

**Episode Two****SC32. Interior, day. Adam's Flat**

*(Adam is in the flat. He is memorising lines for the advertisement we saw in the first episode.)*

**Adam**

We all want control in our lives- shit-

*(he looks at the script)*

and now that's possible. Now that's possible, now that's possible.

*(he picks up his Star Wars figure and speaks in a Darth Vader voice)*

Soon the rebel forces will lay crushed under the fist of the Empire.

*(the phone rings, he picks it up)*

Hello? Hi, Daniel. They have? That's great. Yeah, we are going for extra screening- the Omega package. Yes, he's fine about it.

**Sc33. Interior, day. Adam's Flat**

*(Adam is sat looking through printed out blurb. It is labelled 'what your extra genetic screening can tell you'. He looks at it, puts it down. Walks over to the window and looks out.)*

**Adam**

*(Darth Vader voice)*

Control is good.

**SC34. Exterior, day. Adam's Flat**

*(Adam is waiting reading a catalogue. He is frowning with concentration. Martin approaches him.)*

**Martin**

It's only a pram for God's sakes-

**Adam**

Here- this is the one we want.

**Martin**

- as long as it's got wheels.

**Adam**

Look- double suspension-

**Martin**

Automatic transmission? Air bag?

**Adam**

Listen- it's happened.

**Martin**

What has?

**Adam**

Daniel phoned me. They've fertilised the eggs-

**Martin**

So we're in business

**Adam**

We certainly are mate.

**Martin**

Ten little embryos all on the starting line- which is going to be the lucky one that wins the four wheel drive pram.

**Adam**

They're screening them today or tomorrow-

**Martin**

And you told them to do the extra bit-

**Adam**

That's what we agreed.

**Martin**

Yes

**Adam**

So we need to sort out a time to get the results- though you don't have to come. If you're busy I mean.

**Martin**

I bloody do-

**SC35. Interior, day. Susannah's house.**

*(Susannah gets up from the PC, puts on the waily dolphin music. She picks up a pile of clothes from the laundry basket. She pulls out a jumper. Sniffs it. Frowns. It is the same smell she smelt before. She sniffs another. )*

**SC36. Exterior, day. Mothercare.**

*(Martin and Adam are crossing the street carrying bulging carriers.)*

**Martin**

I don't see why we couldn't have got it-

**Adam**

Because it was the wrong one, that's why. Look, they've put it on order for us- it's not like we need it right away.

**Martin**

I tell you, that place- it did my head in. All those doting parents buying those improving toys.

**Adam**

I thought they were good.

**Martin**

Teach your child colours. Teach your child numbers. Enhance your child's sensory perception.

**Adam**

What's wrong with that?

**Martin**

Can't they just be left alone? I tell you when I was a kid it was a wool rabbit and a few plastic bricks and that was it. Suck on that as they say.

**Adam**

I thought they looked good-

**Martin**

Well we all know you're wanting to produce a bloody astronaut.

**Adam**

Piss off.

**Martin**

I think I saw a fuzzy felt nuclear physics kit somewhere in there-

**Adam**

Ha bloody ha-

**Martin**

I just think it's better to leave these things up to nature-

**Adam**

You said.

**SC37. Interior, day. Susannah's house. Lindsey's room**

*(Susannah is in Lindsay's room. She looks around and starts carefully opening drawers, taking things out and sniffing them.)*

**SC38. Interior, day. Adam's flat.**

*(Martin is gathering together gear for going to the gym. Adam is sat with his script.)*

**Martin**

Much to do?

**Adam**

Not much.

**Martin**

You could always ring your Mother.

**Adam**

I could.

**Martin**

In other words: piss off Martin.

**Adam**

I'm going to.

**Martin**

When?

**Adam**

When I get a moment.

**Martin**

Right- I'll see you later.

*(he exits)*

*(Adam starts reading a script, but his mind is not on it. He puts it down and picks up a photograph album. He starts leafing through, looking at pictures of himself when a child, his Mother, his Father. He sees one of him in a school play. As he looks he hears voices from the past.)*

**Child's voice(v/o)**

Nield- you big poufter-

**Margaret(v/o)**

Drama school- what d'you want to go to drama school for?

*(With a determined gesture he puts down the album and picks up the script.)*

**Adam**

Control is good.

*(he goes to the desk and picks up Martin's diary and starts thumbing through it.)*

**SC39. Interior, day. Susannah's House Lindsey's room**

*(Susannah is ransacking the room now, still looking for anything that might give her some sort of clue. He reaches under the bed- and pulls out a magazine. It is a hair styling magazine. With a dismissive gesture she puts it back.)*

**SC40 Interior, day. The flat.**

*(Adam is sat on the sofa with his script. Martin has obviously just returned from the gym.)*

**Adam**

He phoned just after you'd gone. I told them it was all right.

**Martin**

When again?

**Adam**

The 26<sup>th</sup>-

**Martin**

26<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>-

*(he goes to his desk diary)*

**Adam**

This Thursday coming.

**Martin**

Shit.

**Adam**

What?

**Martin**

I can't make it-

**Adam**

Why?

**Martin**

I said- the Bennett case. Seven kids going into care.

**Adam**

Oh no-

**Martin**

Can't we change it?

**Adam**

Not really. It's the only time they had this week- then Daniel's off on holiday. We don't want to be waiting any longer. Look, it's all right, I can go-

**Martin**

I want to be there-

**Adam**

Look, it's just a question of handing over the results-

**Martin**

I wouldn't have thought so- I mean it's not like Dan Dan the embryo man to pass up the chance of a quick pre- sentation.

**Adam**

Yeah, after the last time it's probably just as well.

**Martin**

I told you- he was fine about it-

*(mimicking)*

Hey Martin: I can totally validate your emotions-

**Adam**

Look: I'll go, see what they have to say and we can talk it through afterwards and decide-

**Martin**

Which is the lucky embryo that gets to be implanted in Susannah's uterus.

**Adam**

This is serious-

**Martin**

It doesn't feel like it with bloody Proteus and their bloody Acorns and Omegas and stuff- hey, talking of which I still haven't seen that bump.

**Adam**

Bumph?

**Martin**

Screening bump. Omega whatnot.

**Adam**

It's about somewhere. Do you want anything from the shop?

*(Martin shakes his head, Adam goes out)*

**SC41. Exterior, day. The street.**

*(Adam walks away from the flat, looking furtively back over his shoulder. When he is sure he can't be seen he gets out his mobile)*

**Adam**

Hi- I'm ringing about making an appointment to get some results. It's Adam Nield here. Yeah- I want to make an appointment to get the Omega three screening results. I was wanting Thursday 26th- if that was okay.

**SC42. Interior, day. Susannah's house. Lindsey's room**

*(She has returned Lindsay's room to how it was. She shakes her head, the mystery has not been solved. She catches a glance at the time, double takes and then looks at her watch. She looks scared.)*

**SC43. Interior, Adam's flat.**

*(It is later. Lamps are on. Adam is sat studying an educational toys catalogue, asterisking certain items. Martin comes in, tired. Puts some cases in his briefcase and flops down.)*

**Adam**

All done?

**Martin**

No. But I'm going to stop.

*(he flops down,. Yawns)*

**Adam**

Bad?

**Martin**

Evidence of poor hygiene, all seven show signs of being malnourished- haven't been near a school for three months; still the little girls is as bright as a button.

**Adam**

Nature not nurture.

**Martin**

Don't start on that now.

**Adam**

Sorry.

*(Martin picks up the catalogue.)*

I was just looking.

**Martin**

You've probably already got it a place at Cape Canaveral. It's like you say- intelligence- I mean it takes all different forms. I mean there's you- you can learn lines- act- I couldn't do that to save my life. And there's kids I come across- can't read or write; but my God they can fix a car in twenty minutes- hot wire it in three come to that. I mean they're all different sorts of intelligence.

**Adam**

So?

**Martin**

So we're saying we want an intelligent child- I mean what does that mean exactly? I mean like I say, there's lots of different sorts- but those people who go for bloody Omega three- I bet they just want the kids to pass every exam going-

**Adam**

What's wrong with that?

**Martin**

I mean our whole system's geared up to passing exams- doing well at school- it's a damn sight more useful to be able to cook- or fix a plug than know about Henry 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Adam**

It's how it is though.

**Martin**

Aren't we just adding to that. Trying to produce a kid who can say 'where's the bog' in seven different languages-

**Adam**

I'll not disagree, society may be crap- but it's the society our kids going to live in. I mean that's what we've got to work with. I mean suppose our kid was born with a hair lip- in an ideal world it wouldn't matter- but this isn't an ideal world so we'd have something done.

**Martin**

You can't compare having a hair lip to not being clever.

**Adam**

You know what I mean.

**Martin**

Do I? You know I worry about you.

**Adam**

Me? Why?

**Martin**

I mean suppose our kid is just-

**Adam**

What?

**Martin**

Normal. I mean average. Not an astronaut. Not even good with heights. Just- normal.

**Adam**

It'd not be normal to me.

*(he takes Martin's hand.)*

Look, I'd love it whatever. I just want to – give it every chance. Make sure- the odds are stacked in our favour.

*(The phone rings, he picks it up)*

Hello? Hi Susannah, you okay- what? No- she's not here. No- is she missing then?

**Martin**

What?

**Adam**

She wants to know: is Lindsay here?

**Martin**

What would she be doing here?

**Adam**

I dunno.

**SC44. (Cut to Susannah's house.**

*Throughout the following we see both her and Adam as they speak to each other. Susannah is looking very worried.)*

**Susannah**

She should've been back ages ago.

**Adam**

She's probably just out with her mates.

**Susannah**

I've rung round them all. They've no ideas- anyway-

**Adam**

What?

**Susannah**

You see it's not just tonight.

**Adam**

Oh?

**Susannah**

It's been happening a few times lately.

**Adam**

Maybe she's got a boyfriend.

**Susannah**

She usually tells me stuff like that. Anyway- there's something else.

**Adam**

What's that then?

**Susannah**

When she comes back- her clothes smell-

**Adam**

*Smell?*

**Susannah**

Sort of chemically- I've noticed it a few times. It's quite distinctive-

**Adam**

I see-

*(there's a bang OOV)*

**Susannah**

That's her now- can I call you back?

**Adam**

Sure

**Susannah**

Bye-

*(she puts down the phone and looks apprehensively towards the door.)*

**SC45. Interior, night. Adam's flat.**

*(The two are sat up side by side in bed reading. Martin is reading one of the parenting books, Adam is on with a Star Wars novel. Martin gives a tut of despair and puts the book down.)*

**Adam**

What?

**Martin**

Suppose how someone is, is nothing to do with genes- I mean suppose it's all background- and all that genetic stuff- it's just balls.

**Adam**

It can't be- I mean what about that little girl you were telling me about? What about me? If that were the case I'd still be living on the estate.

**Martin**

Not necessarily. Maybe you reacted *against* being on the estate. The impetus to escape and all that. I mean look at how well you've done.

**Adam**

I've done okay (*meaning he's not done as well as he'd hoped*)

**Martin**

You earn a living doing what you want.

**Adam**

Insurance adverts-

**Martin**

So?

**Adam**

It's hardly the National Theatre.

**Martin**

Okay, look at me- parents both lecturers; yet by twenty-one I was way off the bloody rails-

**Adam**

I wouldn't call a squat in Hackney going of the rails.

**Martin**

You should've seen it.

**Adam**

But there's lots of evidence to show genes play a massive part.

**Martin**

I know- you keeping telling me.

*(he sighs)*

Just as well really.

*(he picks up the book again)*

**Adam**

Why?

*(the phone rings again)*

**Martin**

Well- we're not shelling out that extra two and a half grand for nothing.

*(Adam picks up the phone.)*

**Adam**

Hello?

**SC46. (Cut to Susannah's house).**

**Susannah**

*(Quietly)*

It's only me again.

*(As before we cut between Susannah's house and Adam and Martin's flat.)*

**Adam**

Hiya- mystery solved?

**Susannah**

Far from it I'm afraid.

**Adam**

Oh?

**Susannah**

She wouldn't tell me. Or at least she would but I knew she was lying.

**Adam**

How?

**Susannah**

A mother knows these things. Besides the bowling alley closed ages ago. No, she's keeping something from me.

**Adam**

I'm sure it's nothing.

**Susannah**

Anyway- I've planned a little subterfuge.

**Adam**

What's that then?

**Susannah**

Something I need your help to put into operation.

**Adam**

Hang on Susannah-

**Susannah**

No, it's nothing much- I just want you to drive me somewhere.

**SC47 Interior, Adam's flat. Night. Bathroom.**

*(The bathroom. Martin is cleaning his teeth as Adam speaks to him through the door.)*

**Martin**

Where?

**Adam**

Palmer's Green

**Martin**

Why Palmer's Green?

**Adam**

Her oboe lesson.

**Martin**

Why her bloody oboe lesson?

**Adam**

Because she doesn't think she'll be there.

**Martin**

So why go there? You've lost me.

**Adam**

She wants to check up on her.

**Martin**

Hey, I'm telling you, don't get involved-

**Adam**

I'm only driving her there-

**Martin**

Stay well clear- that's my advice.

**Adam**

Listen if there are problems it's better we get them sorted before she gets pregnant.

**Martin**

The only problem Susannah has is Susannah. She'd do much better to leave that poor kid alone for five minutes-

**Adam**

She just wants what's best-

**Martin**

I mean- oboe, trampoline- booster classes- I tell you where that kid is-

**Adam**

Where?

**Martin**

Asleep somewhere- knackered out.

**SC48. Exterior, car. Day.**

*(Adam has just parked up, Susannah is peering out)*

**Susannah**

It's there- number thirty-two.

**Adam**

What time is she meant to finish?

**Susannah**

Three- just after. So we're just in time. Anyway- go on.

**Adam**

Where was I?

**Susannah**

How this screening works- it sounds fascinating-

**Adam**

Well, like I said they look at the DNA of an embryo-

**Susannah**

And there's a clever gene?

**Adam**

No- it's not as simple as that- there's certain spreads of genes which indicate different things like intelligence- look

*(he hands over the brochure)*

Like different plants indicate an environment-

**Susannah**

*(pointing to a bit)*

And this- they can tell this-

**Adam**

So they say- I mean it's not certain.

**Susannah**

What does Martin think about that?

**Adam**

*(airily)*

He's fine-

*(this however doesn't fool Susannah. Adam changes the subject.)*

Is it not time yet?

**Susannah**

Two minutes still to go.

*(she looks at the diagram Adam is showing her.)*

It's incredible- in my Gran's day they used to tie a silver spoon to a bit a string and hold it over the woman's stomach. If it spun round one way it was going to be a girl, and the other it'd be a boy.

**Adam**

Did it work?

**Susannah**

Well, she was all set to call my Mother Stephen.

*(they laugh. Delicately)*

So I take it Martin's not really in favour.

**Adam**

He's fine- well, it's more me- but he'll come round.

**Susannah**

Of course he will- I mean if it means you can help the child-

**Adam**

Exactly- I mean it's not like we won't love less it or anything – but then Martin's always had it easy.

**Susannah**

Has he?

**Adam**

He's never gone without- even when he was in the squat his Mother used to do his laundry for him. *(pause)* He's never known just how- shit life can be.

**Susannah**

I know I wouldn't have wanted to grow up on Meadowshaw.  
Well for what little it's worth I think you're doing absolutely right.

**Adam**

You do?

**Susannah**

Certainly- I mean like it's only like an extension of what parents do anyway- and say you do get a clever kid- it'll be a lot less hassle than sending it to booster classes.

**Adam**

That's how I see it.

**Susannah**

I wish someone had cared that much about me.

**Adam**

You've done all right.

**Susannah**

Yeah, but it's been bloomin' tough. I wouldn't choose to get pregnant at sixteen again. I tell you: once the baby's born everything's set in stone.

**Adam**

It's gone three-

**Susannah**

Shine on- where is she?

*(she gets out of the car and goes to the house. Adam picks up his mobile and dials a number.)*

**Adam**

Hello? The name's Adam Nield- number 42301- I'm just ringing to confirm my appointment for tomorrow. Three- that's right. Any change could you make sure you call me, not my partner. Okay. Bye.

*(Susannah is back)*

Well?

**Susannah**

She's not there.

**Adam**

Did he say why?

**Susannah**

Not only is she not there, she's not been going for months.

**SC49. Exterior, day. Phone call**

*(Adam is stood somewhere, the sun on his face, the wind blowing his hair. It seems very tranquil where he is, but he looks tense. He makes a call.)*

**Adam**

Hi-

**SC50 Int. Martin's Office. Phone call**

**Martin**

Hi there-

*(we intercut between Martin's office which seems untidy and full of people coming and in out, with phones ringing)*

hang on-

*(he gathers up some documentation)*

Have you been?

**Adam**

No, it's midday remember- I just rang to see how you were-

**Martin**

Fine- up to my neck in the proverbial as per-

**Adam**

All set for the case conference?

**Martin**

As one ever is on these occasions. Listen, you'll ring me as soon as you know- I should be done by four- four thirty.

**Adam**

I'll tell you tonight.

**Martin**

No, ring me.

**Adam**

Can't it wait?

**Martin**

No it bloody can't- I want to know what the choices are- you know- tinker, tailor, soldier, astronaut-

**Adam**

Okay.

**Martin**

Where are you now? Lindsay hunting again?

**Adam**

No- she's safely in school. No, I'm just killing time.

**Martin**

Anyway, I'd better go- I'll speak to you later.

**Adam**

Hey- I love you.

**Martin**

*(Puzzled at the strength of his tone)* I love you- it'll be all right. I'm only pissing about.

**Adam**

I know. I'll catch you later.

*(he rings off and we pull back from him. He is in a council estate.)*

**SC51. Exterior, day. Meadowshaw estate.*****Various shots***

*(We see Adam driving through the estate. Contrary to how he talked about it to Susannah we see that it is not, as one might suppose, a cross between Belsen and Sowetto. Indeed, in the sunshine it looks rather lovely. True there are the occasional boarded up house and abandoned car- but for every one of them there are at least two nicer features: well kept gardens, brightly painted woodwork. Children play. A cat sits in the sun. Adam's face however is grim. As he drives around we hear in his head voices from the past)*

**KidV/O**

Hey- Niend-y- wanna fight Mother's boy?

**Adam**

Get lost-

**Kid**

Oh yeah- what you going to do about it?

**Adam**

Piss off-

**Kid**

You talking to me?

*(we hear running feet and someone breathing deeply in sobbing gasps. In sepia colours (or whatever it is you use)*

**SC52 Ext. Flashback Sequence**

*two child appear, one chasing the other. From the way they're running we can see this is not play. The flashback fades and we see Adam's grim face. )*

**Adam**

*(out of breath- in a Darth Vader voice.)*

Soon my forces will raze this miserable place from the face of the planet.

**SC53. Exterior, day. The church.**

*(Adam pulls up and parks outside the church. He looks up at the building. His face is set.)*

**Adam**

A curse on the force and all who serve her cause.

*(We see Adam sat in his car waiting. The door opens and Margaret comes out carrying a basket of cleaning things. She locks the door behind her. Adam gets out of the car and faces her.)*

**Adam**

Hello Mum.

**Margaret**

Don't look at me, I'm in my cleaning clothes-

**Adam**

I know.

**Margaret**

How did you know where I was.

**Adam**

Come on Mum- Thursday morning- church cleaning day. Look- I was wondering- do you fancy going for a coffee?

**Margaret**

No thank you.

**Adam**

Right-

**Margaret**

I've got my dinner waiting at home.

**Adam**

I just thought you might like a coffee somewhere.

**Margaret**

I'll just drop the key back and you can run me down. We'll need to stop at the top shops. It's only fish fingers but I've some of those potato croquetty things you quite like-

**Adam**

Actually I haven't really got time for lunch-

**Margaret**

I'll be two minutes.

*(over her shoulder)*

I've something to say to you.

**Adam**

Look- Mum-

**Margaret**

Be thinking- peas or sprouts.

*(she approaches a house next to the church)*

**SC54. Interior, day. Margaret's kitchen.**

*(Much as you would expect. Small, neat and tidy. Gardens of England calendar. Everything in its place. Margaret is stood at the stove, Adam sat at the table cradling a cup, looking round the room. He looks- they look- perfectly in place. Somehow he seems to belong there more than he does in the flat.)*

**Margaret**

- so the money needs to come from somewhere. Reverend Dey's thinking of going to the council- for all the good it'll do.

**Adam**

You should go for lottery money. Everyone's doing it nowadays.

**Margaret**

It doesn't mean the lottery's right.

**Adam**

No.

*(pause)*

Mum-

**Margaret**

Yes?

**Adam**

About the other night, I'm sorry.

**Margaret**

Well. I daresay we were both a bit het up.

**Adam**

Are you still mad?

**Margaret**

Mad? No, why should I be mad?

**Adam**

I just thought-

**Margaret**

Though since we are on the subject; what I've got to say to you is this. I've been thinking- and I know you'll laugh but I've been praying too-

**Adam**

No, that's fine-

**Margaret**

You want to know what I feel about this whole plan of yours.

**Adam**

Well yes.

**Margaret**

What I feel son is a very deep, overwhelming sadness.

**Adam**

Sadness?

**Margaret**

You heard me.

**Adam**

Why sadness?

**Margaret**

Aren't you and Martin happy with each other?

**Adam**

Of course we are-

**Margaret**

So why do this?

**Adam**

Because we want to- I mean why do couple's want children? Why did you and dad want me?

**Margaret**

That's completely different.

**Adam**

It's not- why shouldn't we have kids.

**Margaret**

Do you know, when you were explaining it all to me- d'you know what it reminded me of?

**Adam**

No.

**Margaret**

One of your circuses-

**Adam**

What circuses?

**Margaret**

Your circuses- you and your friends used to do in the back garden. All dressing up and doing handstands and stuff- you with that old fish bowl being some sort of spaceman- and they were just playing but you took it all so seriously- so you'd have to go and write out these tickets and give them out round half the neighbourhood- and then I used to have to go round and tell them you were just playing.

**Adam**

I never asked you to. Anyway- that was just playing-

**Margaret**

Hopes sky high and then cast down flat.

**Adam**

But I'm really serious about this.

**Margaret**

I just don't want to see you hurt.

**Adam**

I won't be. Mum- look, I know it all seems complicate- how we're doing it and all- but it's what we want to do, it really is- and the thing is in many ways it's better than just having a kid, like most people do.

**Margaret**

I find that very hard to believe.

**Adam**

It is- with this screening process- you make sure you don't get a child born with all sorts of diseases- cystic fibrosis- muscular dystrophy-

**Margaret**

Those things are not up to us to decide.

**Adam**

The province of the Lord?

**Margaret**

I'd expect you to mock.

**Adam**

Well come on- when awful things happen you say 'it's the Lord's will'- but suppose you could avoid those things happening- like wearing seat belts- being immunised against things- surely that's the Lord's will as well? Well suppose you can make sure a child could *avoid* having certain illnesses- that can't be wrong.

**Margaret**

It's not the Lord's will to go tampering with things. Embryos and things.

**Adam**

It's not just screening- it's more than that- I mean this technology- if Dad had been ill now it could have helped him- could have identified the genes that gave him cancer and treated them. Are you saying that'd be wrong?

*(Margaret sits)*

I'm sorry Mum- but you have to admit it was horrible.

**Margaret**

Yes. Yes it was. But it- was a funny thing- your Father and I were actually very close during his last illness. I mean it was awful, I'm not saying it wasn't- but- towards the end- we saw eye to eye. I was always very glad of that.

**Adam**

But you wouldn't have chosen to lose him? You're not saying that.

*(Margaret doesn't reply but goes to the cooker and resumes getting the meal.)*

**Margaret**

So this-

**Adam**

Screening-

**Margaret**

It can stop the baby getting ill?

**Adam**

Not exactly- what you do is choose a baby that's not going to get ill in the first place-

**Margaret**

Choose? In what way choose?

**Adam**

Well- there's ten embryos- you choose from one of them.

**Margaret**

What happens to the other nine babies- the one's not chosen.

**Adam**

Well, for a start they're not babies.

**Margaret**

What are they then?

**Adam**

Look, it's not like that. It can be really beneficial- it can get rid of certain- traits-

**Margaret**

What traits?

**Adam**

Look- why don't you have a read of this. It can explain it far better than I can.

**Margaret**

I need my glasses.

*(She crosses, sits down and starts to read. Adam wanders into the other room.)*

**SC55. Interior, day. Margaret living room.**

*(Much like the kitchen. Neat, tidy, decorated rather fussily. Adam looks at some photos on the side- his Mum and Dad- himself as a kid. He looks around the room. We hear, as he does, voices he remembers from the past.)*

**Adam**

The thing is Mum- well- I think I might be-

**Margaret**

Yes?

**Adam**

Well- gay- homosexual.

**Margaret**

I see.

**Adam**

Is that all? Mum?

**Margaret**

Son- I'm going to ask you to do one thing for me.

**Adam**

What's that?

**Margaret**

Fight it. Fight this thing for me.

**SC56. Interior, day. Margaret's sitting room.**

*(Margaret's voice cuts in on his thoughts)*

**Margaret**  
Is this true?

*(she is stood in the doorway. She looks furious.)*

**Adam**  
What?  
**Margaret**  
This-

**Adam**  
I told you-

**Margaret**  
This Omega screening-

**Adam**  
Yes- what about it?

**Margaret**  
This bit here.

**Adam**  
What?

*(he sees where she's pointing)*

Ah- well- it's not definite- it's only an indication-

**Margaret**  
And you're going to choose a baby on the basis of this screening?

**Adam**  
We don't want one that is- we want one that isn't.

**Margaret**  
I see. And you say 'we'-

**Adam**  
Yes-

**Margaret**  
*Does Martin know about this?*

**Adam**  
Of course he does.

**Margaret**

And does he agree with you? Does he think this is a good thing to do?

**Adam**

Yes.

**Margaret**

Look me in the eyes.

**Adam**

Look, what is this? I thought you'd be pleased.

**Margaret**

What gave you that idea?

**Adam**

Isn't it what you've chosen for me, given half a chance.

**Margaret**

Now listen to me Adam Nield, and you listen well. There are some things that are not up to us to tamper with. Some things you leave well alone. This is one of them.

**Adam**

I thought you'd be in favour-

**Margaret**

Not with tampering I'm not.

**SC57 Exterior, day.**

*(Adam is driving away from the house, through the estate.)*

**Adam**

*(Darth Vader voice)* Miserable hovels. Send three fleets from Death Star One to raze this place to the ground.

**SC58 Exterior, day. The Proteus building.**

*(To Adam there is something reassuring about the total modernity of the place. He braces himself and goes inside, turning off his mobile phone as he does so.)*

**SC59 Interior, day. The lobby. The Proteus building**

*(As Adam goes in Daniel is there speaking into a mobile. His tone is decidedly tetchy.)*

**Daniel**

And would you like to tell me just how I'm suppose to make presentations without this equipment? I have to say I'm really disappointed about the way your company has failed to meet this deadline-

*(he turns- sees Adam, immediately his demeanour changes.)*

Hi- how are you?

*(into the phone)*

I'll get back to you. Hello-

**Adam**

Sorry I'm a bit late-

**Daniel**

That's not a problem- Martin not with you?

**Adam**

He had to work- but it's okay, we've talked about the options before-

**Daniel**

Then come on up- we might even be able to run to filter coffee this time.

*(they get into the lift)*

**SC60. Exterior, day. . The Proteus Office**

*(We see Martin approaching the building. His face is grim and set.)*

**SC61. Interior, day. The Proteus Office.**

*(Daniel leads the way to where they met before. There are several boxes of papers.)*

**Daniel**

Office equipment supposedly arriving tomorrow. Never mind- if we can find the particular box in question.... It juts drives it home to me how important it is to have a fully functioning on line IT system-

**Adam**

*(trying to joke)*

Unless there's a power cut.

**Daniel**

*(not laughing)*

Ah, he we are. Okay- let's make a start.

**SC62 Interior, day. The Proteus building. The lobby.**

*(Martin walks in, face grim and set. He gets in the lift.)*

**SC63 Interior, day. The Proteus Office.**

*(Daniel is going through some paperwork.)*

**Daniel**

Okay- and you're sure that's the option you want to take?

**Adam**

Yes- yes I am.

**Daniel**

Do you need time to talk to Martin again?

**Adam**

Like I said- we talked earlier- we both agreed this was what we wanted to do.

**Daniel**

Okay-

*(Martin appears)*

Ah- hello!

**Adam**

Oh- hi-

**Daniel**

Glad you could make it. Take a seat.

**Martin**

Not too late am I?

**Daniel**

Not at all-

**Adam**

I thought you had a meeting.

**Martin**

I know you did.

**Adam**

Sorry?

**Martin**

I thought this was more important-

**Daniel**

Anyway-

**Adam**

We're just about done actually-

**Martin**

Your Mother rang me.

**Adam**

Shit-

**Martin**

Indeed.

**Adam**

She'd no right to do that.

**Martin**

Under the circumstances I'm very glad she did.

**Daniel**

Is there a problem?

**Martin**

No, not at all- you just go right on saying whatever it was that you were saying-

**Adam**

As I said we're just about done.

**Daniel**

I was just explaining the results of the screening to Adam- and he was telling me what you'd decided to do.

**Martin**

Oh? And what's that then?

**Daniel**

Well- as I was telling Adam, as regards intelligence it really makes little odds which of the healthy embryos you go for- so that focuses your choice more specifically on the sexuality linked spread.

**Martin**

I'm sorry?

**Adam**

Daniel- I wonder, can we just have a moment?

**Martin**

No, not at all- please go on, this is fascinating.

**Daniel**

If you're sure?

**Martin**

You were saying- the sexuality spread- it sounds faintly venereal- sorry, go on-

**Daniel**

As I said- you were opting for the embryo without this spread-

**Martin**

An embryo without any sexuality? What, a nun?

**Daniel**

It was all explained in the documentation.

**Martin**

Which somehow I've not managed to read. If you'd be so good as to explain-

**Daniel**

Well- when I say sexuality – what I mean is that research has shown a certain spread of genes can indicate- only indicate you understand- a predilection towards homosexual behaviour.

**Martin**

I see.

**Daniel**

*(smoothly)*

\* I think it's important to emphasise the word 'predilection' at this point – I mean obviously environment and upbringing will play a significant part in the child's development -

**Martin**

And let me just get this clear- we're opting for a child *without* this... genetic whatsit -

**Daniel**

Genetic spread – No, that's not what my understanding is -

**Martin**

So we're wanting to have a gay child?

**Daniel**

- the way I was given to understand it was you specifically opted for this spread to be screened out.

**Martin**

I'm sorry?

**Daniel**

You're wanting to ensure your child will be born without a predilection to homosexual behaviour

**End of episode two.**