

Scene Thirteen

Trick is standing outside Dexter's office. He is facing forward, perhaps isolated by lighting. He is still.

In the office Dexter is looking from the window happily. He looks at his watch. Enjoys a large gulp of tea and moves to his desk.

Dexter Come in.

Trick moves immediately and enters the room quickly, taking Dexter slightly by surprise.

Dexter Good. Punctual.

Brief quiet.

Dexter Seat ?

Trick No. Sir.

Dexter Good. Good.

Quiet.

Dexter Well. There we go. I was on the phone to your mother immediately. The Ink's barely wet.... and you're back.

Trick Mother said thank you.

Dexter And you ?

Trick Yes.

Dexter It hasn't been easy. I have to give my attention to nothing else. Wood has gone unshaven. Have seat.

Trick No. sir.

Dexter This has required an extra-ordinary effort on my part. You do appreciate that don't you. You nearly killed a man, for god's sake. And I got you back in. There is nothing more painful to me than a child's ingratitude.

Trick Thank you. Sir. Thank you with the whole of my heart.

Quiet.

Dexter We can be sure of opportunities for a fuller expression.

He moves closer.

Faith in him has gone. Across all boards. There is only one CV on the table. I give him 'till Easter. I shall lord this sorry, bloody manor. **(Wait)** You understand me ? I am not speaking to a child. Or a fool?

Wait.

Good. So. How are the kids ? **(He laughs. Trick doesn't.)** Some of 'em would have you out of here for that one. I saw you at your junior school. I remember you in short pants. Your first day here.... Christ, you wore our tie like a fat noose. I could have seen it coming. You're unique, Steven. Trick I have put away childish things.

Quiet.

Dexter You know you can trust me don't you. We can open to each other a little I think.

Trick looks to him.

Dexter Right. **(Wait)** You're gonna need me. I'm gonna need you.

Dexter walks to the window. He turns and speaks across the room. Trick straightens himself.

Dexter Please read the paper headed with your name. On my desk.

Wait. Trick moves forward and picks it up. He holds it to his face.

Your re-entry to the school, as with all pupils returning from a period of exclusion, will be de-limited by a specifically worded behavioural contract. This contract will be made available to all teaching staff and you will be required to behave within the constraints laid down therein. Acceptance of the terms of the contract is the sole condition of your re-admittance. Please read.

Trick is looking at the document very closely. His body is slightly bent around it. Dexter watches him. Smiling.

Black.