

**EXTRACT FROM 'THE LOVE AGENT'**

A feature screenplay by Stephanie Hutchinson

**EXT. EAST LONDON STREET - DAY**

Lili glances at her new boots and carefully manoeuvres the mud-spattered path, stepping over crushed crisp packets and empty beer cans. She looks skyward. Heavy, grey clouds hover ominously. She tightens her belt, wraps her scarf more tightly and walks towards a vast school that squats in the midst of a dense structure of tower blocks. She looks impossibly young and out of place. A TIRED WOMAN hangs wet washing over a balcony from a housing estate. A child's thin wail warbles from within.

TIRED WOMAN

I said shut it Kyla, you're pissing me orf.

A police car moves desultorily along the street. Lili takes a deep breath as she approaches FIVE TEENAGE BOYS (16-17), identical in baggy grey trousers and thin black hoodies, smoking brazenly. She hears a low, hissing sound as she nears. A tall, muscular boy (ADEBAYO, brilliant, brash, brave - 17) steps in front of her, barring her way. He exhales smoke lazily, within inches of her face. Lili doesn't flinch but raises her chin to look him in the eye. He cocks his head to one side and narrows his eyes.

ADEBAYO

Are you lost?

LILI

Actually, young man, I am *exactly* where I am meant to be...

(indicating his cigarette)  
... can you say the same for yourself?

ADEBAYO

I'm not sure if I'm lost or found.  
I'm neither 'ere nor there. I smoke, therefore I am.

LILI

Well then! Let's explore that philosophical quandary more extensively in class, shall we?

ADEBAYO

(incredulously)  
You're a fucking teacher? What the fuck you gonna teach us?

LILI

Some manners, for a start.

Adebayo steps aside and hoots in laughter as Lili marches into the school.

TEENAGE BOY

Ah, she told you bro'. She fucking told you man.

**EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS**

A sudden piercing siren is heard. THREE TEENAGE GIRLS (14-15) saunter past, thin bare legs sticking out beneath short, polyester hemlines.

LILI

Excuse me please, girls. Which way to the office?

They roll black, heavily defined eyes at each other. The tallest of the trio, JASMINE (15) shrugs insolently, her mouth moving rhythmically as she chews a large wad of gum.

JASMINE

Dunno which way, Miss.

LILI

Really? I find that rather hard to believe.

JASMINE

Wait, is you new 'ere?

LILI

That's right. First day today.

JASMINE

Well, you wanna watch your step, or you gonna mess up them new boots of yours.

Jasmine spits her gum onto the ground in front of Lili.

JASMINE (CONT'D)

Don't tread on anything nasty now.