

**As Waters Rise
by Ben Weatherill**

Episode Three: Coming Up for Air

Cast**MOLLY****ALEX****NATHAN****ETHAN****CLARE****EDDIE****WILL****JONNY**

INTRODUCTION

A Reporter: As flooding continues to devastate the country, parts of East London are now several feet under water.

Clare: It's 2025. We should've been prepared for this.

A Reporter: Remarkable footage has emerged showing water levels halfway up residences and, in some cases, up to roofs of buildings.

Expert: The problem for the UK is there's been a pattern in recent years – more rain means more floods.

A Reporter: The prime minister has refuted claims that his lack of action on climate change has condemned a whole generation.

Prime Minister: No one could've predicted this. This is climate change on an unprecedented scale.

Will: We had a global crisis, people said we would learn from the mistakes, and yet here we are again.

A Reporter: As summer begins, thousands of young people across the country are still in temporary accommodation.

Molly: This was meant to be the best summer of my life. Turning 18, finishing school. My whole future ahead of me. Now what?

AS WATERS RISE

Episode Three: Coming Up for Air

SCENE ONE. DREAM LIKE SPACE.

Molly: I used to swim for the county. County not country, my brother Alex always says. I was never in any danger of flirting with the Olympics or anything like that. But I used to be fast. Butterfly was my best stroke. If you're swimming butterfly, you have to stay as close to the surface of the water as possible and your kick should come from your hips. I could do a length of butterfly- and when I say length, I mean a fifty metre pool- in about 39 seconds. I was always quite proud of that. But since the floods, I keep having this dream. And it makes me feel like I'm drowning.

SCENE TWO. EXT. FIELD. DAY.

F/X: COUNTRYSIDE SOUNDSCAPE. ALEX AND MOLLY ARE WALKING ALONG.

Alex: They're miles ahead.

Molly: No they're not.

Alex: We're going to look like right nobs.

Molly: Can we stop for a minute?

Alex: Already?

Molly: Yes already.

Alex: We've only been going for an hour.

Molly: And I already want to die, so let's stop for a minute. Give me your inhaler.

Alex: You're not asthmatic.

Molly: Do you want me to pass out in front of all these strangers?

Alex: Fine.

F/X: A RUCKSACK UNZIPPING.

Alex: Here.

Molly: Ta.

F/X: MOLLY USES THE INHALER.

Alex: They've all stopped.

Molly: So?

Alex: They're going to think we're lazy.

Molly: We are lazy.

*We pick up on **Ethan** and **Nathan**.*

Ethan: Go tell her not to sit down.

Nathan: Why me?

Ethan: She's holding us up.

Nathan: Chill out a minute.

Ethan: This hike is won or lost in the first few hours. Go and tell her she needs to crack on. I've lost this three years in a row.

Nathan: There's a hundred and fifty miles to go. Give her a minute.

Ethan: These city kids are gonna be the weak link.

F/X: CLARE APPROACHES.

Clare: Excuse me, is one of you going to check whether she's alright, or are you going to stand there looking gormless?

Ethan: 'Scuse me?

Clare: You two wanted the radios.

Ethan: So?

Clare: So, if there's an emergency, then you two have to call it in. You wanted the radios, you're in charge.

Ethan: I'm not sure that's how it works. And this isn't an emergency.

Clare: How do you know? Have you checked?

Ethan: We were just getting to that.

Clare: Go tell the others to wait.

F/X: CLARE WALKS DOWN HILL TOWARDS ALEX AND MOLLY. WE CAN HEAR HER CALL AS IF SHE'S A LITTLE WAY AWAY FROM THEM.

Clare: Excuse me! Are you two alright?

Alex: Someone's coming.

Molly: Ugh, I hate this already.

Alex (calling to Clare): We're fine!

Clare (getting closer): You don't look fine! Is she having an asthma attack?

Alex: She's not even asthmatic.

Clare's now caught up with them.

Clare: You know, you really shouldn't take someone else's medicine. It could kill you.

Molly: That might be preferable.

Clare: You from the city?

Molly: You can tell?

Clare: The first time is a shock. I've done Farnham to Devon three summers in a row now. It gets easier after the 40th mile. And when you see the sea, you'll forget all about your aching feet.

Molly: The sea?

Clare: It's the best bit. Can you get up?

Molly: Yes. I just don't want to.

Clare: You can always head back to the centre.

Alex: No, she'll be fine.

Clare: The others are getting a bit impatient.

Molly: Well tell the others to go fuck themselves.

Clare: Charming.

*We pick up on **Ethan** and **Nathan**.*

Ethan: Let's carry on without them.

Nathan: No.

Ethan: There's fourteen-year-olds coping better.

Nathan: She's getting up now.

Ethan: She's wasted five minutes.

Nathan: Five minutes won't make a difference.

Ethan: Wanna bet?

Clare (calling from a distance): She's fine!

Nathan: See? Let's go.

SCENE THREE. EXT. WOODED AREA. DAY.

F/X: TWIGS UNDERFOOT ETC. EDDIE PICKS A BRANCH UP OFF THE GROUND.

Eddie: Is this the right size Ethan?

Ethan: That's too small. You want big pieces. They burn slower.

Eddie: Right.

Ethan: You'll get the hang of it.

Eddie: My dad says I'm allergic to hard work.

Ethan: Are you?

Eddie: A bit. I don't see the point in making a fire from scratch when there's petrol and a lighter.

Ethan: Eddie, watch out.

F/X: EDDIE FALLS TO THE GROUND WITH A THUMP. ETHAN LAUGHS.

Ethan: You alright?

F/X: EDDIE GETS TO HIS FEET AND DUSTS HIMSELF DOWN.

Eddie: Yeah, at least it wasn't my face. That's the money-maker. Have we got enough now?

Ethan: A couple more.

F/X: THEY WALK THROUGH THE WOODS.

Eddie: Like this?

Ethan: Yeah that one's good.

Eddie: Where did you learn to make a fire?

Ethan: Young offenders.

Eddie: Oh. Should I sleep with one eye open?

Ethan: I think you'll be fine.

Eddie: My dad would be appalled that they let hardened criminals loose in the countryside with me.

Ethan: Your dad sounds uptight.

Eddie: That's putting it nicely.

Jonny (yelling): What the hell!

Eddie: Oh my god. **Ethan:** Sorry Jonny!

Jonny: I'm having a shit you perverts.

Ethan: Let's look over here.

F/X: THEY WALK AWAY FROM JONNY.

Jonny: Yes, a little privacy would be nice!

Eddie: Oh my god... My retinas.

Ethan: Day one and you're scarred for life.

Eddie: Oh! What about this one?

F/X: EDDIE PICKS ANOTHER BRANCH UP OFF THE GROUND.

Ethan: That's perfect.

SCENE FOUR. EXT. THE COUNTRYSIDE. EVENING.

F/X: A FIRE CRACKLING. SCRAPING OF POTS AS THEY EAT OUT OF THEM.

Nathan: Will, what you got?

Will: *Super Noodles.*

Ethan: What flavour?

Will: Cheeseburger.

Clare: That sounds disgusting.

Will: They're pretty good.

Ethan: I don't believe you.

Clare: They actually taste of cheeseburger?

Will: Try some.

Clare: I'm alright thanks.

Nathan: The thought of it's making me gag.

Will: Can I just enjoy my *Super Noodles* in peace please?

Jonny: I can't stand them.

Will: Why? They're the food of the Gods.

Jonny: When we got flooded, all we ate for weeks was *Super Noodles* and *Uncle Ben's* rice. I never want to see either ever again

Beat.

Jonny: That killed the mood, didn't it?

Clare: Do you think we should ask Molly and Alex if they want any help with their tent?

Ethan: If you want your head bitten off.

Clare: I feel like one of us should ask.

Jonny: Don't. I'm enjoying watching them struggle.

Eddie: Psycho.

Jonny: It's free entertainment.

Clare: Nathan, you go.

Nathan: Me?

Clare: Yeah. Take Will for moral support.

Will: I haven't finished my noodles.

Eddie: I'll finish them for you.

Clare: They can't sleep outside.

Nathan: Fine. Let's go.

*We pick up on **Alex and Molly.***

Molly: It'll be dark soon.

Alex: All it says is insert the tent poles.

Molly: What does it look like I'm trying to do? Give me the instructions.

F/X: ALEX HANDS MOLLY THE INSTRUCTIONS.

Molly: The writing's tiny.

Alex: Put your glasses on then.

Molly: I don't need to give them another excuse to laugh at me.

F/X: WILL AND NATHAN APPROACH.

Will: Need a hand?

Molly: We're fine. **Alex:** Yes.

Will: It took me two hours as well.

Nathan: Clare sent us down to check on you.

Will: The poles are actually labelled wrong.

Molly: Are you joking? First, I'm forced to come camping and then they don't even give us proper tents. I thought the whole point of this was to help the "poor, suffering children" get over their debilitating trauma. It's camping. Camping is always traumatising.

Nathan: No one forced you.

Molly: I think you'll find they did. Because apparently reconnecting with nature is the most important thing for us to be doing right now.

Will: If it helps, the As connect to the Cs and the Bs connect to the Ds.

Molly: Yes. That would've helped like an hour ago.

Nathan: It's not like you've been that approachable.

Alex: Thank you. We would've been here forever. See? People are nice..

Will: Anyway... now you know the secret, we'll leave you to it. Unless you want any help?

Molly: We'll catch you later.

Will: I'm Will by the way. And this is Nathan.

Nathan: Hey.

Molly: Okay.

Nathan: Do you have names, or...?

Alex: Alex. And this is-

Molly: Molly.

Nathan: Okay, cool. Well. If you're hungry, there's loads of food left. Ethan's eyes are bigger than his stomach, so.

Alex: Thanks.

Molly: We have our own food.

Nathan: Yeah. But. We're sharing.

Molly: We're not.

Nathan: Okay... have a good night.

Molly: Yeah.

F/X: NATHAN AND WILL WALK OFF.

Alex: You can't just ignore them for a week.

Molly: Watch me.

SCENE FIVE. A DREAM.

F/X: THE SOUND OF WATER FLOWING GENTLY.

Alex: Molly! Come in- it's nice and warm.

Molly: Be careful.

F/X: ALEX IS WALKING DEEPER INTO THE WATER.

Alex: You can see the little fish.

Molly: Gross.

Alex: It's so clear. Just dip your feet in.

Molly: No. Don't go any further. You don't know how deep it is.

Alex: I'm fine. I'm just going to float for a bit.

F/X: HE FLOATS.

Molly: You don't want to get swept out to sea.

Alex: I'm a good swimmer.

Molly: You're not as quick as me.

Alex: Did I tell you, when I was a kid, I used to want to be a merman? Like Neptune.

Molly: Neptune wasn't a merman.

Alex: Yes, he was.

Molly: No, he wasn't.

Alex: You always have to be right.

Molly: What are you doing?

Alex: I'm just going to float a minute. On my back...

F/X: A SUDDEN SURGE OF WATER HURTLES TOWARDS THEM.

Molly: Alex!

Alex: What?

Molly: There's a wave.

Alex: It's fine. You worry-

F/X: ALEX IS KNOCKED UNDER WATER. WE'RE SUBMERGED WITH HIM. MOLLY SHOUTS, BUT IT'S MUFFLED, LIKE SHE'S ON THE SHORE.

Molly: Alex! Alex! Alex!

F/X: A BIG GASP- LIKE WAKING UP FROM A NIGHTMARE.

Alex: Molly, are you okay?

Molly: What? What happened?

Alex: You were screaming.

F/X: SOMEONE BEGINS BANGING ON THE SIDE OF THE TENT.

Nathan: Molly, Alex! Wake up.

F/X: NATHAN UNZIPS THE FRONT OF THEIR TENT.

Alex: Christ, that's bright.

Nathan: We're leaving in fifteen minutes.

Molly: Nathan, get your head out of our tent weirdo.

Nathan: We can't leave you behind.

Ethan: I'm happy to.

Molly: Oh god, not you as well.

Ethan: The other team are probably already on the move. We have to get ahead of them.

Molly: What's the point? It's not like we win a prize.

Ethan: I'm not talking to her whilst she's been ridiculous.

Nathan: Here's a sausage sandwich. Share it.

Molly: Don't drop it in the tent!

Nathan: I think the expression you're looking for, is thank you.

SCENE SIX. WOODED AREA. DAY.

Alex: Okay... don't move ...

F/X: A BRANCH SNAPPING.

Jonny: What are you doing?

F/X: A DEER RUNS AWAY INTO THE WOODS.

Alex: For fuck's sake Jonny!

Jonny: What?

Alex: It's gone now.

Jonny: What is?

Alex: The deer.

Jonny: Oh. Sorry.

Alex: Idiot.

Jonny: I'm not an idiot.

Alex: You don't pick your feet up when you walk.

Jonny: And your sister doesn't walk at all. She's practically crawling.

Alex: Fair point.

Jonny: That's a good camera.

Alex: It was free.

Jonny: You win it a competition or something?

Alex: It's from a charity. Because what every kid needs when their house has been flooded is an eight hundred quid camera.

Jonny: I wouldn't complain.

Alex: I'm not.

Jonny: I didn't have a charity giving me tech to cheer me up.

Alex: Don't be bitter.

Jonny: I'm just saying you should appreciate what you've got.

Alex: Alright Ghandi.

Beat.

Jonny: Where did you live, in London?

Alex: Hackney.

Jonny: Me too.

Alex: Where did they move you to?

Jonny: Portsmouth.

Alex: What?

Jonny: Yeah.

Alex: That's mad.

Jonny: The council can send you wherever they like.

Alex: We got moved to Finchley.

Jonny: Of course you did.

Alex: What's Portsmouth like?

Jonny: It's by the sea, which I think is taking the piss slightly.

Alex: Oh.

Jonny: It's not too bad. The flat we have is bigger. I have my own room. But my nan is still in London, and she's sick, so. We don't see her that often.

Alex: At least you're not stuck in temporary. We were in a hostel for a while.

Jonny: Yeah. I should be thankful for the scraps I'm thrown.

F/X: EDDIE APPROACHES.

Eddie (getting closer): What are you two up to?

Jonny: Alex saw a deer.

Eddie: Where?

Alex: It's gone now. Jonny scared it off.

Jonny: I didn't do it on purpose!

Eddie (now next to them): Clare said we'll see loads on the North Downs. That's a nice camera.

Alex: People keep saying.

Jonny: You should look after it. You don't want something bad to happen to it.

Alex: Whatever.

F/X: ALEX WALKS OFF.

Eddie: Where's he going?

Jonny: Don't know. Don't really care. Him and his sister are beginning to get on my tits.

SCENE SEVEN. EXT. FIELD. DAY.

F/X: MOLLY IS SKETCHING INTO HER SKETCHBOOK.

Nathan: Molly.

Molly: Nathan!

Nathan: Am I interrupting something?

Molly: Just my right to privacy.

Nathan: Come and sit with us.

Molly: I'm good.

Nathan: We've been walking for three days and you've hardly said anything.

Molly: Observant.

Nathan: The whole point of this is it's meant to be bonding.

Molly: I'm trying to draw and you're blocking the view.

Nathan: Can I sit?

Molly: Don't you have someone else to go make pity eyes at?

Nathan: Nope.

Molly: Fine. You can sit. But you have to be quiet.

Nathan: That sounds boring.

Molly: Take it or leave it.

Nathan: Okay.

F/X: NATHAN SITS. MOLLY SKETCHES.

They sit quiet for a moment.

Nathan: What are you drawing?

Molly: You're quite annoying, aren't you?

Nathan: Thank you for noticing.

Molly: I was drawing that tree.

Nathan: The oak tree?

Molly: I dunno, it's a tree. But I'm crap at drawing scenery. I'm better at people.

Beat.

Molly: I could draw you?

Nathan: Absolutely not.

Molly: I thought we were meant to be 'bonding.'

Nathan: Through a thing we call conversation.

Molly: I'll just sit here in silence unless you let me draw you...

Nathan: Fine.

Molly: It won't take me long.

Nathan: Okay.

Molly: Shuffle forward a bit. That's better. Okay. Stay still.

F/X: SHE SKETCHES.

Molly: That's it, stay there, like that. Don't move. That's great. Good...okay, alright I'm finished.

Nathan: Already?

Molly: Yeah, wanna see?

Nathan: Okay.

F/X: SHE RIPS THE PAGE OUT OF HER SKETCHBOOK AND HANDS IT TO HIM.

Molly: Here.

Nathan: Very funny.

Molly: It's a dick.

Nathan: I can see that.

Molly: Because you're a dick.

Nathan: A dick. Clever. It's uncanny.

Molly: I thought so.

Nathan: Can I keep it?

Molly: Sure. Why not?

Nathan (mocking): I'll treasure it.

Molly: Thanks.

Beat.

Molly: Okay, why don't you tell me about this thing you call conversation?

SCENE EIGHT. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. NIGHT.

F/X: FIRE CRACKLES. CRICKETS CHIRP.

Ethan: I thought there'd be stars.

Molly: There are stars.

Jonny: Not that many.

Ethan: Yeah, I thought there'd be hundreds.

Clare: There's too much light pollution.

Ethan: Who invited Galileo?

Alex: Pass me the vodka.

Molly: You're not having anymore.

Alex: Why not?

Molly: Because I said so.

Alex: I can do what I like.

Ethan: You not drinking, Nathan?

Nathan: No.

Ethan: Why not?

Nathan: Because I just don't.

Ethan: What, ever?

Nathan: No.

Eddie: Bet your liver is nice and juicy.

Jonny: What is wrong with you?

Ethan: I don't know what I'd do if I didn't drink.

Nathan: That's sad.

Ethan: Piss off.

Nathan: No, I didn't mean-

Ethan: I can have fun if I'm not drinking.

Eddie: It gives me more confidence.

Ethan: Exactly. Makes me feel better. I like the edges of everything feeling fuzzy.

Nathan: I don't like feeling out of control.

Ethan: How do you know if you've never tried it?

Eddie: You might like it.

Molly: Don't pressure it.

Eddie: Ooo. Molly leaping to Nathan's defence.

Molly: I'm not.

Alex: You kind of are.

Ethan: Agreed.

Clare: I think it's sweet now you two, getting along...

Molly: I just don't think he should feel pressured.

Eddie: Don't bow to peer pressure!

Ethan: I wish someone had told me that.

Eddie: What?

Ethan: Nothing.

Jonny: Why don't you just have a swig?

Nathan: Okay.

Ethan: Really?

Nathan: Yeah. A little bit.

F/X: ETHAN HANDS NATHAN THE BOTTLE.

Molly: Careful, that's straight vodka.

F/X: NATHAN SWIGS FROM THE BOTTLE. HE SPITS IT OUT AND COUGHS.

Nathan: That's disgusting.

Eddie: Oh my god, are you drunk now?

Nathan: Off my tits.

Clare: I wish we had music.

Eddie: Me too. I could play some through my phone?

Ethan: Like what?

Clare: Alyssa?

Ethan: NO.

Clare: She's good.

Ethan: She can't sing. And she can't rap.

Eddie: Did you see her house had gotten broken into?

Ethan: I saw her crying about it on *Insta*.

Alex: I should've brought my speaker.

Jonny: Is that something else you got for free Alex?

Alex: No.

Eddie: How far do we have to walk tomorrow?

Molly: Too far.

Ethan: Is that Molly complaining about walking?

Alex: Molly used to be good at sport.

Ethan: This is hardly sport.

Molly: No, this is torture.

Alex: She swam for the county.

Molly: Alex, shut up.

Ethan: Why don't we play a game?

Molly: No. I hate games.

Ethan: We could play ring of fire.

Clare: No.

Ethan: Why not?

Clare: Because it's rubbish.

Ethan: Only if you're a boring person.

Nathan: Can't we just talk?

Ethan: What are you, a hundred?

Nathan: It's just nice to chill.

Clare: I feel sick.

Molly: Are you going to throw up?

Clare: No. Maybe. Definitely!

F/X: CLARE GETS UP AND HURRIEDLY RUNS OFF.

Ethan: Lightweight. Pass me another beer.

SCENE NINE. EXT. FIELD. NIGHT.

F/X: CHATTER AROUND THE CAMFIRE IN THE DISTANCE. CLARE APPROACHES WILL.

Clare: You not joining us, Will?

Will: Not tonight.

Clare: Not feeling it?

Will: Nah.

Clare: Mind if I sit?

Will: Knock yourself out.

F/X: CLARE SITS.

Clare: I came down here to throw up, but I think it was a false alarm.

Beat.

Clare: Ethan is trying to convince us to play a drinking game.

Will: Right.

Clare: He's a lot. Isn't he?

Will: I quite like him.

Clare: He reminds me of every boy who bullies me at school, so...

Beat.

Clare: Sorry, overshare.

Will: Have you done this hike before?

Clare: Yeah.

Will: Why?

Clare: Because I can do it. I'm no good at writing essays, or science, or anything like that. But this. Getting from A to B, I can do. I like it because it's straightforward. The journey's worth it.

Will: Where do you think the easiest place to get picked up from will be?

Clare: Picked up?

Will: Yeah. They said if we needed help for any reason we should radio and make our way to somewhere they can come get us from.

Clare: Is something wrong?

Will: No, I. I just want to go back to London.

Clare: This not your thing?

Beat.

Will: I keep thinking about my friend, Beth.

Clare: Okay.

Will: We signed up together, before the floods. Because she was a young carer, she got a place for free, and I thought it sounded like a laugh, so. But then her mum.... she was one of the people who died when the River Lea burst.

Clare: Oh.

Will: And after most people on our estate got flooded, I was so wrapped up in all my own stuff, I don't think I even called her to see how she was doing. And then it became too awkward. I didn't know what to say. And now she probably hates me.

Clare: You were flooded?

Will: Not as badly as most people. Beth lost her mum.

Clare: Oh. Was she the girl on TV? Having a go at the Prime Minister?

Will: Yep.

Clare: She seems brilliant.

Will: Yeah. She is.

Beat.

Clare: Have you tried talking to her?

Will: It's been months.

Clare: She might surprise you.

Will: I'd hate me.

Clare: Why don't you sleep on it? That's what my gran always says.

Will: Wise woman.

Clare: Who rarely takes her own advice.

Will: Thank you.

Clare: For what?

Will: Coming to see if I was alright.

Clare: I know how it feels. When everyone around you seems to be having fun but inside you're... numb.

Will: Yeah.

Clare: Sleep on it. Night Will.

Will: Night.

SCENE TEN. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY.

F/X: ALEX RUNS UP TO JONNY, YELLING.

Alex: Oi! Jonny! Where is it?!

Jonny: What?

Alex: My camera, asshole. Give it back.

Jonny: I don't have it.

Alex: You kept going on about how nice it was.

Jonny: You're mental.

Alex: Give it back.

Jonny: Get it into your head. I don't have it.

Alex: Fine. I'll just look in your bag.

Jonny: Don't go through my stuff.

F/X: A SCUFFLE AS ALEX PICKS UP JONNY'S BAG.

Jonny: Leave it.

Alex: If it's not in there, then we won't have a problem, will we?

Jonny: That's my stuff you prick.

Eddie: What's going on?

Alex: He's stolen my camera.

Jonny: No, I haven't.

Alex: Who else would've done it?

Jonny: Maybe you lost it.

Eddie: If he's saying he doesn't have it...

Alex: Prove it.

Jonny: I don't have to do anything.

Alex: Give me your bag.

Molly: What's going on?

Jonny: Don't get involved.

Alex: Give me your bag.

Eddie: He thinks Jonny took his camera.

Molly: Did you?

Jonny: No!

Eddie: Open the bag then.

Jonny: You're not a police officer, Eddie.

Molly: Alex, if he's telling you he hasn't got it then.

Alex: So you believe him.

F/X: WE HEAR THE BAG UNZIP.

Jonny: Oi!

F/X: ALEX EMPTIES THE CONTENTS OF THE BAG ON TO THE GROUND.

Alex: I know you have it. It's in here...

Beat as he searches.

Jonny: See? You probably left it back in that field. Dickhead.

Eddie: Well, now we know. We can all move on.

Jonny: Homeless freak.

Alex: What did you just call me?

Eddie: Wait a minute-

F/X: A FIGHT STARTS. MOLLY AND EDDIE TRY TO STOP IT. WE HEAR ALEX PUNCH JONNY, WHO FALLS TO THE GROUND.

Molly: Alex!

Jonny: My nose!

Eddie: Oh god, I hate blood.

Alex: Next time, I'll break it.

F/X: ALEX STORMS OFF.

Molly: Alex! Where are you going?

SCENE ELEVEN. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY.

F/X: JONNY WINCES.

Ethan: Hold still.

Jonny: I'm fine.

Ethan: Okay, have a messed-up nose then.

Jonny: Is it wonky?

Ethan: It isn't straight.

Jonny: I'll kill him.

Ethan: I wouldn't recommend it.

Jonny: He started it.

Ethan: He was getting territorial about his stuff.

Jonny: Still shouldn't take it out on me.

Ethan: No, I guess not. You alright?

Jonny: I'll live if I'm lucky.

Ethan: At least you're not being over the top...

Jonny: I get the impression people don't like me.

Ethan: Why's that?

Jonny: No one really wants to talk to me.

Ethan: We're talking now.

Jonny: Only because I got punched in the face.

Ethan: Maybe you shouldn't say things that make them want to punch you in the face.

Jonny: I'll wait til he's asleep then piss all over him.

Ethan: Wow. Please don't.

Jonny: He deserves it.

Ethan: I don't want this ruined. And trust me, you don't want to escalate things.

Jonny: Why not?

Ethan: Because then they get out of hand. They almost didn't let me come this year because of my conviction. People are desperate to limit your options, so don't give them any ammunition.

Jonny: You've done the walk before?

Ethan: A few times.

Jonny: Why?

Ethan: You see new things. Different routes. I always forget how beautiful it is. Don't you dare tell anyone I said that.

Jonny: It's just fields.

Ethan: You don't know what you have until it's gone.

Jonny: Have you ever been on the winning team?

Ethan: Not yet.

Jonny: I don't think we stand much chance.

Ethan: Not if I have anything to do with it.

SCENE TWELVE. EXT. WOODED AREA. NIGHT.

Molly (approaching): There you are. Why don't you come back to camp?

Alex: Nope.

Molly: What did you hit him for? People aren't going to want to talk to us now.

Alex: Thought you didn't care about making friends?

Molly: You always do this.

Alex: Do what?

Molly: Blow things out of proportion.

Alex: And you never take my side.

Molly: Of course I do.

Alex: You're always too busy worrying about yourself.

Molly: I've had a lot going on.

Alex: You're meant to be my big sister.

Molly: So?

Alex: Go back to your new friends.

Molly: What's that supposed to mean?

Alex: It means, you never pick me do you? You'd rather be anywhere else in the world but with me.

Molly: That's not true.

F/X: NATHAN APPROACHES.

Nathan: You know there are beasts in these woods.

Alex: Right on time.

Nathan: Shall I go?

Alex: Don't worry about it Nathan. I'll piss off.

Molly: Alex, wait.

F/X: ALEX WALKS OFF.

Nathan: Did I do something wrong?

Molly: No.

Nathan: He's got quite the right hook.

Molly: He always has to have the last word. He can't just leave it.

Nathan: And that's a bad thing?

Molly: It got him expelled, so.

Beat.

Molly: I don't know what to say to him anymore. Everything's different.

Nathan: He's grieving.

Molly: No one we know died.

Nathan: They didn't have to.

Beat.

Nathan: After I got flooded, I turned off google alerts on my phone. They'd pop up every now and again with some gig, or exam, or party that wasn't happening anymore. Little reminders of cancelled events. They were like a knife, twisting. But things will get back to normal soon. My dad says we're going to have to learn to live with climate change.

Molly: The lucky people will be the ones who can live with it.

Nathan: We have to let it go.

Molly: Is that possible?

Nathan: You'll drive yourself mad otherwise.

Molly: Maybe you're right.

Nathan: I'm always right.

Molly: I doubt that.

Nathan: I was right about you.

Molly: Were you?

Nathan: Yeah. That I'd fall for you.

Beat.

Nathan: Can I kiss you?

Molly: No, no sorry.

Nathan: Oh. Okay. That's okay. I just thought we had something...-

Molly: -You thought wrong.

F/X: MOLLY STANDS.

Nathan: Did I say something bad?

Molly: No, I just have to go.

F/X: SHE EXITS SWIFTLY.

Nathan: Molly, wait...

SCENE THIRTEEN. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY.

F/X: WE CAN HEAR A RUNNING RIVER. IT'S RAINING. THE GROUND UNDERFOOT IS MARSHY.

Will: Oh shit.

Clare: I thought you said this was the right way?

Will: It is.

Clare: Let me see the map.

F/X: WILL HANDS CLARE THE MAP.

Clare: I don't remember this at all.

Will: That's because there's not supposed to be a river there.

Nathan: Can we go round it?

Will: Doesn't look like it.

Clare: It's flowing pretty fast.

Eddie: Can we make a decision? I don't want to stand around in this rain.

Jonny: Don't be stupid, Eddie. They're going to have to argue about it first.

Clare: We're not arguing.

Jonny: Not yet.

Clare: If we go round it, it'll add on a few extra miles I reckon.

Ethan: No way.

Clare: It'll be a few hours max.

Ethan: What about the other team?

Clare: I don't think we should be worrying about them right now.

Ethan: We're three days away from Devon. They could be two days.

Clare: Well, we won't know until we get there.

Ethan: I think we should walk through it.

Will: How deep is it?

Ethan: Doesn't look that deep.

Clare: I think we should go around.

Ethan: Nathan, what do you think?

Nathan: I don't mind what we do. Molly?

Ethan: Can't you have an opinion for yourself?

Nathan: Steady on.

Jonny: See, I told you Eddie.

Alex: I don't mind walking through it.

Ethan: Thank you Alex.

Will: Well, we have to make a group decision. We can't split up.

Ethan: I think we should take a vote.

Will: Okay.

Ethan: Who thinks we should carry on?

Alex: Me.

Will: I don't mind getting wet.

Jonny: Me neither.

Ethan: Nathan?

Nathan: I told you. I'm easy either way.

Ethan: That's not an answer.

Nathan: Fine, we can go through.

Clare: I vote no.

Eddie: I don't mind. I'm wet anyway.

Ethan: Good. Then we go through.

Clare: Molly hasn't voted yet.

Ethan: Her vote doesn't matter. We already have enough yeses. And she can swim, anyway. Let's go.

F/X: ETHAN MARCHES ON. THERE'S SOME GRUMBLING FROM CLARE. EDDIE GETS UP. THEY ALL BEGIN TO WALK TOWARDS THE RIVER.

Nathan (quietly): You okay?

Molly: Yeah.

Nathan: You didn't say much.

Molly: I'm fine.

Nathan: You're shaking.

Molly: I said I'm fine. Leave it.

F/X: ETHAN GETS IN. PEOPLE FOLLOW HIM. WE HEAR THEM WALKING THROUGH THE RIVER, IT GETTING DEEPER.

Ethan: See. There's nothing to worry about!

Clare: Be careful.

Eddie: It's freezing!

Jonny: There's a fish!

Eddie: What?

Jonny: A big one.

Eddie: There better not be!

Clare: This is a bad idea.

Will: The current's quite strong. Be careful.

Clare: I told you this was a bad idea!

Ethan: It's fine! Get a grip.

Nathan: Molly, come on.

Molly: I can't.

Nathan: I can help you.

Molly: No.

Nathan: You can't just stay there.

Molly: I can't move.

Nathan: Of course you can.

Molly: Nathan, I'm telling you I can't move.

Nathan: It's fine.

Molly: I'm not fine!

Clare: Is she okay?

Nathan: Molly. Look at me.

Molly: I can't breathe. I can't breathe. I can't breathe! I can't breathe!

SCENE FOURTEEN. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. NIGHT.

F/X: THE FIRE, CRACKLING AND SPITTING.

Alex: Here you go.

Molly: What's this?

Alex: Tea. It'll sort you out.

Molly: Since when do you make tea?

Alex: It's not hard.

Molly: Sit with me a minute.

F/X: ALEX SITS.

Alex: I think Ethan feels pretty bad.

Molly: He should.

Alex: How you feeling?

Molly: Embarrassed.

Alex: Don't be.

Molly: I had a panic attack.

Alex: Exactly. That's nothing to be embarrassed about.

Molly: Are they all talking about me?

Alex: They're worried about you. Especially Nathan.

Molly: Don't.

Alex: You don't like him?

Molly: Not like that.

Alex: You sure?

Molly: Very.

Alex: He might grow on you.

Molly: Unless he's a girl, he won't.

Alex: Oh. Okay.

Molly: Yeah.

Beat.

Alex: Thank you for telling me.

Molly: Who else am I gonna tell?

Alex: Dad. When we get home?

Molly: Yeah right.

Alex: Well, you have a few days before we have to leave yet.

Molly: I don't wanna go back.

Beat.

Alex: What were you thinking about? When you looked at the water.

Molly: That it was going to kill me. Does that sound stupid?

Alex: No.

Molly: The scariest part about the last few months, was how quickly things changed. You know? If it can change that quickly, if everything can be so screwed, like overnight, then I'm not sure what we're all playing at. I feel like this life that I'd planned for myself just can't exist anymore. I don't think I've ever let myself feel scared about it. Until now.

Alex: You're still going to do amazing things.

Molly: I wouldn't be so sure.

Alex: I am.

Molly: Why?

Alex: Because you're still the same person. Things might be different, but you're still the same stubborn Molly who figures things out on her own.

Molly: When did you get so wise?

Alex: Um, excuse me, I've always been wise. You just never noticed.

Beat.

Molly: I love you.

Alex: Gross.

Molly: I figured I should say it.

Alex: Why?

Molly: Because. You never know.

Alex: I love you too.

SCENE FIFTEEN. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE. DAY.**F/X: WE CAN HEAR THE SEA IN THE DISTANCE. THEY ARE WALKING UP A VERY STEEP HILL.****Ethan:** Come on! We're nearly at the top.**Molly:** Of course there's a hill.**Ethan:** Keep pushing!**Molly:** When I get to the top, I'm throwing him off.**Clare:** Don't tempt me.**Molly:** Oh my god, my legs.**Clare:** This hill never gets easier.**Molly:** Why the hell would you put yourself through this more than once?**Clare:** You'll see.**Jonny:** Come on, Eddie.**Eddie:** Leave me to die. Go on without me.**Jonny:** Do I have to carry you?**Eddie:** Oh, yes please.**Jonny:** Get your arse up here.**Will:** I have never been this sweaty. Look.**Nathan:** Get your hands away from me!**Ethan:** Hurry up!**Clare:** The view's great.**F/X: THEY ALL GRUNT AND GROAN AS THEY REACH THE TOP.****Molly:** Oh my god.**Eddie:** What's the smell?**Clare:** The sea, you twat.**Nathan:** You can see for miles.**Alex:** Is that the way we came?**Clare:** Yeah. All along there.

Eddie: Wow. That's far.

Molly: You're telling me.

Ethan: Are you crying Will?

Will: I'm fine. I just wish Beth could see this.

Clare: Your friend?

Will: Yeah.

Clare: Take a picture. Send it to her.

Alex: If only I had my camera.

Jonny: Don't start that again.

Nathan: It's so beautiful.

Molly: We're so lucky.

Will: Yeah, we are.

Ethan: Are we here first? Did we win?

Molly: It doesn't matter. We did it.

THE END

In *Coming Up For Air* by Ben Weatherill

Molly was played by Talula Jahangiri

Alex by Nate MacCallum

Nathan by Chima Akpa

Ethan by Daniel Molyneaux

Clare by Frida Bradbrook

Jonny by Jack Rowntree-Oliver

Eddie by Tony Zhou

and **Will** by Joseph Wolffe.

The **Reporter** by played by Caroline Faber

An **Expert** by Louie Keen

and **The Prime Minister** was Ryan Early

As Waters Rise is an Almeida Young Company production, with music composition by Fizz Margerison and sound design by Martha Littlehales. The associate director was Abi Falase. It was produced by Simon Stephens, and directed by Alex Brown.