

TERRIERS

by

MAURICE BESSMAN

Luke and a distressed Drew enter. Drew looks to the distance.

LUKE
There's nothing you can do.

DREW
That's my mum. (yells) Mum.

LUKE
She can't see y'.

DREW
She's crying.

LUKE
Yeah, mine was the same.
(mimicks his mum)
"Our Luke was such a good lad. He was doing well in school and then... he just got in with a bad crowd".

DREW
That's what my mum's saying.

LUKE
They all say it. It's like they've got to. I'm not saying they don't mean it but y' wouldn't believe how many times I've heard that since I got here?

DREW
(SHOUTING) Mum.

Drew is full of grief and makes and impassioned plea to his mum.

DREW (CONT'D)
Mum... here. It's me.

LUKE
Don't waste y' breath. She can't see you. No one can. Except me and the others.

Luke moves so he can see what Drew sees.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Who's the girl with the ponytail?

CONTINUED:

DREW

My little sister.

LUKE

Poor kid's broken hearted. You her fave brother?

DREW

Louise, over here. It's gonna be okay.

LUKE

(WRY) Yeah don't worry, DH Crew'll get the killer, they won't let y' little sister down,

DREW

I was supposed to take her to Alton Towers for her birthday.

LUKE

(DRY) You could meet her on the ghost train?

Drew doesn't appreciate the quip.

LUKE (CONT'D)

And there's all your boys. I had loads at my funeral as well.

(AMUSED) What? Look at that. All your DH crew in T-shirts and there's a picture of you on the front smiling... dead innocent.

(WRY) Well, more dead than innocent. What's the T-shirt say?

(READS) 'Drew, a true soldier. We won't forget you, lad'. Aah, isn't that nice? And the flowers on the coffin. (HEAVY SCOUSE ACCENT) 'Our Drew'. And then I bet y'... I bet y' someone gets up and says (MOCK TEARS) 'He was a loving son and though sometimes he mightn't be in our minds, he'll always be in our hearts' (BEAT) (LISTENS) Told y'. They always say it. (SINCERE) But they always mean it... especially the mums.

DREW

They're going. They can't. Mum, Louise, don't go... please.

CONTINUED:

Drew desperately reaches out into the void. Luke puts a hand on his shoulder. Drew pulls away.

LUKE
(EMPATHY) That's it. Sorry.

DREW
No way, it can't be.

LUKE
They have to turn their back on
the grave some time, lad.

Drew is broken hearted.