

**characters** (also doublin as their younger selves in care together)

**dee.** male. thirty. stocky build. from newcastle

**mol.** male. thirty. skinny build. from leeds

dedicated to memories ov theatre director & friend jackie fielding

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*top ov dove crags, lake district, 2007*

*mol an dee are climbin out above mist into bright sunshine. cloud base 200 feet below,  
only wee islands ov mountains showing - the views spectacular*

*dee / mol enter to the sounds ov wind an ravens*

**mol** this view! jes!

*mol whistles in delight*

**dee** top ov dove crags is beyond words. yeah mol?

**mol** yr right dee, its way beyond

**dee** these fells are spectacular

**mol** if only for a wee while

**dee** how many times have i climbed thru mist - weekends off - then  
out an above all?

**mol** wantin to believe in this moment but ...

**dee** this jewel ov mountain in a sea ov swirlin, / skirlin mist

**mol** / moved, movin on

**dee** mountain tops are the ultimate

**mol** ... still no end in ...

**dee** this is the ultimate, yeah?  
**mol** always the past houndin ... down all our years  
**dee** yu've finished movin on  
**mol** cant answer that dee  
**dee** stay in one place mol  
**mol** perhaps dee, perhaps  
**dee** crash at mine as long as yu like. here - keys!

*dee gives mol a set ov keys to his council flat*

**mol** we'll keep 'em safe  
**dee** yr home finally  
**mol** home died a long time ago ... startin with that bloody childrens  
**dee** where it all kicked off for us eh?  
**mol** finishin us off's more like  
**dee** to be sharin this moment with yu after all  
**mol** show us how to stay this time dee  
**dee** mol-man yu only have to ask  
**mol** we're askin dee, we're askin  
**dee** do anythin for yu  
**mol** close eyes an all we sees endless roads-rails- sea lanes  
**dee** startin with that famous runner yrs?

**mol** other time we climbed dove crags yu mean  
**dee** real brave returnin here considerin  
**mol** wz yu dragged us clear across england the-day  
**dee** fallin off this mountain-top like that  
**mol** fifteen year  
**dee** broke me heart yu did  
**mol** half a lifetime ago!  
**dee** aches like yesterday

**(lyrics/music carter u.s.m. - *falling on a bruise*)**

**mol** (*singin*) *yu win some and yu lose some*

**dee** (*joinin singin*) *and i've lost the will to lose*

*with my part-time job*

*and my faith in god*

*falling on a bruise*

**dee** (*spoken*) how does this song end again mol?

**mol** (*singin*) *some yu win and some yu lose*

*i've spent my whole lifetime*

*falling on a bruise and if i had*

*the chance to do it all again*

*... i'd change everything*

**dee** (*spoken*) so change everythin  
**mol** never knew mountains could look this magical dee  
**dee** climbin out above the mist, golden sun burnin off the grey! this is the  
lindisfarne gospels  
**mol** yr hand on bible down law-courts the mornin  
**dee** never thought i'd see yu again mol, no till todays courtroom  
**mol** had to see yu again dee  
**dee** hard to believe we're both standin here hours later  
**mol** yu wz in our past ... had to be in future too  
**dee** an folks always said i wz the optimist

*silence*

**mol** yu wz amazin ... the witness box ... we mean  
**dee** fifteen year i've spent tryin to get folks to listen  
**mol** but what if courts dont believe?  
**dee** twenty witnesses lined up, they will hear all our voices  
**mol** that ... that ... that

*mol spits*

**dee** bryants. chris bryants  
**mol** in public gallery this mornin an yu in witness box nailin bryants  
**dee** nailin his coffin lid down  
**mol** yu wz hundred foot tall  
**dee** lookin up i saw a ghost, mol ... a ghost that's aged  
**mol** we've both aged  
**dee** half a lifetime  
**mol** could never-ov done what yu ... jes lookin, thinkin on him ...  
makes us, (*tailin off*) makes us, makes us

*mol blanks out, motionless, rememberin*

*dee drops rucksack, goes over to mol an shakes him - then more urgently*

*mol lost in the past, slaps his head repeatedly*

*dee grabs mols wrists*

*they struggle*

**dee** mol-man!  
**mol** don't bloody trap our hands!  
**dee** its dee  
**mol** yr hands off right now!  
**dee** safe!

**mol** kill. yu!

**dee** mol-man yr safe!

*mol fights dee off*

*dee manages eventually to restrain mol*

*at last mol softens*

*dee releases mol*

*mol rubs repeatedly where dee restrained his wrists, 'cleanin' the skin*

**dee** lost yu there

*silence as mol continues 'cleanin' the skin*

**dee** yu went berserk

*mol now becomes aware ov his surroundins*

**dee** wild yu were

**mol** (*pointin*) feel like mist there

**dee** yu went wild

**mol** ghost

**dee** won't hurt yu

**mol** don't recall what

**dee** wont. ever. hurt. yu

**mol** don't ... recall

**dee** never meant to hurt yu, sorry

*dee holds out his hand for mol to shake*

**mol** things we're no used to ... things we'll never be used to

*mol doesn't shake*

**dee** we've rest this evenin up here on dove crags so take yr time yeah?

*dee puts down his unshaken hand*

*dee unpacks two sweaters from his rucksack*

*he takes one across to mol an offers it to him to put on as*

**dee** sweated a fair bit that climb so pull this on, take the chill off now we've  
stopped yeah? skinny malinky, yu'll fit

**mol** be lost inside

**dee** yr no cheekin me mol?

**mol** darent!

**dee** these mountains most weekends, jes don't burn off the calories the way  
yu always seemed to

**mol** relax dee, were no criticizin

**dee** yr no?

**mol** always tried standin up for yu when bryants picked on yu piggin out  
then pukin up back in that home

*dee an mol put on their respective sweaters*

**dee** on a clear day an yu'll (*pointin north*) see right into scotland, down to  
(*pointin south*) morecambe bay

**mol** cement works an power stations

**dee** yu remember?

**mol** can never forget

**dee** yu won

**mol** call this winnin?

**dee** world knows his crimes while yu? yu survived!

**mol** but survivins jes the past, his ... grindin on

**dee** yu gotta move on

**mol** spent our whole life movin on

**dee** mol, yu've spent a whole life runnin

**mol** couldn't expect us to stay ... had to run ... those terrors, mean ...

**dee** move yr life on no jes keep movin on

**mol** ... feel so ... felt so ...

**dee** movin on might mean makin some stillness yeah?

**mol** ... so damn ...

**dee** stay in one place, with me

**mol** such itchy feet. ... bryants bein nailed by yu, dee, yu ... me own eyes ...

**dee** he'll get a long sentence

**mol** no long enough!

**dee** no-ones goin in fear ov him again

**mol** he deserves to die behind bars

**dee** there'll be cheerin outside law-courts down newcastles quayside when  
he is sentenced, yu'll see

**mol** cheers to yu dee

**dee** yu an me both

**mol** had to be sure. make sure. see him in the dock ...

**dee** catchin yr arm outside courts

**mol** yu draggin us clear across england to re-climb this fateful fell

**dee** promised i'd race for the fells to clear head once i'd done my duty, given  
evidence, rucksack wz packed. surprised to be able to bring yu along,  
climb dove crags for the second time. given it a wide birth until now

**mol** how many hours since we left newcastles law courts?

**dee** get it all out, let it all out yeah? todays longest day the year

*dee looks thru his rucksack an rustles crisp packets*

**mol** salt an vinegars?

*dee tosses mol a pack ov salt an vinegar crisps*

*now dee produces cheese an onion for himself*

**dee** some things never change eh?

**mol** but yu reckon mebbes after today ...

**dee** salami sandwiches - plain chocolate - mocha matarri coffee

**mol** think yu can plan it all dee

**dee** (*pointin*) over there? how cloud boils off helvellyn, stridin edge, doll-ee-wagon pike. first climbed that jes cos the name

**mol** to be up here an find the world disappeared

**dee** lie ov the land?

**mol** swallowed under mist

**dee** no, truth only, only truth ov this land

*dee touches the rock, then mol does, their hands almost touch - this is held so long*

**mol** lump in our throat

**dee** here to bury the past, yu an me both yeah?  
**mol** that's what we promised but ...  
**dee** jes us, a mountain-top an that boil ov mist washin rest ov world away  
**mol** abracadabra!  
**dee** mol-man i'm so proud ov yu  
**mol** most ov us is guilt. so damned guilty  
**dee** let me hug yu

*dee holds out arms to hug only mol leaps away*

**mol** cant stand if yu trap us!  
**dee** (*advancin*) its jes a hug  
**mol** (*retreatin*) don't trap our arms!  
**dee** i won't hurt

*raven croaks*

**mol** needed a sign tellin us to return  
**dee** those northern lights  
**mol** outwards bounds course an our last night together  
**dee** the milky-way never so bright  
**mol** leeds didn't have stars when we wz growin

**dee** yu have to get beyond the city lights  
**mol** out here! way out! an those northern lights bouncin  
**dee** fairfield to hartsop dodd  
**mol** blues an greens  
**dee** rydal fell to stony cove pike  
**mol** scarlets an purples  
**dee** high raise to harter fell  
**mol** finally onto oranges, yellows ... that one night before the fall  
**dee** don't ever fall like that again  
**mol** but yu know how the past piles on in / jes piles on in  
**dee** (*pointin*) see the sun burnin off those clouds there?  
**mol** we see the clouds  
**dee** hangin over us far to long, let the sun burn off all clouds

*silence*

**dee** coffee? extra sugar, know i do  
**mol** (*feelin heart*) boom-bap-a-bap-boomboomboom ... drunk too much yr  
coffee already  
**dee** can never have too much coffee  
**mol** yu must be able to hear our heart from there

*dee pours coffee from a flask, adds sugar an passes this to mol who sips then splutters*

**dee** good?

**mol** strong!

**dee** need a good espresso ristretto to keep me goin. yu know ristrettos the italian for restraint?

**mol** learnt that the children's home

**dee** trial will soon be over

**mol** ours is never-endin ... march, march on ... memories never stop puttin boot in ... bryants bulgin eyes, our skin-crawl ... one time jes thinkin on ... ended intensive care, i.c.u. ... parvilax to counter the o.d. ... us swellin up bright red ... doctors *'shit! almost kill yu by anaphylactic shock when we're supposed to be savin yr life'*

**dee** yu've really been in the wars

**mol** never wanted anyone to save our life ... ever ... even yu dee

**dee** bryants history now. an yr free

**mol** theyre sayin slavery ended two hundred year ago

**dee** naah. that wz the slave trade

**mol** same

**dee** slave trade wz jes shippin 'em to the new world, that's all

**mol** yr studies? yr studyin?

**dee** wrote this essay for open uni. rippin the piss on neo-labour touchyfeely

when beneath its hard labour, old lies. governments celebratin this year, 2007, as two hundredth anniversary abolition ov the transatlantic slave trade - really sticks (pointin at guts) here - everyone pretendin that's when slavery ended. stopped shippin slaves across atlantic is all - our empire learnin from the yanks to allow yr slaves a half hour off work to screw in, a wee bite more food an - ta-daa - a whole new generation slavelets; then their mams an dads wouldn't dare do runner. wanna celebrate when slavery officially ended our empire? have to wait another thirty-one year. (*pointin west*) port ov whitehaven ships carried more'n fourteen thou slaves outta africa. compensation those slavers - lowthers an senhouses - got when slavery ended! there in saint nicks churchyard, grave for milfred gale grandma ov washington (*salutes*) america's first pres - shared with her slave jane - an that wz against law. bloody church no wantin slaves dirtyin their graves

**mol** rotten rotten world

**dee** we're buryin bryants

**mol** no hope

**dee** there's gotta be some

**mol** ... but ...

**dee** we're no gonna be parted from now on

**mol** then which ov us is grandma gale? & which is slave jane?

**dee** would yu like?

**mol** slave an grandma?

**dee** us no bein parted now on. would. yu. like?

**mol** aye, dee, aye

**dee** thick as thieves remember?

**mol** what they said in the home about us two, aye

**dee** fifteen year ago. (*pointin*) jes down there. yu loomin thru mist like  
great ghostly raven poised for flight

**mol** why yu dragged us up here today

**dee** need to lay our ghosts to rest

**mol** but yr jes care-assistant for the learnin disabled - said so on drive over

**dee** i'm still payin for stuff

**mol** were all payin for stuff

**dee** (*thumpin heart*) no this deeeep

**mol** don't yu want more than yu got?

**dee** house-car-fridge-holiday (*grabbin own breasts*) boob-job?

**mol** never said yu were that fat!

**dee** an i've always said less yr cheek!

**mol** seriously. don't get a complex on. yu exercise enough. yu'll last a long  
time yet. least yr no still throwin it all up again

**dee** only when well stressed. last night goin over evidence one last time.  
first time in thirteen month ive puked

**mol** make that sickness yr last time dee

*ravens in the wind*

**dee** kendal mintcake! yr supposed to carry it up mountains, only its no cake, an always right next the motorway services till. who buys that stuff? did nick a bar once. one square kendal mintcake wz more'n enough. claggin teeth to roof mouth, us gaggin

**mol** which motorway services?

**dee** don't recall

**mol** yet yu's remember the mintcake

**dee** wz a lake

**mol** killington southbound

**dee** how yu rememberin that?

**mol** random access memory

**dee** remember any good times?

**mol** (*too loud*) a troll-foI-de-rol!

*flashback: to their fifteen year old selves*

**mol** a troll-foI-de-rol!

**dee** mol-man?

**mol** but yu must-ov done trolls

**dee**                bairns stuff

**mol**                (*mock-attackin dee*) a troll-fo-de-rol an were gonna eat yu

**dee**                we're fifteen

**mol**                loosen up

**dee**                that's grown / up

**mol**                / now we are troll-fo-de-rol ... an we will eat yu!

*mol forces dee into chasin then shepherds dee to hidin place under a bridge*

**mol**                duck under quick ... mind the stream ... perfect hidin under  
this scrap ov bridge ... they'll never get us out ... we wont  
have to go back ... ever ... saw this hidey-hole yesterday ...  
wznt last nights storm wild!

**dee**                best wz breakfast after! sausages, scrambled eggs an both kinds ov  
sauce - brown an red

**mol**                always thinkin on yr stomach dee!

**dee**                honey on toast for afters! butter too! (*licks his fingers*) can still taste  
the salt

**mol**                but us thick as thieves yeah

**dee**                thick as thieves, yeah

*silence*

**dee** why trolls mol?

**mol** mam an us an our red camper ... a field an a stream ... an bridge jes like this ... an this cars motorin over an throwin ourself under bridge ... an the car, it stops & we find trolls-fol-de-rol. roarin a troll fol de rol an were gonna eat yu ... shriekin up above! ... wheels skiddin on gravel ... us racin back an our mam caitlins laughins ... an then this right treat, mam showin her new paintin ... red an orange splashes ov rowan berries in the wind ... an all against smoky mountains ... wild an swirly

**dee** paintin on yr wall in the home yeah?

**mol** next day movin from leeds to newcastle where mam had a new job teachin art ... an that lorry slammin on in ... us in wreck hours ... knuckle white from clutchin her paintin ... her paintins all we have

**dee** yu sniff the paint rememberin?

*long silence*

**mol** two years we've known each other ... were always tellin yu about caitlin ... but yu say nothin about yr mam eva ... thick as thieves we're sposed to be

**dee** mam firin up coffee, cream, honey ... loved the smell ov mams mud!

**mol** that's all yu says. apart from findin her hangin an they bung yu in

care ... d'ya no talk cos yu blame her for what she done to yu?

**dee** that's no fair

**mol** how could a mam do that to her / kid

**dee** / i'm warnin yu! that's me mam / yr talkin about

**mol** / to be found by yu - that's wicked

**dee** shut yr trap / or

**mol** / no proper mam would do that to her kid

*dee goes to shove mol - mol steps out ov the way - dee falls to the ground*

**mol** (*mimes noose round neck*) least our mam wz proper, she wouldn't ov

*dee gets right in mols face an then spits in his face in disgust*

*mol slaps dee hard*

*stand-off*

*finally dee produces a knife then opens blade*

*dee cuts his own palm fast then grabs mol's palm an cuts*

*dee joins their palms together*

**dee** blood brothers us two ... say it

**mol** blood brothers

**both** thick as thieves - thirteen, fourteen, fifteen ...

**dee** protect each other from now on

**mol** but nothin lasts forever ... nothin ever does

*flashback dissolves dee/mol now*

**dee** blood brothers ever after that outward bounds course

**mol** hittin a hump in the road an bryants pukin cola out his nose! ... almost  
turnin mini-bus round then an there ... most times us gaspin for air ...  
his extra strong mints ... first thing yu'd notice when he came into  
room ... then him brassin up deep, deeper red ... then wee flecks ov  
spits flyin

**dee** *(pointin north)* skiddaw - ugliest mountain ov the lot, dirty great slog.  
never understood climbin jes to 'knock the buggers off'.

**mol** *(punchin hand into fist)* wish we couldov knocked that bugger off

**dee** ever tell yu about the s.a.s. brick?

**mol** would-ov remembered if yu had

**dee** s.a.s. officer wz gettin stick from the lads so he proved how fit he wz by  
goin out in heavy snow carryin sixty pound ov brick

**mol** never seen again!

**dee** lads dug him out snow-drift three week later

**mol** should-ov been carryin kendal mintcake!

*mol shivers*

**dee** someone walkin on yr grave?

**mol** its a war out there, a war inside ... no-one wins this war ...  
in war some ov us get to be even bigger victims is all

*military jets roar overhead before tailin off into distance - dee / mol jump*

**mol** how memories cut across the now ... the older yu get the more pain  
creeps in ... there's no innocence

**dee** fallin off this mountain only slowed yu enough to think all thru

**mol** no innocence at all

**dee** plannin runner from that hospital bed. right aren't i?

**mol** that hospital bed wz where we couldn't be hurt more

**dee** yu couldn't even include me in yr plan to run?

**mol** lay there long as ... waitin on yu returnin ... waitin, waitin ... . yu only  
showed up once, to bring mams paintin to our hospital bed ... waited  
for yu, long as we could, swear ... could wait no longer ... nickin  
painkillers & hoppin it. crutches - sunderland, middlesbrough, hull.  
rotterdam. rotterdam to gibraltar, gibraltar to cape town to buenos aires

**dee** yr maps all arrivals an departures

**mol** that day up here in the mist leanin into the wind until, until ... fallin -

fallen - fell ... seein ourselves flyin for one slow-mo moment ... but then  
far off, that warmth - our blood spreadin

**dee** took all me strength jes to keep up with mountain rescue. how they ran  
past priests hole, down dovedale beck, ambulance waitin at sykeside.  
an that fast ride, never heard sirens from the inside before. surgery  
drainin yr blood, stitchin yu back up, plasterin bust bones. gone  
midnight. i refuse to leave, stay at yr side until cross-country transfer  
back to newcastle r.v.i., punishment i got ... yr worth every second

**mol** yu bringin mams precious paintin as we lay in newcastle r.v.i.

**dee** wz kept from visitin again. punishment i got! placcie-bag holdin yr  
paintin as we sneak out window. sure drainpipe wz gonna give way, an  
i would be next to fall

**mol** wantin to run with yu so bad, but yu never showed again

**dee** they strapped us to bed. their eyes on twentyfour-seven

**mol** yu never came

**dee** couldnt get to yu

**mol** pullin stitches out ourselves ... wasp-stings! carryin that precious  
paintin right around this world

**dee** lend yu hammer an nails to put it up. my flat is yrs yeah?

**mol** mia casa es su casa

**dee** from yr travels?

**mol** get up close an yu can still smell mams oils

*military jets roar north then fade - mol / dee jump less this time*

**dee** over high street already - great broad back ov a mountain – theres still

roman road up there where they marched to forts across cumbria

**mol** cold in their wee leather skirts!

**dee** warfare ov this land stretchin back two thousand year, the layerins ov  
history ... why don't yu sign for 'a' levels!

**mol** cold here, grand tho ... an feelin ... mebbes a wee bit more

**dee** mol-man, give us a moment aye?

**mol** yu alright?

**dee** no gonna jump!

*dee walks to cliff edge & finds a feather*

*dee takes his time 'zippin' up individual blades ov the feather, makin it whole*

(lyrics/music by carter u.s.m. - *suicide isn't painless*)

**mol (singin)** “*suicide isn't painless*

*it hurts like hell*

*its set aside for the famous*

*a little suicide sells*

*nothing lasts forever*

*but nothing ever did*

*its big but its not clever*

*and its really not that big*

*so no more tears*

*yr a big boy now*

*we'll have a few more beers*

*we'll sort it out somehow"*

**dee** *(holdin feather to lips an speakin into it)* mol-man this  
ones for yu so's at least one wish comes true

*dee kisses feather - holds feather over cliff-edge - lets feather fly off on wind*

*dee watches feather until its out ov sight*

*he walks back to mol who sings some ov the above song to him*

**mol** yu didn't fall

**dee** would i do that to yu?

**mol** that feather thing ...

**dee** wishin on a feather, yeah?! mam, eva, showin us how. find a feather,  
whisper yr wish onto that feather an make it fly so yr wish comes true.

**mol** we never done that

**dee** i wished for yu

**mol** wishes are secret

*dee hands mol a feather*

**mol** (*examinin feather*) they're beautiful alright

**dee** touch that ravens feather to yr lips

*mol does so*

**dee** now whisper a wish on

*again mol does so*

**dee** let it fly over the cliffs edge

*they go to edge - mol cautiously - they watch it fly out ov sight*

**dee** way the wind caught it? yr wish'll come true for sure!

**mol** wanna know what we wished?

**dee** secret yu said

**mol** wished for yu dee, yu ... standin up like yu done

**dee** so let me hug yu

**mol** jes don't trap our arms

**dee** *(huggin mol gently)* alright?

**mol** aye dee

**dee** wont let go, no again

*dee cries*

**mol** no that bad a hug are we dee

**dee** its no that mol

*mol playfully thrusts handkerchief in dee's face - dee play-fights him off*

**dee** no takin yr stinkin

**mol** clean. swear ... now wipe those tears away

**dee** oh mol-man, yr ancient eyes

**mol** yu always said we had ancient eyes

**dee** line from a song ov mams

*mol wipes dee's tears - lingerin much longer than necessary*

*there's an unspoken moment between them which is then lost*

**mol** our ancient eyes must have seen all

**dee** then yu see there's somethin i never told

**mol** we all have secrets

**dee** don't want to lose yu now i've finally found yu

**mol** yu wont

**dee** somethin i lied about

**mol** we all lie now an again

**dee** no on this scale. could lose yu

**mol** yu been here for us fifteen year ... were here for yu now

**dee** lies been eatin us up forever

**mol** yu said up here we could change anythin ... make a new start ...

**dee** ... mam? bipolar now. only it wz manic depression back then an so that tag always stuck. when she wz up - magic! talkin green market out masses ov cheap mangos ends the day, up all night makin tons ov mango lassi, dodgin coppers as we sell jugs door to door, brilliant! only when mam wz down ... makin cheese an onion crisp sandwiches till bread turns blue

**mol** yu were constantly at the food in the home ... wolfin it down, pukin it back

**dee** pulled those curtains tight so when they knocked, rattled letterbox or came round the side our house they couldn't see in. made like it wz game until coppers bust our back door in. ambulance takin her away

**mol** we get yu

**dee** wznt able to protect her

**mol** no yr fault  
**dee** couldn't save her  
**mol** yu wz a kid  
**dee** hospital stuffed endless meds down  
**mol** yu cant make sense ov the senseless  
**dee** endless endless meds  
**mol** so they did horrendous stuff before she topped herself

*long silence*

**dee** she didn't top herself  
**mol** what?  
**dee** she didn't top herself  
**mol** the?  
**dee** pumped her full ov drugs. children's-home wouldn't let me visit. had to say she wz dead  
**mol** yr mam evas alive all along?  
**dee** no any more  
**mol** no any more?  
**dee** no. any. more!  
**mol** is she dead or no?  
**dee** yees!

**mol** yu don't want to change yr mind?

**dee** nooo!

*silence*

**dee** i feel terrible lyin

**mol** (*stormin off*) yu bloody well should!

*dee goes after him - mol changes direction - dee keeps body-blockin mol*

**dee** storm off into mist, real clever that ... (*pointin all over*) cliffs that way ...  
or over there ... or mebbe cliffs that way?

**mol** perhaps we'd be better off fallin

**mol** three year in care together. blood brothers? bloody lyin!

**dee** other bairns constantly callin mam nutter, mad mary / doolally

**mol** / trusted yu! / for what?

**dee** / psycho, screwball, / crackbrain

**mol** / four / year

**dee** / followin us home, to the shops, down the tyne - schizo, gaga, mental

**mol** told yu everythin. / everythin

**dee** / bricks thru window, paint thru letterbox, nails up our / path

**mol** / yu gave us nothin. / yu are nothin

**dee** / livin with that  
**mol** / yu thought / we'd ...  
**dee** / mam said stand / tall  
**mol** / no / spine  
**dee** / how d'ya stand tall against / that?  
**mol** / spineless ... that's what

*mol repeatedly taps his own head in cracked gesture as*

**dee** jes wantin it to stop  
**mol** woodlouse, slug, worm  
**dee** wantin to be normal  
**mol** they've no backbone either

*mol repeatedly taps dee on the head in a cracked gesture*

*dee repeatedly pushes mol's hand away*

*dee finally grabs mol by wrists to restrain him*

**mol** (*goin wild*) hands off  
**dee** safe mol man  
**mol** yr bloody hands off

*mol knocks dee down an sits on him*

**dee** failure aren't i?  
**mol** yu ... yu ... yu  
**dee** i failed  
**mol** yu let yrself down  
**dee** never had anyone to tell  
**mol** us

*mol at last offers dee his hand to shake - they shake - mol helps dee stand*

**mol** yu look like yr seein a ghost  
**dee** eva's ghost. mams ghost. yu havent heard the half ov ...  
jes let me say me piece in full then yu can hang or hug me  
**mol** what fresh hell?  
**dee** oh mol-man, this is what i've to pay for  
**mol** dee-man yr frightenin / us  
**dee** a monster. well-hidden. oh what am i sayin? thirteen year with mam,  
three in care. then care assistant for fourteen year monday to friday.  
losin a bunch ov money by workin weekdays only. but the freedom  
these fells - weekendins. but before gettin car & licence wz seein mam  
monday-wednesday-friday after shifts; visitin hours six to nine. she wz

sinkin lower & lower so they gave e.c.t. - tuesdays an thursdays. it took longer an longer before she'd hold me hand, look me in the eyes. an all while livin with the knowledge that yu mol, me best, me only friend, blood-brother, had done runner - i had no-one

**mol** so much guilt on these bloody shoulders

**dee** lived in me head.

**mol** yu said we survived, yu said it - we survived. say it

**dee** mam pleadin pleeeeeaaase son pleasse!

**mol** dee-man yr no makin any sense

**dee** me own mam, whisperin over an over, pleaasssse.

*dee starts sobbin - mol wipes dees tears*

**dee** dont wanna be remembered like this. mam i said i'm no givin up on yu

*dee breaks down cryin - mol holds dee - till a raven - slow & mournful lets mol let go*

**dee** took in mams mud one time. mocha mattari from pumphreys - special espresso from their market stall. bought thick cream, big dollop northumberland heather honey. i undo flask. watch her face. waitin for that smell to bring me mam back. she looks straight thru us. those psycho nurses smirkin *said she wouldn't recognise yu*. wz gonna throw

mams mud right over them only at the last minute splattin wards wall  
instead. they wz gonna ban me from visitin ... i don't want to be  
remembered like this mam says, she said. remember our mango  
lassi's instead. son she says, son she said - hold pillow over me face  
till yr sure i'm gone

*silence*

**mol** yu didnt? ... yu didnt! ...

**dee** week after mams mud wz all agency nurses. she hadnt recognised me  
for months an there was us wishin mams mud would bring all floodin  
back. an there were her words - hold pillow over me face till yr sure i'm  
gone. didnt sleep a wink all week - short with clients - permanent lump  
in me throat - puked - puked - puked. an then the visit. i help her back  
to bed. an i sit, strokin her hands, she finally starts to doze. theyll be  
wakin her soon to dish her sleepers out. time to act. only i'm shakin  
like the autumn outside. she's lyin on all her pillows. i'm tryin to pull  
one free without wakin her. tug. sweat. finally one comes free. nurse  
comes in with meds. i'm sweatin with guilt. run from the ward ... an  
now i've / lost yu

**mol** yr no losin us ... but yu have lost yr mam aye?

**dee** sweatin with guilt, run from ward, get signed off - a month - bunch ov

sleepers. curtains pulled. pukin so much theres acid burns round our  
lips. cant go back. nurses - they know. ... cant even mercykill - some  
kinda carer eh? fail even that

**mol** yr no failure

**dee** failed mam. failin yu

**mol** we're here for yu dee

**dee** phone rings & rings. each time lettin it ring out. finally till this hammerin  
at door. walkietalkies. door comes flyin in. followed by these coppers.  
kids really. start callin us sir. sayin we're to come with them. blues &  
twos to freeman hospital. heart unit. intensive care. the enforced meds  
are killin her. an we jes hold her hand as she - medics word - *slips  
away. she'll be at peace son. she'll no suffer again*

**mol** patronisin fuckin cunts

**dee** i comander their equipment trolley - slammin thru crash doors wrong  
way, hurtlin thru car park, across road, buses hittin brakes, take a flier  
into pond - surprisin the ducks, the geese an the kids feedin em.  
emergency services round pond usher kids away, wanna tranq us. am  
shakin freezin by now ...get yu safe off this mountain then

**mol** where's yr mam eva at now?

**dee** there's a headstone now

**mol** can we ... come with ... her graveside ... bring some flowers

**dee** yu checkin up?

**mol** what's her favourite flowers  
**dee** irises - blue as her eyes, gold as her smile  
**mol** then we'll buy a bunch  
**dee** she's in st. john's, off elswick road

*mol holds hand against dee's forehead to see if he is feverish  
then he holds dee until dee stops shakin, this takes some time*

**mol** what did yr mam eva say about the good times dee?  
**dee** perhaps yu an me mol we can find those mango lassi moments the-gether?  
**mol** mam painted river aire once - blues ov the water, greens ov the banks  
an golds ov irises, wee raindrops sprinkled silver on the swords their  
leaves. can still remember that paintin so, so clear. ... yet can hardly  
see mam, caitlins face. ... tomorrow we place irises on her grave  
**dee** wish i could-ov done more for yu  
**mol** when we get off this fell, lets nip down to that wee lake  
**dee** brothers water?  
**mol** skim a few  
**dee** yr stone went straight down  
**mol** tho we may fail at many things - skimmin stones is no among 'em

flashback: together, aged fifteen

*skimmin stones on brothers water. mol has real zen technique, sinkin his weight down, soft an slow, sightin the horizon an aimin beyond. movements completely relaxed, peaceful, beautiful*

**mol**                    *(skimmin stone an countin number ov bounces). six, seven an eight ... now for another skimmer ... an four an five an six seven eight ... third time lucky ... an five an six seven eight nine*

*mol selects then hands dee a stone*

**mol**                    winner takes all

**dee**                    all what?

**mol**                    we win ... yu have to listen to us

**dee**                    always do

**mol**                    this time yu really have to listen

**dee**                    who says yr gonna win?

*mol pushes dee forward*

*dee throws, all macho, useless*

*they both laugh*

*mol hand dee another stone*

**mol** yr no gonna score better'n us ... so that means yu gotta listen like yr  
life depends

*dee throws his stone, another failed attempt*

**mol** (*weighin stone in hand*) gonna do nine ... no ten

**dee** no way yu can know that!

**mol** (*showin his stone*) a perfect skimmer see ... tricks aimin for the  
horizon an beyond ... mam teachin us that

*mol steps forward, skims stone beautifully*

**both** an four an five an six an seven an eight, nine, ten

**dee** so what secret yu gonna tell?

**mol** told yu everythin ... everythin ... (*loud*) aim for the horizon an beyond

*mol runs off - dee runs after*

**mol** he's splittin us up ... bryants

**dee** bryants no splittin us up

**mol** his exact words. get back from this outward bounds course an that  
dee, terrible influence, is goin to new home where they'll break him  
**dee** when?  
**mol** bryants'll be mad if it gets back to  
**dee** has bryants been hurtin yu?  
**mol** what mam caitlin always says, said ... aim for the horizon an beyond

*flashback ends scene dissolves back to now*

**dee** did yu really reach horizon on yr runner?  
**mol** an all the way back again  
**dee** findin that hospital bed empty, us thinkin yu'd died, this great bloody  
balloon burstin me throat, till this nurse comin up, sayin, handover one  
shift to the next an yu'd done runner. oh mol-man why didn't yr aimin for  
horizon include me? part ov us froze that day ... serious mol-man,  
only yu can unfreeze us

*a further burst ov military jets - they scarcely flinch*

*wind increases considerably*

**dee** weathers turnin. (*pointin*) we go down over there. jes take yr time on  
the scree ... put yr feet where i'm puttin mine

**mol** at the same time?!

**dee** least this mist keeps yr eyes from wanderin

**mol** those cliffs

**dee** most accidents happen on the descent

**mol** takes guts yu bringin us back up here ... sorry for everythin we've ever

**dee** an i'm sorry mol-man for every pain i've ever caused yu

**mol** we will un-thaw yu ... thick as thieves

**dee** blood brothers

**mol** in court, from the public gallery, bryants he looked so ...

**dee** old?

**mol** a pathetic, old shit

*dee / mol pick their way carefully over rocky descent*

(lyrics/music by carter u.s.m. -the music that nobody likes)

**mol** (*singin*) and the banners and badges and yr anarchist friends

say "apocalypse now man !"

and "never again ! "

and i know the following smut

should be censored ok

**both** (*singin*) but this shit is fucked, as they say in the usa

and they say it in mexico, london and jericho,

berlin and birmingham, belfast and tokyo

amsterdam, vietnam, iran, afghanistan,

disneyland, narnia, former yugoslavia

*mol stumbles on scree, slidin into dee - both fall heavily*

*they help each other up - they remain holdin each other too long*

*there is a long moment - this time its no lost - mol kisses dee for some time*

**mol** couldn't save yr mam ... yu did save us. up here those years ago. half a lifetime ago. been meanin to kiss yu ever since ...

**dee** half our lives ago

**mol** leanin out so far

**dee** fallin ... fallen ... fell

**both** *(takin up the chant)* fallin ... fallen ... fell ... fallin ... fallen ... fell

**dee** first day they brought yu to the home, a wiry yorkshire terrier, yappin as they tried to pin yu's down, yu leapin right up that old ivy-covered wall out-back. yu leanin - arms out - *(imitatin)* - right into wind. thought yu were tryin to scare

**mol** wz tryin to fly

*mol puts his arms out - ravens croaks thru wind, fog thickens*

*flashback : to mol an dee aged fifteen:*

*mol runnin to cliffs edge, leanin into wind, his arms outstretched*

**mol**                   leanin out so far, leanin over space, leanin out an into winds cradle ....  
let us fly, let us fly, let us fly!

*mol falls thirty feet*

*dee crag-hops down to mol*

*dee checks mols pulse*

*dee undoes his rucksack*

*dee wraps survival blanket around mol*

*dee places his rucksack under mols head*

**dee**                   yu are only fifteen, a lifetime ahead, we both have. the whole ov our  
lives together, a world at our feet. (*pointin north*) scotland, iceland,  
(*pointin west*) ireland, america, (*pointin south*) france, africa. the world  
is at our feet, the world is at our feet, i am no lettin yu die!

*dee kisses mol before mist covers all*