

ACT ONE - OPENING SCENE

FADE IN FROM BLACK

MID SHOT OF JAMES LYING ON BED, ANGLED FROM HIS SIDE

CLOSE-UP FROM ABOVE HIS FACE, HE IS STARING AT CEILING

MID SHOT OF HIS BEDSIDE CLOCK, SHOWING BOTH THE CLOCK AND JAMES

James turns over to read the clock then lie down again and get lost in thought

JUMP CUT

OVER-THE-SHOULDER SHOT OF JAMES IN MIRROR

James is finishing getting dressed/ready, you can see him mentally preparing himself

TALK IN THE KITCHEN

WIDE/TWO SHOT, JAMES AND HIS DAD ARE IN THE KITCHEN

MID/CLOSE-UP OF DAD

Dad notices something is on James' mind

DAD

Something on your mind son? You look like there's something bothering you.

MID/CLOSE-UP OF JAMES, SIMILAR SHOT TO THE ONE OF HIS DAD

JAMES

Nah I'm alright, just didn't get a lot of sleep is all.

James sits down at table and stares into the coffee his dad made him

DAD

You sure? Normally you would drink your coffee the second you're down here, but instead you're just sitting there. Everything ok?

James looks up at him, slightly annoyed, and brushes off

JAMES

No I'm alright, really, I'm just tired.

DAD

Well ok then, better drink that coffee quickly, you've to leave for work soon.

James looks into his coffee and sighs

JAMES

Ok, look. I'm getting sick of the way I'm living here, the way we're living here. Like we're just getting up every day, doing the same futile job, then going home - we aren't really doing much with ourselves.

His dad takes a second to think about what James has just said, then looks up at him

DAD

I think I know what you mean, son. But really, there isn't much you can do to change that. We have our jobs and our social and private lives and there's only so much we can do with ourselves outside of that. I mean, I wish I could quit my job and do something I'd love like play music or something, but I can't. We all have to make sacrifices like that in life.

James looks up at the clock and realises he has to leave

JAMES

Yeah I guess you're right. Look I've to go here, I'll talk to you later on, bye.

WIDE/TWO SHOT OF THE TWO IN THE ROOM AS JAMES IS LEAVING

Here a montage-like sequence could play, showing James going through the day and how mundane he finds everything - similar to the sequence in Hot Fuzz when Sgt. Angel is travelling to Sandford. Sequence could end with him staring into space, lost in thought.

End of Act One.

ACT TWO

WIDE SHOT OF JAMES AND FRIENDS SITTING AT TABLE

MID/CLOSE-UP ZOOMS IN ON JAMES AS HE SITS QUIETLY

OVER-THE-SHOULDER OF A FRIEND

CHRIS

Hey James, you alright? You seem a little out of today.

CLOSE-UP OF JAMES

JAMES

I was telling my dad about this earlier on, but do you ever feel like you're just stuck where you are in life? Like you're in the job you are now, live in the house you do, but you just know you're not getting what's best for you and there's more you can achieve out somewhere else?

MID SHOT OF ANOTHER FRIEND, MICK

MICK

What makes you think that? Aren't you happy being here with your dad and all of us? Is this not enough for you or something? I mean, I'm quite happy where I'm at.

OVER-THE-SHOULDER OF CHRIS AGAIN

CHRIS

Same here Mick, I'm quite happy here. James what else is there you can do? Like it's hardly like you're going to drop everything here and move city or something for a better job. You're quite lucky to be where you are now - you've a job, your dad and all us. Don't want to sound like a dick, but I don't think there's anywhere else you can go mate.

WIDE SHOT

James is shocked his friends aren't supportive and stands up.

MID SHOT FROM FRIENDS PERSPECTIVE

JAMES

Don't you at least know what I'm talking about? Don't you ever think "I've got this job, house, and oh shit, I'm stuck like this for the rest of my life?" No?

MID SHOT OF FRIEND FROM JAMES' PERSPECTIVE

They all sit there, look at each other and shrug

MICK

No not really, I can't speak for all of us but I'm quite happy where I am

WIDE SHOT OF JAMES

James looks even more shocked and walks away with the slightest smile of disbelief.

MID/WIDE SHOT OF FRIENDS SITTING LOOKING AT EACH OTHER

CHRIS

What's gotten into him? Any of yous know what he was on about?

JAMES PLANNING

WIDE TRACKING SHOT

James comes into his room annoyed

MID SHOT OF HIS BED

He sits down and thinks, looking down at the floor

CLOSE UP OF LAPTOP

Laptop is sitting on his bedside dresser, James' hand reaches over and lifts it up

MID SHOT LOOKING UP AT JAMES ON HIS LAPTOP

OVER-THE-SHOULDER SHOT SHOWS HE'S LOOKING FOR DIFFERENT JOBS ONLINE IN A NEARBY BIG CITY

CLOSE-UP SHOWS HIS EXCITEMENT/DETERMINATION AT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESCAPING HIS TOWN

WIDE SHOT

He reaches to grab a notebook and pen, he's beginning to sort out his money and finances

OVER-THE-SHOULDER SHOT SHOWS HIM LOOKING AT DIFFERENT ACCOMMODATION

FADE TO BLACK

ACT THREE - JAMES LEAVING

Weeks Later

FADE IN

CLOSE-UP

James' notes on accommodation, prices, money-planning, etc.

WIDE SHOT. DAD IS IN BACKGROUND AT DOORWAY, JAMES IS UP CLOSE GRABBING A FEW BELONGINGS

DAD

Are you sure there's nothing I can do to change your mind on this? You really want to do this?

MID SHOT OF JAMES TURNING ROUND TO HIS DAD

JAMES

Yeah I'm sure, I've made up my mind. I'm definitely going.

MID/OVER-THE-SHOULDER/TRACKING SHOT

His dad walks towards James to hug him

DAD

Alright you've made up your mind, and I'll not stop you as it's your own decision. But know that I'm always going to be here, ok?

BACK TO MID/CLOSE-UP SHOT OF JAMES

JAMES

Ok dad, I'll come visit when I can sure. I've to be heading soon to catch

the bus.

BACK TO MID/CLOSE-UP SHOT OF DAD

Dad's face/body is in focus in this shot, James walks around him and towards the doorway. You can see the sadness on his dad's face, until he spots something interesting.

WIDE ZOOM IN ON A FOLDED UP SHEET OF PAPER WITH THE NAME "DAD" ON IT

Dad's hand lifts up the paper

CLOSE-UP FROM BELOW OF DAD'S FACE

He reads the note and his face goes from confused to relieved, then he turns around when he hears the front door close.

JUMP CUT

CLOSE-UP OF JAMES AS HE'S WALKING THROUGH DRIVEWAY, CAMERA IS WALKING WITH HIM

James stops when he hears the front door open and turns around

WIDE TWO SHOT OF HIM AND HIS DAD IN THE DRIVEWAY

His dad is walking towards James, maybe fast-walking

OVER-THE-SHOULDER SHOT OF JAMES'S DAD

DAD

I found your note [pause] and I wanted
to say good luck to you son

OVER-THE-SHOULDER SHOT OF JAMES

He looks at his dad's hand

JAMES

Thanks for being so understanding.

James goes in to hug his dad.

BACK TO OTS OF DAD AS THE TWO KEEP HUGGING

WIDE TWO SHOT

They stop hugging and James turns to leave to get the bus.

CLOSE-UP OF DAD

He watches James leave, with a hint of sadness and happiness on his face.

AT THE STATION

WIDE SHOT

James walking through the bus station, reading his ticket and the timetable up ahead

MID SHOT FROM HIS SIDE

He looks up at the timetable once again after hearing the announcement of his bus. He has a slight grin on his face.

MID TO WIDE SHOT

He walks towards a queue of people getting the same bus

FADE TO BLACK

End