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1

EXT - COACHING INN - DAY

1

A coach-and-horses wait outside an ancient coaching Inn.

A chest - with "Thomas Brown Esquire" etched in shiny new gold - is thrown up onto the coach.

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOLDAYS

CUT TO:

2

INT - COACHING INN - DAY

2

SQUIRE BROWN looks at his watch, sees that the moment of departure is approaching.

His son, TOM, stands before him, nervous but excited, suddenly looking very young to be sent away.

SQUIRE

Remember what you promised. Write to your mother every week and say your prayers every night.

TOM

Yes, father.

The Squire looks down at his son and his heart softens. He squats down with the pretence of fixing Tom's collar.

SQUIRE

(Gentle)

If schools are anything like what they were in my time you'll see a great many cruel and blackguard things done. But never fear, Tom. Learn from the strong, protect the weak, stand up to bullies and blackguards of every kind, and you'll turn out a man to be proud of.

TOM

I'll try, father.

The COACHMAN comes into the Inn.

COACHMAN

Any more for Rugby? Last call.

SQUIRE

That's you, my boy.

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

The Squire stands up, puts his hand out to Tom.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

SQUIRE
Good luck, Tom.

They shake hands.

CUT TO:

3 EXT - COACHING INN - DAY

3

Tom is helped up next to the Coachman as the Squire looks on.

The whip cracks and the coach lurches forward, Tom looking bravely ahead.

As it pulls away up the road his courage leaves him for a moment and he turns to see the reassuring figure of his father waving back at him.

Tom waves back. Then turns to face the front and the rest of his life.

The coach rattles off into the countryside.

The Squire watches until the coach is out of sight.

CUT TO:

4 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

4

In a large, rambling house next to the school the Arnold Family are making themselves at home in their new house.

MARY ARNOLD - an attractive, intelligent woman in her thirties - overseas some WORKMEN as they put up paintings on the empty walls.

The Arnold CHILDREN unpack books or play, all aged under ten, including the young MATTHEW Arnold.

THOMAS ARNOLD comes into the room. He is in his thirties, trying to look serious when in fact he's feeling extremely nervous.

ARNOLD
Where shall I put Thucydides?

*

Mary sees that Arnold is distracted.

MARY
(Kind)
Why don't I make us some tea? Settle your nerves.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

ARNOLD

(Lying)

I'm not nervous. Not nervous at all.

Mary fusses over his collar, adjusts his gown, whispers in his ear.

MARY

You will be the greatest headmaster
this school has ever seen.

She kisses him.

Arnold smiles but his nerves are still obvious.

MARY

Why don't you go and inspect your new
empire?

He looks out of his window at the boys milling below.

CUT TO:

5 **EXT - RUGBY/OUTSKIRTS - DAY**

5

The coach rattles towards Rugby.

Tom is excited now, straining forward to catch his first glimpse
of the town.

Suddenly, three urchin BOYS break cover and start pelting the
coach with rotten fruit and vegetables and eggs.

Tom is astonished, just lets the eggs and fruit splatter against
his new suit.

CUT TO:

6 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/QUAD/COLLONADE - DAY**

6

*

Thomas Arnold walks across the quad, an imposing man striding
through his new World. *

*

The hustle and bustle of arriving boys is stilled for a moment
as the Headmaster moves through them. *

*

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

*

8 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY**

8

Rugby School looms imposingly.

There is a buzz of energy as boys meet each other again at the start of term.

The coach rattles away, leaving a nervous Tom Brown and his luggage alone in his new surroundings.

A bell sounds somewhere in the great school and dozens of BOYS of all ages and shapes start pushing into the school, fighting and playing and shouting.

It is an intimidating, lonely moment for Tom.

EAST

I say, you fellow, is your name Brown?

Tom turns to look at East, who surveys the dishevelled new boy with something approaching contempt.

TOM

Yes, it is.

EAST

My name's East. I've got some ancient Aunt in your part of the country and she said I was to look after you.

*

TOM

Thank you.

EAST

Don't thank me, it'll be worth half a sovereign at least come Christmas.

East looks at Tom's egg-spattered clothes.

EAST

Good God, man, what happened to you?

TOM

Some boys attacked the coach just outside of town.

(CONTINUED)

EAST
Bloody louts. Did you see them off?

TOM
No.

East just looks at Tom with weary resignation.

EAST
Come on, I'll show you around.

With that East swaggers off towards the school gates, leaving Tom to pick up all of his luggage himself and hurry after his new friend.

EAST
Let me give you a bit of advice,
Brown. A great deal depends on how a
fellow cuts up at first. If he is
straightforward and holds his head up
and shows no fear -

Suddenly East drags the startled Tom out of sight.

They watch as a magnificent peacock of a young man of seventeen - waistcoat a riot of silk and colour; hair swept back in the fashion; impeccable, dandy suit; silver-topped cane - swaggers by with a sneer on his face. FLASHMAN.

Small boys give him a wide, watchful birth, like a shark in a lagoon.

TOM
Who is that?

EAST
Flashman.

TOM
Why are you afraid of him?

EAST
You'll find out, soon enough.

CUT TO:

Arnold is taking a walk through some of the murkier areas of his new empire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He is very surprised to find some race horses in stables behind the school and a GROOM feeding them.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD

Whose horses are these?

GROOM

(Suspicious)

Who wants to know?

ARNOLD

The Headmaster of Rugby School wants to know.

The Groom hurriedly removes his cap.

GROOM

Some of the boys, sir, do keep 'em for the steeplechasing over at Dunchurch.

ARNOLD

(Astonished)

They gamble on them?

GROOM

Oh Lord yes, sir. Love their gambling, the boys do.

The sound of dogs barking alerts Arnold to an entire pack of Beagle dogs in an enclosed barn. We do not see the dogs.

GROOM

And their hunting.

CUT TO:

East continues his tour of Rugby School.

EAST

This is the place for fights. That...

*

East indicates a squat tower.

EAST

... is the caning tower where the Headmaster dishes out his punishment. You won't want to be seeing the inside of that place.

TOM

What's he like?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

EAST

The Headmaster? Haven't seen him yet,
he's as green as you. They say he is a
great tyrant, though.

Suddenly Arnold looms before them. *

Tom just stares at his dark, brooding presence before East grabs
Tom by the collar and drags him away. *

CUT TO:

11 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CORRIDOR/STUDY - DAY

11

Arnold walks down a corridor. Boys fly in all directions at his
approach.

**There is no gas or electric light in the Rugby School of this *
day so it's interiors by day will be dark and dusty, and by *
night black, illuminated only by candles and fires. ***

He pulls chunks of damp plaster from the unloved walls.

One of the study doors is ajar and Arnold pushes it open, just
as a boy dives out of the open window.

Arnold enters the study, picks up a battered text book, glances
at it.

With a severe frown he notices a pipe still smoking on the
window-sill.

He then notices a curious contraption of pipes dripping a clear
liquid into a glass.

Arnold takes a little of the alcohol from the still and drinks
it, his face contorting with disgust at the taste.

He is about to leave the room when he sees something nestling
amongst the broken fishing rods and umbrellas and cricket bats.
A gun!

Arnold gingerly picks up the gun, can't believe it.

CUT TO:

12 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MATRON'S SICKROOM ROOM - DAY

12

It is dark inside the school despite the fact that it is
daytime, candles flickering in the gloom.

(CONTINUED)

East leads Tom into a large room full of mattresses and trunks and washing.

The MATRON - a woman in her fifties - is folding sheets with her pretty daughter, SALLY, about 18 years old.

EAST

Matron. This here is Tom Brown, the
new boy, I'm showing him around.

(Besotted)

Hello, Sally.

SALLY

Hello, Harry.

MATRON

(To Tom)

Leave your bags here, Brown, I'll sort your clothes out later.

(To East)

He's sleeping in your dorm, East, so take his bedding up and get him out of those dirty clothes.

East fills his arms with bedding then stuffs it into Tom's arms.

BILL the Porter - and the Matron's husband - comes in.

EAST

Hello, Bill. This is Tom Brown.

BILL

How do you do, sir?

TOM

Very well, thank you, Bill.

EAST

Are you going to watch the match, Bill?

BILL

Wouldn't miss it, Mr East.

EAST

Come on, Brown.

(Smitten)

Goodbye, Sally.

East hurries on out.

Tom bows to the Matron, hurries after his new friend with his arms full of bedding.

MATRON

Poor little mite.

CUT TO:

East sits on his bed and watches Tom attempt to make his bed. He's never done it before and it doesn't come easy.

(CONTINUED)

They are in a large, dark room full of little beds.

Tom is now wearing some scruffy clothes of East's.

EAST

There have been two broken collar-bones this year, one broken wrist and a dozen fellows lamed. Last year a fellow had his back broken. You'll just stand behind the goal and watch this first time.

The door opens and a young man of 18, HUBAND, comes in. He is a Prefect, the highest of the high in this world of boys.

East gets up respectfully.

HUBAND

East. Run along and get me some hot water, I need to shave.

EAST

But the match is about to start, Huband.

HUBAND

Then you'd best be quick about it, you impudent scud.

Huband notices Tom.

HUBAND

Who are you, fellow and why are you looking at me like a dead fish?

TOM

Brown, sir.

EAST

The new boy.

HUBAND

Take him with you, East, and show him the ropes. Be quick!

CUT TO:

Down in the dungeons of the school is the steaming scullery, sheets hanging up everywhere.

East and Tom look on as boiling water is poured into their basin by a scullery WORKER.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

EAST

We fag for the Sixth and no-one else.
If some wretched fellow from the Fifth
asks you to fag for him just say no
and run like hell.

Tom takes the basin of steaming water.

EAST

Don't spill any or there'll be hell to
pay.

Tom carefully carries the brimming basin.

EAST

Hurry up or we'll be late for the
match.

CUT TO:

15 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

15

Arnold is pacing the floor, agitated, as Mary continues to
unpack.

ARNOLD

Eleven year old boys with guns! They
race horses, they gamble, they distil
their own liquor.

Despite everything, Mary is almost amused.

MARY

You knew there was work to be done.

Arnold looks out on the quad below.

He watches as East strides across the quad, chatting away, Tom
staggering behind him, trying desperately not to spill any
water.

MARY

I think you should invite some of the
older boys up for tea.

ARNOLD

Here? To the house?

MARY

Why not? I'd like to meet them.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD
They might shoot you.

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

MARY

I'm sure they're not half as bad as
you're making them out to be.

Tom looks up at the dark window, sees the face of Doctor Arnold
there, the serious eyes looking down at him.

Arnold looks down at Tom's up-turned face.

For a moment boy and man hold each other in mutually curious
eyes.

ARNOLD

We shall see.

CUT TO:

16 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CORRIDOR - DAY

16

Tom carries his precious cargo down a dark corridor.

EAST

One fellow had his cheekbone shattered
and his eye popped out like the inside
of an egg. Another chap -

East stops talking. He has seen the figure of Flashman smoking
in the corridor ahead of them.

FLASHMAN

East, you little lout. Come here with
my hot water.

EAST

It's not for you, Flashman, it's for
Huband.

Flashman strolls down the corridor towards East and Tom, looking
Tom over with a sneer, trailing his magnificent silver-topped
cane down the wall.

FLASHMAN

Who is this despicable little fellow?

TOM

Brown, sir.

EAST

Don't call him "sir", he's in the
Fifth.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

(To Tom)

Go and put the basin in my study,
Brown.

Tom looks at East, unsure.

EAST

The water's for Huband, Flashman, not
you. He said -

With a sudden flash of his walking stick he smacks the silver-
head against East's startled forehead, making him hold his head
in pain.

FLASHMAN

(To Tom)

Put it in my study, Brown, or you'll
get more of the same.

Other FIFTH FORMERS have come out of their studies now, some of
them wearing the same dandy clothes as Flashman, all of them
ready for some entertainment.

FOTHERGILL and SPEEDICOT are among them, they love a bit of
bullying.

SPEEDICOT

Bit of sport, Flashy?

FLASHMAN

(To Tom)

In my study.

TOM

(Quiet)

The water's not for you.

FLASHMAN

What did you say, fag? I didn't quite
hear you.

TOM

The water is not for you.

Flashman looks at his friends, smiling.

FLASHMAN

(To Tom)

You dare to disobey me, you execrable
little turd?

EAST

Leave him alone, Flashman.

Flashman holds up his cane and East cowers back.

Flashman turns his attention back to Tom.

FLASHMAN

I have just made a rather splendid decision, Brown. I have decided I am going to make your time here a complete and utter misery.

With that Flashman takes the basin of steaming water and pours it over the startled Tom's head.

The older boys laugh and jeer as Tom just stands there, humiliated, water running from his nose and saturating his clothes.

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/PLAYING FIELD - DAY

East is in his white trousers and white shirt with a black skull and cross-bones motif on the chest, hurrying over to the field with Tom behind him.

There are fifty or sixty players on each side and hundreds of non-playing schoolboys behind each set of posts.

An older boy, powerfully-built, is shaking hands with the older players on both sides. This is BROOKE.

East indicates the massed ranks of boys behind the School House posts.

EAST

It's School House against the rest of School.

TOM

Am I School House?

EAST

Of course you are. Just stay behind the goal-line with the small boys and keep out of trouble. If the ball goes behind the line you have to touch it down before one of the other side do.

Tom is intrigued by the figure of Brooke and the obvious status he has.

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

TOM
Who is that?

(CONTINUED)

EAST

(Exasperated)

Who is that? That is Old Brooke, the greatest Captain of School House there has ever been. He's come back to hand over to Frobisher before he goes up to Oxford.

Brooke sees Flashman and his friends Speedicot and Fothergill arrive on the touchline in their flash suits and canes.

BROOKE

Flashman, why aren't you playing?

FLASHMAN

Turned my ankle, Brookey. Most beastly luck.

Brooke isn't sure he believes him but time is pressing.

BROOKE

Come on, School House! Play up!

A buzz of expectation goes around the boys as the two sets of players face each other.

East takes a deep breath, goes to join the game.

EAST

(To Tom)

Stay there.

Tom nods, too excited for words.

CUT TO:

Arnold is addressing an assembly of the longest-serving MASTERS of Rugby School, the most prominent and confident being LAMPARD, a whiskered, severe, cynical-looking man in his sixties.

ARNOLD

The qualifications which I deem essential to the due performance of a master's time here may be expressed as the combined spirits of a Christian and of a gentleman.

A smirk from Lampard.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD

To that end I intend to make some changes to the school which I trust will have the support of you, the longest-serving masters here at Rugby.

LAMPARD

What sort of changes, Headmaster?

ARNOLD

As I understand it when the gates are locked for the night there is not a single Master in the school. Leaving boys to their own devices like that can only lead to bullying and wrongdoing - as has often been the case, I believe.

The Masters are agitated by this.

LAMPARD

We don't see it as part of our teaching duties to mollycoddle boys, Headmaster. We have our own -

ARNOLD

A lot of these boys are a long way from home for the first time and we should be like parents to them.

The Masters look at each other, deeply unimpressed.

CUT TO:

Brooke leads a ferocious rush on the school line.

The sport is vicious, brutal, organised violence, with smaller boys pitted against bigger, older boys, all played out to the deafening shouts of the boys behind each set of posts.

Tom is half enthralled, half appalled at the level of violence.

Brooke dips a shoulder and a boy's head bounces off it as he ploughs over the line.

The boys around Tom cheer, throw their hats in the air.

The would-be tackler is out cold and several boys hurry on to the field to carry his limp body away.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

TADPOLE

Off to matron with him, damned flunky!

The ball is thrown out to Brooke who converts his own try to shouts of joy from the School House boys.

CUT TO:

20 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/STAFF ROOM - DAY

20

Arnold listens patiently to Smith.

SMITH

Headmaster, the tradition of Rugby School has always been that the boys discipline themselves out of teaching hours. It readies them for the responsibilities of life, of Empire.

ARNOLD

The boys will have considerable responsibilities, you need not fear that, Mr Smith. But they will learn them in an atmosphere of pastoral care and Christian love, not in the survival of the biggest or the cruelest.

SMITH

The Rugby way -

ARNOLD

(Cheery)

The Rugby way will have to change, Mr Smith. Birching will give way to discourse.

LAMPARD

Have you actually ever met a schoolboy, Headmaster? They are the riotous natives and we are the occupying force. They understand this perfectly.

ARNOLD

Little is taught through dispute, sir, but everything through sympathy and love. Any questions?

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

ARNOLD
Good. Let the adventure begin.

CUT TO:

21 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/PLAYING FIELD - DAY

21

Now the School House line is under attack, despite Brooke's defensive power and organising.

The ball spills out of a giant, violent scrum and is hacked on by several of the large, bloodied School players.

It bobbles towards East.

There are worried shouts from the boys around East.

But East is made of stern stuff and throws himself on the ball.

Soon twenty or thirty boys from each side throw themselves on top of East and the ball in a flurry of muscle and blood and boot.

The ball squirts out of the scrum again and is hacked towards the School House goal-line again.

There is no-one between the ball and the line.

Tom looks around but none of the scared boys around him are going to do anything.

He sprints forward and throws himself onto the bouncing ball and is hacked and buried in turn, submerged beneath a pile of limbs.

Brooke arrives, is concerned for Tom.

BROOKE
Get up here, there's a little fellow
beneath you.

The players get up one-by-one until Tom is revealed, muddy and dazed.

BROOKE
Who is he?

EAST
Brown. He's new.

BROOKE
Any bones broken, Brown?

(CONTINUED)

21

CONTINUED:

21

Tom manages to shake his head.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

BROOKE

You're a plucky youngster, I'll give you that.

The school clock sounds the hour and the School House have won.

BROOKE

No side!

Much cheering from the victorious School House boys.

Tom is helped to his feet by East, his face beaming with pleasure.

22 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MAIN GATES - NIGHT**

22

Lampard, Smith and several other Masters leave the school for the night by the main entrance.

Bill locks the heavy iron gates after them like a jailer.

SMITH

Good night, Bill.

BILL

Night, sir.

LAMPARD

If any of the little chaps need pastoral care... you haven't seen me.

Laughter from the other Masters as they walk away with their backs to the school, job done until morning.

CUT TO:

23 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - NIGHT**

23

A huge, dark, wood-panelled room, stuffed to the gunnels with School House boys of all shapes and sizes and ages.

A fire roars in the great grate, candles alone illuminate the faces of the boys. They have eaten and their plates and cutlery are still on the tables. Even the smallest boy has a glass of beer and several of them smoke pipes.

Tom sits with East, Tadpole, Green and the younger boys.

(CONTINUED)

Flashman sits with Speedicot, Fothergill and the Fifth and at the head of the table is Brooke with Huband, Frobisher, and other members of the Sixth.

Brooke is on his feet, speaking to the House.

BROOKE

As you all know this will be my last night in dear old School House.

There are shouts of "shame!" and "no!".

BROOKE

And I believe you have to indulge me in a few words.

Cheers and banging of beer mugs.

BROOKE

It has come to my notice that bullying is on the increase in School House and it pains me to leave at such a time.

Many of the smaller boys glance over at Flashman with dark looks but he just sits back and smiles.

BROOKE

Bullying is for cowards and must be stopped. You boys who are now the victims, you have it in your power to stop it. And by that I do not mean running to masters or prefects with your fingers in your eyes.

*

*

*

Cheers and applause.

These words are listened to intently by Tom.

BROOKE

Promise yourself you won't be a bully when you are in the Fifth or Sixth and it will stop.

Flashman bangs his beer mug, starts a round of "Here, heres!".

BROOKE

Anyway, enough. I only go on about it so because I love the place. It only remains for me to wish my successor as Captain of School House all the fortune in the World.

A smile from Frobisher, the anointed prefect. He is a gentle, kind young man but doesn't have Brooke's formidable presence.

BROOKE

I know that you will all give him your every support. Frobisher.

All the boys raise their glasses to Frobisher, who nods back at them.

BROOKE

Before I sit down I give you one last toast. It is a toast that should bind us together, now and always, to those who have come before us and those that are yet to come. It is the dear old School House, the best house of the best school in England!

Great roars from the boys and much drinking of beer.

They start chanting Brooke's name as Brooke shakes hands with Frobisher and the other members of the Sixth.

Flashman looks sarcastically at Speedicot.

FLASHMAN

What a very pretty speech.

SPEEDICOT

Very pretty.

Tom is overwhelmed by it all but chants Brooke's name with the rest of them.

Brooke gestures for quiet and eventually the boys settle.

BROOKE

Time for singing!

More cheers.

East nudges Tom.

EAST

You're up, Brown.

TOM

What?

TADPOLE

The new boy always has to sing a song on his first night.

Tom looks horrified.

BROOKE

Mr Brown, I believe, is going to sing
to us.

All eyes alight on the terrified new boy.

EAST

(Hissing)
Stand up.

Tom stands slowly up.

BROOKE

Up on the table with you, young
fellow.

Tom steps up onto the table, looks nervously around the
assembled faces staring up at him.

Flashman looks at Brown with interest, like an amused cat
watching a mouse.

EAST

Whatever you do, don't falter.

One of the boys puts a huge mug of water at Tom's feet as
another pours salt into it.

EAST

(Explaining)
Salt water.

*
*
*

Then two lit candles are put into each of his hands, hot wax
splashing painfully onto his skin.

BROOKE

Begin!

Tom falteringly begins.

TOM

(Singing)
Some talk of Alexander, And some of
Hercules, Of Hector and Lysander, And
such great names as these. But of all
the world's great heroes -

A tomato hits Tom to loud cheers.

CUT TO:

24

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

24

The Arnold family are eating a formal, quiet meal in their new dining room.

The cheers of the boys in School House are clearly audible.

Some of Arnold's children strain to look out of the window.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

A cough from their father and they return to their meals immediately.

CUT TO:

25 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - NIGHT

25

Tom is still singing, a torrent of abuse and rotten food and scraps hurled at him. It's bedlam but Tom bravely struggles on.

His hands are covered in drying wax from the candles.

TOM

(Singing)

Then let us fill a bumper, And drink a
health to those Who carry caps and
pouches, And wear the louped clothes.

Flashman takes out a coin from his pocket, throws it at Tom. It glances off the boys forehead, making him smart with pain.

Speedicot and Fothergill howl with laughter.

Brooke sees this from the top table and it saddens him and worries him.

East is starting to admire his new friend.

EAST

Go on, Tom! You can do it!

TOM

(Singing)

May they and their commanders Live
happy all their years.
With a tow-row-row-row-row-row
For the British Grenadiers!

Tom has finished to loud cheers and much back-patting.

CUT TO:

26 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORMITORY - NIGHT

26

The smaller boys are fighting, yawning, getting into bed.

Huband scowls at them, tired and drunk and grumpy.

HUBAND

Hurry up, you revolting scuds, I'm
tired.

(CONTINUED)

Tom pulls on his nightshirt.

To East's amazement Tom then sinks to his knees by his bed in an attitude of prayer.

TOM

Dear Lord. Please bless mother and father. Bless -

East sees already that Tom's actions have been noticed by other boys.

EAST

What on earth do you think you're doing?

TOM

Praying.

TADPOLE

(Delighted)
Brown's talking to God!

This amuses the boys greatly and they throw shoes and dirty clothes at Tom, who looks completely puzzled.

HUBAND

What's going on?

GREEN

Brown's a milksop and is praying for his Mummy.

HUBAND

For God's sake, Brown, you're not a girl, are you?

Laughter from the boys.

TOM

No, sir.

HUBAND

Get to bed and get to sleep.

Tom slips into his tiny bed, hurt by the ridicule.

TADPOLE

East's new chum is a Mummy's boy!

TOM

(Quietly, to East)
Aren't we allowed to pray here?

EAST
Go to sleep.

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

HUBAND

Lights out.

The last candles are blown out.

Tom lies back, puzzled and exhausted and exhilarated all at the same time.

CUT TO:

27 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - NIGHT**

27

The dark walls of Rugby School are silhouetted against the night sky.

All is still.

The trees in the grounds sigh and rustle in the night breeze.

CUT TO:

28 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORMITORY - NIGHT**

28

The boys sleep and snore and wheeze.

A long beat.

Then the door bursts open and Flashman appears, drunk and in need of fun.

Speedicot, Fothergill and other members of Flashman's gang are also there.

GREEN

Flashman!

There is momentary chaos as small boys dive under beds in a display of real fear.

Tom blinks in the half-light, doesn't know what is going on.

HUBAND

For God's sake, Flashman.

FLASHMAN

Just keeping the traditions going, Huband. New boy in the house and all that.

(CONTINUED)

EAST

Leave him alone, Flashman, he's had
enough today.

FLASHMAN

What do you think, boys, shall we leave him?

EAST

(Appealing)

Tell him, Huband.

The young boys look at Huband for strength but he is intimidated by Flashman and the others.

HUBAND

Just hurry up with it, then, and don't hurt him too much.

Speedicot and the others grab Tom by his ankles and wrists and yank him out of bed.

Tom kicks and punches out as best he like.

FLASHMAN

A fighter!

(Quiet, to Tom)

I like it when they fight.

Flashman indicates the door and Speedicot and the others start to haul the struggling Tom out of the dormitory. *

East is all for following them but Flashman just points his cane at him.

Flashman smiles and closes the door after him as he slips out into the dark corridor.

TADPOLE

(Dry)

He should have prayed louder.

CUT TO: *

28A. INT. RUGBY SCHOOL/CORRIDOR - NIGHT

28A. *

Flashman and the bullies carry Tom, still struggling down the corridor. *

CUT TO:

29 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - NIGHT

29

There is still a fire glowing in the hearth, throwing a dark orange light around the room.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

Into the blanket with him.

A large blanket is produced and stretched out and Tom is thrown onto it.

He is on his back staring up at the ceiling.

FLASHMAN

One. Two. Three!

They throw Tom high into the air, his arms flailing.

He lands back in the blanket.

FLASHMAN

Again!

Tom is sent high up into the air again, he tries to fight but his head bangs against the ceiling to cheers from the Fifth.

FLASHMAN

One for luck.

Tom starts to fight his way off of the blanket, gets roughly pushed back.

EAST

Don't fight it, Tom. Lay still!

They all turn to see East standing in the doorway, concerned for his friend.

FLASHMAN

Mr East. I do believe I told you stay in your dorm.

EAST

He's hit the ceiling, Flashman, now let him alone.

Flashman surveys East with amusement.

FLASHMAN

Let's toss the two of 'em together.

Speedicot and others manhandle East into the blanket with Tom.

FOTHERGILL

(Concerned)

Bit dangerous, Flashy.

FLASHMAN

(To Fothergill)

And your point is?

Fothergill shrugs, leaves the room.

EAST

(To Tom)

Lie still.

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

FLASHMAN

One. Two. Three!

The blanket is tightened and the two boys fly into the air, banging and tangling against each other.

CUT TO:

30 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/PLAYING FIELD - NIGHT

30

Arnold is taking the air in the still of the night, Spot the dog running ahead.

A noise alerts Arnold to the kerfuffle in the School House.

The fire in the room makes monstrous shadows of what is happening to Tom and East.

CUT TO:

31 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE

31

FLASHMAN

Again!

The boys are thrown hard into the air and Tom's face smashes against the ceiling.

Tom and East fall back down and this time the blanket misses Tom, who hits his back against the hard wooden floor.

SPEEDICOT

I think he's had enough, Flashy.

FLASHMAN

Nonsense. You wouldn't want us to think you were a little girly, now, would you Brown?

Flashman takes Tom's hair and shakes his head for him.

FLASHMAN

There you see!

Suddenly the door bursts open and FOTHERGILL is standing there, a look of terror on his face.

FOTHERGILL

The Doctor!

The boys look very scared.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN
Not a word, Brown.

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

Flashman and Speedicot and the others pour out of the door to make good their escape.

Tom lies stunned and confused on the floor as East tries to lift him up.

EAST
Hurry, Tom!

But Tom is dazed, doesn't know where he is.

East glances at the door, knows they are about to be caught.

EAST
Say nothing!

East hates to do it but he escapes whilst he has time.

A beat.

Tom shakes his head, feels the blood trickling from his nose.

He sees the shoes first. Black, shiny, impeccable.

Then he looks up the body to the stern eyes of Doctor Arnold of Rugby staring down at him.

END OF PART TWO

PART THREE

32 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - NIGHT**

32

The school is quiet in the still of the night.

CUT TO:

33 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S STUDY - NIGHT**

33

Tom sits uncomfortably as Arnold cleans the dried blood from his face.

ARNOLD
What's your name?

TOM
Brown, sir. Thomas Brown.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD

Who were the perpetrators of this
little act of horse-play, Brown?

TOM
I don't know, sir.

ARNOLD
You don't know or you won't tell me?

Tom says nothing.

The door opens and a sleepy Mary comes into the room.

MARY
What's happened?

ARNOLD
Go back to bed, dear.

MARY
Is he hurt?

Mary fusses over to Tom, looks at his face.

ARNOLD
It's nothing, just a tumble.

Tom hates all this attention.

TOM
Please, sir, may I go back to my dorm?

Arnold just looks at him, feels some sympathy.

ARNOLD
Go on.

Tom hurries towards the door, desperate to get away.

TOM
Good night, sir. Ma'am.

And with that Tom is gone with a crash of the door.

CUT TO:

The great chapel is crowded with all the boys in the school. The atmosphere is tight with interest and expectation.

Arnold is at his lectern, the Masters behind him.

Frobisher and the Sixth line the walls.

Tom is sat between East and Tadpole.

Flashman buffs his nails.

ARNOLD

It is my most sincere desire to make this school a place of Christian education. What do I mean by this? There is no place or time from which Religion is shut out, there is no place or time where we cannot be serving God by serving our fellow-creatures.

Flashman yawns theatrically and Speedicot, Fothergill and some of the others snicker.

ARNOLD

Roughness, coarseness, want of feeling, unkindness, cruelty, bullying, these qualities bear no resemblance to the inhabitants of the Kingdom of God and will not be tolerated in this school.

Tom watches Arnold at work, oddly fascinated.

ARNOLD

The false tongue; the violent hand; the proud or covetous thought; the indolent temper; the unkind or unjust or selfish action. None of these things will be tolerated.

Arnold lets his words echo around the chapel.

ARNOLD

I will believe each and every boys' word as I would believe a man's.

A shake of the head from Lampard, who is hating this.

ARNOLD

I will believe what you tell me. But I tell you now, gentleman, that if you think this trust on my part is a license for lying and deception you will be deeply disappointed. I hope we understand each other.

The boys stop fidgeting, hear the threat in Arnold's voice.

Arnold seems to look directly at Tom now, who squirms on his bench.

ARNOLD

Remember this: your greatest bond is to God, not to your companions. It is no disgrace for the bullied to come forward and point a finger at the bully. In fact it is his duty, to the school, to me and to God. It is the only way we will rid this place of the vicious, cowardly practice of systematic bullying.

Some of the younger boys look back at Flashman.

ARNOLD

To these ends I have initiated some initial reforms. There will be no more horses kept at the school. The beagle pack will be disbanded forthwith.

The older boys look appalled at this development.

ARNOLD

There will be no firearms held by any boy. There will be no gambling. There will be no production or imbibing of alcohol of any kind.

The middle boys look at each other now, equally appalled.

Lampard and some of the other Masters barely bother to hide their contempt.

ARNOLD

This will be a great school, a Christian School for Christian gentleman, a place of light and learning and goodness.

*

The boys look at each other, rebellion in their minds.

ARNOLD

Let us pray.

CUT TO:

Two fit young schoolboy RUNNERS scatter paper from bags buckled on to their bodies.

CUT TO:

36

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY

36

Tom, East and Tadpole - in their running kit - hurry through the arch of the school towards a group of fifty or so assembled schoolboy runners of older boys.

Tom looks excited, keen, East and Tadpole a bit less so.

TADPOLE

Nine miles! Over dashed hard ground.

TOM

Stop whining, Tadpole.

EAST

Think of the bread and cheese and punch if we make it.

TADPOLE

We won't make it.

The boys reach the gaggle of runners who are listening to Frobisher as he outlines the race.

FROBISHER

The hares have been given a six minute start. Any fellow that comes in within fifteen minutes of them will dine at the "Hop Pole" tonight.

Frobisher sees Tom, East and Tadpole arrive.

FROBISHER

Aren't you three a bit young?

TADPOLE

Yes.

TOM

We can do it.

Frobisher looks at his watch. Waits.

FROBISHER

We're off!

The runners - Tom, East and Tadpole included - start sprinting off in the direction of the open countryside.

CUT TO:

37

EXT - COUNTRYSIDE/FIELD - DAY

37

Frobisher and the older, stronger boys are already sprinting ahead.

The pack struggle behind them.

The trail goes cold for a moment as Frobisher and the other leaders look for the scattered paper.

BOY

There!

The Boy points to where the Hares are heading up a ploughed, dark field towards the tree-line.

FROBISHER

Forward!

Again the stronger runners sprint ahead.

Tom has to cajole East and Tadpole to keep up.

TOM

Come on!

A rumble of thunder.

Tadpole slips, starts feeling his ankle.

Tom looks ahead, sees the other boys almost out of sight now.

CUT TO:

38

EXT - COUNTRYSIDE/BARN - DAY

38

Tom, Tadpole and East run up to an ancient, dilapidated barn.

East is about to step into the barn when he steps back, eyes wide with excitement.

TOM

What is it?

East puts his finger over his lips for silence.

He hurries around the back of the barn as Tom and Tadpole follow him, puzzled.

TADPOLE

I'm not in the mood for games, East.

(CONTINUED)

East glares at Tadpole, insists on silence.

East starts to climb the ladder, followed by an intrigued Tom and a grumpy Tadpole.

There is a hole in the roof of the barn and the three boys peek down through it.

Down below is the familiar figure of Flashman. He is talking to Sally, who looks very nervous, very distressed.

FLASHMAN

Come on, Sally, don't be a spoilsport.

Flashman walks towards her as Sally backs off.

SALLY

Can we go home, please, sir?

FLASHMAN

Just one little kiss?

SALLY

Maybe after we're engaged.

FLASHMAN

Didn't I buy you a pretty necklace?

SALLY

Yes.

FLASHMAN

Shouldn't a chap get a little reward for a pretty necklace?

Flashman uses his silver-topped cane to part Sally's blouse.

SALLY

(Very upset)

Please don't.

Suddenly the rotten roof gives way and poor Tadpole crashes through it, his fall broken by a pile of hay.

Flashman looks around, astonished at this interruption.

Sally sees that his attention has been diverted and makes a run for it, running out of the barn.

Flashman turns to deal with Tadpole, a furious sneer on his face.

TADPOLE

(Weak)

Hello, Flashman.

38 CONTINUED: (3)

38

Flashman smashes the tip of his cane into the palm of his hand and advances on Tadpole.

TADPOLE

Please, Flashy.

Tom and East watch, helpless, as Flashman walks towards the terrified Tadpole.

TOM

Flashman! Up here!

Flashman looks up, startled to see East and Tom looking down at him.

Tadpole turns and runs out of the back of the barn.

FLASHMAN

(To Tom)

You'll keep, Brown.

With that Flashman walks quickly through the barn to follow Tadpole.

East and Top crane their necks to see Tadpole legging it in the direction of the river, with Flashman hurrying after him, a man possessed.

CUT TO:

39 **EXT - COUNTRYSIDE/RIVER - DAY**

39

Tadpole is exhausted, has come to a halt on the bank of the wide, swift-running river.

He turns to see Flashman walking slowly towards him.

TADPOLE

I didn't see anything. Honest, I didn't.

FLASHMAN

I'm going to kill you, you dirty little scud, and feed you to the fishes.

TADPOLE

Please, Flashy. I'll fag for you all year. I'll -

Flashman advances towards him, Tapping his can in the palm of his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tadpole starts to edge back along a branch that reaches out over the river.

(CONTINUED)

East and Tom are running across the field towards them.

TADPOLE

Please don't hurt me, Flashman.

Tadpole steps back in fear. The branch is rotten, gives way under his weight, and Tadpole plunges into the current.

EAST

Tadpole!

Tadpole is thrashing about in the river, very frightened.

EAST

He can't swim.

Flashman looks nervous now.

FLASHMAN

He shouldn't creep up on a chap.

EAST

He's going under!

Tom sees Tadpole's head disappear under the surface of the water.

Without hesitation Tom runs and jumps into the water, swimming across the current towards Tadpole's flailing hands.

East and Flashman watch as Tom reaches Tadpole.

But Tadpole is so terrified that he is pulling Tom under too.

East starts sprinting along the river bank, trying to get ahead of his friends.

Flashman looks around, makes sure no-one else has seen any of this, and then hurriedly slopes away from the scene.

East runs ahead of the struggling boys, sees a weir.

EAST

Tom!

East waves frantically to Tom, indicates the weir.

The noise of the crashing weir is terrible.

Tom starts to kick his legs hard, dragging Tadpole across the current to where East waits, fingers extended.

Tom's fingers find East's and the three boys drag themselves up onto the bank, gasping for air.

CUT TO:

40

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S STUDY - NIGHT

40

The corridor is dark, leading to a slither of light around Arnold's study door.

Tom, East and Tadpole huddle nervously together, cold, tired and wet.

They speak in whispers, the fear in their voices obvious.

EAST

What will we tell him?

TOM

The truth. That's what he wants to hear, remember.

Tom leads them up to the door and knocks on it.

ARNOLD

Come!

Tom pushes the door open and there is Doctor Arnold, in his shirtsleeves, sat on the floor making a giant sail-boat with his youngest children.

Mary is in her chair making a tapestry.

Spot the dog barks.

Tom, East and Tadpole are surprised by this glimpse of the Doctor's happy domestic life.

ARNOLD

Well, well, what a pretty sight.

(To Mary)

A moment, my dear.

Mary rounds the curious children up and leaves the room.

ARNOLD

We meet again, Mr Brown. Perhaps you'd care to explain why you are so late?

TOM

Yes, sir. We were out on the Hare-and-hounds run and we lost our way and the harder we tried to find it the more lost we became.

ARNOLD

Aren't you a little young to be on such a run?

(CONTINUED)

Tadpole glares at Tom.

TADPOLE

Yes, sir.

EAST

We wanted to show the older boys what we could do, sir.

ARNOLD

Look at the state of you. Have you eaten?

TADPOLE

No, sir.

ARNOLD

Then get to your dorm and get clean clothes on and tell Matron I said you are to have some tea.

The three boys are amazed at the Doctor's leniency.

The Doctor waves them out of his study.

Hardly believing their luck, the boys hurry towards the door.

ARNOLD

Brown.

Tom turns at the sound of his name being called.

TOM

Yes, sir.

ARNOLD

Don't let me see you again for a while, there's a good fellow.

Both boy and man know exactly what he means.

TOM

No, sir.

CUT TO:

Flashman's study feels more like a gentleman's club as he sits in a silk robe, sipping a fine claret and flipping through some nineteenth century porn.

(CONTINUED)

He is wearing an ornate set of knuckledusters, absently punches *
them into his other palm as he talks. *

Speedicot is drying some of Flashman's clothes by the fire.

FLASHMAN

I nearly had her pendulous breasts
trembling in the fresh air when that
little Tadpole bastard ruined
everything.

SPEEDICOT

East put him up to it, I'll be bound.

FLASHMAN

Actually, I think it was that Brown
fellow. He needs to be taken down a
peg or two.

There is a knock at the door.

FLASHMAN

Go away!

SPEEDICOT

Who is it?

ARNOLD

(Out Of Vision)

The Doctor.

Speedicot looks horrified.

SPEEDICOT

One moment, sir.

Speedicot runs around the study hiding porn, alcohol, tobacco
etc as Flashman looks on with an amused smile.

Speedicot opens the door to Doctor Arnold.

SPEEDICOT

Sorry, sir. Deep in our books, don't
you know. I was just saying to
Flashman -

ARNOLD

Leave us, Speedicot.

SPEEDICOT

(Delighted)

Yes, sir!

Speedicot hurries off down the corridor as Arnold closes the
study door behind him.

ARNOLD

Stand up when I come into the room.

41 CONTINUED: (3)

41

Flashman stands up wearily.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD

Where were you this afternoon?

FLASHMAN

This afternoon, sir? I believe I went for a walk.

ARNOLD

By the river, I understand.

Flashman's eyes narrow at this.

FLASHMAN

I'd be very alarmed, sir, if I thought you were taking the word of three impudent young fellows against -

ARNOLD

What fellows? What are you talking about?

Flashman is thrown for a moment.

ARNOLD

A very serious allegation has been made against you by a young lady.

FLASHMAN

A young lady, sir?

ARNOLD

Sally Hopkins.

FLASHMAN

Oh, the matron's daughter. One could quibble with your definition of a "lady".

ARNOLD

She says you tried to seduce her. To force yourself on her.

FLASHMAN

The truth is, sir, that when one's father has a large fortune it tends to drive a woman of a certain sort to distraction.

Arnold looks hard at Flashman.

ARNOLD

You are denying the allegation?

41 CONTINUED: (5)

41

FLASHMAN
Of course I am, sir.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD
You give me your word?

FLASHMAN
Absolutely.

Arnold realises that there is nowhere for this conversation to go.

ARNOLD
I hear things, Mr Flashman.

FLASHMAN
(Cheeky)
Like voices, sir?

ARNOLD
I will rip the bad apples out of this school, I don't care who they are.

FLASHMAN
Good for you, sir. You'll certainly have my full support.

A beat as the two men look at each other.

ARNOLD
Good evening.

FLASHMAN
Good night, sir.

Arnold turns and leaves a grinning Flashman on his own in his study.

He recovers his glass of wine, takes a deep draught of it.

CUT TO:

Arnold is having a tense conversation with Smith and Lampard.

SMITH
He's a vain, vicious, nasty piece of work, Headmaster, with a list of indiscretions and crimes as long as your arm.

ARNOLD
Then what is he still doing here?

(CONTINUED)

LAMPARD

You know who his father is, of course?

ARNOLD

I understand he's a generous benefactor of the school.

LAMPARD

Without his money this place would have collapsed years ago. There have been bullies before him, there will be bullies after him -

ARNOLD

(Angry)

Not in my school there won't.

Smith looks at Arnold, is slowly warming to him.

SMITH

It would indeed send out a serious message about bullying if Flashman was sent down.

Lampard looks to the Heavens.

LAMPARD

It's not my place to offer advice, Headmaster...

ARNOLD

Go on, Mr Lampard.

LAMPARD

Don't even think of expelling Flashman. If you force the Trustees to choose between you and his father's resources...

Lampard doesn't have to finish the sentence.

CUT TO:

A cloud passes over the large yellow moon above Rugby School.

CUT TO:

44

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/TOM'S STUDY - NIGHT

44

Unlike Flashman's study, Tom and East's is a chaos of books and broken cricket bats; pictures of Victorian boxers; candles and wax; cups; bottles etc

East and Tom pretend to read but their minds are elsewhere, listening for the call that will surely come. It does:

FLASHMAN
(Out Of Vision)
Faaaaag!

East and Tom look at each other, know this is the moment.

CUT TO:

45

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/FLASHMAN'S STUDY - NIGHT

45

Flashman is at his door, leaning out into the corridor.

FLASHMAN
Faaaaaag!

Still nothing.

FLASHMAN
East! Brown! Come here, you cursed shirkers!

CUT TO:

46

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/TOM'S STUDY - NIGHT

46

FLASHMAN
(Out Of Vision)
Faaaaaag!

Tom and East leap up and start barricading themselves in, locking the door, sliding the bolts over.

They hear Flashman's voice right outside the door.

FLASHMAN
Open the door, little piggies.

Tom and East look at each other, scared but determined.

Then there is a thump, thump as shoulders charge the old oak door.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

46

A beat and muffled voices.

(CONTINUED)

Then one of the panels splinters as an axe bursts through.

East and Tom back away.

Again and again the axe shatters through the old wood until one of the panels is ripped asunder.

Flashman's face appears in the hole, drunk and crazed.

FLASHMAN

It's Flashy.

Tom and East take their sofa and ram it against the door.

TOM

We're not fagging for you, Flashman!

Another beat, the silence worse than noise for Tom and East.

Then balls of flaming paper are thrown through the hole in the door, filling the little study with smoke.

Tom and East struggle to put them out but there is smoke and sparks everywhere.

Their eyes are smarting, their lungs screaming, near defeat.

FROBISHER

(Out Of Vision)

What in God's name is happening here?!

East and Tom open the window, gulp in the fresh air.

FROBISHER

(Out Of Vision)

Open the door, Brown!

Tom and East unbolt the door and open it.

Flashman glares in at them, standing next to Speedicot and others of the Fifth.

FROBISHER

(To Flashman)

You could have burnt the school down, you idiot.

FLASHMAN

They were being impudent.

TOM

We're not going to fag for the Fifth any more.

FLASHMAN

You see what we have to put up with?
They're dragging the House down with
their lack of respect.

Frobisher is torn between doing what is right and wanting to be popular with the older boys.

EAST

Brooke said we didn't have to fag for
the Fifth.

Frobisher knows this is true and can't go against the memory of Brooke.

FROBISHER

He's right. Now cut along, Flashman,
and no more fagging until you're in
the Sixth.

Flashman just smiles his smile.

FLASHMAN

Yes, Frobisher.

Flashman, Speedicot and the others slink back to their study.

FROBISHER

(To East and Tom)
You two clean that mess up.

Frobisher moves off, leaving Tom and East to grin at each other.

CUT TO:

The entire school is gathering for morning service, yawning and fighting, watched over by Frobisher and the other Prefects.

Flashman, Fothergill and Speedicot try and look above it all.

Tom and East arrive late and scruffy, as usual.

As they come into the chapel an extraordinary thing happens: some of the smallest boys start to applaud. It's only a ripple at first but it quickly spreads, until most of the school are cheering and stamping.

TOM

Who are they cheering?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

EAST
Us, you fool.

Tom is highly amused by this, waves royally. He has never experienced such adulation before and it goes immediately to his head.

East, on the other hand, glances up at Flashman with real worry, knows this isn't the end of it.

FROBISHER
Silence! Silence!

The cheers die down but Tom has had his first taste of real popularity and he likes it. He really likes it.

END OF PART THREE

PART FOUR

48 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY

48

It's winter and the school buildings are glowering in the grey * light.

CUT TO:

49 EXT - COUNTRYSIDE/FARM - DAY

49

A quiet day, just a few fat chickens pecking around a farmyard.

Suddenly Tom and East pounce on the chickens and there is an explosion of cluckings and feathers.

TOM
Got one!

Tom struggles with the chicken.

The door of the farm house crashes open and an irate FARMER bursts out, an ancient blunderbuss in his hands.

EAST
Tom!

Tom clutches onto his prize and the two boys run off across the fields to freedom.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

The Farmer unloads his blunderbuss into the sky but the boys keep running.

CUT TO:

50 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

50

The school house is full of boys being taught by different Masters in different parts of the room.

Tom and East are struggling to pronounce their Greek as they chant with their colleagues.

Suddenly everyone stands and Tom looks around:

Doctor Arnold has come into the School House and he is not alone. The Farmer is with him.

Tom and East freeze in horror. Arnold looks very stern, very angry.

Arnold walks through the School Room with the Farmer, the Farmer looking at every boy in turn with fierce concentration.

He looks hard at East. But he's obviously not convinced and is about to move on when he catches Tom's face.

The Farmer recognises Tom and he points a finger at him.

FARMER

That be the one what stole it.

*

Arnold looks at Tom who looks bravely back at him.

ARNOLD

Go to my study, Brown.

TOM

Yes, sir.

Tom walks out of the School House, all eyes on him, his footsteps the only sound in the echoing hall.

Arnold looks at East but says nothing.

CUT TO:

51 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S STUDY - DAY

51

A nervous Tom stands in front of Arnold in the silence of his study.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD

Who was your accomplice in this crime?

TOM

No-one, sir.

ARNOLD

The farmer says there were two of you.

TOM

Just me, sir.

Tom says nothing.

ARNOLD

You stole from this man, Brown. Would you care to explain why?

TOM

Not really stole, sir.

ARNOLD

The chicken belonged to you, did it?

TOM

No, sir.

ARNOLD

Then in what way was it not stealing?

TOM

It's a prank, sir. We've always liberated the odd chicken or two, sir, it's a Rugby tradition.

Arnold looks at the boy, feels his anger rising.

ARNOLD

A Rugby tradition?

TOM

Yes, sir.

ARNOLD

You dare stand in front of me and say that stealing is a tradition?

Tom says nothing, realises he's played this completely the wrong way.

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

ARNOLD

Then it's a tradition I'd best beat
out of you, isn't? Go to the tower and
wait for me.

Tom leaves the room.

CUT TO:

52 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CANING TOWER - DAY

52

Tom Brown walks up the lonely spiral stairs of the caning tower.
He pushes a door open and there is a wooden caning stool.
Tom leans over the stool, his buttocks raised, awaits his fate.

CUT TO:

53 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY

53

A gaggle of boys - including East, Tadpole and Green - gather
and watch Arnold walk slowly across the quad towards the caning
tower.

TADPOLE

He's dead. Died for a chicken.

CUT TO:

54 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CANING TOWER - DAY

54

Tom waits.

Far below he hears the door of the tower open and close.

Arnold's footsteps ring out as he slowly ascends the spiral
stair case.

Tom breathes heavier, frightened now but determined to be
strong.

The door of the room opens and Arnold steps in.

He selects a cane from the selection. Swishes it.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

Arnold doesn't want to do this but knows he has to, moving quickly from regret to resolve. He raises the cane and hits Tom hard. *

Tom's eyes water with pain and anger and humiliation as the cane continues to whip down. *

CUT TO:

55 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - NIGHT

55

All the boys, from the smallest to the largest, are gathered in the school house for a riotous night of drinking and revelry.

Tom is the centre of attention, chewing on a chicken wing next to East. Tom is a real product of old Rugby now, scruffy and bolshy.

In The background a small, timid new boy - WESTON - is trying to sing his song, the candles burning his hands, being pelted by the other boys.

FROBISHER, HUBAND and several other members of the Sixth come in, serious-faced but barely noticed in the mayhem.

Weston falters, in tears, and is made to drink the salt water to loud cheers.

FROBISHER
Silence! Silence in here!

The other Prefects smash their sticks down for the silence which finally arrives.

FROBISHER
This afternoon I had a discussion with the Doctor when he made plain his displeasure with School House -

TOM
What about my displeasure with him!

Tom shows his buttocks to much hilarity.

FROBISHER
- and he informed me that from now on all his reforms must be met without further obstruction. There will be no more gambling in School House.

Boos from the boys.

(CONTINUED)

FROBISHER

Any boy found gambling will be reported to me and thrashed. After that he will go straight to the Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

EAST

Shame!

Tom and East's set is starting to get rowdy, fuelled by beer.

The Prefects call for silence again.

FROBISHER

There will be no more drinking of any sort. Any boy found distilling or brewing alcohol will be instantly sent down by the Doctor.

The boys start to murmur with discontent.

TOM

Can't we just wait until Christmas when the Doctor will be sent down by the trustees anyway?

Much cheering and laughter.

FROBISHER

I'd ask you not to forget who you're talking about, Brown.

TOM

The man who is destroying this school, Frobisher.

More loud cheers.

FROBISHER

(Furious, to his Prefects)
Get him out.

The Prefects wade in to remove Tom from the assembly but his friends pull him back.

There is an ugly little scrummage, a few punches are thrown, a few canes swished down on young limbs.

FROBISHER

Stop this! Stop this at once!

Mayhem in the old School House.

Flashman watches all this, fascinated, not sure which way to turn. He looks over at Frobisher, who looks really worried.

FLASHMAN

Permission to help out, Frobisher?

55

CONTINUED: (3)

55

Frobisher nods.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (4) 55

Flashman - with Speedicot, Fothergill and others of the Fifth behind him - lays into the smaller boys with his cane.

A window is broken. A boy screams out, trampled.

CUT TO:

56 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 56

Boys fight running battles in the corridors, rioting, bleeding, yelling.

CUT TO:

56A INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT 56A *

Arnold is sleeping next to Mary when the sound of the barking dog wakes them. *

MARY
What is it? *

Something crashes over at the school followed by cheers. *

Arnold hurriedly gets out of bed. *

CUT TO: *

56B INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/CORRIDOR/WINDOW - NIGHT 56B *

Arnold looks out of the window and what he sees chills him, shocks him: *

57 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - NIGHT 57

Windows burst open as objects are thrown from the school to crash to the ground below.

The retreated Frobisher, Huband and some of the prefects watch with dismay. *

Then Frobisher rallies his troops: *

FROBISHER
Come on! We must restore order! *

Frobisher starts towards the rioting school but realises the others are hanging back. *

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

FROBISHER

Come on!

*
*

Reluctantly Huband and the others run towards the school behind*
Frobisher. *

CUT TO: *

58 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S STUDY - NIGHT

58

A furious Arnold paces the floor of his study.

Frobisher stands before him, nervous, shocked, his face cut and*
bruised from the struggle. *

ARNOLD

It is under control?

FROBISHER

Yes, sir.

ARNOLD

I will not stand for it. If you cannot
control the boys in your own House
then I will.

FROBISHER

I can do it, sir.

ARNOLD

Who was the ringleader?

FROBISHER

Hard to say, sir. As you know some of
your reforms are universally disliked
by the -

(CONTINUED)

58

CONTINUED:

58

Arnold smashes his hand down on his desk making Frobisher start.

ARNOLD

(Furious)

Who was it?!

FROBISHER

Brown was a little more vocal than
some of the others, Headmaster.

ARNOLD

If there is a repeat of this shameful
behaviour I will remove you from your
position as Captain of School House.
Is that clear?

FROBISHER

Yes, sir.

CUT TO:

59

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

59

Tom walks into the great School House.

At the far end Frobisher waits for him, his cane in hand,
otherwise the place is deserted.

Tom walks cockily towards him.

TOM

Morning, Frobisher.

Without being asked, Tom spreads himself on the prefect's desk
and awaits his punishment.

CUT TO:

60

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE/CORRIDOR - DAY

60

Arnold walks sternly down the corridor that leads to the School
House, opens the doors.

Tom and East are slumped at their desks, Tom carving his name *
and East making crude drawings of football matches. They both *
stop as they see the Doctor come into the room.

FOTHERGILL is sitting up at the raised Master's desk and reading
a cheap novel.

All the boys stand up as they see Arnold.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD
Sit down, gentlemen.

FOTHERGILL
(Nervous)
Mr Smith is unwell, sir. I'm taking
the Third for Greek.

ARNOLD
I know he is unwell, I have just come
from his house.

He turns to the boys, eyes finally alighting on Tadpole.

ARNOLD
(To Tadpole)
Hall.

Tadpole leaps to his feet.

TADPOLE
Sir?

ARNOLD
I believe you have a passage of
Xenophon you have prepared. Read it to
me.

Tadpole starts to stagger badly through the passage.

ARNOLD
Stop.

Tadpole stops, hopes this is the end of it.

ARNOLD
That is not the passage you are meant
to have prepared. This is the passage.

Arnold skips further on in Tadpole's book, points.

TADPOLE
Begging your pardon, sir, but we were
not asked to prepare that far, sir.

Arnold scowls at him.

ARNOLD
You think Mr Smith and I are mistaken?

TADPOLE
Sir.

ARNOLD

Then I shall consult the note that Mr Smith wrote for me just twenty minutes ago.

There is tension in the air as Arnold takes the note from his pocket and reads.

ARNOLD

You are the one who is mistaken.

TADPOLE

Begging your pardon, sir, I am not mistaken, sir. We have all prepared -

ARNOLD

You dare contradict me?

Silence.

ARNOLD

Are you saying that Mr Smith's note is erroneous?

TADPOLE

(Puzzled)
Sir?

ARNOLD

Is the note mistaken?

TADPOLE

Yes, sir.

Arnold turns to Green.

ARNOLD

Green.

Green jumps to his feet.

ARNOLD

Run to Mr Smith's house with this note and my apologies. Ask him if he could possibly have made a mistake.

Green takes the note and hurries out of the School Room.

Arnold turns to look at the shaking Tadpole.

ARNOLD

If I find out that you have been lying
to me I will flog you, sir, to within
an inch of your life.

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED: (4)

60

Tadpole just stares ahead, close to tears.

Tom hates seeing his friend suffer, stands up.

TOM

Sir -

ARNOLD

Sit down, Brown!

Tom sits back down.

CUT TO:

61

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY

61

Green flies across the playing field of the school.

CUT TO:

62

EXT - RUGBY TOWN - DAY

62

Green sprints up the steps of a house and rings the bell.

The door opens and Green is admitted.

CUT TO:

63

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

63

Arnold walks slowly up and down the aisle of the School House, the atmosphere incredibly tense.

Tadpole stands, a picture of misery.

*

Tom watches Arnold and there is a moment when the man's eyes meet the boy's in a battle of will.

CUT TO:

64

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY

64

Green runs back across the playing fields, breathing heavily.

CUT TO:

65

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

65

The atmosphere is still tense in the School Room when Green re-enters. All eyes look to him.

(CONTINUED)

GREEN

Mr Smith says the note is correct.

There is an audible intake of breath and now all eyes turn on the unfortunate Tadpole.

ARNOLD

(To Tadpole)

Stand up.

Tadpole gets slowly to his feet.

ARNOLD

You have lied to me.

TADPOLE

No, sir.

ARNOLD

(Losing it)

Liar! Liar! Liar!

Arnold's words echo around the room, chilling the blood of the boys.

ARNOLD

Put your left hand out.

Tadpole does as he is told, his hand shaking with fear.

Arnold takes out a cane, swishes it.

ARNOLD

(Quiet)

You will never lie to me again.

Tadpole is crying before the first blow slashes across his palm.

Another. Another. Arnold seems to be in the clutches of a terrible, white-hot anger.

Six strokes. The boys expect him to stop here but he keeps on going.

East and Tom exchange an appalled look.

CUT TO:

As the sound of the cane whips down on Tadpole's hand we see a dissolving run of images:

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

An empty corridor. An empty dorm. An empty study.

CUT TO:

67 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

67

Only when the eighteenth stroke has lashed Tadpole's hand does Arnold stop.

Arnold puts his hand out to be shaken and Tadpole shakes it with his right hand.

TADPOLE

Thank you, sir.

Arnold then turns to the boys.

ARNOLD

I believe a boy's word as I would believe a man's. This is what it means.

Arnold walks out of the School Room and the boys rise to their feet.

Tom watches Arnold leave with a mixture of contempt and fear.

CUT TO:

68 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

68

The Arnold Family are dining, the atmosphere very quiet, cutlery clinking on china.

Mary looks over at Arnold, knows he is upset at what has happened.

MARY

One day, my dear, that boy will meet you again as a man and thank you for what you did today.

Arnold looks at his hand. It is still shaking.

ARNOLD

I thought if I treated them like equals they would respond as equals.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

They will, given time. Now they still think all Masters are the enemy to be lied to and tricked.

(MORE)

68

CONTINUED: (2)

68

MARY (cont'd)

When they know that what you do you do
out of love -

ARNOLD

Love? It was anger, not love.

The door opens and Sally bustles in.

SALLY

Begging your pardon, Doctor, but he
wouldn't take no for an answer.

Before Arnold can answer the question a very ill-looking Smith
comes into the room.

ARNOLD

Mr Smith. What on earth are you doing
out of bed?

SMITH

(Agitated)

I heard what happened.

ARNOLD

It's over now. The boy lied to me and
I have dealt with it. Now get yourself
back to -

SMITH

When the boy arrived at my house I was
half delirious with fever. I was
annoyed that you would call on me when
you knew I was unwell.

ARNOLD

It was important.

SMITH

I didn't look at the note correctly.
Hall was right, he prepared the
correct passage.

CUT TO:

69

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORMITORY - NIGHT

69

Tadpole lies face down on his bed, tears still streaming from
his eyes as he hiccups with sobs.

The other boys lie on their beds, listening.

Even Huband feels for Tadpole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There is a knock at the door.

(CONTINUED)

HUBAND

Come!

The door opens and Arnold appears in the dormitory.

The boys are amazed and frightened, stand up straight by their beds.

Arnold walks towards Tadpole who involuntarily flinches.

ARNOLD

I just had a discussion with Mr Smith and it does indeed appear that you were in the right and I was in the wrong.

The boys look at each other, very surprised at this development.

ARNOLD

I have written to your parents and apologised to them for what happened today. If you want to leave school in the morning and take a coach home I will understand.

TADPOLE

(Alarmed)

Sir?

ARNOLD

Personally, I very much hope you will remain at Rugby School and that we will both learn from this day and move on together.

TADPOLE

Yes, sir.

ARNOLD

It only remains for me to hope you will accept my sincere apologies.

Arnold puts his hand out to the astonished Tadpole.

Tadpole shakes his Headmaster's hand.

ARNOLD

Thank you, Hall.

Arnold looks around at Tom and the other boys.

ARNOLD

Good night, gentlemen.

69 CONTINUED: (3)

69

Arnold leaves the dormitory and shuts the door behind him.

Out on Tom's face, thoughtful and puzzled by what has just happened.

CUT TO:

70 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

70

There is a bustle of interest in the School Room as all the boys in the House draw sweepstake lots from Speedicot's hat as Flashman looks on.

Other members of the Fifth lounge languidly around, looking at betting sheets.

A large fire crackles in the great fireplace.

Tom and East are in line with the others.

SPEEDICOT

Roll up, roll up! Get your ticket for the Derby here! Tadpole, you're next.

Tadpole takes out a ticket and lets Speedicot read it.

SPEEDICOT

"The Wanderer"! Tadpole's drawn the third favourite.

Flashman takes an immediate interest in this.

FLASHMAN

What'll you sell him for?

TADPOLE

I don't want to sell.

FLASHMAN

He won't win but I want him as a hedge. I'll give you half-a-crown for him.

TADPOLE

No.

Flashman just leans in to Tadpole's face.

FLASHMAN

(Quiet)

I'm not the Doctor. I won't apologise after I've beaten you.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

Tadpole knows he's beaten, puts out his hand for the coin.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

I'll pay you later. Next!

Tadpole slinks off, dejected.

SPEEDICOT

Next. Brown.

Tom pulls out his ticket which Speedicot reads.

SPEEDICOT

"Harkaway"! Your little chum's pulled out the favourite, Flashy.

FLASHMAN

Give it to me.

Tom is quick and grabs the ticket back.

TOM

Get your own, Flashman.

FLASHMAN

You'll sell it to me, Brown.

TOM

I will not.

FLASHMAN

What have I always said? The cockiest blackguard in the House.

Flashman surveys the boys left in the School House.

FLASHMAN

You boys! Out. Now.

The boys are more than happy to escape Flashman and the other members of the Fifth.

Tom is about to leave with East but Flashman steps in front of them.

FLASHMAN

Not you, Brown.

EAST

Leave him alone, Flashman.

A nod from Flashman and several members of the Fifth grab East and throw him out of the School House and shut the door.

(CONTINUED)

Now only Tom is left with Flashman, Speedicot, Fothergill and the Fifth.

FLASHMAN

I will ask you one more time. Give me the ticket.

TOM

I will not.

Flashman smiles.

FLASHMAN

Good. Because I've been looking forward to this for some time.

Tom is puzzled, knows something is about to happen.

FLASHMAN

Roast him!

A roar goes up from the Fifth and they manhandle Tom over to the fireplace.

Tom's wrists are held against the mantelpiece and his legs are spread-eagled.

The heat is obviously intense and Tom's face starts to crease with pain.

SPEEDICOT

Best sell us the ticket, Brown.

Tom shakes his head.

FLASHMAN

Damn the ticket. I want him to burn.

Tom struggles but Flashman is determined to keep him there.

Tom's clothes start to smoke.

SPEEDICOT

(Getting concerned)

I say, Flashy, I think he's had enough.

FLASHMAN

Nonsense. You haven't had enough, have you, Brown?

Flashman takes Tom's sagging head by his hair and makes Tom shake his head.

FLASHMAN

There, you see? Let's roast his front!

70 CONTINUED: (5)

70

They go to turn Tom around and see with horror that his clothes are nearly burned right off, that his flesh is red and seared.

The Fifth drop Tom, let him crumple to the floor, as they make their escape.

END OF PART FOUR

PART FIVE

71 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MATRON'S SICK ROOM - NIGHT

71

Tom lies face down as a NURSE administers to his burnt flesh.

CUT TO:

72 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

72

Mary lies cradled in the crook of her husband's arm, both of them wide awake.

MARY

How can they be so cruel to each other?

ARNOLD

This has been a dark place for far too long and one cannot change it in a trice.

MARY

And their stupid loyalty to each other. How can you help them if they don't help themselves?

A beat.

ARNOLD

I fear I've let young Brown down.

MARY

Never.

ARNOLD

A bright boy like that. Brave and full of spirit.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD (cont'd)

And what has Rugby done to him? Turned
him into an agitator, a thief.

(MORE)

72

CONTINUED: (2)

72

ARNOLD (cont'd)

Lying on his stomach with his back
half burnt from his body.

Arnold is upset, angry with himself.

MARY

You've always liked him, haven't you?

ARNOLD

I'm going to ask his father to take
him out of the school.

MARY

Why?

ARNOLD

Because this place has poisoned him
and the poison must be cut out.

CUT TO:

73

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORM - DAY

73

*

East and Tom are stuffing the last of their belongings into
their bags..

*

*

EAST

Try and behave yourself in dull old
Berkshire.

Weston runs into the dorm.

*

WESTON

Brown, the Doctor wants to see you in
his study straight away.

Tom and East look at each other.

EAST

What have you done now?

TOM

Depends what he's found out about.
I'll see you next term.

The boys shake hands, incredibly good friends now, and Tom heads
off to the Headmaster's study with trepidation.

*

CUT TO:

74

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S STUDY - DAY

74

Tom knocks on the open door of Arnold's study and edges in.

ARNOLD

Brown. I'd like you to give this to
your father.

Tom takes an envelope from Arnold.

ARNOLD

It's a letter outlining your behaviour
since you have been at Rugby School.

TOM

(Appalled)

Am I being sent down, sir?

ARNOLD

Give the letter to your father.

TOM

Sir.

CUT TO:

75

EXT - RUGBY/TAVERN - DAY

75

Tom sits thoughtfully atop the coach as it readies itself for
departure, the letter clutched in his nervous hand.

The coach clatters away.

Flashman looks out over the street, then pulls the curtains
shut.

CUT TO:

76

INT - RUGBY/TAVERN/BEDROOM - DAY

76

In a room above a tavern Sally is admiring a ring Flashman has
given her.

SALLY

What did your parents say?

FLASHMAN

Their shouts of joy echoed around the
estate.

(CONTINUED)

SALLY
(Overwhelmed)
Flashy.

FLASHMAN
So now am I entitled to my pound of
flesh, wife-as-almost-is?

Sally doesn't understand the reference.

FLASHMAN
My reward, sweet girl.

SALLY
(Flirty)
A kiss, you mean?

FLASHMAN
Sort of a kiss, yes. Put your hands on
the bedstead.

SALLY
What for?

FLASHMAN
Just do it.

Sally turns and does what she is told.

Flashman lifts her skirt with his cane to reveal her buttocks.

FLASHMAN
Oh my. Rather more than a pound.

Flashman unbuttons his breeches.

CUT TO:

Squire Brown is finishing Arnold's letter as Tom stands and
looks on, nervous.

SQUIRE
Are you so very unhappy there that you
behave like this?

TOM
No, father.

SQUIRE
Stealing, lying, fighting.

(CONTINUED)

TOM

I don't think Doctor Arnold likes me, father. He is bringing in such changes to the old place you'd barely recognise it. Why, only the other day -

SQUIRE

The only reason I sent you there was because I had hoped the Doctor would stop the rot in an institution I once loved very much. Now I read that you have fought him and his reforms at every stage.

Tom says nothing.

SQUIRE

You say the Doctor does not like you?

The Squire reads the letter out loud.

SQUIRE

"I believe your son has all the potential qualities that a Rugby man should have. Great courage; decency of instinct; fairness; thoughtfulness. I sincerely hope you feel it in your heart to send him back to us".

The Squire lets the Doctor's words work on Tom.

SQUIRE

Last chance, Thomas.

CUT TO:

Another term is about to start at Rugby School and there is the usual chaos of arriving coaches, boys, parents and luggage.

The rugby posts have gone and cricket stumps have been pushed into the green turf.

Arnold - with Spot at his side - walks across the playing fields, Lampard at his side. Arnold seems to have a new energy and optimism on the first day of term.

(CONTINUED)

LAMPARD

It is preposterous! You want me to live in the school? Actually, in the school?

ARNOLD

Actually in the school, yes.

LAMPARD

I am senior master here and I won't do it! Is it not enough that I give the wretched boys my every waking hour as it is?

ARNOLD

No, Mr Lampard, it is not enough.

LAMPARD

Then I shall have no alternative than to hand in my resignation.

An upper window in Arnold's house opens and Mary leans out.

MARY

He's here.

Arnold nods, pleased.

ARNOLD

If you'll excuse me.

Arnold starts to walk away then remembers:

ARNOLD

Oh, Mr Lampard. I accept your resignation.

Lampard is astonished.

CUT TO:

Tom knocks on the open door and enters Arnold's study.

Mary Arnold is pouring tea, cutting cake.

Arnold is there, standing next to a skinny, odd-looking, boy of around eleven.

(CONTINUED)

ARNOLD

There you are, Brown. I trust you left
your father and mother well?

TOM

Very, sir.

ARNOLD

I'd like you to meet George Arthur.

Tom shakes the boy's hand robustly. He gets a thin, damp hand in return.

MARY

I believe that matron has put him in the bed next to yours.

TOM

That's East's bed.

MARY

Arthur has never been away from home before and I assured his mother that he would be well looked after.

Tom has a lurching feeling in his stomach.

TOM

By me, ma'am?

ARNOLD

How very kind of you, Brown, I thought sure that would be your attitude. A word.

Arnold gestures for him to come over to the window so that they can speak with some privacy.

ARNOLD

It does not seem so very long ago that we were both new here, does it?

They both look down at the arriving schoolboys below.

TOM

No, sir.

ARNOLD

I remember it as a rather harsh, frightening place. Arthur's father has recently died. He has no brothers, just a sister. I suspect he does not quite have your robust physical constitution.

Tom looks at the spindly boy.

ARNOLD

Look after him. Do you think you can do that?

TOM

Yes, sir.

ARNOLD

Then I suspect we have an understanding.

TOM

(Not entirely happy)

Yes, sir.

CUT TO:

Tom, East, Tadpole, Green etc are undressing for bed.

Arthur is half-undressed, but staring at the other boys.

ARTHUR

Tom?

TOM

What?

ARTHUR

Where do I undress?

TOM

(Hissing)

Here, stupid.

East is not happy about his new bed by the window.

EAST

Why does he have to have my bed?

TOM

Because Mrs Arnold said so.

Tom is pulling his shirt over his head so does not at first see what the others see: George Arthur is on his knees by his bed.

ARTHUR

"Our Father which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come."

(CONTINUED)

The first boot hits Arthur on the back of the head.

80

CONTINUED: (2)

80

There are jeers and more shoes from the other boys.

ARTHUR

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread."

Tom feels for Arthur but more than anything he doesn't want to
lose face in front of his fellows.

TOM

Go to bed, Arthur.

Arthur hesitates. The shoes and jeers rain down on him.

ARTHUR

"And forgive us our trespasses, as we
forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation. But
deliver us from evil. Amen."

Arthur scampers into bed and pulls up his blanket.

Tom says nothing. Blows out the candle.

CUT TO:

81

INT - RUGBY/TAVERN - NIGHT

81

Flashman, Speedicot and others are roistering in the local
tavern, both of them bouncing PROSTITUTES on their knees.

Bill comes into the tavern, walks over to Flashman.

BILL

A word, please, Mr Flashman.

SPEEDICOT

Hello, Bill! Have a drink.

FLASHMAN

Have a woman, Bill. I'll pay.

Speedicot and Flashman laugh.

BILL

A word, please, sir.

To Flashman's surprise Bill takes him by the hand and drags him
away from Speedicot.

(CONTINUED)

BILL

You'll marry her, Mr Flashman, of course.

FLASHMAN

Marry whom?

BILL

Sally.

FLASHMAN

Sally? Why on earth would I want to marry Sally? No offence and all that but... Sally?

BILL

I think you know why, Mr Flashman.

FLASHMAN

Nothing that Sally says could be of the remotest interest to me, Bill. Now if you don't mind I'd rather like to rejoin my -

BILL

I'll go to the Doctor, you see if I don't.

Flashman just looks at Bill. Then bursts into laughter.

FLASHMAN

Do you really think he would believe the word of the town slattern over that of an English gentleman?

Bill strikes out at Flashman but before he can do any damage he is wrestled to the floor by Speedicot and others.

FLASHMAN

I own the Doctor, Bill. Didn't you know that?

Flashman kicks the helpless Bill in the stomach.

CUT TO:

A cricket match is in progress, East bowling and Tom cajoling his team mates.

TOM

Come on, boys, last wicket!

The tension in the pavilion is tense as the batting team look on.

(CONTINUED)

East bowls and the batsman hits high up into the summer sky.

EAST

Catch it!

Tom sees that the fielder nearest the ball is Arthur but he's not even following the game, he's standing in the outfield reading Greek.

TOM

Arthur! Catch!

Startled by Tom's voice, Arthur looks up.

ARTHUR

Sorry, Brown?

The ball lands on the grass.

There is a shocked silence.

ARTHUR

Do you want your ball?

Then the victorious batting team start to laugh, pointing at Arthur.

East is beside himself with fury. He starts to run over towards Arthur but is rugby-tackled by Tom before he can get there.

Arthur returns to his book, oblivious.

CUT TO:

A very cocky Flashman is standing in front of Arnold.

ARNOLD

Is it true? The woman is with child.

FLASHMAN

(Laughs)

The girl flips onto her back for a penny, Headmaster. Why, half the men in town have -

ARNOLD

I am not asking about them, sir, I am asking about you. Have you lain with this young woman?

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

(Amused)

Lain, sir?

ARNOLD

Is there something amusing in this squalid circumstance? I fail to see it.

FLASHMAN

No, sir. Not lain. I don't know who the poor sprog's father is but it ain't me.

Arnold knows there is little he can do.

ARNOLD

You give me your word as a Christian and a gentleman?

FLASHMAN

Absolutely, sir.

A beat.

ARNOLD

I will be watching you, Mr Flashman.

FLASHMAN

Will you, sir? Oh and pater said to say that the gymnasium equipment will be with us soon, sir. Will that be all?

Arnold nods.

Flashman smiles and leaves the study.

CUT TO:

Tom and Arthur are in separate baths, the water dirty and scummy.

TOM

You have to start learning the Rugby ways, Arthur, or your time here is going to be short and unpleasant.

ARTHUR

Do you miss your parents, Tom?

(CONTINUED)

TOM
(Appalled, looking around)
There you again! Will you stop saying
things like that?

Arthur shrugs, serene.

TOM

You have to stand up for yourself. Be a man.

ARTHUR

Like you?

TOM

I can't watch your back for ever.

ARTHUR

It would be a dull old World if we all had to be the same, wouldn't it, Tom?

TOM

If a fellow hits you, hit him back.

ARTHUR

I don't believe in violence.

TOM

(Exasperated)

Of course you believe in violence! You're British. Look, there's nothing to be afraid of -

ARTHUR

I'm not afraid of anything, Tom.

Huband appears in the washroom.

HUBAND

Out, Brown, stop fermenting in your own filth. And you, Arthur.

(Shouts)

Next!

A couple of boys in dressing-gowns present themselves for the next use of the dirty water.

Huband leaves.

TOM

(Warning)

You're a very strange fellow, Arthur, and strangeness doesn't flourish here.

CUT TO:

85

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MAIN GATES - NIGHT

85

Sound of a carriage shuddering by.

Bill is locking up the main gates of the school, waves up at the coachman.

He notices a bundle on the ground.

Bill walks over and realises it is a person. He pulls back the hood to realise with horror that it is Sally, her face white, her eyes closed.

BILL

Sally?

CUT TO:

86

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MATRON'S SICK ROOM - NIGHT

86

Matron gently cleans her daughter's unconscious face as the very worried Bill looks on.

Arnold is huddled just outside the sick room with Mary. *

ARNOLD

(Shocked)

An abortion? *

Mary nods, angry and upset. *

ARNOLD

And Sally? *

MARY

She's lost a lot of blood but she'll live. *

ARNOLD

Who paid for it? *

MARY

(Angry)

Who do you think? *

Arnold looks in at the sad sight. *

MARY

(Pointed)

This is monstrous and something must be done about it. *

(CONTINUED)

86

CONTINUED:

86

Mary walks by Arnold to help with Sally.

CUT TO:

87

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

87

Smith is listening to Arthur as he construes from the Iliad, really enjoying the boy's clarity and rhythm.

East is drawing scenes of football, Tom watching Arthur with baffled respect.

ARTHUR

(Reading)

"Thus did he pray, and Apollo heard his prayer. He came down furious from the summits of Olympus, with his bow and his quiver upon his shoulder, and the arrows rattled on his back with the rage that trembled within him."

To everyone's amazement Arthur stands up and starts playing out the scenes as he speaks.

The boys have never seen their lessons "come to life" like this and one-by-one start to wake up and laugh at Arthur's antics.

East just shakes his head: weird boy.

Tom starts to enjoy the theatrical performance, for the first time sees a glimpse of popularity in Arthur.

ARTHUR

"His silver bow rang death as he shot his arrow in the midst of them. First he smote their mules and their hounds, but presently he aimed his shafts at the people themselves, and all day long the pyres of the dead were burning."

*

Arthur sits down with a theatrical gesture.

SMITH

(Amused)

If you're quite finished, Arthur.

ARTHUR

Quite, sir.

CUT TO:

88

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORMITORY - NIGHT

88

Arthur is at his bed, praying, as he does every night.

East thinks it is hilarious to thrash Arthur on the backside with his shoe.

Tom comes in to the dorm, sees what is happening, takes the shoe from East and promptly throws it out of the window.

All the boys laugh, pointing at East rather than Arthur.

CUT TO:

89

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CORRIDOR - DAY

89

*

Some "stumps" have been chalked on a door and East is bowling to Tom. *

EAST

He's weird, that's all there is to it.

TOM

He's a bit... different.

EAST

He should be in an asylum not a school.

TOM

It would be a dull old World if we all had to be the same, wouldn't it?

To East's irritation Tom whacks the cricket ball back hard, making him duck. *

*

CUT TO:

90

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

90

There is a murmur of noise as boys read on their own or chat together.

Arthur is on his own, ensconced in Ovid.

Flashman and Speedicot come into the school house and stand at the master's desk.

Flashman takes a letter out of his pocket with a flourish.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

FLASHMAN

(Reading)

"My dearest, dearest Mama..."

Boys look up at this, sense some fun and cruelty in the air.

Arthur continues to study, oblivious.

FLASHMAN

(Reading)

"I won't pretend that every moment of my life at Rugby has been a happy one but I believe there are some shards of sunshine in the darkness.."

Much laughter from the boys.

FLASHMAN

(Reading)

"That sunshine has a name, Mama. It is Tom Brown".

Howls of laughter from the boys now.

Arthur looks up, knows that Flashman has intercepted his letter home to his mother.

Tadpole looks over at Arthur, knows he is in trouble.

CUT TO: *

91 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CORRIDOR - DAY**

91 *

East and Tom are looking for the cricket ball in the doorways off the corridor. *

TOM *

Got it? *

EAST *

No. *

CUT TO:

92 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY**

92

Flashman continues to read from the letter as Arthur, jeered at and reviled, tries to maintain his dignity.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

(Reading)

"Doctor Arnold has 'cast off the work
of darkness and let us put on the
armour of light' ".

(CONTINUED)

SPEEDICOT

You mean by destroying our school, you little scud?

FLASHMAN

(Reading)

"I think he means to make it a more diverse place, where all sorts of flowers will be able to bloom".

Flashman walks towards Arthur who looks around for his friends.

SPEEDICOT

What shall we do with the little flower, Flashy?

FLASHMAN

What do we do with flowers? We water them!

Tadpole slips out.

CUT TO:

Tom holds up the ball.

TOM

Found it!

EAST

Don't do it again.

Tom sees Tadpole panting into the corridor, knows instantly that something is wrong.

EAST

What is it, Tadpole?

TADPOLE

Flashman's got Arthur.

END OF PART FIVE

*

PART SIX

*

The cover is being wheeled from the old well.

Arthur is trussed up in rope, his arms pinned to his side.

FLASHMAN

If he doesn't drown he's guilty of treason to Rugby School. If he does.... then we're all most frightfully sorry.

Flashman gives a signal and Arthur is lowered down into the dark, cold well.

Boys rush to look over the rim of the well, peering into the darkness.

A beat then a splashing noise.

SPEEDICOT

I think he's in the water, Flashy.

FLASHMAN

Then give the chap a good dunk.

They jerk the rope up and down and we can hear splashing noises.

SPEEDICOT

Bring him up.

FLASHMAN

One more. For luck.

Again they jerk the rope up and down.

Tom and East come running around the corner.

TOM

Bring him up, you cowards!

The Boys look instantly guilty, start to haul Arthur up.

FLASHMAN

Look who it is, the shard of light in our miserable lives.

TOM

You're a brute, Flashman.

Arthur is pulled up, chattering with cold.

Tom and East go to him at once, concerned.

TOM

Are you alright?

Speedicot makes kissing noises.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

Would you like me to buy you a woman,
Brown? Then you wouldn't have to go
sniffing around little boys.

Tom turns and looks at Flashman, eyes sparkling with anger.

TOM

I've had enough of you, Flashman.

FLASHMAN

What are you going to do? Shine on me?

TOM

I'm going to beat you. Will you fight?

A frisson of surprise and excitement goes around the boys.

FLASHMAN

Fight with you?

TOM

Are you man enough?

FLASHMAN

I'm in the Fifth, I don't fight fleas
like you.

TOM

So you're a coward as well as a brute?

SPEEDICOT

Fight him, Flashy, if that's what he
wants.

Flashman hates being put into this position, feels the eyes of
his friends on him.

FLASHMAN

I'm going to kill you, Brown.

A great cheer goes up. Fight! Boys run to tell their friends.

ARTHUR

I don't want you to do this.

TOM

He's had it coming to him.

CUT TO:

97 CONTINUED:

97

A very unhappy Arthur peels off his jacket. He is sodden, his teeth chattering with cold.

CUT TO:

98 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/QUAD - DAY

98

Arnold is walking across the quad when he hears the shouts of the boys at the fight.

He steps back, careful not to be seen.

CUT TO:

99 EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CHAPEL - DAY

99

The fight is in full swing, blood pouring from both Tom and Flashman's faces.

The boys are cheering and clapping.

EAST

Go on, Tom!

SPEEDICOT

Finish him off, Flashy!

The youngsters are really getting behind Tom now, their hero pummelling the larger, out-of-condition Flashman.

Tom ducks inside a punch from the tiring Flashman and belts him on the nose, blood spraying everywhere.

SPEEDICOT

Time!

EAST

(Outraged)

No, it's not!

Flashman staggers back to Speedicot and his corner, his dandy clothes spattered in blood.

EAST

You've got him, Tom! He's blowing like a whale. Just don't be in a hurry, wait for your opening.

Tom nods, spits out his water, pink with his own blood.

Flashman is in a bad way and doesn't fancy much more.

(CONTINUED)

99

CONTINUED:

99

FLASHMAN
(Whispering, to Speedicot)
The dusters.

Speedicot looks around, very wary of anyone overhearing.

SPEEDICOT
You've got him, Flashy.

FLASHMAN
(Hissing)
Give me them.

Speedicot surreptitiously slips some large, brass knuckle-dusters into Flashman's hand.

SPEEDICOT
Time!

Tom and Flashman stand up.

CUT TO:

100

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/QUAD - DAY

100

Arnold watches the fight as Frobisher hurries across the quad.

FROBISHER
Brown and Flashman are fighting, sir.

ARNOLD
So I see. Do you know why?

FROBISHER
Something to do with young Arthur,
sir. You know, the new boy. Shall I go
and stop it, sir?

A beat as Arnold considers.

ARNOLD
No.

Frobisher is taken aback by Arnold's answer.

CUT TO:

101

EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CHAPEL - DAY

101

The boys cheer Tom on as his punches force Flashman back and back.

(CONTINUED)

SPEEDICOT
Hit him back, Flashy!

EAST
He's yours, Tom!

Flashman slips his hand into his pocket and comes out with the knuckle-dusters slipped onto his fist.

He smacks Tom in the face and the brass cuts into Tom's startled forehead.

East is alarmed.

EAST
Tom?

Now Flashman has the advantage and a flurry of right-hooks send the brass slamming into Tom's face, blood bursting everywhere.

Tom's legs wobble and he goes down.

East is quickly at his side, not noticing Flashman slipping the knuckle-dusters into his pocket.

EAST
Are you alright, Tom? Tom?

Tom is barely conscious.

CUT TO:

Arnold has seen what has happened, watches with concern as the younger boys crowd around Tom.

Suddenly Flashman turns around and runs and kicks Tom in the stomach.

The knuckledusters slip from his hand and clatter onto the cobbles. *

All the boys look at them, appalled, then up at Flashman's face *

FLASHMAN
All's fair in love and war. *

East is outraged and goes for Flashman but Tadpole and Green hold him back. *

CUT TO:

103

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORMITORY - DAY

103

Arthur is shivering in his underwear.

He suddenly collapses.

CUT TO:

104 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - NIGHT** 104

The great trees sway in the wind.
The school is dark, silent, sombre.

CUT TO:

105 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/DORMITORY - NIGHT** 105

Silence in the dormitory.
The boys are all in bed, the candle on.
Tom is wide awake, turns on his back to look at Arthur's empty bed.
Smith comes into the room to extinguish the light.

SMITH
Good night, boys.

TOM
Any news, sir?

SMITH
Not yet. Good night.

BOYS
Good night, sir.

Smith blows out the light.

CUT TO:

106 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MATRON'S SICK ROOM - NIGHT** 106

Arthur is unconscious in the sick room.
Matron makes the boy comfortable as a very worried Doctor takes his temperature again.

CUT TO:

107 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S STUDY - NIGHT** 107

Arnold stands in front of Flashman.

(CONTINUED)

FLASHMAN

Brown is an uppity little cad and he
had it coming to him.

ARNOLD

You are a coward and a bully,
Flashman. I am going to do now what I
should have done a long time ago.

FLASHMAN

If you cane me, sir, my father will
hear about it.

ARNOLD

I won't be caning you.

Flashman looks relieved at this.

ARNOLD

Go to your dormitory, pack a bag and
leave the school at once. The rest of
your belongings will be sent on.

Flashman is shocked to the core by this.

FLASHMAN

(Angry)

Have you any idea who I am, sir?

Arnold looks Flashman steadily, contemptuously in the eye.

ARNOLD

I know exactly who you are, sir. Get
out.

CUT TO:

Bill opens the main gate of the school to let Flashman out.

FLASHMAN

Lovely night, Bill.

Flashman walks cockily away from the school, trying to show he
doesn't care, his bag in his hand.

Suddenly he is pelted with mud and rotten eggs as dozens of
small, bullied boys break cover and attack Flashman.

Flashman covers his face, frightened.

The boys race back through the gate and into the safety of the
school, leaving Flashman dirty and bedraggled.

Bill locks the gate.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

BILL

Lovely night, Mr Flashman.

Flashman looks back to see Tom Brown looking at him from the darkness of the school walls.

Tom looks directly into Flashman's eyes, staring him out, until Flashman breaks off and skulks away down the street. *

CUT TO:

109 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MATRON'S SICK ROOM - NIGHT

109

Tom lowers himself quietly into the room, creeps over to Arthur's bed.

TOM

(Gentle)

Arthur. Arthur.

Arthur stirs.

TOM

It's me, Arthur. Tom. How are you? You gave us fellows a hell of a shock with your fainting tactic.

ARTHUR

Did he hurt you?

TOM

Flashman? Not a bit.

A shiver seems to wrack Arthur's body, alarming Tom.

TOM

Arthur?

Arthur seems to slip off into a deep sleep.

TOM

(Alarmed)

Arthur?

Arnold is standing in the room, has watched some of this.

ARNOLD

Let him sleep now.

Tom jumps to his feet, had no idea Arnold was there.

(CONTINUED)

TOM
Will he be alright, sir?

109

CONTINUED: (2)

109

ARNOLD

Only God can answer that. All we can do is pray for him.

TOM

It's all my fault.

ARNOLD

Your fault?

TOM

I was meant to be looking after him! They put him down the well and -

ARNOLD

It's not your fault, Brown. It appears Arthur had a medical condition that preceded his time here.

Tom turns to look at Arthur.

TOM

He will get better. I know he will.

ARNOLD

Go back to your dormitory.

CUT TO:

110

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/SCHOOL HOUSE - DAY

110

Tom, East, Tadpole, Green and the others are all sat in their desks.

Smith is at the master's table, declaiming Greek to the distracted boys.

Tom looks over at Arthur's empty seat.

Little Weston comes into the School House with a note and every boy watches him walk up to Smith with trepidation.

Smith takes the note and reads it.

SMITH

Brown. The Headmaster would like to see you in his house.

CUT TO:

111

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/ARNOLD'S HOUSE/STUDY - DAY

111

Tom lets himself into the Arnold's drawing room.

Arnold and Mary are both there, turn to look at him.

ARNOLD
Come in, Brown.

Tom notices that there is another woman in the room, young and very beautiful. She looks tired but her eyes watch Tom come into the room with great interest. This is FRANCES, Arthur's mother.

At her side is a very pretty girl of about his age.

ARNOLD
This is Arthur's mother and his sister, Charlotte.

Frances puts her hand out to Tom.

FRANCES
I believe that Charlotte and myself owe you a great debt of gratitude for looking after our dear boy these last weeks.

Arnold and Mary exchange a glance of pride at this.

TOM
Is he better, ma'am?

FRANCES
A little. He's asking for you.

Tom looks at Arnold and Arnold nods.

ARNOLD
Just for a while, we must not tire him.

Tom is excited, about to leave.

FRANCES
Thank you again, Tom. From both of us.

Charlotte flashes Tom a look.

CUT TO:

112

INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/MATRON'S SICK ROOM - DAY

112

Tom sits next to Arthur's bed.

TOM

I don't know where they'll bat me but
at least I'm in the team.

ARTHUR

You're the best bat in School House,
you should go in first.

Tom smiles at this.

ARTHUR

Did you like my mother, Tom?

TOM

Very much.

ARTHUR

And Charlotte? Did you like her?

Tom nods.

ARTHUR

If anything should happen to me will
you promise that you will look after
them? You're very good at that.

TOM

Nothing's going to happen to you,
stupid. Don't talk that way.

ARTHUR

I'm not afraid of dying.

TOM

Arthur -

ARTHUR

I'm not afraid of my friends dying,
either. Because one day we will all
die and be together for ever.

Arthur is feverish, mumbling.

ARTHUR

I had this dream, Tom. A river. Green
fields. Everyone I have ever known was
there. You and Harry -

(CONTINUED)

TOM
(Changing subject)
Did you hear Flashman got sent down?

ARTHUR
Even Flashman. He was there. Even
Flashman. And the Doctor. And mother
and Charlotte. And my father. Everyone
we have ever known will be there.

Tom is uncomfortable and out of his depth.

Matron comes in to the sick room.

MATRON
That's enough now Brown.

Tom nods and she leaves them.

TOM
I have to go, Arthur. I'll come back
as soon as they let me.

Arthur's hand finds Tom's.

ARTHUR
Will you do something for me, Tom?

TOM
Anything, you know that.

CUT TO:

The boys are getting ready for bed, talking quietly, not their
normal rowdy selves.

Tom is lying in his bed, agitated.

He gets up, drops to his knees by his bed and prayers.

TOM
(Praying)
"Our Father which art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come."

East and Tadpole and the others look on, astonished, at the
sight of Tom Brown praying.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

TOM

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread."

East kneels down next to Tom and joins him in prayer. No-one jeers, no-one throws shoes.

TOM

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

EAST

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

East stops praying, looks at his friend whose eyes are still clenched tight.

TOM

Please, Lord. Please let George Arthur live.

One by the one the boys get under their blankets, the mood sombre and serious.

CUT TO:

114 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/PLAYING FIELD/PAVILION - DAY**

114

Tom is getting changed for cricket with other boys from School House.

East looks over at his friend, concerned.

Tom seems distracted, not his usual rumbustious self.

All the boys stand as Arnold comes into the pavilion. He addresses them all but his words are really for Tom.

ARNOLD

I thought you would like to know that I have just spoken to the Doctor and Arthur is sat up in bed and eating a hearty breakfast.

This is indeed good news and Tom breaks into a smile.

ARNOLD

Enjoy the game, gentlemen.

CUT TO:

EAST

I'm thinking duck, duck you fool and
he whacks it over square leg like he
was swatting a fly!

The laughter stops as Doctor Arnold comes into the room and they
all stand.

Tom and East look at each other, have never seen Arnold here at
a meal time.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (2)

117

ARNOLD

It is my sad duty to tell you that
George Arthur of Rugby School died
this afternoon.

The shock is rigid on the boys' faces.

Tom can't believe it, just stares at Arnold.

ARNOLD

He will be buried in the chapel. I
wish...

Arnold would like to say more but he can't find the words.

He turns and leaves the room, closing the door behind him.

A shocked, stunned beat.

Then Thomas Brown - brave, fearless Tom - starts to cry like a
baby, his sobs echoing in the great School House.

East puts his arm around his friend, fiercely loyal, daring
anyone to say anything.

But the boys are paralysed with grief and dread.

CUT TO:

118 INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/TOM'S STUDY - NIGHT

118

Tom stands alone in his study, his face ashen, drained.

A beat.

Then he starts to destroy the study in a fury of anger and hurt.

The door opens and Arnold is standing there.

His eyes quickly take in the situation but he says nothing.

ARNOLD

Will you forget Arthur?

TOM

(Fierce)

Never, sir.

ARNOLD

Nor shall I. Nor shall any one of us
who met him and was touched by him.

(CONTINUED)

118

CONTINUED:

118

Tom nods, trying to understand.

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED: (2)

118

ARNOLD

Be strong tomorrow. Arthur would expect it of you and the school will need it of you.

Tom nods, very touched by this faith in him.

Arnold goes to leave.

TOM

Good night, sir.

ARNOLD

Good night. Tom.

Tom and Arnold look at each other with a great mutual respect.

Arnold leaves Tom's study.

CUT TO:

119 **INT - RUGBY SCHOOL/CHAPEL - DAY**

119

The chapel is full to bursting with every boy and Master in the school.

Arnold is at his lectern.

Frances and Charlotte sit at the front of the chapel.

The school hymn is being sung.

Tom and East, Tadpole and Green, carry the coffin into the chapel.

Tom Brown looks at Doctor Arnold and a look of deep understanding exists between man and boy.

Tom sings with gusto and strength, inspiring his friends.

CUT TO:

120 **EXT - RUGBY SCHOOL - DAY**

120

The grounds are deserted, every boy and master in the chapel.

The sound of the school hymn drifts in the breeze.

(CONTINUED)

THE END