

LETTER HOME

Written by

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1 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY - 10:29AM 1

A street of 1980s four bedroom detached houses. We stop outside one. The lawn is immaculate and the two cars on the drive are pristine. No movement anywhere.

CUT TO:

2 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - 10:30AM 2

CLOSE UP on a calendar. It's February 2013. Each of the days in February have been crossed off until the 10th February where the crossing off stops. The camera pans to today's date - February 14th - marked on the diary as 'J's Home!!'

A WIFE, 40, dressed smartly with court shoes on, walks into an immaculate kitchen. She's on autopilot, emptying the dishwasher.

J (V.O.)

Dear Mum and Dad.

Just got an hour so thought I'd write. It's been crazy here... 50 degrees!!!

The good news is I've stopped burning and got a tan! I'll look forward to showing it off when I get home.

Wife drops a plate it smashes on the floor. No emotion. She bends down and starts to pick up the pieces.

J (V.O.)

Food is crap... it's either kill it or don't eat. We bought a goat for 200 dollars and actually slaughtered it ourselves. Got it all on my phone!

CUT TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM - DAY - 10:34AM 3

HUSBAND, mid 40s, dressed in a suit and tie, stands in front of a long mirror. He stands still, looking his reflection.

J (V.O.)

Had a bad day yesterday - lost two riflemen - their truck went over an IED. Hit the lads hard. But don't worry... I'll be fine. It's what we're here for. Get the job done.

CUT TO:

4 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - 10:35AM 4

Wife puts the broken pieces of plate in the bin and leans against the sink, staring out the window.

J (V.O.)

Some of the lads have been sent parcels of clothes and sweets - can you write to companies and see if they can send more out to us?

She opens a cupboard and takes out a small brown bottle and a glass. She fills the glass with tap water and knocks two pills back.

J (V.O.)

The pics you sent were wicked! I stared at it for about an hour. Seriously you don't know how good it is to see you all. Anyway don't worry about me. I'll be back home soon. Not long Mum. Give Nan a kiss from me. Lots of love, J.

Wife maintains vacant look. Husband walks into the kitchen. They look at each other before he gently guides her out of the room.

CUT TO:

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - 10:39AM 5

Husband and Wife walk through the uncluttered living room, in the background we see a polished sideboard full of family photographs. One of a young soldier. Wife picks up her pink pashmina from the coffee table and exits shot. There's are several well-thumbed letters lying on the table and one envelope.

We hear the front door shut.

CLOSE UP on the envelope. On it is written 'The letter I hope you never have to read.'

CUT TO:

6 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY - 10:41AM 6

Two black limousines pull away from the house.

FADE TO BLACK.