

Duncan Edwards

Boy Wonder

By

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Estimated running time: 120 minutes

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FADE IN

1 EXT. STREETS OF DUDLEY - 1939 1

MONTAGE of the town of Dudley and life in 1939 to the song 'In The Mood' by Glenn Miller

2 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY 2
- 1939

'In The Mood' by Glenn Miller fades - the montage ends. The song stays in the background, it's being played out on the radio in the living room of a neat and tidy yet modest 1930's house.

SARAH ANNE EDWARDS, known as ANNIE, sows a garment at the kitchen table.

A three-year-old DUNCAN stands in the living room with a small ball at his feet. His father GLADSTONE encourages DUNCAN to kick the ball.

ANNIE walks into the living room carrying the tiny home-made football kit that she was sowing.

ANNIE

(Beaming, holds up the
kit to show GLADSTONE)
What do you think?

GLADSTONE

Perfect.

ANNIE holds the kit against a smiley DUNCAN.

ANNIE

It might need a few adjustments..
(To DUNCAN)
But apart from that it's just
right for my budding little
footballer.

ANNIE lovingly grabs DUNCAN watched by a content GLADSTONE. DUNCAN wriggles free then gently taps the ball with his feet.

GLADSTONE

(Picks up the ball,
rolls it to DUNCAN)
He'll be playing for Wolves
before you know it this one.

ANNIE and GLADSTONE adoringly watch a happy DUNCAN as he kicks the ball again.

The joy quickly turns sour. The music ends on the radio - Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's voice is now heard.

RADIO (OOV)

I do not propose to say many words tonight. The time has come when action rather than speech is required. Eighteen months ago in this House I prayed that the responsibility might not fall upon me to ask this country to accept the awful arbitrament of war. I fear that I may not be able to avoid that responsibility.

HOLD ON GLADSTONE and ANNIE, stoned faced, it's the news they have been dreading...

3

INT. VARIOUS 1930'S FRONT ROOMS - DAY - 1939

3

MONTAGE of families in front rooms crowded around the radio - couples listening - elderly people digesting CHAMERLAIN's speech as it continues during the montage..

RADIO (OOV)

No man can say that the Government could have done more to try to keep open the way for an honourable and equitable settlement of the dispute between Germany and Poland. Nor have we neglected any means of making it crystal clear to the German Government that if they insisted on using force again in the manner in which they had used it in the past we were resolved to oppose them by force...

4 INT/EXT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - GARDEN - ANDERSON SHELTER - NIGHT - 1939 4

A terrified GLADSTONE, ANNIE and DUNCAN sit on a worn mattress in their air raid shelter. The German planes fly overhead - bombs are dropped.

Huddled together with DUNCAN whimpering on her lap, ANNIE makes up a story to distract him from the noises outside.

ANNIE

Once upon a time there was a
little boy...

The sound of a low flying plane makes ANNIE stop mid-sentence, she pulls DUNCAN closer into her. GLADSTONE in turn pulls ANNIE close to him.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(Trying to be upbeat
for DUNCAN)

...A little boy, who dreamed of
playing football when he grew
up...

A bomb dropping in the distance stops ANNIE again, she's close to tears but holds it together...

ANNIE (CONT'D)

...He practiced everyday with
the ball his dad bought him
and ate all the food his mum
cooked him so he grew up to be
big and strong...

FADE OUT to the sound of more bombs and planes - ANNIE soothing DUNCAN - GLADSTONE soothing her.

5 INT/EXT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - KITCHEN/GARDEN - DAY - 1941 5

CAPTION: TWO YEARS LATER

A plate of spam and potatoes is put on the kitchen table. There is a lot more spam than spuds.

Dissatisfied, DUNCAN wrinkles his nose up at the prospect of spam again as the plate is put in front of him. Annie catches his expression.

ANNIE

I'll try and do you a meat pie
tomorrow as a treat.

DUNCAN tucks in pretending he's enjoying the meal.
ANNIE washes dishes looking out onto the garden.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

It depends how far I can make
the food stretch and if your
dad has time to dig up some more
spuds...

DUNCAN

(Referring to the meal)
It's ok. Honest.

ANNIE winks at DUNCAN.

FROM ANNIE'S POV we see some chickens in the garden in
a wire pen.

ANNIE

You can go and see if the hens
have laid when you've eaten that
love.

ANNIE turns from the sink to see DUNCAN giving his DOG
(a collie) some of his spam.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

And take that dog with you!

DUNCAN shovels the last of his food into his mouth.

DUNCAN

(To DOG)
Come on boy.

ANNIE smiles to herself as she watches DUNCAN scoot off
with his DOG - he turns back to retrieve his football,
which is sat behind the back door, before exiting.

6 EXT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY - 1942

6

DUNCAN kicks his football against the wall.

DUNCAN
(Counting his kicks)
Hundred and one, hundred and
two...

DUNCAN turns from the wall and dribbles with the ball.
He stops as he hears someone whistle at him.

DUNCAN turns to see an older BOY peering over the
garden gate.

BOY
Come on Dunc! We're about to
pick sides!

DUNCAN rushes after the BOY with his ball under his arm
as the song 'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag'
by Spike Jones starts to play.

7 EXT. PLAYING FIELD - DAY - 1942 7

'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag' by Spike
Jones continues. DUNCAN's playing a football match in a
field opposite his house, he's playing with a group of
boys that are older than him.

**8 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY 8
- 1942**

'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag' by Spike
Jones fades into the background as ANNIE sits on a
chair by an open front window. She's sewing again, she
looks up as she hears someone shout from outside:

BOY (OOV)
Go on Duncan!

ANNIE looks across to the playing field. She gasps at
seeing DUNCAN playing football with boys bigger taller
and older than him.

ANNIE
Oh my lord!

ANNIE quickly turns the radio off ending 'Pack Up Your
Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag' by Spike Jones.
She goes to the window - opens it wide - shouts over to
the playing field.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Duncan! Come in now - you're going to get hurt playing with lads twice your age, come home love before you end up with a broken leg!

9

EXT. PLAYING FIELD/FRONT OF THE EDWARD HOUSE
- DAY - 1942

9

A BOY, GORDON CLAYTON, who is playing football with DUNCAN, calls back to ANNIE.

GORDON CLAYTON

It's alright Mrs Edwards! It's us you should be worried about not Dunc' - he tackles harder than all of us put together!

GORDON CLAYTON and the rest of the lads carry on with their game.

CUT TO ANNIE who is now hanging out the window, she calls back to GORDON CLAYTON:

ANNIE

(In jest)

Gordon Clayton! I might have guessed you'd be behind all this!

ANNIE watches with pride. She becomes very animated as DUNCAN runs towards the goal. (The goal being two rags as goal posts)

FROM ANNIE'S POV DUNCAN strides forward with the ball at his feet.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Go on Duncan! That's it, shoot!

DUNCAN unleashes a shot which flies into the goal. The BOYS congratulate DUNCAN who modestly smiles with satisfaction.

CUT BACK to ANNIE - still hanging out of the window.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Yes! Well done love!

A jubilant ANNIE and GLADSTONE dance together.

A smiley DUNCAN, in the doorway to the kitchen, is knelt by his DOG - he's waving a small British flag whilst watching his parents.

ANNIE

(To GLADSTONE)

Isn't it wonderful?! Everyone so happy...

ANNIE kisses GLADSTONE.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

No more dashing to the air raid shelter...

GLADSTONE

(Joking)

No more spam every night...

ANNIE

(Playfully jabs GLADSTONE in the arm)

'Ay! I thought you liked my spam and spuds!

GLADSTONE

I'm only pulling your leg, I don't mind it really.

(Nods towards DUNCAN)

Not sure about are Duncan though...

ANNIE and GLADSTONE laugh in each other arms.

The song comes around to the chorus again, the volume is upped as everyone sings Aye aye yippee. ANNIE and GLADSTONE join in. They gesture to DUNCAN to join them.

DUNCAN runs over, the three join hands and skip in a circle whilst singing.

14

INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAWN - 1946

14

A radio plays in the background, more Glenn Miller perhaps, ANNIE hums along whilst putting clothes through a mangle.

ANNIE looks at the kitchen clock.

15 EXT. LANE BEHIND THE EDWARD HOUSE - DAY - 1946 15

DUNCAN is kicking a ball against a wall using his left foot only.

A fraught ANNIE appears in the lane.

ANNIE
Duncan! School!

DUNCAN
Just twenty more Mum, let me get
up to a hundred with me left peg.

ANNIE
Come on, you got history today,
you like history don't you?

DUNCAN
(Picks up his ball)
Not as much as football!

ANNIE
Go! You'll have me and your
dad in bother you will!

DUNCAN gives ANNIE a cheeky smile then dashes off to the song 'Dig You Later A Hubba-Hubba-Hubba' by Perry Como.

As the song plays DUNCAN dribbles the ball down the road - smiling shyly at neighbours in their gardens - saying hello to friends as he makes his way to school.

16 INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY - 1946 16

DUNCAN's TEACHER directs the class from the front.

DUNCAN's staring out of the window. His school bag with a football next to it is under the desk. DUNCAN's twitchy - knocking his foot against the ball - bursting to get out of school so he can play football.

TEACHER
For tonight's homework it's
the sums you copied from the
blackboard, completed by Monday.

The School bell rings - the CHILDREN shuffle in their seats.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Ok. Class dismissed.

A scramble and chatter as the CHILDREN make their way out of the classroom.

DUNCAN picks up his bag and ball then follows suit.

17 INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY - 1946

17

DUNCAN charges down the corridor - his bag on his back - his football under his arm. Hustle and bustle as the rest of the school CHILDREN exit.

Other class room doors open as DUNCAN runs down the corridor - CHILDREN pour out including older years. OLDER BOYS follow DUNCAN, struggling to catch up with him.

OLDER BOY #1

(Calls out to DUNCAN)

'Ay! Dunc' you're on my team!

OLDER BOY #2

(To OLDER BOY #1)

You had him on your side last time, it's my turn!

OLDER BOY #1

(To OLDER BOY #2)

I said first, Dunc's with me!

DUNCAN, the OLDER BOYS, and other CHILDREN, burst out of the school doors.

18 EXT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - DAY - 1946

18

DUNCAN arrives at the school gates, he turns back to the OLDER BOYS.

DUNCAN

(Smug but in a nice manner)

It don't matter who's team I'm on, I reckon I can give you a run for your money!

OLDER BOYS join DUNCAN at the gates.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(Starts heading the ball over and over - says a word between each bounce of the ball)

So... first - one - to - the - park...

(Grabs the ball with his hands)

Gets me up front!

The OLDER BOYS dash through the school gates. DUNCAN follows.

19 EXT. STREET - DAY - 1946

19

DUNCAN and the OLDER BOYS charge down the street, laughing and enjoying life.

This scene could be played out in slow motion - ZOOMING IN on a happy DUNCAN dribbling the ball.

They arrive at the park, the OLDER BOYS's jump the wall and sprint onwards, DUNCAN kicks the ball high over the wall then follows them.

20 EXT - PARK - DAY - 1946

20

More BOYS have joined DUNCAN and the OLDER BOYS in the park. They are all playing a football match. Lots of shouting 'pass the ball,' 'over here Dunc''.

ZOOM IN on DUNCAN - his pace, hard tackling, accurate passing - he's like a young football genius - his skills evident.

DUNCAN runs onto a cross, he leaps higher than two OLDER BOYS and heads the ball like a bullet into the goal. (Two rolled up school jumpers acting as goal posts) The other BOYS cheer, some admire the goal, others congratulate DUNCAN.

**21 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - HALLWAY/FRONT ROOM/
- NIGHT - 1946**

21

A grubby DUNCAN comes through the front door with his football under his arm.

His jumper is torn and his trousers are ripped. He's hiding something behind his back.

He walks into the front room where his DOG greets him.

22 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - 1946 22

A sheepish DUNCAN slops into the kitchen where ANNIE's serving dinner. GLADSTONE's at the table reading a newspaper. ANNIE takes one look at DUNCAN...

ANNIE

Oh will you look at the state of him, Duncan what have you been doing with those clothes?

DUNCAN

Sorry Mum, I was playing football with the lads and...

ANNIE

(Bringing plates to the table)

You're going through togs like there's no tomorrow. I'll have to run a few repairs on 'em, we can't afford new.

(To GLADSTONE)

In't that right?

GLADSTONE

(Closes newspaper)

'Fraid so.

(Looks over to the work top)

Is that my favourite?! Faggots?

ANNIE

(Dishes out food)

Yes, I was passing the butchers and-

DUNCAN pulls out a bunch of flowers from behind his back.

DUNCAN

I'll be more careful next time Mum...

In an instant ANNIE has lost all annoyance with DUNCAN.

ANNIE

Oh Duncan, what a kind thought!
(Takes the flowers from
DUNCAN, hugs and kisses
him)
Aren't they lovely Gladstone?

GLADSTONE

(Tucking into his
faggots)
Beautiful.
(Gestures to food)
Just like these faggots. Smashing
this love.

ANNIE beams at both her boys.

ANNIE

(To DUNCAN)
Come on, come and have your
dinner.

ANNIE fishes out a vase from a cupboard - DUNCAN sits
opposite GLADSTONE.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

When you've finished put those
clothes on top my sewing basket
and I'll mend 'em tomorrow.
(Puts flowers in the
vase, stands back to
admire them)
Then...
(Comes to the table,
kisses DUNCAN's head)
Get your homework done love. I
know you love your football but
your eleven plus exam will be
here before you know it.

DUNCAN

I know Mum, I'll try and get
some done before bed...

GLADSTONE puts his knife and fork down and wipes his
mouth with a hankie. He rummages in his pocket.

GLADSTONE

I nearly forgot son...

(Pulls two wolves
tickets from his pocket
- puts them on the table
looking pleased with
himself)

Me and you 'ay? Tomorrow, three
o'clock, cheering on the Wolves.
Chap in work gave 'em to me.
In fact...

(Shovels the last of his
meal into his mouth)

I'm going to dig out me rattle
right now!

(An excited GLADSTONE
leaves the table,
ruffling DUNCAN's hair
as he goes)

You're gonna love it son... Up the
Wanderers!

GLADSTONE exits the kitchen. HOLD on a disappointed and deflated DUNCAN - when he loves football so much why isn't he enthralled by a trip to a match?

23 EXT. MOLINEUX STADIUM - DAY - 1946

23

New day. Pretending to look happy, DUNCAN, kitted out with a yellow scarf and rattle, walks with GLADSTONE amongst the crowds towards the ground and into the stadium.

24 INT/EXT. MOLINEUX STADIUM - DAY - 1946

24

Electric atmosphere - the match kicks-off.

GLADSTONE's in his element but he can see DUNCAN isn't very interested, he looks bored. GLADSTONE can't fathom it out - why when his son loves football does he not want to see it live? This is his local team...

A goal is scored - the crowd go mad - GLADSTONE cheers, DUNCAN paints a smile on for his dad.

CUT TO further on in the first half of the match - DUNCAN's fiddling with his coat zip - fed up - he looks around, fidgeting, he's bored, itching to leave.

GLADSTONE clocks DUNCAN.

GLADSTONE

What's the matter son? I thought
you'd love this, the mighty Wolves,
you love your football...

DUNCAN

Sorry dad, but that's the problem,
they're playing and I'm not.

GLADSTONE's confused.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I wanna be playing football Dad,
not watching it. I wanna be out
in the park now with the lads,
practicing my skills, scoring
goals.

(Beat. Shrugs his
shoulders)

That's what I love doing.

GLADSTONE

(Picks up his rattle)

Well we best get you home then.

DUNCAN

But you'll miss the last twenty
minutes.

GLADSTONE

Son, if missing the end of this
match means one day I'll see you
playing in that yellow strip then
I'm happy to do so.

DUNCAN

(Can't wait to leave)

Thanks Dad...!

DUNCAN and GLADSTONE move out of the stand, DUNCAN's
quicker, he turns back to a slow moving GLADSTONE.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Come on, it'll be dark soon and
I wanna score with me left foot
today.

(MORE)

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I haven't kicked a ball with me
right all week.

(Beams at GLADSTONE,
jokey))

Practice makes perfect!

DUNCAN scoots out of the stadium. GLADSTONE's left
bemused.

25 EXT. PARK - DAY - 1948

25

New day. Morris dancing music/fiddle playing as a group
of boys Morris dance - they are watched by an
enthusiastic crowd.

ZOOM IN on DUNCAN who is dancing with his fellow Morris
dancers. ANNIE and GLADSTONE are in the crowd - they
applaud as the music and dance ends.

DUNCAN walks to ANNIE and GLADSTONE - ANNIE is heavily
pregnant.

DUNCAN's embraced by ANNIE and GLADSTONE.

GLADSTONE

That were brilliant son.

ANNIE

(Kisses DUNCAN's head)

Well done love.

They walk to the park exit.

GLADSTONE

You'll love it at Wolverhampton
street, they got a Morris dancing
club.

ANNIE

And they do sword dancing, another
one of your favourites.

DUNCAN

Do they play football?

ANNIE

I'd imagine most schools do and
Wolverhampton secondary is no
exception...

GLADSTONE, ANNIE and DUNCAN are very contented and smiley as they walk out of the park hugging and ushering DUNCAN.

26 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM/KITCHEN 26
- DAY - 1948

Time has moved on a few weeks, ANNIE has had the baby, a girl named CAROL, DUNCAN is cooing over her as she lies in her cot.

ANNIE's putting towelling nappies through a mangle in the kitchen. She's content as she watches DUNCAN lovingly looking at CAROL and gently stroking her cheek.

DUNCAN

(Turns to speak to
ANNIE)

Will she still be awake when I
get home from school Mum?

ANNIE

(Folding clean nappies)
I'll try and keep her up so you
can read to her before she goes
to bed.

(Beat)

Now go on! Or you'll be late!
Besides Carol needs a feed.

DUNCAN kisses CAROL's head then dashes off.

ANNIE comes into the front room. She leans over CAROL's cot with love and affection.

27 EXT. PRIORY ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL - FIELD - DAY 27
- 1948

Same day, later.

A football match between Priory Road school and local rivals St Johns is taking place. DUNCAN's having a great game. Priory Road are winning 3-0 - DUNCAN inspiring the win.

GORDON MEDDINGS, St Johns manager is on the touchline watching his team. He turns to a spectator.

GORDON MEDDINGS

Who's the lad making all the runs?

SPECTATOR

That's Duncan, Duncan Edwards. Been everywhere on that pitch hasn't he?

GORDON MEDDINGS

He certainly has. My teams a decent side but he's blown us away single handily.

GORDON MEDDINGS watches on, mesmerised by DUNCAN's play. DUNCAN puts in a crunching tackle. GORDON MEDDINGS applauds along with the other SPECTATORS.

GORDON MEDDINGS (CONT'D)

(To himself)

Duncan Edwards eh? He's a bit special isn't he?

28 EXT. STREET/FRONT OF THE EDWARD HOUSE - DAY 28
- 1948

Same day, later.

DUNCAN's running down the street towards his house - his football kit bag on his back.

DUNCAN races through his garden gate, almost tripping over with excitement, he gushes through the front door.

29 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - HALLWAY/FRONT ROOM/ 29
KITCHEN - DAY - 1948

DUNCAN drops his bag in the hallway and calls up the stairs.

DUNCAN

Mum! Dad! We won 3-0!

No response from upstairs. DUNCAN rushes into the front room and heads over to CAROL's cot.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Carol! We won 3- (0)

DUNCAN peers into the cot, its empty stopping him mid-sentence.

DUNCAN spins around to see ANNIE and GLADSTONE weeping at the kitchen table. His excitement instantly leaves him.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Mum...?

DUNCAN moves to ANNIE's side.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Mum, what's happened? Where's Carol?

ANNIE hugs DUNCAN tight.

ANNIE

I'm so sorry love... she's gone...
they couldn't save her...

ANNIE looks at a devastated DUNCAN.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(Almost a whisper)
Our little Carol's gone...

ANNIE, GLADSTONE and DUNCAN sob together.

30 EXT. FRONT OF THE EDWARD HOUSE - DAY - 1948 30

Same day, later.

DUNCAN's sat on the door step sobbing with his DOG at his feet.

31 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY - 1948 31

ANNIE and GLADSTONE are sat together, holding each other, as they cry for their daughter.

32 EXT. FRONT OF THE EDWARD HOUSE - DAY - 1948 32

Through the tears, DUNCAN looks across to the playing field. He can see his friends playing football. Normally he'd be over there in a flash but today he doesn't, he goes back into the house.

33 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY - 1948 33

To maybe some soft sad music, DUNCAN enters the front room and goes to ANNIE and GLADSTONE. The family embrace and cry together.

34 INT. WOLVERHAMPTON STREET SCHOOL - HALL - DAY - 1948 34

CAPTION: TWO MONTHS LATER

School children are sword dancing, DUNCAN watches waiting his turn.

DUNCAN's arts and folk teacher MRS COOK approaches him.

MRS COOK

Are you enjoying your new school Duncan?

DUNCAN

(Bashful yet polite)
Yes Miss, especially P.E. lessons.

MRS COOK

Your sword dancing is extremely good, it's very dedicated of you to give up your Saturdays to to join the club.

DUNCAN gives MRS COOK a shy smile.

MRS COOK (CONT'D)

And I hear Mr Meddings is impressed with your football skills...

DUNCAN

Thank you Miss, I've been practicing hard at both.

DUNCAN goes back to watching the dancing looking very contented. MRS COOK looks at him like a proud parent.

MRS COOK

He thinks you'll play for England one day, even wrote a letter to his friend to tell him so - a football fan.

(MORE)

MRS COOK (CONT'D)

He's very complimentary where your football's concerned Duncan.

DUNCAN

(Smiles, very down to earth)

I think I've done quite well in the matches so far Miss, but I still want to improve my left foot, I want to be able to play with both feet.

MRS COOK

(Gently squeezes DUNCAN's shoulder)

You keep up the good work Duncan. You'll go far.

Another bashful smile from DUNCAN.

MRS COOK winks at DUNCAN then walks off shouting encouragement to a group of sword dancers.

DUNCAN looks at a clock on the wall, it's just gone two o'clock in the afternoon...

35 EXT. WOLVERHAMPTON STREET SCHOOL - GATES - DAY 35
- 1948

DUNCAN rushes out of the school gates.

36 EXT. STREET - DAY - 1948 36

DUNCAN runs down the road towards his house.

37 EXT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - PATH/FRONT DOOR - DAY 37
- 1948

Dashing up the garden path DUNCAN bursts through the front door.

38 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - HALLWAY/STAIRS/LANDING 38
- DAY - 1948

DUNCAN runs up the staircase and into his bedroom.

39 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - DAY 39
- 1948

Sitting on his bed, DUNCAN fumbles with a radio - buzzing and interference as DUNCAN struggles to tune the radio into the station...

DUNCAN finds the station - it's the FA Cup final between Manchester United and Blackpool.

DUNCAN listens intently to the commentary of the match.

The commentator praises Manchester United - DUNCAN's mesmerised.

The match commentary continues. DUNCAN looks at a newspaper article he's got stuck on his bedroom wall - it has a headline along the lines of 'Busby Building Dream Team'

DUNCAN closes his eyes - inside his mind - players DUNCAN admires - Johnny Carey, Jack Rowley, Johnny Morris, Charlie Mitten and lastly, a beaming Matt Busby.

DUNCAN opens his eyes as the final whistle blows - Manchester United have won 4-2 - DUNCAN's hooked...

40 INT. THE IRONWORKS - DAY - 1948 40

New week - Monday morning.

On his work break, GLADSTONE is looking at the back pages of a newspaper. The rest of the workers stand around drinking tea and discussing the FA Cup final.

GLADSTONE

(Pointing to article)

What a comeback 'ay lads? 2-1
down...

WORKER #1

He's certainly got 'em playing
that Matt Busby.

WORKER #2
(Sipping tea)
Thrilling weren't it?
(Shakes his head in
amazement)
4-2 'ay?

GLADSTONE
Entertaining football, you're
getting your money's worth going
to Old Trafford these days...

41 EXT. DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE - DAY - 1948

41

A NEWSPAPER SELLER calls for people to buy his papers.

NEWSPAPER SELLER
Read all about it! United win
the FA Cup!

ANNIE and her FRIEND walk up to the seller, ANNIE buys
a paper, looks at the FA Cup article - shows it to her
FRIEND.

ANNIE
Marvellous weren't it? He's
turned that team around hasn't
he?

**42 INT. WOLVERHAMPTON STREET SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY 42
- 1948**

DUNCAN's in a classroom of CHILDREN. The TEACHER's
giving instructions at the front of the class, his
words fade into the background as DUNCAN listens to two
CHILDREN whispering behind him.

CHILD #1
United won the FA cup 4-2!

CHILD #2
From 2-1 down! I wanna score a
goal just like Rowley when I get
on that playing field later.

DUNCAN smiles to himself.

43 INT. WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL - FOOTBALL CHANGING ROOM 43
- DAY - 1948

Same day, later.

DUNCAN enters the lively changing room, dumps his bag and starts to get changed into his football kit.

MR MEDDINGS enters and shouts above the noise. The BOYS soon quieten down.

MR MEDDINGS

Ok Lads!

(As the BOYS hush he lowers his voice)

You need to get out there and give it your all today boys. We've got a special visitor watching, Mr Booth, he's the secretary of the Dudley School's football association, if he likes what he sees he'll pick you for Dudley Schoolboys, it's the next step lads, you don't want to miss out.

All the BOYS listen intently including DUNCAN.

MR MEDDINGS scans the room - some BOYS nod - others are in awe.

MR MEDDINGS (CONT'D)

Alright then, so let's show him what you're made of.

(Looks at DUNCAN)

Duncan, you're playing centre half.

DUNCAN

Yes Sir. Thank you.

MR MEDDINGS

(Throws DUNCAN the captain's arm band)

And you're captain. Let's go!

DUNCAN puts the armband on as the BOYS chatter and disperse out of the changing room. DUNCAN follows, MR MEDDINGS stops him.

MR MEDDINGS (CONT'D)

You've got the balance and power in your shot Duncan, you're a talent and you've got a good football brain, I know you'll go far, now make sure you give that Mr Booth something to think about.

DUNCAN

Yes Sir, I will.

MR MEDDINGS

Good lad. Go on.

DUNCAN rushes out of the changing room. HOLD ON a satisfied MR MEDDINGS.

44 EXT. WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL - PLAYING FIELD - 1948 44
- DAY

Same day, later.

The final whistle blows in the match the school team are playing. The team including DUNCAN cheer and celebrate.

MR MEDDINGS and ERIC BOOTH walk away from the touchline, strolling across the playing field.

ERIC BOOTH

He's a special talent, I give you that.

MR MEDDINGS

He's got the lot, balance, power, and his reading of the game's second to none.

ERIC BOOTH

I can certainly see that. For his age he's exceptional.

(Beat. Looks at MR MEDDINGS)

I want him for Dudley school boys Mr Meddings.

MR MEDDINGS

Glad to hear it. He won't let you down, I can guarantee it.

(MORE)

MR MEDDINGS (CONT'D)

He's a great lad off the pitch
as well as on it.

MR MEDDINGS and ERIC BOOTH stop in the middle of the
field.

ERIC BOOTH

Just one small thing... I don't
want him as a centre-half, I
want him to play outside-left.

(Beat)

Not only will it help with his
development, but that left foot
of his is first class. Send him
to see me when he's changed will
you?

45 INT. WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL - FOOTBALL CHANGING ROOM 45
- DAY - 1948

Chattering as the team get changed. MR MEDDINGS walks
in and gestures for DUNCAN to come to his office.

DUNCAN puts his trousers and top on then follows MR
MEDDINGS.

46 INT. WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL - OFFICE - DAY - 1948 46

MR MEDDINGS is sat behind his desk. DUNCAN sheepishly
walks in thinking he's in trouble.

MR MEDDINGS

It's alright Duncan, you've
done nothing wrong lad. It's
good news.

(Comes to the front of
the desk. Looks DUNCAN
in the eye)

Mr Booth wants you to play for
Dudley boys.

DUNCAN

(Great excitement)
Really?!

MR MEDDINGS

Yes really. And not only that,
he wants you playing at outside-
left. How about that 'ay?

DUNCAN

Out-side left?!

MR MEDDINGS

All that work you've been doing,
all the practising with your left
foot, it's paid off!

DUNCAN

Wait 'til I tell me mum and dad..

MR MEDDINGS

They'll be thrilled. You deserve it,
well done.

HOLD ON MR MEDDINGS thrilled expression.

MR MEDDINGS (CONT'D)

Keep up the good work Duncan,
you'll go far, I just know it.

47 INT/EXT. DUDLEY BOYS - MR BOOTH'S OFFICE/PITCH 47
- 1949

CAPTION: DUDLEY 1949

MR BOOTH is sat behind his desk, MR MEDDINGS sitting in
front of him.

MR MEDDINGS

...It doesn't matter where he
plays, he still gets the ball
more than any of the other lads,
he can change a game whatever
his position.

MR BOOTH

But if he plays more centrally
he'll be able to dictate matches
even more than he does now.

MR BOOTH goes over to the office window.

From MR BOOTH's POV Dudley boys train on the pitch
below his window.

ZOOM IN on DUNCAN.

MR BOOTH (OOV) (CONT'D)
His wonderful passing, his touch
on the ball... the opposition can't
cope with him. He's Dudley Boy's
star player, he's been magnificent
all season.

CUT BACK to MR BOOTH still gazing with amazement out of
the window.

MR BOOTH (CONT'D)
No question about it. If you want
to win the match you give the ball
to Duncan.

MR MEDDINGS
(Nodding in agreement)
His ability's exceptional, his
progress for the school team and
Dudley boys has been very
impressive.

(Beat)
So... what do you say? Are we in
agreement?

MR BOOTH continues to stare out of the window -
mesmerised by DUNCAN.

MR MEDDINGS (CONT'D)
Mr Booth?

MR BOOTH slowly turns his head towards MR MEDDINGS.

HOLD ON MR BOOTH as...

MR BOOTH
Yes. I will be recommending Duncan
to play for England under-14's.

Back to a glowing MR MEDDINGS.

48 INT/EXT. DUDLEY - STREETS/LIVING ROOMS - DAY
- 1949

48

MONTAGE to the song 'A Little Bird Told Me' by Evelyn
Knight:

The front of a newspaper - the headline 'Local Boy to Play for England!' and a photo of DUNCAN.

ZOOM OUT to see the newspaper on a stand and a seller shouting to buy his papers.

People walk by, someone buys a paper and reads the DUNCAN article.

CUT TO a living room where a newspaper sits on a coffee table - ZOOM IN on the front page again as someone picks it up.

CUT TO A MAN reading the newspaper as he leans over his garden gate.

MONTAGE ends and the music fades.

49

INT. THE IRONWORKS - DAY - 1949

49

A delighted GLADSTONE is walking around his work place with a newspaper in his hand proudly showing his work mates the article on DUNCAN.

GLADSTONE

(Goes up to a work mate,
shows him the paper)
That's my Duncan that is!

WORK MATE

'Ay, give us that 'ere Gladstone.
(Takes the newspaper)
Well, well, will you have a look
at that?

The WORK MATE turns to a group of WORKERS and shows them the newspaper.

WORK MATE (CONT'D)

'Ay lads, have you seen this?!
Gladstone's lad, little Duncan,
he's only been picked to play
against Northern Ireland!

Excited chatter and response from the group of WORKERS.

GLADSTONE

(To the group, proud as
punch)

Under-14's! My Duncan playing
for England boys - how about that
'ay?!

50 **EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY - 1949**

50

ANNIE is out shopping with a FRIEND. She shows her
FRIEND the newspaper with DUNCAN in. They walk along.

ANNIE

..Not only is he going to play
for the under-14 England team
but they've also mentioned his
sword and Morris dancing, he was
ever so pleased about that.

FRIEND

It's wonderful for Dudley isn't
it? He's becoming a local
celebrity your Duncan.

ANNIE and her FRIEND stop outside the butchers.

ANNIE

(Puts newspaper in her
handbag)

'Ay, I'm just going to pop in
here, get some faggots for tea-
a celebratory meal, it's
Gladstone's favourite.

ANNIE and her FRIEND enter the butchers.

51 **INT. BUTCHERS - DAY - 1949**

51

ANNIE and her FRIEND get in the queue. ANNIE digs
around in her handbag for the newspaper. Finding it,
she gently taps the shoulder of the WOMAN in front of
her. The WOMAN turns around.

ANNIE

(To WOMAN)

Have you seen the newspapers today?

(Points to the article

on DUNCAN)

The lad who's been picked to
play for England, that's my son,
Duncan, Duncan Edwards.

WOMAN

(Smiles, genuinely pleased

for ANNIE)

That's marvellous love, you must
be so proud.

HOLD ON ANNIE's gleaming face.

ANNIE

I am... I feel like I could burst...

(Looks emotionally down

at the newspaper)

My Duncan 'ay, a star in the
making...

52 EXT. OLDHAM'S BOUNDARY PARK - STAND - DAY - 1949 52

CAPTION: 6TH MAY 1950

GLADSTONE and ANNIE are waiting with anticipation with
the rest of the crowd for the Under-14's England team
to come out onto the pitch.

**53 INT. OLDHAM'S BOUNDARY PARK - DRESSING ROOM - DAY 53
- 1949**

There's chatter and eagerness as the team gets ready
for the match. DUNCAN's getting changed along with two
other boys next to him, RAY PERRY and DAVID PEGG.

DAVID PEGG

(Holds his hand out to
shake)

Your Duncan right? Playing in
attack today?

DUNCAN

(Shakes DAVID PEGG's
hand)

That's right yeah, I'm Duncan,
Edwards.

DAVID PEGG

I'm David Pegg.
(Releases his hand,
points to RAY)
And this is Ray.

54 **EXT. OLDHAM'S BOUNDARY PARK - STAND/PITCH - DAY** 54
- 1949

The crowd still wait for the team to come out.
GLADSTONE and ANNIE read the match programme.

GLADSTONE

(To ANNIE)

Have you seen this?!

(Points to an article
in the programme)

Says here, 'these boys are the
stars of today - keep an eye on
them, they will be the stars of
tomorrow'.

(Points to the article)

Look there's are Duncan.

ANNIE

(Leans over to look at
the article)

Awh, he'll be thrilled to bits
with that. Look, it even says
about him practicing with both
feet... 'Strong and two footed.
Splendid distributor, especially
with long cross passes to the wing.'

ANNIE's over the moon, equally elated is GLADSTONE. The
crowd get animated upon seeing the England and Northern
Ireland teams come onto the pitch.

ANNIE and GLADSTONE join in the cheering and applauding
as proud as punch.

FROM ANNIE and GLADSTONE's POV the teams walk out and line up on the pitch awaiting the national anthems - CU on an honoured DUNCAN - taller and older looking compared to the rest of the team.

CUT BACK to a beaming GLADSTONE and ANNIE.

CUT BACK to DUNCAN who looks up to the stand as if he's spotted GLADSTONE and ANNIE. He smiles with contentment.

55 **EXT. OLDHAM'S BOUNDARY PARK - STAND/PITCH - DAY** 55
- 1949

The final whistle blows. A manual scoreboard reads England 5-2 Northern Ireland.

CUT TO the stand where ANNIE and GLADSTONE cheer along with the rest of the crowd.

CUT BACK to the pitch where the players walk off. DAVID PEGG and RAY PERRY walk side by side.

DAVID PEGG

(To RAY PERRY)

Blimey, that lad Duncan Edwards were a bit special weren't he?

RAY PERRY

The way he was going at the Irish back four... frightened to death of him they were. You reckon we'll see him snapped up by a big club then?

DAVID PEGG

By heck we will, if he plays like that again he'll be signed up quicker than you can say Matt Busby!

RAY PERRY

(Laughs)

Maybe he'll sign him!

DAVID PEGG

Corr imagine that, Matt Busby knocking at your door 'an asking you to play for Manchester United...

COACH (OOV)

Come on lads!

The team along with DAVID PEGG and RAY PERRY run off towards the tunnel. As they do so there is an announcement made through a loud speaker.

LOUD SPEAKER

And the man of the match today
is... Duncan Edwards!

Cheers from the crowd.

56 EXT. DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE - DAWN - 1951

56

In a busy high street a man behind a newspaper stand calls for people to buy his papers.

The headline: 'Local lad makes Wembley debut and wins!'

57 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY - 1951

57

GLADSTONE's hammering a hook into the wall - he hangs a frame then stands back to admire it - it's the article with the headline 'Local lad makes Wembley debut and wins!' - below the headline is a photo of DUNCAN.

ANNIE enters carrying two mugs of tea, she gives GLADSTONE one. They both look with pride at the framed article.

GLADSTONE

(Sipping tea)

Who'd have thought it 'eh? Are
Duncan playing for England. I
still can't believe it.

ANNIE

I'm so proud of him...

GLADSTONE

He's done well - they're saying
the scouts were watching you know,
from all the clubs - let's hope
one from Wolves was there 'ay?

ANNIE rolls her eyes with good humour.

ANNIE

(Without malice, sipping)
tea)

I don't care who he plays for, as
long as he's happy.

ANNIE finishes her tea then walks into the kitchen.

HOLD ON GLADSTONE staring dreamily at the framed
article - just the thought of DUNCAN playing for Wolves
makes him emotional...

GLADSTONE

(Still dreamily staring,
in reply to ANNIE's question
but to himself:)

Oh me too love... but my son playing
for Wolves...

(Sips tea)
Be smashing that...

HOLD ON GLADSTONE's thoughtful expression.

58 EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - PITCH - DAWN - 1951

58

MATT BUSBY is on the touchline watching a group of
young Manchester United FOOTBALLERS train. His
secretary, ALMA, approaches him.

ALMA

Sorry to interrupt but there's
an urgent telegram for you Mr
Busby.

MATT BUSBY

Thank you Alma. I'll be right
there.

ALMA makes her way back across the grass and into the
stadium tunnel. MATT BUSBY follows her.

59 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY
- 1951

59

MATT BUSBY enters his office and walks to his desk. He
picks up the telegram lying on it.

The telegram reads; 'Have today seen a schoolboy who merits special watching. His name is DUNCAN EDWARDS of Dudley. Instructions please'.

60 **EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - PITCH - DAY - 1951**

60

MATT BUSBY marches across the grass towards the touchline, he calls his two assistants, BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY who are taking the training session.

MATT BUSBY

Bert, Jimmy, can I have a word..
I need you to do something for
me.

BERT WHALLEY

(Nods at MATT BUSBY. Then
calls to YOUNG FOOTBALLERS)
Right lads, ten laps of the pitch.

BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY come to MATT BUSBY.

MATT BUSBY

Our midlands scout's been in
touch, there's a lad from Dudley,
says he's something special.

JIMMY MURPHY

What's his name boss?

MATT BUSBY

Duncan Edwards. I want you two to
keep tabs on him.

61 **EXT. DUDLEY TRAIN STATION - DAWN - 1951**

61

A steam train pulls into the station - the station sign reads: DUDLEY RAILWAY STATION. The train comes to a halt, BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY get off.

62 **INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - HALLWAY/STAIRCASE - DAY**
- 1951

62

GLADSTONE shouts up the stairs to DUNCAN who's in his bedroom.

GLADSTONE

Duncan! You ready? I'm going.

63 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - DAY 63
- 1951

DUNCAN has his football training bag packed. He's sat next to it on his bed looking at an article about MATT BUSBY and Manchester United.

The article has quotes from MATT BUSBY:

'Manchester United will always give plenty of opportunities to young players, we look after them and help them develop into top players...'

'As I have said before, if they are good enough they are old enough - I have no qualms about putting a youth player in the first team if I think they are ready...'

DUNCAN smiles after reading these quotes - it's what he wants to hear - it where he wants to play - for Manchester United and for MATT BUSBY.

GLADSTONE (OOV)

Duncan! Can you hear me son?!

DUNCAN's lost in the thought of his Manchester United dream for a moment... then he snaps out of it...

DUNCAN

(Shouts a reply to
GLADSTONE)

Coming!

DUNCAN grabs his bag and dashes out of his bedroom.

HOLD on the newspaper and the article left lying on the bed.

64 EXT. DUDLEY STREETS/MOLINEUX STADIUM - DAY - 1951 64

DUNCAN and GLADSTONE walk together.

GLADSTONE

(Playfully nudging DUNCAN)
You enjoying training at the
greatest stadium in in England
then?

DUNCAN

(Laughing)

Yeah... you should see the changing rooms, really impressive... and the gymnasium isn't bad either...

GLADSTONE

Well Wolves are a team on the up, we gotta have decent facilities haven't we!

DUNCAN's amused by GLADSTONE's love for his team. GLADSTONE's happy-go-lucky chat turns more serious as they arrive at the ground.

GLADSTONE (CONT'D)

You know, as much as I love Wolves, I don't want you to feel like you have to sign for them son. I want you to be happy, do what's right for you.

DUNCAN

I know, thanks Dad. I better get going. I'll see you later yeah?

GLADSTONE

(Ruffles DUNCAN's hair)

Good lad.

(Calls back as he walks off - joking)

And don't let those older boys push you about!

More laughter. DUNCAN enters the stadium.

65 EXT. MOLINEUX STADIUM - DAY - 1951

65

DUNCAN is training with a group of BOYS.

The COACHES are watching on the touchline. The Wolverhampton manager STAN CULLIS walks up to them.

STAN CULLIS

(To COACH #1)

How they doing lads?

COACH #1

Some good talent out there boss.

(MORE)

COACH #1 (CONT'D)

Especially that Duncan
Edwards. He's played for England
under 14's, 15's...

STAN CULLIS

I no, I no. He's got the ability.
He'll go far that boy.

COACH #2

Yeah but we don't wanting him
going far somewhere else... you
gonna sign him up boss?

STAN CULLIS

He trains here, he's a local lad,
apparently his dad's a massive
Wolves fan...

(Grips and gently shakes
COACH #2 shoulder, laid
back, jokey)

Don't worry! He'll be a Wolves
player by his sixteenth Birthday,
it's a done deal.

STAN CULLIS walks off down the touchline, pleased to
see DUNCAN put a crunching tackle in on a player.

66 EXT. DUDLEY STREETS/MOLINEUX STADIUM - DAY - 1951 66

BERT WHALLEY peers through the stadium gates in an
attempt to see DUNCAN. JIMMY MURPHY is reading a local
paper, he turns to BERT WHALLEY.

JIMMY MURPHY

Any luck?

BERT WHALLEY

Nah, can't see a thing.

JIMMY MURPHY

(Back to newspaper)

Says here that he's playing for
the Birmingham 'n District side
tonight, he's been named in the
team...

BERT WHALLEY

'Ay, gives us a look at that.

BERT WHALLEY looks over JIMMY MURPHY's shoulder at the paper. He scans the page.

BERT WHALLEY (CONT'D)

Good work Jimmy lad. Come on, let's go, we gotta get something on him to report back to the boss.

FADE OUT as BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY walk off. As they do so, we hear JIMMY MURPHY speak again as he continues to read the paper.

JIMMY MURPHY

Bert, there's a write up on him 'ere.

(Beat. Scans the article)

Blimey, have you seen this, have a look at these stats will you?

67 EXT. FRONT OF THE EDWARD HOUSE - DAY - 1951

67

Bolton Wanderers chief scout FRANK PICKFORD, knocks on the front door of the Edward's house.

ANNIE answers.

FRANK PICKFORD

(To ANNIE)

Mrs Edwards? I'm Frank, Frank Pickford, Bolton Wanderers scout.

ANNIE

Ah, this will be about my Duncan.

FRANK PICKFORD

May I come in?

68 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY - 1951

68

FRANK PICKFORD, ANNIE and GLADSTONE are sat drinking tea and eating cake.

FRANK PICKFORD is turning on the charm - he wants to get on DUNCAN's parent's good side to help with the signing of DUNCAN. They are laughing at FRANK PICKFORD who's cracking a joke...

FRANK PICKFORD

...So I said how should I know?!
He nearly passed out!

They all laugh out loud again.

FRANK PICKFORD (CONT'D)

(Sipping from tea cup)
...This is a lovely brew Mrs
Edwards...

ANNIE

(Warming to FRANK)
Please, call me Annie.

FRANK PICKFORD

(OTT charming)
Ok, Annie...
(Takes a bite from cake)
These homemade cakes are
delicious.

ANNIE smiles, slightly embarrassed.

GLADSTONE

(Uncertain of FRANK
PICKFORD's intensions)
You know, we've had scouts from
all over the country here about
our son. He's in demand.

FRANK PICKFORD

I am not surprised, Duncan is a
wonderful talent and a great lad.

ANNIE's enjoying FRANK PICKFORD's kind words.
GLADSTONE's dubious.

FRANK PICKFORD (CONT'D)

But the difference between Bolton
and all the other teams is we will
look after Duncan as if he were our
own. Nurture him, take care of him.

GLADSTONE

(Drinks tea, not convinced)
I'm sure you will... but we'll have
to think about it, talk it over
with Duncan.

ANNIE nods along, she's more swayed than GLADSTONE by the captivating FRANK PICKFORD.

FRANK PICKFORD

Of course, but you know your nephew has just signed for us so he'll be able to show Duncan the ropes and it'll be good for him to have someone around the club he knows.

ANNIE

Yes we've heard good things from our Dennis about your club and-

GLADSTONE

(Indignant)

We'll be in touch.

There is a pause for a moment as ANNIE looks embarrassed by GLADSTONE's tone. FRANK PICKFORD's taken back.

FRANK PICKFORD quickly loses this and carries on trying to win and charm GLADSTONE around.

FRANK PICKFORD

(Slightly nervous now but optimistic. To GLADSTONE:)

How about... Mr Edwards, you come and see what Bolton Wanderers are all about... see what we can offer Duncan. I can guarantee you won't be disappointed.

ANNIE's happy - GLADSTONE's willing to give it a go but uncertain.

69 INT/EXT. ROAD OPPOSITE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT - 69
PITCH/PHONE BOX - DAY - 1951

New day.

BERT WHALLEY is in a phone box on the phone to MATT BUSBY. JIMMY MURPHY is outside the box smoking.

There is noise as the crowd and players from the Birmingham and District match leave the ground.

DUNCAN's talking to GORDON CLAYTON amongst the crowds - they walk along the road.

CUT TO the phone box.

BERT WHALLEY

(Into phone)

...He's exceptional boss, you've gotta sign him...

CUT BACK to DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON as they walk. DUNCAN spots JIMMY MURPHY outside the phone box, their eyes meet, JIMMY MURPHY nods once at DUNCAN and smiles.

DUNCAN is suddenly in a world of his own, he recognises JIMMY MURPHY, GORDON CLAYTON is obvious to DUNCAN being distracted, he carries on talking about nothing as the pair walk on.

GORDON CLAYTON

...So he got the ball and bang!
Straight in the top corner,
It was a cracking goal...

70 **INT. OLD TRAFFORD - MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY** 70
- 1951

MATT BUSBY's sat behind his desk, phone to his ear talking back to BERT WHALLEY.

MATT BUSBY

(Into phone)

Good work Bert, but I want to know more about the boy, his character, his family...

71 **INT/EXT. ROAD OPPOSITE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT** 71
PITCH/PHONE BOX - DAY - 1951

BERT WHALLEY, still on the phone to MATT BUSBY

BERT WHALLEY

...Yes, ok boss, we'll get back to you.

CUT TO DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON now at the end of the road.

GORDON CLAYTON

See you later Duncan! Bye!

GORDON CLAYTON walks off leaving DUNCAN stood on the pavement. DUNCAN rummages in his bag then pulls a folded newspaper article out of it.

DUNCAN unfolds the paper to reveal a photo of JIMMY MURPHY with some of the Manchester United youth players.

DUNCAN looks at JIMMY MURPHY's face in the photo then back up the road at JIMMY MURPHY who's still stood outside the phone box.

DUNCAN looks up from the newspaper with contentment - he knows they were scouting at the Birmingham and District match.

CUT BACK TO the phone box.

BERT WHALLEY hangs up then exits the phone box.

BERT WHALLEY

(To JIMMY MURPHY)

Think we've uncovered a little gem...

BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY walk off down the road.

72

**EXT. BOLTON WANDERERS TRAINING GROUND - DAY
- 1951**

72

New day.

FRANK PICKFORD shakes GLADSTONE's hand then GLADSTONE exits the training ground. Behind them Bolton's players train.

FRANK PICKFORD's sceptical as to whether GLADSTONE's trip to Bolton has convinced him it's the club for DUNCAN.

FRANK PICKFORD calls one the players to him.

FRANK PICKFORD

Ray! Come here will you lad..

A young lad, RAY PARRY, who played for the England youth team with DUNCAN, jogs over to FRANK.

RAY PERRY

Alright boss?

FRANK PICKFORD

Aye, you're friends with Duncan
Edwards aren't you?

RAY PERRY

Well we played England boys
together.

FRANK PICKFORD puts an arm around RAY PERRY, they walk
across the grass away from the training pitch.

FRANK PICKFORD

I need you to lend me a hand
with something, do me a little
favour.

RAY PERRY

Right, 'course boss.

FRANK PICKFORD

Good lad, good lad..

FRANK PICKFORD and RAY PERRY walk across the grass.

73

INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - 1951

73

Same day, later.

GLADSTONE's eating his tea at the table, ANNIE's drying
dishes.

GLADSTONE

...I don't know, I just got a
feeling that's all.

ANNIE

But you had a good day out?

GLADSTONE

Yeah, all paid for by Mr Pickford
of course. Even got to meet Nat
Lofthouse.

ANNIE

Nat Lofthouse?

GLADSTONE

(Talking between
mouthfuls)

Umm... nice chap, bleedin' good
footballer.

(Beat)

But I just didn't get a feel
for the place.

ANNIE

(Putting plates into
cupboards)

Well I think we should see what
are Duncan says, after all it's
him that's got to play for the club.

GLADSTONE

'Ay, but do you want him moving
all the way up there? It's a hell
of a journey you know.

The idea of DUNCAN moving away suddenly hits ANNIE.

ANNIE

I just want what's best for him.
I want him to be happy..

Turns to face GLADSTONE. Puts on a front, pushes her
sad feelings away.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

And if that means he's got to
move away then so be it.

74 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY -
- 1951

74

DUNCAN has been listening to ANNIE and GLADSTONE's
conversation outside the kitchen.

DUNCAN's holding a folded newspaper page in his hand.
He leans against the wall and opens the piece of paper.

It's another article on Manchester United - The
headline 'Busby's Boys' and a black and white photo of
a team of young players.

DUNCAN looks up from the paper and smiles. That's where
he wants to be, at Manchester United.

75 **EXT. BIRMINGHAM AND DUDLEY DISTRICT GROUND - DAY** 75
- 1951

New day.

Hustle and bustle as young players leave the training ground.

RAY PERRY's lent up against a wall watching the boys leave. He's waiting for DUNCAN.

A few more boys pass RAY PERRY, he spots DUNCAN and hurries after him.

RAY PERRY

Duncan!

DUNCAN

(Turns, spots RAY PERRY)

Ray! What you are doing here?
I thought you'd signed for Wanderers?

RAY PERRY

Yeah, yeah, I have...

RAY PERRY and DUNCAN walk off.

76 **EXT. STREET - DAY - 1951** 76

RAY PERRY and DUNCAN walk along. DUNCAN's dribbling a ball as they walk and talk.

RAY PERRY

(Referring to ball dribbling)

You're mad for it aren't you?

DUNCAN

Yeah. I love it.

(Beat)

Why are you really here Ray?
That Frank Pickering sent you didn't he?

RAY PERRY

Flamin' heck, no flies on you is there.

(MORE)

RAY PERRY (CONT'D)
(Joking)
Great footballer as well as a
know all.

RAY PERRY and DUNCAN mess about as they walk, play
punching and laughing.

RAY PERRY (CONT'D)
(Joking subsides)
He's brought me here to try and
persuade you to join Bolton. It's
a great club Dunc', they're
building something really good.
The coaches are great and Nat
Lofthouse said-

DUNCAN stops, he picks up his ball. RAY PERRY comes to
a halt.

DUNCAN
Listen Ray, I'm sorry but you're
wasting your time. Thank Mr
Pickering and Bolton for their
interest in me...
(Beat)
..But I'm going to join Manchester
United.

77 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - 1952

77

It's DUNCAN's sixteenth Birthday. ANNIE brings a home-
made cake to the table with a candle in it. She sings
'Happy Birthday to you' whilst placing the cake in
front of a beaming DUNCAN. GLADSTONE's sat next to him,
it's all smiles at the table.

ANNIE
(Stands back to admire
the cake)
I couldn't get sixteen candles on
love so I just went with the one.

DUNCAN
It's perfect, thanks Mum.

GLADSTONE

(Hands over DUNCAN's presents)

There you are son, happy Birthday.

DUNCAN

Thanks Dad.

DUNCAN opens the first present, it's a Wolves team shirt. DUNCAN playfully rolls his eyes at GLADSTONE.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(Holds up shirt, turns to GLADSTONE)

I take it you picked this out?

ANNIE

(Cutting the cake)

'Course it was...

GLADSTONE

It's the best jersey in the league that!

(Sheepish)

And I thought it might help make up your mind...

ANNIE

(Hands out cake on plates, tuts at GLADSTONE'S persistence)

Gladstone...

GLADSTONE

Thing is son, me and your mum are getting a bit worried, about your future plans...

ANNIE

(Sits down with her slice of cake in front of her, concerned)

We don't want you missing out love, on your football career. They've both made such an effort to sign you. So who's it going to be? Wolves or Bolton?

DUNCAN doesn't answer, he bits into his cake. There's an awkward silence - GLADSTONE and ANNIE exchange uneasy looks.

GLADSTONE

Look son, I know you think Matt Busby was keeping tabs on you but you've not heard a dicky bird from United since then.

DUNCAN

(Picks at cake, getting fraught)

I swear to you Dad, I saw his number two - Jimmy Murphy is his name, I read it in the papers - he was outside the pitch at Dudley boys - he must have seen me playing - I had a good match.

(Beat, downcast)

Although I'd have thought they'd have been in touch by now...

GLADSTONE

It's their loss Duncan, if other clubs want to sign you...

DUNCAN

(Bucks up, stands firm)

I'm going to hold out for 'em.

GLADSTONE

'Ay?

DUNCAN

Manchester United. Matt Busby, I don't want to play for anyone else Dad.

GLADSTONE and ANNIE exchange a concerned look...

ANNIE

(Gently touches DUNCAN's arm)

Well son, it's your life, you go where you want to go.

DUNCAN

Don't worry Mum, he'll come back for me.

(MORE)

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
(Uncertain expression)
Matt Busby'll come back for me.

A troubled DUNCAN finishes his slice of cake.

78 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - HALLWAY/STAIRS LEADING TO MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY - 1952 78

CAPTION: 2ND JUNE 1952

BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY rush up to MATT BUSBY's office. They knock on the door and enter.

79 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY - 1952 79

MATT BUSBY's at the window looking out onto his players training. He's smoking a cigar as BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY enter in a panic.

JIMMY MURPHY
We were told you wanted to see us boss.

BERT WHALLEY
Is there a problem?

MATT BUSBY
(Comes towards desk)
No no, sit down.

MATT BUSBY sits behind his desk. BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY sit opposite him.

MATT BUSBY
(Puts cigar down in an ashtray on the desk)
The boy Duncan. You've done a good job, got me the information I wanted. I've heard enough. I want to sign the lad.

BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY are excited by this news.

BERT WHALLEY
You won't regret it boss, he's a great talent.

MATT BUSBY

'Ay, I think he'll fit in just nicely at Manchester United. But we can't waste any more time, I'm getting messages that other teams are pushing for his signature. You got your car here Bert?

BERT WHALLEY

Yeah, it's parked outside the ground.

MATT BUSBY picks up his cigar again, takes a puff.

MATT BUSBY

I want you to drive down to Dudley tonight, and don't come back until you've got Duncan Edward's signature on a Manchester United contract.

80 INT/EXT. ROAD/LAYBY/BERT WHALLEY'S CAR - NIGHT 80
- 1952

BERT WHALLEY's car comes stuttering down the road - struggling along until it comes to a halt in a layby.

BERT WHALLEY

(Slaps the steering wheel)
Flamin' heck!

81 EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - NIGHT - 1952 81

Same night, later. BERT WHALLEY jumps out of a truck, thanks the driver then heads into the offices of the ground.

82 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - STAIRS/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 1952 82

BERT WHALLEY comes up the stairs heading for MATT BUSBY's office. An excitable JIMMY MURPHY meets him at the top of the staircase.

JIMMY MURPHY

Well?! Did he sign? When's he coming up to Manchester?

BERT WHALLEY walks hurriedly through a corridor. JIMMY MURPHY follows.

JIMMY MURPHY (CONT'D)

Bert?

BERT WHALLEY

It didn't happen.

JIMMY MURPHY

What? Why?

BERT

(Stops, faces JIMMY MURPHY)

Because my flamin' car broke down, I had to thumb a lift back. I didn't even make it to Dudley let alone sign Duncan Edwards!

83 INT/EXT. DUDLEY - ROAD/CAR/THE EDWARD HOUSE
- NIGHT - 1952

83

Same night, later.

JIMMY MURPHY and BERT WHALLEY are chugging along in a car. JIMMY MURPHY's driving, BERT WHALLEY's navigating with a map on his lap.

BERT WHALLEY

(Looking around the interior of the car)

Where did you get this battered old thing again?

JIMMY MURPHY

A friend of mine, owns a hire company, he owed me a favour.

BERT WHALLEY

(Unconvinced)

Really? This is a favour is it?

JIMMY MURPHY

(Looks across at the map)

Just keep your eyes out for the right road will you?

BERT WHALLEY
I already told you! Next left!

They drive into DUNCAN's street and pull up outside his house.

BERT WHALLEY (CONT'D)
(Points to the house)
There it is.

There stands DUNCAN's little modest house. All the lights are out.

JIMMY MURPHY
(Unclips his belt)
Right, let's get this lad signed
for United..

BERT WHALLEY
(Looks at his watch)
But it's two in the morning!
We can't go knocking on doors -
it's middle of the night!

JIMMY MURPHY
Bert, we've seen the boy, the boss
has given us his orders. Sign
Duncan Edwards before someone else
does. Come on.

JIMMY MURPHY excitedly gets out of the car and walks a few feet along the path to DUNCAN's house. BERT WHALLEY follows.

JIMMY MURPHY rings the doorbell. BERT WHALLEY'S behind him.

84

**INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - ANNIE AND GLADSTONE'S
BEDROOM - NIGHT - 1952**

84

ANNIE and GLADSTONE are fast asleep - the doorbell rings again. On the second ring of the bell they begin to stir, a sleepy ANNIE nudges GLADSTONE.

ANNIE
Who's that as this hour?

GLADSTONE shakes himself awake, realising it's the doorbell he leaps from the bed.

GLADSTONE

God knows...

(Quickly pulling clothes
over his pyjamas)

But it must be important to be
getting us out of bed in the
middle of the night!

GLADSTONE rushes from the bedroom. ANNIE hurriedly gets
out of bed, grabs her dressing gown, wraps it around
herself, follows GLADSTONE.

85

**INT/EXT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - STAIRCASE/HALLWAY/
FRONT STEP - NIGHT - 1952**

85

GLADSTONE rushes down the stairs. He reaches the door
and hurriedly opens it to find BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY
MURPHY on his doorstep.

JIMMY MURPHY

(Holds his hand out)

Mr Edwards, I'm Jimmy Murphy and
this is Bert- (Whalley)

GLADSTONE looks confused and startled...

BERT WHALLEY

I am so sorry we've had to wake
you at this hour but my car
broke down, then I had to get
back to- (Manchester)

JIMMY MURPHY

Alright Bert, Mr Edwards isn't
interested in your clapped out
car...

ANNIE appears behind GLADSTONE.

GLADSTONE

I'm sorry but who are you again?

JIMMY MURPHY

Jimmy Murphy and Bert Whalley.
We've been sent by Matt Busby.
May we come in?

JIMMY MURPHY moves past a bemused GLADSTONE and ANNIE
and into the hallway before they can answer. BERT
WHALLEY follows awkwardly.

JIMMY MURPHY (CONT'D)

Now Mr Edwards, can you go wake your Duncan and ask him to come down straight away please.

GLADSTONE

Hang on, you can't just come barging in here in the middle of the night-

JIMMY MURPHY

We're from Manchester United. We want to sign your son.

ANNIE

(Excited)

Manchester United want to sign are Duncan? In that case you better come in.

(Ushers JIMMY MURPHY and BERT WHALLEY into the front room, then turns to GLADSTONE)

Go and get are Duncan up, he won't mind being got out of bed for this.

GLADSTONE

But it's gone two in the morning!

ANNIE

Go on!

ANNIE follows JIMMY MURPHY and BERT WHALLEY into the front room.

GLADSTONE

(Shouting as he goes up the stairs)

Duncan! Someone here to see you..

ANNIE, BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY are sat drinking tea as a sleepy DUNCAN enters the room followed by GLADSTONE.

GLADSTONE

Duncan this is Mr Murphy and Mr...

BERT WHALLEY

Whalley. Please call us Jimmy and Bert.

DUNCAN still looks sleepy and annoyed at being got out of bed until...

ANNIE

(Turns to face DUNCAN)

These men are from Manchester United love. They've come all this way in the middle of the night to sign you.

HOLD ON DUNCAN's reaction as he hears the words 'Manchester United' and 'they want to sign him..'

DUNCAN

Manchester United?! Really?!

87 INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT
- 1952

87

Same night, later.

DUNCAN, GLADSTONE and ANNE wave BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY off at the front door with all of them saying 'thank you!' and 'goodbye!'

They close the door all happy and bubbling over.

A smiling GLADSTONE puts his arm around ANNIE, she smiles back as they face DUNCAN in the hallway.

DUNCAN

(Deadpan - joking)

I don't know what all the fuss is about. I said all along Manchester United were the only club I wanted to join and I knew they'd be back for me.

DUNCAN can't hold back his excitement any longer or his prank. They all laugh and hug.

88 EXT. DUDLEY TRAIN STATION - DAY - 1952

88

CAPTION: JULY 1952

A tearful GLADSTONE and ANNIE wait with DUNCAN on the platform.

DUNCAN's leaving for his new life in Manchester. All though GLADSTONE and ANNIE are so pleased for their son it's hard to say goodbye.

ANNIE

(Struggling with emotions)

Oh I almost forgot...

(Fishing around in her handbag, finds a bag of sweets)

I got you these love, for the journey. Spangles, your favourite.

DUNCAN take the spangles - it's a bitter sweet moment.

DUNCAN

Thanks Mum.

The train comes into the station.

GLADSTONE

Here's your train son...

GLADSTONE, ANNIE and DUNCAN embraces in an emotional hug. Pulling away reluctantly after a beat...

GLADSTONE (CONT'D)

We're so proud of you Duncan, now you go to Manchester and make Mr Busby proud.

(Ruffles DUNCAN's hair)

Enjoy yourself son.

The train come to a halt.

DUNCAN

If there's a phone at the digs, I'll ring you.

(Walking backwards to the train as he talks)

If not I'll save me coins, find a phone box...

DUNCAN waves then turns and gets on the train leaving GLADSTONE and ANNIE smiling through the tears - waving him off from the platform.

89 INT/EXT. TRAIN/DUDLEY STATION/STAFFORD STATION 89
- DAY - 1952

DUNCAN walks along an almost empty carriage, finds two spare seats, dumps his bag down on one and sits on the other.

A newspaper is on the seat opposite, DUNCAN reaches across as the train pulls away and picks it up.

DUNCAN turns to the back pages and spots a photo of the Manchester United first team with the first division trophy - the moment suddenly hits him - can he play in such an illustrious team as this? He puffs his cheeks out and sits back in his seat - almost instantly he's asleep.

Time passes on the journey..

DUNCAN wakes as the train pulls into Stafford. He looks out of the window and spots someone he knows on the platform; he waves..

A young man, GORDON CLAYTON - a player DUNCAN played with at Birmingham and England schoolboy level and his neighbour, comes along the carriage towards DUNCAN.

DUNCAN

Gordon!

DUNCAN gestures to GORDON CLAYTON who reaches DUNCAN.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I saved you a seat.

DUNCAN moves his bag so GORDON CLAYTON can sit down. GORDON CLAYTON looks around the almost empty carriage with a wry smile - DUNCAN saved his friend a seat as promised despite there being lots of seats to choose from - typical DUNCAN, always keeps a promise.

GORDON CLAYTON sits down putting his bag under the seat.

GORDON CLAYTON

Thanks Dunc', who'd have thought
it 'ay? Us two signing for
United? I can't wait to get on
that training pitch, learn from
the best.

DUNCAN's apprehension's gone, he is uplifted by GORDON
CLAYTON's excitement. HOLD ON DUNCAN's changed
reaction...

DUNCAN

Yeah... and they don't come any
better than Matt Busby.

90 EXT. LONDON ROAD STATION - MANCHESTER - DAY - 1952 90

Same day, later.

A train pulls into a busy station, DUNCAN and GORDON
CLAYTON get off with their belongings. They walk along
the platform towards the exit.

91 EXT. MANCHESTER - DAY - 1952 91

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON walk out of the station into
Manchester city centre.

DUNCAN looks around at the industrial city, all the
factories under the smog, horse-drawn carts still being
used, DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON make their way through
the hectic hardworking city.

92 EXT. MANCHESTER - OLD TRAFFORD/STREET - DAY - 1952 92

A tired DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON trudge down the road.

GORDON CLAYTON

Nearly there now Dunc'...

They turn a corner and there it is - the theatre of
dreams - the Old Trafford stadium stands before them -
the letters spelling out 'Manchester United' sits on
top of the ground as DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON stop in
awe of the place...

HOLD ON DUNCAN's amazed reaction, he's arrived...

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON can hardly believe it.

93 INT/EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - CORRIDOR/MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY - 1952 93

New day.

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON walk towards the exit of the stadium with JIMMY MURPHY in the middle of them.

JIMMY MURPHY

...So have you enjoyed your tour of
Old Trafford lads?

DUNCAN

(Polite yet shy)
Yes Mr Murphy, thank you.

They reach the exit...

JIMMY MURPHY

(Grinning)
Call me Jimmy...

JIMMY MURPHY opens the exit door and ushers DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON out.

JIMMY MURPHY (CONT'D)

Right lads, you know where you're
going?

GORDON CLAYTON

(Takes a piece of paper
from his pocket and
reads from it)
5 Birch Avenue.

JIMMY MURPHY

Yes, Mrs Watson will see you right.
Report back here first thing in the
morning.

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON nod, full of smiles and excitement. They set off in search of their digs. DUNCAN turns back to JIMMY MURPHY as he and GORDON CLAYTON walk away.

DUNCAN

Thank you...
(With a grin yet bashful)
Jimmy.

JIMMY MURPHY watches DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON go.

94 **INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY** 94
- 1952

Two DELIVERY MEN are bringing a big box through to the front room, heaving the heavy item into the kitchen, GLADSTONE's trying to help them.

A bemused ANNIE watches on from the kitchen.

ANNIE

(To GLADSTONE)
What is it? We haven't ordered anything have we?

The DELIVERY MEN put the box down in the kitchen, worn out they thank GLADSTONE and leave the house.

GLADSTONE

(To ANNIE)
I don't think so love.
(Starts looking over the box)
I saw a note on here somewhere...
Ah ha!

GLADSTONE pulls a note off the side of the box and opens it as ANNIE opens the top of the box.

ANNIE

(Great excitement)
It's a washing machine!

GLADSTONE looks at the note...

ANNIE (CONT'D)

(RE the note)
Well...

GLADSTONE

It's just a return's note.
(Reads from the note)
'In case of return please send back to Manchester'.

ANNIE

(Rips more of the box
so we can see part of
the washing machine)
Manchester?!

GLADSTONE

Yeah. Old Trafford.
(Grins with delight)
Well I suppose we should be
getting something for letting
that Mr Busby have our Duncan.
(In jest, pointing to
the washing machine)
Was worth sending him away for
that is...

ANNIE mock slaps GLADSTONE on the arm then they stand back, arms around each other, admiring the washing machine.

95 **EXT. THE WATSON HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY - 1952** 95

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON arrive at their digs. MRS WATSON answers the door with a warm smile.

GORDON CLAYTON

Mrs Watson?

MRS WATSON

Aye, that's right my love, you
must be Gordon and...

DUNCAN looks very shy, leaving the talking to GORDON CLAYTON...

MRS WATSON

...You must be Duncan?

DUNCAN doesn't make eye contact.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)

Well come on in then lads, let's
get you settled in...

MRS WATSON ushers them inside, GORDON steps into the hallway with a nod of gratitude to MRS WATSON. DUNCAN follows also with a nod but looking very nervous and bashful.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)

I'll put kettle on, make us a nice brew, bet your gasping for a cuppa after your journey, I got you a couple of Eccles cakes if you're hungry.

MRS WATSON closes the door.

96 **INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - LANDING/BEDROOMS - DAY** 96
- 1952

MRS WATSON stands in the doorway of GORDON CLAYTON's bedroom. GORDON CLAYTON's unpacking his case.

MRS WATSON

If you need anything my love,
clean towels, extra bedding, just
ask.

GORDON CLAYTON

Thanks Mrs Watson, you've been
really kind, the room's perfect.

MRS WATSON

I'll give you a shout when dinner's
ready, steak 'n kidney pie do
you?

GORDON

Ta, lovely.

MRS WATSON closes GORDON's bedroom door then turns to DUNCAN on the landing. MRS WATSON talks extra kindly to DUNCAN realising he's uneasy.

MRS WATSON

Right... come on then my lovely.
(Puts her arm around
DUNCAN's shoulders)
Let's get you unpacked lad..

They walk down the landing towards the next bedroom.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)

So you want t' be a Manchester
United player then?

DUNCAN

(One word answers looking
at the floor)

Yeah...

MRS WATSON

You didn't fancy Wolves then
being from that way?

They arrive at DUNCAN's bedroom door. MRS WATSON releases her arm from DUNCAN's shoulder. She smiles kindly, struggling to get a conversation going with him.

DUNCAN

No...

MRS WATSON

Right...

Awkward silence until MRS WATSON breaks it with...

MRS WATSON

Well here's your room love.

MRS WATSON opens the door and DUNCAN walks in with a nod of thanks towards MRS WATSON.

MRS WATSON watches DUNCAN put his case on the bed - he opens it - takes out a framed photo of GLADSTONE and ANNIE. DUNCAN puts the frame on a side table next to his bed.

MRS WATSON looks at the photo realising DUNCAN isn't being rude with his lack of conversation, he's just shy and judging by the photo he's a very sweet boy.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)

Pie 'll be done for six. If you
need owt lad I'll be in the
kitchen.

DUNCAN

Thank you.

MRS WATSON closes the bedroom door behind her.

97 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - 1952 97

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON are sat the kitchen table while MRS WATSON fusses around preparing their tea.

GORDON CLAYTON
Smells beautiful Mrs Watson.

MRS WATSON brings two dinner plates to the table with steaming home-made pie, potatoes, peas - it looks delicious. She puts one each in front of DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON who look like they've not eaten in a week by the way they tuck in.

MRS WATSON
There you go, tuck in. Brew?

GORDON CLAYTON
(Shovelling food in his mouth)
Awh, yes please.
(Pointing his fork at the food)
It's grand this.

MRS WATSON tries to get DUNCAN talking.

MRS WATSON
Pie alright for you Duncan love?

DUNCAN
(Eating pie)
'Ay, thank you.

MRS WATSON
A cuppa for you as well lad?

DUNCAN
Please.

MRS WATSON pours the tea and brings a tray with three cups onto the table. She sits at the table with DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON enjoying watching them eat.

GORDON CLAYTON takes his cup of tea giving MRS WATSON a confident smile.

GORDON CLAYTON
Ta.

DUNCAN looks more awkward at having MRS WATSON sat with them. He takes his tea.

MRS WATSON

I normally got a few more staying.
United lads mainly, I love that
Matt Busby me, such a gentleman.

GORDON CLAYTON

(Still eating)
Where are they then? The other
lads?

MRS WATSON

(Sipping tea)
America, a football tour of t'
country. He looks after 'em that
Mr Busby, I mean America? By heck,
I haven't been further than
Blackpool me.

(Beat)

Any ways, they'll be back in a
few days, you can meet 'em then.

MRS WATSON looks at DUNCAN who got his head down eating his dinner. MRS WATSON takes pity on him.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)

(Lovingly touches DUNCAN's
arm)

Tell you what love, after your
pie why don't you go and ring
your mam and dad 'ay? Let 'em
know you got 'ere ok. There's a
phone box at t' end of street.
Take a few coppers from me purse,
it's in me bag in the front room.

DUNCAN looks up from his plate. It's the first time since he arrived that he's looked MRS WATSON in the eye, he realises her kindness - he manages to come out of his shell. Her idea of phoning home - speaking to ANNIE and GLADSTONE has made him feel much better.

DUNCAN

Thank you...

(Takes last bite of his
pie)

That were lovely that.

MRS WATSON beams, pleased she's finally perked DUNCAN up, she's taken a shine to him.

MRS WATSON clears away DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON's plates. She puts them on the kitchen unit.

MRS WATSON

Right, who wants some apple crumble and custard?

That sounds good to DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON.

98 EXT/INT. PHONE BOX - NIGHT - 1952

98

DUNCAN's in the phone box while GORDON CLAYTON waits outside.

DUNCAN

(Putting on a front)

...Yeah Mum, it's great here. We arrived fine...

(Not convincing)

Yeah, I think I'm going to like it. Mrs Watson? She's looking after us. Dad ok?

We hear the pips, DUNCAN quickly rummages in his pocket for more change but he's ran out.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Mum! Mum... the monies running-
(out)

The line goes dead. Dejected, DUNCAN replaces the receiver and heads out of the phone box.

99 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - DAY
- 1952

99

DUNCAN wakes in his bed and looks at his bedside clock. It's six o'clock in the morning.

MONTAGE to the song 'The Glow-Worm' by the Mills Brothers.

DUNCAN drags himself out of bed yawning, he grabs his dressing gown from the end of the bed, wraps it around himself then exits his bedroom.

100 INT/EXT. BUS/BUS STATION - DAY - 1952 100

MONTAGE and the song 'The Glow-Worm' by the Mills Brothers continues as DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON sit on the bus riding to the city centre - they look tired as the bus pulls into the bus station.

DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON get off the bus and get onto another which says the destination is 'Broughton'.

The bus pulls away.

101 EXT. STREET/THE CLIFF TRAINING GROUND - DAY 101
- 1952

MONTAGE and the song 'The Glow-Worm' by the Mills Brothers continues as DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON trudge along the road in the rain, they arrive outside Manchester United's training ground.

Drenched and worn out from a long expedition DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON walk into The Cliff.

MONTAGE ENDS, SONG FADES OUT.

102 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - 1952 102

MRS WATSON's serving up another home-made meal as DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON wait at the table.

MRS WATSON
(Beating something in a
mixing bowl)
We'll just wait for the other lads.
How'd it go at training today?

GORDON CLAYTON
Yeah great Mrs Watson... Others?

MRS WATSON
(Brings teapot to the
table)
Aye, the other United lads 'il
be back any minute now-

MRS WATSON's cut off as the back door bursts open with loud chatter and banter.

DAVID PEGG, MARK JONES AND JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER gush into the kitchen, but stop in their tracks as they see DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON sat at the table.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)
(Pleased to see them,
joking)
By heck! I thought a herd of
elephants were coming through
the house!

DAVID PEGG
(Charming, beaming,
stretches his arms out
for a hug)
Mrs W!!

MRS WATSON
(Embraces DAVID PEGG)
Hello love. Your trip good was
it?

They release each other then look to DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON.

DAVID PEGG
Aye, it were good ta.
(Looks suspiciously at
DUNCAN and GORDON CLAYTON)
We got a few new recruits 'ave
we Mrs W?

MRS WATSON
(Puts her hands on
DUNCAN's shoulders and
squeezes them)
This is Gordon and Duncan, they've
signed for United, playing in the
youth team. They're staying 'ere.

DAVID PEGG
Duncan Edwards in't it?

DUNCAN nods not looking DAVID PEGG in the eye.

DAVID PEGG (CONT'D)
(To MRS WATSON)
We played England schoolboys
together.

MRS WATSON
(Pouring tea)
Awh, well that's grand that. Nice
for Duncan to see a familiar face.

DAVID PEGG, MARK JONES and JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER look at each other, bemused by MRS WATSON's concern for DUNCAN.

MARK JONES
(Bit put out)
Oh aye, just hope they're not
eating all our grub.

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER
(Takes a mug of tea
from the table)
...And drinking all our tea.

GORDON CLAYTON raises his eyebrows at the boy's hostile introduction.

MRS WATSON
(Brings plates to the
table, starts dishing up
food)
There's plenty to go round, sit
down lads, apple pie for afters.

They sit down at the table...

MARK JONES
(About DUNCAN)
What's up with 'im?

MRS WATSON
(Fussing around with
dishes and food)
Nawt, you leave 'im alone my
love. He's just quiet and
missing home. Now come on, get
this lot down you.

They all eat, MRS WATSON stands back enjoying watching the lads shovelling her food down.

The youth team are training whilst MATT BUSBY watches from the side of the pitch. JIMMY MURPHY jogs up to him.

JIMMY MURPHY

Alright boss.

(Stands next to MATT BUSBY
watching the players
train)

You want us to concentrate on
anything particular?

MATT BUSBY

Aye, David Pegg, he needs to
work on his heading of the ball...
Jackie Blanch...

JIMMY MURPHY

...Flower?

MATT BUSBY

That's the boy. Ball control, he's
given it away a few times, get him
to stay behind, give him some extra
training...

JIMMY MURPHY

And Duncan?

Beat. HOLD ON MATT BUSBY's face concentrating on DUNCAN
whilst he trains.

CUT TO DUNCAN doing skills with the ball, then making
the perfect pass.

JIMMY MURPHY (CONT'D)

Boss?

MATT BUSBY

(Still mesmerised by
DUNCAN)

Umm...?

JIMMY MURPHY

The lad Edwards? What do you
want him to practice on?

MATT BUSBY

(Still watching the
training)

I've seen enough of the him. I
gave up looking for his flaws
weeks ago. Just tell him to keep
doing what he's doing.

MATT BUSBY and JIMMY MURPHY carry on watching training from the side-line.

104 **EXT. THE CLIFF - CHANGING ROOMS - DAY - 1952** 104

There's chatter and banter as the youth team shower and change after training. DAVID PEGG, JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER and DUNCAN are getting changed next to each other.

DAVID PEGG

(To MARK JONES)

You up for going out dancing tonight?

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER

Yeah, where we going?

EDDIE COLMAN approaches all 'jack the lad', gift of the gab. Throughout the conversation DUNCAN keeps his head down, quietly gets on with getting changed, very reserved.

EDDIE COLMAN

Alright lads? All set for tonight?
See we can't get dancing with a few pretty lasses 'ay?

DAVID PEGG

Aye, sounds good to me.

EDDIE COLMAN

You up for it Twiggy lad?

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER

Count me in.

EDDIE COLMAN

How about you Dunc'?

DUNCAN

(Taken back, not sure
what to say)

Uh...

DAVID PEGG

Come on, it'll be a laugh.

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER

Yeah, you might meet the girl
of your dreams.

EDDIE COLMAN
(Playfully puts his arm
around DUNCAN's shoulders)
Aye! I won't take no for an answer.
(Before DUNCAN can answer)
That's settled then. Start at my
place...

EDDIE COLMAN releases a flummoxed DUNCAN - backs away
from the lads, goes back to his changing bench.

EDDIE COLMAN (CONT'D)
(On his way)
Archie Street, bring some beers,
about seven, don't be late lads!

Thumbs up and excited nodding from DAVID PEGG and
JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER. DUNCAN's nonplussed, not his cup
of tea - he's too polite to say no or spoil their fun.

105 INT. PLAZA BALLROOM MANCHESTER - NIGHT - 1952 105

It's a lively Saturday night in one of Manchester's
most popular clubs.

DUNCAN, EDDIE COLMAN, DAVID PEGG, JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER,
MARK JONES and other YOUTH TEAM PLAYERS are all
gathered around a table accompanied with pints and loud
merry chatter as well as plenty of banter.

EDDIE COLMAN is doing most of the talking and drinking
- very confident. DAVID PEGG, JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER and
MARK JONES are also self-assured, enjoying themselves,
joining in the banter.

DUNCAN on the other hand is his quite the opposite,
awkwardly sat at one end of the table, not really
joining in, nursing a lemonade.

EDDIE COLMAN
(Downing a pint)
Right come on lads! Let's get on
the dance floor, try our luck with
the girls. Drink up Twiggy.

There's a 'yeah!' of approval from the rest of the team
apart from DUNCAN. EDDIE COLMAN eyes up two pretty
girls as they pass the table.

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER

I'm gain.

(Takes a gulp of beer)

Let's see we can't find ourselves
a few little birds...

(Another gulp of beer)

And I'm not talking ones with
feathers!

They all roar with laughter even DUNCAN can't help but laugh. EDDIE COLMAN playfully slaps DUNCAN on the back as he sniggers, they all know he's not arrogant, he's just quiet, enjoying a night out with his friends without going overboard.

EDDIE COLMAN

Let's go lads!

The group all head for the dancefloor leaving DUNCAN watching them at the table. He sees a few of them trying to chat up a group of girls, EDDIE COLMAN doing a funny dance - DUNCAN smiles to himself, then he spots a YOUNG GIRL looking at him from the bar. He bashfully smiles then looks away with embarrassment, playing with a beer mat hoping the girl doesn't come over.

106 INT. THE CLIFF - CHANGING ROOM - DAWN - 1952 106

Hustle and bustle - the youth team including DUNCAN get ready for a match.

**107 INT. THE CLIFF - CHANGING ROOM - TOILETS - DAWN 107
- 1952**

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER is feeling worse for wear after the previous night out on the town. He is bent over the toilet trying to be sick. EDDIE COLMAN is lent up against the wall, not feeling quite as bad as JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER, sipping water from a bottle.

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER

By heck, I think I'm dying Eddie
lad.

EDDIE COLMAN

You'll be alright, just keep the
noise down 'til the boss has gone.

(MORE)

EDDIE COLMAN (CONT'D)
(Hands him the water)
'Ere, get this down your neck,
it'll make you feel better.

108 INT. THE CLIFF - CHANGING ROOM - DAY - 1952

108

MATT BUSBY is now in the hushed changing room talking the team through tactics for the match. Everyone including DUNCAN are now sat listening intently.

MATT BUSBY
...I want to see you playing the
United way, attack and entertain
your crowd...

MATT BUSBY stops and looks over to the toilets.

MATT BUSBY (CONT'D)
Eddie, Jackie.
(Beat)
Would you like to grace us with
your presence?

No response, then...

A very sheepish EDDIE COLMAN and JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER,
come out of the toilets.

MATT BUSBY shakes his head in disgust knowing full well
they have been out the night before drinking.

MATT BUSBY (CONT'D)
(To EDDIE COLMAN and JACKIE
BLANCHFLOWER)
Five laps around the pitch and one
hundred press ups.
(He grins knowing full
well they're hung over)
I want you warmed up properly. For
the subs bench.

EDDIE COLMAN and JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER are unimpressed.

MATT BUSBY (CONT'D)
(To the rest of the team)
Right, see you out on the pitch in
half an hour.

MATT BUBSY exits the changing room. A disgruntled EDDIE COLMAN and JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER go over the same bench as DUNCAN to get changed.

DUNCAN's found the hangover episode amusing, but not in an unkind way, more of an admiration for the sheer audacity of the pair.

EDDIE COLMAN
(Smirking, good-humoured
to DUNCAN)
And you can stop laughing..

DUNCAN carries on so EDDIE COLMAN light-heartedly slaps him over the head.

He's growing to like DUNCAN despite the fact they have very different personalities, because DUNCAN is quiet and shy he almost feels the need to look out for him.

All three laugh.

EDDIE COLMAN (CONT'D)
(To DUNCAN)
Come round my place after the
match if you like, me mams doing
a roast, all the trimmings.

DUNCAN
(Generally pleased to
be asked)
Alright, cheers Eddie.

EDDIE COLMAN gives DUNCAN a cheeky wink then turns to the team and shouts out - gift of the gab..

EDDIE COLMAN
Right come on then lads, let's
get this show on the road.

DUNCAN watches EDDIE COLMAN as he goes around the team geeing them up, slapping their backs. DUNCAN impressed by his boldness and bottle, again admiring his cheek. He's starting to like EDDIE - he finds him amusing.

To chatter and shouts the team start to file out of the changing room.

DUNCAN follows.

109 EXT. THE CLIFF - PITCH - DAY - 1952

109

The youth team are sixty minutes into their match, DUNCAN is having the game of his life.

MATT BUSBY, BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY are watching from the touchline along with a bigger crowd than normal.

Along the touchline spectators talk in awe about DUNCAN to each other. 'Take him on big Dunc', 'He's a special one that DUNCAN EDWARDS,' 'What a player that lad is eh?'

BERT WHALLEY

(Mutters to MATT BUSBY)

What do you reckon Boss? You think he's ready?

MATT BUSBY

(Looks straight ahead, still concentrating on the match, deadpan)

Oh aye.

(Turns to BERT WHALLEY and JIMMY MURPHY, gives them a wry smile)

He's ready alright.

110 EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - STANDS - DAY - 1953

110

CAPTION: 3RD APRIL 1953

DUNCAN's sweeping the stands, part of his youth team duties.

BERT WHALLEY appears at the top of the stand - he calls down to DUNCAN.

BERT WHALLEY

Duncan! The boss wants to see you in his office!

DUNCAN's worried reaction...

111 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - OUTSIDE MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE
- DAY - 1953

111

A Sheepish DUNCAN knocks on MATT BUSBY's door.

MATT BUSBY (OOV)

Come in.

112 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY 112
- 1953

DUNCAN enters. MATT BUSBY is sat behind his desk.

MATT BUSBY

Ah, Duncan...

Uneasy, DUNCAN sands there, unable to make eye contact.

MATT BUSBY (CONT'D)

Sit down lad.

DUNCAN does as he's told; he sits opposite MATT BUSBY squirming in his chair.

DUNCAN slowly looks up, nervously he manages to look MATT BUSBY in the eye.

MATT (CONT'D)

Go and get your boots son. You're playing in the first team tomorrow against Cardiff City.

DUNCAN's amazed reaction...

113 EXT. STREET - NIGHT - 1953 113

DUNCAN's running down a Manchester street a mixture of emotions after being told he will be playing for Manchester United's first team tomorrow.

DUNCAN charges towards a phone box and enters.

114 INT/EXT. STREET/PHONE BOX - NIGHT - 1953 114

DUNCAN fumbles with his change - he inserts it into the coin slot then dials the number.

It feels like an age before GLADSTONE finally answers...

DUNCAN

Dad? It's me... Yeah I'm fine.

DUNCAN listens to what GLADSTONE is saying, nodding along then...

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(Matter-a-fact)

Oh this and that, you know training
at the cliff, practicing hard..
Oh and Mr Busby has selected me
for the first team tomorrow.

DUNCAN loses the matter-a-fact manner, the joking with GLADSTONE is gone - he can't contain himself any longer. He listens to GLADSTONE's ecstatic reaction with emotion, it really hits him, the enormity of what he has achieved.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Thanks Dad...

ZOOM IN on the telephone box in the street with DUNCAN still inside.

115 EXT. TRAIN STATION - 1953 - DAWN

115

CAPTION: 4TH APRIL 1953

GLADSTONE and ANNIE, armed with a suit case and overnight bag, go up to the station's ticket office.

GLADSTONE

(To ticket seller)

Two, going to Manchester
Piccadilly please.

TICKET SELLER

Twenty-six shillings each please
sir.

The TICKET SELLER hands GLADSTONE the tickets.

GLADSTONE

(Takes tickets)

Ta.

GLADSTONE turns from the ticket office to see ANNIE talking to a man, a newspaper journalist, JACK THOMAS.

GLADSTONE picks up the luggage and walks over to them.

ANNIE

(To GLADSTONE)

Alright love? This young man was just asking me about are Duncan playing for United's first team...

JACK THOMAS and GLADSTONE shake hands.

JACK THOMAS

I'm Jack, nice to meet you Mr Edwards. I was just saying to Mrs Edwards how proud you must be, you're travelling to see Duncan make his debut I take it?

GLADSTONE

Of course, we wouldn't have missed it for the world.

JACK THOMAS scribbles GLADSTONE's words down in his notepad.

GLADSTONE's struggling to contain his emotions.

GLADSTONE (CONT'D)

Me and Annie, we're excited as a couple of kids, Duncan's more calmer than us just now, he's used to playing in front of big crowds.

(Beat)

I'll be bursting with pride when are Duncan runs out onto that Old Trafford pitch tomorrow, be the proudest moment of my life...

116 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAWN - 1953

116

MRS WATSON's preparing breakfast. DUNCAN walks into the kitchen.

MRS WATSON

Morning love, you're up early.

DUNCAN

(Sits at the table, pours a tea from the teapot)

Well I don't want to be late getting to the ground.

MRS WATSON

(Beating eggs)

Aye lad, I've been telling all the ladies at the bingo, they're so excited for you. Especially Mrs Crowley, she's from Dudley, every so pleased she was.

DUNCAN

Thanks Mrs Watson. I can't wait to get on that pitch...

MRS WATSON

(Puts beaten eggs into a saucepan)

Right come on my love, let's get a proper breakfast inside you, you'll need all the energy you can get when you run out for Mr Busby this afternoon.

MRS WATSON continues bustling around in the kitchen - a contented DUNCAN drinks his tea, contemplating.

117 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - FIRST TEAM CHANGING ROOM 117
- DAY - 1953

It's a surreal moment, could be played in slow motion, DUNCAN enters the crammed buzzing changing room.

DUNCAN walks to his peg and bench, all the while staring in awe at his V-necked Manchester United jersey that's hanging on the hook.

DUNCAN's a mixture of emotions as he gazes at the '6' on the back, but he's not nervous - he can hold his own with the stars of this great team.

DUNCAN pulls his jersey off the peg as MATT BUSBY walks into the changing room, a hush descends, JIMMY MURPHY follows behind him.

MATT BUSBY and JIMMY MURPHY stand at the end of the changing room, a team sheet behind them on the wall.

MATT BUSBY

(Addressing the team)

Ok lads, if you concede remember you can score two, don't let them settle on the ball, get the ball back, use your eyes, get it forward, tire them out. I don't want to see Manchester United coming second, only the best will do.

DUNCAN's taking in MATT BUSBY's every word.

MATT BUSBY (CONT'D)

Most importantly, enjoy yourselves. I'll leave you in the capable hands of Jimmy.

With a nod MATT BUSBY hands over to JIMMY MURPHY and exits the changing room.

JIMMY MURPHY's well and truly geared up for the match and he intends to do the same to the team, he lets rip, tearing the team sheet from the wall, he scrunches it up and throws it to the floor.

JIMMY MURPHY

Forget about them. They can't play. Fuckin' useless, the lot of them. That red shirt you're wearing is the best in the world. When you pull that on nothing can beat you, and always remember your best friends out there are your six studs!

The team roar.

The bell rings indicating it is time for the players to make their way to the tunnel.

Pulling their jerseys on, the team start to file out of the changing room.

DUNCAN follows them, just as he is about to exit JIMMY MURPHY grabs him.

JIMMY MURPHY

(To DUNCAN)

Don't worry about a thing son, you're going to do fine. Best of luck.

**118 EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - OUTSIDE STADIUM/STREET - DAY 118
- 1953**

A swarm of fans walk down the street towards the stadium.

GLADSTONE and ANNIE are amongst the crowds.

GLADSTONE puts his arm around ANNIE and squeezes her tight - both beaming.

**119 INT/EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - TUNNEL/PITCH/STAND - DAY 119
- 1953**

The Manchester United team and Cardiff City are stood in the tunnel.

The roar from the Manchester United fans fills the tunnel - its explosive - spine-shivering - and DUNCAN's feeling it.

The teams run out to players shouting 'come on lads' 'let's do this boys.'

The team enters the pitch to a sea of red fans, rattles and scarves. The chanting of 'United, United' fills the air.

DUNCAN's stares in wonder at the surroundings, he looks at the Stretford end in awe.

CUT TO one of the stands where a proud GLADSTONE and ANNIE are sat. They are joining in the chanting and whirling of rattles.

**120 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - FIRST TEAM CHANGING ROOM 120
- DAY - 1953**

CAPTION: MANCHESTER UNITED 1 - 4 CARDIFF CITY

There is a subdued atmosphere as the players slope back into the changing room after a defeat to Cardiff City.

As players continue to enter/some already showering and changing, a downcast DUNCAN walks in last followed by JIMMY MURPHY.

JIMMY MURPHY touches DUNCAN's shoulder, he turns to face him.

JIMMY MURPHY

You did great out there son,
don't be downhearted lad, we
might have lost but you were my
man of the match. You played like
a pro lad, the manager was really
impressed.

DUNCAN

(Slightly uplifted)
Thanks Jimmy..

JIMMY MURPHY

Go on, go get showered.

A thoughtful JIMMY MURPHY watches DUNCAN walk to his
peg.

121 INT/EXT. THE WATSON HOUSE - KITCHEN/BACK GARDEN 121
- DAWN - 1953

The morning sun shines through MRS WATSON's back window
and into the kitchen where she is sat at the table
reading a newspaper with a cup of tea.

MRS WATSON browses a page then turns it over, looks at
another, turns it... she comes to the sports pages which
instantly holds her attention...

MRS WATSON is captured by the match report from
yesterday, Manchester United v Cardiff City, which is
all about DUNCAN's debut and how well he did..

DUNCAN enters the kitchen.

DUNCAN

Morning Mrs Watson.

MRS WATSON looks up from her paper with a warm smile.
DUNCAN sits at the table and pours himself a tea from
the pot.

MRS WATSON

Hiya Duncan lad.
(Points to the paper)
Sounds like someone had an
impressive debut yesterday..

DUNCAN

(Sips tea, shrugs, a
little subdued)
'Ay, it were ok but we lost 4-1
so it couldn't have been that
good...

MRS WATSON

Well it says here love..
(Beat. Studies article)
'The only ray of sunshine that
filtered through the United gloom
was the display of the boy
debutante Duncan Edwards, who did
all that was asked of him...'

MRS WATSON looks at DUNCAN with satisfaction. DUNCAN's
unmoved, drinks tea.

MRS WATSON (CONT'D)

'Including taking a shot from thirty
yards that was only just wide. He's
a good 'un, the best I've seen for
his age.'

MRS WATSON looks at DUNCAN who puts on a pretend smug
smile - rolls his eyes - yet there is still a
humbleness surrounding him.

DUNCAN

Well I guess Jimmy Murphy must
have been right then...

MRS WATSON

Oh aye?

DUNCAN

He said I played like a pro and
the gaffer was impressed..
(Sarcastically, but in a
jokey nice kind of way)
So I suppose I must have done
something right...

MRS WATSON

He knows what he's talking about
that Jimmy Murphy.

DUNCAN

Seriously though, I just want to make sure I stay in the first team and do well for Matt Busby.

(Beat. Sips tea)

I just want to play football...

MRS WATSON

(Sincere)

I know you do lad.

(Jolly, holds up paper)

I might have this framed! A super star in the making living under my roof!

They both laugh and joke together.

122 **EXT. DUDLEY - STREET/THE EDWARD'S HOUSE - DAWN** 122
- 1953

CAPTION: 2ND JUNE 1953

DUNCAN turns a corner, holdall on his back, another small bag in hand - into the street where he used to live, still the home of GLADSTONE and ANNIE.

The street's decorated with bunting and tables laid out in preparation for the day ahead - The Queen's coronation.

An excited DUNCAN picks up his pace and heads down the street to his former home.

GLADSTONE and ANNIE are both waiting for him at the door. Hugs and kisses all around as DUNCAN reaches the house.

GLADSTONE

Welcome home son!

123 **INT. THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY - 1953** 123

DUNCAN and ANNIE are sat with anticipation on the sofa - GLADSTONE fiddles around with the radio.

DUNCAN

(Jokey)

Come on Dad, were going to be the only family to miss out on the coronation if you don't get a move on with that wireless!

GLADSTONE

(Still trying to tune the radio, joking)

'Ay! Just 'cause you're a Manchester United player now!

ANNIE

(Hugs DUNCAN)

He'll always be our Duncan whoever he plays for!

DUNCAN

I'll always be Duncan Edwards from Dudley, don't matter if I win the league a hundred times with United I'll still be me, and if I ever change you make sure you tell me!

GLADSTONE finally tunes the radio in.

GLADSTONE

(Heading back to the sofa)

Right, think we're up and running...

RADIO (OOV)

Cheered on by thousands of well-wishers, The Queen arrives at Westminster Abbey in her coronation coach...

124 EXT. STREET - DAY - 1953

124

Same day, later.

A big street party is taking place in DUNCAN's street, flags, bunting and tables are draped in Union Jack table cloths and napkins, the works. A big banner 'The Queen's Coronation' hangs from one lamppost to another.

The street is filled with people celebrating, including DUNCAN who is shying away from any limelight and is completely down to earth with everyone at the party.

DUNCAN's drinking a ginger ale, he approaches a neighbour, MRS WHEELER, who's behind a table handing out cake.

DUNCAN

(To MRS WHEELER)

Alright if I have a piece of that cake Mrs Wheeler please?

MRS WHEELER

'Course you can love, I'll cut you a nice big bit, you need to keep your strength up now you're playing for Manchester United.

DUNCAN grins shyly, not wanting to attract any attention to himself.

MRS WHEELER cuts the cake as another neighbour, MR HOWE, approaches DUNCAN.

MR HOWE

Hello Duncan, you alright lad?

DUNCAN

(Tucking into his cake)

Oh hi Mr Howe.

MR HOWE

I can't believe I'm stood here talking to a Manchester United super star-

DUNCAN

Well I wouldn't go as far as to say a super star Mr Howe-

MR HOWE

So, what's it like, playing for Matt Busby? Running out at Old Trafford?

DUNCAN

(Beat)

It's an honour.

HOLD ON a humble DUNCAN.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

But it's nice to come home. After
all I'm just I'm ordinary lad from
Dudley.

125 INT/EXT THE EDWARD HOUSE - KITCHEN/FRONT ROOM/ 125
HALLWAY/DOORSTEP - DAY - 1953

New day.

ANNIE'S cooking in the kitchen as DUNCAN arrives home,
he peers around the front room door and smiles as he
spots ANNIE cooking.

DUNCAN creeps up on ANNIE with a bunch of flowers
hiding behind his back.

ANNIE turns around, jumps as she sees DUNCAN but with
delight.

DUNCAN produces the flowers...

DUNCAN

Surprise!

ANNIE

(Takes flowers)

Awh, they're lovely, you shouldn't
be treating me...

ANNIE searches for a vase in the kitchen cupboards.

DUNCAN

I like treating you.

ANNIE finds a vase - fills it with water - puts the
flowers in - stands back to admire them.

ANNIE

We've loved having you home, me
and your dad. The coronation -
this summer - it's been so nice
having you around. I can't believe
you're going back tomorrow...

There's a knock at the door...

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'll go, you go and get packing,
the train for Manchester leaves
at eight sharp in the morning.

ANNIE heads to the front door and answers it.

A BOY aged around six years old stands on the door step
holding a worn-out football, he looks up at ANNIE.

BOY

Hello Mrs Edwards. Is Duncan
coming out to play football?

Taken aback, ANNIE stutters as she calls DUNCAN.

ANNIE

(Calls through to the
front room, bemused)
Umm... Duncan... Duncan are you free
to play football...

DUNCAN appears in the hallway.

DUNCAN

What's that Mum?

They both look down at the BOY.

ANNIE

Mrs Drapers lad, said can you
go and play football?

DUNCAN

(Pulls on shoes)
Yeah, course I can!
(Ushers the BOY out
of the door, to the
boy:)
Where are we playing? The street?

As DUNCAN and the BOY walk off..

BOY

Yeah... can you show me that trick
with the ball again Duncan...?

ANNIE calls after them...

ANNIE

You go careful love, you're back
in training with Manchester
United tomorrow!

ANNIE's bewildered yet proud of DUNCAN's down to earth
attitude.

126 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - HALLWAY/FRONT ROOM - DAY 126
- 1953

New day.

DUNCAN comes through the door with a suitcase and
holdall. He's more confident and less shy around his
digs and MRS WATSON now.

DUNCAN

(Calls out)

Hello... Mrs Watson? It's Duncan,
I'm back!

MRS WATSON excitedly enters the room from the kitchen,
arms stretched out ready for a hug..

MRS WATSON

Awh, here he is..

(Hugs DUNCAN)

Have I missed you?! Good summer
at your Mam and Dads?

MRS WATSON releases DUNCAN.

DUNCAN

It were good thanks, nice going
home but nice to be back in
Manchester, I can't wait to get
back to training tomorrow for the
new season.

MRS WATSON

Ah, you'll do grand lad. Now come
on through and 'ave a brew, there's
someone I want you to meet..

127 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - 1953 127

As DUNCAN and MRS WATSON enter the kitchen, sat at the table, a shy looking young man sits sipping tea. BOBBY CHARLTON looks up nervously as they enter.

MRS WATSON

Duncan, this is Bobby. Bobby Charlton. He'll be staying here, Mr Busby's signed him.

DUNCAN

(Shakes BOBBY's hand)
Nice to meet you Bobby, I'm Duncan.

BOBBY CHARLTON smiles shyly and returns the hand shake.

MRS WATSON

He's travelled down from Ashington, I've never had a Geordie lad staying with me before, quite exciting in't it?

BOBBY CHARLTON looks embarrassed, there's an awkward silence until DUNCAN breaks it...

DUNCAN

Wherever you're from Bobby, you'll fit in just fine. I'll show you around the city if you like, and the ropes at Old Trafford.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Great, thanks Duncan.

MRS WATSON

(Filling the tea pot)
Aye, you'll be ok my love, Duncan was as quiet as a mouse when he first came to Manchester, home sick weren't you love? Anyways, look at you now, come out your shell in the end.

(Pours tea into mugs,
grins at DUNCAN and BOBBY CHARLTON)
Right little chatter box now aren't you?

Hands DUNCAN his tea.

DUNCAN

Ta.

(To BOBBY CHARLTON,
joking)

You picked the right digs, Mrs
Watson makes a mean cuppa Bobby,
her home-cooked food isn't bad
either!

MRS WATSON

(Enjoying the banter)

'Ay! And he's got right cheeky as
well Bobby lad!

DUNCAN and MRS WATSON laugh, BOBBY CHARLTON is
bashfully amused.

DUNCAN

(Downs his tea)

Right, come on Bobby, let me show
you 'round the house then we can
head down to the ground if you
like, I'll introduce you to the
lads.

BOBBY

Cheers Duncan.

DUNCAN and BOBBY CHARLTON leave the kitchen, chatting
as they go, MRS WATSON smiles to herself as she watches
them, sipping her tea.

DUNCAN

So you a big United fan then?

BOBBY CHARLTON

Aye, most people support Newcastle
from where I'm from but I've always
loved watching Mr Busby's team.

DUNCAN (OOV)

Me too. My Dad thought I'd play
for Wolves but there was only one
team I wanted to join...

128 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - MATT BUSBY'S OFFICE - DAY 128
- 1953

CAPTION: 1ST OCTOBER 1953

MATT BUSBY, DUNCAN, and a PHOTOGRAPHER are gathered in MATT BUSBY's office.

It's all smiles as MATT BUSBY and DUNCAN shake hands then sit down at the desk for a photo.

PHOTOGRAPHER
(Takes photo)
That's lovely, ok let's get one
with the contract...

MATT BUSBY holds up DUNCAN's first professional contract from his desk drawer. Another photo then MATT BUSBY places it on the desk.

MATT BUSBY
(To DUNCAN)
There you are son, your first
professional contract. Well done
lad.

DUNCAN
Thanks boss.

MATT BUSBY hands DUNCAN a pen.

Without hesitation DUNCAN signs the contract.

DUNCAN and MATT BUSBY turn towards the PHOTOGRAPHER for another snap of DUNCAN with the contract.

MONTAGE of clips, footage, newspaper articles and scores from DUNCAN and Manchester United games now appear to the song 'Manchester United Calypso' (the original)

The montage includes:

'Blanchflower, Viollet and Edwards in Busby's XI' -
Headline.

'Busby plays the youngsters' - Article.

'Cardiff 1 - 6 United' - Video/footage.

'United 4 - 1 Blackpool' - Video/footage.

'Edwards does himself proud' - Headline.

'Edwards the bravest man on the pitch' - Article.

'Manchester United 5 - 2 Sheffield Wednesday' -
Headline/footage.

Busby babes training - Footage.

Montage ends.

129 **EXT. OLD TRAFFORD - PITCH/TOUCHLINE - DAY - 1953** 129

New day.

The final whistle blows on a match between Manchester
United and Liverpool.

Cheers and celebration - the scoreboard reads:
Manchester United 5 - 1 Liverpool.

On the touchline MATT BUSBY and JIMMY MURPHY shake
hands with the opposition management then stand
watching the teams walk off, both trying to contain
their excitement.

JIMMY MURPHY

(Turns to MATT BUSBY,
deadpan yet smug)

They're doing alright aren't they?
The young lads?

MATT BUSBY

(Watching DUNCAN and the
young team heading for the
dressing room. Wry smile)

I knew they would. I never had
any doubt about it...

A reporter approaches MATT BUSBY, pad and pen in hand...

REPORTER

A quick word on the match if I
may Mr Busby, for the Manchester
evening chronical - another virtuoso
performance by the Busby babes, in
particular Duncan Edwards, you must
be very pleased?

MATT BUSBY

Very pleased, they've all done extremely well, Duncan can go on to be one of England's great players... Busby Babes you say?

REPORTER

Yes, just a little nickname we came up with at head office for your team of young footballers. Is that a problem?

MATT BUSBY

No no... I quite like it... Busby Babes... very good...

MATT BUSBY gestures to JIMMY MURPHY and the pair walk off down the touchline.

130 INT. THE WATSON HOUSE - DUNCAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 130
- 1954

CAPTION: MAY 1954

DUNCAN's led on his bed reading - BOBBY CHARLTON pokes his head around the door.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Alright Duncan? You coming to the function at Ringway tonight? All the lads are going.

DUNCAN

I dunno, I might just have a quiet night in.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Aye go on Dunc', we're going to celebrate the end of the season. Anyways, I need you there for moral support, you know what David and Jackie are like!

DUNCAN

Go on then... I'm going back to Dudley for the summer so it'll be good to see the lads before I go.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Cheers Dunc', I owe you one, I'll
buy you a ginger beer.

They both laugh.

DUNCAN

Go on, give me half an hour to have
a shower and get ready.

DUNCAN light-heartedly shakes his head at BOBBY
CHARLTON.

131 INT. RINGWAY AIRPORT - LOBBY - NIGHT - 1954 131

DUNCAN and BOBBY CHARLTON arrive at the venue dressed
very smartly.

It's busy, lots of people stood around in groups
drinking, talking and having a good time.

DUNCAN scans the place looking for the rest of the
team.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Can you see 'em Dunc'?

DUNCAN

No, maybe they're not here yet.

(Looks at his watch)

It's only five to eight.

(Looks around again,

spots someone he's knows)

Dave and Pat are here...

BOBBY CHARLTON

Who?

DUNCAN

A couple I met when I was out
dancing with the lads, Dave's
alright, he's a United fan..
I should go and say hello.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Ok, I'll get us some drinks, you
want a ginger beer?

DUNCAN
(Walking away)
Please...

DUNCAN makes his way through the crowds to where his friends PAT and DAVE are sitting at a table in the corner. As DUNCAN gets closer he sees they are sat with a third person, a woman, MOLLY, she has her back to DUNCAN.

DUNCAN reaches the table.

DAVE
(Spots DUNCAN)
Duncan! Alright lad?

DUNCAN
Dave, pat...

MOLLY turns to face DUNCAN. She's stunning, she gives DUNCAN a beautiful smile.

DUNCAN stops in his tracks - she's lovely - he looks at her in wonder, his mouth open in amazement, like he's never seen an attractive young woman before.

PAT
(Amused by DUNCAN's
astonishment)
Duncan this is Molly. Molly
Leach.

DUNCAN is so taken back by MOLLY he doesn't know what to say, he clumsily shakes her hand, stumbling and awkward.

DUNCAN
Oh hi... I'm - uh - Duncan...
nice to umm... meet you.

There is an awkward silence as the hand shake ends and DUNCAN can't think of anything else to say, DAVE comes to his rescue.

DAVE
Who are you here with Duncan?

DUNCAN
(Embarrassed)
Oh umm... Bobby Charlton, we're
waiting for the rest of the team...

DAVE, PAT and MOLLY nod and smile, all a bit uncomfortable.

DUNCAN
(Shyly looks away)
Looks like Bobby's got our drinks...

BOBBY CHARLTON calls out to DUNCAN carrying a tray of drinks.

BOBBY CHARLTON
Duncan! The lads are here, we're on table ten!

MOLLY
Oh that's our table as well. We can get to know each other better.

Flummoxed DUNCAN nods, smiles shyly.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
(Picks up her hand bag and gets up. To DUNCAN:)
Shall we go through?

DUNCAN
(Sheepish, fumbling)
Uh, yeah, ok...

132 INT. RINGWAY AIRPORT - FUNCTION ROOM - NIGHT
- 1954

132

Music, food and drinks are in full flow as everyone enjoys their evening.

There are around a dozen round tables laid out with a dance floor in the middle.

DUNCAN, BOBBY CHARLTON, JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER and EDDIE COALMAN are sat at one table with a few random people along with DUNCAN's friends PAT and DAVE as well as MOLLY.

DUNCAN looks a little more at ease with MOLLY as she natters away to him. DUNCAN's nodding and listening with interest, almost in awe of her - he's just enjoying their conversation - she's on his level, sweet natured, kind, and very pretty.

The others on the table are having their own conversations.

MOLLY

(To DUNCAN as she sips
her drink)

...I'm a secretary for a company
in Altrincham, I enjoy it, Cooks
it's called, they make textile
machines...

DUNCAN

Sounds interesting...

MOLLY

It's ok, the money's not bad and
the people are nice... It's not as
interesting as what you do though
'ay?

DUNCAN

(Sips his ginger beer)

Umm... well... you haven't asked me
what I do yet...

MOLLY

(Mocking but kindly)

Your Duncan Edwards! Everyone in
Manchester and beyond knows what
you do! You're a star and a great
footballer.

DUNCAN

(Embarrassed)

Well I'm not sure about that...

MOLLY

Don't be so modest!

(More kind mocking)

I never thought someone as famous
as you could be so shy.

DUNCAN looks away. She's embarrassing him but in a good way, he likes her manner, kind teasing, her smile, she's making him more at ease with every word and she's not treating him like a superstar - just an ordinary lad.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

See there you go again, all
bashful...

DUNCAN

Sorry I...

MOLLY

What are you apologising for you
daft beggar? Don't be sorry, I
think it's rather sweet.

With that sentence she's put him at ease again with her
straight kind talking. He smiles, almost pleased she
finds him 'sweet.'

DUNCAN

Thanks...

DUNCAN and MOLLY continue their conversation.

CUT TO DAVE, PAT, BOBBY CHARLTON, JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER
and EDDIE COLMAN.

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER

Come on Bobby, help me with t'
drinks.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Aye.

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER and BOBBY CHARLTON leave the table.

Stay with DAVE, PAT and EDDIE COALMAN.

PAT

(Re DUNCAN and MOLLY)

Those two seem to have hit it off,
sweet isn't it? You could tell
straight away Duncan liked her...

EDDIE COALMAN

Dead quiet and shy in't he? Duncan.
He normally can't say two words to
any of the lasses we go dancing with.

DAVE

(Finishes drink)

Aye, he's a bashful one is are
Duncan, but a smashing lad.

EDDIE COLMAN

(Sips drink)

I'll second that. But there must be
something pretty special about... ur...

PAT

Molly.

(Beat)

Yes. I think he will find her rather special..

MONTAGE - time has moved on - DUNCAN and MOLLY in the cinema together then out having a drink, enjoying each other's company - clearly now an item - in a nightclub with MOLLY trying to get him onto the dance floor but he's too shy. EDDIE COLMAN obliges and DUNCAN nods. MOLLY has a friendly dance with him with DUNCAN watching on with a smile.

The montage will be played out to the song 'That's Alright' by Elvis Presley.

Montage ends.

133 EXT. STREET/OUTSIDE COOKS FACTORY - DAY - 1955 133

DUNCAN pulls up on his bike outside MOLLY's place of work.

He props his bike up against the wall then stands back on the curb. He looks up to the top window of the factory.

134 INT/EXT. COOKS FACTORY/STREET - DAY - 1955 134

Inside the busy little top floor office women work away at typewriters and general admin duties.

MOLLY is sat behind a desk on the far side of the room scribbling away on a pad.

A young woman, MAUREEN, sat nearest the window typing away, stands and glances out of the window. She spots DUNCAN down below on the pavement. She stops typing then nudges the woman next to her, RITA.

MAUREEN

'ay are Rita, 'ave a look out the window.

RITA and MAUREEN peer out of the window down onto DUNCAN who's shielding his eyes, looking upwards.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

It's that Duncan Edwards in't it?
The footballer for United.

RITA

Aye, your right. What's he doing
down there?

MOLLY sheepishly looks up from her desk, she can hear MAUREEN and RITA, she's heard DUNCAN's outside - and she knows what he's doing - he's here to see her.

MOLLY casually gets up from her desk and joins MAUREEN and RITA at the window.

FROM MOLLY's POV she sees DUNCAN on the pavement. As soon as he sees MOLLY at the window he starts waving.

MOLLY waves back, trying hard not to draw the attention of the other girls.

MAUREEN and RITA look at each other - raised eyebrows, surprise..

RITA (CONT'D)

You courting Duncan Edwards are
Molly Leach?

RITA and MAUREEN giggle while MOLLY looks embarrassed. She quickly loses the embarrassment and stands up for herself..

MOLLY

Actually I am. Me and Duncan are
an item..

(Looks at her watch,
changes attitude... sneaky
smile...)

And I am off to meet him for lunch!

MOLLY picks up her handbag and exits the room - the song 'It's alright' by Elvis Presley plays again as she goes.

ON MAUREEN and RITA's astonished reaction as MOLLY walks out the door.

135 EXT. STREET/OUTSIDE COOKS FACTORY - DAY - 1955 135

As 'That's alright' by Elvis Presley continues MOLLY bounds out of the factory door looking pleased to see DUNCAN.

MOLLY kisses DUNCAN on the cheek. The pair walk off together, DUNCAN pushing his bike.

Music ends.

136 INT/EXT. MANCHESTER PICCADILLY - DAY - 1955 136

New day.

Amongst the crowded platform, a bewildered, solemn DUNCAN drags himself and a bag along.

OOV one of the busby babes, DUNCAN's team mate, BILL FOULKES spots him, he calls out;

BILL FOULKES
Duncan! Dunc'!

DUNCAN looks around at his name being called then he sees BILL FOULKES coming towards him with his bag in tow.

DUNCAN
Bill, what are you doing here?

BILL FOULKES
Same as you, been called up for
National Service haven't I?

(Beat)
By heck, one minute we're playing
for Manchester United next were
off to the barracks...

DUNCAN nods sadly.

BILL FOULKES (CONT'D)
You know there's no trains running
don't you?

DUNCAN
No... what's going on?

BILL FOULKES

Rail strike. Come on, they're
putting a bus on for us instead,
it's waiting out the front.

DUNCAN and BILL FOULKES walk out of the station.

137 INT/EXT. MINIBUS - NIGHT - 1955

137

A jam-packed rickety minibus chugs along. Squashed together, DUNCAN and BILL FOULKES are sat at the back.

DUNCAN looks miserable, BILL FOULKES tries to lighten the mood..

BILL FOULKES

(Jokey)

Blimey, I'm missing Manchester
already! I'm even missing Jimmy
bellowing at us from the touchline..

BILL FOULKES' smile fades as he sees his joke was wasted on DUNCAN who stares into space.

BILL FOULKES (CONT'D)

Duncan? You alright mate? Only
you've not said two words since
we left the station..

DUNCAN

(Looks at BILL FOULKES
with puppy dog eyes,
he's choked as he speaks)
You might be missing Manchester
Bill, but what about my Molly?
(Turns away from BILL
FOULKES, stares into
space again)
I miss her. And we've only been
gone a few hours..

BILL FOULKES

Aye, it'll be alright Dunc'. You
can see her at weekends.

(MORE)

BILL FOULKES (CONT'D)

We'll have to travel back on
Fridays for our games on a
Saturday..

(Looks for a reaction
from DUNCAN, nothing but
a sad expression..)

I know it's not the same as seeing
her all the time but it's better
than nothing in't it?

Seeing that he has not lifted DUNCAN's spirits, BILL FOULKES gives up talking. Instead he puts an arm around DUNCAN and squeezes his shoulder with affection.

138 EXT. WOOLWICH ARSENAL - BARRACKS - NIGHT - 1955 138

DUNCAN's practically thrown off the minibus as it pulls up outside his barracks.

A few other lads get off with him, they walk towards the barracks entrance. DUNCAN trudges behind them with his bag in hand.

CUT TO a sad BILL FOULKES looking out of the minibus window, watching DUNCAN walk away.

CUT BACK to DUNCAN walking to the entrance, tears are rolling down his face.

DUNCAN and the other lads enter the barracks.

MONTAGE of DUNCAN's routine at the barracks

Time has moved on a few weeks. The song 'That's Alright' by Elvis Presley plays again to the following images:

DUNCAN's alarm at the side of his bed goes off at 6:15am.

DUNCAN and his fellow RECRUITS are washing and shaving then polishing their boots.

DUNCAN looks at his watch: 7:00am - everyone goes down for breakfast - all the RECRUITS are given porridge.

Straight after breakfast, the RECRUITS, including DUNCAN, are on parade to report for duty at 7:55am.

END OF MONTAGE.

139 INT/EXT. BARRACKS - DORMITORIES/OUTSIDE BARRACKS 139
- DAWN - 1955

CAPTION: TWO MONTHS LATER

DUNCAN and the rest of the RECRUITS are washing and getting ready for the day ahead.

One of the RECRUITS, who is looking out of the window, turns and calls out to the others:

RECRUIT
More recruits lads!

Some of the RECRUITS come to the window, including DUNCAN with a toothbrush sticking out of his mouth.

CUT TO the NEW RECRUITS coming towards the barrack entrance.

CUT BACK to the dormitory, DUNCAN has spotted a RECRUIT he knows...

DUNCAN
Bobby...

140 INT. BARRACKS - DINING ROOM - DAY - 1955 140

DUNCAN and BOBBY are sat opposite each other at a table eating dinner.

DUNCAN
...It's hard Bobby I'm not going to deny that, I miss Molly - United - Mrs Watson's home cooking...

BOBBY
(Joking)
You're making me feel so much better Dunc'.

DUNCAN
Sorry. It's not too bad really. You go back to Manchester every weekend for your match on a Saturday.

(MORE)

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

I get to see Molly then as well.
Anyway, now you're here, things
are looking up. I've missed you
'an all Bobby.

BOBBY

(Joking)

Shushhhh, people will start
talking about us...

They both laugh, still eating.

DUNCAN

Seriously though, it's good to
see you and if you need anything
I'll see you alright Bobby.

BOBBY

Cheers Duncan.

DUNCAN

(Finishes cup of tea then
stands up)

Come on, I'll quickly show you
'round then you better get your
football boots polished...

BOBBY looks puzzled.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

We're playing for the Army team
at three.

141 INT/EXT. TRAIN/MANCHESTER PICCIDILLY/PLATFORM 141
- NIGHT - 1955

It's Friday night - the day DUNCAN has been looking
forward to all week - he moves along a train carriage
with his overnight bag.

The song 'Mr. Sandman' by Vaughn Monroe starts to play
as DUNCAN settles in his seat. He yawns then pulls a
photo of MOLLY from his coat pocket - he looks at it
with contentment then settles back in his seat and
closes his eyes holding the photo close to his chest.

Stations wiz by, the song continues, DUNCAN sleeps,
times goes by, the train comes into its final
destination: Manchester.

CUT TO the sign 'Manchester Piccadilly' on the platform. DUNCAN wakes.

DUNCAN is weary until he spots MOLLY waving on the platform - suddenly he is rejuvenated.

142 INT. OLD TRAFFORD - CHANGING ROOM - DAY - 1956 142

CAPTION: 7TH APRIL 1956

DUNCAN and the rest of the first team are getting ready for their match against Blackpool. It's a big game, Manchester United must win the match to be crowned champions.

MATT BUSBY enters the changing room, there is hush as he stands at the front to address his team.

MATT BUSBY

Ok lads, you know what you got to do. You play the game in the right spirit and with courage, with fair play and no favour. But most importantly, you play as a team, and win the match and the league.

A roar goes up around the changing room. Sounds of 'come on' and 'let's go lads'.

HOLD ON DUNCAN's reaction - he's ready to be a champion.

143 EXT. OLD TRAFFORD STADIUM - PITCH - DAY - 1956 143

The crowd is rocking as Manchester United and Blackpool take to the pitch.

The game kicks off, Blackpool take the lead.

United win a penalty - Johnny Berry scores to make it 1-1 - the crowd go wild.

With minutes to go until full-time, Tommy Taylor stretches a leg out and pushes the ball into the goal - 2-1 Manchester United - the stadium erupts.

Seconds later the final whistle blows - DUNCAN, Manchester United and the busby babes are champions - queue celebrations on the pitch and in the terraces.

HOLD ON DUNCAN who goes to the main stand with joy, he looks to the sky, lifts his hands above his head and shouts 'champions' struggling to control his emotions.

144 INT. THE COLMAN HOUSE - FRONT ROOM/KITCHEN 144
- NIGHT - 1956

The celebrations are well underway at EDDIE COLMAN's house.

'Oakie Boogie' by Lita Roza plays in the background as the Manchester United team enjoy themselves.

All of the players are drinking alcohol and are very merry apart from DUNCAN who is sticking to soft drinks - he's still having a good time though, enjoying the banter and celebrating.

EDDIE COLMAN
(To DUNCAN, drink in hand)
Come on Dunc', 'ave a drink lad.

DUNCAN
(Drinking orange juice)
You're alright Eddie, I got an
England match in a few days, I
want to keep a clear head.

EDDIE COLMAN
(Slightly slurred)
But we're celebrating Dunc'.

DUNCAN
Don't worry I'm still having a
good time - I'm a league champion
and England player, I've got great
team mates and I've met Molly, I'm
the luckiest man in the world..

A drunken EDDIE COLMAN playfully grabs and embraces DUNCAN. He lifts his beer can.

EDDIE COLMAN
Well said Duncan my laddie!

They both laugh then 'chink' drinks - EDDIE COLMAN's can and DUNCAN's glass of orange.

EDDIE COLMAN (CONT'D)
To us and Manchester United!

A merry DAVID PEGG approaches the pair.

DAVID PEGG

Right you two, come on we're
going to the plaza - they've got
free bubbly waiting for us -
(Shouts out to the team)
Plaza here we come!

There's a cheer from everyone as DAVID PEGG leads them
out the front door, EDDIE COLMAN follows, a soberer
BOBBY CHARLTON approaches DUNCAN.

BOBBY CHARLTON

You coming Dunc'.

DUNCAN

No, I'm going to spend some
time with Molly before I meet up
with the England team. You carry
on, I'll tidy up here before I go.

BOBBY CHARLTON

You sure?

DUNCAN

Yeah, go on, call round tomorrow
yeah?

BOBBY CHARLTON

Yeah, I'd like that.

There's a moment of brief emotion between them, the
realisation of what has been achieved before DUNCAN
breaks it with a witty line:

DUNCAN

(Holds up his glass of
orange)
Cheers champ...!

They smile. BOBBY CHALTON exits leaving a very
satisfied and contented DUNCAN alone with his thoughts.

145 EXT. MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE - DAY - 1957

145

CAPTION: 6TH JUNE 1957

A newspaper stand in the busy city centre has the front page of The Daily Express on the front, the headline reads:

'Lance Corporal Edwards officially demobilised from the army.'

146 EXT. MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE - CINEMA QUEUE
- NIGHT - 1957

146

DUNCAN's on a night out with MOLLY. They are waiting in the cinema queue. DUNCAN's got his hood up.

MOLLY

(Amused, mocking kindly)
Will you put that hood down, it's
t' middle of summer. You look
right daft!

DUNCAN

The minute I put this hood down
I'll be recognised, people will
ask me for autographs.

MOLLY

And...? You're Duncan Edwards super
star... you're their hero, you're
my hero...

DUNCAN

(Shy from MOLLY's words
yet humble)
I wouldn't go that far... It's not
like I mind being asked for my
autograph, the fans deserve it,
week in week out they spend their
hard earnt money on coming to Old
Trafford and supporting us... It's
just tonight, I want to spend time
with you. No interruptions.

147 INT. CINEMA - NIGHT - 1957

147

DUNCAN and MOLLY are sat at the back of the cinema waiting for the film to start. DUNCAN's removed his hood but he is keeping his head down.

People are still coming in and out, others in their seats having hushed conversations.

DUNCAN
(Shy, stuttering)
Molly?

MOLLY
Yes?

DUNCAN
You know... us.

MOLLY nods.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
Uh, well we've been courting a little while now and - not that we want to rush anything but... well, once this season comes to an end - I thought - umm... maybe we could-

MOLLY can see DUNCAN's struggling and knows what he is trying to say.

MOLLY
Get married?

DUNCAN
Ur... yeah. How'd you guess?

MOLLY
I can read you like a book, I think I know by now how the mind of Duncan Edwards works.

MOLLY kisses him on the cheek.

MOLLY
It's a yes. At the end of the season we'll get wed and buy a house. I couldn't think of anything I'd love more!

DUNCAN
 (Happy but taken back)
 Really?

MOLLY
 Really you daft apeth! You're the
 best thing that's happened to me.

Life couldn't get much better and DUNCAN's expression shows it. The pair kiss as the films starts.

148 INT. FILBERT STREET STADIUM - CHANGING ROOM 148
 - DAY - 1957

CAPTION: FIRST MATCH OF THE 1957/58 SEASON MANCHESTER UNITED V LEICESTER CITY

The team including JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER, EDDIE COLMAN and DUNCAN are sat at their pegs listening to MATT BUSBY and JIMMY MURPHY.

MATT BUSBY
 ...You've had a taste for it now
 lads, I want us to rule in England
 but I also want to see Manchester
 United's name on that European cup.

JIMMY MURPHY
 You're young, you've got the world
 at your feet lads, this season is
 there for the taking, so let's do
 this...

There's excited cheers and 'yeahs' 'come ons' from the team as they rise to their feet upon the bell ringing to indicate they are to make their way to the tunnel for kick-off.

MONTAGE as the original song 'Manchester United Calypso' plays again.

There are snippets of DUNCAN and Manchester United matches/goals/score lines/newspaper headlines including:

The first match of the season - United win 3-0 v Leicester City - DUNCAN's array of passes grabbing the headlines.

DUNCAN scores a sensational goal V Manchester City.

Daily Mirror - 'DUNCAN was at his majestic best and therefore nearly the best player in the world..'

Manchester United beat Leeds 5-0, Blackpool and Arsenal 4-0.

In Europe - United beat Shamrock Rovers 6-0.

Daily Mirror - 'One minute DUNCAN cleared off his own goal line, the next he was running through half the Blackpool side in a solo dash that owed as much to artistry as it did to sheer strength.'

149 EXT. THE CLIFF TRAINING GROUND - CAR PARK/PITCH 149
- DAWN - 1957

A Morris Minor 1000 pulls into The Cliff, from the training pitch EDDIE COLMAN, DAVID PEGG, TOMMY TAYLOR, BOBBY CHARLTON and GORDON CLAYTON watch in awe as the car parks and a sheepish DUNCAN steps out.

DUNCAN locks the car then turns to see BOBBY CHARLTON and DAVID PEGG coming towards him.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Nice wheels Dunc'.

EDDIE COLMAN

She's a beauty in't she? Good choice lad, what's the occasion?

DUNCAN

I've always wanted a Morris Minor, thought I'd treat myself, and it means I can spend more time with Molly..

EDDIE COLMAN

(Mocking, winks at BOBBY CHARLTON)

Oh well I might have guessed are Molly would be behind it..

DUNCAN

We can go off for the day now, picnics, drives in the country..

EDDIE COLMAN's amused, BOBBY CHARLTON as ever the loyal friend..

BOBBY CHARLTON

Well I think that's sounds grand
Duncan.

DUNCAN gets his kit bag from the boot. All three start
to walk towards the changing rooms.

DUNCAN

I'll give it another polish
later, I want it looking nice
for taking Molly out tonight.

EDDIE COLMAN

Not before you've taken us for a
spin after training - last one
to their peg has to sit in the
back!

EDDIE COLMAN dashes off to the changing room.

150 INT/EXT. STREETS/DUNCAN'S CAR - DAY - 1957 150

DUNCAN's driving, EDDIE COLMAN's in the passenger seat
and BOBBY CHARLTON's in the back.

DUNCAN's driving at a careful snail's pace while EDDIE
COLMAN plays with some of the controls on the
dashboard.

DUNCAN

Stop touching stuff Eddie, you're
going to break something. I want
to keep it nice...

EDDIE COLMAN

(Mocking, mimicking in
silly voice)
For Molly...

DUNCAN

Not just for Molly... for me, I
saved up for this little beauty,
I don't want it wrecked.

EDDIE stops playing about and sits back in his seat.
He's bored. They chug along in silence for a bit until
EDDIE speaks;

EDDIE COLMAN

Don't it go any faster Dunc'?

DUNCAN

I don't want to go mad, I like
to drive careful...

BOBBY CHARLTON peers over the driver's seat.

BOBBY CHARLTON

(Joking)

For Molly?

All three laugh.

EDDIE COLMAN

Right, come on! My go.

DUNCAN

'Ay?

EDDIE COLMAN

Go on, let me behind the wheel
Dunc'.

DUNCAN's reluctant then gives in.

DUNCAN

Go on then. But drive slowly ok?

EDDIE COLMAN

Yes!

DUNCAN pulls over as the song 'Putting on the Style' by
Lonnie Donegan starts to play. The song continues to
some MONTAGE:

EDDIE COLMAN's driving the car faster than DUNCAN.
EDDIE COLMAN's laughing, DUNCAN looks concerned, an
anxious BOBBY CHARLTON is still in the back.

CUT TO DUNCAN hard at work, cleaning his car in the
street.

DUNCAN and a few CHILDREN in the street are cleaning
the car with him - DUNCAN playfully splashes the
CHILDREN with water from his bucket and sponge.

DUNCAN's driving slowly and carefully with BOBBY
CHARLTON in the passenger seat. They smile at each
other as an annoyed EDDIE COLMAN sits in the back.

DUNCAN opening the passenger door as a happy MOLLY comes out of her front door and practically skips to the car. She kisses DUNCAN on the cheek and gets in.

DUNCAN and MOLLY are driving through country roads, lovingly looking at each other. They arrive at a seaside resort.

MONTAGE ENDS.

151 INT. THE LEECH HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAWN - 1957 151

DUNCAN's tapping away on a typewriter at the dining room table.

MOLLY enters from the kitchen with two cups of tea. She sits next to DUNCAN at the table, places the cups down on it just as DUNCAN taps the last word.

DUNCAN

Finished!

DUNCAN takes a sip of tea, with an 'augh' he relaxes back in his dining room chair.

MOLLY

Well done.

(Leans over the
typewriter)

Can I have a read?

DUNCAN

Yeah... couldn't edit it for me
as well could you?

MOLLY rolls her eyes.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Pleeeese...

MOLLY

Go on then, I've got nowt on
this afternoon.

DUNCAN

Thank you. It's got to be ready
for tomorrow...

MOLLY

Tomorrow?! But you're playing Arsenal away.

DUNCAN

(Finishes tea, stands up, goes to take his cup to the kitchen, turns.)

I no. Good job he wants to meet me in London 'ay? Kill two birds with one stone - that way I won't be making two trips away. More time for our adventures in the Morris and if I get this deal then it'll be more money for our wedding fund.

A wry smile from MOLLY before starting to read DUNCAN's typing.

152 INT/EXT. Highbury Stadium London - Day - 1958 152

CAPTION: 1ST FEBRUARY 1958 - Highbury Stadium

The number one song at this time 'Jailhouse Rock' by Elvis Presley plays as crowds pour into the stadium.

The song plays over the tannoy in the stadium as the crowds excite about seeing the Busby Babes.

People in the crowd read newspapers before kick-off with 'The Busby Babes come to Town' headlining on the front - the match programme has a page on DUNCAN and his team mates.

Arsenal and Manchester United take to the pitch.

The song 'Jailhouse Rock' by Elvis Presley fades out as Manchester United beat Arsenal 5-4 in a thrilling match. DUNCAN scores one of the goals.

As the final whistle blows, Arsenal fans applaud the Busby Babes off the pitch.

**153 INT. Highbury Stadium London - Away Changing Room 153
- Day - 1958**

Celebrations as the Busby Babes revel in their great win.

An excitable DAVID PEGG pulls himself up onto a bench - he hangs on by a peg then chants to the team and DUNCAN.

DAVID PEGG
 We're gonna win the league!
 We're gonna win the league!
 Come on lads, Belgrade up next!
 Let's stuff 'em!

Cheers from the team.

154 INT/EXT. Highbury Stadium London/Team Coach 154
- Night - 1958

The song 'Jailhouse Rock' by Elvis Presley plays again, the Manchester United team get on their coach.

More celebrations on the coach. Some of the team wave to DUNCAN who is stood on the kerb.

As the coach pulls away, DUNCAN crosses the road and walks down the street.

155 INT. Hotel - Conference Room - Night - 1958 155

As 'Jailhouse Rock' by Elvis Presley continues, DUNCAN and a BOOK PUBLISHER hold the cover of DUNCAN's book to be published entitled; '*Tackle Soccer This Way*' by *Duncan Edwards*. They are having their photo taken with the cover, both smiling into the camera.

Song ends.

156 EXT. Street - Dawn - 1958 156

CAPTION: 3RD FEBRUARY 1958

DUNCAN puts a suitcase into his Morris car, MOLLY watches on. He gets into the driver's seat with the window already wound down. A reflective MOLLY comes to the car window and leans through.

MOLLY
 Did you remember your biscuits
 and fruit?

DUNCAN

Yeah, I packed a few tea bags
as well. The boss warned us the
Yugoslavian food isn't up too
much, Eddie's bringing the
sugar.

MOLLY

(Teary, not wanting to
say goodbye)
Good... well I hope you win, I'll
be cheering you on... I'm going down
t' Mr and Mrs Redmans, they've
just got a television, the only
ones in the street...

DUNCAN

I'll be back in a few days, you
concentrate on finding a wedding
dress, you and your mum enjoy
your shopping trip 'ay?

DUNCAN kisses her then starts the car engine up. He
waves then slowly pulls away with MOLLY calling after
him;

MOLLY

Score a goal! Enjoy the match!

DUNCAN's car moves out of sight.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

(Quietly to herself)
I love you...

157 INT/EXT. STREETS OF BELGRADE/TEAM BUS - DAY
- 1958

157

CAPTION: 4TH FEBRUARY 1958 BELGRADE CITY - YUGOSLAVIA

The team travel through the streets of Belgrade. DAVID
PEGG and EDDIE COLMAN are sat at the back of the bus
laughing joking. DUNCAN's sat further down taking in
the sights - the snow on the ground and poverty of the
city.

158 EXT. BELGRADE - TRAINING PITCH - DAY - 1958 158

Same day, later.

With snow lightly falling, the team including DUNCAN, train on a swampy pitch.

159 INT. RED STAR BELGRADE GROUND - AWAY CHANGING ROOM - NIGHT - 1958 159

CAPTION: 5TH FEBRUARY 1958 RED STAR BELGRADE GROUND

The Manchester United team, including DUNCAN are gathered around MATT BUSBY as he delivers his team talk before the Busby babes take on Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup.

MATT BUSBY

There are no terrors out there for you boys now. You know this team; they are good but not good enough to beat you. We've beaten them once, now let's do it again.

MATT BUSBY pauses, he looks around the changing room, slowly surveying his team who are listening to him intently.

MATT BUSBY (CONT'D)

Enjoy the game, express yourselves. Don't forget your own strengths, always play to them. You have nothing to fear.

160 EXT. RED STAR BELGRADE GROUND - PITCH - NIGHT - 1958 160

Red Star Belgrade and Manchester United take to the pitch minutes before kick-off.

It's snowing - the Manchester United team have their team photo taken - it will be the last time the Busby Babes will be seen together...

Could be played in slow motion as the team take up their positions - DUNCAN's jumping up and down, rubbing his hands together, trying to get warm - he looks around the stadium - it's buzzing.

The referee blows his whistle for kick-off.

Move on a few minutes into the match;

DUNCAN passes the ball to BOBBY CHARLTON who smashes it into the goal.

161 EXT. RED STAR BELGRADE GROUND - PITCH - NIGHT 161
- 1958

End of the match. The referee blows the full-time whistle.

CAPTION: RED STAR BELGRADE 3 - 3 MANCHESTER UNITED
(MANCHESTER UNITED WIN 5-4 ON AGGREGATE)

162 INT. BELGRADE - HOTEL - NIGHT - 1958 162

DUNCAN and BOBBY CHARLTON are back in their hotel room after the match.

DUNCAN, in his pyjamas, is sat stretched out on one of the single beds munching his biscuits he brought with him.

BOBBY CHARLTON comes out of the bathroom drying his face with a towel. He's ready for bed also in his PJ's.

DUNCAN

You want a biscuit Bobby?

BOBBY CHARLTON sits on the edge of DUNCAN's bed and takes a biscuit from the packet.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Ta.

(Eating biscuit)

We can go all the way you know Dunc'. After tonight we shouldn't fear anyone.

DUNCAN

What about Real Madrid?

BOBBY CHARLTON

(Wry smile)

Push overs.

(MORE)

BOBBY CHARLTON (CONT'D)

(Beat)

Seriously though, they're a great side, but I know we can beat 'em. We're Manchester United Duncan, we can beat anyone, and we can win the European Cup. Me and you 'ay? champions of Europe, sounds good don't it?

DUNCAN

(Dreamy)

Yeah. It does.

(Snaps out of dreamy moment)

You want anything else to eat before we turn in? I got plenty of food in my case.

BOBBY CHARLTON finishes his biscuits then gets into the other bed.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Nah, you're alright. I'm shattered, we got an early flight tomorrow, best get to bed.

DUNCAN and BOBBY CHARLTON settle down in their beds, DUNCAN turns the bedside lamp off.

DUNCAN

It were brilliant thought weren't it Bobby? The way we played tonight, getting through, our spirit.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Aye, like I said Dunc' we can win it, I know we can. Come the end of the summer, you'll be a European cup winner and a married man.

DUNCAN's face is just about visible through the darkness. Eyes closed, tucked up in bed, he smiles with contentment at BOBBY CHARLTON's last comment.

DUNCAN

I'll be the happiest man on earth... I wonder if Molly saw a dress she liked, I can't wait to see it when we get back...

BOBBY CHARLTON

You can't, it's bad luck before
your wedding day.

DUNCAN

Oh yeah. Oh well, don't matter, I
know she'll look lovely whatever
she wears.

(Beat)

Night Bobby.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Aye, night Dunc'.

163 INT/EXT. AIRPORT - AEROPLANE/RUNWAY - DAY - 1958 163

New day.

The aeroplane is in the air taking the Manchester
United team and management from Belgrade to Munich for
refuelling.

Some players are playing cards, other are trying to
sleep. JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER and EDDIE COLMAN are
smoking.

DUNCAN's sat with BOBBY CHARLTON, DAVID PEGG and MARK
JONES. DUNCAN's looking nervous and pale.

Some players stop what they are doing and listen as the
stewardess makes an announcement over the intercom,
others carry on with cards/sleeping/smoking but hush
descends as the announcement begins.

PLANE INTERCOM

In a few minutes we shall be
landing in Munich for refuelling.
Please extinguish your cigarettes
and fasten your seat belts. We only
have time for light refreshments
in Munich, we shall serve you a
proper meal after we take off for
Manchester.

DAVID PEGG

You alright Dunc'?

The aeroplane starts to move along the runway.
Juddering, bumping, as it tries to gather speed - alarm
amongst the passengers, gasps and panicked chatter.

The aircraft comes to an abrupt halt to the relief of
everyone inside including DUNCAN.

167 **EXT. AIRPORT - RUNWAY/TARMAC - DAY - 1958** 167

The aeroplane returns to the tarmac again.

Everyone aboard including DUNCAN exits the plane once
more, they trudge into the terminal.

168 **INT. AIRPORT - TERMINAL - DAY - 1958** 168

The team are stood around, lots of confused chatter and
murmurings regarding the flight home.

DUNCAN and BOBBY CHARLTON are huddled in a corner.

DUNCAN

...Let's hope the hotel got room
for us all.

BOBBY CHARLTON

I reckon we'll end up sleeping
on the coach at this rate..

DUNCAN

...And I was hoping to take Molly
out tonight.

Hush descends as the tannoy comes on...

TANNOY

Could the Manchester United party
please re-board.

BOBBY CHARLTON

...Looks like you'll be seeing her
after all. Come on.

The team exit the terminal.

169 INT/EXT. AEROPLANE/COCKPIT/RUNWAY - DAY - 1958 169

The nervous team, including DUNCAN, take their seats again on the aircraft.

Anxious murmurings, the laid-back chatter and card playing has long gone.

The aeroplane starts its move down the runway. It gathers speed - vigorous bumpy movement as the plane moves over the snow - it's worse than before, the aeroplane jerks violently - passenger's terrified reactions - DUNCAN pale and petrified.

From the cockpit and CAPTAINS POV we see the end of the runway is in sight.

CUT BACK to the team inside the aeroplane and their continued terrified reactions.

CUT TO the runway as the aeroplane crashes through a perimeter fence.

CUT BACK TO the team and DUNCAN - screams and shouts fill the passenger area - panicked animation - luggage being flung everywhere - duty free crashing to the floor - it's beyond terror as the plane jolts and jerks vigorously.

170 EXT. HOUSES/WOODLAND - DAY - 1958 170

The aeroplane smashes into the side of a house which splits the aircraft in two - the front half continues hurtling forwards before crashing into surrounding woodland.

There is a huge explosion on impact.

Silence. The devastation...

171 INT. RECHTS DER ISAR HOSPITAL MUNICH - DAY - 1958 171

Same day, later.

It's mayhem inside the hospital as doctors and nurses bring the injured in from the plane crash and wait for more survivors.

A badly hurt DUNCAN is rushed through the hospital corridor on a stretcher.

172 EXT. MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE - DAY - 1958 172

Same day, later.

A whistling MOLLY is cycling through the city when she hears a shout coming from the news stand ahead.

NEWSPAPER SELLER
United players in plane crash!

There are crowds of people surrounding the stand. A confused MOLLY drops her bike onto the pavement and runs up to the crowd.

MOLLY squeezes through to the stand - she grabs a newspaper - sees the devastating news.

173 INT. DUDLEY - THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM 173
- DAY - 1958

GLADSTONE and ANNIE are huddled together on the sofa with a radio on the coffee table.

They listen for news on the plane crash.

RADIO
...And now for the latest on the
plane crash carrying the Manchester
United team home...

GLADSTONE and ANNIE's reaction...

174 INT. THE LEECH HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY - 1958 174

MOLLY's sat on the sofa listening to the radio.

RADIO
...The survivors have been confirmed
as Matt Busby, Bobby Charlton,
Dennis Violett, Albert Scanlon,
Harry Gregg, Bill Foulkes and
Duncan Edwards...

MOLLY cries with joy upon hearing DUNCAN is alive.

175 INT. DUDLEY - THE EDWARD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM 175
- DAY - 1958

GLADSTONE and ANNIE have heard the news that DUNCAN is alive.

176 INT/EXT - AEROPLANE - DAWN - 1958 176

MOLLY is on the next flight out to Munich. Sat opposite her is JIMMY MURPHY.

Both are deep in thought, sat in silence, MOLLY stares out of the window.

177 INT. RECHTS DER ISAR HOSPITAL MUNICH - CORRIDOR/
INTENSIVE CARE WARD - NIGHT - 1958 177

A frantic MOLLY dashes through the hospital. Tears streaming, she pounds the corridor floor - any commotion around her she's oblivious too - it's muffled - in the background.

MOLLY comes to a halt outside the ward DUNCAN is in. She looks through the window onto the ward. She spots the mortally injured DUNCAN lying in one of the beds in a coma, she's distraught.

178 INT. RECHTS DER ISAR HOSPITAL MUNICH - INTENSIVE 178
CARE WARD - NIGHT - 1958

Same night, later.

MOLLY is asleep, her head on the bed holding DUNCAN's hand who is still in a coma.

JIMMY MURPHY enters the ward, he surveys the horror scene in front of him - the badly injured in beds - unconscious patients in a terrible state as a result of the crash - unrecognisable players and staff.

JIMMY MURPHY comes to the end of DUNCAN's bed. He stares at DUNCAN, devastated.

BOBBY CHARLTON approaches with some cuts and bruises to his face, nothing life threatening.

JIMMY MURPHY puts his arm around a traumatised BOBBY CHARLTON. They both look at DUNCAN lying in the bed.

BOBBY CHARLTON

Why am I ok Jimmy? Why am I not
lying in that bed...?

BOBBY CHARLTON weeps on JIMMY MURPHY shoulder. The pair
are suddenly taken back as DUNCAN stirs, he slowly
moves his head, his eyes flicker, he weakly looks at
JIMMY MURPHY and BOBBY CHARLTON who rush to his
bedside.

MOLLY stirs.

MOLLY

Duncan...? Duncan!

JIMMY MURPHY

Duncan?! Can you hear me?

BOBBY CHARLTON

(Rushes from the bed to
the ward door, calls out)
Nurse...! He's awake, Duncan's awake -
Nurse!

JIMMY MURPHY

It's alright Duncan lad, it's going
to be ok...

DUNCAN

(Can barely get the words
out, so weak)
Jim... Jimmy, what time's kick-off
on Saturday?

JIMMY MURPHY

(Fighting back tears)
Three o'clock... the usual time son.

DUNCAN

Right... Tell the lads to get stuck
in won't you...

JIMMY MURPHY nods, so choked he can't reply.

179 INT. RECHTS DER ISAR HOSPITAL MUNICH - INTENSIVE 179
CARE WARD - NIGHT - 1958

CAPTION: 21ST FEBRUARY 1958

Doctors and nurses fight to keep DUNCAN alive but his condition has deteriorated, he takes his last breath then peacefully passes away.

180 RECHTS DER ISAR HOSPITAL MUNICH - INTENSIVE 180
CARE WARD - CORRIDOR - NIGHT - 1958

A doctor approaches MOLLY. GLADSTONE and ANNIE have just arrived at the hospital, bags and cases in hand. The doctor tells them DUNCAN is dead. MOLLY is hysterical, ANNIE collapses in despair while GLADSTONE goes into shock as he tries to help ANNIE to her feet.

181 INT. DUDLEY - THE EDWARD HOUSE - DUNCAN'S ROOM 181
- DAY - 1958

CAPTION: THREE MONTHS LATER

DUNCAN's old room has been made into a shrine to him by ANNIE.

It's a loving tribute - DUNCAN's medals and trophies are lined up on shelves - his England caps in a cabinet along with photographs of DUNCAN in his Manchester United kit and his football jerseys.

ANNIE's dusting the items, adding more - she looks at the room, deep in thought, thinking of her beloved son - she can hear DUNCAN's voice - the commentators praising him...

ANNIE'S THOUGHTS:

Bitter sweet as she remembers...

DUNCAN (OOV)

Shall I put the kettle on Mum?

(Beat)

There your favourite, aren't they?
Daffs, here you are, I brought you
a bunch...

COMMENTATOR (OOV)

...And here comes Duncan Edwards...
goal! What a player this boy is!

DUNCAN (OOV)

Mum! Matt Busby wants me in the first team - I'm making my debut for Manchester United!

ANNIE's thoughts are interrupted as GLADSTONE enters.

GLADSTONE and ANNIE embrace, they then look around the room, remembering DUNCAN.

FADE OUT.

BEFORE THE END CREDITS:

CAPTION: 1961 - TWO STAINED GLASS WINDOWS WERE DEDICATED TO DUNCAN AT ST FRANCIS'S CHURCH IN DUDLEY - ALL THE SURVIVORS OF THE MUNICH AIR DISASTER INCLUDING SIR MATT BUSBY ATTENDED THE UNVEILING.

A photo of the stained-glass windows accompanies the caption.

CAPTION: 1968 - TEN YEARS AFTER MUNICH, MANCHESTER UNITED WIN THE EUROPEAN CUP - THE WIN WAS DEDICATED TO DUNCAN EDWARDS, THE PLAYERS, STAFF, AND ALL WHO PERISHED IN MUNICH.

A Photo of BOBBY CHARLTON embracing MATT BUSBY accompanies the caption.

CAPTION: 1999 - A STATUE OF DUNCAN WAS ERECTED IN DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE.

A photo of the statue accompanies the caption.

END CREDITS

The credits roll to old footage of DUNCAN playing for MANCHESTER UNITED and ENGLAND.

THE END.