

**PARADISE YARD PILOT** By Debbie Croysdale

EXT. PARADISE YARD - DAY Cobbled yard behind high brick wall in City. Newly planted trees and bench tables form a green centre oasis surrounded by mews houses. A Victorian church dominates cul de sac, sign board points to "The Gap" meetup.

DR. DEBORAH HARVEY, 45 Blonde hair swept up in a bun, trouser suit, sturdy moccasins, spectacles perch top of head. Lit by passion she stands by church annex but the door won't budge.

DEBORAH

Come on blast it, open, let me in.

INT. ANNEX - DAY Gothic beams, chairs, bar, bookcase, piano, makeshift office screened off, ancient computer, flowers.

DEBORAH

Save our world from plastic and  
warming. Save pangolins, trees,  
cinemas, sinners, listed buildings.  
Addicts? Who'll help me save them?

INT. CELLAR - EV Girl lies on floor face down, arms and legs hoisted up by rope behind her. Man sits in high back chair.

MAN 36, sardonic glare, dark, facial stubble, linen shirt.

MAN

A trussed up turkey, shame it's  
only the yanks who do thanksgiving.

GIRL 21, curvy blonde, dirty, broken nails, soaking wet dress. She rolls her eyes to face him, voice lost to fear.

MAN (CONT'D)

Pleading redemption? You played a  
house that can't be beat but if  
hearts next turn I'll grant you a  
quick exit. Let's see shall we?

He rolls cards on knee and places by her face, cuts, then holds card up so only he sees it to prolong the reveal. She tries to talk again and a faint squeak emits in her throat.

GIRL

Are you going to kill me?

EXT. PARADISE YARD - DAY Two sit either side of wood table.

CINDY 18, sour, petite, black leather gear, pink hair.

ANDREW 50, serious, fit, shiny bald head, city suit, cravat.

ANDREW

Nice to feel we're not in the city.

CINDY

Lots say that but no big deal to me, don't care about trees or anything, I've more urgent needs.

ANDREW

Much worse places I could be now.

CINDY

You? Been bad places? Never!

ANDREW

But some just fall off the radar, God knows where with God knows who?

JIMMY 44, badass, dark, muscles, cheesecloth top, flip flops.

JIMMY

What's up good folks, grand day eh?

ANDREW

I still greet by elbow touch.

JIMMY

Why the face? We're conditioned to leave all our shit outside grounds?

CINDY

Yeah loosen up Andrew, politician's only did nerdy hand shake for TV.

JIMMY

Get in the mood sour Jock and it might just make you Barry.

CINDY

Who's Barry?

JIMMY

I mean Awfy Braw, fuckin happy.

ANDREW

But I've had a bad couple of days.

Jimmy gets up to walk to a communal bin to fish around in it.

JIMMY

Me? A bad ten years. Hey see! Power man salad hardly touched, who eats al alfa, alfafa, shit can't say it.

CINDY

Alfalfa, very good for you. Hey I didn't say stuff it down your gob.

JIMMY

Tiny sprouts outa soil for worms, why so special? Some sad bastards never had a real high but not bad though for grub from outa space.

CINDY

(whispers to Andrew)

On streets at ten, eats anything. Say's he's a stainless steel rat.

ANDREW

And now the boy is the man, shame.

(elated)

Look Roxy Garcia that euro chat show hostess, Cable Gate scandal remember? The producers got time.

Woman zooms up in a Ferrari, waves then swerves into carpark.

ROXANNE 34, statuesque, long blonde hair, sunshades, dress.

INT. GROUP MEET - DAY 12 sit in circle with Deborah.

DEBORAH

This is Roxanne who's joining us today so please welcome her.

They all introduce themselves to her.

CINDY

Starting with Cindy how did your week go?

CINDY

Clean seven days stretch. No money, no dope, no hope, I feel empty.

DEBORAH

No real hope! You couldn't go a day without before. And we can all feel hopelessness, a real human emotion.

CINDY

Folk say I'm lucky to be a teenager but I've never even felt like one.

DEBORAH

Enjoy the pride of any seed of  
success no matter how small.

CINDY

I long to be clean forever but  
don't know if I can do it, become a  
hairdresser and not wear old gear.

EOIN 60, Tall spike, receding hair, cardigan, designer shoes.

EOIN

But it's rage now isn't it? Folk  
hunting in vintage clothes shops?

CINDY

But there's antique and there's  
jumble sale and I only get crap.

EOIN

Don't sell yourself short, I'd  
holes in soles of my school shoes  
and once no fucking shoes at all.

DEBORAH

A revelation! Thought you come from  
a horse breeding dynasty in Cork?

EOIN

Was kissing the blarney stone but  
no lie horses got my fine shoes.

DEBORAH

But betting cost you dear, you're  
still estranged with Stella. I do  
hope you stayed clear this week?

EOIN

Ask no questions, I'll tell no lies  
and ex wife now, signed the nisi.

DEBORAH

What happened to calling help line  
or five rule temptation strategy?

FABIO 36, clean cut medium build, dark, designer gear, Rolex.

FABIO

I'm guessing horses happened?

JIMMY

Don't get why both you lightweights  
are here at all. Poker and horses?

EWIN

You shoot up junk instead but we  
don't matter cos all in our head?

JIMMY

You said it mate.

FABIO

(to Eoin)

Why try to explain to a gorilla?

PIXIE 34 Fit, African, bleached Afro, Bo Ho, jeans, heels.

PIXIE

Guys chill, embrace our diversity.  
We all got unique fall out but all  
in same boat Deb's says. Remember?

CINDY

Yeah solidarity in here please,  
enough shit going on out there.

EX. RURAL RIVERBANK - DAY Summer rain plops off white marquee  
on grass verge by police vans. A team leads sniffer dogs to  
patrol the area and black rubber suited divers jump in river.

INT. MARQUEE - A man and woman stare at corpse on high table.

KIRK KENT 49, white suit, gloves, face visor, hair cap.

JANET DUNN 30, white suit, gloves, face visor, hair cap.

KIRK KENT

Bite marks weren't on the last one,  
so why on this girl do you think?

JANET DUNN

We're anthropologists, just do the  
job, leave the why to psychology,  
doesn't bare thinking on so don't.

KIRK KENT

I must be one of those new metro  
men who cries, so would you say I  
shed politically correct tears?

INT. ANNEX - DAY GROUP MEET THE CIRCLE

SUE enters 30 Biceps, tree trunk legs, tan, red bob, shorts.

DEBORAH

Sounds like you ran here Sue.

SUE

Always fifty press ups by oak tree.

ANDREW

But you've got own gym at home now?

SUE

So? You got tea at home but chug it back here and got your own mug.

DEBORAH

Eyes closed, deep breath, hold and release. Feel peace, hear silence in this sacred tunnel of respite and return to innermost self, a gap between two worlds before path to diversion opened. Outside observers of our own destiny, free to step in any direction creating a road home.

They sit in silence for five minutes eyes closed.

DEBORAH

And all open your eyes now.

CAMERON 54 Heavy, dark hair, thick specs, ancient tweed suit.

CAMERON

Regressed back to playing my train set before I found out we get sick and die. One, two, three, four....

He taps his face six times and with thumb and forefinger mimics a tip toe walk along the top of his chair. Roxanne rolls her eyes, Andrew mouths silently towards her.

ANDREW

"Tourettes and O C D."

DEBORAH

Remembering a normal day is called glimpsing, a small window of truth before all the confusion began.

ANDREW

How did we get to be like this?

DEBORAH

But it's not a point of no return, you took a route in so there's a route out.

ROXANNE

Drugs were everywhere in my line of work, forced temptation, I'm angry.

EOIN

I miss sights, sounds, smells.  
Mucking out stable, choosing my horse, thrill of the race, their manes dancing in the wind. A rush.

CAMERON

Horses carry a disease causing blindness, blind man buff, one, two, three, four, five, six.

EOIN

As a boy I'd count punts on the table with my racer dad, cultures bred in me yet I'm tagged addict.

DEBORAH

Truth hurts but horses cost you you're home and marriage.

Eoin stands, bends waist and jolts torso mimicking a jockey.

EOIN

Felt it most right by the starting line. Go, go, go, outsider leading against the odds, passing favorites it's my horse Lord Grey. Yes, yes.

DEBORAH

But that special feeling caused bankruptcy, you need normal happy. Good friends, a day in the countryside, hobbies and goals...

JIMMY

A good shag should do it, Freud? Everything's down to sex.

ANDREW

You always lower the tone.

CAMERON

It's all in the unseen. We carry around two whole pounds in weight of bacteria inside us every day. One, two, three, four, five, six.

DEBORAH

Back to Roxanne anger can replace denial but accountability cuts a path of acceptance toward recovery.

PIXIE

Psychological strategy a physical tool, a spade to cut through dross.

DEBORAH

I'm proud you remember what I say.

JIMMY

Why are you proud? Of any of us?

DEBORAH

This is my life's work, my passion.

ROXANNE

Who's the empty chair for?

JIMMY

Our number thirteen's tagged, done youth detention but landed in jail for nabbing a kitten in her coat.

INT - DAY - LUCY'S ROOM, SKY RISE. Piles of shoes, compact disks, DVD'S, makeup, perfume, tinned goods, bottle openers.

LUCY'S MUM 38 Jump suit, frizz perm, grey roots, pale, tired. She looks around her daughters bedroom and sighs distraught.

INT - EV - CELL Bunk bed, loo, tiny sink, narrow skylight.

LUCY 16 Petite, dyed blonde, fake nails, wannabe celebrity.

CLAIRE 40, Geezer bird, muscles, part shaved hair, chews gum.

CLAIRE

Heard warden say clinic, you dealt drugs then? Or something exciting?

LUCY

Shoplifter, I must sound vanilla. My therapy's an experimental unit, I'm veggie, detest drugs. And you?

CLAIRE

Manslaughter but I didn't do it.

LUCY

Pretend you did, street cred out there stops bullies in here, lucky I've a stockpile at home to bribe.



CLAIRE

Don't worry, your in with me now.  
What sort of things you got then?

LUCY

Shoes mostly but pick up anything.  
Did. And why don't I need worry?

Claire jumps off the bed, lifts her vest up and raises her arms to show an enormous scar across stomach and breasts.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Jesus wept, like a gutted fish.

CLAIRE

Mark fought back but got the worse.

LUCY

But said you didn't do them all?

CLAIRE

Was joking, I'm The Claire Dodds.

BACK TO CIRCLE - PRESENT - GROUP MEET

JIMMY

Sad cow, needing an animal.

INT. ANNEX PARADISE YARD - DAY Deborah is arranging chairs.

CHIEF INSPECTOR HALL 60, tall, slim, grey, stripe suit.

DETECTIVE FINK 40 Obese, long red hair, dress, satchel, tan.  
She looks around curiously and picks up a book from bookcase.

DETECTIVE FINK

You always leave door open Ma'am?

DEBORAH

No I'm vigilant but we begin at  
ten, you're American, whereabouts?

DETECTIVE FINK

New York, time for a very quick  
word then cos it's quarter to now?

INSPECTOR HALL

Impressive research, read your  
European lectures and you gave up  
General Practice to devote to this?

DEBORAH

So what's this visit about exactly?

INSPECTOR HALL

The mind's your niche, perhaps you can offer us some insight as we're developing unknown offender personality and biographical characteristics.

DEBORAH

Police profiling? But I only try to save addicts from themselves.

DETECTIVE FINK

It's not official we just want your two cents?

INSPECTOR HALL

True American saying and we'd appreciate any input, off course in private at our local headquarters.

DETECTIVE FINK

Call day or night, we got own experts but this case? Exceptional. So exploring all investigative strategy and behavioral science principles that may offer a lead.

She slams card on desk and heads out with Inspector Hall.

INT. CHURCH ANNEX - DAY GROUP MEET UP

ROXANNE

My life's fucked, coke, a string of bad relationships and bad press.

PIXIE

Never guessed a neurotic mess, so cool and in control on your show.

DEBORAH

No judgments remember please Pixie.

PIXIE

Sorry I meant I envied you, before that is and I'm a train crash too.

DEBORAH

But these feelings are temporary. And Sue what about your steroids?

SUE

Scared I'll shrink if I stop taking them, my size keeps me in control.