

Rivals

BY IAN KENNEDY

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SETTINGS

Moseley in Birmingham, October 2004
Redditch, West Midlands, January and August of 1984 and April 1987

(NB: Actors need to speak with a slightly higher pitch while playing the younger selves of their characters.)

CHARACTERS

Keith Schofield (b.1960)

Brother of Steve. Married to Rose since 1984, and father to Izzy and Laura. (Manager of a main car dealership.)

Rose Schofield (nee Symons, b.1963)

Married to Keith since 1984, and mother to Izzy and Laura. (Chiropractor for the NHS.)

Steve Schofield (b.1963)

Brother of Keith. Unmarried and lives alone near to Keith's family. Close to his niece Laura. (Secondary School teacher.)

Isobel (Izzy) Schofield (b.1986)

Elder daughter of Keith and Rose and girlfriend of Dan. (Entering A-Level year in a local Sixth Form.)

Laura Schofield (b.1987)

Younger daughter of Keith and Rose, sister to Izzy, and close to her uncle Steve. (Entering GCSE year in a local school.)

Daniel (Dan) Stone (b.1986)

Boyfriend to Izzy. (Entering A-Level year in a local Sixth Form.)

DJ (b.1956)

A quirky figure with a bright, chirpy tone to remind listeners of the 1980s.

SCENE 1 (2004) INT. LIVING ROOM IN THE SCHOFIELDS', TUESDAY, 8:30PM

1. **FX: IZZY IS ON ONE SOFA WHILE LAURA READS A MAGAZINE ON ANOTHER. MTV ON TELEVISION. DAN ENTERS WITH A CUP OF TEA AND PUTS IT ON A TABLE.**

2. DAN: (TO IZZY) There you are baby. I brewed it five minutes like you said.

3. IZZY: What about the biscuits?

4. DAN: You never said biscuits.

5. IZZY: I always *have* biscuits though don't I.

6. DAN: Uh, right... And did you want anything, Laura?

7. IZZY: The low fat ones. Thank you baby...

8. LAURA: No thanks.

9. **FX: DAN RETURNS TO KITCHEN.**

10. LAURA: Can't believe you'd treat your boyfriend like this. He was so much happier before he got with you.

11. IZZY: You're just jealous, little sister.

12. LAURA: Huh, being like you's the last thing I want.

13. IZZY: Jealous I can have any boy I want.

14. LAURA: All you want's a slave.

15. **FX: DAN RETURNS WITH BISCUITS.**

16. IZZY: Oh, now you've brought the wrong ones!

17. DAN: There weren't any low fat ones.

18. IZZY: You just don't know how to look. I'll have to go myself.

19. DAN: Sorry.
20. **FX: IZZY GETS UP AND GOES TO THE KITCHEN.**
21. LAURA: (TO DAN) Why do you let her treat you like this!
22. DAN: (SIGHS) Most guys'd kill to be with Izzy.
23. LAURA: Yeah well she'd kill most guys. – Hmm, (READS) *What kind of girlfriend are you?* Let's see where our Izzy comes out. *Do you...* expect him to always pay for you? Tick. Expect him to drop mates you don't get on with? Tick...
24. DAN: Laura.
25. LAURA: Secretly check up on what he does when he's not with you? Tick. Still text your ex-boyfriends? Double tick and underlined – well how 'bout that: our Izzy comes straight out at *bitch* -
26. **FX: IZZY RE-ENTERS, OPENING A PACK OF BISCUITS.**
27. IZZY: See? *Dad* knew where to find them. – (TO DAN, WHO IS STILL STANDING) You going somewhere? My company not enough for you?
28. DAN: I was giving Laura something.
29. LAURA: Me?
30. **FX: DAN REACHES INTO A BAG AND PASSES HER A BOOK.**
31. DAN: My sister loves this – it's got a bit where the heroine gets her own back on a bossy big sister. Thought you'd enjoy it.
32. LAURA: (TOUCHED) Thank you.
33. IZZY: Don't tease her, it'll go to her head. You know, she's so shy and pathetic she's never even been asked out by a boy!

34. LAURA: (HURT) Better that than treat them like dirt!
35. IZZY: (BITCHY) What would you know about how to treat them? They won't come near you! Tell her what they call her, Dan!
36. LAURA: You're just a miserable cow Izzy, a daddy's girl!
37. KEITH: (CALLS FROM KITCHEN) What are you two yelling at each other for!
38. **FX: KEITH ENTERS.**
39. IZZY: She's trying to steal away my boyfriend, just cos she can't get one of her own!
40. DAN: Whoa whoa, this is nothing to do with me Mr. Schofield – think I'd better leave...
41. KEITH: Yeah, you should – I'll take care of this.
42. **FX: DAN PICKS UP HIS BAG AND HURRIES OUT.**
43. KEITH: Nothing hurts worse than rivals in the family.
44. **FX: DAN EXITS THE HALL BY THE FRONT DOOR.**

**SCENE 2 INT. AFTERNOON IN JANUARY 1984. KEITH'S
BEDROOM, IN HIS AND STEVE'S PARENTS' HOUSE.**

45. **FX: RADIO PLAYS MADONNA, 'HOLIDAY',
LEADING INTO TEARS FOR FEARS,
'SHOUT'. THE YOUNGER KEITH IS
FLICKING THROUGH HIS RECORD
COLLECTION.**

46. DJ: (ON RADIO) So that's the first single from a new singer calling herself Madonna; wonder what the Pope makes of it. And now, new from Tears for Fears, it's (SHOUTS) Shout! (CHUCKLES) Sorry folks, predictable gag...!

47. **FX: A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.**

48. KEITH: Oh brother. Huh – what is it Steve?

49. **FX: THE YOUNGER STEVE STEPS IN.**

50. STEVE: (EDGY AND A LITTLE NERVOUS) Something I need to say.

51. **FX: KEITH TURNS THE RADIO DOWN.**

52. KEITH: (PAUSE) Out with it, then.

53. STEVE: (ABRUPTLY) You gotta finish with Rose, Keith. I've always loved her, and you only met her because of me, and if you hadn't... *inserted* yourself into her life she'd be with me now and we'd be happy. (NERVOUS PAUSE)

54. KEITH: (COLDLY) Is that so.

55. STEVE: Yeah. Yeah, it is. You could see I liked her and you went for her anyway before she had a chance to react.

56. KEITH: (CHUCKLES) What, rivals now, are we! That ain't how it is Steve, it's none of your business.

57. STEVE: She's not like you! You just dominate her so she

can't speak out and tell you the truth!

58. KEITH: Get out my room, you don't know what you're talking about.

59. STEVE: Oh, I know you all right! Same cocky, selfish little boy you've always been!

60. KEITH: Get out!

61. STEVE: We're meant to be together and there's nothing you can do about it!

62. **FX: KEITH GETS UP AND SQUARES UP TO STEVE.**

63. KEITH: You've always been hopeless at everything I done right, why can't you learn from me rather than just carping at everything I do? I've always the achiever in this family, all you ever done is mope and whine!

64. STEVE: (DEFIANT) She talks to me. She tells me how hard you are with her when she tries to speak, how you ain't got the nerve to hear her out.

65. **FX: KEITH SUDDENLY PUNCHES STEVE IN THE FACE, AND STEVE FALLS TO THE FLOOR.**

66. KEITH: (TREMBLING IN FURY) Don't you ever talk to me like that, you hear! Don't you ever!

67. **FX: KICKS STEVE IN THE RIBS. STEVE GROANS.**

68. KEITH: Ever!

69. **FX: KICKS STEVE AGAIN.**

70. KEITH: My own brother! How could you treat me like this!

**SCENE 3 (2004) INT. A PIZZA RESTAURANT,
WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM.**

71. **FX: STEVE AND ROSE ARE SAT AT A TABLE FOR DINNER. COLDPLAY, 'THE SCIENTIST', PLAYS.**

72. ROSE: Well. Looks like my husband's going to be late as ever...

73. STEVE: Hammering out a deal, no doubt; if there's money in it, not like you or I could be so important, eh Rose?

74. ROSE: (SMILES) Oh stop it, Steve. Don't go winding him up tonight, he's a little uptight.

75. STEVE: Wouldn't dream of it. – More wine?

76. ROSE: Mm.

77. **FX: STEVE TOPS UP ROSE'S GLASS. A DISCREET BELL RINGS AS KEITH ENTERS. WET TRAFFIC OUTSIDE.**

78. ROSE: Well, here we go.

79. STEVE: Evening Keith.

80. KEITH: (APP) Evening brother! And wife...

81. **FX: KEITH GIVES ROSE A KISS AND SITS DOWN BESIDE HER.**

82. STEVE: What's it been this time?

83. KEITH: You know our flagship model, the one we can never sell?

84. ROSE: The overpriced one?

85. KEITH: Broke a deal with a real twisty fella. Bonuses for this one, no mistake.

86. ROSE: So that's Christmas covered then!
87. STEVE: Let me pour you some wine. Nice of you to invite me out with you tonight.
88. **FX: POURS INTO KEITH'S GLASS.**
89. KEITH: Well – there is something we need to talk about. But later with that.
90. STEVE: Oh, here we go! Should've known there'd be business in it somewhere – never a free meal with our Keith, eh Rose? Come on, let's get it over with now, eh.
91. KEITH: Actually, it's personal, for all three of us. Last night I interrupted a massive row between Izzy and Laura, over Dan.
92. STEVE: Izzy's boyfriend?
93. KEITH: He's been teasing Laura and Laura's got it into her head he likes her and she's been making life hell for Izzy. Some of the things they were saying... well, it really took me back... to, y'know...
94. ROSE: To when you two fought over me?
95. KEITH: That's why I wanted you here, Steve. You know how Laura looks up to you, you've always been like a second father for her, I thought you could talk to her. *You* know how there's nothing hurts more than brothers and sisters fighting like that. But you saw the hurt you'd done and said sorry. Thought you could make Laura understand...
96. STEVE: (UNCOMFORTABLE) I don't know, Keith.
97. KEITH: You've always been a dear part of this family, Steve – what with you never marrying, you've always loved spending time with our kids. *We* got over our differences, forgave each other; I thought you could help our daughters from making our mistakes all over again.
98. STEVE: Rose...?

99. ROSE: Look. Maybe it's for the best Steve. For the family?
(PAUSE) For me?

SCENE 4 (1984) EXT. THE GARDEN OF KEITH AND PAUL'S PARENTS' HOUSE. SUMMER AFTERNOON.

100. **FX: SOME BIRDS CHIRPING. STEVE IS SAT ON A DECK CHAIR READING. PORTABLE RADIO PLAYS GEORGE MICHAEL, 'CARELESS WHISPER'.**

101. DJ: (ON RADIO) Now how about this for the last dance eh? Worth breaking up for, it's new from George Michael...

102. STEVE: (SOURLY) Oh shut up.

103. **FX: KEITH LEADS ROSE OUT INTO THE GARDEN.**

104. KEITH: (CALLS OVER) Steve.

105. STEVE: So. You've talked at last?

106. KEITH: (APP) Rose and I are getting married!

107. **FX: STEVE DROPS HIS BOOK.**

108. STEVE: Married?

109. KEITH: Rose is going to make me the happiest man in the world!

110. STEVE: Rose?

111. ROSE: It's true, Steve.

112. STEVE: (DEVASTATED) Oh... I'm very happy for you both...

113. KEITH: Maybe now we can put this nonsense behind us! Eh brother?

114. STEVE: My congratulations...

115. KEITH: Look. I'm sorry we came to blows. It was silly, I overreacted. But everything's all right now...

everything's sorted out isn't it, no more reasons to fight.

116. STEVE: I suppose so.
117. ROSE: (CAREFULLY) Have you got something to say, Steve?
118. STEVE: I... I wish you both every happiness. I'm sorry for the hurt I did.
119. KEITH: That's the spirit! Apology accepted. Let's never fight again, eh? Ha ha...

SCENE 5 (2004) INT. IZZY'S BEDROOM, FRIDAY, 4PM.

120. **FX: DAN IS ON IZZY'S BED, MAKING A TEXT MESSAGE. DESTINY'S CHILD, 'LOSE MY BREATH' PLAYS ON THE RADIO. LAURA STEPS IN AND APPROACHES THE BED.**

121. DAN: That you Izzy? Wrapped up that call quick for once...

122. **FX: LAURA SLIDES ONTO THE BED BESIDE HIM.**

123. LAURA: No, it's me. She'll be on the phone for hours, as usual.

124. DAN: Laura? Why are you...? –mmph-

125. **FX: LAURA PUTS A FINGER TO HIS MOUTH AND STARTS TO KISS HIM.**

126. DAN: Wha... what's brought this on?!

127. **FX: LAURA KISSES HIM MORE AND BEGINS TO RUN HER HANDS THROUGH HIS HAIR.**

128. LAURA: My uncle Steve came to talk to me last night. He told me all about how, when he and Dad were young, he fell for my mother... and how he lost her when Dad asked her to marry him. I was totally shocked...

129. DAN: Uh... yeah... um, wow.

130. LAURA: Dad had told him to tell it me, to show me why I should back off and not cause hurt in the family. But after, I thought – do I want to end up like my parents? Or like uncle Steve? ...Do I want to stay shy and lonely? ...Besides, it's different now – not like what we do now lasts forever.

131. **FX: THEY KISS. IZZY CLIMBS THE STAIRS**

AND ENTERS.

132. IZZY: (APP) You'll never guess where Jade's going, she
– (SEES THEM AND FREEZES)

133. DAN: Izzy – I –

134. IZZY: (SCREAMS IN SHOCK)

135. DAN: Izzy, please-!

136. LAURA: Oh let her wail... (KISSES HIM MORE)
Something to say, sis?

137. **FX: CRYING OUT PRACTICALLY IN
TEARS, IZZY RUNS OUT AND DOWN THE
STAIRS.**

138. IZZY: *Daaad-!*

SCENE 6 (1987) EXT. A RAINY SPRING NIGHT IN KEITH AND ROSE'S STREET.

139. **FX: AN OLD CAR PULLS UP. ENGINE STILL RUNNING, THE DOOR OPENS; RADIO PLAYS MADONNA, 'LA ISLA BONITA'. STEVE GETS OUT AND RUNS UP THE SHORT GRAVEL DRIVE TO RING THE DOORBELL.**
140. DJ: (ON RADIO) So is this going to be Madonna's fourth UK number one, or just her fourteenth top ten hit? Find out on Sunday...
141. **FX: THE DOOR OPENS, AND ROSE, WHO IS PREGNANT, APPEARS AND ALMOST FALLS INTO STEVE'S ARMS.**
142. ROSE: (TEARFUL) Oh Steve...! Thank goodness you've come... just can't take it any more...
143. STEVE: What is it, Rose? What's he done? Tell me...
144. ROSE: I said I wanted to work once the new baby's born... he just exploded, saying a mother's place is at home, and how could I call myself a mother if I'd leave Izzy and the new baby here every day...! And he threatened he'd take them away, and he's gone and taken Izzy!
145. STEVE: Oh God...
146. ROSE: What am I going to do, Steve? You've always been there for me, you've always helped me through... what am I going to do?
147. STEVE: You have... you have to...
148. ROSE: Please Steve. We can't let him take Izzy away.
149. STEVE: No. We'll have to persuade him to come back.
150. ROSE: But how can I go on, when he reacts like this every

time I try to speak?

151. STEVE: You... just have to be patient with him. He'll come around, one day...
152. ROSE: Why couldn't you stand up to him, save me from him, three years ago? You know he's never let me argue with him... he wouldn't let me say no... I'm so sorry Steve... I just can't say no to him...
153. STEVE: (UNHAPPY) Look. I'm here for you now. We have to save your marriage, for the children.
154. ROSE: But how can I stay with him? You know what he's *like!*
155. STEVE: I know you'll never see Izzy again unless you will. You've got to persuade him you love him and you're sorry. For her sake. (OF THE NEW BABY) And for the one on the way.
156. ROSE: I can't go on, Steve!
157. STEVE: You've got to.
158. ROSE: I can't live like this with him, Steve: I need *you*.
159. STEVE: Look. I'll move back to the area. I'll spend my time with you and the family. I'll be there to take the flak from him and help you when you need me.
160. ROSE: But Steve... feel her... (PUTS HIS HAND ON HER PREGNANT BELLY) she's going to be *your daughter*.

**SCENE 7 (2004) INT. THE SCHOFIELDS' LIVING ROOM,
FOLLOWING SCENE 5.**

161. **FX: KEITH IS WATCHING FOOTBALL ON THE TV WITH STEVE, AND ROSE IS HAVING A CUP OF COFFEE. IZZY RUNS DOWN THE HALL STAIRS.**

162. IZZY: (OFF, WAILS) *Daaaaad-!*

163. KEITH: Izzy? What on earth –

164. **FX: IZZY STORMS IN, IN TEARS.**

165. IZZY: It's Laura! She's making out with Dan *on my bed!*

166. **FX: KEITH JUMPS TO HIS FEET, FOLLOWED BY ROSE AND STEVE.**

167. KEITH: (FURIOUS) That little – wait till I get my hands on her. And him! – (TO STEVE) Thought you said you'd talked to her!

168. **FX: KEITH LEADS A CHARGE OUT OF THE ROOM AND UP THE STAIRS.**

169. STEVE: I did! Just – take it easy, all right Keith?

170. KEITH: She's in for it now!

171. **FX: KEITH CRASHES INTO DAN ON THE LANDING.**

172. DAN: - Oof!

173. KEITH: Where do you think *you're* going!

174. DAN: Mr. Schofield – I didn't –

175. KEITH: Shut up Dan. I'll take care of you in a minute.

176. **FX: AS THE OTHERS ARRIVE, LAURA APPEARS.**

177. LAURA: Here we go...
178. KEITH: (FURIOUS) What have you got to say for yourself? After your Uncle Steve, knowing what was best for you and this family, told you to back off?
179. LAURA: He never said that!
180. KEITH: Don't get smart with me! Come here!
181. **FX: KEITH MOVES TO STRIKE LAURA. STEVE INTERVENES.**
182. STEVE: No! – Don't do it, Keith! Look... look, she's right. I couldn't bring myself to tell her not to. Not after what Rose and I have been through, all these years, because I wasn't strong enough...
183. KEITH: You!
184. STEVE: You've made Rose and me suffer for twenty years. Who do you think's held your marriage together all this time, eh? When she can't even speak with you?
185. KEITH: (STUNNED) You – I –
186. LAURA: (QUIETLY) Now who's the rivals...
187. IZZY: (DESPERATELY) Dan? Come with me, Dan, it'll be OK, just let's get away from here... please...
188. LAURA: (TO IZZY) You know he gets off on us both going for him, don't you? Picture what he's got in mind, Izzy?
189. IZZY: Dan...?
190. DAN: Er –
191. IZZY: (EXPLODES) Oh you are *sick!*
192. **FX: IN TEARS IZZY RUNS DOWN THE STAIRS.**
193. LAURA: Think you three 'grown-ups' should sort yourselves out, 'fore you try telling *us* what to do. Come on

Dan.

194.

FX: LAURA HEADS OFF DOWN THE STAIRS. HESITATING, DAN FOLLOWS. THE OTHERS ARE LEFT. SILENCE.

THE END.

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