

SCHOOL DAZE

A play for S1 pupils

Written by Alison Couston 2017
Baldy Bane Theatre Company
13 Carment Drive
Shawlands
Glasgow
G41 3PP

With thanks to the pupils of Culloden Academy & their drama teacher Katie Van Exan
and the pupils of Holyrood Secondary & their drama teacher Geoff Nolan.

Thanks also to Callum Couston, Melissa Davie, Victoria O'Rourke, Joseph Proctor,
Fiona Ross, Asia and Georgia Thomson.

for Road Safety Scotland
as part of the Theatre in Education Programme 2016-18

Copyright: The Scottish Ministers, Scottish Parliament.
<http://www.roadsafetyscotland.org.uk>



Scene 1

Sound Cue 1 - SFX of RADIO BROADCAST

Radio DJ:

FADE UP "...don't miss your chance to tell us what you think and that's after a travel and weather report from Joanne"

Joanne:

"Thanks Craig. It's Tuesday 14th August. Traffic is flowing smoothly although I am receiving reports of congestion on the M8 access roads. For many, it's the first day back at school and the roads are expected to be a little busier than usual so be sure to allow a bit of extra time for local journeys. Weather now and it's been a bright start to the day with temperatures of 21 degrees... FADE DOWN"

V/O INTO MUSIC. WE SEE TWO DUVETS UP ON END. ALARM 1. WE SEE EMMA JUMPING OUT OF BED READY TO GO. SHE TIDIES UP HER ROOM. WE SEE SLIGHT MOVEMENT IN THE OTHER DUVET. ALARM 2. WE SEE MORE MOVEMENT IN THE DUVET AND ROBBIE'S SLEEPY HEAD POPS OUT AND BACK IN AGAIN. ALARM 3 WE SEE HIS HEAD COME OUT AND GOING BACK IN WE SEE A LOT OF WRIGGLING AND FINALLY HE DROPS THE DUVET AND IS READY TO GO TO SCHOOL.

MUM ENTERS SR.

Mum: Oh Morning, Robbie. You're finally up. Big day today! Excited?

Robbie: Do I have to go?

Robbie: I don't feel very well. What if they don't like me Mum?

Mum: How about you just take it one day at a time? There are plenty of people from your primary class there.

Robbie But they split you up and put you into different classes with new people.

Mum So, you'll meet new people. They'll all be in the same boat as you.

Robbie A boat? Are there sailing classes?

Mum Not a real boat! It just means that everyone going into first year will be feeling worried.

Robbie I'm glad it's not a real boat. Do you remember that time I.....

Mum Yes I do remember the time we were in a rowing boat, you went sheet white and you threw up all over me! Happy days, eh?

Robbie: I think I might be about to do that again! STARTS TO GAG AND MIMES THROWING UP ROBBIE IS NOW FULLY DRESSED. THEY EXIT.

EMMA RETURNS TYING HER TIE, CHECKING HERSELF IN A MIRROR (ON THE FOURTH WALL). HER DAD APPEARS.

Dad: Emma. Time to get up... oh you are up! All set for your big day, I see.

Emma: Yeah.

Dad: Nervous?

Emma: A bit. I'm really looking forward to it but I'll be glad when today's over.

Dad: So will I. I start my new job today.

Emma: You'll be fine Dad. Just be confident and look them in the eye.

Dad: Thanks Emma

Emma and Robbie's Mum together: Ok Let's take a selfie!

THEY TAKE OUT THEIR PHONES AND LINE UP. BOTH MALES SMILE AS IF THEY ARE GOING TO THE GALLOWS.

Emma: C'mon. Walk me to the crossing.
DAD AND EMMA EXEUNT STAGE LEFT

SHE LEAVES CONFIDENTLY AND, ARRIVING AT THE CROSSING, SHE PRESSES THE BUTTON AND WAITS FOR THE GREEN MAN, CROSSING CAREFULLY, LOOKING OUT FOR TRAFFIC AS SHE GOES.

Sound Cue 2 - Green Man Crossing Beep

Robbie I feel VERY sick now Mum. I think I should maybe stay at home in case I throw up in the playground.

Mum Sorry Robbie but that won't work!

Robbie Will you go with me Mum?

Mum That's not going to help your image, turning up at High School with your mum! I'll walk with you as far as the crossing. C'mon. I've got your bag....Wait, let me get a photo of ma wee boy all grown up!

THEY WALK OUT TOGETHER STAGE RIGHT. CROSSING IN JUST AS EMMA REACHES IT. SHE TURNS TO WAVE TO HER DAD

Emma: Bye Dad. Knock 'em dead!

SHE CROSSES CORRECTLY.

ROBBIE AND HIS MUM ARRIVE JUST AS EMMA GOES OFF. HE DOESN'T NOTICE THE LIGHT HAS CHANGED TO RED AND TURNS TO WAVE AT HIS MUM.

Mum ROBBIE!!!! The lights have changed. Get over there quickly! ! Look, there's James

JAMES IS WAITING FOR ROBBIE TO COME OFF THE CROSSING. THEY WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS SCHOOL.

James I feel sick!

Robbie: Not as sick as I do.

James: I bet I do.

Robbie: How sick do you feel then?

James: As sick as a dog.

Robbie: What sort of dog?

James: A rottweiler!

Robbie: Yeah well I'm as sick as a Great Dane – no, a Wolfhound.

James: That's nothing. I'm as sick as – er – er - a Giraffe.

Robbie: A Giraffe isn't a dog.

James: No, but you'd get a lot of sick in that neck. C'mon.

Robbie I told my mum I was sick, but she didn't want to let me stay off.

James I don't think our mums care about us. Here we are on probably the worst day of our lives and they can't wait to get us out of the house so they can slob about watching 'The Real Housewives of Orange County' My mum put the kettle on before I'd even left this morning.

Robbie I love 'The Real Housewives of Orange County' Wish I could watch it today.

James It's not fair. C'mon. We can do this!

Robbie: Do you think we'll get battered by any big people?

James: Maybe..... but my big brother didn't mention that... oh I can't think about that just now!

Robbie Now I do feel sick! Let's go the long way.

LAURA AND EMMA APPEAR AS THEY EXIT

Scene 2

Emma Heh Laura! I was just texting you. How exciting is this?!

Laura Not all that. (SHE TRIES TO LOOK BORED)

Emma I've been looking forward to it ever since we visited in P7. I can't wait to find out what it's like for real. I want to get into languages. Just think we'll be able to speak French!

Laura: French?!

Emma: (WITH A GREAT FLOURISH) Oui! Le pot-pourri est sur le pont d'Avignon – all that stuff.

Laura I'm not that bothered.... I suppose drama might be alright. Then I can be a celebrity.

Emma What for?

Laura What do you mean, what for? I want to be famous and be on telly.

Emma As an actor? I think you need to study more than just drama though... you need to go to college.

Laura Nah! I don't think I'll bother with college. You just have to go for auditions - I'm sure to get picked up.

Emma Yes. I'm sure you are. BOTH EXEUNT

THEY TAKE THEIR SEATS IN THE CLASSROOM, FOLLOWED BY ROBBIE, AS:

Sound cue 3 - SFX of RADIO BROADCAST

*“Travel and weather now with me, Joanne McCallum. It’s Tuesday 30th October
The leaves are turning and so is the weather. It’s been a drizzly start to the day with
intermittent showers and a north westerly wind. Expect south bound delays on the
A9, as road works begin at the Broxden roundabout. MUSIC FADE DOWN*

Scene 3

IN SCHOOL ROBBIE IS DANCING WITH HEADPHONES ON. EMMA AND LAURA
SITTING IN CLASS LOOKING COOL. MR GOODWIN BOUNCES IN

Goodwin Good morning troops.

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM EMMA, MINIMUM FROM LAURA, ROBBIE
STANDS AND SHOUTS

Emma, Laura, Robbie: Good morning Mr Goodwin.

Goodwin: I trust you’re all in fine fettle?

ROBBIE TURNS TO ASK LAURA

Robbie: What’s a fettle?
LAURA SHRUGS DISMISSIVELY AND LOOKS BORED

Emma I’m good sir thank you very much. I trust you are too?

Goodwin I’m very well Emma. Thanks for asking. But I would be better if I hadn’t
had to deal with yet another incident at the school gates! Once again, a
pupil jumped out in front of my car.
I have to have this conversation every year. I’m always on the
lookout for one of you charging in front of me so I usually drive very
slowly, but, do you think you are the first thing all drivers think about
when they are late for a meeting or rushing to get to work? Remember,
an accident is something that happens ..not because you plan to act
irresponsibly, but because your attention is deflected for a fleeting
moment. Please be careful and most importantly, LOOK and LISTEN.
Right, on with class...how about a game to get us started?
The “Would you rather” game”.... Laura, Would you rather work under
cover for a dangerous gang or for a local community group?

Laura Undercover! Obviously!

Goodwin: Why?

Laura: Because it’s cool.

Goodwin What about you Emma? Would you rather run through a pit of fire or a pit of venomous snakes?

Emma Neither, both are too dangerous.

Goodwin Robbie. Would you rather never brush your teeth or never shower?

Robbie Never shower! It takes too long and ours keeps going cold just when you put shampoo in your hair! And JayJay always gets put in the shower by my mum

Goodwin Um – Jayjay?

Robbie He’s our Labrador. Anyway, she puts him in the shower and he always leaves big chunks of black fur in the drain. Sometimes I think it looks like a big spider is trapped there trying to get out and I think about it crawling over my feet.... Defo never shower!

Goodwin You may think that game was just a bit of fun but it actually tells me which of you are risk takers, Laura.
Right! Do you remember last week when we were in the computer suite, we looked at the resource called “It’s Your Call”? Some of those things were no worse than the “Would you rather” situations so let’s look at things that you are more likely to find a bit closer to home. Coming to school today, were there any hazards that you encountered on the way. Robbie? (HE LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE AND LOOKS DOWN) ...
Laura?

Laura I had to pass a group of boys who were shouting at me.

Goodwin Ok so you had to make your way past them. How did you deal with that Laura?

Laura I just told them to.....“Beat it youz!”and then I walked past them. I had to go onto the road though because they wouldn’t make space on the pavement.

Goodwin Does anyone have any advice for Laura on how to deal with this?

Emma Always look around for traffic!

Laura Thanks, Sheldon Cooper!

Goodwin Emma, what about you? What situations do you think might put you in danger on the way to school?

Emma Cyclists!

Goodwin How are cyclists dangerous?

Emma You can't hear them coming and they can go quite fast. Sometimes they ride on the pavement as well.

Goodwin That's a good point. It's actually illegal to ride on the pavements unless there is a sign saying that it is allowed. How would you cope with that risk as a pedestrian?

Laura Shout at them if they come up behind you on the pavement! Cyclists look rubbish with all that fluorescent gear! I wouldn't be seen dead in that stuff.

Goodwin Have you got a cycle Laura?

Laura Nup! And even if I did, I still wouldn't wear it.

Goodwin Well fluorescent gear might not be fashionable on the High Street but it's more important to be seen than look good in a hospital A & E. Is there anything else that could be a danger on the journey to school?

Emma Motorbikes! You can hear them coming but they go just as fast as cars.

Goodwin OK. Motorbikes are fast and noisy. What makes them a danger to you apart from that?

Laura Sometimes car drivers don't see them and cause them to swerve out of the way. Or there might be potholes in the road so they might hit you if you were crossing.

Goodwin Absolutely. So that is a real danger to people crossing the road. Is there anything anyone wants to say about pedestrians?

Robbie About what?

Goodwin Pedestrians! People who walk instead of drive or cycle. IE you and your mates. Any thoughts?

Emma Sometimes people shove each other and muck about on the pavement.

Goodwin That is very true! I mentioned that earlier.

Robbie Sometimes people are listening to music through headphones and not noticing that they have come off the pavement. James does that sometimes..

Goodwin Yes, like I said. I'm always on the lookout for one of you charging out in front of me but, bear in mind that not all drivers are thinking of you first.

Laura They should do! If they are driving a car then it is their responsibility to look out for pedestrians, because they are driving a big heavy thing that could kill you.

Goodwin What does everyone else think about that?

Emma Well I think we have a responsibility too. How can we expect someone driving a car or a lorry or a bus to think about everything that might go wrong as well as just driving the vehicle?

Laura Shurrup Emma!

Emma I was just saying.... I know my dad shouts when he drives me to school He gets a real fright sometimes when someone jumps out or falls off the pavement.

Robbie Sir? Who is Don Triskit? Is he a pal of yours?

Goodwin Sorry? ROBBIE POINTS TO THE DONTRISKIT SIGN.

Goodwin DON'T RISK IT, Robbie.... It's a road safety slogan. Don't Risk It!!!! Ok everyone. I've got some photocopying to pick up. Wait here until the bell and keep it quiet until then. HE EXITS

Laura Hey Robbie. Remember tomorrow is halloween and it's dress up day. Have you got your costume?

Emma Eh?

LAURA PUNCHES HER

Laura Yeah. Remember Mr Goodwin suggested it. **Sound Cue 4 - SFX BELL RINGS** There's the bell. See ya!

GIRLS EXEUNT LAUGHING

Robbie Brilliant! HE EXITS

Scene 4

Sound Cue 5 - SFX RADIO BROADCAST

"It's Wednesday 31st October. The shorter days are here. The west coast is experiencing low pressure and poor visibility. Oh and take care.. it's the spookiest night of the year and there might be ghosties and ghoulies out there. SPOOKY MUSIC" FADE DOWN

DAD COMES IN WITH A MUG OF TEA

Dad Emma, come on get up! It's five past eight!

Emma (FROM OFF STAGE) Oh no! Dad. I'm just going in for a shower. Can you put some toast on for me?

Dad What?... A toast! TO EMMA! The best daughter in the world!

Emma: Where's my English book?

Dad Is that it on the table?

Emma No! That's my poetry book! I meant my novel. I'm going to have to read a whole chapter at lunchtime. It's not fair. Laura and Vikki are going to the shops and I wanted to go with them!

Dad Do they not call it homework these days? Does that not mean that you are supposed to do it at home?

Emma Oh dad! You're not helping!

Dad You should really eat something. The brain cannot work on fresh air!
HE EXITS

ROBBIE COMES IN IN FANCY DRESS.

Mum What the.....? I'm not even going to ask...Sit down and eat your breakfast!

Robbie But I'm not hungry!

Mum I've made porridge.

Robbie But I hate porridge.

GOES TO GET BAG. EMMA DASHES BACK GETS HER JACKET AND PUTS IT ON. ROBBIE RETURNS WITH HIS BAG.

Mum Would you rather have a caramel wafer and tinned peaches?

Robbie Oh, yes please.

Mum Well, tough! It's porridge whether you like it or not!

EMMA DASHES OUT AGAIN.

Robbie (MAKING FACES AND GRIMACING AND RETCHING. HE CALLS ON JAYJAY)

Scene 5

ROBBIE RUNS OUT THE DOOR BARELY LOOKING BEHIND HIM AND ACTS LIKE A SUPERHERO. MEETS EMMA AND LAURA ON THE STREET. THEY ARE ALL TEXTING AND POINT AND LAUGH AT ROBBIE. ROBBIE REALISES THAT HE IS HAVING MICKEY TAKEN OUT OF HIM AND RUNS AFTER THEM

Emma Awww. Poor Robbie. That was a terrible thing to do to him. He's going to have to spend the whole day looking like that. Wow! Look at you! Is that your Halloween outfit? Hahaha. LAURA IS NOT AMUSED Sorry. Will you not get into trouble for wearing your skirt so short?

Laura Nah! Why are you wearing that school skirt? Everyone will laugh at you.

Emma Will they? But why? If we are at school surely we all have to wear our uniforms.

Laura (POSH VOICE) "Oh shooorrrly we all haaave to wear our uniforms" Maybe you're happy to dress like that, but I wouldn't be seen dead in that skirt! Never mind..... It's OK for you I suppose. I doubt anybody will notice. Did you see Vikki yesterday? (SHOWS A PHOTO OF VIKKI ON HER PHONE - SFX OF CAR HORN LAURA DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE THE CAR) I love her hair like that. Vikki says I should get mine dyed. What colour do you think I should go for?

Emma (HINT OF JEALOUSY) My dad would go mad if I dyed my hair. Anyway, I like it this colour .

Laura Do you? It's ok I suppose!

Emma What's wrong with it?

Laura I can't believe that you are wearing bobbles.

Emma But my hair gets in my eyes if I don't wear them. I can't read in class if I can't see.

Laura Oh no! Tragedy! Vikki says that your hair is your most important feature and if you don't care about that you might as well wear your hood up all the time.

SHE WALKS ON AND EMMA IS LEFT FEELING DIFFIDENT, PULLS OUT HER BOBBLES AND HAS TO RUN TO CATCH UP.

Scene 6 At home Thursday Morning a couple of months later

Sound Cue 6 - SFX radio broadcast:

"Good morning, it's Thursday 22nd December and Winter has arrived with a vengeance. Traffic Scotland has issued an amber warning of ice, so drivers should plan for increased journey times. Conditions are also slippery underfoot so be careful out there." FADE DOWN INTO XMAS MUSIC

EMMA AND ROBBIE HAVE BOTH SLEPT THROUGH ALARM. WE SEE THEIR FRANTIC RUSH TO GET READY - DOING 3 THINGS AT ONCE - AND THEY RACE OUT OF THE DOOR. MIRRORING EACH OTHER AS THEY PUT ON XMAS HATS AND SCARVES. THEY EXEUNT AND MEET LAURA

LAURA IS ON HER PHONE, TALKING LOUDLY.

"What?... He never did! What did you say? You never!"

EMMA APPEARS AND GOES TO STAND BESIDE LAURA, WHO IGNORES HER.

Laura I'll meet you outside Primark at 2! Bye.

Emma Who are you meeting?

Laura Vikki.

Emma Is that on Saturday?

Laura No. Today!

Emma How can you meet her at 2? Chemistry doesn't finish until 3.30.

Laura Because I'm not going to chemistry. I'm leaving at lunchtime and not coming back.

Emma But we've got a test this afternoon!

Laura I know but I haven't been studying so there's no point in taking it. Who needs chemistry anyway? I don't want to work in Boots. They've got some brilliant tops in at Primark and I'm going to get some to go with my new jeans. Vikki and I were saying that you could do with

some new jeans. LOVE your shoes by the way! Did your dad get them in Asda?

THEY FREEZE

JAMES LISTENING TO MUSIC ON HIS HEADPHONES, SINGING ALONG TUNELESSLY. ROBBIE CREEPS UP TO GIVE HIM A FRIGHT WITH A CAR HORN SOUND

James. What are you doing? That wasn't funny!

Robbie Yes it was! I thought you were about to puke there. That moaning sound you were making gave me the fear!

James I wasn't moaning. I was singing!

Robbie You should go on "The Voice".

James Do you think I could?

Robbie NO!!!!

THEY TUSSELE AND ROBBIE TRIES TO PULL JAMES'S HEADPHONES OFF.

GIRLS UNFREEZE.

Emma Vicki, Vicki, always flipping Vicki. You meet her all the time! I don't like her and you've changed since you met her.

Laura Well at least she's more fun than you. You're so boring!

Emma Well, you're so stupid!

ROBBIE AND JAMES STOP TO LOOK.

James I love it when girls fight. Especially in the middle of a shopping centre. Do you think one of them will cry?

Laura Me stupid? That's great coming from the Bobble Queen!

Emma Well at least I passed my chemistry!

Laura Woohoo! Hope you enjoy working in Boots! TURNING AROUND AGGRESSIVELY What are you two looking at?

Robbie James, I think we should just go.

Scene 7 THEY ALL RUSH LATE INTO CLASS. THE GIRLS MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT SITTING SEPARATELY.

- Laura Tell Emma I want my pencil back.
- Robbie Laura wants her pencil back.
- Emma Tell Laura She can have it back because it didn't write properly anyway.
- Robbie Emma says you can have it back because it doesn't write properly anyway
- Emma Tell Laura I want my bracelet back.
- Robbie Emma wants her bracelet back.
- Laura Tell Emma I didn't like it anyway.
- Robbie Laura says she didn't like it anyway.
- Laura Tell Emma...
- Robbie Look tell Emma yourself. I want my own seat back.
ROBBIE TRIES TO PULL LAURA OFF HIS SEAT JUST AS MR GOODWIN ENTERS.
- Mr Goodwin What do you think this is? Jeremy Kyle? Put your chairs back together and Laura, give Robbie his seat back. NOW! Can we get on please? I would like this lesson to be done by the time Christmas gets here, which, to be honest is not all that far away.....OK! Carrying on from yesterday, we were talking about statistics... Compiled by who, Emma?
- Emma The many experts in the world of Road Safety.
- Mr Goodwin Such as?
- Emma Police and Fire & Rescue and Paramedics.
- Robbie Lollipop people!.....
- Goodwin Yes Robbie. Lollipop people are important too.
- Robbie They'd make brilliant sweeties too, wouldn't they – lollipop people ? It could be fantastic. You could make lollipops like Star Wars figures – tangerine Wookiees, blackcurrant Darth Vader, lime Yoda, or, or
- Goodwin OK Robbie!

Robbie: Chocolate C3PO!

Goodwin: Yes, thank you, Robbie. We get the picture. Does anyone know which age group is most likely to be involved in a road accident?

Emma Old people.

Goodwin Why do you think that?

Emma Well sometimes you see old people crossing the road at about 10 steps an hour and drivers get really impatient and rev up their engines.

Goodwin I think that says more about the drivers than the old people themselves. Anyone else hazard a guess?

Laura Bikers.

Goodwin Laura! Glad to have you with us! Why bikers?

Laura Well, they're all in their fifties. You see them on their big motorbikes and some of them are really fat and they have these disgusting long beards that could blow up in the wind and block their view so they could crash.

Goodwin Interesting observation Laura, but I'm not sure that is what puts them most at risk on the road.

Robbie Cats!

Goodwin Yes Robbie I think cats are at risk of being knocked down but I was thinking more of people.

Robbie If you have a cat, it is like one of the family and if it gets killed on the road, it upsets everybody. We had a cat called Sparkle and we kept telling him not to go out on the road but he wouldn't listen.

Laura You had a boy cat called Sparkle?

Robbie Yes. My mum called him that because he had lovely big eyes that sparkled in the light.

Goodwin What happened to him Robbie?

Robbie He just died in his basket one night when I was seven.

Goodwin So he wasn't killed on the road? How old was he?

Robbie Nineteen! My mum got him when she moved into her first flat and before she met my dad. She told my dad that the cat was her baby and that if he wanted to be with her he would have to love him as much as she did. He said he did love the cat but I heard him calling Sparkle a pest under his breath. He said that he was allergic to cats and my mum said.... "That's alright. You can sleep outside!"

Goodwin Ok let's move on. The figures show that the highest serious pedestrian casualty rates are in YOUR age group, the 12-15s. The other groups you mentioned are far less likely to be hurt on the roads than YOU are as a pedestrian. Which are what Robbie? 'PEDESTRIANS FAILING TO LOOK PROPERLY' is the most common cause of accidents. So that means, when you are busily texting a pal... who might be standing right next to you... or snap chatting, or instagramming, you are NOT paying attention to the road in front of you! Remember, as I keep saying.... that an accident is something that happens not because you plan to act irresponsibly, but because your attention is deflected for a fleeting moment. Try to remember this when you are outside the classroom.

ROBBIE IS LOOKING AT HIS PHONE

Goodwin Robbie.

Robbie What?

Goodwin What did I just say?

Robbie You said "Robbie"

Goodwin Before that.

Robbie I think you were asking about Sparkle and I was trying to find a photo to show you.

Goodwin Do you remember anything that I said? Right now "Failing to listen properly" is the biggest threat to your safety. You can look for a photo of Sparkle at home and show me tomorrow but try to focus on the way home.

Sound Cue 7 - SFX SCHOOL BELL

See you all tomorrow!

EXEUNT.

Scene 8 at home

Sound Cue 8 - SFX RADIO BROADCAST:

“It’s Thursday, 13th February and Spring is on the way! Weather forecast is for light showers today but to be fine and settled over the weekend. FADE DOWN

SFX ALARM

Dad Emma. Are you up yet?

Mum (OFF) Robbie! You awake yet?

Dad Emma! Have you brushed your teeth?

Mum Robbie have you washed your face?

Mum/Dad Breakfast is ready.

E and R No time! Bye!

SCENE 9

Sound Cue 9 – GROUP TEXTING.

Emma “When will I come round tonight? kiss”

Laura “7 o’clock. High Five emoji”

Emma “Will your mum and dad not mind? kiss”

Laura “No they want to meet my pals.”

Robbie “What are you guys doing tomato? ”

Laura Who are you calling tomato? Angry face

Robbie Sorry predictive text. Tonight.

Emma “What’s it to you?”

Robbie “I heard there was a party.”

James “Yeah I heard there was a party too. Dancing lady emoji”

Laura “There’s no party. Not for you anyway.”

Robbie "How not? sad face"

Emma "Will I bring chocolates for your mum?"

Laura "Who even does that? No."

James "You've got an X-box. We can play 'Fortnight'"

Laura "Forget it! We are not playing computer games and you are not coming!"

Robbie "I'LL BRING IRN BRU!"

James Why are you shouting?

Robbie Sorry Caps lock on. Can we not come?

Laura "CAPS ON NO!!!"

VARIOUS SFX OF BRAKES AND HORNS WHILE TEXTING AND CROSSING ROAD

Emma "See you later! kiss kiss kiss"

Scene 10

EMMA ARRIVES AT LAURA'S HOUSE.

Sound Cue 10 - Doorbell

LAURA OPENS DOOR AND BRINGS EMMA IN. THERE IS NO SIGN OF PARENTS BUT THE DOOR BELL RINGS AGAIN AND MARTIN AND BARRY ENTER

Sound Cue 11 - Doorbell MUSIC

Laura Hi Guys. This is Emma I was telling you about.

M & B Hi Emma.

Emma (CONFUSED) Hi. (TO LAURA QUIETLY) I didn't know anyone else was coming. Who are they?

Laura That was Martin. and this is... sorry. What's your name again?

Barry Barry.

Laura Larry. They're in 3rd Year. My big brother knows them...EMMA STAYS QUIET. So did you bring anything?

Emma No. You said not to bring chocolates.

Laura You are so pathetic! I meant alcohol. Did you bring anything Larry?

Barry I brought cider.... It's actually Barry...

Laura Whatever...

Emma Where is your mum and dad?

Laura They are away out with my Auntie Caroline. They won't be back for ages.

Martin I've brought vodka!

Laura Go you! How did you get that?

Martin My dad has a cupboard full of drink from parties but he doesn't drink vodka so he won't miss it.

Emma TO LAURA I thought your mum and dad were going to be here. I told my dad that they would be in. It's the only reason he let me come on a school night.

Martin You didn't tell me you were babysitting tonight Laura I thought your pals would be more like you.

Laura Don't worry. She's ok ... or at least she will be when she's had a drink. Emma, take a drink!

Emma Have you got any juice?

Martin Funnily enough, no!

Laura Look Emma you are embarrassing me and yourself! Have a real drink and shut up!

Barry It's ok. I can go out to the shop and get some juice. TO EMMA Do you want to come with me?

Emma I haven't got any money with me though. I'm dead embarrassed, I didn't think I would need it because my dad is coming to pick me up at 9 o'clock.

Barry I've got money and I think I can get you a can of juice.

Laura Bye Larry!

Scene 11

THEY LEAVE THE HOUSE AND WALK ALONG TOGETHER TOWARDS THE SHOPS.

Emma I didn't know it was a party or I would have brought my own money.

Barry Don't worry about it. I just brought the cider because Martin told me to. I'm not that bothered about drink myself but he's mad for it. I had a party once and he got so drunk he puked all down himself. I had to clean it up. Gross! You would think that would have put him off it but he still goes for it.

Emma Laura's the same. She never used to be like that but she's changed since we came to secondary. She's friends with Vikki now.

Barry Vikki? Vikki McIntosh? Oh I've heard that name a few times.

Emma Vikki told Laura she should dye her hair. Maybe I should dye mine.

Barry Why would you want to dye your hair when it's as nice as yours is?

Emma Oh. ... Thanks. I like your hair too.

AWKWARD SILENCE.

Barry Whose regie class are you in?

Emma Mr Goodwin's.

Barry Oh he's Sic.

Emma Is he? Oh that's a shame.

Barry No, I mean he's cool!

Emma Yeah. He's cool. He talks to us like we're normal human beings and everybody likes him. The thing is, he tells us all this stuff about paying attention and staying safe then as soon as we leave the classroom we are all running straight out the school gates messing about on the road.

Barry People act like idiots when they are in a crowd. There was a girl in my class, Julia, her name was, that was mucking about with her pals on the way home last year. Somebody lobbed her jacket onto the road and she just went to get it without thinking. She was hit by a taxi and that was it, brain damaged!

Emma Oh, that's so sad....

Barry I know. Nobody in my year talks about her much now. It's easier just to forget about her. Anyway, sorry. I didn't mean to upset you

Emma It's ok. Just about everyone I know has a story about someone getting knocked down. It's terrible.

Barry That's true Emma.... I don't suppose you'd like to go to the cin...
MARTIN RUNS ON

Martin Laura's parents came back! Emma, your dad was there too. HE EXITS

EMMA RUNS OFF

Barry That's the party over then....

SCENE 12

Sound Cue 12 - SFX RADIO BROADCAST:

"It's Friday 14th February and the city is waking up to a bright start without a cloud in the sky. The day when Love is in the air starts here on BBTC radio. This is the most romantic day of the year. I can just feel all the love around me"

FADE DOWN

EMMA AND DAD ENTER, ARGUMENT IN FULL SPATE.

Dad What did you think you were doing, out so late on a school night? That's the last time you go out during the week! You knew I was coming for you at 9 o'clock and where were you? Out with a boy. And drinking too! I could smell it on Laura's breath. She's only 12!!! And as for that smug lad that was with her. I wanted to smack his face!

Emma I know Dad, that was Martin and I didn't think much of him either. But look, I wasn't drinking! Barry had just walked to the shops with me and bought me a Fanta!

Dad A Fanta? Do you think I was born yesterday? I suppose he got you a sherbert dab as well? Anyway who is Barry?

Emma He's in the third year and it's true! I wasn't drinking! Why don't you believe me? Barry isn't like Martin and I'm not like Laura!

Dad Well you better get your breakfast.

Emma I haven't got time.

Dad Typical. Well, get off to school then. But make no mistake, we are going to be talking about this later!

Emma Look Dad, I didn't do anything wrong. (NO RESPONSE) I'm away for the bus.

ROBBIE MEETS EMMA.

Scene 12

Emma CROSSING THE ROAD **SFX CAR HORN**

Robbie That's the bus just gone. Did you have a good time at the party last night? HE BRINGS OUT A ROSE FROM BEHIND HIS BACK.

Emma Yeah. I suppose so...

Robbie I got you a...

Emma I got chatting to a nice guy called.. ROBBIE PUTS THE ROSE AWAY

Emma Though I don't know if I'll ever see him again ROBBIE BRINGS OUT THE ROSE AGAIN

Emma I hope I do. What's that you've got?

Robbie THROWS ROSE OVER THE SET Nothing. We better go. We're going to be really late. I know a short cut.

WE FOLLOW ROBBIE'S ELABORATE ROUTE. AT SCHOOL THEY TRY TO SNEAK IN. THEY SNEAK THROUGH A BACK DOOR, WHEN ...

Sound Cue 13 - SFX Mrs Bogie

"Robbie Jackson and Emma Smith. I can see you. This new CCTV is wonderful. Late slips for both of you! Go to the office to collect them and bring them back here.

- Now Mr Archibald, one lump or two? " Mr Archibald: "You know me Mrs Bogie, I'm quite sweet enough already. IN PANIC "The button! The button Mrs Bogie! Switch it off!"

Emma (SEES BARRY AND GOES ALL SHY) Hiya!

Barry PRODUCING ROBBIE'S ROSE Hiya. ROBBIE IS WATCHING AND LISTENING IN AND COPIES WHAT BARRY SAYS What happened when you got home last night? What did your dad say?

Emma He didn't say much! But I am sure there will be a full on interrogation tonight. I'll just go out and not tell him.

Barry You can't do that. He's just worried about you.

Emma I need to go. Mrs Bogie has sent me to the office to get a late slip. Everybody has it in for me this morning!

Barry Do you want to meet after school today?

Emma Oh I can't today. I said I would meet Robbie and help him choose a birthday present for his mum.

Barry OK. Tomorrow then?

Emma Yup!

Barry Great. I'll walk you to the office.

Scene 13

(IN CLASS MR GOODWIN IS FLUSTERED)

Robbie You still OK to help me choose a present for my mum tonight?

Emma Yes of course. You're my pal.

Goodwin Right. So it's Friday afternoon and it's been a long week! Why don't we talk about how it's gone. What's been good and what's been bad? Anybody?

LAURA COMES IN LOOKING DISHEVELLED.

Goodwin Good of you to join us Laura. Sit down.

Emma I fell out with my dad.

Goodwin That doesn't sound good. What caused it?

Emma It was because I was out last night and he thought I was drinking but I wasn't. He just jumped to a conclusion without knowing all the facts.

Goodwin This didn't involve Laura in any way did it?

Emma WORRIED ABOUT BEING A "GRASS". No Sir.

Robbie Sir?

Goodwin Yes Robbie?

Robbie Can I borrow a pencil? I broke mine. Well I didn't break it but my dad was using it to get a piece of burnt toast out of the toaster last night and he didn't want to use a knife because that's dangerous. The thing is the pencil got stuck in the toaster and my dad tried to force it out but it got broke and now we can't have toast because there is no room to put in fresh bread....not that we have any, because mum didn't get to the shops yesterday.... and I don't have a pencil with me because I forgot to look for another one...

Goodwin Your home life is like a never-ending soap opera. Here is a pencil Robbie. Please take it as a present from me.

Robbie Thanks Mr Goodwin. I was going to use it to draw a Death Star. I don't suppose you know what that is Mr Goodwin. You're probably a bit old.

Goodwin **The Death Star?** Oh, you mean the Empire's mobile space station which can destroy planets. Then, of course there's the "**Millenium Falcon**", commanded by smuggler Han Solo and his Wookiee first mate, Chewbacca. Anything else you want to know?

Robbie Mr Goodwin. You're amazin'!

Goodwin Since it's Friday I'm going to let you go before the bell. Have a nice weekend and I will see you all on Monday.

Scene 14

Sound Cue 14 - School Bell

BELL RINGS AND EVERYONE SCRABBLES TO PACK UP AND THEY ALL EXEUNT IN HIGH SPRITS

Sound Cue 15 - SFX SCREECHING BRAKES

ALL RETURN AND STAND IMPASSIVELY

Sound Cue 16 - SFX RADIO BROADCAST (SIRENS UNDER):

“It’s Friday afternoon and the weekend begins here. Traffic is generally moving smoothy although drivers are being advised to avoid the area around School Road as Emergency Services are attending an incident and restrictions are in place.

MIXES INTO RECORDED PATTERN OF VOICES AS THEY REMEMBER.

“Robbie Can I borrow a pencil? I broke mine.

Emma: Sometimes people shove each other and muck about on the pavement

Emma How can we expect someone driving a car or a lorry or a bus to think about everything that might go wrong as well as just driving the vehicle?

Robbie Tangerine Wookies, blackcurrant Darth Vader, lime Yoda or.. or Chocolate CP30

Robbie Mr Goodwin. You’re amazin’.”

HE FADES OUT. EXEUNT SLOWLY AS:

Scene 15

GOODWIN ENTERS

Goodwin I would like to dedicate todays assembly to Robbie Jackson. It was exactly a month ago today that Robbie was knocked down and killed outside this school. He will be sadly missed by everyone. His mother, Mrs Jackson, asked if I could read out a few words on her behalf.

READING: Robbie was my son. My only son and now he’s gone. A moment of fun, a moment of distraction and, because of that, I will never see his smile or hear his laugh again. So that Robbie didn’t die in vain, please be

careful on the roads. Please, Emma, I think you wanted to say a few words as well.

EMMA Robbie was my pal. Our pal. The day he died we were doing what we always did. Pushing, shoving, having a laugh. Not for one minute did we think that something like this would happen to one of us. If Robbie was here now he would say be careful. He would tell a long story first but he would say be careful. So for Robbie..SHE BREAKS DOWN

TEACHER Thank you Emma, that was very brave. Remember, an accident is something that happens..not because you plan to act irresponsibly, but because your attention is deflected for a fleeting moment.

Please remember to look, listen and most importantly..THINK.
Thank you.

THE END