

KIDZ

By

ALEX JONES

A play for young people to perform.

Commission for Stagecraft Youth Theatre (*Ireland's best youth theatre*),
Tipperary, Ireland and directed by Shane Dempsey, January 2013.

"We're kids, and kids can be cruel. We're all competing so much we forget how much harm we do to each other; there's all these rules about who you can be friends with and who's cool and who isn't and how you dress and what music you like and if you're good at sports, and a million other things... It's tough being a kid, but one day we'll wake up and we'll be older and maybe then we can start getting on with our lives... I hope so anyway, because I've pretty much given up trying to fit in - it's fucking exhausting."

Tackling weighty issues, including homophobia in schools, risky sexual relationships and bullying, *Kidz* takes an honest look at the exhausting rituals of growing up: Painful, poignant, funny and sometimes tragic; a community of young people discover truths about each other that will change their lives forever.

**SYNOPSIS & SAMPLE SCENES
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CHARACTERS

BOYS

Fian
Luke
Oisin
Paraic

GIRLS

Elizabeth
Niahm
Emma
Michaela
Kerry
Emily
Aisling
Connie
Sinead
Anastasia
Rachel
Sally Ann
Hannah
Sinead P
Clodagh

The kids all double up to play the other minor characters as they crop up, stepping out of their main roles as and when required. The play is written for Irish dialect, but can be easily adapted to suit cast requirements and names changed to suit also.

SCENE 1

(Music. Four lads, FIAN, PARAIC, OISIN and LUKE swagger on stage.)

FIAN I'm telling you; I am going to shag the arse off that little bitch!

LUKE How? You're not even going out with her.

FIAN Technicality.

OISIN Maybe she should be consulted first?

FIAN Oh, she'll be consulted all right... at the party. Besides I've been texting her.

PARAIC *(Laughs)* You dirty bastard!

FIAN Too right!

LUKE She is hot!

FIAN Hot and up for it I reckon.

LUKE Man, the way she dresses too; she's got real style.

PARAIC *Style?*

LUKE Yeah, you know she always wears something... I dunno... sexy, I suppose: short pleated skirts, patterned tights, and did you see her in that lacy top she got from Top Shop?

FIAN *(Suspicious)* How do you know where she got it from? You been hitting on her?

LUKE No, no, Fian, I wouldn't, I haven't. I just remembered seeing the same top in... well Top Shop.

PARAIC You were looking at girl's tops in Top Shop?

LUKE I was with my sister... and me mam... I got dragged in there, didn't I? Huh, wouldn't catch me looking at girl's tops if I didn't have to, unless a girl was wearing one of course. Like Niamh.

FIAN I don't like you looking at Niamh, Luke.

OISIN He wasn't looking at her, Fian; he was looking at her top.

FIAN She's mates with your sister, isn't she?

LUKE Yeah.

FIAN And she comes round your place, doesn't she?

LUKE Er... sometimes, yeah.

FIAN So you do look at her.

LUKE Er...

FIAN Don't look at her again - right?

LUKE Er... what if she walks in front of me? I can hardly not look at her if she's in our house and she walks straight out in front of me, now can I?

FIAN Well just be careful *how* you're looking at the girl I'm going to shag.

PARAIC (*Laughs*) You dirty bastard!

FIAN Less of the dirty if you don't mind.

PARAIC You bastard!

FIAN That's right - I am the bastard here.

OISIN Well no one's going to argue with that, Fian.

FIAN You taking the piss, Oisin?

OISIN No, just stating a fact.

FIAN Well that's fine then, just mind yourself, Oisin, or you won't be coming to the party.

OISIN Not sure I can make it anyway, Fian; got orchestra practice, there's a concert coming up.

PARAIC That is so gay! You'd rather go and play your fiddle than fuck a girl?

OISIN (*Correcting*) Violin.

PARAIC You'd rather play a violin than fuck a girl?

OISIN Is that what you think you'll be doing then, Paraic?

PARAIC Too right!

OISIN Jeez, those poor girls have no idea what's going to hit them! They're going to totally overwhelmed by your fourteen-year-old schoolboy charm; they don't stand a chance.

PARAIC He *is* taking the piss!

LUKE You really gonna miss the party?

OISIN Might, I dunno; depends whose going.

- PARAIC He was taking the piss, Fian.
- LUKE Girls - what else do you need to know?
- OISIN Which girls?
- FIAN Does it really matter? A month from now my parents are away for the night; I got the whole house to meself, and there are a few girls we met from Saint Mathews who wanna come and party with us. These kind of opportunities are like fucking gold dust!
- OISIN I don't know, Fian...
- PARAIC You are so gay. He was taking the piss, you know...
- FIAN Will you just shut the fuck up!
- (Pause.)
- FIAN *(Suddenly to audience)* By the way, in case you haven't guessed - we are the boys. My name is Fian and I am the alpha male around here. I suppose you might say I'm a bit of a bully, but if you did I'd kick your fucking head in. Deep inside though I'm a bit insecure; they don't know it, but I really want them to like me and respect me, and because I'm so thick the only way I can think to make that happen is to terrify the shit out of them.
- PARAIC *(To audience)* I'm his sidekick, Paraic, and I'm even thicker than him, but I think that hanging out with him makes me look cool because he's so hard. I'm not hard; in fact I'm really soft and most of the time I'm scared shitless, especially of him - he terrifies me.
- LUKE *(To audience)* My name is Luke; I just hang out with them because I don't have anyone else to hang out with. Most of the time when we're together I am like totally bored, and I get really weary trying to sound enthusiastic about kicking a bus shelter to pieces or drawing crude illustrations of male genitalia on shop doorways. I once dressed up in my sister's clothes: knickers, bra, tights, top - the lot... and I really liked it. I've done it a few times now, but I'm not gay; I do actually fancy girls... I think I might be a lesbian though... which concerns me.
- OISIN *(To audience)* I'm Oisín and I have no idea what I'm doing here. For some reason, Fian seems to like me and keeps trying to get me to hang out with them. I guess I'm a bit of a loner, so I do sometimes wander around with them at break times and suchlike, but my god are they sad! Although I think maybe I'm a bit sad too; I really do like music and books and reading and well... culture, I suppose. I know it's not cool, but it's just me and I can't help it. I pretend not to care about their party, but I would love to have a girlfriend. There's a girl I fancy though; she catches my bus and I think she fancies me too. I know this sounds completely mad, but I actually want to marry her... and I don't even know her name.

FIAN *(To audience)* Oisin is so fucking clever, such a fecking smartarse - the complete opposite of what I am. I can never get him to join us in a bit of mayhem about town, and he really irritates me with his taking the piss all the time, but... Christ I wish I were like him! Sooner or later though I am going to have to sort the sarky little wanker; after all - I am a bastard.

(A school bell sounds some way off.)

PARAIC Hey, hey, sounds like break time at the girl's school!

LUKE Ooh, all those young nubile girls in their school uniforms with their short skirts and tight shirts!

OISIN If you were ten years older, you'd make a perfect paedophile.

LUKE What..? No... I'm just saying - their uniforms, you know, their little pleated skirts; the way they turn them up... it's... well... you know..?

FIAN Pervy?

LUKE Exactly!

FIAN Come on, let's go - paedo!

(The boys begin to exit.)

LUKE No, no - you got it wrong, Fian!

PARAIC It's just Oisin taking the piss again!

FIAN Paraic -

PARAIC Yeah?

FIAN Shut the fuck up!

(As the exit the sound of the bell becomes louder and the girls rush on.)

SCENE 2

(The girls bustle noisily onto the stage, shrieks and yelps and of course their mobile phones come out and they begin to text and chat in their various groups.)

- ELIZABETH So, you guys still up for the sleepover this weekend?
- NIAHM Um, well you see, Elizabeth...
- EMMA No.
- ELIZABETH But dad was gonna buy us all pizzas and we can watch a video or X factor and do our make-up and stuff.
- NIAHM It's Michaela, isn't it? She's had a hard time lately, she's had a hard time, her dog died, didn't it?
- EMMA So we're going round to cheer her up.
- ELIZABETH 'Cos of her dog - it's a dog; it's an animal, what's the big deal?
- EMMA She loved that dog, actually. She cried for two days solid.
- NIAHM *(Nods)* Two days... solid.
- ELIZABETH So we're going round Michaela's?
- EMMA That's the idea.
- ELIZABETH Even though I'd arranged my sleepover weeks ago.
- NIAHM She needs consoling because of her dog. You really don't like her, do you?
- ELIZABETH I never said I don't like her.
- EMMA You don't have to; it's obvious.
- ELIZABETH *(Suddenly to audience)* I hate her, actually; I detest the very ground she stands on! But she hates me even more. Ever since she arrived at our school, she's been doing her best to set the others against me. I'm Elizabeth, the main character of this little drama; but to be honest you may as well go home right now because my life is total shit and I am nothing more than a desperate, clingy little loser. I *so* want to be popular like Emma and Niahm; I desperately want them to like me, and I can't quite believe they let me hang out with them, and so I am not going to allow that fugly thick slut, Michaela push me out... oh and I want a boyfriend too.
- NIAHM *(To audience)* My name is Niahm and I'm a bitch! And any girl who says I'm not I'll reduce to tears in the matter of seconds with a tirade of cutting personal remarks, which will always include the word 'fat'. I am popular and love the fact that most of the other girls here all want to hang out with

Emma and me, and I also love telling them to dream on and go fuck themselves. I don't give a shit about school and seriously believe that I will be famous one day; I don't know what for, but I know it will come to be, because I am queen bee here and a star in my own break time. Boyfriend - hell yes!

EMMA *(To audience)* I'm Emma and although my daddy thinks I'm his little princess, I am also (like Niahm) a complete and utter bitch. We enjoy having Elizabeth hanging around with us so that we have someone to be our underdog and lord it over - this is of course subconscious because I'm not intelligent enough to have worked that out for myself. We recently let this new girl, Michaela join us as she is really controlling and dominating and impresses us with her devious ways. We are all vain as hell and I can quite happily spend a whole hour in front of the bathroom mirror before I even think to step out of the house. I am convinced that any boy who sees me can hardly control his emotions and falls instantly in love. My ambition is to marry someone immensely rich and handsome (which I will), live in a massive house and drive around in a big fuck off car, flaunting my wealth and pissing off every girl I have ever known or will ever meet. Boyfriend? Watch this space! Oh and talking of the devil - here's Michaela now.

MICHAELA Hi girls... you too, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH Hi Michaela, sorry to hear about your dog.

MICHAELA What dog? Oh yeah, bloody thing died, didn't it - what a drag.

ELIZABETH I can see you're heartbroken.

MICHAELA Yeah, well you know, like one of the family he was. You guys gonna meet up at the rec later? Got a text, some of the lads from the boys school are gonna be there.

NIAHM I might just wander down there.

EMMA 'Specially as Fian is bound to be there.

NIAHM Well you know, what can I do if he fancies me to pieces? If you've got it...

ALL Flaunt it!

MICHAELA *(To audience)* I'm Michaela, the new girl; my family moved here recently and I knew I had to make my mark on this school straight away. It's important for me to get in with the 'in crowd' because I'm so shallow; I want to be the most popular girl in the school and regarded with envy, but only by girls who are worthy of my status. I'm proud of the fact that I have never actually read a book all the way through; I can't see the point of them when there are magazines at hand. When I leave school I want to be the head of some big fashion chain and scare the shit out of everyone who works for me, like that woman in *The Devil*

Wears Prada only ten times worse. I am ruthless with my rivals and will do my utmost to destroy any girl's life completely that gets in my way. I am unreasonably jealous of anyone prettier than me, or any girl that challenges my shallow personality, which consequently keeps me very busy. For instance I knew instantly that I would have to sort out Elizabeth, and have been deliberately driving a wedge between her and the others ever since. I love to see her flounder and squirm beneath my ruthless regime of divide and rule - it is my mission in life therefore to conquer this school and grind that prissy little tart to dust. Do I want a boyfriend? I want many and often. Apart from Elizabeth we are in fact the cool group around here, so to be perfectly honest I don't know why I'm even bothering talking to you lot; I really can't be arsed any longer; so why don't you go and check out the rest of the losers?

(The loser girls wave excitedly at the audience)

KERRY *(Grinning, to audience)* Hi everyone - we're the losers!

EMILY I am so excited about this weekend, Kerry!

KERRY Me too - I love live theatre.

AISLING Romeo and Juliet!

KERRY A perfect birthday outing!

AISLING I'm not sure though what I should wear for the occasion... do you think I should be wearing a dress?

KERRY I really don't think it matters, Aisling.

AISLING But we are going to a restaurant too, now aren't we?

KERRY I suppose so.

EMILY Well the last time I went to Pizza Express, I just went casual.

AISLING Really?

EMILY I don't think you need to worry too much about dressing up for Pizza Express.

AISLING Or the theatre?

KERRY Oh... you know she has got a point, Emily. I do think you should dress up for the theatre.

AISLING I think I'll wear that dress my auntie bought me.

EMILY What, the flower print one, sort of purple and green - oh I love you in that, Aisling!

AISLING I'll be wearing that then... with me Doc Marten's.

- KERRY Perfect! (*To audience*) She does actually look really lovely in that articular outfit; such a sweet girl really and very talented - she's a ballerina!
- AI SLING (*To audience*) Oh now, Kerry is bigging me up a bit there, I think! I am about to take my grade 5 though, and I'm hoping to get picked for the Swan Lake show at Christmas. But it's Kerry who is the clever one, she can write like proper stories that you really want to read, like with characters that leap out of the page and not just talking badgers either; although I do really like that particular story.
- KERRY (*To audience*) Oh she's being kind; it's not that good to be honest... although, Miss Milton, our English teacher did say it was 'remarkable', and thought I had a very unique imagination. I have to confess I'd love to be a novelist when I grow up, and I have a great idea for a series of books about a race of magician hamsters who are oppressed by an evil race of penguins and made to perform ever more impressive tricks for their food - a sort of Beatrix Potter, meets Harry Potter in the Hunger Games.
- EMILY You know what, Kerry - I am going to wear that skirt I made with the light bulb print.
- KERRY Oh wow, that is really amazing, Kerry - I love that, it's really alternative.
- AI SLING And cutting edge.
- KERRY Oh, it is - very cutting edge: who would have thought to have used pictures of common old light bulbs in a fashion print.
- EMILY Well I'm glad you like it so much, Kerry, because without giving too much away, you might be getting something very similar for your birthday.
- KERRY Oh wow, that would be like truly awesome, Emily! (*To audience*) You should see her needlework - flawless! And her prints; I mean for someone so young she is really very talented. She won the textile design award for our year group - I mean the *whole year group!* She is going to be a very famous designer one day; I just know it and I will be so proud of her.
- EMILY (*To audience*) I don't know about flawless, but I do feel I have a little talent for the old fabric designing, and would love to think that I could one day work in the fashion industry, even if it's in some menial capacity, and you know, well maybe I'll get lucky and get spotted by Stella McCartney and get to design for her and her dad. I love Vogue, don't you? My mammy buys it for me every month. But to be honest, it's Kerry who is the talented one; her talking badger stories are like totally amazing.
- KERRY (*Smiling brightly at the audience*) So - we are the losers, and we are actually quite happy together in our own sad little world.
- EMILY The cool girls sneer at us sometimes when they spot us giggling together in Claire's Accessories, but to tell the truth we're so wrapped up in our little schemes and adventures we hardly ever notice.

AI SLING I do actually like school and some of the other girls; some of them hang out with us sometimes too, and although Elizabeth still speaks to us, we do worry that she's gone over to the dark side.

EMILY *(Nodding sadly at audience)* We do worry about her.

KERRY Boys? Well... that would be very nice.

EMILY Very nice.

AI SLING *(Nodding)* Very.
(The troubled girls.)

CONNIE *(To audience)* We are the troubled girls.

SINEAD *(To audience)* Got a problem with that?

CONNIE *(To audience)* We want to look different from everyone else.

SINEAD *(To audience)* We want them to notice our suffering.

CONNIE *(To audience)* But we don't want their fucking sympathy.

SINEAD *(To audience)* Or yours - got it?

CONNIE I find life so bloody difficult, Sinead.

SINEAD I know.

CONNIE And there's always so much homework!

SINEAD Fuck the homework!

CONNIE Pressure to succeed, to conform.

SINEAD I'll not conform for no fucker! I'm a goth through and through.

CONNIE Oh, but the homework!

SINEAD I'll not do it.

CONNIE It's me mam, she makes me, though.

SINEAD Mine too - it's not fair!

CONNIE Life's not fair! It takes a lot of effort to be a goth; the make up itself is a total nightmare.

SINEAD The constant suffering.

CONNIE The cutting of the wrists.

SINEAD Not too deep, mind; don't want to make it obvious; just a hint of the darkness.

CONNIE Oh and the homework; especially the maths!

SINEAD Oh, and the black, the black, the black - all the time it's the black!
(*To audience*) I keep it to myself, but god I'd love to wear something with a bit of colour now and then.

CONNIE No one knows what we go through, do they, Sinead?

SINEAD No one.

CONNIE Why do we do it?

(Pause)

SINEAD Oh the black!

CONNIE The black!

SINEAD (*To audience*) I am so bloody miserable, and I don't really know why; my mam and dad are really worried about me too; especially the old cutting and self harm stuff. But it does feel... well I know you won't understand, but it sort of helps me cope with life. Thank god for Connie is all I can say; it's so good to have someone to rage against life with.

CONNIE (*To audience*) I hate everyone at school: the kids and the teachers; Sinead is my only friend, we are united in our hatred of everything that is mediocre and twee - like those girls over there for instance, God they make me sick with their bright little smiles and bunny rabbit brains; I literally want to throttle them. I want to become an icon of rebellion and like be the leader of a rock band that does like really angry, alternative music and like only deep people would get it... but I really can't be arsed to learn to play the guitar to be honest. Why doesn't somebody invent like a chip or something that you could plug into your brain and you could like download a guitar hero programme - life is *so* unfair! And where the fuck do you meet a goth boy around here?

SINEAD Where? *Oh the black!*

CONNIE The black!

(The bad girls.)

ANASTASIA (*To audience*) We are the bad girls!

RACHEL But we're not nasty or mean.

SALLY ANN We're just bad.

ANASTASIA For instance - we all smoke.

RACHEL And fucking swear all the fucking time.

SALLY We all live on the bad estate.

ANASTASIA The one you all avoid when you're walking home.

SALLY ANN All the gardens are full of nicked cars...

RACHEL And rusty motorbikes and mouldy sofas...

ANASTASIA And busted up baby buggies...

RACHEL Our parents are on benefit...

SALLY ANN Or work in dead end jobs for minimum pay and sell counterfeit booze on the side...

RACHEL We're rough...

ANASTASIA We're tough...

SALLY ANN We're stupid.

(ANASTASIA and RACHEL dead stare SALLY ANN)

SALLY ANN Oh - that'll just be me then.

ANASTASIA (*Back to each other*) You girls going to the rec tonight?

RACHEL Too fuckin' right; nicked a half bottle of me mam's vodka, didn't I?

SALLY ANN Great - we can get wrecked and throw up!

ANASTASIA Might be late though, got fuckin' detention.

RACHEL What for?

ANASTASIA I told Mr Williams that we all call him Wanker Williams.

RACHEL The truth can hurt.

SALLY ANN Is that not his real name then?

RACHEL No Sally Ann, why would your parents see fit to christen you with a name like that?

SALLY ANN I wondered about that, actually. (*To audience*) I'm Sally Ann, and I am pretty stupid; my dad has told me that for as long as I can remember and the teachers too, so I kind of accept it now. I live life in a bit of a daydream, pretty much hanging out with Anastasia and Rachel, smoking and drinking and trying to make out with boys. It's okay really, life just sort of happens to me and I don't really expect much.

RACHEL (*To audience*) I'm Rachel and I've got attitude; in fact I've got *fuckin* attitude, so it's best not to argue with me. I am always right even when I know absolutely nothing at all about the subject in question. I don't see my dad very often, that's because he's usually in prison; he is a total arsehole and so is my mam and my brother. I am fiercely loyal to my

friends and want nothing more from life than to have a good time. I like getting wrecked on cheap vodka and have a secret ambition to get on X Factor one day, even if it means shagging Simon Cowell; I figure if that gippo Cher Lloyd can get a record deal then why not fuckin' me?

ANASTASIA *(To audience)* I'm Anastasia and I live with my mam, who is a proper piss head and also smokes dope a lot too. The good thing about this is that she allows me to smoke as well, and I can stay out as late as I like. She even takes me to nightclubs with her; does me make up and chats up the bouncers to get me in. When she's drunk, she tells me I'm her best friend and when we're out I sometimes have to pretend that I'm her little sister, and being that she actually had me while she was still at school, (which is a family tradition), it doesn't actually seem that incredible.

(Suddenly a techno beat fills the space and flashing lights. One of the girls' becomes her mum.)

MUM Come on, darling - let's have another dance, and then I'll buy us a couple of vodka shots, eh?

ANASTASIA I'm a bit tired to be honest, mam.

MUM It's only fuckin' 3am! It's not like you've got school tomorrow.

ANASTASIA I have got school tomorrow.

MUM Ahh, fuck school, I never went and it never did me no harm; and stop calling me mam!

(Music and lights stop)

ANASTASIA *(To audience)* So I get to go clubbing and smoke and drink, and I've even had sex a couple of time which was all right, I suppose, although to be honest, it's not all its cracked up to be; and I know I've got me mates and they're great, but I dunno I still feel a bit lonely sometimes, like I'm missing out on something. I know I'll probably end up getting pregnant like me mam and having to quit school, but I don't know how to change things, I really don't. Boys? *(Shrugs)* Why not? Oh fuck - here comes the school fucking freak!

(Anorexic girl.)

HANNAH Hi girls, and how are you today?

RACHEL Fuck off Hannah!

HANNAH I just ate a whole packet of jaffa cakes.

ANASTASIA You greedy cow!

RACHEL I know, I am so going to regret it later, I really am. I have put on so much weight lately; you wouldn't believe it.

SALLY ANN But you're really thin, Hannah.

HANNAH Do you think so, Sally Ann? Do you really think so? Well I am size zero at the moment. And what size would you be just now?

SALLY ANN I dunno, I haven't measured meself; I think I'm about five foot three.

HANNAH (*Smiles*) Oh, you're so funny, Sally Ann, always ready with some witty little quip.

SALLY ANN Am I?

RACHEL You're really thin, Hannah and we're all jealous, now fuck off!

HANNAH Ah, I'm not that thin to be honest, but it's kind of you to say so. See you later! (*To audience*) I'm Hannah and I'm the anorexic girl, totally obsessed with my weight, I am, totally. I literally can't think of anything else. And I love to be told how slim I am, I can't get enough of it.

(HANNAH approaches the 'loser girls')

HANNAH Hi girls, I just ate a whole packet of jaffa cakes.

AISLING Oh, I love jaffa cakes!

EMILY I wish the orangey bit were bigger though, don't you?

KERRY I know what you mean; it would be awesome if it stretched right to the edges.

HANNAH Well I ate a whole packet of them; I hope I don't get any fatter.

AISLING Oh, but you're not fat at all, is she girls?

KERRY Not at all, you're a size zero; wish I could be a size zero.

EMILY Me too, I would love to be a size zero. I really don't think you need to worry about being overweight at all, Hannah.

HANNAH That's really kind of you to say so, Emily. See you later, girls!

ALL (*Brightly*) See you, Hannah!

HANNAH My mammy and daddy are really worried about me, but I'm fine, really I am; I just have to keep my weight under control. They took me to the doctor and I've been seeing a health psychologist, or something like that, but she doesn't understand, she really doesn't. I mean every catwalk model I have ever seen in Vogue or Elle or whatever is thin - really thin, and I do think I will be a model one day... I don't think I'm obsessive, but I do know I literally can't think of anything else at all, and I need people to comment on my thinness to reassure me. There are these sites you can go on too that are really supportive, where you can chat with other girls...

(Various girls in different groups become 'online voices'.)

STEPHIE Hi, Stephie here - I am now down to seven stone - I am *so* happy!

MARY Well done, Stephie - seven stone is a real achievement. I myself have managed to go a whole two days without eating anything solid at all - Mary.

STELLA Hello Mary, this is Stella - that is great, but don't forget if you need a little help there's always laxatives.

LILY Hi Girls, Lily here; just a few tips about buying laxatives - always wear something bulky like a puffa jacket or something to disguise your weight, and try not to go to the same chemist too often, or the assistant might begin to get suspicious.

HANNAH Hannah here - I have set myself the target of losing another two pounds within two weeks - keep your fingers crossed!

STEPHIE Go for it, Hannah!

STELLA Yeah - you can do it, girl!

LILY We're all rooting for you!

HANNAH *(To audience) So supportive!* Ah well, must finish my rounds...
(HANNAH crosses to the 'cool girls'.)

HANNAH Hello girls - I've just finished a whole packet of jaffa cakes.

MICHAELA Well that would explain why you're so fucking obese then.

NIAHM Fat cow.

HANNAH *(Deflated)* Oh..!
(The interesting girls.)

SINEAD P *(To audience)* That girl is seriously confused and I personally think that the fashion industry has a lot to answer for. Oh, hello by the way, I'm Sinead and this is Clodagh -

CLODAGH *(Holding a hockey stick)* Hi - how you doing?

SINEAD P And we are the interesting girls.

CLODAGH Very interesting.

SINEAD P And somewhat enigmatic.

CLODAGH And strangely a bit sporty too.

SINEAD P Oh yes you do like your hockey, don't you, Clodagh?

CLODAGH Love it! And you like your literature and film studies and all that nerdy arty stuff, don't you Sinead?

SINEAD P Oh I'm a sucker for the nerdy stuff, can't get enough of it, the nerdier the better.

CLODAGH I do believe there's a film with subtitles on Channel Four this very evening; would you like to come round and we'll watch it together?

SINEAD P Oh I'd love to, Clodagh; I'll bring a few snacks too if you like? I noticed there's some olives in the fridge and a little coarse Tuscan paté too.

CLODAGH Oh that would be lovely, Sinead! I do happen to know there's some taramasalata in the house too; I'm sure mammy wouldn't mind if we had a little glass of chardonnay as well; as you know she does let me drink wine sometimes over dinner.

SINEAD P We can make an evening of it!

CLODAGH We can - a lovely evening of it.

SINEAD P But don't you have a hockey match today, perhaps you'll be a little tired?

CLODAGH Not at all, you know me, Sinead; I'm fit as a fiddle, me!

SINEAD P Perhaps I'll come along and watch again? I loved the way you totally destroyed the opposition last week - I really thought that poor girl would be carted off to hospital off though.

CLODAGH She said some bad things to me, Sinead; as you know I can't really tolerate anyone saying bad things to me.

SINEAD P You've an awful temper when you're riled.

CLODAGH It doesn't do to rile me I have to admit.

SINEAD P *(To audience)* God, don't you just think she's amazing? What a girl!

CLODAGH *(To audience)* I don't know where I'd be without Sinead, she really is the most inspirational person I have ever met, and so very interesting.

SINEAD P No one knows what to make of us here; we are I suppose a bit of an odd couple.

CLODAGH I get along with the rest of the girls, but I am always on guard in case someone says a bad thing to me. Although they generally don't, because they know I would show them no mercy.

SINEAD P I get along with most of the girls here too, but some of them I find a little... uninteresting and I have to admit rather dull and sometimes a bit spiteful.

CLODAGH I love my sport and hope to become a professional hockey player one day, and maybe even win an Olympic medal too. I feel it's about time women were taken seriously in this very male-dominated sphere.

SINEAD P Ah - Clodagh, what a girl she is!

- CLODAGH I think Sinead understands me better than anyone I know; and I do struggle sometimes trying to make sense of everything.
- SINEAD P What a girl!
- CLODAGH I mean I just don't know where I fit in.
- SINEAD I love her!
- CLODAGH I sometimes feel I'm on the outside looking in.
- SINEAD P I really do mean that - I love her; not just in the girly matey kind of way. I am actually *in love* with here. Yes - I am the school lesbian; only keep it to yourselves, I am terrified what would happen if anyone found out; the girls here would tear me to shreds. I haven't even come out to my parents yet either. I've always known it really, right from a very early age, like when my mother took me to see a Harry Potter film and I found myself thinking Hermione Granger looked rather attractive in her prom outfit. My god, what am I to do? Mother and father are going to be so disappointed, and I daren't confide in Clodagh either, because I know she'd run a mile, and she's the best friend I've ever had.
- CLODAGH The outside looking in... a bit directionless and confused by everything and everyone. I'm constantly on my guard because I refuse to be bullied like some of the girls here, and the one thing I hate is a bully. Heavens, I am sounding rather serious here, and I'm not at all; in fact most of the time I'm the very opposite; especially when I'm hanging out with Sinead we never stop laughing. Boys? I haven't had a boyfriend yet, never even kissed one of those particular things, but I'd like to give it a shot. Because I suppose every girl here wants a boyfriend.
- EVERYONE Oh yes - we all want a boyfriend!
- (SINEAD P is the only girl not to join in with this phrase - the rest of the girls stare at her.)
- SINEAD P (*Uncomfortably to audience*) Er... what they said.
- (All of the girls take out their mobiles and begin to frantically text one another.)
- NIAHM Sinead P is so fucking weird!
- MICHAELA Not as weird as her ugly mate.
- SINEAD Hannah is like a stick insect.
- ANASTASIA She's like a *stick* - I want to snap her in two - lol.
- HANNAH Little Emily is going to watch some Shakespeare for her birthday treat - can you believe it?
- EMMA Shakespeare - sad twat!

CONNIE Is it just me, or is Kerry fat?

NIAHM Fat as fuck!

SALLY ANN Blimp girl - lol.

SINEAD Anastasia is such a slag!

CLODAGH She'd do it with anyone for a vodka slammer.

RACHEL Niahm's hair is like rat tails.

CONNIE She *is* a rat.

SALLY ANN Rat girl - lol.

ANASTASIA Connie and Sinead look like a pair of fucking spiders.

CLODAGH Fat!

EMMA Slag!

CLODAGH Bitch!

NIAHM Slut!

HANNAH Cow!

SALLY ANN Wanker!

MICHAELA Dyke!

RACHEL Lesbian!

(Bell rings - the girls put away their mobiles.)

MICHAELA Oh I do enjoy a bit of bitching, don't you girls?

(They begin to wander off as ELIZABETH reads a message on her mobile.)

ELIZABETH (*Reading text*) 'Elizabeth is a sad, pathetic fat loser'... *fat?*
God I hate my fucking life!