

# Screen Scenes

With love from Kristen Doherty.

## About Screen Scenes

Screen Scenes is designed to be used by actors in isolation.

It consists of monologues and duologues which can be recorded by individually, straight to a camera/phone/computer.

There are also some larger cast scenes that actors can collaborate on and still record individually with a simple Facetime or Zoom (or the like) app.

Screen Scenes is extracted from my Epic Theatre genre plays, BULLY! (aimed at middle school) And TEEN (aimed at senior school) Both plays examine social and emotional issues faced by contemporary teenagers. All stories are inspired by my student's real-life accounts.

## SCENES

*\* The number in bracket denotes how many characters are in each scene.*

FRIENDZONE (2)

THE FRIENDS (1)

REJECTED (11)

THE GIRL (1)

CONFUSED (1)

LEAVING HOME (2)

MY BROTHER (1)

CAUGHT UP (1)

UNDER PRESSURE (2)

ANGSTY (1)

WHEN I WAS LITTLE (1)

REGRET (2)

TODAY'S THE DAY (1)

SAME (4)

SCENE 1 - FRIENDZONE

TOM  
MARY

*Tom and Mary's faces are framed in a split screen. Both hold a phone to their ear; they cannot see each other.*

MARY                    Hello?

TOM                      Hey.

MARY                    Hey.... Um who's this?

TOM                      Guess.

MARY                    I don't recognise your number.

TOM                      You know me really well.

MARY                    Do I?

TOM                      Yep. I'm in your English class.

MARY                    With Mr Jones at St Joseph's?

TOM                      Yes.

MARY                    I shouldn't have told you that....

TOM                      What?

MARY                    My school... my teachers name...Great! Now if you are some weird stalker, I've just gone and told you everything about me. You can't be too careful nowadays.

TOM                      I'm not some weird stalker! We are studying Romeo and Juliet.

MARY                    Everyone studies Romeo and Juliet in year 10.

TOM                      Good point... Well things were pretty funny in class yesterday.

MARY                    What was? Give me actual events.

TOM                      Ok... Yesterday Jack stacked it and spilt his mocha-chai-latte all over Fiona's script. She screamed at him and called him a moronic caveman. Mr Jones kicked him out. Jack stood there in protest because it was an accident, and he "was the one who lost his mocca-chai-latte" then he sat on the floor with his legs crossed for almost the whole lesson refusing to budge. Jones

just continued teaching until he tripped over Jack. He had to call in Mrs Burbank and Jack still didn't move until she threatened to expel him...

MARY                    Ha. That was a classic!

TOM                     So?

MARY                    Ok, ok I believe you. You were there... Who are you then?

TOM                     Someone who thinks you're pretty special.

MARY                    What.

TOM                     ...I like you Mary.

MARY                    You like me?

TOM                     Yeah...I do... a lot.

MARY                    Wow...Ok... Awh, that is so sweet.

TOM                     Thanks...

MARY                    I'm so flattered that you'd call me out of the blue.

TOM                     It's not exactly out of the blue... I've liked you for over a year now.

MARY                    A year! Wow! Well, we have to meet up. Are you free later today?

TOM                     *(shocked/thrilled)* Today!?! Oh. Sure... I'd love to... Where?

MARY                    I dunno, how about Macca's?

TOM                     Absolutely...

MARY                    About 4? ... So are you going to tell me who you are?

TOM                     I... I'm a bit nervous...

MARY                    Don't be nervous... I think it's sweet.

TOM                     Ok... Well I still think you should still guess.

MARY                    Really? Ok... Um Zac?

TOM                     *(disappointed)* No.

MARY                    Damn! ... Ok, Johnno?

TOM                     *(upset)* Nope.

MARY Um... Mackenzie?

TOM Really?... No.

MARY Gawd... who else is there? Um, Jordan?

TOM *(sad)* Maybe I'll just go...

MARY No, this is fun... Um Brock? Frank? Giuseppe? ... I don't know!

TOM Look... This isn't how I actually pictured this conversation going.

MARY I can't think of anyone else.

TOM *(blurts out)* It's Tom ok!

MARY Tom who?

TOM Tom Jackson. I sit behind you... *(exasperated)* Our parents are friends. We spent Easter together this year... camping.

MARY *(gasps)* Tom! ... Oh... Sorry... I didn't think.

TOM It's ok... You don't have to say anything....

MARY Tom... I'm so sorry... I just don't see you like that.

TOM *(big breath)* Yeah... That's ok.

MARY I feel really bad... I mean... I'm sorry ok?

TOM Yeah... no worries... It's all good.... I've gotta go ok?

MARY Ok... Bye Tom... I'll see you in English tomorrow.

TOM Yeah...Bye Mary.

*Tom dissolves into sadness. His screen goes black.*

*Mary texts someone else.*

MARY Janice... You will never believe who just professed his un-dying love for me. Tom Jackson. I know! *(laughs)* What a weird stalker.

*Screen is disconnected.*

SCENE 2 – THE FRIENDS

MADDY

*Maddy is seen setting up the camera in her room. She goes and sits on her bed and speaks to camera.*

MADDY

The day I turned eleven was the worst day of my life.... It started really well...My Mum woke me up early so we could have a birthday breakfast together... *(she smiles gently)* pancakes. Dad was away at work, so we skyped him. I was pretty upset that he couldn't come home for my birthday, and on the way to school mum and I got into a really dumb argument about it. When I got out of the car, she tried to give me a hug. I told her I was too old for it and pushed her away. I guess I was just upset that she would defend him... and probably embarrassed at who would see me. As I slammed the door she said "Please Maddy, it's your birthday! I didn't even turn around. I just walked off.

That is the biggest regret of my life

At lunch my friends and I put all our food together and we made a birthday picnic on the oval. The little kids playing footy got so mad and started kicking balls at us, but we just laughed at them and didn't budge. Then Mr Jones turned up and said he had to take me to the office. At first, we thought those dumb year 4s had gone and told on us for ruining their game, but then he said he only needed me to come. We all laughed and thought it was really weird that they didn't just wait til I got back to class. But then I saw Mr Jones's face.... Will was joking that I had done something really bad. Mr Jones said for them to stay but they followed anyway, Cameron and Michael laughing and teasing me the whole time, saying, that I was going to get detention or suspended... Ange didn't. She saw Mr Jones's face too and held my hand the whole way there. I asked if her and Jess could come into the office with me... Mr Jones said no.

When I got into the office my dad was there, and other teachers, I don't even know who. Dad was crying... I knew as soon as I saw him that something had happened to Mum. He couldn't look at me.... He just looked down and kept crying...His body was shaking. He was making these really weird little hiccupping noises and I almost laughed at him.... Can you believe that? I knew what was about to happen and I felt like laughing. I knew. Someone asked me to sit down... Then someone said it...Not my dad...He couldn't...but someone said the words. *(quietly)* And then my world went black... and a part of me died too.

When they took me outside to go home, they were all waiting. My friends. The bell had gone ages ago, but they all had refused to move. They knew something had happened ...something bad...and they wanted to be there for me. And that's how it was from then. Through all the really bad stuff, they were there...They made me feel like I still had a family, even though mine had been ripped apart. They cared. They care. Even though our lives are

going in different directions now we're in high school, I know they will always be there for me and I will be for them. Always.

*Screen is disconnected.*

### SCENE 3 - REJECTED

BAZZA  
KIRRI  
KIRSTY  
DEREK  
KERSTIN  
ISAAC  
SARAH  
BETH  
CARLIE  
ANTON  
MICHAEL

*All actors speak direct to camera. These scenes can either be filmed as individually by the actor or could be filmed on an app like Zoom where all faces are onscreen at the same time.*

BAZZA                    I am the ultimate wingman... Well, that's what I tell people anyway. It takes the attention off the fact that no girl actually wants to speak to me. My mates... I don't even know how to say this without sounding like a massive loser... My mates are pretty good-looking lads. They lift... If you know what I mean? I don't even know what I mean... Do you see what I mean? I'm the clown... The comic relief... The one that the hot girls pat on the head and say "awh isn't he cute", as they go off with some other bloke! It's messed up man. Kinda over it to be honest. Oi! Don't laugh!

KIRSTY                    I asked him to meet me at the beach in the holidays and he said yes. I was so excited. I spent days getting ready for it, I bought three new outfits so I could see on the day which would be best. How pathetic is that? My mum dropped me down there, she was excited for me too...I got there early, and I waited and waited and waited... but he never came... I sat there for hours just waiting. I texted him, tried phoning, checked his Facebook, his snapchat, Instagram... but nothing... I saw him on the Monday. I said I waited. He acted like he didn't even know what I was talking about... I have never felt so... (*searches for the word*) so.... Rejected. The thing is, it's just so embarrassing. I told everyone about it... I wish I could just disappear.

DEREK                    I can't believe she dumped me... I thought things were going so well, you know? We used to do everything together. Now what am I going to do? There's like this massive hole in my life and I just really miss her. We used to do everything together. She was so funny and smart and so beautiful. I never felt good enough for her. I used to tell her that all the time. Well, you know...maybe I wasn't... or maybe she just started to believe me when I told her.... Not good enough. She said she wants to stay friends, but I don't want to be friends with her... That'd be weird.

- KIRRI I never feel good enough... All the girls at school are so beautiful, and skinny... I don't fit in. Literally! I don't feel comfortable wearing the clothes they wear. It takes me hours to get ready for parties... Then I don't end up going anyway cause I just feel crap. They've all got boyfriends or have kissed boys and I just feel like a big loser in the corner with clothes that don't fit.
- KERSTIN I always feel like the third wheel. She always has some new boyfriend and I'm always expected to come along... Just tag along behind them... like a little puppy dog. One day there's going to be a time when she's tagging along with me and my boyfriend. A boyfriend who adores me, and she's just invisible... One day it'll be my turn...
- ISAAC It scares me... Thinking about my future... Geeze even those words... My. Future... I mean, I know what I'd love do... but I can't... It'd be too hard to get into and my parents want me to have a "proper job" ... One with security. I mean in a perfect world I could do what I wanted. I have dreams, just like everyone else... I see other kid's parents supporting them... But mine just want me to do what they want me to do. I have no say. So my dreams are going to remain just that... dreams.
- SARAH There's these girls at my school... You know the ones. Every school has them. The mean girls. You know who I'm talking about. The mean girls. And everybody loves them... or maybe they don't, maybe they're just scared of them. But people just like laugh and go along with them being awful because they don't want them to turn their sarcastic horribleness onto them. And I hang out with those girls for that very reason... and I hate it. But I don't know who else I could go to, I don't have anybody. Like it or not, those girls are my only friends.
- BETH It's like he doesn't know I exist anymore. We said we'd stay friends but now he doesn't even look at me. I miss what we had. It feels so strange that I can't just go up and kiss him anymore you know? We used to belong to each other. We were something... Now it's like all that never happened. Maybe it was never real to start with, if I'm that easy to forget.
- CARLIE I've never had a boyfriend... Oh I've had lots of experience with boys, but none of them have actually ever led to any sort of you know, relationship... commitment. I tell myself it's much me as them. I'm all about my independence. Calling the shots. Getting what I want. Being young free and single.... but deep down... and I really hate to admit this, I just want someone who will always be there for me... Like what my parents didn't have...I don't always want to party. I guess I get lonely sometimes and I'd just like a boyfriend.
- ANTON I want to know what love is like... but I'm scared to think that what I see as love won't be accepted by my friends or family. I know that most people would be cool, but I'm terrified to think of who won't be. If only I knew that

it'd be ok, nothing would change, no one would judge me, I'd say something... tell someone. Hopefully one day soon I'll get brave.

MICHAEL

There's this girl at my school... (*looks around*) I don't want to say her name in case someone hears.... I mean I do want to say her name... I want to shout it out-loud, so the world can hear it! But it terrifies me to the point of being sick... I mean what if she laughs at me? What if she doesn't want me? I am totally in love with her. To the point of infatuation. I mean, I think about her constantly... I'm eating my breakfast, munching down on some Coco Pops and bang! There she is in my head... I'm wondering what she's having for breakfast and I'll bet it's not Coco Pops, probably some exotic Bircher Muesli, with poached pears and organic Greek yoghurt. (*exasperated*) Poached Pears! I'm frickin' imagining her sitting across from me when we're 80 years old eating breakfast together on our balcony eating those poached pears. This is not normal. It's like a disease... this love thing. It's horrendous, man.

*Screen is disconnected.*

#### SCENE 4 - THE GIRL

JENNY

*Jenny speaks directly to camera.*

JENNY

On the day that I found out that my dad had left I went to school because I didn't want to be at home.... Without him. How could he not love us enough to want to live with us anymore? It was too real at home. Mum was a mess. She'd kicked him out when they had a fight, but she thought he'd come back... He had always come back before.... But this time he didn't.

School felt more normal... I was really upset... for a long time. My friends didn't know what to say. At the start it was all hugs and "awh's" and "poor you" ... And "I know how you feel" because, you know, everyone's parents break up and for most people it didn't really seem like a big deal. But I just couldn't get over it... It really affected me. I felt like something I loved was broken and there was no way to fix it. And I felt like a freak because I kept bursting into tears in class. At first people felt sorry for me but then they started avoiding me.

But there was this one girl... I don't even remember her name now... She was a new girl in Year 10. She knew. She helped me... Even if it was just to listen when I was sad... which was a lot of the time.... And after a while I guess I just became ok again...

I'm in a good place now, a really good place. That broken little girl feels like she has the world at her feet now. All of this though, everything in my life, is all thanks to that girl who's name I don't remember... You know, I can't even recall her being there after that time... She must have moved school again, or something... It's funny, she'll never realise how much she

helped me, just by listening....and I'll probably never be able to tell her. I wish I had.

*The screen is disconnected.*

### SCENE 5 - CONFUSED

JEANIE

*Jeanie speaks directly to camera.*

JEANIE

Okay so I was on Insta, right? And saw Pete McIntire's name online. I don't know what possessed me, but I got brave and just wrote "Hi" ... I know! ... I can't believe I did either... Anyway, he writes back! Straight away, almost, and said "Hi Jeanie... How R U?" Just the letters R U... Ok pay attention to that because it becomes important later in the story... Ok? So anyway, I wrote "Great!" but with an 8 instead of the letters... so like Grr and then the number 8. Because I thought that sounded cooler... and he just used R U... Are you keeping up? Yes? Good! Because then he wrote "We should totally catch up and watch a movie or something!" Yes! He actually did. I couldn't believe the words that popped up on the screen. Pete McIntire asking me to hang out... and see a movie with him ... In a dark cinema, where he could totally like want to kiss me or something.

And anyway, I was like you know... trying not to get too excited. Because this is Pete! Pete McIntire. So, I just like waited for like a whole minute, which was torture... But I didn't want to seem too keen, so I was patient for like 65 agonising seconds... Then finally I wrote "Yeah I'm up for that". So, all casual like, when I actually felt like screaming "Yes! Yes! Yes! I'll have your baby Pete McIntire!"

Anyway... Now this part is what I need your advice on... Because now it gets confusing.... Ok, so he wrote. "I can ask Steven to come and you can ask Stace" Boo! Double date... Harder to get a pash when we have our besties in tow. Anyway, I'm thinking "at least I will be on a date with Pete McIntire" ... But then I thought "Does he mean a double date like as in 'him and I' and 'Steven and Stacey?'... Or a double date of 'Steven and me' and 'him and Stacey?' Does he like Stacey? ... He's never met Stacey... or has he? Are they secretly together? I mean she would have told me, right?... She tells me everything... But then why would he call her Stace if they've never met? Stace is a nickname and you only give people nicknames if you know them personally and generally like them... If you are friends... Or more than friends....and Stacey hasn't told me because she knows I am totally in love with him and have been for months?

Anyway, then it got really, really confusing because I said. "Sure I'll ask her" I know! I showed so much restraint because I really wanted to scream at him "Are you cheating on me with my best friend? ... But I didn't I just said "sure." Then anyway, then he wrote "Thanks Jeanie, I love you." What the actual? I love you! Exclamation point. Spelt out. 'I L.O.V.E you.' Not

just 'L.U.V'. That means something right? I mean it's got to mean something! And this relates to the R U reference from earlier. If he is the sort of guy to use letter abbreviations in his texting like R U, why would he use the actual word LOVE if he didn't actually love me... Like for real? Okay. Then it gets really, really complicated because he put one love heart emoji and one laughing crying emoji. Does the laughing crying emoji cancel out the love heart, or is it the other way around? Because it changes the whole meaning if it does. I don't know what to think about any of this!  
I am so confused.

*Screen is disconnected.*

### SCENE 6 - LEAVING HOME

LYDIA  
GRACE

*Lydia and Grace appear on a split screen. They hold their phones to their ears.*

LYDIA                   Hi mum.

GRACE                   Finally.

LYDIA                   I've been busy.

GRACE                   Too busy to talk to me?

LYDIA                   I texted you.

GRACE                   You know what I think of texting.

LYDIA                   Yeah, yeah... So dumb.

GRACE                   It's not a proper form of communication.

LYDIA                   Look I rang you back didn't I?

GRACE                   Where are you?

LYDIA                   I'm at Jackie's for the weekend. I told you.

GRACE                   Don't lie to me, Lydia. Charlie called me; he told me you were intending to try and find your dad again.

LYDIA                   He told you? That traitor! I knew I couldn't trust him.

GRACE                   He's your friend and he's worried about you, that's why he called. I can't believe you were going to go without telling me. I know things have been tense between us, but I thought....

- LYDIA Tense! That's an understatement.
- GRACE Lyds... You don't need to do this...Why do you think I'm not on your side? You are such a smart girl, but you are being so ridiculous right now. Can't you see you are just setting yourself up for a fall? You know what happened the last time you tried to find your dad... I just don't want you to get hurt again.... Please, baby.
- LYDIA Mum, back off! I am not your baby anymore! I don't need you to protect me! I have lived with just you for eight years now. Eight years of your nagging and complaining about everything and I am sick of it.
- GRACE *(tries to calm her down)* What are you talking about? This is you and me, come on, you remember. Thelma and Louise! We don't need anyone, just you and me against the world.
- LYDIA Stop it mum. How come I never saw it before? It's pathetic. You joke about being some kind of rebel, but you're so not. What sort of life do you have? You bury yourself in your work, so you don't have to see me, or anyone else. You've lived your life afraid of meeting somebody after dad left. You drove him away and you have been trying to do the same to me for years.... Well, here you go, this is what you have always wanted.
- GRACE *(shocked and hurt)* How can you say that? I have given up everything for you. Why can't you see that? Honestly, sometimes you drive me insane. I work two jobs to make sure you have everything you want and need. I haven't tried to find someone else because you have always been my priority.
- LYDIA So it's my fault? Well I won't be around anymore getting in your way. With me gone you go and live the life you have always wanted.
- GRACE Please Lyds.... Don't do this.
- LYDIA I've told you before the guilt thing doesn't work. I'm going.
- GRACE Lydia stop! You are making a mistake...Your father...he is not who you think he is...there are things that you don't know. He didn't//
- LYDIA *(interrupts)* Stop lying to me! You drove him away, you threw him out of the house, I remember. Now I know why he never tried to come back. In fact, I don't blame him for not trying. He hates you and so do I.
- GRACE Lydia that is not what happened. He//
- LYDIA Stop it mom, I know my own dad. He wants me, he is just waiting for me... I know it. Last time I was too young, I can take care of myself now, he doesn't have to worry about me. I am older.
- GRACE *(pleading)* Lyds...please listen to me baby...

LYDIA                    Leave me alone. I am tired of wasting my time trying to be nice to you. I can't take it anymore. I hate you. I can't live like this. Don't try to find me, I'm not coming back.

*Lydia's screen goes black. Grace looks sad, shocked. She hangs up.*

*Screen is disconnected.*

## SCENE 7 - MY BROTHER

*Sophie speaks directly to camera.*

SOPHIE                    When I was in year 8, my brother Jack had just left high school. We were really close... I looked up to him so much. I think he was the coolest person I'd ever met. He was always so fun and happy. But leading up to Christmas that year, I noticed that he wasn't himself, he had been really down... I thought it might be because he was feeling a bit overwhelmed about finishing high school and needing to apply for Uni and everything... but then one afternoon I found him crying in the kitchen. I was shocked. He always seemed so brave and strong. He told me he was gay, that he had come to terms with the fact he was, that he had come out to a few close friends who were all fine and really supportive, but now he was panicked about how he was going to tell me... and Mum and Dad.

I admit, I was shocked at first...I didn't know what to think. I mean he'd had girlfriends. Plenty of them. I always imagined that one day he would bring home some beautiful girl and we would also become best friends and I'd be a bridesmaid at their wedding. Stupid year 8 stuff, you know... (*shrugs*) Anyway, he seemed so relieved to tell me and I was really happy that he had. He still wasn't ready to tell Mum and Dad though.

Soon after he met a guy who he thought was cute and they started going out... He knew then that he had to tell my parents and one night at dinner he just blurted it out. Mum was quiet for a really long time, then she started to cry and told him that whilst it was a shock, he's her son and she loves him no matter what. But my dad didn't say anything for a long time.... then finally, he told my brother that he "didn't understand it and he didn't think he ever would, it made him feel uncomfortable". My brother tried to encourage him to educate himself more... to see that being gay isn't a choice. It's just the way he is... the way he's always been.... But no. Dad just got up and left my brother there, crying.

After that we just kinda went back to "normal" pretending that Jack's love life didn't exist. Then he moved to Sydney... He hasn't come back once. We've been to visit a couple of times and he takes down the photos of that same boyfriend and pretends that they've not been living together for three years. They're happy. Really happy... My brother hopes that Dad will understand one day. I hope so bad he will too. Dad reads a lot and he's a

really smart guy but I don't think he really tries... The thing is... (*cries*) I really miss my brother. I really do... He is the best person I know.

*Screen is disconnected.*

## SCENE 8 - CAUGHT UP

MIKE

*Mike speaks directly to camera.*

MIKE

Oh man, I don't know why I did it, I just got caught up I guess... I never expected in a million years that it would turn out like this... We were just having a bit of fun. Matty brought a lot of it on himself. Fat Matt we used to call him. Such a try hard. He never fit in, but he tried to... and that was the worst part. If he had just kept his head down and out of our way it might have turned out differently... But he was always following us around. It was like he was asking for it.

Jack... Jack's always been a bit of a legend... Well so we all thought. He made it his mission in life to find ways to torment Matt. And we all just went along with it... I don't know why. I guess we thought it was pretty funny... Or maybe we didn't want to be the one that Jack would start paying out instead. Who wants to defend a loser? He made up songs about Fatty Matty, which we all sung at assembly. The teachers just let us; I can't believe we got away with it.

We used to trip him over whenever he'd walk past, push him into lockers, Put dirt in his sandwiches when he turned his back. Took pictures of him while he was getting changed for PE and then posted them on Facebook...Prank call him all the time... Get one of our girlfriends to do it so he thought someone actually liked him... Then she'd just not show up at their meeting spot. Then she'd call and apologise, only to do it again... But he kept on showing up. Once we put rotten fish in his locker. It destroyed all his schoolbooks and laptop.

I don't know why I went along with it. I could blame Jack. He brought it to school and dared me... But what am I? Five years old. I knew exactly what I was doing. We made that poor kids life a living hell. And I'm not proud of myself. That's an understatement. I hate myself for it and I would do anything to take it back. Take it all back... He just wanted some friends. I didn't know he was so lonely... Maybe I didn't care, then... but I care now... I'm so sorry but it doesn't matter anymore...now it's too late.

*Screen is disconnected.*

SCENE 9 - UNDER PRESSURE

JAMIE

RILEY

*Sam and Riley appear in a Facetime (or equivalent) split screen.*

SAM                    Have you finished that science assessment?

RILEY                   Nah of course not.

SAM                    It was due yesterday.

RILEY                   You know me....

SAM                    You should probably focus on that. It's worth a lot of marks.

RILEY                   I don't care.

JAMES                  You should care. It's important.

RILEY                   I have other things on my mind.

JAMES                  Like what?

RILEY                   I dunno, just things.

JAMES                  Well that assessment was pretty serious... It's worth like 30%. Mr Thompson will kill you if you haven't done it.

RILEY                   I don't care! I never handed in the first assessment. So, it won't make a difference if I hand this one in.

JAMES                  Yeah it does. If you don't hand it in, you'll fail science completely.

RILEY                   Who gives? It's only science. No one cares about bloody chemistry.

JAMES                  Well your future does.

RILEY                   Well screw it, I'll just be homeless then.

JAMES                  Why are you getting so worked up about it?

RILEY                   Because you won't shut up. You are as bad as my dad. Telling me that I'm not good enough, that I'll never amount to anything, that my education is a waste of his money. And he's right, I'm not smart enough. I can't keep up. Everyone says I'm an idiot and they're right. So what's the point of trying? I give up.

SAM                    Well how about I throw a pity party for you then?

RILEY                   Shut up!

SAM                     Nah. I'm serious. Do you know what's worse than failing?... Not even trying. Come on... It's never too late. There are people you can ask for help. The teachers... Me. I'll help you. You just got to let us. It doesn't matter if you don't get a good grade, at least you'll know that you didn't just give up. Who cares if you are terrible at Science? You're great at Art. I'm terrible at it... We've all got to be bad at something don't we? You gotta take the bad with the good and just get through. Before you know school will be over and you'll be out in that big bad world and never have to look at a chemistry book again as long as you live.

RILEY                   And that still will be too soon. (*sighs*) Ok. Will you go through it with me?

SAM                     Yeah... Of course.

*Screen is disconnected.*

#### SCENE 10 - ANGSTY

MONIQUE

*Monique speaks straight to camera.*

MONIQUE               I can't remember ever not feeling anxious or sad. It's always been my reality. It started when I was a kid... I broke my arm at basketball. It was a bad break and I was in hospital for a few days... After that everything changed, my arm healed by it was like I broke my nerve. I became really jumpy, anxious about even the littlest things. Everything scared me. I did not want to leave my mum's side and I certainly did not want to go back to school... Just the thought of it made me feel sick to the stomach.

Mum would try to make me to go and it would just turn into a huge fight. I would start crying, I'd struggle to breathe, my chest would feel tighter and tighter and I would slip into a full-blown panic attack hyperventilating, throwing up, sobbing... Mum would end up in tears right along-side of me. She could see how much I was hurting and there was nothing... nothing she could do to help me. I remember her just holding me, telling me "it's all going to be ok, it's all going to be ok" over and over again until I'd calm down and she'd send me back to bed where I felt safe. This happened every single day and I ended up missing months of school. It caused lots of fights in our family... Dad didn't understand and thought Mum was pandering to me. I could hear him yelling at her at night. "This is ridiculous! What are we paying school fees for? Just make her go!"

It took a while, but I finally went back. Gradually at first, half days once a week then more and more. I didn't want to. But I had to... I wanted to be normal so badly. That didn't stop my panic attacks though. I stress about the stupidest of things... A teacher telling me off. A boy saying a smart

comment, the thought of going on camp, of walking through a crowd. My friends don't understand, they tell me to calm down and to stop worrying. It's easy enough for them to say but they just don't get it. Some people think it's all crap... my maths teacher actually called me an attention seeker. And I'm not. I'm really not. It's real, and I try... I really do, but people just don't understand how hard it is... They make stupid throw away comments like "oh I'm so anxious or depressed" and don't think how that affects someone like me who really feels like this, all the time.

I know the symptoms now...sweaty hands, nausea, struggling to breath, tight chest, freezing, not being able to move. I have learnt some techniques to manage my anxiety. Breathing exercises, finding a place or a person who I know I can trust... But every day is still a battle. I have horrible negative thoughts that scare me, but I hope that one day...One day soon, I can start feeling normal... But what is normal anyway?

*Screen is disconnected.*

### SCENE 11 - WHEN I WAS LITTLE

MONICA

*Monica brings her chair forward and addresses the audience.*

MONICA

I really hated school as a kid. Those guys gave me such a hard time. No matter how hard I tried to make them like me. They never did. They were always picking on me. Calling me names, pushing me around, saying that I looked funny, that I was a reject.

I tried to look like them. I really did. I would get my mum to buy me all the same clothes as them so I would fit in. It just made things worse. They called me a sheep and a try hard. There was just no way to win with those guys. I went to the teachers and told them I was getting picked on, but they just told me to ignore it and walk away. But how can you just ignore it and when they have pushed you on the ground and they're rubbing dirt and rocks in your face? Tell me that! They wouldn't let me go no matter what I said.

And do you know what, nobody ever said anything. Nobody ever said anything. Nobody ever helped me. If just one person had stood up for me, it might have stopped. I couldn't ignore it; I couldn't walk away. I had nowhere to run to.

In the end I really hated myself. I used to make myself sick so I wouldn't have to go to school

I'm different now, stronger, but I can't think of those days without feeling sick. I was just a kid. Just a little kid!

*Screen is disconnected.*

SCENE 12 – REGRET

JO

*Jo speaks direct to camera.*

JO

When I was twelve my mum had a baby with her new husband. A little boy, I hated him straight away. He was really annoying... You know, in only the way little brothers can be. He used to follow me everywhere. He would play with all my stuff and mess up the levels on my games. When he was about three, he spilt a whole tray of bottles of model paint my carpet. And it stank! We couldn't get it up no matter how much we scrubbed and scrubbed, and we had to rip up the carpet because I couldn't sleep in there. I had to use the disgusting rug from my stepdad's shed for almost a year. Geeze I really hated him after that.

He used to get away with everything! He had the cutest mop of blonde curls and the biggest bluest eyes you've ever seen. So people would just melt when he'd ask for something with his annoying little voice. He always wanted to go everywhere with me. Mum was working heaps, and my stepdad was away as usual, so mum would always make me take him with me or stay home. It used to make me so angry, so I started not taking him when I went out with my friends. Locking him in the house... Not for long. Twenty minutes, half an hour max, just when we went down to the shops on the corner or for a skate at the park, that sort of stuff. He used to get so upset when I'd grab my board because he knew I would be leaving him there alone. He'd scream and cry and bang on the door and the windows when I left. It didn't matter how many lollies I brought him back.

This one day recently, he was giving me such a hard time about not bringing him along, worse than ever. I couldn't stand it anymore and I stormed out. I could hear him all the way down the street... (*big breath*) As it turned out I forgot to latch the back door properly and he got out, into the backyard... The thing is (*pause, he's struggling*) we had a pool... He was only five. We actually had an alarm on our back door, but because no one was there to hear it, no one was there to stop him in time.

I got back from the shops. I had him a Kinder Surprise because he really liked the little toys you get in them... But I could see flashing lights, an ambulance in my driveway... police cars and I could see my neighbour sitting on our front lawn sobbing... I felt sick! I ran around the back and there were a whole heap of people standing around. They were in front of the ambulance men who were working on someone... I couldn't see who, but I knew. I knew it was him and I knew it was my fault. Then I saw mum, she was rushing towards the crowd, trying to get through, her eyes were wild, she was desperate, screaming out his name.

She knew too.

People, I don't know who... our neighbours maybe? Police? People were holding her back, telling her she didn't want to see him. "My baby!" She screamed... "Let me see my baby!" I tried to stop her, but she pushed me away with so much hatred in her eyes.... I will never get that image out of my head. When she got through, she grabbed him and held him to her chest screaming like a wounded animal. Everyone was crying. I was on my knees, praying to God that he'd be ok. All of a sudden, he started coughing and spluttering. He was ok! Thank God, he was ok! Thank God... But no thanks to me... It was my fault ... My little brother almost died, and it was all my fault. I was grounded for months... But I didn't care, I was just so grateful that he was ok... But I can't stop that picture of him, screaming out my name when I left him and then seeing him all blue, going round and round in my head... and I can't un-see that look in mum's eyes... I let her down... I let them both down so badly.

*Screen is disconnected.*

SCENE 13 – TODAY'S THE DAY.

JOSIE

*Josie speaks directly to camera.*

JOSIE

Tell me what you think of me! Come on tell me! Ugly, stupid, fat? Oh that's original! Is dumb insults all you can throw at me? Loser, Dweeb, Retard. Wow you guys are so original! Like I haven't heard stuff like that a million times.

What I want to know is why you think you have the right to judge me? You people don't know me. Nobody does because you haven't made the effort to speak to me like a human being. All you see is that I'm not quite like you and see that as grounds to tease me.

Well today is the day that I stand up for myself. We are all different, I'm not sure why, but I'm sure as hell that it's not so you can make people feel like crap. What gives you the right to make me feel bad about myself? All you people care about is what's on the outside, not the inside, where the real difference is. Why do you feel you have the right hurt me? Am I just a vulnerable target? Just someone to pick on? A big joke!? Well how would you like it if someone treated you the way you treat me day after day?

I think it's because you are scared, of people who are different. The next time you go to call me or someone else fat, ugly, a loser, ugly, stupid, or any other insult, remember that you do not have the right to judge people. And the rotten things that you are saying about them, only reflects what's on the inside of you.

*Screen is disconnected.*

SCENE 14 - SAME

BEAUTY  
 GAMER  
 FREAK  
 NERD

*This scene can be filmed on an app like Zoom where all actors faces appear onscreen at the same time.*

BEAUTY I just want someone who likes me for me... Not some notion who they think I am. Guys/Girls just don't speak to me. I don't get it. I try to make an effort, I really do. Someone told me once I'm intimidating, but I'm not... I'm actually really lonely. People take one look at me and judge me. No one understands... I'm just me. I'm a really decent person. People would see that if they just gave me a chance. Just give me a chance. See me. I'm right here.

GAMER I just want someone who likes me for me... Not some notion who they think I am. Guys/Girls just don't speak to me. I don't get it. I try to make an effort, I really do. Someone told me once I'm intimidating, but I'm not... I'm actually really lonely. People take one look at me and judge me. No one understands... I'm just me. I'm a really decent person. People would see that if they just gave me a chance. Just give me a chance. See me. I'm right here.

FREAK I just want someone who likes me for me... Not some notion who they think I am. Guys/Girls just don't speak to me. I don't get it. I try to make an effort, I really do. Someone told me once I'm intimidating, but I'm not... I'm actually really lonely. People take one look at me and judge me. No one understands... I'm just me. I'm a really decent person. People would see that if they just gave me a chance. Just give me a chance. See me. I'm right here.

NERD I just want someone who likes me for me... Not some notion who they think I am. Guys/Girls just don't speak to me. I don't get it. I try to make an effort, I really do. Someone told me once I'm intimidating, but I'm not... I'm actually really lonely. People take one look at me and judge me. No one understands... I'm just me. I'm a really decent person. People would see that if they just gave me a chance. Just give me a chance. See me. I'm right here.

ALL I just want someone who likes me for me...

GAMER Not some notion who they think I am.

BEAUTY/NERD Guys/Girls just don't speak to me.

BEAUTY I don't get it.

FREAK                    I try to make an effort,  
 FREAK/NERD            I really do.  
 BEAUTY/GAMER        Someone told me once I'm intimidating,  
 FREAK                    but I'm not...  
 NERD                    I'm actually really lonely.  
 ALL                      People take one look at me and judge me. No one understands...  
 GAMER                  I'm just me.  
 FREAK/BEAUTY        I'm a really decent person.  
 ALL                      People would see that if they just gave me a chance.  
 NERD/BEAUTY        Just give me a chance.  
 ALL                      See me.  
 NERD                    I'm right here.

*Screen is disconnected.*

### About me.

Hi, I'm Kristen and I'm a Drama teacher, playwright, mum, wife and renovator of the cheapest but closest to Shakespeare's house that I could find in the Adelaide Hills. (The Shakespeare obsession is real with me) Add me on Facebook, I'd love to connect with other Drama teachers and directors, I feel like now the world is being torn apart by this horrendous virus, it's more important than ever for us to stay connected. My plays at school got cancelled this week. My kids are beyond devastated but for weeks my heart has just been breaking for you guys too, my fellow drama teachers all over the world, losing their kids, their plays, their jobs, their work, their hearts. My God, what a time we are living in.

Like all of you, I'm trying now trying to navigate this strange new world. So, I am sending my love with this play as my contribution to try and help other teachers and directors who might be struggling to find some challenging individual scenes. I hope that it is of use to some of you. (My plays are published with Australian Plays so using their scenes in a formal assessment capacity shouldn't be a problem).

As a playwright I am guessing now that all of my plays now can't proceed either. I was really excited that there were 16 productions around the world in rehearsal until a week or so ago. ☹️ But we need to stay positive, a story is still a story and we as artists have to work out ways to tell ours in other ways. Rework our work, so to speak. I do hope that Screen Scenes is of use, if you do end up using it, please email me or message me and let me know. I would love to be able to hear all about it, even see the work. Maybe we can organize a collaboration... my kids and your kids, across the country, across the world... You couldn't ask for a better social distancing than that ;) haha.

For the time when we can get our kids back on the stage, I also have three Shakespearean adaptations, as well as other large cast plays for young people of which I am happy to send out perusal copies of if you're stuck at home and want to start looking at plays for when life goes back to normal.

Here are the synopses.

#### THE DREAM

A teenage rom-com, Shakespeare style.

On a hot Saturday morning on the grounds of St Athenian's High School, rehearsals are underway for a Shakespearean Gala – 'Scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The boundaries between fantasy and reality blur when the actors lives start to parallel those of their namesake characters as they are swept up in a tale that is more than 400 years old - How can Helena re-write her story?

\*Aprox 70 minutes, 8 to 20+ (unlimited) characters.

[https://www.facebook.com/TheDreambyKristenDoherty/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/TheDreambyKristenDoherty/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

#### THE CURSE OF MACBETH.

When the Drama Club discover that their teacher is away for the rest of the term, they are dismayed to be stuck with her replacement, 'the Beck'; the impudent and cynical PE teacher; overdue for long service leave, with a great dislike for Drama kids. The Beck soon leaves them to their own devices, with one rule, it has to be Shakespeare. Despite fearing the legendary curse, the students decide on 'Scenes from Macbeth'. Unconcerned that his heart belongs to another, mean girl, Monique, is crushing on Declan. Determined to make him fall in love with her, she resorts to invoking the curse of Macbeth to cast a love spell. Meanwhile the rehearsal for the most epic Five-Minute Macbeth rages on. Do Shakespeare's words really make people fall in love or is it just a bored PE teacher, messing with the theatre's technical equipment?

\*Aprox 60 minutes, 19 characters.

#### SHAKESPEARE BACHELOR

William Shakespeare has entered the Bachelor Mansion in the search for his one true love - the greatest character he's ever written. Guided by loveable host, Chris, the ten Shakespearean Bachelorettes; Lady Macbeth, Ophelia, Titania, Juliet, Cordelia, Beatrice, Viola, Katherine, Tamora and Cleopatra fight for the glory of Will's Final rose and will stop at nothing to win his heart.

\*Aprox 65 minutes, 12 characters (2 boys 10 girls)

#### THE MARVELLOUS MELLOW MELODRAMA OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE MISLAID MINOR

A One Act comedy in the style of a traditional British Melodrama.

Penelope Kerslake has returned home from boarding school to tell her beloved father, The Major, of her impending marriage to Gilroy Gladheart, unfortunately he has already promised her hand to another, the villainous Dirk Dastardly.

\*Aprox 45 minutes, 19 characters, doubling up possible.

#### THE REAL STORY OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Two versions of Alice intermingled - was she really the sweet girl we all thought she was?

\*Aprox 40 minutes, 23 characters, doubling up possible.

#### GHOST STORY

A ghost story told around a campsite that becomes real.

\*Primary and Middle School - aprox 10-15 minutes, 17 characters,

#### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A full-length adaptation of Charles Dickens beloved classic masterpiece. (not a musical)

\*Aprox 70 minutes, 60 characters, doubling up possible.

#### TEN MINUTE MACBETH

The entire play of Macbeth, super quick and silly. Extracted from the Curse of Macbeth. Will give the students an excellent crash course in the plot points and characters of Macbeth.

\*Up to 30 characters. Doubling up possible.

## TEEN

(Theatre in Education) Looks at issue's teenagers face today incl. cyber bullying, racism, body image, sexting, dealing with depression/parents splitting up, pressure, being friend zoned etc.

*Teen* examines social and emotional issues faced by contemporary teenagers. Designed to be performed and watched in a high school context, *Teen* consists of a selection of short scenes and monologues written within the genre of Epic Theatre. Issues such as body image, peer group pressure, jealousy, love, anxiety, friendship struggles, sexuality, relationships with parents, sexting and the loss of a parent are explored.

\*Aprox 60 minutes. 22 scenes and over 60 characters (flexible)

## BULLY!

(Theatre in Education) short scenes which revolve around the issue of bullying including cyber bullying, racism, exclusion, peer group pressure, bystanders etc.

\*Aprox 40 minutes, 16 scenes and over 50 characters (flexible)

## \*TEEN and BULLY

Designed to be performed and watched in a high school context, *TEEN and BULLY!* are designed for large casts with each actor playing multiple roles. Every scene is based on real life accounts and events; some funny, some challenging, some heartbreaking, but all real. Both plays consist of a selection of short scenes and monologues written within the genre of *Epic Theatre*. A form of didactic drama presenting a series of loosely connected scenes that avoid illusion and often interrupt the story line to address the audience directly with analysis, argument, or documentation. Epic Theatre is now most often associated with the dramatic theory and practice evolved by the playwright-director Bertolt Brecht, Germany, from the 1920s onward. Brecht's intention was to appeal to his audience's intellect in presenting moral problems and reflecting contemporary social realities on the stage."

Encyclopedia Britannica.

\*Some schools choose to select scenes out of both BULLY! and TEEN, to create their own script, as well as have any budding playwrights create their own scenes to add to the script and really own their unique production.

Email me if you would like perusal copies emailed to you.

Good luck and love to all of you.

Kristen <3