when TERRI left the room, turned to talk to the woman at her shoulder.

TERRI appears behind her, leaves in his hair. The expression on the face of the WOMAN suddenly changes. RUTH turns.

RUTH

Terri! I thought you'd gone.

TERRI

I thought I had myself.

RUTH is as puzzled by his answer as she is by his appearance, which she is only now fully taking in.

RUTH

Are you all right?

TERRI

(the defenestration has clearly been sobering)

I'm fine.

(MORE)

TERRI (CONT'D)

I don't know what I was thinking, leaving without saying goodbye properly.

The unseen person responsible for the turntable has put on Pink Floyd's 'Another Brick in the Wall'.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(with a glance in that direction)

Now I really have to go.

RUTH

I'll maybe see you around.

TERRI

I'm hard to miss.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALONE ROAD - NIGHT

TERRI pauses to light a cigarette. He moves off. Behind him is the villa: a bit of bed frame sticking out one window, a ripped sheet flapping. TWO PARTY-GOERS are leaning out, trying to make sense of it all.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

BANK MANAGER is looking through papers. TERRI sits across the table.

TERRI

Even just five hundred to tide me over.

BANK MANAGER

Sorry, not this time, Terri. You're at the very limit of your credit. And while I'm eternally indebted to you for turning me on to Thelonius Monk

(nods towards a pile of
 'donated' records)
I have a head office to answer
to.

TERRI nods: this is reasonable.

BANK MANAGER (CONT'D)
In fact, as things stand we would
be quite within our rights to
call in some of your debt.

TERRI

I haven't a bean.

BANK MANAGER

I hardly like to remind you, but you have a house.

TERRI

(unruffled)

It'll not come to that.

BANK MANAGER

Oh, good.

TERRI

I have a plan.

BANK MANAGER

Oh.

CUT TO:

# INT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - EVENING

The tail end of the day; GREG and GETTY are the only people in the shop. DAVY enters, a little apprehensively. TERRI is delighted.

TERRI

Here comes the back-stabber!

DAVY is actually heartened by this: TERRI is being TERRI.

DAVY

Come on, I didn't even wait for you to turn your back. How was the party anyway?

TERRI

Didn't hang around. Other things on my mind.

DAVY

Like what?

TERRI

Like a gig, a Good Vibrations fund-raiser.

DAVY

No harm to you, Terri, but unless you're charging a hundred quid a head I think it's maybe gone beyond a night at the Harp.

TERRI

Who said anything about the Harp?

DAVY

The Pound then...

(TERRI is smiling: not

the Pound either)

The Students' Union?

TERRI

Try 'Ulster Hall'.

DAVY

Ulster Hall?

TERRI

Why not?

DAVY

Because the Ulster Hall holds two thousand people.

TERRI

I know how many it holds, I've been in it often enough.

DAVY takes a deep breath: he came in here to patch things up, not have another argument.

DAVY

OK, OK, we call in favours - we get Siouxsie back to headline. Fuck it, we try Strummer.

TERRI

We don't need them.

DAVY

Really?

TERRI nods towards GREG and GETTY, who have progressed (or regressed) to firing peashooters at one another.

TERRI

It's a Good Vibrations fundraiser, it'll be Good Vibrations bands.

DAVY

(whispering)

Terri, we're talking two thousand people. Be realistic.

TERRI

What, like you were realistic when you brought me round this place?

A long pause during which

102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - DAY

TERRI and DAVY stand looking at one another in 102 Great Victoria Street as it was then.

CUT TO:

102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - EVENING

DAVY

How many posters do you think you'll need?

GREG pushes GETTY into a rack of LPs. TERRI lifts an empty cassette case and launches it down the shop at them.

TERRT

Would you two dickheads quit it while there's still a shop here for you to save?

**GREG** 

That hurt.

**GETTY** 

Sorry, Terri.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST STREETS - DAY

BRIAN YOUNG is out postering. GREG COWAN is out postering; so too GETTY, RONNIE MATTHEWS, LANKY, SHORT ARSE, even SMALLEST PUNK; and TERRI of course.

He stands before a wall with NF and SHANKILL SKINS scrawled on it. He slaps a poster over the top. Only when he stands back is the poster revealed in all its glory: 'Outcasts. Moondogs, Ruefrex, Rudi, Big Self,' it reads, '24th April 1980, Ulster Hall.' It bears too an illustration of a maniacally grinning face, one eye open, one eye shut in a wink - missing, you would nearly think.

TERRI (V.O.)

Davy didn't charge me a penny for the posters.

TERRI tilts his head to one side, looking at that face again.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He'd forgiven me for whatever it was that had got him so wound up that night in the bar, but something told me he hadn't entirely forgotten.

CUT TO:

INT. HOOLEY FAMILY HOME - EVENING

TERRI is drinking tea at the table. MAVIS is moving around him 'picking up', in between looking out the kitchen window to where GEORGE is working in the garden.

MAVIS

(rapping window)

This tea will be stone cold.

GEORGE waves then returns to his gardening. MAVIS returns to her picking up.

MAVIS (CONT'D)

(muttering)

That man would try the patience of a saint.

For all the notice she is taking, TERRI might as well not be there. He watches her a moment or two longer.

TERRI

Are you not speaking to me or are you just not talking?

MAVIS has picked up a cushion, which she slaps into shape.

MAVIS

I am talking.

TERRI

To the window, to yourself.

MAVIS carries on, doing ever smaller tasks, and when she can find nothing else to occupy her goes back to the window, rapping the glass again. TERRI gets to his feet.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Here, let me take this out to him.

He lifts a mug from the countertop.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

The garden is small, but ingeniously planted for maximum yield and colour.

TERRI

It's looking well, dad.

**GEORGE** 

That's what all the dirty work in the winter's for.

TERRI hands him the mug.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Did your mother send you out with that?

TERRI

I thought I'd better offer before she put the window in. I'm not sure which of us she's more annoyed with.

**GEORGE** 

You, I'd say.

TERRT

Thanks.

**GEORGE** 

She has very strong views on marriage.

(beat)

She wouldn't have stayed with me all these years otherwise.

They sit on a small bench.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

After I moved here, have you any idea how many times I stood for election?

(doesn't leave TERRI
 time to guess)

Twelve. And have you any idea how often I was elected?

TERRI does, but again doesn't get the chance to say it.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Not once. Never even close. The returning officer used to say if I was a horse they'd have shot me after the sixth. But do you know what? I have friends and comrades living all over his city. And do you know what else?

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

In every election I increased my vote. Victory doesn't always look the way other people imagine it, son.

TERRI's gaze is locked on his father's face so it's a moment before he notices that GEORGE has taken out a £5 note and is trying to press it into his hand. TERRI draws the hand back, but GEORGE catches him by the wrist.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

For the fund-raiser.

TERRI

Don't be daft, dad.

GEORGE

Take it.

Reluctantly TERRI does. He looks as though he might hug GEORGE, but GEORGE, unaware of this (or perhaps not so) chooses this moment to empty his tea leaves on to the flowerbed.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I'll say this for you, you were true to your word: you didn't end up a crook.

It's back-handed, but it's a compliment. TERRI accepts that too.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(stands)

I hope you get your vote out tonight.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - EVENING

RUDI are completing their sound-check. DAVY is walking around the empty auditorium with notepad and pen. TERRI sits on the edge of the stage, legs dangling, smoking.

TERRI

Davy, come here a minute and have a fag with me.

DAVY

The Council's going to charge us for any damage done tonight.

TERRI

Davy...

DAVY

So I'm making a note of what's already broken in case they try to blame it on us.

TERRI

(shouting)

Davy, come here.

DAVY joins him on the stage, takes a cigarette, and a light. TERRI puts his arm around his shoulder.

TERRI (CONT'D)

The Ulster Hall.

DAVY

Empty.

TERRI

The doors don't empty for another half hour.

DAVY

We've hardly sold a ticket.

TERRI

Real music fans...

DAVY

... don't buy tickets, I know, they turn up on the night.

A door opens at the far end of the hall. A balding, bearded figure in a blazer comes walking towards them. TERRI and DAVY peer at him, looks of recognition and disbelief.

TERRI

(out the side of his

mouth)

Is this one of my stories?

DAVY

Not unless I'm in it too.

RUDI have spotted the figure now as well.

BRIAN

(into the mike)

It's John fucking Peel.

TERRI and DAVY get down from the stage.

JOHN PEEL

(with a nod to RUDI)

Always nice to get the full name.

TERRI

I can't believe you came.

JOHN PEEL

You gave me the best two minutes and twenty-eight seconds of my life, how could I not come? I'm just glad I got here in one piece.

DAVY

Rough journey?

JOHN PEEL

Oh, no, the flight was fine. I mean getting through the doors of this place.

TERRI and DAVY are nonplussed.

JOHN PEEL (CONT'D)

You mean you haven't had a look out the front?

CUT TO:

EXT. ULSTER HALL - EVENING

TERRI, DAVY, and JOHN PEEL at an upstairs window look down on a street thronged with PUNKS and overstretched RUC MEN.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - EVENING

TERRI, DAVY and JOHN PEEL at the window.

TERRI

(to Davy)

Didn't I tell you?

He looks out again. The PUNKS give him the fingers. TERRI replies in kind then turns his hand around to make a peace sign.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

A few minutes to the start of the gig. The noise from the auditorium is building.

RUEFREX are in a huddle; BRIAN YOUNG is practising licks on his unplugged guitar; JOHN PEEL talks to GETTY whose interest is torn between PEEL and the PINK-HAIRED PUNK across the room. (PINK-HAIRED PUNK GIRL wins.)

DAVY goes from group to group, asking the same question:

DAVY

Have you seen Terri? Have you seen Terri?

(he stops, cups a hand
 to his mouth)
Has anybody seen Terri?

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

The DOOR STAFF can barely hold back the PUNKS still trying to get in. TERRI remonstrates with FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER.

TERRI

Can you not just open the doors? The first band's about to come on.

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER I'd be within my rights to shut the doors altogether. Half of them are full drunk and the other half are trying to run in without paying.

GORDY forces his way to the fore of the crowd at the door.

GORDY

Terri!

TERRI

He's on the guest-list.
 (to GORDY)

Come on, move your arse.

GORDY

What about my mates?

TERRI waves them through too: about a dozen in all.

TERRI

Hurry up.

Cheers from inside the hall as RUEFREX take the stage. Hands shoot up here there and everywhere at the doors.

VOICES FROM THE CROWD Terri! Terri! Am I on the list?

TERRI looks at the FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER; he looks at the BOX OFFICE STAFF. He looks back at the doors, the waving hands.

TERRI

(shouts)

Don't worry, you'll all get in.

The FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

Sounds of Ruefrex, 'Don't Panic', from the stage. RONNIE MATTHEWS watches in the wings. GREG COWAN appears, sporting a Number 1 crewcut, Ben Sherman shirt and red braces.

RONNIE

(with an edge)

That's some fucking look.

GREG runs a hand over the crewcut, his attempted snarl defeated by a pleased-as-fuck grin.

**GREG** 

Why should the fascists have all the fun?

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

The logjam at the doors has been broken. A FEW PUNTERS are showing tickets at the box office. MANY MORE are walking straight in, past TERRI.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

RUDI leave the stage.

The hall is so full now there are KIDS ON STAGE. There are RUC MEN too in the shadows at the very back.

To a huge ovation, JOHN PEEL appears and eventually speaks.

JOHN PEEL

You're a good audience. People always say Belfast is the best audience. And now here's your best band - the Outcasts.

OUTCASTS come running on.

**GREG** 

(a quick rub of the crewcut again)

Right, this one's for everybody who was at the Pound in January 1978

(isolated cheers; (MORE) GREG (CONT'D)
GREG points in the

direction of one of them)

That's right, you know the night I mean.

(smiling)

This one's called 'The bastards are coming'.

They launch into 'The Cops are Coming' and JOHN PEEL is right, they do sound finally like the best band in Belfast. The KIDS ON STAGE bait the RUC, who do nothing; nothing at all.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

'The Cops are Coming' is thudding through the walls. DAVY and FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER are deep in conversation. Neither looks happy.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

The OUTCASTS are finishing 'Self-Conscious Over You'. GETTY's shirt is off; GREG's grin is broader than ever.

**GREG** 

And now I'd like to welcome on stage the man who made all this possible...

TERRI's name is lost in the roar as he walks out from the wings 'OUTCASTS' across the back of his leather jacket. One of the KIDS ON STAGE grabs the mike from GREG.

ULSTER HALL KID

(sings)

Terri is our leader, Terri is our leader, na-na-na...

TERRI takes the mike from him. He is barely audible above the stomping and whistling

TERRI

No leaders! No leaders!
(a kind of quiet
returns)
Thank you for coming.
(MORE)

TERRI (CONT'D)

When I look out at you all gathered here it confirms something that I've always felt: New York has the haircuts, London has the trousers, but Belfast has the reason. Good Vibrations isn't a record shop, it's a way of life.

Cheers of confirmation.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Do you want Good Vibrations to stay open?

The audience let him know that they do.

TERRI (CONT'D)

I said, do you want Good Vibrations to stay open?

They let him know louder.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Then we'll stay open...

The loudest roar yet.

TERRI (CONT'D)

... until the money runs out.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE ULSTER HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Tumult out front. TERRI runs offstage triumphant. DAVY is waiting for him.

TERRI

Isn't it incredible.

DAVY

(fuming)

It's fucking unbelievable.

TERRI

(oblivious)

The best night ever.

DAVY

Terri, we've made a loss. We've filled the Ulster Hall to capacity and we've somehow made a fucking loss.

TERRI puts his hands on DAVY's shoulders.

TERRI

We're not going to fight tonight. It's OK.

DAVY

The fuck it is. Your man at the front says you had the longest guest list in the history of the Ulster Hall, longer than all the other guest lists put together. And all of it apparently carried in your head. Terri, the whole point of tonight was to raise money.

TERRI

No, Davy, it wasn't. Not the whole point. Money couldn't buy what we've just done.

He turns DAVY to look out at the crowd - to listen to it.

TERRI (CONT'D)

They'll never forget this. None of them. We've taken Belfast tonight.

The chanting from the crowd is getting louder. Terri's name. DAVY's expression has changed, softened. He nods and, with a flash of the OUTCASTS on his jacket, TERRI runs back on stage.

FADE TO:

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

The Elvis figure from the front of the shop is ablaze in the back yard, TERRI visible now and then through the flames.

TERRI (V.O.)

Bob Wills and his Texas Cowboys said it first and said it best: Time Changes Everything.

DET SGT DUNLOP walks past TERRI as though in a trance, straight into the bonfire.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It changes drug squad cops...

The flames flare, a picture emerges from them:

INT. LOCAL RADIO STUDIO - DAY

DUNLOP is slouched behind a recording desk, rubbing the bridge of his nose and talking into a microphone.

TERRI (V.O.)

... into talk-show hosts.

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

Elvis burns. GERRY the barman trance-walks into the fire.

TERRI (V.O.)

It changes barmen...

The flames flare.

EXT. DOWNING STREET - DAY

GERRY is fielding questions outside Number 10.

TERRI (V.O.)

... into statesmen.

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

ANDY and MARTY follow one another into the bonfire.

TERRI (V.O.)

It changes the restless...

The flames flare.

EXT. TWO CEMETERIES - DAY

Two headstones, one with green, white and orange tributes, one with red, white and blue.

TERRI (V.O.)

... into the for ever at rest.

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

RUTH passes, TERRI puts a hand to stop her, but into the fire she goes.

TERRI (V.O.)

(downbeat)

It changes wives...

The flames flare.

EXT. 12 JERUSALEM STREET - DAY

RUTH closes front gate, looks up, with an air of finality at the front of the house, where there is a For Sale sign.

TERRI (V.O.)

... into ex-wives with reason to rue the day and hour.

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

TERRI drops a photo of the Pound into the bonfire.

TERRI (V.O.)

And changes a ghost town.

The flames flare.

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

1999 style: bars, nightclubs, hotels along the strip where the Pound stood.

TERRI (V.O.)

... into a playground.

EXT. 102 GREAT VICTORIA STREET - NIGHT

TERRI zips up his jacket. Walks into the flames himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. PHOENIX RECORDS - NIGHT

TERRI (V.O.)

With the blessing of the Official Receiver...

CUT TO:

INT. PHOENIX RECORDS - NIGHT

The LAST CUSTOMER of the days is leaving. In front of the till a picture of Elvis over packages labelled 'Elvis's Ashes £5 a bag'. Behind the till is TERRI, still in the OUTCASTS jacket, but twenty years older, with glasses.

TERRI (V.O.)

... it even changes bankrupts into going concerns again.

He kills the lights.

TERRI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Time's mad. Time's on mushrooms.

CUT TO:

EXT. PHOENIX RECORDS - NIGHT

TERRI locks the door and pulls down the shutter.

He takes a few steps, bends to light a cigarette, and in that instant he is struck on the back of the head. He goes down in a heap.

SKELL and TWO OTHER MEN lay into him with feet and fists. The beating lasts 10 or 15 seconds. When it is finished JOHNNY emerges from a doorway and leans over TERRI.

JOHNNY

Boo! you fucking clown.

SKELL laughs big belly laughs as they get into a car and drive away.

TERRI

(raises his head, speaks
 through broken teeth)
Bob Wills and his Texas Cowboys
had never been to Belfast.

He collapses back; lies very, very still.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

It is April 1980 again; TERRI is running on stage for his encore.

TERRI

We're going to play an old Sonny Bono number, because we fucking can.

He nods at the OUTCASTS who strike up 'Laugh at me'.

TERRI (CONT'D)

(sings)

'Why can't I/ be like any guy?/
Why do they try to make me run?/
Sun of a gun now.'

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

TERRI is lying very still in a hospital bed, doctors and nurses working around him. The song carries on.

TERRI (O.C.)

(sings)

'What do they care, about the clothes I wear?/ Why get their kicks from making fun? Yeah.'

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

TERRI pours heart and soul into the performance. There seem to be as many KIDS ON STAGE now as there are in front.

TERRI

(sings)

'This world's got a lot of space/ And if they don't like my face/ it ain't me that's going anywhere, no.'

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

TERRI in ward alone: monitors, drips; eye on a kidney dish.

TERRI (O.C.)

(sings)

'So, I don't care, let them laugh at me. / If that's the fare I have to pay to be free / Then, Baby...'

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

TERRI

(sings)

'.... Laugh at me,? And I'll cry for you, and I'll pray for you,/ and I'll do all the things that the man upstairs says to do,/ I'll do them for you, I'll do them, I'll do them all for you.'

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

TERRI opens his eye. He looks down the length of himself and starts removing drips etc. He retrieves his clothes and pulls over the Freephone on a stand by the bed.

Shakily he jabs in a number. Waits a moment.

TERRI

(still thickly)

I need a taxi from the Royal. The name's Terri Hooley. Terri with an I.

He puts his eye in.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

TERRI walks along a corridor while TERRI in the Ulster Hall sings on.

TERRI (O.C.)

(sings)

'It's gotta stop some place./
It's gotta stop some time,/ I'll
make that other cheek mine./ And
maybe the next guy that don't
wear a silk tie,/ he can walk by
and say hi...'

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOYER - NIGHT

A RED-FACED MIDDLE-AGED MAN runs up to the reception desk.

RED-FACED MAN

I'm here to pick up Terri Hooley.

HOSPITAL RECEPTIONIST

Take a seat... if you can find

The RED-FACED MAN turns and sees that the foyer is already heavily populated by MIDDLE-AGED men.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

TERRI

(sings)

. .

(MORE)

TERRI (CONT'D)

and say hi instead of why,/ Instead of why,/ Instead of why, baby,/ instead of why.'

CUT TO:

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOYER - NIGHT

TERRI steps out of a lift and stops, confused, as the MIDDLE-AGED MEN rise as one. Then before his eyes they change into the PUNK KIDS they once were; change back. The RED-FACED MAN (LANKY PUNK, as was) walks towards him.

RED-FACED MAN Come on, Terri, we'll get you home.

CUT TO:

INT. ULSTER HALL - NIGHT

TERRI is at the front of the stage. He takes a deep breath and launches himself on to the mattress of raised hands.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL - NIGHT

TERRI gets into a taxi. The RED-FACED MAN closes the door behind him. A beat, then a dozen other doors close, one after the other.

CUT TO:

INT. RED-FACED MAN'S TAXI - NIGHT

TERRI looks over his shoulder as the other taxis pull out. A couple overtake his: a motorcade to accompany him home.

He faces front; faces the lights of Belfast city centre.

RED-FACED MAN Different city now, isn't it?

TERRI

(rubbing his false eye) Looks the same to me.

The RED-FACED MAN smiles. He pushes a cassette into the car stereo. Sound of the first chord of 'Alternative Ulster', by Stiff Little Fingers.

RED-FACED MAN

You sorry you never signed the Stiffs?

More chords. TERRI sits forward.

TERRI

I'll tell you a story about the Stiffs

(coughs)

Wait, before I tell you all that I have to tell you this...

CUT TO:

EXT. BELFAST CITY CENTRE - NIGHT

'Alternative Ulster' gets up its head of steam. The motorcade rolls on.

CREDITS

In the course of which 'Alternative Ulster' segues into 'This Town Ain't Big Enough for the Both of Us', Sparks, and at the end of which there is one final scene.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOYER - NIGHT

The HOSPITAL RECEPTIONIST fills in a form. Shadows fall across her. Looking up she sees BOB DYLAN and the THREE INCARNATIONS OF JOHN LENNON.

DYLAN

We're, ah, here to pick up Terri Hooley.

HOSPITAL RECEPTIONIST

(sighs)

You missed him.

DYLAN

Oh, man.

He and the THREE INCARNATIONS OF JOHN LENNON turn back towards the door.

CROP-HAIRED LENNON

I told you we should have taken the ring road.

They exit, bickering.

THE END