

**As Waters Rise
by Ben Weatherill**

Episode One: The Other Side of the River

Cast

ALYSSA

JOEL

NADIA

ZACK

JESS

VOLUNTEER

LILY

POLICE OFFICER ONE

POLICE OFFICER TWO

TV HOST

INTRO

Reporter: As flooding continues to devastate the country, parts of East London are now several feet under water.

A Young Person: It's 2025. We should've been prepared for this.

A Reporter: Evacuations have been taking place but will be further affected following heavy rain.

A Reporter: Remarkable footage has emerged showing water levels halfway up residences and, in some cases, up to roofs of buildings.

Expert: The problem for the UK is there's been a pattern in recent years – more rain means more floods.

A Reporter: With criticism building, there are tough questions for the government to answer.

Prime Minister: No one could've predicted this. This is climate change on an unprecedented scale.

Zack: We asked the council for sandbags and they brought three for the whole street.

A Shop Owner: It's not just my home, it is my business as well. Friday at 5pm there was 'no risk to flooding of homes', but by 9pm homes had already started flooding.

Zack: Now we're all in one hotel room. My mum is trying to keep it together, but we've lost everything.

AS WATERS RISE

Episode One: The Other Side of the River

SCENE ONE. A YOUTUBE VIDEO.

Alyssa: Hey, welcome back to my channel, it's me- Alyssa. Oh my god, so many of you are in the chat already. The messages are scrolling really fast. I know the floods are close to where I am, but don't worry. It's mad how quickly the world can change, right? Today's show is going to be about good vibes because we can all use some right now. I've had loads of messages about the album, and I can confirm it will still come out next week as planned and I can't wait to share it with you all! And I'm so pleased to be able to tell you that five percent of the first thousand copies sold will go to the 'Flood Relief Fund' to help those out there who are finding it tough right now. So make sure you buy the album on Friday. Love you guys!

SCENE TWO. EXT. EAST LONDON STREET. DAY.

F/X: JOEL AND NADIA WADE THROUGH KNEE HIGH WATER. WE CAN TELL THEY'RE CARRYING HEAVY BOXES.

Joel: My wellies have a hole in.

Nadia: Guttled.

Joel: My feet are soaked.

Nadia: You wanna be careful. You've got no idea what's in this dirty water.

Joel: It's not sewage.

Nadia: I know.

Joel: It's from the river.

Nadia: Yeah, the River Thames. The dirtiest river in the world.

Joel: One: It's from the River Lea, not the Thames. Two: the Thames is technically the cleanest river in the world that flows through a major city.

Nadia: This is why I used to hate sitting next to you in Geography.

Joel: Didn't see you complaining when I let you copy my answers.

Nadia: Can we stop a minute?

Joel: We're almost there.

Nadia: I'll drop the box if I don't put it down.

Joel: Don't get it wet.

Nadia: Joel, I will take the baked beans out of here and beat you with them.

Joel: Fine- there's a wall over there.

F/X: THEY WADE OVER TO THE WALL AND PUT THE BOXES DOWN ON IT. NADIA GROANS.

Nadia: There. I'm so unfit.

Joel: I've been swimming.

Nadia: Seriously?

Joel: Yeah. If this gets worse then, I wanna be prepared.

Nadia: It's not going to get worse.

Joel: Says who?

Nadia: I dunno. Scientists.

Joel: It's always worse than they say it's going to be.

Nadia: You're so pessimistic.

Joel: Can you blame me?

Nadia: How far's the hotel?

Joel: Top of the street then turn right. Five minutes max. Me and Jess went there the other day.

Nadia: Great, now Zack's gonna think I'm a right heartless bitch.

Joel: Why?

Nadia: I thought we were all going to visit him together?

Joel: We went on Friday afternoon when they closed school.

Nadia: You could've told me.

Joel: Sorry.

Nadia: Typical. You always follow Jess around like one of those little fish that suck all the dead skin off the big fish.

Joel: We only went to see how he was. This is the important bit.

Nadia: My mum put in three bags of cous cous. As if Zack hasn't suffered enough.

Joel: Do you think he'll think it's weird?

Nadia: No.

Joel: I don't want him to feel like it's charity.

Nadia: It is charity. Nothing dirty about it. And it's the least we can do.

Joel: You're right. Ready?

Nadia: Come on.

F/X THEY PICK UP THE BOXES AND WADE OFF.

SCENE THREE. EXT. HAMPSTEAD. ROOF. DAY.

F/X: ZACK STRUGGLES TO GET A LIGHTER TO WORK.

Zack: It's broken.

Jess: Let me try.

F/X: ZACK HANDS JESS THE LIGHTER. MORE ATTEMPTS TO GET IT TO LIGHT.

Zack: See? It's broke.

Jess: This is my good lighter.

Zack: I've got some matches somewhere.

F/X: IT LIGHTS!

Jess: Ah!

F/X: WE HEAR JESS TAKE A DRAG ON A JOINT.

Jess (exhaling): There you go. Crisis averted.

Zack: It's so hot today.

Jess: You can see people down by the river. Sunbathing.

Zack: They said on the news to stay away from rivers and lakes.

Jess: You're watching the news?

Jess: Alright Trevor McDonald.

Zack: Who's that?

Jess: Famous news bloke.

Zack: Never heard of him.

Jess: You'd recognise him if you saw him.

Zack: Let me have some of that.

F/X: JESS HANDS ZACK THE JOINT. WE HEAR HIM INHALE.

Jess: Don't take too much of it.

Zack: I've smoked weed before.

Jess: It's strong, Zack.

Zack: Right, that's it.

F/X: ZACK STANDS UP.

Zack: Say goodbye to your weed.

Jess: Don't! That's my last joint.

Zack: That serves you right for being a shit forward planner.

Jess: Drop that, and I will push you off this roof.

Zack: Jesus Jess! Alright, here you are. I don't know why you insist on smoking it out here. Your bedroom reeks of it.

Jess: No it doesn't.

Zack: Trust me, your dad's on to you.

Jess: I smoke it out here because I like the view.

Zack: I wish I had a view.

Jess: How's the hotel?

Zack: Still gross. Still sharing one room. I'm hoping we won't be there much longer once the insurance pays out.

Jess: You think they will?

Zack: Yeah.

Jess: Dad says they'll probably find a way around it.

Zack: Did he now.

Beat.

Zack: The government aren't making it easy to get help. Mum's not good on the phone. They don't have any interpreters.

Jess: I guess it was only set up this week.

Zack: They should have decent helplines. Especially cos they're saying it'll happen again. The water levels will get higher.

Jess: Who is?

Zack: The news. I told you I'm watching the *BBC*.

Jess: Dad says the *BBC* are liars.

Beat.

Zack: I've been thinking about that one time in primary they took us all down to the river and made us build rafts. Do you remember?

Jess: I remember you picked Lily to be on your team instead of me.

Zack: Don't start.

Jess: It's true. You two used to be so tight.

Zack: That's before I knew how she treated you.

Jess: She's gross. I wouldn't be surprised if she was pregnant now and using her benefits to buy spice.

Zack: Steady on.

Jess: What? She made my life hell.

Zack: The point is, they took us all down to the river and there was like loads of stuff there like pallets, big plastic container things, rope.

Jess: Did they let us try them out?

Zack: No. The teachers gave them a score out of ten.

Jess: Sounds rigged to me.

Zack: I didn't care; my team won. We got a box of *Celebrations*.

Jess: That's not bad.

Beat.

Zack: I miss it being easy.

SCENE FOUR. EXT. CAR PARK. MORNING.

F/X: CROWD CHATTER. THE VOICE OF A VOLUNTEER THROUGH A MEGAPHONE.

Voice of Volunteer: Thanks everyone for waiting so patiently. We'll get to everyone as quickly as possible. Thank you!

F/X: CROWD MUMBLES TO ONE ANOTHER.

Lily: Zack?

Zack: Oh, Lily.

Lily: Can I cut in with you?

Zack: Um...

Lily: Come on. The line's well long.

Zack: I've been here since eight.

Lily: It took me two hours to get here.

Zack: Fine. Okay.

Lily: Ta.

F/X: LILY PUSHES INTO THE QUEUE.

Lily: Your estate flooded too?

Zack: Yeah.

Lily: That's shit.

Zack: Yeah.

Beat.

Lily: Not seen you since school. How is everyone?

Zack: They're alright.

Lily: I guess Jess doesn't have to worry about any of this? In Hampstead.

Zack: Yeah.

Lily: That is on the top of the hill, I guess, so all the water would just flow down away from her. Typical. By the way, I text you after the river burst its banks.

Zack: I was a bit busy.

Lily: Not immediately after. I wanted to know you were alright.

Zack: Why?

Lily: Because I was a little concerned you might've, I dunno, drowned to death?

Zack: They named those six people, so...

Lily: This was before it was in the papers. Did you manage to take anything with you? The only thing my mum managed to take was my granddad's war medals. Left the passports and everything to get washed away and took the medals. They're not even worth anything on Ebay.

Zack: Do you mind if we just wait quietly?

Lily: If you want, but it'll be proper boring. This is third time I've been. The first time, they ran out of clothes by the time I'd gotten to the front. And then when I tried yesterday the queue was so long, they told half us to come back today.

Zack: Lily. I just really need it to be quiet right now.

Lily: Okay. Okay sure.

SCENE FIVE. A YOUTUBE VIDEO/NADIA'S BEDROOM.

Alyssa: Hi guys, hope you enjoyed the *Bridge Over Troubled Water* video. I just felt it was really important to give you guys a message of hope in these times. And it's always easier when you have famous friends to help you out. I saw loads of your comments. They were really sweet, thank you. They mean a lot and I have the most amazing fans. I love you all so much. A couple of you were asking whether I'm safe, being so close to the river and everything, but I just wanted to show you- I'm fine. We're putting lots of things in place- barriers, flood defences. This is Dean. Wave Dean. He's in charge of keeping me safe and dry. So don't worry about me, I'll be fine. Extra fine!

Nadia: Turn it off.

Voice of Alyssa: Anyway -

She's cut off.

Jess: Mad, right?

Nadia: How much did all that cost?

Jess: Ten million, apparently.

Joel: Money literally can buy you anything.

Nadia: That shouldn't surprise you.

Joel: Still. Sharing that on her story is pretty tone deaf.

Nadia: She doesn't care. It's good content. *"Here, let me take you on a tour of my massive house and show you how I'll stay safe whilst you all drown."* I liked her before all this.

Joel: Really? Her music is dog shit.

Jess: And what do you listen to?

Nadia: Joel loves country.

Joel: Nadia!

Jess: Seriously? Country music?

Joel: You promised never to bring that up!

Jess: Like *Dolly Parton* and everything?

Nadia: His *Spotify* is a mess.

Joel: At least Dolly can sing live.

Nadia: Fair.

Joel: And she uses her money for good, not evil.

Jess: Protecting your house isn't evil.

Nadia: Why, is your dad thinking of doing it?

Jess: No. But it's her property.

Joel: So everyone who can't afford to buy flood defences should just sit and wait for their house to be destroyed?

Jess: You're telling me you wouldn't do it? If you could.

Joel: Not whilst there were people with nothing.

Jess: That's very easy to say hypothetically.

Joel: I'd just feel guilty, that's all.

Jess: And you don't anyway? Knowing we're all fine whilst Zack's up shit creek?

F/X: THE DOOR OPENS. ZACK ENTERS.

Nadia: Oh hi Zack!

Zack: You talking about me?

Jess: No.

Zack: You're such a bad liar.

Jess: I was just showing them Alyssa's *Instagram* story.

Zack: Oh, I saw that.

Joel: You follow her?

Nadia: Everyone follows her.

Joel: I need new friends.

Zack: I unfollowed her. That video pissed me off.

Joel: Thank you!

Zack: My six-year-old sister is sleeping on a hotel floor because no one's insurance will pay out, and she's on *Insta* bragging about her flood defences.

Jess: They're not paying out?

Zack: Nope. We didn't have sufficient cover because it's an act of god.

Jess: Shit.

Zack: An act of God? You're telling me no one knew this was going to happen? We watched all those floods in Yorkshire, glad it wasn't us, and now look. People knew this would happen. They just didn't care. And now we're being left to rot. They're clowns mate.

Joel: Elect a clown expect a circus.

Nadia: Is your mum alright?

Zack: She's not good. And my sister has this chest infection. That hotel room is damp, man. It's no good for her sleeping in there. And we've been there for three months.

Jess: I'm so sorry.

Zack: I just don't know what happens now. We've got nothing, Jess.

Jess: What can we do?

Zack: I dunno. But I'd rather not hear about Alyssa today, alright?

Nadia: Okay.

Zack: Can we talk about something else?

Joel: Like what?

Zack: Anything. What's going on with you?

Joel: Not much. I've got an ingrowing toenail.

Zack: That's disgusting.

Joel: It's not infected or anything.

Nadia: Can you stop?

Zack: Let me see.

Joel: You really want me to show you?

Nadia: Don't be disgusting.

Zack: Yeah. Get it out.

Nadia: I'm gonna throw up. Seriously Joel- don't!

Jess interrupts.

Jess: I know you said you didn't wanna hear about Alyssa anymore... but what's happening to your family is a joke. You know she's about to go on tour, right?

Zack: Can we go back to Joel's toe?

Jess: Hear me out. If she's on tour, it means her house will be empty.

Nadia: So?

Jess: It must be filled with expensive shit. Stuff she probably won't even miss.

Nadia: If you're about to suggest we rob her, I'm totally in.

Joel: What?

Jess: Why not?

Joel: Because it's mental. And illegal.

Zack: She's just joking.

Jess: I'm not. We could be in; grab a few things we can sell and be out before anyone notices.

Joel: You've changed your tune. You were defending her a minute ago.

Jess: That's before I knew about the insurance. And it's not like anyone's gonna get hurt.

Nadia: It's a victimless crime.

Zack: Are you lot high?

Jess: No. I'm serious.

Zack: We can't just do her house over.

Nadia: Can't we?

Joel: There'll be security.

Jess: There will be ways around it.

Joel: I'm not getting involved.

Jess: Your friend needs your help.

Joel: I know, but-

Zack: It's not Joel's problem. Let's talk about something else.

Nadia: Zack. People like Alyssa have the whole system designed in their favour. She's just dropped ten million on private flood defences and I doubt it's made a dent in her bank account. Isn't it about time you did something to help yourself? Because from what I see, no one else is gonna help you.

Beat.

Zack: Everywhere around there's flooded. We'll need a boat. Like a small one.

Joel: You cannot be serious.

Jess: You don't have to come with us.

Joel: Good. I'm not. I don't think you should make the situation worse Zack.

Zack: It can't get any worse.

Joel: Wanna bet?

Nadia: I know someone with a boat.

Zack: Who?

Nadia: Lily.

Jess: No way.

Joel: I wouldn't trust her as far as I could throw her.

Nadia: I thought you weren't getting involved?

Jess: Lily's bad news.

Nadia: She's the only person I know who has a boat.

Jess: She's sly.

Nadia: People change you know.

Jess: Famously, they don't.

Zack: Do you have any better ideas, Jess?

SCENE SIX. INT. GARAGE.

F/X: A GARAGE DOOR RATTLING AS IT OPENS. WE CAN HEAR RAIN OUTSIDE.

Jess: I can't see a fucking thing.

Lily: Get in.

Nadia: Don't push me.

Zack: The floor's wet.

Lily: Get in and I can close the door.

F/X: LILY CLOSES THE GARAGE DOOR. WE CAN STILL HEAR THE RAIN OUTSIDE.

Jess: Lily, turn the light on.

Lily: I'm trying.

F/X: THE CLICK OF A LIGHT TURNING ON.

Lily: There. What do you think?

Jess: It's got a hole in it.

Lily: Only a small one.

Jess: We'll sink.

Nadia: We can tape it up.

Lily: Beggars can't be choosers. Nadia called and said you needed a boat. Ask and you shall receive.

Jess: It's a dinghy.

Nadia: It's got a little motor...

Jess: It's a death trap.

Lily: What a surprise, Jess turning her nose up as usual.

Nadia: Where else are we gonna get a boat from?

Jess: How much do you want for it?

Lily: Nothing. I want in.

Jess: Absolutely not.

Zack: Wait a second...

Jess: I told you.

Lily: Told him what?

Jess: That you're a snake. Let's go.

Zack: Jess.

Jess: This is a bad idea.

Lily: If you guys wanna be like that, then fine. I mean, when people inevitably start asking questions, I might have to tell them what I know, but that's your choice, I guess...

Zack: Wait a minute.

Jess: She's manipulating you.

Lily: I wanted to do this nicely, it was you who made it nasty.

Nadia: We can work something out.

Jess: This was a stupid idea.

F/X: THE BUZZING OF AN ELECTRICAL SURGE. IT SWELLS AND THEN WE HEAR THE LIGHTS GO.

Nadia: What was that?

Lily: Power cut.

Jess: I hate the dark.

Lily: It's the rain. They'll come back.

Zack: I have a torch on my phone... there.

Nadia: Not in my eyes!

Zack: Sorry.

Jess: How long will this last?

Lily: You scared?

Jess: No. I just want to get out of here.

Lily: A few minutes. Sometimes a few hours. Depends.

Jess: Great.

Nadia: Chill out.

Jess: I'm fine.

Nadia: It's just us in here.

Lily: And the rats.

Jess: Shut up.

Zack: Do you not like the dark?

Jess: I'm fine.

Zack: Do you want the torch?

Jess: I said I'm fine- leave me alone!

F/X: A LOW HUM AND THEN A CLICK AS THE LIGHTS COME BACK ON.

Lily: See? Told you.

Jess: Great, now we can go?

Nadia: Yeah- let's get out of here.

F/X: THEY EXIT THE GARAGE. LILY SHUTS THE GARAGE DOOR.

Nadia: See you around Lily.

F/X: FOOTSTEPS AWAY.

Lily (calling after them): Why is Zack worth helping and I'm not?

Beat.

Lily: Well? I can't access my bank account because all of my cards and stuff were lost in the flood. I have no proof of address and the emergency hundred quid they gave us barely lasted two weeks. And if you're going to let some stupid shit that happened a million years ago turn you into selfish arseholes, then you're worse than I thought you all were.

Beat.

Zack: Okay.

Jess: Okay?

Zack: Yeah. Lily can join.

Jess: Unbelievable.

SCENE SEVEN. INT. JOEL'S BEDROOM.

F/X: JOEL PLAYING A VIDEO GAME. A KNOCK ON HIS DOOR.

Joel: Yeah?

F/X: DOOR OPENING.

Joel: Oh. Lily.

Lily: Are you gonna invite me in or what? I feel like a vampire lurking in your doorway.

Joel: Yeah, fine.

F/X: LILY ENTERS AND CLOSES THE DOOR.

Joel: What are you doing here?

Lily: Your mum let me in. What's she cooking? It smells delish.

Joel: Duck, I think.

Lily: I never knew you were flush. No wonder you're mates with Jess.

Joel: I'm not.

Lily: Mates with Jess?

Joel: No, rich.

Lily: Your mum's roasting a duck. On a Tuesday.

Joel: I have stuff to do.

Lily: Like shooting strangers on the internet?

Joel: Amongst other things.

Lily: Do you mind if I put my bag down? It's heavy. Don't worry, I'm not planning on staying.

Joel: Just don't touch anything.

F/X: LILY WALKS AROUND THE ROOM.

Lily: You're pretty clean, aren't you? I expected it to be all dirty tissues and mouldy plates.

Joel: Again, what are you doing here?

Lily: The others sent me. They want me to give you this.

F/X: LILY UNZIPS HER BAG AND PULLS SOMETHING OUT OF IT.

Lily: Ta-dar. It's a tux. Well take it then.

Joel: Why?

Lily: Because you're borrowing it for a bit. It's my brother's, so I'll need it back. Try it on.

Joel: Why?

Lily: Because I want to see if it fits, duh. Try it on.

Joel: No.

Lily: Oh come on, I won't look.

Joel: I think you should go.

Lily: God, lighten up, I was joking.

Joel: If this is about the 'thing' then I'm not interested.

Lily: The robbery?

Joel: Ssssh.

Lily: What? Scared mummy will hear?

Joel: Why are you involved, anyway?

Lily: I have the get-away-car. Well, boat, but same difference.

Joel: Jess would never allow it.

Lily: Jess isn't the boss of everyone.

Joel: She hates you.

Lily: We both did stuff.

Joel: You tried to strangle her.

Lily: Tried to. Didn't succeed. Now try this on.

Joel: Sorry, but no.

Lily: Look, all we need is for someone to go up to Alyssa's front gate and ring the doorbell.

Joel: In a suit?

Lily: You have to look smart. Expensive. Like you fit in.

Joel: Why can't Zack do this?

Lily: Because that's not the plan.

Joel: There's a plan...

Lily: Of course there's a plan- we're not idiots. Wanna hear it?

Joel: Not really.

Lily: So, we take the boat as far as we can, drop you on the same street as her house, and then drive the boat around the corner. Somewhere less obvious.

Joel: Do you drive a boat?

Lily: Don't be a smart arse. We wait in the boat whilst you go up to the main gate and ring the doorbell. If someone answers, you tell them you're looking for a party and pretend you have the wrong address. If no one answers, we're good to go, and me, Jess and Zach climb over the wall. Whilst we're inside, you keep look out whilst Nadia waits in the boat. Me, Jess and Zack then head to the master bedroom 'cos that's where people usually keep their jewellery. We grab a few shiny things and we're gone before the alarm company can even send a notification. You in?

Joel: No, sorry.

Lily: They're going to be very disappointed.

Joel: So be it.

Lily: Suit yourself. Oh my god, suit yourself. Because it's a suit.

Joel: Ok, I think you should go now.

Lily: Alright. But I just wanna say one more thing.

Joel (growing irritated): What Lily?

Lily: When you look back, I hope you're not disappointed that you were such a coward. I hope all the staying in whilst your mates were doing these stupid, crazy things is worth it. Because from where I'm standing, it's really sad.

Beat.

Joel: Wait, let me try it on.

SCENE EIGHT. EXT. ALLYSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT.**FX: WE CAN HEAR THE BOAT MOVING THROUGH THE WATER.**

Jess: It should be coming up on the left.

Lily: Keep your voice down.

Jess: How am I meant to give Nadia directions?

Lily: You're yelling.

Zach: Can you two keep a lid on it do you think?

Jess: She started it.

Lily: How old are you?

Nadia: Do you think someone could tell me where I'm meant to be stopping?

Jess: Here.

FX: THE BOAT COMES TO A STOP AND FLOATS. ENGINE OFF.

Lily: Right then Joel. Get out.

Joel: Here?

Lily: You can walk the rest of the way.

Joel: Who put you in charge?

Jess: That's my question.

Nadia: To be fair, I can't get you any closer.

Joel: I'll get wet.

Lily: So?

Joel: Who turns up to a party drenched?

Lily: There's no one in.

Zack: We don't know that.

Joel: Exactly.

Lily: If you don't get out of this boat, I'll push you out.

Jess: Don't threaten him.

Lily: I'm not.

Zack: Will you two stop it? This isn't a game. Joel, get out of the boat.

Joel: Seriously?

Zack: Yep.

FX: JOEL GETS OUT OF THE BOAT AND INTO THE THIGH-HIGH WATER.

Joel: Oh my god.

Zack: Ssssh.

Joel: It's freezing!

Lily: Go ring the doorbell.

Joel: I don't know how deep it gets.

Lily: It's not that deep.

Joel: You can drown in a bowl of soup.

Lily: Yeah, if you're an idiot.

Joel: Jesus...

FX: JOEL WADES THROUGH THE WATER TOWARDS THE HOUSE. WE HEAR HIM GET FURTHER AWAY.

Lily: See? It's only up to his ankles now.

Zach: What's he doing?

Nadia: I think that's him trying to walk casually.

Zach: He's walking like he's shat himself.

Lily: Isn't that how he normally walks?

Jess: Sssssh.

Lily: Don't ssh me.

Nadia: I will shush both of you.

Zack: What if someone answers?

Jess: They won't. She's due on stage in ten minutes.

Nadia: She could have hired a house sitter.

Jess: Maybe you should have said that before.

Lily: If there's a house sitter, we stick to the plan. Joel will apologise, say he was looking for a party, and come back.

Zack: Give it a minute.

Beat.

Zack: What's he doing? Shall we just go?

Lily: Wait for his signal. And remember, we go straight for the master bedroom. She posted with her dogs on her bed last week and I swear I saw a safe in the background.

Jess: He's waving.

Nadia: Yep, he's waving!

Lily: I can't believe it. There's no one in. There's no one in!

Jess: Stop shouting.

Nadia: Guys you really need to go.

Jess: Ready?

Zack: Let's do it.

F/X: THEY PILE OUT OF THE BOAT.

SCENE NINE. INT. ALLYSA'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

F/X: AN ALARM IS GOING OFF.

Zack: Quickly!

Jess: I'm going as quick as I can.

Zack: Leave everything else, we need jewellery. Or cash.

Jess: Keep your face covered.

Zack: I'm sweaty!

Jess: Lily! Hurry up with that hammer! Try and lift it.

F/X: ZACK TRIES TO LIFT THE SAFE.

Zack: I can't.

Jess: Try!

Zack: It's a safe, I'm not *Wonder Woman*. Where's Lily!?

Jess: The police'll be here any minute.

Zack: I realise that Jess, thanks.

F/X: LILY ENTERS.

Lily: I found a mallet.

Zack: Okay, smash it.

Lily: Where?

Zack: I dunno, the front.

Lily: There?

Jess: Anywhere, just hit it!

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE MALLET AGAINST THE SAFE.

Zack: Harder.

Lily: That was as hard as I can!

Zack: Again.

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE MALLET AGAINST THE SAFE AGAIN.

Jess: Maybe we should just grab what we can.

Lily: No. All of the good stuff will be in here.

F/X: THE LIGHTS SURGE AND GO OUT.

Zack: What happened?

Jess: Shit.

Zack: Did we do that?

Lily: It's a power cut.

Jess: Let's go.

Lily: We have to get this open.

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE MALLET AGAINST THE SAFE AGAIN.

Jess: Come on, let's go.

Lily: They'll come back on in a second.

Zack: I think the whole street's out.

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE MALLET AGAINST THE SAFE AGAIN.

Jess: Zack. Come on.

Zack: She's nearly there.

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE Mallet AGAINST THE SAFE AGAIN.

Jess: We should go.

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE Mallet AGAINST THE SAFE AGAIN.

Zack: This was your idea wasn't it? I'm not leaving until we get what we came for.

Jess: There's no time.

F/X: LILY SLAMS THE Mallet AGAINST THE SAFE AGAIN. IT OPENS.

Lily: Oh my god! I did it!

Jess: I can hear people outside.

Zack: Stop arguing and grab what you can.

Jess: They're in the house. We need to move it.

Zack: Jess- just help will you?

F/X: POLICE OFFICERS BURST INTO THE ROOM. THERE'S A SCUFFLE, PEOPLE SHOUTING. IT'S CHAOS.

Police Officer One: Stay where you are!

Police Officer Two: Hands above your head!

Police Officer One: Drop the hammer!

Police Officer Two: What do you think you lot are doing?

SCENE TEN. EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

F/X: WE CAN HEAR JOEL RUNNING THROUGH THE WATER AWAY FROM THE HOUSE. SIRENS IN DISTANCE. JOEL IS ON THE PHONE AND WE CAN HEAR IT RINGING THROUGH TO SOMEONE, THEN THE BEEP OF A VOICEMAIL.

Zack (voicemail message): Hey- it's Zack. Leave a message. Or don't. It's up to you I guess.

Joel: Zack- what happened? I ran for it. Are you guys okay? Call me. Shit.

SCENE ELEVEN. INT. POLICE STATION. EAST LONDON. NIGHT.

F/X: HEAVY RAIN THAT WE SLOWLY HEAR POLICE SIRENS APPROACH THROUGH. THIS FADES AND WE BEGIN TO HEAR ZACK SPEAK.

Zack: Can I get a jacket? Or something. It's cold.

Jess: I know I'm not speaking to you without a lawyer.

Zack: I'm soaked.

Nadia: No comment.

Jess: This is ridiculous.

Zack: I'm not protecting anyone.

Jess: Do you know who my dad is?

Nadia: No comment.

Zack: We weren't trying to nick anything. We were having a laugh. Making a *YouTube* video.

Nadia: No comment.

Jess: I don't know anything about any money.

Zack: Money? I dunno what you're talking about mate.

Nadia: No comment.

Zack: I wanna go home.

Jess: Where are my friends?

Zack: Aren't we meant to like, get a phone call or something?

Nadia: There's no way I'm telling you anything. Not that there's anything to tell.

Jess: Haven't you got real criminals to deal with?

Zack: People are out here being murdered, and you're wasting your time with three teenagers. It's pathetic.

Jess: Who's idea was it? I dunno.

Zack: Can't remember.

Nadia: For the last time- No. Comment.

SCENE TWELVE. INT. HOTEL ROOM. DAY.**F/X: THE TV IS ON.**

Host: The Prime Minister says he is looking forward to next week's emergency climate summit, where he is expected to announce an extra 300 million pounds of investment in cycle lanes.

Jess: If you turn that off, we can talk.

Host: He's also confirmed for the first time that there will be an opportunity for the public to submit questions at a special-

Zach: Fine.

F/X: ZACH SWITCHES THE TV OFF.

Zack: What is there to talk about Jess?

Jess: Anything.

Zack: What are you looking at?

Jess: Nothing.

Zack: Go on, say it.

Jess: Say what?

Zack: Whatever you're about to say.

Jess: I wasn't going to say anything.

Zack: I can see it on your face. You're dying to make a comment.

Jess: I'm not.

Zack: I know it's bad. We try and keep it as tidy as possible.

Jess: There's a lot of you. It's not your fault it's dirty.

Zack: See, I knew you were thinking it.

Jess: You brought it up!

Zack: You always think the worst of me.

Jess: No, I don't.

Zack: You feel sorry for me then.

Jess: Of course I do- you're homeless.

Zack: What's wrong with being homeless?

Jess: I just mean that this isn't your fault.

Zack: Why did you come here?

Jess: Because. I wanted to see you.

Zack: And that's why you're here?

Jess: Yes.

Beat.

Jess: Have you spoken to Joel?

Zack: Yeah. He was bricking his mum would find out.

Jess: Nadia said that her parents are threatening to send her away to boarding school.

Zack: Rich people punishments are weird.

Beat.

Jess: Dad thinks we'll all be let off. It's our first offence and they can't prove we took anything.

Zack: For now.

Jess: Or we could always tell them it was Lily's idea.

Zack: It wasn't. It was yours.

Jess: The police don't know that.

Zack: We can't blame it all on Lily.

Jess: I can't have a criminal record.

Zack: So Lily should just suck it up?

Jess: I never wanted her involved in the first place. And she ran away.

Zack: So did you. You're telling me if they hadn't caught you, you wouldn't have left me there?

Jess: I didn't know what was going on. It was pitch black. If Lily took that cash they're looking for, then she should take the blame.

Zack: If she got away with cash, good for her.

Jess: She doesn't deserve it.

Zack: Why did you really come here?

Jess: I came to see you.

Zack: Well, you've seen me, you can go now.

Jess: Why are you being like this?

Zack: I should never have listened to you in the first place.

Jess: We all agreed to do it.

Zack: It's fine for you to do what you want. You never have to worry about anything.

Jess: Yes I do. This could've ruined my reputation.

Zack: No it wouldn't.

Jess: How would you know?

Zack: Because you have money! You can go through life doing whatever you want, making mistakes, and someone else will come clean it up for you. Because that's who you are. I don't get that choice. I get flooded and my whole world ends. You? You'd just go to one of your dad's rental properties.

Jess: That's not fair.

Zack: Tell me about it.

Jess: We're avoiding court because of my dad, so it's alright to use him when it benefits you. Why do you always have to play the victim?

Zack: I am the victim!

Jess: I didn't come here to fight.

Zack: Well, great job.

Jess: I'm sorry.

Zack: I don't want to hear it.

Jess: Zack.

Zack: Just get out.

Jess: You really want me to go?

Silence.

Jess: See you around, I guess.

FX: JESS EXITS. THE HOTEL ROOM DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES.

Zack: Shit.

F/X: HE TURNS THE TV BACK ON.

SCENE THIRTEEN. INT. CINEMA FOYER. DAY.

F/X: POPCORN POPPING. WE HEAR SOMEONE SCOOP IT OUT OF THE MACHINE AND PLACE IT INTO A BUCKET.

Lily: That's four eighty. Ta.

F/X: THE TILL OPENS AND CLOSSES.

Lily: Your change. Enjoy your film. Next pl- Oh. Nadia.

Nadia: Got a minute?

Lily: I'm working.

Nadia: What will they do if they don't have someone shovelling popcorn for five minutes...?

Lily: I can't just take a break.

Nadia: I don't mind having the conversation here, Lily. If you want your boss knowing you're a dirty thief, that is.

Lily: Shut up. Come through here.

F/X: FOOTSTEPS AS THEY MOVE TO A QUIETER SPACE. A DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING.

Lily: What do you want?

Nadia: The police think we took a load of cash. My bet is that you've got it.

Lily: I don't know what you're on about.

Nadia: Don't you think Zack deserves that money? After everything he's had to put up with.

Lily: That's not my fault.

Nadia: The right thing to do-

Lily: Don't talk to me about the right thing to do. The right thing to do when Jess made everyone stop talking to me is check whether I was alright. But you didn't dare break rank.

Nadia: You were a bully.

Lily: Me? You should've opened your eyes mate.

Nadia: Don't try and rewrite history.

Lily: Jess did everything she could to make it look like I was the bad guy. Poisoned you all against me. If you saw what she said to me when you lot weren't around, the messages she sent, calling me a scrounger. Scum. A slag.

Nadia: This isn't about you and Jess.

Lily: Of course not! Because you'd have to admit you looked away whilst she destroyed my life. Took away my friends. You know I thought about... she was cruel. And I thought you lot had more spine.

Nadia: I came here to tell you to do the right thing and give Zack the money.

Lily: Have you thought that maybe I need it? I don't live with my parents any more. They kicked me out before all this happened. If only I had friends bringing me boxes of food after everything went to shit. I have to get back to work.

Nadia: Lily-

Lily: Are you going to buy a ticket? 'Cos if you're not, then kindly piss off.

Nadia: Fine. But five grand is the difference between his sister eating, or going hungry.

Lily: I really need to get back to work. You need to leave.

Nadia: Okay. I don't know why I expected you to be any different.

F/X: NADIA EXITS.

SCENE FOURTEEN. INT. ZACK'S NEW HOUSE. DAY.

F/X: A DOORBELL RINGS.

Joel: Do you think he's in?

Nadia: He better be.

ZACK ANSWERS THE DOOR.

Joel and Nadia: Surprise!

Zack: What are you doing here?

Joel: Charming. Nice to see you too.

Nadia: Are you going to let us in or what?

F/X: DOOR CLOSSES. THEY WALK THROUGH TO THE LIVING AREA.

Joel: This is nice.

Nadia: What's the smell?

Zack: Mould. I wanted to get it all sorted before you guys came over.

Nadia: We didn't know what to bring, so we didn't bring anything.

Joel: My mum was trying to convince me to give you a cactus. Apparently, they're the perfect housewarming gift.

Zack: I'll take your word for it.

Joel: Nice flat though. Bigger than I thought it would be. You getting used to it?

Zack: Kind of?

Joel: Took us ages to get here.

Nadia: Three buses.

Zack: They couldn't house me anywhere closer. I'll come to you guys next time.

Joel: Do you like living on your own?

Zack: I'm getting used to it.

Nadia: Jess said your mum and sister got housed in Zone Three.

Zack: Yeah, it worked out better if I wasn't living with them. So.

Beat.

Nadia: Jess says hi. By the way.

Zack: Okay.

Joel: You still not speaking to her?

Zack: Nope.

Joel: You've been friends since you were like seven.

Zack: We don't all have to stay friends just cos we were at school together.

Joel: I know. But-

Zack: I don't want to talk about it.

Joel: All I know is that she misses you.

F/X: THE DOORBELL RINGS.

Nadia: Who's that?

Zack: I invited Lily over. I didn't know you guys were coming.

Joel: That's kind of what a surprise is.

Zack: Lily's alright you know. She split the money with me. It helped me buy the furniture in here. Pay the bills for a bit.

Nadia: She should have given you all of it. We broke into Alyssa's for you.

Zack: She tried to. I wouldn't let her.

Nadia: Oh.

F/X: THE DOORBELL RINGS, AGAIN.

Zack: I'm gonna let her in. You don't have to stay, but.

Joel: No, no it's cool.

Zack: Good.

F/X: ZACK MAKES HIS WAY TO THE FRONT DOOR AND OPENS IT.

Lily: Took your time, didn't you?

Zack: Nadia and Joel are here.

Lily: Do you want me to go?

Zack: Nah, it's fine.

Lily: Saw you've got a balcony.

Zack: Yeah.

Lily: What's the view like?

Zack: Not bad. Not bad at all.

THE END.

In ***The Other Side of the River*** by Ben Weatherill

Zack was played by Muhammad Abdraheman

Jess by Natasha Cattley

Joel by Gilles Macdonald

Nadia by Freya Johnson

and **Lily** by Lola Priestley

Alyssa was played by Vigs Otite

The Host was Caroline Faber

Police Officer One by Ryan Early

and **Police Officer Two** and **Volunteer** by Louie Keen

As Waters Rise is an Almeida Young Company production, with music composition by Fizz Margerison and sound design by Martha Littlehailes. The associate director was Abi Falase. It was produced by Simon Stephens, and directed by Alex Brown.