

IGNITE CLIMATE SHORTS:

DISULFANIDE by Chad Nickson

Produced and Directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll

CHARACTERS:

- Mozzie - 19 years old. A young law student, passionate about the climate. Relatively new to this type of activism.
- Bab. - 22 years old. Completely anti government, anti leadership, etc. Seasoned radical activist, not opposed to violent resistance, but currently dare not be arrested because of risk of extended prison time.
- Birch. - 32 years old. Compared to Bab, she holds relatively softer ideas, but still radical by most standards.
- Activist. - A seasoned activist in their early 20s. Their voice and manner is powerful and assured.
- Spokesperson. - public school.

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OPENING CREDITS

SOUND: theme music plays under the opening credits

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SCENE 1: MUSIC AND VOICEOVER

Activist is in the style of actuality interview.

SOUND: pulsing ethereal music plays underneath the activist's speech

ACTIVIST: **There's over a hundred ancient woodlands that are going to be either fully, or partly, destroyed. *Ancient* woodlands. Trees that are three, four, five hundred years old are being torn down.**

And the amount of destruction at some sites . . . There's this quarry and it looks like . . . the surface of the moon . . . you look into the distance and it's just *barren*.

THE MUSIC CUTS

SCENE 2: PRESS CONFERENCE MEDIUM HALL

SOUND: reporter hubbub at a press conference

SPOKESPERSON: Hello everyone! Thank you all for coming out this morning. (PAUSE) Our world is burning. We have a duty to our children to act quickly and decisively, to reduce emissions *now*. We need a net zero Britain. And transport has a huge part to play; that is why I am excited to announce that we at *Britain's Future Development* have just been given the State's approval to develop the new, the progressive, the revolutionary: Hightail Rail Line.

SOUND: clapping

REPORTER 2: You're cutting down trees. How do you respond to the environmental concerns?

REPORTER 1: How do you respond to concerns of the project's carbon footprint?

REPORTER 3: Are you concerned about protesters sabotaging the work?

SOUND: reporters fade out, replaced with the ethereal music under the activist's speech:

ACTIVIST: They've estimated that the line will take 20 years to build and it will be operational for 120 years. In that whole time it will never be carbon neutral.

They're drilling, 90 metres down into the earth, through landfill. All the way down into a chalk aquifer that supplies *drinking water* for over 2 million people. The drilling is putting that water at risk of contamination.

You think that you've heard it all. And then you'll find out something new and shocking that they've been doing, and it's just *mind blowing*. We had to *do something*.

SCENE 3: CAMP IN THE WOODS. NIGHT.

SOUND: music fades out, replaced with the sound of a crackling fire and birdsong in the woods

WE ARE WITH BAB AND MOZZIE. BIRCH IS 60
FOOT UP IN A TREE.

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Hey! Bab?

BAB: (effort of getting up, CALLING) Yeah? How's the tree house going bro?

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Not too bad! Rigging's nearly done. I need more rope.

BAB: (CALLING) How much?

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Three foot..?

BAB: (CALLING) 'Kay. Hold on. (TO MOZZIE) Oi new girl. Can you get me some rope?
(SILENCE)
Hey!

MOZZIE Sorry. What did you say?

BAB: You alright?

MOZZIE: Yeah... sorry. The trees... they're just . . . (sighs)

BAB: Ah yeah. I was like that when I arrived.

MOZZIE: It's idyllic here.

BAB: Yeah. Spend all this time fighting and . . . almost forget.
I live in the middle of the woods. How lucky am I!
Have you been up?

MOZZIE: No... not yet, I just got here.

BAB: (Sighs) Yeah it's wonderful. You feel yourself swaying in the wind and you just look out on this... green. And at night... down below there's the tiny speck of the campfire. It's weird eh . . . only reason we're here is because it all might go. I mean if it wasn't for Hightail I'd have never seen this.

SCENE 4: PRESS CONFERENCE

SOUND: ethereal music under both spokesperson and activist's speeches

SPOKESPERSON: Hightail is more than just a rail line: it's an opportunity, for us to leave a powerful legacy for this country. And so, we pledge to create 650 hectares of new woodland - planting a mammoth *seven million* saplings.

ACTIVIST: **So part of their extensive Greenwashing is that they're planting all of these new saplings... but you can't replace a 300-year-old oak tree with a sapling and expect it to do the same things!**

SCENE 3: CAMP IN THE WOODS. NIGHT.

SOUND: music is replaced with the sound of a crackling fire and birdsong in the woods

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Bab!!

BAB: Ah. I forgot the rope. (*calling*) It's coming!

MOZZIE: Did you say three foot?

BAB: Um... Yeah but get four. Birch always underestimates.

FX: MOZZIE REACHES FOR THE ROPE AND
MEASURES IT OUT.

MOZZIE: (Under breath) One... two... three... four. (sighs) I think that's it. Here. (FX: ROPE BEING CUT)

BAB: Thanks. (TO BIRCH, CALLING) Birch!

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Yep?

BAB: (CALLING) 'M tying it on now. Gave you an extra foot in case/ hey... you want a cider?

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING, LAUGHS) Yeah go on then!

BAB: (FX: TIES ON BOTTLE) Here she comes. Enjoy!

FX: ROPE BEING PULLED UP.

BAB: Sorry I don't think I got your name?

MOZZIE: I don't have a name! I need one.

BAB: Ooh ok! What's your favourite animal?

MOZZIE: Favourite animal's a Zebra and that's taken. Favourite tree's a Birch and that's taken too... (SLAPS ARM) Argh! Mozzies. Everywhere.

BAB: There you go.

MOZZIE: What?

BAB: Be Mozzie.

MOZZIE: That's a terrible name - I don't want to be /called

BAB: (INTERRUPTING) I christen you *Mozzie*.

MOZZIE: That is the least sexy name of all time.

BAB: (LAUGHS) Sorry bro. I' christened you now, you're stuck with it. It's funny!
(CALLING) Hey Birch!

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Yeah?

BAB: (CALLING) Meet Mozzie!

MOZZIE: (CALLING) Hi Birch!

BIRCH: (OFF, CALLING) Good name! (BEAT) I'll come down soon, looking forward to meeting you.

BAB: You see? How'd you hear about the camps Mozzie?

MOZZIE: I'm studying Law, but I'm really interested in Conservation. I was just doing some research and came across the Hightail Line. Once I started looking into it, all the problems and that, *Stop Hightail* came up pretty quickly. (BEAT) What about you? And Birch?

BAB: Birch is local. She's gonna lose her home to this line. She set up the camp here y'know?

MOZZIE: Yeah?

BAB: As for me, I do this stuff all the time. And my squat is in Fulham... all this toxic waste is going into our water, you know, 'cos of the drilling. So feels personal.

MOZZIE: I heard about that.

BAB: Yeah it's messed up.

SOUND: a whistle blows and a commotion begins – lots of yelling and dogs barking

VOICE: Enforcement's here!! Quick! Up the trees. Up the trees!

BAB: Not now!

MOZZIE What's happening?

BIRCH): (OFF, CALLING) You guys alright? Come up!!

BAB: (TO BIRCH, *calling*) I can't be arrested Bro!
(TO MOZZIE) Mozzie, you got to get up the tree. Can you climb with ropes?

MOZZIE: Well . . . Yeah.

BIRCH : (OFF, CALLING) Come on! Get a move on!

BAB: Right here. Right take my harness.

SOUND: Bab helps Mozzie put her harness on

BAB: I need to leave, I can't get nicked.

SOUND: harness is fastened

BAB: There - that's it. Go up there to Birch. She'll tell you what to do. Good luck Mozzie!

SOUND: Mozzie climbs the tree. Pulsing music starts, and the whistles, shouting and dogs barking continue.

SCENE 5 MUSIC AND VOICEOVER

SOUND: as above – pulsing music, whistles, shouting and dogs barking.

ACTIVIST: **I can't sleep at night knowing that I am not doing everything that I can . . . because of the amount of damage . . . the amount of destruction . . . because of the amount of suffering that is being caused.**

SOUND: chainsaws added to the sounds

And there's a specialised taskforce to deal with protesters.

SCENE 6 CLIMBING THE TREE

WE ARE WITH MOZZIE AS SHE CLIMBS. SHE'S NEARLY AT THE TOP.

MOZZIE: (Cries out as she struggles)

SOUND: more chainsaws

BIRCH: (Off, but CLOSER) Nearly there Mozzie. Come on.

MOZZIE: ARGH! They've got my rope!

BIRCH: Take my hand. What's wrong?

MOZZIE: (RISING PANIC) Too much slack/ can't hold on/ Don't pull her!

SOUND: someone on a megaphone (the words are indistinguishable)

SOUND: MOZZIE FALLS AND SCREAMS.

BIRCH: Mozzie! You pulled her - hey! Hey!? Mozzie?
(BEAT)

SCENE 7 PRESS CONFERENCE

SOUND: the sounds of the last scene continue – shouting, dogs, chainsaw

SPOKESPERSON: *We care. That's why we're here. We love the people of Britain. And our work will champion this great country's journey to a *low carbon* economy. And I can confirm that we will provide vital protection from certain reckless, violent groups opposing this essential work.*

SCENE 8: ALMOST ON THE GROUND

SOUND: the sounds of the last scene continue – shouting, dogs, chainsaw. A sharp cut – Mozzie yells.

MOZZIE: (OFF, CALLING) Birch they've got me! I can't get up - agh! (IN PAIN, TO ENFORCEMENT) I'm sorry Birch, I can't get back to you!

MOZZIE: Ah! Get off me! Ah! (*cries out as she's pulled from tree*)

SOUND: short piece of music to indicate time passing, as sounds of shouting and dogs barking continue

ENFORCEMENT 2: (SHOUTING) Right! Trees are clear, you got the green light.

MOZZIE: Birch? What did you do to her? She's unconscious! What did you do? Hey! Why is she unconscious?

ENFORCEMENT2: That's the least of your worries darlin'

MOZZIE: Birch! Come one! Wake up! Birch! Wake up they're cutting them down.

SOUND: chainsaws get louder

ENFORCEMENT 1: Listen you gotta move. It's for your own safety. Come on.

MOZZIE: The trees. Your trees. No! Stop. Stop!
Do you know what you are destroying?
The trees!

SOUND: a tree crashes to the ground.

FINAL CREDITS

SOUND: theme music plays under the closing credits

In Disulfanide by Chad Nickson, the activist was played by Campbell Wallace, the spokesperson by Thomas Hill, Birch by Grace Lilley, Bab by Elliot Norman, Mozzie by Pauline Schou, and additional voices by Isobel Thom, Yung Nguyen and Theo Marceau.

Dramaturgy was by Stella Kammel, sound design by Iain Hunter and music by John Biddle. It was a Fierce Green and Rhiannon Media co-production, produced and directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll.

IGNITE Climate Shorts are supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry. They were recorded at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a cast of their members, and with technical stage management by Chris Laurich.

Visit FierceGreenProductions.co.uk for more information on the project and the science behind the dramas.

SOUND: music rises to a climax before quickly fading out.

END.