

<Title>

an original screenplay by

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GREENWOOD

SCENE 1

EXT. DAY. GARDEN.

Two teenage boys, DAVID and MAXWELL, sit at the top of a garden in a 'den' they have made in the surrounding bushes. It is summer and we get the feeling of this being a hot, lazy day.

DAVID

Mr. Greenwood mended the fence today.

DAVID leans from the edge of the den.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Just there, look.

DAVID points up the garden at a slatted fence.

DAVID (CONT'D)

See where it's lighter than the other bits? Five panels up. See?

MAXWELL follows DAVID's finger in the air until his eyes arrive at the slat in the fence a shade paler than all the others. He nods.

MAXWELL

Oh yeah, I see it.

DAVID sits back on his heels.

DAVID

Early this morning. Probably before you were even up. You know he's been doin' odd jobs like that for years. Wonder if he ever had a proper job, bet he didn't, or, not for years anyway.

MAXWELL nods again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Bet he was never a drone, you know, not like everybody else. He's different. Lives his own way, you know, by his own rules. You'd never catch Greenwood workin, like, in a bank or something. Besides, he needs the open air, you know, he needs to be workin outside where he can breathe free. That's the

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
way you wanna be, no boss, work
when you want. Course, he can't
manage like he used to, not now
he's gettin' on like he is.

MAXWELL
Is he?

DAVID
Yeah, course he is. Must be... I
don't know, but he's getting old
now. He is grey and everythin'.

MAXWELL
Is he?

DAVID
Yeah, haven't you noticed?

DAVID waits for a moment, but MAXWELL doesn't answer.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Course, you probably haven't noticed
'cause of that hat he wears.

MAXWELL
Hat?

DAVID
Yeah, that straw hat he wears to
protect him from the sun. Needs it
on days like this though.

DAVID sits back in the den, his hands on the ground behind
him, arms straight and his legs stretched out in front of
him. He raises his face to the sky and closes his eyes as
if he is sunbathing

DAVID (CONT'D)
That's why you haven't seen he's
going grey.

The two boys sit for a moment. MAXWELL looks tentatively
at DAVID, as if he is checking his mood. It is obvious
that DAVID is the 'leader' and MAXWELL is somewhat
submissive. DAVID opens his eyes and sits forward slightly

MAXWELL
(hesitantly) Talking about getting
older, I was thinking, now we're
(PAUSE)not kids anymore (PAUSE) us
having this den, you know, it's...

DAVID appears to have not heard MAXWELL and ignores what he said.

DAVID
We could make this bigger, you know.

DAVID pats the ground they sit on.

DAVID (CONT'D)
We need to do it properly. Get us a roof of some kind for it.

MAXWELL is sitting slightly back from DAVID now that DAVID has sat forward. MAXWELL stares at him with trepidation.

DAVID turns and looks at him with hardness in his face.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(self assured) Don't you think? I mean, it's our place, this, it's ours.

MAXWELL
Yeah, but...

DAVID
But what? You wanna be indoors with your parents, is that it? You'd rather be in the house with your dad?

MAXWELL
No, I didn't mean...

DAVID
Exactly. So this is our place. No nosey buggers snooping at what we're doin, listening to what we're saying.

MAXWELL
My dad dunt do that.

DAVID
How do you know?

DAVID turns around in his sitting position so that he's now facing MAXWELL.

DAVID (CONT'D)
How do you know he's not listening to eve

rything you're up to, watching every move you make?

MAXWELL

Why would he do that?

DAVID

'Cause he's one of them, isn't he?

MAXWELL

One of who?

DAVID

Them! Old 'uns!

MAXWELL is looking at DAVID with uncertainty.

MAXWELL

I thought you just said Greenwood's old and you don't talk about him like that.

DAVID

He's different and you know it. He's not like them. He's a free spirit.

MAXWELL

Yeah, well my dad's not like that either (PAUSE) and you know it. Just 'cause you haven't got a...

DAVID remains sitting in the same position, but turns his head away from MAXWELL'S face and looks forward, ignoring what MAXWELL just said and not allowing him to finish his sentence.

DAVID

My mum's always watching what I'm doing, always snooping about my stuff and shoving her nose in. I bet your mum's the same, even if you don't know it.

MAXWELL

How can she do that? She's out all the time.

DAVID

So, she gets your dad to watch out instead, that's what he's doing, that's what I mean. Alright, it's not his fault, I'll give you that, your old man doesn't have a choice, not since he lost his job like that and she had to go full time instead, I mean I know that's not

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
his fault and everything, and I
bet she goes on at him to watch
what you're up to, but still...

MAXWELL
(calmly) I meant your mum.

DAVID turns back sharply to look at MAXWELL

DAVID
What?

MAXWELL
I meant your mum's out all the
time, I meant how can your mum be
watching what you're up to all the
time if she's not even here?

DAVID turns away from MAXWELL and sits forward again.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)
And why do we need to be out here
anyway? There's no one home at
yours, why can't we just go in
your house instead of this (PAUSE)
den?

DAVID
Because we can't.

MAXWELL
But why?

DAVID
Because we just can't.

MAXWELL
Is it because your mum won't let
us in the house?

DAVID
(a hint of anger
and frustration in
his voice)
It's because I don't want to,
alright? Because this den is ours,
that's why. Because we can do what
we want in here, say what we want,
and there's no one to tell us not
to. That's better than being in
the stupid house. That's better
than anything.

MAXWELL

But why won't she let us in the house? Why aren't you ever at home when she's out? Why does she make you stay outdoors? You're old enough now to be in the house on your own...

DAVID

(angry now) Just shut up about my mum, will you?

MAXWELL looks shocked and stung by DAVID's outburst.

MAXWELL

(quietly) Alright, sorry I spoke, I just thought...

DAVID

(calmer now) Anyway, if we were in the house all the time we'd never see Greenwood when he was around. It'd be boring in doors all the time, we'd never see him going about in his dungarees with his straw hat on and everything, carrying pots of paint around, going off to mend a fence and stuff. If we weren't in our den we'd never see anything that goes on round here.

MAXWELL watches DAVID for a second, there's a tense quiet between them.

MAXWELL

Nothing ever goes on around here.

DAVID

Course it does, you're just not looking hard enough.

MAXWELL

I'm not?

DAVID

Nah, see, you've got to look at things, I mean really look. I'm not just talking about people either, I mean (PAUSE) things.

MAXWELL

What things?

DAVID

Comings and goings. That house up the street for instance, that one with the 'To Let' sign outside it, like, always, even though there's always people living in it.

MAXWELL

What about it?

DAVID

Well, don't you think that's odd? Don't you wonder about it? There's people living in it, like, always, like for ages, and yet it's always up for rent. What's with that?

MAXWELL

I dunno.

DAVID

But don't you wonder? Suppose they'd been human trafficked.

MAXWELL

Eh?

DAVID

Human trafficked, you know, bought and sold, promised a better life when really they're being brought to live in a crappy little town house in a crappy place like this.

MAXWELL

I know what human trafficking is, I meant why would you suppose they'd been human trafficked?

DAVID

I don't. I'm just sayin, there could be anything going on in that house.

MAXWELL

Or nothing.

DAVID

They could be pretend tenants.

MAXWELL

Pretend tenants?

DAVID

Yeah, like, the landlord has 'em in there and they're all nice and that, all tidy and clean and keep the place likewise, and then when he shows people round he says these tenants are moving out and that's why the place will be empty, but 'cause they're in there now them people who go looking round think (Puts on la-di-da voice) 'ooh, what a lovely house with lovely people in it, maybe if we move in here we'll be this lovely'

MAXWELL is staring at DAVID and shakes his head

MAXWELL

You're off your rocker, you.

DAVID

Come on, it's gotta be something weird goin on over there, don't you think?

MAXWELL

Can't say I've noticed.

DAVID POINTS AT MAXWELL

DAVID

See, that's your problem.

MAXWELL

It is?

DAVID

Yeah. You never notice what's going on around you. Walk around with your bloody eyes shut, you do. That's why you never seen Greenwood this morning mending that fence, or noticed he's going grey, or, like, anything.

MAXWELL

Suppose

DAVID

Yeah, su-bloody-pose. That's what I'm talking about, see, being out here like this, having this place, just ours, no one to bother us, no oldies sticking their noses in, no

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

one telling us what to do or what to say, and, we get to watch over all that's goin on. We get to see it all. All the comings and goings. It's our castle, see.

MAXWELL

It just seems...

DAVID

It seems what?

MAXWELL

It just seems like we're too old for stuff like this now.

DAVID

Who says? What you wanna be like the oldies? You wanna be like your dad and sit indoors all day?

MAXWELL

No, I didn't mean (PAUSE) I just mean (PAUSE) We leave school in a year, we can't still be sitting in a den when we've left school.

DAVID

All the more reason.

MAXWELL

Eh?

DAVID

All the more reason to get on with it and make it brilliant now. Like you say, in a year's time we'll be moving on, so this is our last chance.

MAXWELL

Last chance?

DAVID

Yeah, I get what you're saying, we won't have time anymore after next year, we'll be busy doing (PAUSE) whatever we're doing, so it's now or never. We get this in tip top shape now, this summer, while we still can. Come on, it's like a last stand.

MAXWELL LAUGHS

MAXWELL

A last stand?

DAVID

Yeah, just you and me against the world.

MAXWELL slowly nods his head and looks up above where they sit

MAXWELL

A roof, you say?

DAVID turns and smiles at MAXWELL.

DAVID

Yeah, that way we're protected if it rains. I've been thinking about it for a while, you know, we've had this den for years, since we were little, but we've always had to go in when it rains and stuff. We've had to go down the shopping centre or someplace.

MAXWELL

We can always go in mine, dad won't mind.

DAVID

Yeah, right, course he would. Anyway, that's what I mean, we've always had to find somewhere to go when the weather's bad. Well, if we sort it out properly we won't need to worry. Then the den's protected and we're protected and (PAUSE) a roof would do that.

MAXWELL

My dad's got some old pieces of corrugated iron and stuff we could use.

DAVID

Yeah? Good, that would do it.

MAXWELL starts to wriggle out of the den.

MAXWELL

I'll go and have a look, shall I?

MAXWELL stands up and begins to walk away.

DAVID calls after him as he goes.

DAVID

And we could dig down, make it
even bigger. Dig down deep here.
We need a spade. I bet old
Greenwood's got a good one.

SCENE 2

INT. DAY. KITCHEN.

MAXWELL is standing, leaning against the kitchen table.
MAXWELL'S DAD is sitting at the table, unblocking the pipe
of a vacuum cleaner he has on the table. MAXWELL'S DAD is
dishevelled, unshaven, messy hair, slovenly dressed.

MAXWELL

It's a nice day out there today,
dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD doesn't look up from what he's doing.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Is it?

MAXWELL

Yeah, you should go out or
something.

MAXWELL'S DAD

I've been out. It's hot. Now I'm
back in.

MAXWELL

Where did you go?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Round and about.

MAXWELL

Doing what?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Stuff

MAXWELL

You noticed that house up the road
that's always for rent, but has
people living in it?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Eh?

MAXWELL

That house with the 'to let' sign
always outside it, but it's never
empty.

MAXWELL'S DAD

What you goin on about?

MAXWELL

David reckons it could be for human
trafficking.

MAXWELL'S DAD

What the bloody hell?

MAXWELL

Not saying I do, not sayin I think
that, just that it's weird.

MAXWELL'S DAD

You need to mind your own business,
lad. Thinkin up daft things like
that.

MAXWELL

So, you haven't noticed it then
(PAUSE) when you've been out?

MAXWELL'S DAD

No, I bloody haven't.

MAXWELL

They could be pretend tenants.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Pretend tenants?

MAXWELL

Yeah, like, put in there to make
the house look good for real
tenants.

MAXWELL'S DAD

I'll give you pretend bloody
tenants. (shakes his head) You
kids have far too much time on
your hands, that's your problem.
Too much time sitting around
thinking up daft bloody stories
about things that's none of your
business.

MAXWELL

So, you haven't noticed it then?

MAXWELL'S DAD
I have got other things to do, you
know

PAUSE

MAXWELL
What you doin now?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Fixing this, what's it look like?

MAXWELL
What is it?

MAXWELL'S DAD
A bloody space ship.

MAXWELL
Eh?

MAXWELL'S DAD
It's a hoover, lad. What do you
think it is?

MAXWELL hesitates and looks shifty standing by the chair.

MAXWELL
Talking about fixing things.

MAXWELL'S DAD
Yeah?

MAXWELL
You know there's those old sheets
of corrugated iron in the shed?

MAXWELL'S DAD is concentrating on what he's doing

MAXWELL (CONT'D)
Dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD
Yeah, just a sec, I've almost done
this now. I'm buggered if I'm buying
a new one, not if I can fix this.
Just needs a good clean, I bet.

MAXWELL'S DAD pushes a long stick into the pipe

MAXWELL
So, can I use 'em?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Eh?

MAXWELL

The corrugated iron. In the shed.
Can I use it?

MAXWELL'S DAD

What do you want that for?

MAXWELL

(hesitantly) It's just (PAUSE)
something me and David are doing.

MAXWELL'S DAD

What?

MAXWELL

What what?

MAXWELL'S DAD

What are you doing? What is it you
want to do with some old corrugated
iron?

MAXWELL

I thought you weren't listening. I
thought you were too busy (MAXWELL
motions to the vacuum cleaner parts
on the table) fixing that.

MAXWELL'S DAD

(still watching what he's doing) I
can fix something and listen at
the same time, lad, I'm clever
like that. Just 'cause my hands
are busy doesn't mean I'm not paying
attention to what you're up to.

MAXWELL

What do you mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD

What do you want the corrugated
iron for?

MAXWELL

Nothing, it's (PAUSE) we're just
(PAUSE) building stuff.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Stuff? Building what stuff?

MAXWELL

Just stuff, alright. It's just
something me and David are working
on.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Working on?

MAXWELL

(slight annoyance creeping into his voice) Yeah, you know, something me and David are working on, as in, it's ours and it's nothing to do with you.

MAXWELL'S DAD looks up from what he's doing for the first time

MAXWELL'S DAD

Oh yeah?

MAXWELL

Yeah. We are old enough, you know. We can do things that don't concern you.

MAXWELL'S DAD

I never said...

MAXWELL

(cutting off his dad's sentence) Well, you don't need to be so interested in what I'm doing. You don't have to be (PAUSE) watching what I'm doing.

MAXWELL'S DAD goes back to cleaning out the pipe

MAXWELL'S DAD

Never said I was interested. I was just asking what you want that old junk for.

MAXWELL

We're just (PAUSE) building something with it.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, well, you've gotta be careful.

MAXWELL

What do you mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD

I mean you're handling something you don't know how to handle there. You're dealing with something that might be too much for you, and you could be the one who ends up coming a cropper.

MAXWELL

I'm old enough to...

MAXWELL'S DAD

(cutting off MAXWELL's sentence)

You think you are.

MAXWELL

It's just some old corrugated iron.

MAXWELL'S DAD stops cleaning out the pipe, puts everything down on the table and looks up at MAXWELL

MAXWELL'S DAD

These things can be more dangerous than they look. You might think you know, kid of your age always thinks they know better, always think they know everything, but you don't. I'm just saying you've gotta be careful. Something looks like it's a harmless piece of old iron, could be covered in rust, you start messing with it, get yourself in a sticky situation, before you know it you're in deep bother.

MAXWELL

Eh?

MAXWELL'S DAD

That rust gets in your blood you've got an infection.

MAXWELL

Come on.

MAXWELL'S DAD

What? You don't think that can happen. Believe me boy it can happen. Anything can happen. Specially when you're not watching yourself. Specially when you're playing around with things that might be dangerous.

MAXWELL

You sound like mum.

MAXWELL'S DAD.

What you sayin? Just because I show a bit of concern for your well being I sound like a bloody woman?

MAXWELL.

I was just sayin. It's a bit (PAUSE) over the top. Sounds like something mum would more likely say.

MAXWELL'S DAD.

Yeah well you can't be too careful, and maybe I do think more on stuff now I'm stuck at home all the time. Maybe your mother doesn't have time now to be the one thinking and saying stuff like that.

MAXWELL.

So, what? Now I'm gonna have you breathing down my neck? You're taking over from where she left off?

MAXWELL'S DAD.

Yeah well, there's worse things, I suppose, there's worse things to sound like, there's worse women to sound like. At least your mother's not off her bleedin head like that one next door.

MAXWELL.

You mean David's mum?

MAXWELL'S DAD.

Next door. You know. Comes in at all hours. Looks like a prossy.

MAXWELL.

Eh?

MAXWELL'S DAD.

(shakes his head) Never mind.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

So, can I use that old iron, or what?

(MAXWELL'S DAD picks the pipe back up off the table and starts cleaning it again)

MAXWELL'S DAD.

Yeah, yeah, whatever you want, lad.

(MAXWELL starts to walk away to leave the house again)

MAXWELL'S DAD.

(calling after MAXWELL) Remember what I said, mind, just 'cause something seems alright dunt mean it's not dangerous

SCENE 3

EXT. DAY. GARDEN.

MAXWELL is at the den, placing sheets of corrugated iron on the den as the roof. DAVID walks back in to the scene, carrying a garden spade.

DAVID.

He said we could borrow it, but we've got to get it back to him by 4, so we haven't got long.

MAXWELL.

Eh? Who?

DAVID.

Greenwood, you div, who do you think?

MAXWELL nods silently again and turns back to the roof of the den.

DAVID goes in to the den and begins to dig the ground.

DAVID

I reckon he's been doin' some more painting, maybe at yours. Did you see him when you went and picked up this roof?

MAXWELL SHAKES HIS HEAD

MAXWELL

No, but I was only there a minute. I just got it and came back. Except...

DAVID

'Cept what?

MAXWELL

Maybe you were right.

DAVID

About what?

MAXWELL

Dad. Parents, Old 'uns. Always havin a go, always bein in our business. It's like they think we're stupid or something. It's like they think we can't do anything right and we're gonna get ourselves bloody killed everytime we leave the bloody house.

DAVID

Exactly. What did I say? Who needs 'em?

MAXWELL

Yeah well, I just mean (PAUSE) he needs to trust me a bit more. Have more faith in me, you know. I mean, you were right when you said they're always stickin their noses in. It's like he thinks I'm still a kid, and I'm not, right?

DAVID

Right.

MAXWELL

I mean, I can take care of myself. I know what I'm doin.

DAVID

You do.

MAXWELL

I mean, it was me who thought of this for the roof, right? And all he can go on about is how dangerous it is. Dangerous. Honestly.

DAVID reaches up and pats the roof

DAVID

Yep. Good roof that. Lucky it was there alright, or we would have had to go and ask Greenwood, and, you know, I don't like asking him for stuff all the time, you know, not too much. Yep, you were sharp there, remembering this was down in your old man's shed.

MAXWELL

Dad keeps all this junk in the shed, you know how he does, there's
(MORE)

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

loads of stuff like this in there, though god knows what he's gonna do with it all. That's why I thought (MAXWELL SHRUGS) you know, he won't miss it, he's probably never gonna use it. So we might as well have it.

DAVID

Yeah, that's right, it's a crying shame when there's stuff just sitting there like that, not getting used. But your old man does like to tinker, doesn't he?

MAXWELL

Tinker?

DAVID

Yeah, I mean, you know, he likes to mess around with stuff like that, but he's only messin around with it, not serious, like. He's got a lot of stuff like that back there at yours. I mean, not as much as Greenwood's got obviously 'cause he needs it more, like, with it being his work and that, but your dad likes to get his hands dirty now and then, I know. Just, like you say, he's got that much junk back there.

MAXWELL stops what he's doing and looks at DAVID

MAXWELL

Suppose.

DAVID is still digging, but is glancing back at MAXWELL

DAVID

Yeah, well, I'm not saying...I mean your dad's alright. I'm just saying, you know, I can understand why he likes to keep busy since he lost his job and everything. But it's not like people pay him to do stuff like that, not like Greenwood. That's why he does alright out of it, Greenwood, that's why people round here need him. I mean, who else is gonna go round fixing stuff up like that?

MAXWELL carries on placing corrugated iron on the roof

MAXWELL

My dad's always done stuff like that.

DAVID

Yeah, but only, like, as a hobby, that's what I mean, not regular like, not relied upon.

MAXWELL

Suppose.

DAVID

So, did you see him?

MAXWELL

My dad? Yeah, he was in the kitchen, fixing an old hoover or something, so I just asked him if I could use it.

DAVID

Not your dad, muppet, Greenwood. Did you see him?

MAXWELL

See him?

DAVID

Yeah, like I said, I reckon he's been doin some painting, fences or probably a garage door or something. Outside, you know, he always works outside. Thought maybe he was round at yours.

MAXWELL

No, no, just my dad.

DAVID

You sure?

MAXWELL

I'm sure.

DAVID

Right, well, could have been at yours earlier then, or someone else's. He had those dungarees on that he wears when he's workin, you know? And they were all covered in paint like.

DAVID carries on digging.

MAXWELL

Well, he couldn't have been at mine just now, could he? Not if you saw him when you went to borrow that spade.

DAVID

Huh?

MAXWELL

How could I have seen him at mine when I was picking up this roof if that's when you were getting the spade off him?

DAVID

What? We're on the same street, aren't we? I had to walk past your house, you could easily have seen him before or after I did.

MAXWELL has finished with the roof and is staring at DAVID

MAXWELL

Where did you see him?

DAVID

Eh?

MAXWELL

Greenwood, where did you see him when you got the spade off him?

DAVID

Does it matter?

MAXWELL

I'm just sayin. We've only been gone five minutes, so unless you got the spade off him right outside my house or you walked back here with him, how could I have seen him?

DAVID stops digging and leans on his spade, laughing

DAVID

Yeah, alright, I'll give you that. You got me there, wasn't thinking, was I?

MAXWELL

So, you walked past my house and then you saw him with the spade?

DAVID

Eh? Yeah, yeah, that's right.

MAXWELL

Where did you see him?

DAVID

What you goin on about?

MAXWELL

I was only gone five minutes, so unless you saw him right outside my house how can you have been back here before me?

DAVID

What? I was right behind you.

MAXWELL

You were right behind me? When I went home?

DAVID

Yeah, I was right behind you, and I saw you go in, and...

MAXWELL

And?

DAVID

(angry) For god's sake, shut up, will you? Just shut up about it!

There's a pause and MAXWELL looks shocked by DAVID's outburst and a little scared of him

DAVID (CONT'D)

(avoiding MAXWELL'S eye and calm now). We can dig this whole area out and it'll make the den even bigger.

MAXWELL

(quiet) That'll take some time.

DAVID

So? If there's one thing we've got lots of over the summer it's time.

MAXWELL

What about the spade?

DAVID
What about it?

MAXWELL
Don't you have to give it back?

DAVID looks at his watch. He stops digging and shouts, alarmed.

DAVID
Aw, damn it!

MAXWELL
What's wrong?

DAVID
It's nearly 4 already. I said I'd have the spade back to old Greenwood by 4, didn't I? He won't be happy if I'm late, you know what he's like. He'll get angry. I'd better go.

MAXWELL
It's nowhere near 4.

DAVID
Yeah, but I've gotta get it back to him and I don't rightly know where he is just now, do I? So I've gotta find him first. Like you said, I've got to give it back, that was the deal, after all, it is his, it does belong to him, so I've got give it back.

MAXWELL
I didn't mean now!

DAVID
Yeah, but you're right, I've got to get it back, or...

MAXWELL
Or what?

DAVID
You know how he can get.

MAXWELL
How can he get?

DAVID
You know, one minute he's fine, the next...

MAXWELL

Is he?

DAVID

Yeah, course, he's a cranky old
git sometimes, you know that.

MAXWELL

(frowning) But we haven't finished.

DAVID

I know, I know. I'll see if he'll
let me hang onto it for a bit.
Probably will, or I can get it
back off him later...I'll sort it,
don't worry, I'll smooth things
over.

MAXWELL

I didn't mean you had to go now, I
just meant (PAUSE) what about all
this?

DAVID

We can finish it later, or tomorrow,
we've got loads of time

MAXWELL

But.

DAVID

I don't want to get on the wrong
side of Greenwood.

MAXWELL watches as DAVID walks away from the den, trailing
the heavy spade on the ground behind him. he shakes his
head, a look of bewilderment on MAXWELL's face.

MAXWELL

(shouting after DAVID) Where are
you going?

DAVID

To find him.

MAXWELL

Why are you going that way?

DAVID

(shrugs) He gets about. Who knows
which house he's working at today,
I'll have to have a walk around,
you know, to find him.

DAVID LOOKS BACK AT MAXWELL

DAVID (CONT'D)

You might as well get off for a bit.

MAXWELL

I'll stay here.

DAVID

Nah, 'cause (PAUSE) I don't know how long I'll be, see, and, well, you could be waiting ages. I've got to find Greenwood again, and you know what he's like, he could be anywhere.

MAXWELL

Suppose.

DAVID

Yeah, so you might as well get off for a bit.

DAVID hesitates, watching MAXWELL and waiting for him to go. MAXWELL gets up and begins walking away

MAXWELL

So, see you later then.

DAVID

Yeah, see you later.

MAXWELL leaves, and only when he's sure MAXWELL has gone, does DAVID move off again, leaving in the other direction

SCENE 4

INT. DAY. KITCHEN.

MAXWELL is sitting at the kitchen table. MAXWELL'S DAD is sitting opposite him, unscrewing the front panel off a home PC hard drive

MAXWELL'S DAD

(concentrating on what he's doing)
No wonder this thing was making such a racket, sounded like a bloody jet engine, it did. It's full of dust in here. You wouldn't believe it, just come and look at this lad, would you?

MAXWELL steps around to his dad's side of the table and peers in

MAXWELL
Yeah, that's dusty.

MAXWELL'S DAD stares up at him in disbelief at his words

MAXWELL'S DAD
Dusty?

MAXWELL'S DAD shakes his head then turns back to the pc

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)
Pass me that paintbrush, would
you?

MAXWELL
Paintbrush?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Yeah, just there in front of you.

MAXWELL finds a small paintbrush on the table and hands it
to his dad

MAXWELL
What you gonna do with that?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Clean this out, of course. A
paintbrush's not just for painting,
you know, same as a table's not
just for eating off.

MAXWELL'S DAD begins to clean the inside of the drive with
the paintbrush MAXWELL sits down opposite his dad at the
table again

MAXWELL
Dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD
(still concentrating on what he's
doing) Yeah?

MAXWELL
Did you mend the fence this morning?

MAXWELL'S DAD
(not looking at MAXWELL, only
looking at what he's doing) Eh?

MAXWELL
This morning, did you mend the
fence?

MAXWELL'S DAD

What fence?

MAXWELL

Ours. The one between us and next door, between our garden and David's. Was it you who mended it?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, why?

MAXWELL doesn't answer, just watches his dad, a pensive look on MAXWELL'S face

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

See this, lad, how all the muck has got in here. Just needs a good clean out, see, and it'll be as good as new. Just needs all this grot sweeping out of it, a bit of care and attention like this and it'll be 100%. See, a computer is like a brain, lad.

MAXWELL

A brain?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, just like a human brain, you keep it in good condition and it'll work fine, you let it get clogged up with crap and, well, you end up with problems.

MAXWELL watches his dad working for a moment

MAXWELL

Dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah?

MAXWELL

What happened to David's dad?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Eh?

MAXWELL

David, you know, my mate, next door, where's his dad?

MAXWELL'S DAD

That lad you hang round with?

MAXWELL

Yeah, only he never talks about his dad and I just wondered.

MAXWELL'S DAD

He the one who wanted that corrugated iron out of my shed?

MAXWELL

No, I told you, we were using it for something, it was both of us.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, well, you say that.

MAXWELL

What's that mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD

I mean you're so easily led, Maxwell, you've gotta speak up sometimes. I told you, there's stuff you shunt be playing about with.

MAXWELL

Speak up? About what?

MAXWELL'S DAD stops what he's doing and looks up at MAXWELL

MAXWELL'S DAD

Whatever it is needs speaking up about. If you know something needs saying then say it.

MAXWELL

(hesitates) I don't know anything that needs saying.

(MAXWELL'S DAD

shrugs and goes back to cleaning out the computer on the table)

MAXWELL

What did you mean stuff I shunt be playing around with? You mean I shunt hang around with David? He's my best mate. He's always been my best mate.

MAXWELL'S DAD

If you say so.

MAXWELL

But...

MAXWELL'S DAD

But what?

MAXWELL bends his head a little and mutters

MAXWELL

David's alright.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Never said he wasn't.

MAXWELL looks up at his dad again

MAXWELL

He is my best mate, it's just...

MAXWELL'S DAD

Just what?

MAXWELL

I mean he's alright, just (PAUSE)
where is his dad? David, what
happened to his dad?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Far as I know he buggered off.

MAXWELL

He left them?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, far as I know, but I'm not
one for being in other people's
business, and neither should you.
If the lad wanted you to know about
it he'd tell you.

MAXWELL

But you just said...

MAXWELL'S DAD

I just said nothing, lad. It's
about what you're hearin, not what
I'm saying. It's about what you're
hearin and seein and what you make
of it.

MAXWELL

I don't follow MAXWELL'S DAD stops
what he's doing again and looks at
MAXWELL

MAXWELL'S DAD

See, in this life Maxwell, there are those who lead and those who follow. See, everybody needs someone to follow.

MAXWELL

But what if you're one of them who leads?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Eh?

MAXWELL

You just said there are those who lead and those who follow. How can everybody need someone to follow if there are those who lead?

MAXWELL'S DAD screws up his face in annoyance and starts cleaning in the pc again

MAXWELL'S DAD

See, that's what I said, it's not about what I'm saying, it's about what you're hearin. Thing is, you're a follower and he's a leader.

MAXWELL

What do you mean I'm a follower?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Like I said, he's a leader.

MAXWELL

David?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, David. Now, if you're a leader right, which he is, you're still following something, just not, like, in real time, not like you follow him. So, even leaders have, like, a template, a point of reference, inspiration. You with me?

MAXWELL frowns and nods his head

MAXWELL

I think so.

MAXWELL'S DAD

But what you've got there with young David is (PAUSE) a problem.

MAXWELL

A problem?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, a problem. Ask yourself, what's his point of reference? His dad left them when he was too young to even remember him, so what's his template? Who's his inspiration? 'Cause you can be damn sure it's not that mother of his.

MAXWELL

What do you mean about his mum?

MAXWELL'S DAD goes back to concentrating on what he's doing

MAXWELL'S DAD

What?

MAXWELL

What you said about David's mum just now, and earlier.

MAXWELL'S DAD

What did I say about his mum earlier?

MAXWELL

You said she looks like a prossy. What does that mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD

I mean, she's (PAUSE) not exactly what a mother should be, not what you'd want in a mother.

MAXWELL

How do you mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD

I mean that's no way to be carrying on, woman of her age, with a boy at home, it's no way to be. She goes off out sometimes, walks past our front window, some of the things she wears, I'm telling you, she could have your eye out with get up like that.

MAXWELL

You're saying that's why David's dad left?

MAXWELL'S DAD

No, lad, I'm not saying that. What did I tell you? It's not about what I'm saying it's about how you're hearin it. There's no tellin why his dad left. How the hell should I know what went on there?

MAXWELL

But you just said...

MAXWELL'S DAD

I said she's flighty, that's what I said, I dint say she deserved to be abandoned and end up with a bloody cracked pot for a son.

MAXWELL

Eh? David?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Oh, I know he's your mate and everything, but like I said, think about it, whose footsteps is he following in, eh? No male role model. You can say what you like, but a boy needs that.

MAXWELL

But he does have...

MAXWELL pauses and appears to think about what he was about to say

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

You did say it was you who mended the fence this morning, didn't you dad?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, so?

MAXWELL

Nothing, it doesn't matter.

MAXWELL'S DAD

No, well course it doesn't, it's just a fence.

MAXWELL

Yeah, it's just a fence, but...

MAXWELL'S DAD

But what?

MAXWELL

What you said before about speaking up.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah.

MAXWELL

Were you talking about anything (PAUSE) in particular.

MAXWELL'S DAD stops what he's doing and looks at MAXWELL

MAXWELL'S DAD

You got something to say, lad?

MAXWELL

No, I didn't mean (PAUSE) I just meant...

MAXWELL'S DAD

You just meant what?

MAXWELL

You don't think some things are better left alone, better left unsaid?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, some things.

MAXWELL

Well, how do you know which is which?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Eh?

MAXWELL

How do you know which things you should speak up about and which you should stay quiet about?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Have you got something to say? 'Cause if you have, just say it. If there's something you want to tell me, something you've been up to...

MAXWELL

I haven't been up to anything.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Are you sure now?

MAXWELL

Well, I wouldn't tell you if I had.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Oh, that's charming, that is.

MAXWELL

You're always sticking your nose in. I haven't been up to anything, so you can stop askin.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Right, I will then. If that's how it is, if I'm so bloody noseey all the time, I'll stop bothering then, shall I? See how you like that.

MAXWELL

Fine.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Fine.

MAXWELL

I'm goin out.

MAXWELL'S DAD.

Oh yeah, where to now?

MAXWELL walks away from the table to leave

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

(Calls over his shoulder) Just out.

MAXWELL'S DAD CALLS AFTER HIM

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah well, if you see that mate of yours tell him to stay out of my bloody shed!

SCENE 5

INT. DAY. KITCHEN.

MAXWELL'S DAD is sitting at the table with an assortment of screwdrivers laid out in front of him. He takes a cloth and begins cleaning them one by one. DAVID is outside the window of the house. DAVID is carrying the spade and watching MAXWELL'S DAD through the window. MAXWELL'S DAD is cleaning the screwdrivers. He stops and looks up for a moment. DAVID is still standing watching him, but moves the spade to behind his back when he sees MAXWELL'S DAD

stop what he's doing. MAXWELL'S DAD seems to sense someone is watching him and turns suddenly to look. DAVID is caught watching him for just a second and runs away.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Hey!

MAXWELL'S DAD gets up from his chair and moves towards the window where DAVID was.

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

Hey! Get back here! What you up to, you little...

MAXWELL'S DAD looks, but DAVID is gone. MAXWELL'S DAD moves slowly back to the table and sits down again. He picks up a screwdriver to continue cleaning.

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

Bloody kids. Always up to somert

SCENE 6

EXT. DAY. GARDEN.

MAXWELL and DAVID are sitting in the den together. The roof is finished and they sit in a 'hole' where DAVID had been digging. The spade is laid on the ground beside the den.

MAXWELL

You were right about my dad.

DAVID

Oh yeah?

MAXWELL

Yeah, bloody nosy bugger. Wanted to know what we were up to.

DAVID

You didn't tell him, did you?

MAXWELL

No, course I didn't. It's like you said, this is ours and what we say in here no one knows about, I mean it's just for us, just between me and you and no one else knows. What we get up to out here is ours. Like, just ours, no one else will know.

DAVID

Like I said, all the same.

MAXWELL

I won't tell him.

DAVID

Won't tell him what?

MAXWELL

About this, about the den, about any of it.

DAVID

You might.

MAXWELL

I won't. It's like you said, this is ours.

DAVID

Yeah well, we'll see about that.

MAXWELL

You can trust me

DAVID

You can't trust anyone

MAXWELL

You can trust me though

DAVID

Minute you start trusting someone they let you down. That, Maxwell my friend, is a lesson for life

MAXWELL

You don't trust me?

DAVID

It's nothing personal, I mean don't take it personally, you're a good mate and all that, it's just, you know, that's what people are like.

MAXWELL

Not all people.

DAVID

Pretty much all people.

MAXWELL

Not me

DAVID

The only person you can rely on is yourself. Take that house up the street, right.

MAXWELL

What house?

DAVID

That one with the pretend tenants in it.

MAXWELL

It's not...

DAVID

Now, suppose them poor people living in there had no idea what was goin' on. Suppose they just blindly trusted that the house was theirs? And what about the people who are goin' lookin' round wanting to move in? I'm bettin' you they don't know what's goin' on. I'm bettin' they would never even question it. See, can't trust anyone

MAXWELL

You don't even know what's goin' on in that house. There's probably nothing going on at all. It's probably completely normal. And who ever heard of pretend tenants before?

DAVID

Well of course you haven't heard of it, that's the whole point, they're hardly going to broadcast the fact, are they?

MAXWELL

(quieter) I'm just sayin', you can trust me.

DAVID

You don't even believe there's such a thing as pretend tenants, of course I can't trust you.

MAXWELL

You can. My dad asked me what I wanted the corrugated iron for and I didn't tell him.

DAVID

What was he askin that for?

MAXWELL

Dunno, he kept goin on about how it was a dangerous thing to be playin about with, as if we were playin about with it.

DAVID

You know what you should have done, don't you?

MAXWELL

What?

DAVID

You should never have told him.

MAXWELL

I didn't tell him, that's what I'm sayin

DAVID

No, you should never have told him you were taking it in the first place. He wouldn't have even noticed it was gone.

MAXWELL

Yeah, but...

DAVID

Yeah but nothing. You should have just gone down there and took it, and he would never have missed it, he would never have known and then you wouldn't have him askin stupid questions, would you?

MAXWELL

But it is his, and he only wanted to know...

DAVID

That's where it starts, see. They start askin questions, what you doin with that, and then they start tellin you what you can and can't do, don't go playin about with that. And then before you know it they're right stickin their noses in and you can't move without 'em wanting to know about it.

MAXWELL

Well he did want to know what I was doing with it, and when I wouldn't tell, now I come to think about it, he did get all funny with me.

DAVID

What did I tell you? All the same, them old 'uns.

MAXWELL

All the same

DAVID

Too right.

MAXWELL

All trying to stick their noses in and tell us what to do.

DAVID

You know it.

MAXWELL

All thinking we can't do anything and we need babysitting.

DAVID

That's old 'uns for you.

MAXWELL

Except (PAUSE) Greenwood.

DAVID

Yeah, course, except Greenwood, he's different.

MAXWELL

Just him?

DAVID

What?

MAXWELL

I mean, do you think all old 'uns are all the same, except him? Do you think it's just how people get when they get older? Do you think one day we'll be like that?

DAVID

Like them lot? Not me, never.

MAXWELL

Do you think they were ever like us?

DAVID seems to be thinking deeply about this

DAVID

Nah. How can they have ever been like us? If they'd been like us when they were younger they wouldn't be how they are now. They'd be like Greenwood. I bet he was like us when he was our age.

MAXWELL

Yeah?

DAVID

Yeah, he'd have been cool. I bet he was right laugh to hang round with when he was our age.

MAXWELL

I reckon my dad was pretty cool

DAVID

Yeah?

MAXWELL

Yeah.

DAVID

What happened?

MAXWELL

My dad's still cool.

DAVID

Yeah, in a way, like, in his own way. I mean, he's alright, your old man, I mean, I suppose he's pretty cool and that. Not like Greenwood though.

MAXWELL looks at DAVID out of the corner of his eye

MAXWELL

Well at least I've got a...

DAVID shoots a look at MAXWELL and stares hard at him

DAVID

You know what I think?

MAXWELL

What?

DAVID

I think it's when women come along that men stop being cool.

MAXWELL

Eh?

DAVID

Think about it, right, your dad was probably cool (PAUSE) before he met your mum. Greenwood's never been married and is still cool.

MAXWELL

That doesn't prove anything.

DAVID

No? Think about it.

MAXWELL

Yeah, well, what about women then?

DAVID

What about women?

MAXWELL

Do they stop being cool when men come along?

DAVID

Women aren't cool, you div, women are never cool.

MAXWELL

What are they then?

DAVID

They're just (PAUSE) I don't know, do I, they're just (PAUSE) women. Another species, mate, no, they're not cool at all.

MAXWELL

Like your mum?

DAVID

Eh?

MAXWELL

Your mum.

DAVID

What about my mum?

MAXWELL

(hesitantly) Well, I mean, she's not like my mum, is she? I mean, it's not like I really know your mum or anything, but that's what I mean, she's never here and (PAUSE) why won't she let us in the house? I mean, she doesn't even let you in.

DAVID

What you goin on about? Course she does. I live there, don't I?

MAXWELL

Yeah, course, but I mean, when she's not there. I mean, like, she's out a lot, I mean a lot, and you're always out here.

DAVID

So?

MAXWELL

So, why?

DAVID

What you goin on about?

MAXWELL

Aren't you allowed in the house when she's not there?

DAVID

Course I bloody am.

MAXWELL

But you never...

DAVID ignores what MAXWELL just said and pats the ground around them.

DAVID

We did a good job here you know. This is much better now. Thank god I managed to get Greenwood to let us hang onto his spade for a bit longer like that. It's a good spade too. Did a good job.

MAXWELL

David.

DAVID turns and looks at MAXWELL as if he's daring him to say what he knows MAXWELL wants to say

DAVID

Yes.

MAXWELL

It's alright, I mean it doesn't matter, whatever it is.

DAVID

Whatever what is?

MAXWELL

Why ever your mum doesn't let you in the house when she's not there. You can tell me, I won't say anything. I won't tell anyone.

DAVID

Won't tell anyone?

MAXWELL

No, I told you, you can trust me.

DAVID

And I told you, the only person you can trust is yourself.

MAXWELL

I won't say anything.

DAVID

You bloody will.

MAXWELL

I won't. What is it? What's with your mum? My dad said...

DAVID

Oh yeah, and just what did your precious dad say?

MAXWELL

He's just my dad, there's nothing unusual about him, and he just said...

DAVID

(getting angry) Yeah?

MAXWELL

He said, she (PAUSE) your mum, she's...

DAVID suddenly gets up, angry, and picks up the spade from the floor. He holds it threateningly in his grasp.

DAVID

What? Told you what a pain in the arse I am, did he? Told you what trouble I am. I'll tell you what bloody trouble I am. I'll tell you how much of a pain in the arse I can be, how much trouble I can cause.

DAVID takes an angry swipe at the corrugated iron roof on the den with the spade and begins to wreck it. MAXWELL quickly scrambles away and watches, shocked, as DAVID hits the roof of the den. DAVID stops and stands with the spade still grasped angrily in his hands

DAVID (CONT'D)

She won't let me in the house when she's not there because of how much trouble I can be. It was a little fire. One time. That's it. One time. And it was an accident, but will she listen to me when I tell her that? Oh no. She won't listen to me, 'cause I'm just a kid, I know nothing, not like her, not like her.

DAVID begins to stride around with the spade grasped in his hand, angry

DAVID (CONT'D)

You make one mistake, I'm tellin you, you make one little mistake and that's it, they don't trust you anymore. See, that's what I've been talking about, they think they can tell you what to do, they think they can tell you where to go and how to be. (puts on a woman's voice) don't do that David, be more careful, well, if you can't be trusted you'll just have to stay outside, now don't get angry David. (Goes back to his own voice) I'll show her what happens when I get angry.

DAVID moves towards his own house and holds the spade up to throw it. He runs with it held up, then throws it at the back window, smashing it.

MAXWELL is standing, staring at what DAVID has just done, shocked.

DAVID turns back, calmly. He stands and looks at MAXWELL

DAVID (CONT'D)

She doesn't understand, see. She wouldn't. She's an old 'un. She's a woman. She couldn't understand. Can you imagine what it's like living with a woman like that? Course you don't. It's alright for you. You've got your dad with his shed and his corrugated iron and his fixin stuff all the time.

MAXWELL

My dad said she's a prossy.

DAVID

Eh?

MAXWELL

Your mum.

DAVID makes a move towards MAXWELL, his fists clenched, angry

DAVID

You tell him to take that back.

MAXWELL

(quietly) He said I'm a follower. He said you're a leader and I'm a follower.

DAVID is staring at MAXWELL, the anger leaving him a little

DAVID

Yeah?

MAXWELL.

Yeah.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What do you suppose he meant by that?

MAXWELL

(shrugs) Dunno. Who knows what they ever mean when they say stuff.

DAVID walks slowly over to the den. He clears the wrecked roof away and he and MAXWELL sit back down in the den.

DAVID

Old 'uns.

MAXWELL

Yeah, old 'uns.

DAVID

(shakes his head) It's like they're a different species. It's like they were never our age, they were never like us. You know sometimes I think it's more like we're the adults and they're the kids.

MAXWELL

Yeah.

DAVID

I mean, what makes them think they know better? What makes them think they're always right and we're always wrong? (PAUSE) I'm sorry about the roof, alright?

MAXWELL

Alright.

DAVID

We'll fix it back up, eh?

MAXWELL

Yeah.

DAVID

I get angry sometimes, you know? You understand. You know how it is. Them. They don't understand. They don't even try. But it's you and me against them, yeah?

MAXWELL nods his head and wraps his arms around his bent knees

MAXWELL

What you gonna do about that window?

DAVID

Dunno. I could get Greenwood to fix it. Maybe he can do it before she even gets home.

MAXWELL

Your mum?

DAVID

Yeah, course my mum, who the bloody hell else? She'll go mad if she sees that.

MAXWELL

So, what you gonna do?

DAVID

(slightly angry again) I don't bloody know, do I?

MAXWELL

Maybe you'll just have to (PAUSE) tell her what happened.

DAVID

Not likely.

MAXWELL

Well, you might have to. What else you gonna do?

DAVID

I'll sort it.

MAXWELL

How?

DAVID

Told you. I'll go see Greenwood, he'll help me, he always helps me. He'll fix it.

MAXWELL

Yeah, but...

DAVID

Course, I know he's busy, I'll have to find him first.

MAXWELL

Right.

DAVID

Go on then, you got a better idea?

MAXWELL

Never said...

DAVID

There you go then. You know what they're like. They'll never understand. It's not like my mum's
(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

gonna say, (MAXWELL puts on woman's voice again) don't you worry about it David, we'll fix it up in no time, is it?

MAXWELL

(quietly) My mum's alright. Not sayin she'd be cool about a spade through the window, but she's alright.

DAVID

Yeah, she's still one of them. She's still an old 'un. They're all the same. (PAUSE) 'Cept Greenwood, of course.

MAXWELL

Yeah (PAUSE) Greenwood.

DAVID

Too right.

MAXWELL

Yeah.

DAVID

Yeah.

MAXWELL

(he speaks hesitantly) You know when you're little and your mum and dad tell you stories? Sorry, I mean, your mum, I mean when you were little did your mum tell you stories?

DAVID

Bedtime stories?

MAXWELL

No, I mean, just like, they tell you funny things, like the bogie man and stuff, and when you're a kid you believe it. Then when you get older you realise there's no such thing as the bogie man.

DAVID

You mean like the tooth fairy and stuff?

MAXWELL

Yeah, that stuff, did you believe that stuff?

DAVID shrugs.

DAVID

Yeah, suppose, all kids do, don't they? There's one my mum used to tell me, when I was little, when it was just me and her, you know after (PAUSE) and well, before, you know, before she got so uptight about everything and started goin out getting rat arsed all the time. Anyway, it was a proper messed up thing to tell your kids, about this man called Mr. Hickory who would come and get me if I didn't close the bathroom door properly.

MAXWELL

Eh?

DAVID

Yeah, I mean the slasher, the bog.

MAXWELL

Yeah?

DAVID

Yeah, it's funny now, but at the time I was seriously terrified. When I was younger I used to always go for a pee with the door wide open The boys both laugh while DAVID speaks. MAXWELL is watching him, listening to his story

MAXWELL

Why did you do that?

DAVID

I don't know, do I? I was just a kid. You must have done stuff like that when you were a kid.

MAXWELL

No

DAVID peers at MAXWELL with suspicion

DAVID

Well, anyway, I did, and sometimes, if mum had her friends over in the day, it was a bit embarrassing for her I suppose, you know, cause we've got the downstairs loo and there's me standing with mi trousers round mi ankles, so she told me this story about this man who would come and get me if I didn't close the door. It was just meant to spook me, but I believed it. I believed in this man, Mr. Hickory, and I even knew what he looked like, how he walked, how he talked, everything. I sort of made him real.

MAXWELL pauses for a moment. We can see that he's thinking over what he is about to say, slightly nervous.

MAXWELL

Yeah, that's what I'm talking about, like Greenwood.

DAVID turns and stares at MAXWELL. A stare that screws holes right into him.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

(still speaking cautiously, not sure how DAVID will react) We made him up, didn't we? When we were little. He isn't real.

The two boys stare at each other for a moment. DAVID looks angry, we can see it in his face, just under the surface, he's trying to control it. MAXWELL looks like he's scared of DAVID.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

Is it because of your dad?

DAVID

Shut up.

MAXWELL

Is it?

DAVID doesn't answer, just stares at MAXWELL

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

Is that why you carry on with it? Because you don't have a dad?

DAVID

I do have a dad.

MAXWELL

Well, because he isn't around then, I mean, 'cause he left, is that it? Is that why you made Greenwood how he is? Is that why you made him (PAUSE) like my dad?

DAVID

He's nothing like your stupid dad.

MAXWELL

I mean, he is, isn't he? I mean, that's how he started out and now he's just...

DAVID

(shouting) He's nothing like your stupid dad.

DAVID'S anger is rising and Maxwell looks afraid

MAXWELL

(sheepishly) I won't tell anyone. I told you, you can trust me.

DAVID

And I told you, you can't trust anyone. He's the only one I can trust

MAXWELL

But he's not...

DAVID POINTS AT MAXWELL

DAVID

Don't you say it. Don't you say that.

MAXWELL

Why not? It's true.

DAVID

It isn't true

MAXWELL

How can you say that?

DAVID

You don't see things, that's your trouble, I've told you

MAXWELL

I can't see someone who isn't there

DAVID

Open your eyes

MAXWELL

I have. I did. That's the point

DAVID

You know what this is, don't you?

MAXWELL

What?

DAVID

This is your dad talking. Or your mum. This is you becoming like them. Oh, I should have known, I should have seen this comin'. I should have known you'd end up like all the rest of 'em

MAXWELL

I'm not

DAVID

Yeah, you are. You're just like the rest of 'em. You'll be an old 'un like all them before you know what's happenin'. You'll be fixin' crap and savin' old junk in your stupid shed just like your stupid dad, or off out to work like a good boy

MAXWELL

I'm not like that

DAVID

Yeah (PAUSE) Yeah you are. Just like everybody else

MAXWELL

I'm not DAVID moves suddenly towards MAXWELL and takes his face firmly in his hands.

DAVID

So, you're with me?

MAXWELL

I (PAUSE) I (PAUSE) What?

DAVID

You and me against 'em all. Are you with them or are you with me?

MAXWELL stares, alarmed, at DAVID, but doesn't say anything. DAVID puts his forehead against MAXWELL'S, his jaw clenched and his face tensed, his hands firmly around MAXWELL'S head. DAVID makes a sound of annoyance and frustration and lets go of MAXWELL'S head with force, then steps away from him.

MAXWELL

I won't tell anyone.

DAVID

(quieter, like the anger has left him and he's resigned) Yeah, you will

MAXWELL

I won't DAVID looks past MAXWELL, and he sees GREENWOOD, as he slowly appears around the side of the house behind MAXWELL. GREENWOOD is an older man, with long straggly grey hair. He wears denim dungarees, a lumberjack shirt and a battered old straw hat. MAXWELL is still looking at DAVID, waiting for a response. DAVID still doesn't look at MAXWELL, he is watching GREENWOOD, but he answers quietly and calmly.

DAVID

Yeah, you will.

SCENE 7

INT. EVE. KITCHEN.

MAXWELL'S DAD is sitting at the kitchen table changing the plug on a toaster.)

MAXWELL'S DAD

Bloody kids. Honestly. Who'd have 'em? Bloody kids. More trouble than they're bloody worth. I told him to be careful with that bloody corrugated iron. I told him, but would he listen? Oh no. Has to find out for himself. Has to be the big man. Big man, my arse. I said to him, you're messin with something you know nothing about

(MORE)

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

there. I said to him, you'll come a cropper, but did he listen? Did he hell. Always think they know best, kids. Always think they're right. There's no tellin' 'em. There's no getting' through to 'em. It's not like I didn't try to warn him. I tried to warn him. I tried to tell him. And the next thing you know I hear the whole bloody thing come crashing down like that. Well, if he thinks I'm goin' out there and picking up his mess after him, he's got another thing comin'. He made his bed. He can get out of this one on his own. Yep. He has to learn. That's what I say. That's how I see it. They have to learn somehow. Kids. They have to grow up some time. When I were a lad things were different. I were out bloody workin' when I were his age. Can't see me ever getting' away with all he gets away with now. My father would never have put up with it. See, that's the trouble, we let 'em get away with murder these days. (PAUSE) Bloody kids. They need to toughen up. I blame his mother. She was always too soft on him in my opinion. Lad needs to know boundaries. They need to have the law laid down now and then. But will he listen? Will he my arse listen. Course his mother, she always said, leave him be, don't go on at him. But that's women for you. Too bloody soft altogether if you ask me. (PAUSE) 'Cept her next door of course. Whole other kettle of bloody fish that one. Out all hours, wearing stuff that's enough to make you go blind, not that I look, mind, not that I take any notice of what she's wearing when she walks past our window at all times of the day, brazen as you like, no, I'm just sayin', it's a rum way to carry on, you know, with a lad at home like that. There's no wonder he's the way he is. But I stay out of that nonsense

(MORE)

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

that goes on next door. I stay well out of that. Don't want to go getting' mixed up in any of that palaver. No chance. You wouldn't catch me stickin' my nose in to that business.

The phone rings. MAXWELL'S DAD puts down the plug and picks up the phone to answer it

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

Yep. (PAUSE while the person on the other end of the line speaks) I don't know where he is, do I? He'll be off out like he always is. Yes, I know what time it is, do you know what time it is because I'm sure (PAUSE) Yes, well, if you absolutely had to go to the shops (PAUSE) Well, maybe if you had told me we needed to get some food in (PAUSE) Well maybe if you had told me a bit louder (PAUSE) I'm not his bloody keeper. I've got enough on here without watching what he's up to. The lad's old enough now to take care of his own business. You worry too much about that lad, you molly coddle him and we don't want him ending up...

MAXWELL'S DAD balances the phone under his chin while he continues to unscrew the plug on the toaster

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

Yeah, well, it's not my fault you're not here, is it? (PAUSE while the person on the other of the phone, MAXWELL'S MUM speaks) Yeah, well it's not my bloody fault I lost my bloody job either, is it? I'm doing my best, you know. Oh there's plenty to do round here, don't you worry, plenty to keep me busy. If I knew where Maxwell was I'd get him to help me, as if he would anyway. No, come to think of it, no, I'm better off with him out from under my feet. He's been abit odd lately, asking me all sorts of daft questions. Doing my head in. Him and that lad next door he hangs round with. Who knows what they're

(MORE)

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)
 up to. No good, I'll bet. And that's another thing, he's run off with that old iron from the shed, messin' about with my corrugated iron, I warned him, it's not for playin' about with stuff like that, but would he listen? So I thought I'd go down there and have a bit of a clear out, you know, make sure he's not had off with anythin' else, have a bit of a sort out at least anyway, and the bloody spade's missing. (PAUSE) I'm telling you it's gone. Yes, I have looked properly, see for yourself once you're home, not that you're home much these days, but you get down there and look for yourself if you want. Bloody spade's gone.

MAXWELL'S DAD puts the phone down and continues to fix the plug on the toaster.

DAVID is outside the window again, still holding the spade. MAXWELL'S DAD looks up and this time he gets up from his seat and goes out. DAVID doesn't run away this time

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)
 Now then lad, what you doin hangin around?

DAVID
 (looks scared, mumbles) Not doin anything.

MAXWELL'S DAD
 Have you seen our Maxwell?

DAVID
 (quickly) No.

MAXWELL'S DAD
 You sure? I thought you two were always together.

DAVID
 I mean (PAUSE) yes. I mean we were (PAUSE) but we're not now.

MAXWELL'S DAD
 So where's he gone?

DAVID
 He's just (PAUSE) in the den.

MAXWELL'S DAD

The den?

DAVID

Yeah, you know, the den me and him made.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Is that what you wanted my corrugated iron for?

DAVID

Yeah.

MAXWELL'S DAD

So what's he doin'?

DAVID

Dunno. Nothing really.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Had a falling out, have you? Well, I can't say I'm surprised. I've nothing against you, lad, but I don't want you takin our Maxwell down the wrong road, see? And if he's seen it for himself now, which I think he has, then I can't say I'm sorry.

MAXWELL'S DAD looks down at the spade DAVID is holding

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)

Oi, is that my spade? I knew it. It's you who's had my bloody spade.

DAVID

I were just borrowing it.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Oh, aye? And did our Maxwell say you could borrow it, did he? What have you two been messin about anyway? I told our Maxwell, I said, you're messin about with stuff you know nothing about, someone's gonna come a cropper, someone's gonna get...

DAVID

(interrupting. Starts to cry) I'm sorry, alright. I'm sorry, I didn't mean...

DAVID puts his head down and MAXWELL'S DAD seems unsure of what to do or say for a moment. Then MAXWELL'S DAD reaches forward and pats DAVID's shoulder.

MAXWELL'S DAD
Alright then, lad, it's only a
spade.

MAXWELL'S DAD steps back and ushers DAVID into the kitchen.

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)
Here, come on in, lad, sit down a
minute, eh?

DAVID and MAXWELL'S DAD sit down at the table

DAVID
(wipes his face on his sleeve)
What you fixin?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Just sortin some stuff out.

DAVID
Nice set of screwdrivers that.

MAXWELL'S DAD
You're right there.

DAVID
Can't go wrong with a good set of
screwdrivers.

MAXWELL'S DAD
(as if they have now bonded) That's
right, lad. I imagine you're the
one who has to deal with stuff
like that in your house, eh?

DAVID
What do you mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD
You know, with your (PAUSE) I mean
with you being (PAUSE) you have to
do all the practical stuff, am I
right?

MAXWELL'S DAD looks down at his screwdrivers and acts busy

MAXWELL'S DAD (CONT'D)
Except you didn't have a spade, is
that it? So you thought you'd help
yourself to mine.

DAVID
I'm not a thief.

MAXWELL'S DAD
Never said you were, just saying
you should have asked, that's all.

DAVID looks up at him, his face harsh again

DAVID
So can I borrow it?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Eh?

DAVID
The spade. Can I borrow it?

MAXWELL'S DAD
What, now?

DAVID
I need it.

MAXWELL'S DAD
It's a bit late to be needin a
spade, isn't it?

DAVID
Eh?

MAXWELL'S DAD
It's getting late to be wandering
about lad, it's nearly dark. Is
that mother of yours not back yet?

DAVID
No.

MAXWELL'S DAD folds his arms and straightens himself up

MAXWELL'S DAD
You know, I remember your father.

DAVID
Yeah?

MAXWELL'S DAD
Yeah, we were good mates at one
time.

DAVID
You were mates with my dad?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Oh yeah, when they first moved here though, I mean, before you were born. Oh yeah, he was alright then. Used to go for a drink, you know, me and him.

DAVID

You went for a drink with my dad?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah.

DAVID

(hesitantly) What was he like?

MAXWELL'S DAD

he was alright.

DAVID

Alright?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, I mean, he was sound.

DAVID

Sound?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, you know, what you kids would call 'cool'

DAVID

(smiling) Yeah?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah

DAVID

I knew it!

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah, well, that all changed of course, when you came along.

DAVID

What do you mean?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Couldn't handle it, could he?

DAVID

When I came along? He changed when I came along? But I thought...

MAXWELL'S DAD

Not your fault, lad, just, you know, some men can't handle it. Some men turn out to not be the big men they think they are, when it comes down to it, and your mother...

DAVID

My mother what?

MAXWELL'S DAD

No better from what I can see.

DAVID points at MAXWELL'S DAD with the spade still in his grasp

DAVID

You know nothing about my mum, or my dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Alright, lad, calm down, I'm just saying it how I see it.

DAVID

You don't know what it's like. It's alright for you. You've got it alright here.

MAXWELL'S DAD

I dare say it's been hard for your mother.

DAVID

That's right.

MAXWELL'S DAD

All the more reason, lad.

DAVID

All the more reason what?

MAXWELL'S DAD

You're the man of the house now. It's down to you. It's time to grow up, lad.

DAVID

Grow up?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Your mother needs you.

DAVID

She doesn't need me. All she needs is drink and for me to stay out of her way.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Aye, I'm not saying that's not how it looks, and it's not my business, but still, seein as you've no father of your own to tell you these things. You've got to step up, lad, I know it's hard sometimes, but you've got to be the man.

DAVID

The man.

MAXWELL'S DAD

That's right. You've got to be a bigger man than your father was and take care of things. You've got to bury the past. Do you understand what I'm sayin'?

DAVID

I think so.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Your mother...

DAVID

She works. That's why she's never in. She works in a factory in the day and then a pub at night. Only I don't go around sayin it 'cause it sounds (PAUSE) well, you know.

MAXWELL'S DAD

I see.

DAVID

I'm not sayin it's cool, I mean, I'm not sayin that's cool, she's cool, 'cause it's not, she's not. I just mean. That's what she does.

MAXWELL'S DAD

(takes in a deep breath and looks annoyed) She works two jobs.

DAVID

Yeah.

MAXWELL'S DAD

And you lad...

DAVID

What?

MAXWELL'S DAD

What are you doin about it? It's not right, I'm tellin you, it isn't right. Just what are we now? What's the world come to, I ask you, when a woman's bringin home the bread and a man is (PAUSE) a man doesn't know what he is!

DAVID

But she's always done it, I mean, since my dad...

MAXWELL'S DAD

Doesn't make it right. We're men.

DAVID

But you...

MAXWELL'S DAD

What?

DAVID

(hesitantly) Well, you're not working and Maxwell's mum, she...

MAXWELL'S DAD

What are you sayin, lad? I'll tell you something for nothing, that's not my fault. This. The way things are here. This isn't my bloody fault. You think I want to be the one at home? You think I want my missus to be the one out workin while I'm stuck here?

DAVID

No.

MAXWELL'S DAD

No, that's right. That's right, I don't. It makes me feel like a bloody fool it does. And all the while she's off out, havin drinks with her new mates after work, goin out for tea. It shouldn't be like this. It should be the other way round.

DAVID

It should.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Right.

DAVID

So, what will you do?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Eh?

DAVID

You've got to do something. Like you said, it isn't right. So, what you gonna do about it?

MAXWELL'S DAD

That's right, lad, you're right. I am gonna do something about it.

DAVID

Yeah, what?

MAXWELL'S DAD

I'm gonna ring her up right now and tell her. She needs to get back here. She can't be galavanting off all the time like this while I'm stuck here. I'm gonna tell her, things are gonna change around here. I'm gonna be the man of this house again.

DAVID

Because we're men.

MAXWELL'S DAD

We shouldn't be takin no nonsense.

DAVID

Like my dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Time to move on and put all that's happened behind you now.

DAVID

What did he look like?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Who?

DAVID

My dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD

You can't remember what he looked like?

DAVID

I mean, I think I can.

MAXWELL'S DAD

You must have pictures.

DAVID

No, mum threw them all out.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Well, he were (PAUSE) he weren't really one for bothering much about his appearance. He were (PAUSE) just a normal bloke, you know, just ordinary.

DAVID

Ordinary?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Yeah.

DAVID

But he can't have been ordinary.

MAXWELL'S DAD

What were you expectin? Some sort of hero?

DAVID

Dunno.

MAXWELL'S DAD

He weren't no hero. He weren't much of a man either.

DAVID

Don't say that about my dad.

MAXWELL'S DAD

Look around you, lad, where is he? He wasn't a man. He wasn't the man of the house. If he'd been any kind of man he'd be here now, wouldn't he? He'd be right by your side. He'd have stuck by you and no mistake. At least I've done that, aye, at least I can hold my head up and say I've done that.

DAVID

(thinking about what MAXWELL'S DAD has just said) He'd have stuck by me, that's right. 'Cause not many stick by you, that's right, isn't it? And if someone hasn't stuck by you, you have to leave 'em behind.

MAXWELL'S DAD

That's right, you leave 'em behind, put 'em in the past.

DAVID

So, can I still borrow the spade?

MAXWELL'S DAD

Aye, alright, lad. What about our Maxwell?

DAVID

I'm gonna go and get him right now.

SCENE 8

EXT. EVE.

In the semi darkness we see DAVID digging furiously with the spade. He is no longer in the garden, but appears to be in some woods or wasteland. He digs, until he needs to catch his breath. He stops and leans on the spade.

DAVID

It's a good spade. You need a good spade, it's important. Good ground too, you need good earth, int that right?

David takes some deep breaths, wipes his forehead with his sleeve and then begins digging again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's right. You can't trust anybody, that's what you need to remember. But you're with me, that's it, either with me or against me, and that's it, but you're with me, so it's all alright, see?

DAVID stops and glances behind him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

How far down did you say I'd need to dig?

There is no answer, so he puts his back into the digging again, but after only a couple more goes he stops and glances behind him again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Six feet?

There is still no answer, but the light moves and leaning against a tree behind him, a little way off, we see GREENWOOD.