

The Phlebotomist by Ella Road

Audio interludes

and

Video interludes

AUDIO

INTERLUDE 1

Soundscape. A&E. Muffled voiceovers:

DOCTOR 1: ... just ran right out in front/

DOCTOR 2: ... by a tram, right outside the /

DOCTOR 3: Intracranial haemorrhage/

DOCTOR 1: Unconscious, suspected bleeding to the/

DOCTOR 2: Well do we resuss?

DOCTOR 3: What's the profile?

DOCTOR 1: Male, late twenties, no abnormalities, no record of/

DOCTOR 2: If we're gonna, we need to/

DOCTOR 3: Yes, yes, we resuss!

DOCTOR 2: Let's move him through please!

Soundscape fades into SCENE 1

AUDIO

INTERLUDE 2

NHS complaints helpline. Background noise of a call centre (maybe overseas). The HELPLINE ATTENDANT's voice is deadpan.

HELPLINE: It's an opt-out scheme.

PATIENT: It's not clear enough.

HELPLINE: It was on the form, top left.

PATIENT: But I /

HELPLINE: May we remind you, you're under no obligation
to disclose your /

PATIENT: Yeah, but / know now don't I? I went in there for
an anaemia test. Iron. Then the guy comes back chatting
about colon cancer! No pre-treatment for this strain
anyway, I mean why would I want to spend the next
decade knowing /

HELPLINE: I /

PATIENT: And do you know what's fucking ridiculous?

HELPLINE: I'm going to have to ask you not to swear.

PATIENT: I was this close to signing on a house. This close. Now they're giving me
seven years max. What can I get with seven years mortgage? Shit all, seven years. Coz
they know I'm not worth/

AUDIO

INTERLUDE 4

Radio charity campaign. Emotive Christmas music.

SPEAKER: ...just can't get the vitamins they require. Diseases such as Scurvy, Pellagra and Beriberi are on the rise. Is it right for a child to be denied the basic vitamins they need?

For a small donation, you can give a child a portion of fresh fruit or veg every day for a week.

Malnutrition is one of the biggest contributors to health problems in the UK. We at Brain Food believe that everyone deserves a healthy start.

If you agree, text FRESH to 6983, and revitalise a child this Christmas.

AUDIO

INTERLUDE 7

Radio interview with MINISTER OF STATE (a la BBC Radio 4).

MINISTER: / as I've said, this is not a government scheme, and as such we cannot take responsibility. No one is forcing anyone to disclose this information.

INTERVIEWER: But it is used in A&E?

MINISTER: Well, it helps staff to prioritise to give the best level of care.

INTERVIEWER: It was an economist who popularised the nought to ten rating model was it not?

MINISTER: I believe so.

INTERVIEWER: And combining every genetic trait, from disease to behaviour, do you think that all these characteristics can be processed into one simple ranking?

MINISTER: Ha ha, it's not a 'ranking'. Anyone knows that if you want real information you have to read the breakdown. Else it's a bit like just reading the stars on a review and not the review itself, you know?

Tiny beat.

INTERVIEWER: What are your thoughts on test-upon-entry schemes at immigration points?

MINISTER: I'm not able to comment on/

AUDIO

INTERLUDE 15

Soundscape, A&E (sirens and chaos). Muffled voiceovers.

DOCTOR 1: ... just ran right out in front/

DOCTOR 2: ... a tram, right outside the/

DOCTOR 3: Intracranial haemorrhage /

DOCTOR 1: Unconscious, suspected bleeding to the/

DOCTOR 2: We'll do we resus?

DOCTOR 3: What's the profile?

DOCTOR 1: Sub.

DOCTOR 2: If we're gonna /

DOCTOR 3: How low?

DOCTOR 1: 2.2

DOCTOR 2: We'd need to/

DOCTOR 3: No.

DOCTOR 2: OK, move him on please!

Soundscape fades into the next scene

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 3

A DATER records a video for a dating app.

DATER: Hiya, so this is me. I'm a bit nervous, so sorry if I stutter or whatever ... So I'm average height. I'm bisexual so looking for all kinds of love really. Should increase my chances by 100%, or that's what mum says. Yeah don't really mind which one, boy or girl, just a person.

Nervous laugh.

Er, I work in marketing. It's really great. We're on the top floor and in summer I can get tanned on my lunch break which is just a massive bonus. I wear sun cream though, obviously. I mean I'm very careful. Ummm, this is my front obviously, side, other side. And check the uploads for party pics, gym pics, nude pics and there's a family pic there too coz I thought it was sweet and also thought you might wanna check out my fam? I look like Dad, so that's probably me at sixty. Ha. Er. Teeth are good.

Shows teeth. Then licks lips nervously.

Um ... obviously you'll have seen I'm 5.4, but if you look at the breakdown most health risks are actually quite low. It's mainly brought down by IQ? And the fact that I'm allergic to peanuts. But apparently they're not that nice anyway, so. I also technically have 'addictive tendencies' but the only thing I really like too much is the gym, so I'm actually likely to have a long life? Unless I have a plane crash or something. But it hasn't

happened yet, so. Yeah. Um. I guess if you've got this far then maybe you're interested in messaging me? Don't know what else to say really except I've always got good feedback from dates I've been on. Reviews are at the bottom.

Loses momentum. Finds it hard to look at camera.

Mum says I shouldn't worry about my rating coz I have a nice smile, so ... this is me smiling ...

Grins unconvincingly into camera.

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 5

ON SCREEN: MyRate dating app testimonial. X and Y speak to camera. Sickly sweet.

Y: Love at first site really.

X: Profile picture was super cute.

Y: Yours made me giggle.

X: That pose.

Y: Definitely the first person who popped up in my rate bracket who I was like 'Yes. Definitely yes.'

X: We matched on, when was it? A Friday morning?

Y: I was on my tea break.

X: Guzzling chocolate probably.

Y: Ah, the good old days.

X: We're on a health programme, see.

Y: I'm high risk diabetes Type 2? Nothing tragic but/

X: Better stay on the safe side you know?

X shrugs. Y smiles unconvincingly.

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 6

Courtney Shreir's chat show. The vibe is cheap and seedy.

HOST: Wassup guys, I'm Courtney Shrier, thank you all for clicking in. Today I'm joined by Sam Manuel, international life coach, medical miracle, and author of best-selling zine 'Up-Rate - Weird Old Tricks to Up Your Rating'. So, my viewers will be dying to ask: did you really go from 5.9 to 8.4 in two years?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes Courtney, I did.

HOST: Wow. Just wow. And the zine has been a huge success, how does that feel?

INTERVIEWEE: Yeah, incredible.

HOST: Amazing to bring hope to so many people.

INTERVIEWEE: My subscribers are optimists. Fulfilling their dreams is what gets me up in the morning.

HOST: So we all know about epigenetics and watching our micros and fit-goals, but can you give us some insight into what your courses offer?

INTERVIEWEE: Oops, that would be telling Courtney.

HOST: Not even a sneak peek?

Turns to camera.

INTERVIEWEE: Potential up-raters can sign up for a discounted introductory offer and see how they can up their rating, for a healthier future, by visiting 'weird old tricks to up your rating dot corn.

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 8

News reportage.

REPORTER: ... I'm here outside Westbourne Farm where late last night, a joyful wedding reception turned into a nightmare party. This mixed-rate couple from Dundee were celebrating their first evening as newly-weds, when a group of pro-rate activists vandalised and set fire to several cars outside the family farm on the outskirts of Midmar, Aberdeenshire.

Luckily no one was seriously hurt as a result of the attacks, but for the couple and their families, what should have been a joyful celebration certainly hasn't gone to plan. Three members of a local far-right pro-rate group are currently being held for /

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 9

Advert: 'The Thring Group'. A well-dressed rep walks through public school grounds, talking to camera emphatically.

SPEAKER: We at The Thring Group believe that every child deserves the best chance of success.

When children show signs of faltering concentration in early years, many parents look ahead with trepidation at academic struggle, failed entry tests, and bleak employment prospects. They see a clear division between those who will strive, and those who will *thrive*.

But this doesn't have to be the case. We offer personalised CRISPR editing therapy for genes associated with the autistic spectrum. We watch children move from the bottom to the top set practically overnight. We help to *write* success into the future of your child. Book in for a consultation today.

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 10

City street. Distant sounds of sirens and glass smashing. Blurry / muffled footage of people walking down dark street, barely visible. Voices off-screen:

RIOTER 1: Few things of meds. Creams. Syringes. Sell them innit.

RIOTER 2 jumps into wheelchair.

RIOTER 2: Fam this is sicccckk.

RIOTER 3: Nah don't, you'll break it, my son /

RIOTER 1: You crack me up man.

RIOTER 3: Here, let me say some I

RIOTER 1: Fam /

RIOTER 3: No, let me say this, yeah, send this out.

Then RIOTER 3 's face appears more clearly on screen, close up.

No seriously, this wheelchair's for my son, no seriously. I've come back FOUR TIMES asking. They keep changing the forms, allowances keep getting less. I queued eight hours last week. Eight hours. Then some cunt comes and tells me they ain't got one for him, they need to give high-rate cases priority with the wheelchairs. It's bullsh /

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 11

Courts of justice. DR. DEVKI SALT walks briskly, accompanied by security. Several microphones and cameras are thrust in her direction. She looks exhausted but triumphant.

SALT: ... this has been a witch hunt of epic proportions. But I am happy to report that I have been acquitted of all charges relating to genetic fraud and of all accusations of my being involved in the non-consensual sourcing of highrate blood.

I am pleased to declare that I have been found innocent on all accounts, and I thank my lawyers and the jury for their unwavering support, and hope we can all move/

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 12

Evening news.

NEWS REPORTER: ... Mr Thomas Obaju, well-known for having a rating of exactly 9.84, the highest on record in the UK, has been murdered. He was reported missing on Tuesday night after leaving his gym in East London and the remains of his corpse were found by a canal in Maida Vale this morning with several puncture wounds and syringe insertions.

A statement from the police describes his death as 'sad and futile'. It is not clear whether his murder was a political statement or merely another blood theft, but the authorities believe it to be a combination of the two.

Despite the introduction of the international DNA database, reports of blood crimes such as these are still on the rise. The police recommend that any known high-raters consider extra security, and any suspicious behaviour or information regarding illegal blood activity should be reported immediately /

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 13

Campaign video. Inspirational backing music.

ONE: When we found out we were going to have a baby it was a dream come true.

TWO: Al cried.

ONE: I did.

TWO: Our financial situation meant that in-vitro wasn't possible; so when the test was positive and the embryo healthy it felt like a, well. ..

ONE: A miracle.

TWO: But when she was born prematurely, blind and with a rating of 2.8 it came as a bit of a shock. We didn't think we'd have the finances or time to support her and her needs.

ONE: We were very worried.

TWO: It was awful.

ONE: We didn't realise how much DNA methylation happens in the last trimester and in the weeks after birth. Things can change so dramatically.

TWO: But thanks to lobby groups like CPNT we were able to work out what options were available to us and know our rights.

ONE: The legalisation of post-natal abortion has completely changed our lives. A year later we had another girl who was born at 6.1. Charlotte is now in year 1 and thriving.

TWO: She's an angel.

ONE: It's down to the work of people such as CPNT that we were able to have the child of our dreams and give her the life she deserves,

TWO: So we encourage everyone to:

ONE and TWO: Know your rights.

Big smiles.

VOICEOVER: Foetuses falling below 3.1 may be aborted within the first twenty-eight days after birth. Current law does not allow termination after this point. Check your local health centre or online portal for more information.

VIDEO

INTERLUDE 14

News footage. USA.

People queue. Others mill around, holding banners. Atmosphere of jubilation and almost religious fervour.

BRITISH BROADCASTER V.O.: ... outside Montgomery sterilisation clinic; where hundreds of sub-raters, encouraged by bystanders, are eagerly queuing, awaiting their turn.

A smiling woman wears a T-shirt reading 'I am a vessel for the America of tomorrow' with an arrow to her womb. Someone waves a banner reading 'Clean up our population. It's up to all of us'. Another: 'Contemplate the rate before you procreate'.

Cut to:

AMERICAN BYSTANDER: *(To camera.)* Yeah I'm just here to show my support. It's a very noble thing they're doing, and I hope every sub can be as selfless as these folk and do what's right to make our nation great again.

Back to crowd footage.