

22UD9121/ PES07020025/AAA TX: RADIO 4 21/07/23 at 14:15

SCENE 1 **TV TALKSHOW - COLD OPEN**

FX: TV SHOW MUSIC

FX: TV STUDIO APPLAUSE

PRESENTER:

CARL:

MARY: COMING! Bye Katie.

SCENE 3 **INT. THERAPY ROOM**

ATMOS: TICKING CLOCK

STUART: Carl, you start. Why are we here today?

CARL:

STUART: How does it

SCENE 4 INT. DINNER PARTY

ATMOS: MUSIC PLAYING ON VINYL, PEOPLE CHATTING AND DRINKING

MARY: Jackie lives here?

CARL: S

MARY: This is a palace!

FX: FAST FOOTSTEPS

JACKIE: BESTIE! Hugs!

FX: JACKIE PULLS MARY INTO HUG

MARY: Ooof! Bestie?

CARL: We were just talking about how the other half live.

JACKIE: Overworked and overtired! This is my first night off since Christmas.

MARY:

JACKIE:

CARL: Babysitter. We needed a night off too.

FX: CORK POPPING, FIZZ

JACKIE:

FX: FIZZY WINE POURED.

CARL: Thank you.

JACKIE:

concoction for yourself Mary. Honestly, I love
- putting us all to
shame.

MARY: a wine.

CARL:

MARY: What?

CARL:

MARY:

a marathon
me, I need some air.

FX: MARY WALKS OFF

SCENE 5 **EXT. DINNER PARTY**

**ATMOS: MUSIC FROM INSIDE - A DIFFERENT
TRACK LOW VOLUME**

FX: NIGHT AIR, CARS DRIVING IN THE DISTANCE

FX: MARY BREATHE DEEP

FX: PATIO DOOR SLIDES OPEN

JACKIE: You alright, lovie?

MARY: Jackie, is this real? Am I going to wake up from
this?

JACKIE: What?

MARY: dream.

JACKIE: What? Are you okay? Carl had mentioned

MARY: I just meant
ABACUS now -

MARY: You fired Eoin?

JACKIE: First thing I did! Do you know him?

MARY: I think you mentioned him before.

JACKIE: Have I?

MARY: Maybe on the TV? I saw you on, talking about some new drug?

JACKIE: Urgh, I have to do those appearances.

MARY:

JACKIE: PTSD. I was working on it myself before I

we uhhh, get them to do a maze - and then we we have this wee machine -

MARY: To wipe their memories.

JACKIE: How did you know that?

MARY: You told me. They would remember the maze perfectly.

JACKIE:

MARY:

JACKIE:

FX: PHONE RINGS

JACKIE: How did you know about that Mary?

MARY:

FX: JACKIE ANSWERS THE PHONE

JACKIE:

-

MARY:

SCENE 6 **EXT. PARK - DAY**

ATMOS: PARK, CHILDREN PLAY,
DOGS, BIRDS, ICE-CREAM VAN MUSIC
FX: CARL PUSHES PRAM
FX: THEY SIP COFFEE

MARY: This is nice.

CARL: The Hill family, out for a wee stroll in the park.

FX: THEY WALK IN SILENCE. PRAM
STOPS.

CARL:

MARY:

CARL: Kate. Since when is she called Katie?

MARY:

FX: CARL WALKS OFF.
FX: KATE STARTS TO CRY

MARY: Aw! Aw! D
 you hungry.. hungry? A

MARY: Your Daddy will be back soon. Oh!
what you want.

FX: CARL RUNS BACK

CARL: woah!

MARY:

SCENE 7 **INT. ABACUS LAB - DAY****ATMOS: RATS SCURRYING ABOUT, SQUEAKING.**

JACKIE: Research note 10:15, 11th October 2033. Rats trained on the maze, and memory wiped. Now testing the first rat -SocRATes - to see if they remember the maze. There is a bell at the end they must ring to obtain food.

FX: RAT SCURRIES THROUGH MAZE, BUMPING INTO WALLS, GETTING DISTRESSED.

JACKIE: SocRATes, very distressed, does not remember the maze. Rat Number Two - Noam CHOMPski, has been treated with a micro-dose of RESTORE and -

FX: KNOCK ON THE DOOR, DOOR OPENS

WARREN: Hello.

JACKIE: Warren!

WARREN: Cracking out the old lab coat again?!

JACKIE: I just - I was reviewing some of the new data on

WARREN: You never forget your roots!

Bitter Pill

SCENE 8 **INT. CARL & MARY'S HOUSE**

FX: BABY WHIMPERS

FX: NAPPY BEING TAKEN OFF

MARY: Woo, that i

MARY: Oh you like this one? What about this? A

FX: BICYCLE HORN BEEPS.

MARY: And look Lots of buttons!

FX: SOUND OF A CAR

MARY: Wow! You try. What about that one?

FX: BABY STARTS MASHING BUTTONS

FX: SOUND OF A HELICOPTER

MARY: Oooh and that one?

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

MARY:

FX: BABY LAUGHS

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

MARY: (PANIC RISES) Alright, maybe emmm, maybe
stop pressing that one.

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

MARY: Kate?

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

MARY: Kate, please! Och Kate please, y

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN

FX: SOUND OF A TRAIN IN TOY

BOX ENLARGES TO BECOME SOUND OF

REAL TRAIN IN MARY'S FLASHBACK.

FX: WHOOSH

SCENE 9 **INT. CAR - EVENING (FLASHBACK)**

**FX: MUFFLED/UNDERWATER SOUND OF
HEAVY RAIN, SONG ON RADIO, A TRAIN. VOICES
NOT CLEAR.**

CARL: (MUFFLED)

-

FX: A LORRY HORN BLARES

MARY: (MUFFLED)
Carl. Watch out!

FX: TYRE SQUEAL. TRAIN HORN.

MARY: (CLEAR)
CARL!

FX: A LOUD CRASH!

FX: WHOOSH AS MUSIC CUTS OUT.

SCENE 10 **INT. CARL & MARY'S HOUSE**

FX: BABY CRIES

CARL:

MARY: (WAKING UP) Huh?

FX: CARL PICKS UP BABY

CARL:

FX: BABY STOPS CRYING.

CARL:

talking to me?

MARY:

CARL:

MARY:

FX: BABY STARTS CRYING AGAIN

CARL:

MARY: Where are you going?

CARL:

MARY: I can do it. Let me help.

CARL:

your head showered.

MARY:

CARL:

SCENE 11 **EXT. ROAD - TRAIN TRACKS - DAY**

ATMOS: QUIET OUTDOOR SOUND
FX: A CAR PASSES AND SLOWS IN THE
DISTANCE. THE DOOR OPENS.

JACKIE:

MARY:

JACKIE:

you! Why are you out by the train tracks?

MARY: Leave me alone.

JACKIE: (APPROACHING) Hold on a second.

MARY: What do you want?

JACKIE: You knew about the rats.

MARY:

JACKIE:

reliving it.

MARY: Okay.

JACKIE:

taken RESTORE.

MARY: You know?

JACKIE:

MARY:

JACKIE:

like? Am I different?

MARY: But right now me and

Carl.. h

everything I can... but I dunno what to do.

JACKIE: Tell him the truth.

MARY: (SCOFFS) Aye right.

JACKIE:

MARY: me!

JACKIE: You need to tell him.

MARY:

JACKIE:

FX: MUSIC

MARY: Nothing, what were you saying?

CARL:
depression

MARY: -

CARL: explain why

-

MARY:

CARL:

-

MARY: I will protect -

CARL: am not doing that to
Kate.

MARY:

CARL:

MARY:

know her, I just need time.

CARL:

We

MARY:

CARL:

Right.

MARY:

Okay. Ten years ago - the day I threw myself

- We *did* have an accident.

CARL:

What?

MARY:

He and I took it. I

went back in time -

CARL:

- you went?

MARY:

CARL:

What are you - ?

MARY:

CARL:

MARY: I remember a different time -
been in a coma and we never had Katie.

CARL:

MARY: Please believe me.

CARL: Believe what?

MARY:
week. This is why. Because I come from a
different time.

CARL:
remembering where Jackie lives. You not
knowing where anything is in your own house.
traveller?

MARY: Yeah.

CARL:

MARY:
too.

CARL:
about this in the morning?

MARY: Do you believe me?

CARL:

MARY: Ok. Fair.

CARL:

MARY: Yes.

SCENE 13

INT. MARY AND CARL'S HOUSE

SCENE 14 **INT. MARY AND CARL'S HOUSE -
HALLWAY**

FX: MARY WALKS DOWN STAIRS

CARL:

packed her things.

STUART:

MARY: Stuart?

STUART: Morning Mary.

MARY:

CARL:

assessment.

MARY: You called our counsellor to assess me?

STUART: Mary -

MARY: Wait, are you taking me away?

STUART:

MARY: How could you do this Carl?

CARL:

MARY: I am alright.

CARL:
about time travel.

MARY:

STUART:

MARY: Please leave.

CARL:

MARY: I thought you believed me.

CARL: I love you and I j

mum -

MARY: (RUNNING AWAY) No. No.

CARL:

FX: BACK DOOR OPENS

FX: MARY RUNS

STUART: Mary?! Please, stop!

CARL: Help her, please!

FX: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING

SFX: MUSIC BEAT KICKS IN

MARY: What am I gonna do Jackie - start a new life,
 like in Belgium or somewhere?

JACKIE:

MARY: Jackie, me and you are the only two people that know what it does. There is no way Carl will grow up without a mother!

JACKIE: What do you mean?

MARY: put me away and Kate will grow up with her Jackie!

JACKIE: So, hang on, what are you suggesting?

MARY:

JACKIE:

MARY: for Kate.

JACKIE:

MARY: Really?!

JACKIE: Get in the car.

MARY:

JACKIE: What are you waiting for? Get in!

MARY: (STRESSED SIGH)

FX: CAR DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES.

SCENE 16 **INT. ABACUS PHARMA TREATMENT ROOM**

ATMOS: SPA MUSIC

ATMOS: RATS SQUEAK.

FX: POSITIVE BLEEP AND DOOR OPENS

JACKIE: In here.

**FX: KEYPAD BUTTONS PRESSED, A KEY
OPENS A REFRIGERATED SAFE.**

JACKIE:

MARY: yellow and red? The others
looked
coating?

JACKIE: What coating?

MARY:

JACKIE: Pure RESTORE yes.

MARY:

**FX: WATER BEING POURED FROM A TAP
INTO A GLASS**

JACKIE: Here.

MARY: (DEEP BREATHS)

JACKIE: What are you waiting for?

MARY: I - -

JACKIE: This was your plan!

MARY: -

JACKIE: Take it!

MARY: *you?*

JACKIE:

MARY: But

JACKIE: Why would that happen?

MARY: You said it would. When I take the pill, I reset

JACKIE: I said that?

MARY: Yeah, you did. Well, the other you did.

JACKIE: would I know that?

MARY:

JACKIE:

MARY: But you invented this drug.

JACKIE: There could be branching timelines, or maybe our consciousness gets folded into the other

MARY: What if I mess up again?

JACKIE: this time.
you up.

MARY:

JACKIE: What do you know about our mum?

MARY:

JACKIE: Understatement. She was a bully. The night

MARY: A cancer?

JACKIE:

WS

MARY: Okay.

JACKIE:

her. You need to do this.

MARY: Okay.

JACKIE:

For Kate. You ready?

MARY:

Yeah I

**FX: MARY DRINKS WATER + SWALLOWS
PILL**

JACKIE:

What now?

MARY:

Well, usually, you tell me to focus, feel my bum
in the chair.

JACKIE:

Your bum? Not very scientific.

MARY:

Jacke, in my
timeline

JACKIE:

Maybe

FX: RAIN STARTS TO FALL

MARY: I hope so.

JACKIE: I hope so too.

FX: WHOOSH.

MARY: That train!

CARL: -

MARY: Carl. Just keep your eyes on the road, alright?!

CARL:

MARY: Yes ARLO, where is he?

ARLO CARL: Carl is, sadly, deceased.

MARY: What?

ARLO CARL: He died ten years ago. In a car accident. You purchased me, an Artificially Revitalised Loved One and uploaded his voice, so that I may comfort you.

MARY:
Call Jackie.

ARLO CARL: Jackie Hill?

MARY: Did I install the parrot package?! Yes, call Jackie!

ARLO CARL: Jackie is currently in Lone Pine Psychiatric Hospital. Shall I leave a message?

MARY: A Psychiatric hospital?

FX: MUSIC OUTRO.

END.

In EPISODE 3 of BITTER PILL by Michael Patrick & Oisín Kearney, Mary was played by Séainín Brennan, Jackie by Charlotte McCurry, Carl Shaun Blaney, Stuart Tony Flynn and Warren was Martin McCann. All other roles were performed by members of the cast and crew.

BITTER PILL was produced in Belfast by Michael Shannon.

The Executive Editor was Andy Martin.

BITTER PILL is a BBC Northern Ireland production for Radio 4.