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Scene Five: Caleb and the Self-Help Group

Caleb: My name is Caleb Prosser and/

All: /Hi Caleb.

Caleb: ...Oh. Right – hi. Um, where was I? I’m Caleb, and I... find it very hard to meet people.

I’ll stop there – I’m lying already. I find it very easy to meet people. I work in... a business that (I won’t name it, if that’s alright. Yep? Cool). And... anyway, my job *is* actually meeting people. Ha. I sit at a phone and I talk to people about their current share choices and portfolios, and what... financial investment they do currently make, and what investment they might be willing to make. And then if that potential investment is green-lighted by my computer then I... talk to my team... They’re not my team. I talk to a team who are on a floor quite far above me. And... they give that person a call.

So essentially I ring people who might be of interest. And if they *are* of interest... then they talk... to someone else.

Man: And... if they’re not?

Caleb: Sorry?

Man: If they’re not of interest – who do they talk to then? Is that you?

Caleb: No – no-one. I thank them and... call the next person.

Pause.

Man: So, is there anything else you want to tell the group, Caleb? Anything at all is fine here.

Caleb: Oh right yeah, okay. Um... anything else... I have some hobbies.

Man: Excellent. What are they?

Caleb: Heaps of them – ha. I am a member of about... 45 associations.

Man: Wow.

Caleb: I'm sorry?

Man: Just... wow. That's impressive.

Caleb: Yeah. Um... right. Yeah, I love them. I'm an archer – I do archery. And er... water polo – I do that. I have recently become a member of the Afghani Kite-Fighting Society.

Man: Oh. Are you from Afghanistan?

Caleb: No.

I do, an evening Mahjong class. I'm an accredited basket weaver. I shoot.

Man: Guns?

Caleb: Targets. I've tried gymnastic/ oh right, sorry – shoot guns, yes. It's a gun club. I am learning some languages... I'm not good at them it seems, but... you know... trying them.

Man: Well, this sounds really fantastic, Caleb. Sounds like some great networks of people out there that you're... you know, interacting with – with the... guns and kites and stuff. The gymnastics. It's wonderful.

Caleb: Mm. Yeah, thanks. Thanks – I've really made the effort, absolutely. But... I don't know. Lately I've been thinking, like...

Maybe a problem today is that people try to be wonderful at too much – maybe more than... than they can achieve. And actually some people (me, I'm basically talking about) they aren't actually good... at anything.

Like, they *do* lots. But they can't really *do*... anything.

Pause.

Man: I'm sure there's some things you're good at.

Caleb: I think you'd be surprised.

Man: Well... That's the point of *Friends Helping Friends!* We're here to support each other. So what we'll do is partner you up with someone who's been here a while and then next week–

Caleb: I won't be here next week.

Man: Oh, okay. Well the week after then–

Caleb: No.

Man: I'm sorry?

Caleb: I won't be here. I'm going away. In six days I go overseas. To my auntie's. In Bristol – for a while.

Man: What? But... this, this is a group for... isolated people to form friendships, to build long-term friendships with each other. Didn't you know that, Caleb?

Caleb: Yes.

Man: So... Sorry, why are you starting just before you leave?

Caleb: I'm... ah, good question. I don't know really. I saw the sign at my swing-dancing class and... I was free tonight. I was meant to be seeing a John Wayne movie, but I got the week wrong. Well, not the week as such, but... the cinema where it's playing this week is different to the one I thought. So I went to that one, the one I thought, but there was *My Fair Lady* on instead. And I don't really like musicals. But... well, I remembered this place was close by and I thought it was a, a nice coincidence with the dates. So... yeah, I came along. And then that guy... sorry is it Nick? Yeah, Nick – he talked about his son and... you know, he did all the, the crying and stuff. And I... I wanted to leave earlier but – no offense, Nick – he just... was talking for so long... and crying, as well. Like, for a very long time.

...Yeah.

Silence.

Man: Caleb... *Friends Helping Friends* is a group designed for people to help each other. It's not about... dropping in when the movie you want to see isn't on.

Caleb: Oh right. Yeah, no that makes sense.

Man: *[Beat]* Could you please leave, Mr Prosser.

Caleb: Sure, yeah. Bye. Bye. Sorry about your son, Nick, and... you know, dying and stuff... Okay, yeah.

He exits. Silence. He returns.

Caleb: Sorry, I forgot my jacke/ oh no. No it's in the car, that's right. Okay then.

Bye. *[He goes]*

Scene Seven: Noah and the Bridge

Noah sits in a car in silence.

Noah: Cars go so quickly now.

And so do words. And so does rain. And so do rivers. Everything goes so fast these days.

Except bridges.

Bridges don't go fast. Bridges are still. They are perfectly still.

I am stepping out of the car and it's dawn and I'm on the bridge. I'm on the bridge and I am standing here and I.

And I am standing here and I am. I am turning in a circle. I am turning in a circle and I'm noticing everything that's around me.

I am noticing a. You notice everything in the mornings – do you think that? I notice everything in the. It's so still.

The marks from my tyres are long and black and they snake along the road. And they finish where the wheels are now.

Of course they do.

Of course they do.

Bristol is so big all below me. But it has no people in it. There are no people here. I'm on the Clifton Bridge and there are.

The car is on the bridge, and the bridge is still.

Ha. And the car is still. And you went through a hole in the windscreen. You went right through a.

I saw you go through and I. But I. I saw you fly right through a hole in the. But I didn't see.

You didn't land. I didn't see you land.

I hear the sirens now, and there are no people here. I sit back in the car. I sit back in your side of the car. I sit in your side. I look through the hole. I saw you fly.

I look through the hole.