



# Educator

By Hayley Squires

## Cast

Lydia	Aisling Loftus
Maria	Michelle Terry
Jake	Simon Harrison
Friend 1	Georgie Fuller
Friend 2	Carys Eleri
Maria's Mum	Carolyn Pickles
Radio Presenter/ Boy 1	Arthur Hughes
Male Reporter/ Ben	Joel MacCormack

Directed by Helen Perry

TX Date: 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014 @ 21:30 on Radio 3

## Scene 1

*The sound of a park on a weekday summers afternoon. Silence. Maria and Lydia have been stood there a few minutes and no one has spoken yet*

### **FULL MUSIC REPORTING DETAILS ON PROTEUS**

1 Lydia: You're pretty.

#### ***No response***

2 Lydia: I said I think you're pretty

3 Maria: Thank you, that's kind

4 Lydia: I like your top. I bet you shop in them places all the pretty young mums shop.

5 Maria: I'm not-

6 Lydia: No, I know you're not

#### ***Beat***

7 Lydia: That was weird this morning

8 Maria: What?

9 Lydia: Sending you a text. I never thought I'd send *you* a text.

10 Maria: You got my note then? Of course you got my note that's a silly thing to say, how else would you have my number? Unless you already had it before but that would just be out right bizarre, which would actually fit perfectly with this whole sit-situation actually-

11 Lydia: I got your number from your note

12 Maria: Right ok. You put a kiss at the end. Did you- I mean did you realise you put a kiss at the end of the text

1 Lydia: I always put a kiss at the end of my texts (?) Otherwise it's just cold I think, it looks col- sorry but what are you staring at?

2 Maria: Is that your natural hair colour?

***Beat***

3 Lydia: No. I just prefer this colour

4 Maria: You make a good job of it. Me and my sister used to do ours all sorts of colours at your age, always made a right mess of it. (***Nervous laugh at the memory of it***) Pink always came out ginger. We never learnt. Silly.

5 Lydia: How very Grange Hill

6 Maria: That colour makes you look old

7 Lydia: Right

8 Maria: At least 19

9 Lydia: Ok

10 Maria: You look old. Older than I realised. But then I've only ever seen you in your uniform. All the newspapers seemed to use the same photograph of you

11 Lydia: 19 isn't old

14 Maria: You look healthy. Your clothes look expensive.

15 Lydia: My clothes are expensive. My hair's dyed by a professional colourist. I am healthy. What do you want?

1 Maria: The police said your mum is a financial adviser

2 Lydia: If you knew then why did you ask?

3 Maria: And that your dad is quite high up in making decisions about the NHS

4 Lydia: Yes. Do you want his address to send him some hate mail?

5 Maria: They must be good parents. Must love you

6 Lydia: Yeah, course they love me. They're my parents(?)

7 Maria: Of course. Well, that's nice. That's nice that you feel that. That they love you. You must- I mean they must, they must be upset. Concerned? Incredibly I'd have thought-

8 Lydia: Yeah-

9 Maria: I'd have hoped-

10 Lydia: They are-

11 Maria: (**pained to get out**) Ab-absolutley disgusted I should imagi- sorry, sorry. God I don't know what's wrong with me. (**her breath out with a noise**) I need a cigarette. You don't have one do you? Oh, that's inappropriate asking a 16 year old for a ciga- oh no wait it's legal isn't it?

12 Lydia: Yeah. I'm 16 and three months. It's legal

***Maria's laugh again then her breathing difficult and heavy***

13 Lydia: I do have one

14 Maria: What?

15 Lydia: A cigarette. Here

***Lydia hands Maria a cigarette and a lighter***

1 Maria: Oh.

***She lights it and smokes***

2 Maria: First fag in four years. Gave up because Jake begged me to. I love smoking. It makes me feel skinny. And sexy. Oh god, that's so horrible, why on Earth am I telling you that?

3 Lydia: I actually don't know

4 Maria: I had all these things I wanted to say and t-t-to ask you. To ask you. But now that I've seen you I don't know. Because you seem fine Lydia. You don't seem all broken into bits, you seem, I mean you look just... fine

5 Lydia: How should I look?

6 Maria: I'm not sure. Tired, baggy brown rings round yours eyes. Like me, can you see them?

7 Lydia: No

8 Maria: I thought I'd see something on you. I thought I'd see what he did to you.

9 Lydia: What he did to me?

10 Maria: Yes. Because he told me his version of it that I just don't know that I can believe because you, I mean you are, you're 16 but now that I've seen you and the way you stand, the way you stand with the weight over your hips and that deepness you have in your voice-

11 Lydia: I have a deep voice?

1 Maria: And the way you're looking at me like I'm younger than you or I don't know, sillier than you perhaps, I think he might be telling the truth but then the papers and the news and my mum and my friends

## **Scene 1A**

1 Male reporter: Mrs Wright, we can offer you a substantial amount of money to share your story with us-

3 Maria's mum: *(crying)* Darling, the people at work said they saw Jake in the paper, they are calling him a-a-

2 Male Radio Presenter: children need to be protected from being confused and led by fantasises being fed to them by men like this. Call in with your thoughts listeners, we'd love to hear your comments.

4 Friend 2: Thank god you found out what he is now before you had-well, you know. Oh Maria I'm so sorry for you...

## **Scene 1B**

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: I'd- I just want to know what he did to you.

#### ***Beat. Catching her breath***

What did my husband do to you?

2 Lydia: Your husband didn't do anything to me.

3 Maria: What?

4 Lydia: It's a shame all of this has happened. It's a shame about his job.

5 Maria: Sorry?

6 Lydia: It's a shame that he won't be able to teach anymore. He was a great teacher

## Scene 2

**Snap to the sound of a school assembly finishing. Kids chattering and chairs scraping. Jake having to shout over the noise to a triumphant Lydia**

1 Jake: Congratulations Lydia, it's only right that the brightest young woman in the school should be head girl. I voted for you. You won me over when you mentioned Aristotle. What was the quote again?

2 Lydia: 'The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living from the dead'.

3 Jake: That's so good I'm embarrassed I didn't know it before

4 Lydia: I'm actually thinking of getting it as a tattoo across my heart under my left breast. Here, sir.

5 Jake: Lydia. That's inappropriate. Don't erm- just watch your language

6 Lydia: Sorry Sir. And I was actually being sarcastic

7 Jake: Oh, I see. You know sarcasm is the lowest form of wit Lydia. You're head girl now, you need step everything up to the highest possible standard, begin with you sense of humour

8 Lydia: I'm on it Sir

## **Back in the park**

9 Lydia: He took an actual real interest in us. Not just me, all of us. He was a great teacher. I think it was because he was young, if he worked in my mum's office she'd have called him dynamic

### **A busy school corridor**

1 Jake: Lydia 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is one of the most important narrative voices ever written. Read it. Now what did you think of Wuthering Heights?

2 Lydia: Couldn't get past the first chapter, the language is so absurd it's hard to find the romance in it. Kathy just needed to get a grip, Sir!

3 Jake: **(laughing)** Finally, a female reaction to that book that isn't doe eyed and dribbling. You give me hope!

## **Scene 2a**

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: Why are you telling me this? I know he was a good teacher and he used to tell me about you, not just you, about all of you, the students that he liked, that excited him

2 Lydia: Did he?

3 Maria: I know he was a good teacher. Please Lydia. I ju-just need to know what he did

### **Scene 3**

**Jake alone in his classroom marking books, the door swings open and Lydia rushes in.**

1 Lydia: Sir, can I please hide in here for twenty minutes, Ben Taylor's been stalking me since lunch time and wants to walk me home and is standing at the gate and I can't go until he's gone

***Jake laughs***

2 Jake: Of course, come in

3 Lydia: Thank you Sir

***Lydia swings the door shut and jumps up on one of the desks to sit down***

4 Jake: So that's gentlemanly of Ben to want to walk you home. Is he going to carry your books too?

5 Lydia: Yeah and then hopefully burst into a spontaneous verse of 'Teenager In Love' and combing his quiff

***Jake laughs***

6 Jake: Why won't you let him?

7 Lydia: Because he doesn't actually want to walk me home. He wants me to go to his house tonight and 'show me how good he is at Call of Duty'

8 Jake: Is that code?

1 Lydia: Obviously Sir. He just wants to get me in his bedroom. And when I said 'I couldn't possibly spend time with anyone who plays Call Of Duty because I'm too concerned over the fragile state of imminent war in Syria and actually Tuesday is the night that I spend working on my one woman campaign to free Pussy Riot' he stared at me blinking like a fish and then said 'did you just say Pussy?'

2 Jake: What are we teaching these kids?

3 Lydia: It's not about your teaching Sir trust me, it's about the psychological state of these depraved boys.

4 Jake: Depraved is a little bit unkind don't you think?

5 Lydia: Oh you think so? This is the conversation I heard Ben and his mate having at lunch time:

### **Scene 3a**

#### **Boys in the school playground at lunchtime**

1 Boy 1: Vag. Vag is the best word for it.

2 Ben: Call me old fashioned but fanny is my favourite

3 Boy 1: Fanny makes you sound common, who are you - Danny  
Dyer? Vag is the way to go.

#### **Back in the classroom**

4 Jake: Ok that is depraved. And that kind of language is far too  
graphic for the two of us to be discussing

5 Lydia: But you understand my resistance?

6 Jake: I do. But unfortunately they're 16 year old boys Lydia they're  
supposed to be... offensive

7 Lydia: Then they're doing their job brilliantly. And that was only  
made worse but the fact that I'd just finished having this  
conversation with *my* friends:

### **Girls in the school playground at lunchtime**

1 Friend 1: Because my tits are too small

2 Friend 2: What? Is that what he said?

3 Friend 1: Yeah he was like, 'I would but your tits are too small'

4 Friend 2: Oh no. That's so sad because he is well beautiful (?)

5 Friend 1: Yeah I know, when I look at his face I feel like I really need a wee

6 Friend 2: Ergh...

7 Friend 1: But what can I do about my tits? Lyd's what can I do about Matthew and my tits?

8 Lydia: Matthew asked you out by saying (***posh boy tilt***) 'my parents are away for the weekend, how about you come round and I savage you, make sure you shave first'. Don't let him have anything to do with your tits

### **Scene 3b**

#### **Back in the classroom**

1 Jake: Ok Lydia I'm going to have to stop you because you keep-  
you've just really overstepped the mark there

2 Lydia: Sorry Sir

3 Jake: You're know that you're more than welcome to hide out in my  
classroom anytime you like, it's a pleasure actually but I'm  
suddenly aware that once again we've stumbled onto an  
inappropriate subject and it does have to stop

4 Lydia: Oh yeah, sorry Sir, I didn't even think

5 Jake: That's ok. Just try and have a bit more of an awareness  
regarding certain conversations that you share with me. It's  
important to understand how these things can get  
misconstrued

6 Lydia: Child protection policy. Totally. I get it. I just didn't think. It's  
like talking to my friends talking to you. Only not because you  
talk about things that actually matter and not about the  
strange things they do to each other that they call sex or their  
frustration when their iphone won't update to io7. Or 8. Or  
whatever

7 Jake: I understand. I'm happy to you can talk to me. I feel the  
same. Although I have no idea what you mean by io7.

#### ***Lydia's laugh***

8 Lydia: You're not that old Sir

9 Jake: Now tell me about this one woman campaign to free Pussy  
Riot

1 Lydia: Well, my first step is to write a letter to Putin asking him whether or not he was breastfed and if he believes there might be a chance that he's suffered some kind of sustained withdrawal emotional relapse since hitting puberty causing him to be resentful and confused over the role of the female

2 Jake: That is magic

**(they laugh)**

## **Scene 4**

### **Back in the park**

1 Lydia: I fancied him

### ***Beat***

2 Lydia: I said that I fancied him

3 Maria: I heard you

4 Lydia: I fancied him so much. He was better than any boy I'd ever been with before. He was funny and he laughed at my jokes and was serious and just, sorry if you find this weird me saying this, but he was really sexy. All I could think about was having sex with him. I used to go to bed early just so I had time to think about it before I went to sleep. I didn't even think about him being my teacher. Should I stop?

### ***Maria's heavy breathing***

5 Maria: No, keep going.

### **Scene 4a**

#### **Jakes classroom after school. Lydia and Jake working, enjoying themselves**

3 Lydia: The reason it's the greatest love story ever told is because Shakespeare wrote two teenagers-

4 Jake: Not the argument of first love being the greatest any one will ever experience and all of that nonsense please Lydia-

5 Lydia: Hold on that's not what I was going to say, let me finish. Right Juliet was what? 13? This boy climbs over her wall, a boy who she knows she can't possibly go out with because it's forbidden by her father, talk about throwing down the gauntlet for sexual rebellion

#### ***Jake laughs***

6 Lydia: And Romeo was older than Juliet wasn't he? Which automatically makes him more attractive

7 Jake: Does it?

1 Lydia: Of course. She's a virgin and he turns up dances with her, kisses her hand, climbs walls and shouts poetry at her by moonlight? Of course she thinks she loves him, she's 13. What she's feeling in her stomach is the first increased release of hormones, which has been caused by a chemical reaction in her brain because her body has experienced something slightly sexual for the first time. Of course she thinks she's in love

2 Jake: But you're arguing that she isn't?

3 Lydia: I'm arguing that the reason it's the greatest love story ever is because the love is based on attraction and an awakening of sexuality. Which can be so explosive in your mind And if she wasn't such a 13 year old she would have separated this need for sex from the nonsense about love and chances are they both would've lived-

4 Jake: That's impressive Lydia, that's like a degree level argument

5 Lydia: Really? Well that's good because I am planning on doing it for my coursework

6 Jake: Doing what exactly?

7 Lydia: Uh, asking the question 'Does the explosion of hormones and the natural urge for sexual exploration play a part in the ultimate downfall of Romeo and Juliet?'

***Jake laughs***

8 Jake: Absolutely not

***They both laugh throughout, we hear that they become physically closer***

1 Lydia: Yes I am especially now I know that it's a degree level question

2 Jake: It would be inappropriate for me to mark that kind of a question. How would I explain it to the moderator?

***She moves in close to him, holding their breath***

3 Lydia: Easily Sir

4 Jake: Lydia-

5 Lydia: Really, really, easily

***She kisses him. He pulls away***

6 Jake: No Lydia, that's wrong. No

***She moves to him softly***

7 Jake: Lydia I need you to leave now please

8 Lydia: I just wanted to make you smile Sir

9 Jake: What?

10 Lydia: You've just seemed sad for a little while now and I just want to cheer you up

11 Jake: I'm not sad. And this is all wrong

***She is very close to him***

12 Lydia: You are sad Sir. It's ok you know, I can see that you are

13 Jake: Really

14 Lydia: Yes. And I just want to give you a kiss. Just a kiss to cheer you up

Jake: I – I ...

Lydia: Shhh...

***She softly kisses him again. A beat of hesitation. He kisses her back. It is passionate, intense. Fades.***

## **Scene 4b**

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: (breathless) Jesus Christ

2 Lydia: I know

3 Maria: Just like that?

4 Lydia: Yep, that easy. That feels so good!

5 Maria: What?

6 Lydia: To have said that out loud, finally and for someone to have actually heard it

7 Maria: Why haven't you told anybody else?

8 Lydia: I did but they wouldn't listen, which is why they're all calling him, that thing that they're calling him. But your husband *isn't* a paedophile. Which is good news isn't it? You must feel better about that?

9 Maria: (breathless) You haven't got a clue have you?

10 Lydia: What're you talking about?

13 Maria: You have no idea of the devastation you've created

## **Scene 5**

### **Jake and Lydia's kitchen. Silence. After the storm**

#### ***Silence. Their breathing***

9 Maria: 16 Jake-

10 Jake: Don't-

11 Maria: She's 16 years old-

12 Jake: Maria-

13 Maria: She's a child. If she was my daughter I'd be showing her how to do her make up.

14 Jake: It isn't about her age

15 Maria: It isn't?

16 Jake: She doesn't seem 16

17 Maria: What does that mean?

1 Jake: I don't know. I just meant I didn't do it because she was 16

2 Maria: Is there something wrong with you?

3 Jake: What? No

4 Maria: Are you sick Jake?

5 Jake: Maria how can you say that to me?

6 Maria: Because you had sex with a child!

7 Jake: It wasn't against her will

8 Maria: Jesus! Stop Jake you're making me feel sick

#### ***Their breathing. Jake broken, desperate***

9 Jake: She isn't like a 16 year old. Not like you think a 16 year old is. She's just like you-

10 Maria: What?

11 Jake: No I mean she could be your age, our age. She's just like one of your friends. She's funny and has her head screwed on and I could talk to her about things-

12 Maria: Oh please stop now-

***Jake crying***

13 Jake: I made a horrible, horrible mistake. I need you Maria, I love you. I feel so sick that I've done this to you

14 Maria: I don't know you

15 Jake: Don't say that please. You do know. I'm not that, I'm not what they're all saying.

1 Maria: How do you know that? How do you really know that you aren't?

***Beat***

2 Jake: Because she held me. And I didn't have to ask her to.

## **Scene 5a**

### **Back in the park**

1 Lydia: Wow. That is an intense conversation

2 Maria: Why didn't you tell anybody Lydia?

3 Lydia: I did, I told the police that's why I didn't press charges (?)  
obviously

4 Maria: But everyone else. The newspapers and our family and friends-

5 Lydia: I told my mum and dad but they thought I was just confused and had been, I don't know, like brain washed or something. Because nobody wants to hear it do they?

6 Maria: Because you're a child!-

7 Lydia: But I'm not am I. And that is what is far too delicate for anyone to hear. You didn't even want to hear it. It's incredible really that people would rather believe something dark and illegal and disgusting than take the time to understand that we were two consenting adults-

8 Maria: You're 16-

9 Lydia: Who just wanted to go to bed together

***Beat***

10 Lydia: That is all we wanted to do, Maria. We just wanted to take each other to bed.

## Scene 6

**We hear Jake and Lydia kissing, we hear them fumbling, taking each other's clothes off, kissing, this gets more intense as the sound fades**

1 Lydia: It was extraordinary. He made my spine shake. At certain points I had to just hold on to him, and he would breathe softly and ever so calmly into my ear

2 Jake: **(on top of Lydia holding her, softly, calmly)** Ok, it's ok

### **Back in the park**

3 Maria: **(breathless)** God

**Back in the room, after sex, Jake and Lydia lay together. She moves in bed and lights a cigarette**

4 Jake: You shouldn't smoke, it's bad for you

5 Lydia: Is it?

### ***She laughs***

6 Jake: I'm serious

7 Lydia: I can see you are. Would you like one?

8 Jake: No

9 Lydia: Are you sure?

10 Jake: Of course, I don't smoke

11 Lydia: Anymore?

12 Jake: Anymore. I-I lost my mum. Last year

13 Lydia: Oh

14 Jake: Lung cancer

1 Lydia: Oh, my god. I'm so sorry. Do you want me to put it out?

2 Jake: No, it's ok. I love the smell

***She leans close to him and whispers***

3 Lydia: Open your lips

***She places a cigarette in his mouth and lights it, he sighs and smoke. She laughs***

4 Lydia: Better?

5 Jake: Much.

**Back in the park**

6 Lydia: Is that too much?

7 Maria: Carry on

**Back in the room**

8 Lydia: Does your wife smoke?

9 Jake: What?

10 Lydia: Does your wife smoke?

11 Jake: How do you know I have a wife?

12 Lydia: You told us in class once

13 Jake: Did I?

**Back in the park**

14 Maria: Did he?

**In the room**

15 Lydia: Her name's Maria.

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: You knew my name?

### **In the room**

2 Jake: You remembered me saying that?

3 Lydia: I remember most things you say

4 Jake: I didn't realise that you knew

5 Lydia: I thought you did

6 Jake: No. I didn't think you'd do-

7 Lydia: Yes?

8 Jake: This. I didn't think you would do this if you knew I was married. Listen to me, I'm married. Oh God, I always imagined husbands that cheat to be repulsive men, but that can't be right-

9 Lydia: Look Sir-

10 Jake: One act can't condemn the whole of you can it?

11 Lydia: Sir, listen. You don't have to worry that I'll tell your wife because it won't happen again. Will it?

14 Jake: Why won't it happen again?

1 Lydia: Because you're married. And you're already having a crisis of guilt. Look Sir I think sex is great, I love it and it's just like two people enjoying each other and that's it. It's what we're made for I think and I actually think it's really sad that because of what marriage means to society, you have to like break that part of you off

2 Jake: Right

3 Lydia: But I know other people don't agree with me or like understand -

4 Jake: I get it

5 Lydia: You do?

6 Jake: Yes. And I think it's beautiful. Very beautiful

7 Lydia: Right. So what does that mean?

8 Jake: Are you asking what that means in the expanse of things? Because I can't-

9 Lydia: Sir-

10 Jake: Or are you asking what that means in the here and now?

11 Lydia: Here and now. Definitely. Always here and now

12 Jake: It means- it mean you should come over here and kiss me

***He pulls her into bed as they laugh and kiss***

## **Scene 7**

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: So you knew he was married?

2 Lydia: Did you hear anything I just said to you?

3 Maria: So you slept with your teacher who you knew was married and then you stand in front of me, his- his wife, with this great beaming grin on your face telling me 'I fancied him. So I did it, don't worry your husband's not a paedophile?' Lydia, I would love to meet your parents-

4 Lydia: Did you even listen to what I just told you-

5 Maria: Because they have got an incredible amount of explaining to do-

6 Lydia: I told Jake that I believe in sex for sex sake, two people together, just for that event. And he agreed-

7 Maria: Yes-

8 Lydia: And he said it was beautiful. Beautiful. So instead of asking me questions about what I did or didn't do, maybe you should be thinking about what you did or didn't do

9 Maria: Excuse me?

10 Lydia: Why was he in bed with me? A 16 year old? Why did he call it beautiful? Why did he tell you that I held him?

11 Maria: Oh. You really are something special aren't you? I know what you're getting at and how dare you-

12 Lydia: What was it Maria? It wasn't a perversion much to everyone's disappointment. So what was it?

1 Maria: Don't you-

2 Lydia: Must've been something

## **Scene 7a**

### **Jake and Maria's dining room, dinner time**

1 Jake: Maria?

### **Back in the park**

2 Maria: It was nothing

### **Back in the dining room**

3 Jake: Maria?

### **Back in the park**

4 Maria: There was nothing wrong with us. He had been under some stress since his mum died. But that- I was there. I supported him. That was all

### ***Beat as Lydia smiles***

5 Lydia: You're lying

### **Back in the dining room. Maria eats, they both drink**

6 Jake: You're going to have to talk to me at some point

7 Maria: Am I?

8 Jake: Of course. I am so, so sorry

9 Maria: I sat there by myself Jake.

10 Jake: I was 20 minutes late

11 Maria: Half an hour and it's not about how long it's about the fact that it even happened

12 Jake: I had to pop in to Dad. And he asked me to sit with him so I did-

1 Maria: You should've told him you had an important appointment

2 Jake: He just needed company for a little while. Please don't be so hurt. (softer) You know that part of this reaction is the hormones

3 Maria: I know. It just made me anxious. The woman working in reception kept calling me 'my love' and offering me toffees from the bowl on her desk.

4 Jake: She fancies me that woman

5 Maria: She does fancy you

6 Jake: Licks her lips whenever I speak to her, it's embarrassing

***She smiles as they both soften. They eat their food***

7 Maria: Are you getting cold feet Jake?

8 Jake: Darling-

9 Maria: Because this isn't about age you know

10 Jake: I know

11 Maria: I don't care about what our friends are doing. I want to have your son or daughter. Who looks like you. Who has your brain

12 Jake: Listen to me now. I am not getting cold feet. Today was an accident. I'm with you, this is us together. Ok. And it'll be you she looks like. A perfect extension of you and I'll get to hold one of you in each hand

13 Maria: She?

14 Jake: A girl. I think a girl

1 Maria: I like that

***He kisses her and they go back to eating.***

2 Jake: Did you hear what he said about, the erm, the sex?

***Beat***

3 Maria: Yeah

4 Jake: That just because it's scheduled doesn't mean it can't be fun.  
That foreplay can help

5 Maria: Yeah help you maybe

6 Jake: I didn't mean me. I meant foreplay for you, so that you get  
some joy

7 Maria: He's a doctor Jake. What does he know about sex? And it's  
easy for him to say, his body isn't covered in bruises

8 Jake: There's no way of avoiding that darling, you inject, you  
bruise.

9 Maria: Yes I know it's my body that it's happening to

***He really softens into her***

10 Jake: But we can do what he suggested. You can guide me. I want  
you to teach me so that it doesn't hurt for you. Will you do  
that with me?

***She doesn't answer***

11 Jake: Maria?

## **Scene 8**

### **Back in the park. Very quiet now**

1 Maria: Did you know that?

2 Lydia: No

3 Maria: He never told you we were going through IVF?

4 Lydia: No. I didn't know that then

***Pause. Maria's breathe audibly quickens***

5 Lydia: What-

6 Maria: Ssshhhh, my head's spinning. I'm trying to think-

### **Maria and Jakes bedroom, they have just started having sex. Jake involved, Maria moving uncomfortably**

7 Jake: (softly) Maria?

8 Maria: Yeah?

9 Jake: I think you're so beautiful

10 Maria: Ok. Thank you

***Jakes noises get slightly heavier***

11 Maria: (very quietly) Ouch

12 Jake: What? What is it?

13 Maria: Nothing

14 Jake: Are you sure? Am I hurting you?

15 Maria: No, it's fine

16 Jake: You can tell me

1 Maria: It's fine just carry on. Don't breathe in my ear though

2 Jake: Ok

***He continues, she continues to be uncomfortable and agitated***

3 Maria: Can you-

4 Jake: What? Tell me what you want me to do for you darling

5 Maria: Can you just put your hands like on the bed?

6 Jake: What?

7 Maria: Just so they stop touching my skin, like, put them by your side or on the bed or something instead of on me

8 Jake: You don't want my hands on you?

9 Maria: No

***Jake stops and rolls away***

10 Maria: Why are you stopping?

11 Jake: You don't want me to touch your skin Maria

12 Maria: No I didn't mean- it's just uncomfortable, it's all sensitive

13 Jake: I can't make love to you without touching you sorry

14 Maria: Why can't you just have sex with me then?

15 Jake: What?

16 Maria: You don't need to make love to me and hold on to me like that, you could just have sex with me so that we've done it today

17 Jake: No

1 Maria: But it's on the chart, we really need to do it today.

2 Jake: I'm not doing it

3 Maria: But it'll only take 5 more minutes

4 Jake: Well I tell you what why I don't I go into the bathroom and just put what you need out of me into a little cup and you could use the turkey baster we have in the Christmas hamper-

5 Maria: Jake don't be so bloody horrible! What a disgusting thing to say to me!

6 Jake: I'm sick of being treated like a fucking science experiment

***Gets out of bed and puts his boxers on.***

7 Jake: (*controlled*) You want me to be inside you without touching you Maria. What a disgusting thing to say to *me*

***He leaves the room. Maria's breathing heavy***

## **Scene 9**

### **Back in the park**

1 Lydia: This is getting a bit weird for me now.

2 Maria: Tell me about when you held him

3 Lydia: That's too weird

4 Maria: This is all too bloody weird. Please, Lydia.

### ***Beat***

5 Lydia: I didn't really hold him, I don't think, not like, like in my arms or anything like that. Afterwards we would lay next to each other and talk

6 Maria: What about?

7 Lydia: Loads of things. Mainly about me

8 Maria: Ever about me?

9 Lydia: No, never about you. Always about me actually. Never about him

## **Scene 9a**

### **Jake and Maria post sex, lying together smoking and very gentle**

3 Jake: Do you feel like you don't fit right now?

4 Lydia: I know I don't fit right now

5 Jake: Does that scare you?

6 Lydia: No

7 Jake: It can be scary sometimes. I find it scary

8 Lydia: Not fitting?

9 Jake: Not really that. Finding yourself placed somewhere, having no idea how you got there and doing your best to fill up that space. You know you'll fit one day?

10 Lydia: When?

11 Jake: I'm not sure. After University I reckon

12 Lydia: What's going to come for me after University?

13 Jake: You'll own the world

### ***She laughs gently***

14 Lydia: Do you think so?

15 Jake: I certainly hope so

16 Lydia: You're romancing for me

### ***Jake laughs***

1 Lydia: I know exactly what'll happen if I'm not careful. I'll meet a man, I'll marry him. We'll both pursue careers, maybe have

some kids, then there'll be nothing new and we'll have some affairs to find some refreshment

***He smokes***

2 Jake: Were you born cynical?

3 Lydia: It's not cynical, it's what I see. It's what I know will happen if I'm not careful. My mum and dad they must have cared once. But now, there's like a gap

4 Jake: What do you mean a gap?

5 Lydia: Like where they don't meet each other. They sit across dry dinners and talk about re-tiling the kitchen or trying to work out if my brother's actually ADHD or just a little bit spoilt.

6 Jake: Which one is he?

7 Lydia: Spoilt.

***Beat***

8 Lydia: She sees other people I think. There's someone called Rob in her office that she's always talking about, she's like 'You'd like Rob, Lyd's he's really, you know young' or 'Are you on Twitter Lyd's? Rob's on twitter you should follow him'

9 Jake: Wow

10 Lydia: Yeah

***Beat***

11 Jake: I'm sorry for that

12 Lydia: What?

1 Jake: Your parents. Seeing my Dad without my mum- he looks completely lost

***She moves away***

2 Lydia: Yeah, well, that's what I mean about marriage. Bullshit institution bound to end in disaster. Becoming domesticated is basically your own apocalypse and there is no way I'm doing it

4 Jake: Right

5 Lydia: This conversation is boring now and I need a wee

***She goes to the bathroom and shuts the door. Jake's breathing***

Jake .. Right.

## **Scene 10**

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: So your parent's do it and that makes you think it's ok?

2 Lydia: Yes because my brain is just that under developed. Please.  
They are just one example

3 Maria: Well then why couldn't you just go out with a boy your own age?

4 Lydia: Because boys my own age are useless. You heard the way they talk and you expect me to have sex with someone that illiterate? They bore me, they don't know what they are doing.

5 Maria: Why did you set out to destroy my marriage and take my husband?

6 Lydia: I didn't set out to destroy anything, I fancied Jake and I had him. It was just lucky that marriage is something that holds no weight for me

7 Maria: You are dangerous-

8 Lydia: You really have nothing to worry about. I don't want your husband, I haven't for a while. He turned out to be useless to me too.

9 Maria: What?

10 Lydia: He was a liar

11 Maria: What are you talking about?

12 Lydia: The day that you found out, when you found those messages on his phone, I was going to end it anyway

1 Maria: Why?

2 Lydia: Because I saw him

***Beat***

3 Lydia: I saw both of you

## **Scene 10 a**

### **A busy high-street noise**

1 Friend 1: Oh my god there's Mr Wright

2 Friend 2: Where?

3 Friend 1: Oh my god there!

4 Friend 1: Oh my god Lyds look at him. Look at him in his normal people clothes. He is so beautiful

5 Friend 2: Is that his wife?

6 Friend 1: Oh my god she is well pretty

7 Friend 2: That's how I want to look when I get old, that's so how I want to look when I'm a mum

8 Friend 1: Shall we go and say hello?

9 Friend 2: Er, no that's weird when we're not in school

10 Friend 1: No it's not! Lyds shall we? Shall we go and say hello?

11 Lydia: No. No. It's weird, we're not in school

## **Scene 10 b**

### **Back in the park**

1 Lydia: You were wearing mum jeans. You had on exactly the same sandals as my mum and your hair was in a ponytail. You were beaming at Mother Care, beaming at Jake. And he was beaming right back at you in this majestic domestic delight.

2 Maria: Mothercare?

3 Lydia: That's when I freaked out and thought that you were pregnant or something

4 Maria: I didn't know you saw... Di- I mean did you feel guilty?

5 Lydia: Guilty about what?

6 Maria: That we were going to be a family. That were out looking at the kind of cot we'd like and checking out the softness of baby blankets

7 Lydia: No I didn't feel guilty. I just felt sad, really sad for you both

8 Maria: Excuse me?

9 Lydia: Checking out the level of baby blanket softness, worrying about a rash forming on the skin of the child that you don't even have, wearing the same sandals as my mum! No, I didn't feel guilty, I felt lied to, cheated

10 Maria: Cheated?

1 Lydia: There he was in domestic bliss, in married bliss. He didn't get it at all. He wasn't having sex with me because he thought it was beautiful to be free he did it because he was bored with his life, who wouldn't be spending Saturday in Mothercare?

2 Maria: How dare you? You are a spiteful, vicious little bitch-

3 Lydia: So, yes, I was going to end it. He was no good to me after I saw that. It wasn't guilt, it was great big disappointment. I didn't want a Dad.

***Beat***

4 Lydia: Are you happy now? Now you know everything and have maybe taken some responsibility for your own part in this acting like a baby making machine or something.

***She stops and lights a cigarette and smokes. Pause***

5 Lydia: What are you staring at me for now?

6 Maria: What did your friends say when they found out?

7 Lydia: Nothing

8 Maria: Nothing? They didn't say anything at all when they found out that one of their friends had been sleeping with their English teacher

9 Lydia: Course they said stuff but nothing of-, I mean it doesn't matter, like do you think it matters to me what they said?

### **Scene 10 c**

#### **Noise of a school playground**

1 Friend 1: Oh my God did you see Lydia just like staring into space with that like weird smile on her face in class?

2 Friend 2: Obvs just like imagining Mr Wright standing at the front of the class

***They both laugh***

3 Friend 1: I can't actually believe Mr Wright did that with her, hastag 'paedo'

4 Friend 2: I don't even think he's a paedo though, Lyd's always thought she was like well mature but actually she's just like a slag, like a disgusting slag actually-

5 Friend 1: Oh my God you're right though, hashtag 'dirty whore'

### **Scene 10 d**

**Still in the playground but clear change in place and time. Boys whispering to each other, telling one of them to 'do it' and 'ask her'. Ben approaches Lydia who is on her own.**

1 Ben: Er, Lyd's?

2 Lydia: Yeah?

3 Ben: You alright yeah?

4 Lydia: I'm fine thanks

5 Ben: Cool, cool, Lyd's I was just wondering...

6 Lydia: Yeah?

7 Ben: How comes you wouldn't have it with me but you had it with Mr Wright?

8 Lydia: What?

9 Ben: Because me and the boys were thinking if one of us weren't enough on our own we could double team you

***He walks back to his group of friend who are all laughing***

## Scene 10 e

### We hear Lydia walk towards her friends

1 Friend 1: Oh my god shhh, she's coming

2 Lydia: Katie?

3 Friend 2: Yeah?

4 Lydia: What are you up to after school?

5 Friend 2: Don't know yet. Why?

6 Lydia: Um. Can I come to yours. I'd- I really need to like, t-t-to talk to you

7 Friend 2: Erm, how about no?

8 Lydia: Katie-

9 Friend 2: I wouldn't let you in my house Lyd's you'll probably try and bang my dad or something-

10 Friend 1: **(laughing)** Oh my god Katie!

***The girls walk away laughing hard***

## **Scene 10 f**

### **Back in the park**

1 Maria: And that doesn't hurt you?

2 Lydia: No

3 Maria: I don't believe you

4 Lydia: I don't give a shit what you believe Maria. I know what I've done, I was brave enough to do what I wanted when I wanted and I got what I wanted.

5 Maria: And the consequences?

6 Lydia: Are not my problem. People like drama, it's pathetic, but it's what drives them because their lives are boring. Not my problem. Like I said, I'm fine

7 Maria: You're all on your own

8 Lydia: So what?

9 Maria: Your parents can't even look at you I bet

10 Lydia: This is boring me now

11 Maria: Because they know their daughter is destructive. And that you destroyed a man's life, his whole life Lydia because you wanted to have sex with him. They must be absolutely disgusted by you and I don't believe you when you say you don't care. I can see you're lying. Take some responsibility

12 Lydia: My responsibility is to myself. That's it. The rest of you can waste your lives crying about it

13 Maria: He's missing Lydia

1 Lydia: What?

**Beat**

2 Maria: Jake's gone missing.

**Beat**

3 Lydia: What do you mean he's gone missing? Where?

4 Maria: If I knew where he wouldn't be missing would he?

5 Lydia: No. I mean, like, when or how?

6 Maria: I don't know. He was staying with his sister. She hasn't seen him for 3 days. And... no one can find him, his phone has been switched off the entire time

7 Lydia: Well, have you told the police?

8 Maria: Yes, of course we've told the police. But to them it's a joy that a man like Jake is missing

11 Lydia: What? They can't even say that, they're the police

12 Maria: Someone spray painted nonce across our front door, they laughed when I reported it. They did the same when Jake was attacked in the street-

13 Lydia: What do you mean attacked?

1 Maria: I mean he was beaten up Lydia. He was battered, his nose was broken and his eye socket was fractured-

2 Lydia: Wh-who did that to him?

3 Maria: Men in the street who had seen his photograph in the paper and decided he was a kiddy fiddler-

4 Lydia: Oh my god-

5 Maria: A woman spat in my face in the newsagents-

6 Lydia: Why did she spit in your face?

7 Maria: Because she read the papers and as far as she was concerned as the wife of a paedo I must've known but chose to ignore it. So no, the police are in no rush to find him. So you better tell me the truth. Have you seen him?

8 Lydia: No, what do you mean? No I haven't seen him

9 Maria: Talked to him?

10 Lydia: No

11 Maria: You haven't seen him or talked to him?

12 Lydia: No, are you deaf? No I haven't seen him or talked to him.

13 Maria: So you don't know where he is?

14 Lydia: No- Why are you asking me like I'd know? He's nothing to do with me

1 Maria: Well, we've all looked Lydia, we've looked everywhere we can think of and we can't find him

2 Lydia: Hold on, why are you just telling me now?

3 Maria: Sorry?

4 Lydia: Why are you telling me now that he's missing? Why didn't you tell me like twenty minutes ago?

5 Maria: (*she laughs*) I have a lot on my mind right now you know Lydia, and seeing you, actually seeing you and you telling me what you did, and kind of- blew me away to be totally honest and I didn't dream for one minute that you would have any idea where he is or interrogating you about it

because I thought, I thought Lydia, that you'd be a mess but you seem to know so much.

6 Lydia: No I don't-

7 Maria: About the world, about people and grownups and adults that now I think maybe you might know

8 Lydia: I don't know where he is

9 Maria: That's not good enough Lydia

10 Lydia: But I don't, I don't know where he is

11 Maria: Don't you think it's your responsibility to find out?

12 Lydia: What? Why?

1 Maria: Because you're the reason he left. He lost his job, his wife, his whole life because of you taking exactly what you fancied. You've enlightened me to so many things about adults, about how sex works, how marriage works that you of all people must be able to figure this one out.

2 Lydia: No, I didn't make him leave. That's stupid, he's being stupid that's not my responsibility

3 Maria: Do you know what people called him Lydia? They called him a paedophile. To his face. That is because of you.

4 Lydia: **(quietly)** He's not a paedophile

5 Maria: That's exactly what you have turned him into

6 Lydia: No I haven't,

7 Maria: Yes you have. You've taken everything from him and now he's alone in the world. And nobody can find him. Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

8 Lydia: What do you think has happened?

9 Maria: Last time I saw him he cried on his knees

10 Lydia: No, but Maria I mean do you think he's done- like do you think he's done something?

11 Maria: He was beaten and abused. People told him they were going to murder him, stab him. He lost everything-

1 Lydia: But-

2 Maria: No, everything Lydia. Home, family, job and was made to believe that the world would be better off if he was dead. You better find him Lydia

3 Lydia: How am I supposed to do that?

5 Lydia: don't have any money, I don't have a job I go to school. I can't drive, so I can't drive round to find him. I can't stay away from home, I can't like- like leave home and look for him. I have to start my A levels and he could be anywhere. I can't go to all different places by myself

6 Maria: Do you understand, Lydia, if he does something, if he turns up as just a body all anyone will remember him as is a child abuser-

7 Lydia: Stop-

8 Maria: If he hurts himself it's because of you-

**9 Lydia:** **No please stop it now-**

10 Maria: And it will be your fault Lydia and everyone will blame you and no one, not even your parents will ignore it and make it better for you so you better start fucking caring and do everything you can to find him

***Lydia begins to cry***

11 Lydia: But how am I supposed to when I don't know where he is?

12 Maria: Are you crying?

1 Lydia: And if something really, really horrible happens to him everyone will think it's my fault

2 Maria: Lydia-

3 Lydia: I didn't want any of this. I didn't mean for any of this.

4 Maria: Lydia-

5 Lydia: I didn't think he would be in so much trouble, I didn't think about you or about my Mum and Dad. And I didn't think everyone would end up hating me so much. I didn't think.

***She breaks down***

6 Maria: (quietly) Alright-

7 Lydia: This isn't my fault, I didn't do it. I'm scared he'll do something bad before I find him. I can't find him. Please don't make me find him

***Maria softens in an attempt to soothe Lydia but she carries on crying***

8 Maria: No, no you can't find him. You don't have to find him

9 Lydia: But what if he doesn't come back?

10 Maria: It's alright sweetheart, calm down

11 Lydia: Will the police find him?

12 Maria: No they won't find him

13 Lydia: How do you know? They have to find him, it's their job

14 Maria: They won't find him

15 Lydia: Stop saying that, you're making me feel sick, why won't they find him?

1 Maria: Because he isn't missing Lydia

***Beat, Lydia's crying freezes in shock***

2 Lydia: What?

3 Maria: He isn't missing. I know where he is. He's in Brighton

4 Lydia: I don't understand

5 Maria: I lied. He's been in Brighton for the past month, since the school let him go and the police confirmed no charges were being made

6 Lydia: What? But why- why did you tell me he was missing?

7 Maria: To scare you into taking some bloody responsibility for the mess you've caused.

***Maria's release of breath***

Every action has a consequence, you can't just shut your eyes and say 'I'm fine'. You live in a world with other people. Adults understand that. Children don't.

8 Lydia: That was a horrible thing to do

9 Maria: It was a horrible thing you did to me Lydia

***Pause***

10 Lydia: Oh God, I'm really embarrassed about crying now

11 Maria: Don't be embarrassed. You should be crying. You should be crying a lot.

1 Lydia: Did he go to Brighton because of all the things people round here called him?

2 Maria: Yes. And to make a fresh start. Our house is on the market

3 Lydia: What?

4 Maria: We've found a house down there. It's a cottage with a thatched roof that has lavender growing on it. Like a bloody ridiculous fairy tale or something

5 Lydia: And that's where you're going to live?

6 Maria: Maybe. Yes I think so. I wasn't going to, I needed to see you first. But yes I think so

7 Lydia: But what about what he did to you? The lies he told you, he cheated on you. That's like, illegal in marriage

8 Maria: He made a mistake, we both did. And now I'm cleaning it up

9 Lydia: But why?

10 Maria: Because he's my husband and he was lonely. I let him be alone.

11 Lydia: It was up to him

12 Maria: He's my partner in the world and I left him. To walk away would be easy. I'm his wife. Do you understand that?

***Lydia doesn't answer***

13 Maria: You're not enough on your own. Even when you're at your best, you'll still want someone to see it. Do you understand?

***Beat***

1 Lydia: I think so

2 Maria: No you don't. It's not important now. You've got your own mess to clean up haven't you? Try and finish your education without destroying anything else, and maybe then you'll learn.

***Maria goes. Lydia alone in the park, the summer time noises.***

**Punctuation notes:**

- **During a sentence** indicates a stutter as the character attempts to say what they mean, reaching for the word they need
- **At the end of a sentence** means a cut off from the other character or interrupting noise

**... indicates the rest of the sentence is suggested or its meaning is in the air**

**(?) indicates that the sentence could be said as a question if this feels natural to do**