

How long's it been?

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INT. FLAT - DAY

A small cupboard door in a darkened room. No... an attic, lit by a lamp with an orange glow.

BRIANA (soleful, isolated) stares up at the attic door, and opens it.

As she does-

INTERCUT:

EXT. BRIGHTON SEAFRONT - DAY

AMANDA (free-spirited rebel) looks down at her from the steps leading down to the beach. Despite being in different locations, they 'see' each other, taken aback.

BRIANA
Amanda?

AMANDA
Briana... Hi!

BRIANA
Hi... God, how long's it been?

They put on grins, awkward.

BRIANA (CONT'D)
I didn't know we could still do this.

AMANDA
Were you...(thinking of me)

BRIANA
I don't know.

Amanda takes in the sea air and heads down the stairs.

BRIANA (CONT'D)
How have you been?

EXT. BRIGHTON BEACH - DAY

Amanda bounces down the steps to Brighton beach.

AMANDA
Good. Really good. Winning at life!

BRIANA
I'm happy for you.

Briana glances at the door to her flat; shut and locked, the railings outside like bars.

Amanda turns, looking up to the Brighton skyline for a moment, as if searching.

AMANDA
Where are you?

BRIANA
My place.

AMANDA
Still?

A source of tension. Briana steps away to the sink, running some water.

BRIANA
It went the way it was supposed to.

Amanda has reached the pillars of the old West Pier.

AMANDA
Did it? When was the last time you let air in that place?

BRIANA
It's safe here.

AMANDA
But are you home?

That cuts hard. Briana is tetchy, defensive.

BRIANA
Are you?
(beat.)
Where are you running now?

Amanda turns, stepping right towards the water's edge- and stops. The Pier pillars behind her resemble bars.

AMANDA
I'm winning at life, I told you.

BRIANA
But are you living?

Now Briana has hit Amanda just as hard.

AMANDA

Are you?

An impasse. Amanda staring out at the endless sea; Julie alone in her flat.

It's the hardest thing for Amanda, but slowly she turns.

They look each other in the eye. An understanding.

Briana opens the window, breathing the light and regarding sights below. They turn back to each other. A shared, hopeful smile.

BRIANA

I wasn't sure I could do this.

AMANDA

We can.

Briana looks up at the attic door. Resigned, she shuts it.

The flat door opens. Nervous but determined, Briana steps out, away from the bars, towards the stairs. Towards Amanda.

Amanda walks between the pillars, away from the water, back towards civilisation. Towards Julie.