

GIRLZ

Act One Scene One.

NICKY

*(The stage is dark. **START TRACK 1**. Nicky enters. She flicks a light switch and the light comes on in a small apartment. No scenery is required for this. She looks wistfully around the room for a few moments. She sings directly to the audience.)*

#1 – THE AUDITION

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALMOST BEEN A YEAR NOW
IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS ALMOST YESTERDAY
WHEN WE STOOD HERE IN THIS TINY OLD APARMENT
AND I TURNED AROUND WHEN I HEARD HIM SAY...

(Adam pops his head round in the room)

ADAM

Nicky I'm just having a wee. See you in the car.

(Adam exits)

NICKY

(to audience)

To be honest I remembered it being a bit more romantic than that!

(pause)

I'd been auditioning for a brand new girl band being put together by *Mick Richie*. I never really thought I stood a chance but I'd *actually* made it to the final ten. The vocal stuff had all been brilliant, but that day we had to do all these dance routines and I was totally bricking it.

(shouting from off stage)

ADAM

Car Keys?

NICKY

On the dresser Adam, where they *always* are!

(to audience)

Anyway, I'd been up all night rehearsing but I was just all over the place.

(Adam enters)

ADAM

Come on let's go.

(Nicky is hesitant)

What's wrong?

NICKY

I can't *do* these dance routines.

(Adam goes to protest)

And this band will be *everything* you hate about the music industry. And you detest Mick Richie.

ADAM

Everyone does!

(going up to her)

Look, I've told you before, the world is always going to need shitty pop music. And someone's got to do it!

NICKY

Thanks! That makes me feel *much* better.

ADAM

Nicky, you're going to be great.

(holding up the car keys)

but we've really *got* to go, the traffic's gonna be terrible.

NICKY

(gathering herself)

OK just give me one sec.

(Adam Exits)

**AND SO I HEADED OFF TO THE AUDITION
LIKE SOME SILLY GIRL JUST CHASING STUPID DREAMS
NEVER EVERY KNOWING JUST HOW QUICKLY
IT WOULD ALL FALL APART AT THE SEEMS**

(scene changes around Nicky who remains in same spot to a large audition space. We see Suzie, Mia and Frankie stretching, warming up etc. Nicky takes off her jacket and has her dance gear on underneath. Then we hear voice over the tannoy)

TANNOY

OK everybody 3 minutes and we'll do the final dance routine. Thank you so much for your patience today, but I promise you we will make a decision after this final run. 3 minutes ladies.

(ALEX enters. Speaking to Nicky)

ALEX

Omigod those toilets are well minging.

(she stops to adjust her clothing)

NICKY

(to audience)

My best friend Alex had also made it through.

ALEX

(coming up to Nicky and holding out her hand)

Just look at me, I'm buzzin' like a bloody 10 inch dildo.

NICKY

(to audience)

and she swears more than anyone I know.

ALEX

(taking out a small bottle of pills)

You want one?

NICKY

(annoyed)

No! Bloody hell Alex I thought you given those up.

ALEX

(taking one)

Just did!

(deep breath)

Right. You OK?

NICKY

No! I can't *do* this routine.

ALEX

Oh Bollocks my arse. You're gonna totally smash it.

(pause)

Omigod, I cant believe I need *another* wee!

(exits)

TANNOY

2 minutes Ladies. 2 minutes

(lights tighten until Nicky is in a single spotlight)

NICKY

**I NEVER WILL FORGET THAT FRIGHTENED FEELING
STANDING THERE JUST TRYING NOT TO CRY
REMEMBERING THE WORDS THAT ADAM TOLD ME
'TAKE A BREATH
COUNT TO TEN
HOLD YOUR DREAMS AND THEN
LET THEM FLY'**

**MAYBE THIS COULD BE THE MOMENT
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
TO SHOW THE WORLD I'M SOMEONE
THAT YOU SIMPLY CAN'T IGNORE**

**MAYBE I CAN FINALLY FIND A PLACE TO CALL MY OWN
IN THE GREATEST EVER GIRL BAND
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!**

(We see Suzie, Mia and Frankie move into positions ready for the dance routine. They are wearing number. Alex is 3 Mel 4 Suzie 7 and Mel 10. Nicky is wearing number 1. As Nicky sings they drink, do final stretches, rehearse steps etc)

TANNOY

If you could take your positions please girls. Going in one minute, one minute.

NICKY

**AND I'LL BE ON THE COVER OF THOSE GLOSSY MAGAZINES
AND RIDE AROUND THE CITY IN THOSE FANCY LIMOUSINES
AND I CAN VISIT PLACES OF WHICH I'VE ONLY DREAMED
WITH THE GREATEST EVER GIRL BAND
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN**

**SO NOW'S THE TIME TO FIND MY INNER SONG
AND LEARN TO SING IT LOUD AND SING IT STRONG
NOW'S THE TIME TO STAND UP TALL AND FINALLY FACE MY FEARS
'TAKE A BREATH
COUNT TO TEN'
JUST THINK CLEAR**

(she moves into her place next to Alex. It is clear there are 5 spaces for the imaginary other dancers)

COS NOW THIS MOMENT IS HERE

(Alex moves into her position. She looks encouragingly at Nicky and then gathers her focus)

TANNOY

Good luck everyone ...5678

(There is an extended dance routine during which Nicky seems occasionally to struggle. There are occasional moment of eye contact between Nicky and Alex, where Alex seems to be urging Alex on. At the end of the routine they are all exhausted and breathing heavily. They wait nervously for a while. It is clear Nicky thinks she has not done well and blown her chances.)

TANNOY

OK thankyou everybody. Mr Richie would like the following numbers to remain.

(tension builds with each number)

3

(Alex squeals)

4,7,10and 1

(Nicky exhales)

ALEX

(out of the corner of her mouth)

I think I just wet myself...

(end of scene)

Act One Scene Two.

(Mick Richie's office. All five girls sit in slightly awkward silence.)

SUZIE

(really smiley breaking the silence)

This is a bit weird isn't it?

FRANKIE

We've been here like ten minutes. What do you think he's doing?

ALEX

Probably shagging one of the others!

NICKY

(horrified)

Alex...shut up.

ALEX

Oh we *all* know the stories.

MIA

Are you two like mates from before then?

NICKY

Us? Yeah.

ALEX

BFFs. Best Fucking Friends!

SUZIE

Why don't we like just , tell each other a bit about ourselves, you know. I mean we are going to be in band together.

MIA

Don't bet on it Suzie. Maybe we're the ones being 'let go'.

NICKY

Why would they do that?

FRANKIE

To be honest this whole thing's been a bit weird. I mean we haven't actually *seen* him for *any* of the auditions.

MIA

He always does that.

ALEX

How do *you* know?

MEL

I was in one of his other bands just over a year ago.

SUZIE

Wow, what band?

MIA

The IT GIRLS

FRANKIE

I thought I recognized you from somewhere.

SUZIE

Oy My God. I remember now. You had that song...what was it....*Crazy ..something*

MIA

Crazy Days

ALEX

(starts singing from the chorus)

Crazy Days....CRAAAzy Days...

NICKY

What happened with that band?

MIA

Label dropped us after second single bombed.

FRANKIE

So you still know *him* from that band

MEL

Yeah he actually told me to audition again...

ALEX

(getting up and looking at a photo on Richie's desk)

Oh yeah...bit of a *favourite* eh?

MIA

(protesting)

No...he just thought

NICKY

Alex what are you doing?

ALEX

(showing them the photo)

Is this his wife?

FRANKIE

Which wife? He's had 4 hasn't he?

NICKY

Alex put it down

(Richie's booming voice is heard outside, speaking and laughing)

SUZIE

I think he's coming ...

(Alex panics a bit, puts the picture back but knocks it over)

Oh Fuck Fuck

(she put it back and rushes to sit down just as Richie enters. He is on the phone and ignores the girls completely as he continues his conversation.)

RICHIE

Totally...(listens) one hundred percent! Listen Piers, I've got to pop over Acapulco next Tuesday, but I can be in L.A. Thursday evening and we can talk more then. *(listens)* yep yep yep - No problem! Oh and I checked the projected sales figure for that American Duo we signed. We're going to have to let them go. They're just not breaking into the Chinese Market. No - I just don't think those guys are ever going to like Country Music (laughs). So I'm London for a couple of days setting up this Girl Band project - yep , very exciting *(turning to look at them - under his breath)* and very very sexy! I think it could be an absolute banker...

ALEX

(under her breath)

I think you might be an absolute banker.

NICKY

(whispering)

Alex, shut up...

RICHIE

OK Piers. Say Hi to that very sexy new girlfriend of yours *(pause)* you lucky boy and your wife and kids as well of course *(Big laugh)* OK later...yeah ciao!

(hangs up. Takes a moment to look at all the girls – and there's a pregnant silence. Then dramatically takes off sunglasses)

WOW! (Pause) JUST LOOK AT YOU! Let me firstly say one thing *(he pauses for dramatic effect – then solemnly says)* Thank you for *allowing* opportunity to work with a group of such a talented and, if you'll forgive the lack of wokeness, *beautiful*, young women. As I'm certain you're aware, I've had a lot of success, and I mean *a lot*, of success creating and managing hit bands. But I've rarely felt an energy in a room like I feel now. I mean I feel something very special happening right here, right now. I can just

(mock dramatic) ...

smell it.

ALEX

(wafting her hand)

Sorry that might have been me!

RICHIE

(not really hearing her comment)

I'm so excited this is finally happening. This project has been in the pipeline for nearly four years now.

(standing up and going to the computer monitor)

We've been studying the markets trends very carefully, waiting for the optimum opportunity.

(clicks remote to reveal a complex diagram with complex charts and data on it. It has various things like 'boy band' 'girl bands' 'easy listening' 'country' etc.)

And we're convinced that the markets are ideally placed for the ultimate girl band. We've hired management consultants to carry out extensive research gathering huge amounts of data. They've used this information to create algorithms to calculate the perfect musical vehicle to generate maximum revenue in today's market including gender, image, musical style and name. YOU, are the result of this research and in 2 months time market conditions will be perfect for the launch.

ALEX

Is this a band or the new iphone?

RICHIE

Well

(looking at her and struggling for her name. She goes to tell him)

Don't tell me....

(triumphant)

Alice!

ALEX

Alex!

RICHIE

Alex. Of course. A band is a product just like a car. Music is a commodity which can be bought and sold and changes value according to the fluctuating state of the market.

FRANKIE

(under her breath)

How romantic!

MIA

So what's the next step?

RICHIE

Mia. Great to be working with you again.

(she make a fingers crossed sign at him)

Well you're booked in to record your first single next week.

NICKY

Next week?

RICHIE

Sonic Studios in Camden. It's a great little tune, very current. And you're going to be working with this incredible new producer calls himself BEAT BOI! He only 18 but a total genius. Did an astonishing dance re-mix on Taylor Swift's last single.

SUZIE

No way!

RICHIE

THE Single will be released on *Fantasy Records*, with an album option depending on the response. We also have significant interest in licensing the single for a major skin care commercial.

SUZIE

(really excited)

Oh my God!

FRANKIE

(sarcastic)

Exciting!

RICHIE

Then the following week we shoot the video.

SUZIE

(barely containing herself)

Arghhh!

FRANKIE

But this song. Is it good? I've actually written a few things myself and was hoping we might be able to...

RICHIE

(lets out a huge laugh)

I love that sense of humor

(trying to remember)

Francis?

FRANKIE

Frankie

RICHIE

Frankie

(pause as Frankie continues to look questioningly)

I'm so sorry. You were actually being serious.

*(music begins/ **START TRACK 2**)*

No this is not really what you would call a collaboration, more a kind of, you know

#2 - GIRLZ

**YOU LISTEN UP AND PAY ATTENTION
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO HEAR
THIS LITTLE BAND IS MY INVENTION
AND I CAN MAKE IT DISAPPEAR
I'M SURE YOU KNOW MY REPUTATION
EVERYTHING I TOUCH TURNS TO GOLD
I CAN MAKE YOU RICH
I CAN MAKE YOU FAMOUS
YOU JUST NEED LEARN TO DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD**

(pause in music)

DIALOGUE...

**AS YOU ALL KNOW I SAY THINGS BLUNTLY
IT'S NOT TO EVERYONE'S TASTE
BUT I'D ADVISE YOU DON'T CONFRONT ME
OR YOU'LL BE QUICKLY REPLACED.**

**LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE LET ME EXPLAIN
YOU'VE GOT THE BOOBS AND I'VE GOT THE BRAIN
YOU TAKE THE BACK SEAT AND I'LL TAKE THE REINS
SOON EVERYBODY'S GONNA KNOW YOUR NAME**

(dramatic pause. All the Girls edge forward in anticipation. As he sings the word GIRLZ, Richie clicks the Remote and the GIRLZ name appears on the screen)

**GIRLZ !
IT'S UTTERLY BRILLIANT
AND IT ALL CAME OF THIS BRILLIANT LITTLE HEAD
GIRLZ
SO BEAUTIFULLY SIMPLE
I'VE SIMPLY TAKEN OUT THE S AND THEN REPLACED IT WITH A ZED!**

(Pause in music)

ALEX

Yep. we can see what you did there!

RICHIE

So what do you think?

(They all look a little hesitant and afraid to speak when his phone rings)

Hold that thought

(he answers his phone and exits he is speaking)

Hey Miss Swift? Or is it Mz? I never know these days. To what do I owe the honour?

(exits)

SUZIE

(gobsmacked and mouthing to the others)

Taylor?

MIA

Bullshit...

NICKY

So what do we think?

(music starts)

SUZIE

I THINK IT'S COOL

ALEX

YEAH ME AS WELL

FRANKIE

MMM I THINK IT LOOKS AS IF WE REALLY CAN'T SPELL

SUZIE

I KIND OF 'EDGY'

ALEX

YEAH MAKES US LOOK 'URBAN'

FRANKIE

I THINK IT LOOKS AS IF WE REALLY CAN'T SPELL

ALEX

(standing up and sort of performing to the others)

**BUT WHO REALLY CARES – THIS IS TOTALLY INSANE !
FROM NOW ON OUR LIVES THEY JUST WON'T BE THE SAME
WE'VE GOT THE BOOBS LET HIM BE THE BRAIN....
SOON EVERYBODY'S GOING TO KNOW OUR NAME.**

(there is a pause and she picks his sunglasses)

NICKY

Alex . Put those down

MIA

He doesn't like anyone touching those!

(Alex puts them on and mimics him)

ALEX

(pointing to the screen with the name still on)

GIRLZ

MIA

Oy My God He's gonna kill you!

NICKY

Alex please put them back

ALEX

**AND IT ALL CAME OUT OF THIS
BRILLIANT LITTLE HEAD
GIRLZ**

FRANKIE

(finding it quite funny)

SHE'S FUCKING MENTAL

NICKY

ALEX PLEASE

SUZIE

(Now listening at the door)

I THINK HE'S COMING

ALEX

**I'VE SIMPLY TAKEN OUT THE S
AND I'VE REPLACES IT WITH A ZED**

**EVERYONE KNOWS I'M AN ABSOLUTE GENIUS
10 GOLD DISCS COUNTLESS NUMBER ONE HITS
THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT I NEED IN RETURN...
JUST SHOW US YOUR BUM
AND SHOW US YOUR....**

(dramatic stop in music. Richie enters still on the phone not paying attention to what is happening. He says things like....yeah....one hundred percent....no problem. Suzie rushes to sit down. Meanwnile Alex takes off the glasses and realizes she has no pockets or anywhere to put them so she throws them to Nicky. Nicky is furious and mouths 'what the fuck' at her before putting them in a small bag she has...Frankie is finding it all quite funny)

RICHIE

(ending phone conversation)

Yeah well you take care of yourself. Absolutely. I'm sorry to hear about you cold...but hey...I hope you *shake it off* *(big laugh)* Yeah. You too. And say hi to Justin yeah. Ciao

(hangs up. He looks around. The girls all look a it guilty and he eyes them suspiciously. Suzie breaks in)

SUZIE

Beiber?

RICHIE

(suspiciously)

Timberlake!

(all girls respond with 'ahs' and and nods etc. He seems to feel for his glasses but them moves on)

CHANGE....

Right anyway. Where were we?

(Music starts)

**I'LL GET MY PA TO BRING IN THE CONTRACTS
JUST SIGN YOUR NAME ON THE LINE
IN 2 WEEKS TIME – WE START RECORDING.**

(spoken)

**REHEARSALS START MONDAY
AT NINE.**

(he exits still eyeing them all a bit suspiciously. He exits shouting)

KAREN! Get those contracts. And have you seen my bloody sunglasses?

(lights change as Girls all respond with a variety of laughing, relief etc. Nicky moves centre stage and speaks directly to the audience)

Act One Scene Three.

(A small apartment. All the girls are sitting around relaxed. Nicky speaks direct to audience)

NICKY

So we all signed the deal. I went home to I grab a few things. Then the five of us spent a couple of days together in a flat getting to know each other and working on the vocals for the first single.

SUZIE

So tell us about Adam, Nicky

NICKY

Oh, We've been together since we were like seventeen.

SUZIE

Wow – what's that, like 4 years?

NICKY

Five in October.

ALEX

(whilst still on her phone)

He is totally awesome. When my stepdad kicked me out the house, Ads and Nicky put me up for like 2 months for like no rent 'cos I had like literally no money

NICKY

He runs this tiny indie record label – ‘Go Kart records’.

FRANKIE

I know them. *The Androids* are on that label. They’re awesome.

NICKY

Yeah. Obviously it makes almost *no* money but he really believes in it. Then his got his own band which makes even less money and he manages this little venue called THE U TURN in Fulham, mainly bands and also DJ nights, comedians and stuff.

FRANKIE

I know that place.

SUZIE

Bloody Hell Frankie, you’re so *indie* .

FRANKIE

My band were gonna do a support gig there when we were like fifteen, but the bass player broke her wrist the day before the gig.

SUZIE

You’re in another band?

FRANKIE

Well not any more.

ALEX

What you called?

FRANKIE

Glass House

NICKY

Why not any any more?

ELLIE

It’s in our contract isn’t it? We’re not allowed to be in this band and, what was it

(remembering in quotations)

'any other musical act or enterprise'

SUZIE

But that totally sucks. So the band's split up?

FRANKIE

No, they're just getting someone else to replace me. We weren't signed or anything. But we'd got a few of songs on I tunes which had a few hundred downloads, and we were starting to get some good festivals slots.

ALEX

(looking at phone)

Oh My GOD you've got like 2000 followers on tik tok

SUZIE

Wow!

ALEX

(holding up phone)

Ha! that's you on guitar?

FRANKIE

Yeah about 4 years ago.

ALEX

(playing a song on her phone)

This is them listen - it's well cool

(they listen)

FRANKIE

That's more the music I'm into really. But I've always danced and stuff. I did the audition for a laugh really. Never thought I'd actually get it.

NICKY

(Mia is still on her phone a bit detached from the others)

You ok Mia?

FRANKIE

Yeah you're being very quiet over there.

ALEX

(walking up to her mock interrogation style)

Yeah we've hardly heard anything about mysterious *(mock Italian accent)* Mia Carluccio.. So were you born in Italy then?

MIA

(Mia still hasn't taken her eyes off her phone and deliver line deadpan)

Romford.

ALEX

Oh!

MIA

My Dad's from Rome.

SUZIE

Oh My God. I remember going there when I was about 6 and having an ice cream that was literally bigger than my head!

ALEX

(seeing a picture on Mia's phone and gasps)

Oh let me see...

(she takes the Phone from Mia and she reacts)

MIA

Alex, for fuck sake

ALEX

(baby voice)

Who is this gorgeous *widdle man*..

(showing the others)

Look!

(various reaction like 'ah sweet' etc)

MIA

(not happy)

Alex just give it us back...

ALEX

(clearly a bit if tension between the two)

Alright, chill.

(she hands her phone back)

FRANKIE

Who was that?

MIA

(a bit reluctantly)

It's my little boy.

(various reactions of surprise, delight etc)

NICKY

Oh My God Mia. We had no idea

SUZIE

That's so cool though.

MIA

Yeah well I don't want *everyone* to know

FRANKIE

(incredulous)

What?

ALEX

Why the fuck not?

MIA

(with an edge to Alex)

Well firstly 'cos it *my* business, and secondly Zak Richie doesn't know.

NICKY

What's it got to do with him?

MIA

We had to disclose if we had any kids or if we were pregnant. Did you guys not actually read the contract?

ALEX

I wasn't reading all that shit.

MIA

You think any of us would have got the job of we'd have said yes. *Yummy Mummy* isn't really the image they're after.

NICKY

(to Frankie)

So *you* can't be in your own band

(to Mia)

and you're not allowed to have kids. This is nuts...

MIA

It's pretty standard.

ALEX

Do you really think you are going to be able to keep something like that from him?

FRANKIE

And doesn't he know already from like before

MIA

I only found out I was pregnant the band was breaking up 2 years ago. Aiden's 14 months.

SUZIE

Ah I love that name.

MIA

And I was hoping to keep it from him, at least until we maybe had a bit of success, then it's harder to get rid of me. I suppose a lot of it depends on whether..

(pointedly at Alex)

People can keep their mouth shut!

(Alex raises her eyes/ shakes her head etc. clearly annoyed)

NICKY

(asks tentatively)

So is he with the dad?

MIA

Christ no, he's bugged off. With my Mum who just *adores* him.

SUZIE

Ah that's so sweet!

ALEX

(not really thinking)

I never knew my Dad either.

(Franke, Nicky and look at each other, shrug shoulders, shake their heads etc. at Alex's lack of sensitivity)

Mum brought me up by herself, and my 4 brothers.

SUZIE

Your mum brought up *five* kids single-handedly.

ALEX

Well she re-married when I was about 7. But my step dad wasn't around much cos he was ...*well*

(pausing and in thought)

SUZIE

(trying to help)

Was he a soldier?

ALEX

No. He was a wanker

SUZIE

Oh sorry, I thought you meant...

ALEX

Oh don't worry.

(just seems lost for a second then catching herself)

Anyway.

(complete change and standing up)

Let's not talk about him. I need to introduce you guys to the Famous Alexandra Weston Bloody Mary...

NICKY

Oh God. They're deadly. I wouldn't if I were you.

FRANKIE

I'm in!

SUZIE

Me too

ALEX

One part Tomato Juice – ten parts Vodka!

(holding up a bottle of Vodka. tentatively to Mia)

Mia? Peace offering!

MIA

Go on then. I'll have a triple!

ALEX

Right. Give me 1 minute ...

(exits)

SUZIE

Wow. You've all seem to have done so much. I'm still living at home with my Mum and Dad.

NICKY

Nothing wrong with that Suze.

SUZIE

I've got no brothers and sisters. Mum and Dad are in their sixties. I think I was a bit of a *mistake* if you know what I mean. I keep offering to move out, but they're a bit *clingy*. It's really funny cos they know absolutely nothing about like modern music. It's all like Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald in our house.

FRANKIE

Those guys are both awesome. Billie Holiday was like the Amy Winehouse . Amazing voice. Awesome performer.

NICKY

And a Total pisshead...!

(they laugh)

FRANKIE

Yeah that too!

ALEX

(returning with a big jug full of Bloody Mary)

Right you lot, get this down you!

(sets jug and glasses down on table and starts pouring)

NICKY

I'm warning you, they're lethal. I'm not touching one

ALEX

What is it with you and all this *not drinking* shit? This is a celebration.

MIA

I'll have hers!

NICKY

OK just a very small one then...

SUZIE

I'm feeling pissed just looking at it!

NICKY

I think we should probably have a toast?

MIA

No way I'm gasping...

(goes to drink)

BRIDGIT

No wait. Nicky's right.

(Mia stops as she reaches her mouth)

We should make a toast.

MIA

Make it quick.

FRANKIE

What are drinking to then?

#3 - TOAST

NICKY

Well..

(thinking/START TRACK 3)

**HERE'S TO US – AND TO THE FUTURE
AND THE AMAZING THINGS THAT HOPEFULLY LIE IN STORE**

SUZIE

ah that nice

**FRANKIE
TO AMBTION – AND TO MUSIC
TO EXCITING THINGS I'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE...**

ALEX

easy tiger!

(all turn to Suzie)

SUZIE

Ooh my go?

**TO WHATEVER'S ROUND THE BEND
AND TO FOUR AMAZING FRIENDS**

ALEX

TO THE GREATEST FUCKING POP BAND IN THE WORLD!

MIA

(desperate for a drink)

**CAN WE TAKE IT ALL AS READ
I AGREE WITH *ALL* YOU'VE SAID
NOW LET JUST GET IT DOWN OUR NECKS
HERE'S TO**

EVERYONE

'GIRLZ'

(everyone saying cheers and heading to drink)

Mia goes to drink...

(Following 'toasts' are more internal thoughts as Girls distance themselves from each and we follow them individually and not as a group)

NICKY
HERE'S TO HOPING

MIA

(as glass reaches her lips)

Oh for fuck sake!

(stops, as Nicky moves away and begins singing more to herself than the other, Mia down her drink, and refills her glass)

NICKY

(feeling her stomach)

**THAT IT'S NOTHING
JUST A FALSE ALARM AND NOT THE THING I DREAD.**

ALEX

**AND HERE'S TO SHOWING
MY SHITTY STEP-DAD
THAT I'M NOT THE WASTE OF SPACE HE ALWAYS SAID**

BRIDGIT

**AND HERE'S TO FINALLY LEAVING HOME
TO MAKE A NEW LIFE OF MY OWN**

FRANKIE

HERE'S TO HOPING THAT OUR MUSIC DOESN'T SUCK!

NICKY

HERE'S TO WHAT WILL BE WILL BE

SUZIE

HERE'S TO FINALLY BREAKING FREE

ALEX

TO ADVENTURE !

FRANKIE
AND TO HARD WORK!

MIA

(to herself)

HERE'S TO LUCK!

(secretly downs another drink and goes to refill without the other seeing)

**ALL
FIVE YOUNG STRANGERS FOLLOWING DREAMS
HEAVEN KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING
HOW IT ENDS HERE'S REALLY KNOW WAY OF KNOWING.**

(PAUSE)

NICKY

TO THE FUTURE

FRANKIE
AND TO FRIENDSHIP

ALEX
AND TO YOU GUYS

SUZIE
YEAH TO US GUYS

MIA

(Making a point)

AND TO DRINKING?

(pause)

FRANKIE

Fair point

**ALL
CHEERS**

*They down the drinks on final chord. Hold in their mouths for applause.
As applause ends they all splutter and gasp at the strength of the drink.*

NICKY

Oh Christ, I totally forgot I promised to Ring Adam

(gets her phone out and exits)

MIA

OK – Everyone ...same again...

*(lights down. cross fade to Nicky as she calls Adam LIGHTS UP ON ADAM –
Playing guitar at home writing a song. There are empty and rather unsavoury
take away boxes all around the flat which is a mess. Phone rings. He answers. We
see Nicky on phone*

Act One Scene Four.

ADAM

Hey! how's my pop star? Is Kylie there? Can I have a quick word?

NICKY

Very funny Ads. I can always rely on you to take the piss. What are you up to?

ADAM

Oh you know, just the usual. Showbiz parties, award ceremonies, and I spoke to Coldplay's manager this morning. I think I've persuaded them to sign form Go Kart!

NICKY

So you've just been in the flat eating takeaways and writing songs yeah?

ADAM

(looks around the flat, with a worried/guilty expression)

Er ..no!

NICKY

Adam I see the box mountain from here! Listen I'm popping home on Thursday for a bit. Just need to collect a few things and there's er ...

(hesitant)

something I need to talk about.

ADAM

Oh yeah, you had the boob job already?

NICKY

(not seeming in the mood to joke)

Listen just try and have a bit of a tidy up OK. I'll be there around lunchtime.

ADAM

Yes sir! So how are the Girlz, with a ZED? Any major musical differences yet?

NICKY

Oh, it's all fine. Suzie is just *incredibly* sweet, Frankie is great laugh and a brilliant musician. You'd love her band. Mia has a few things 'going on' and you've got to tread a bit carefully, but she's cool and Alex well..

ADAM

.....is totally fucking mental ..

NICKY

Exactly! So it's early days but it feels good. Which is more than I can say for the single we're working on.

ADAM

Oh dear. Not good?

NICKY

Just ...

(struggling for the words)

Oh I don't know. Just a bit, kind of, silly. It'll probably sound better when it's finished. We're in the studio on tomorrow.

ADAM

Who's the producer?

NICKY

Some boy genius apparently? Calls himself BEAT BOI – spelled B..O..I ...obviously

ADAM

You're kidding. I read a feature about him on *Muso* the other day. He's totally nuts. Said something like if Beethoven were alive today he'd be in boy band with Mozart and Tchaikowsky.

NICKY

Maybe he would!

ADAM

And Says pop music can reverse the decline in modern civilization! Did a session with a band recently completely in the dark.

NICKY

Why?

ADAM

Cos he's mad that's why! Apparently he's really good but has some unusual studio methods.

NICKY

Ah well, it's going to need something to make this song a bit more interesting. Anyway, more importantly how are *your* songs going?

ADAM

Oh yeah. Not too bad. I've got the old acoustic out

(he strums a chord)

NICKY

Are you writing a song about me?

ADAM

Get out of here. I've got much better things to write about.

NICKY

Or Is it about the fat girl in the flat below?

ADAM

Damn it. It's actually called 'fat girl from the flat below'.

NICKY

Oh Come on , play me a bit of something you're working on...

ADAM

Ah I don't know. It still needs work...

NICKY

START TRACK 4

Oh *please*. It *is* about me isn't it?

ADAM

Ah well. Maybe..

NICKY

I knew it! Come on, just a bit...

ADAM

(a bit reluctantly gets the acoustic ready and strums a few chords, tunes a bit etc)

OK, just a bit..

NICKY

What's it called..

ADAM

It's called *shut up and listen* ok?

NICKY

Catchy!

**WHEN YOU GO
FAR AWAY
REMEMBER THE ONE WHO STAYS
COUNTING EVERY SINGLE DAY
TIL YOU GET HOME**

**WHEN YOU GO
DON'T FORGET
THERE'S SOMEONE GOING OUT OF HIS HEAD
TRACING EVERY SINGLE STEP
TIL YOU GET HOME
THE FURTHER YOU ARE AWAY FROM ME
THE MORE MY LOVE WILL GROW
THERE ARE SOME OF THINGS THAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW
WHEN YOU GO**

NICKY

oh Adam it's so different from your usual miserable stuff

ADAM

and I think the drums and the whole band like come in on the second verse

**WHEN YOU HEAR THAT APPLAUSE
AND THE CROWD ALL SCREAM AND ROARS
REMEMBER THE ONE WHO'S YOURS
WHO WAITS AT HOME
WHEN YOU GET ON THAT PLANE
REMEMBER THAT YOUR STILL THE SAME
GIRL WHO STOOD IN THE POURING RAIN**

**FOR THE BUS BACK HOME
YOUR'E THE REASON THAT I GET UP
AFTER EVERY SINGLE BLOW
THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS
THAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW
WHEN YOU GO**

**I ALWAYS WANT TO BE THE ONE
WHO KEEPS YOU SAFE AND SOUND
I ALWAYS WANT TO BE ONE
WHO KEEPS YOU FEET ON SOLID GROUND**

**WHEN YOU GO
WHEN YOU'RE GONE
AND YOU SINGING ALL THOSE SILLY SONGS
REMEMBER THAT I'M THE STILL THE ONE
WHO LOVES YOU.**

NICKY

(To audience)

The thing I needed to talk to Adam about was that I was worried I might be pregnant.

Act One Scene Five.

(They enter the studio. Mia is texting on the phone)

RICHIE

Follow me ladies. Enter the *magical space* that is SONIC STUDIOS, Studio One.

NICKY

Oh my God it's massive.

SUZIE

No Way!

FRANKIE

You could have a bloody football match in here!

RICHIE

So many legends have recorded here, Kate Bush, Madonna, Steps..

SUZIE

(shrieking)

Ah Steps!

SUZIE

(seeing the mics)

No way they've got our names on the mics...

NICKY

Seriously?

RICHIE

Each mic pre-EQ'd to match your individual vocal tone.

ALEX

FUCK OFF!

(goes to find her mic)

FRANKIE

Right in the middle where I should be!

RICHIE

Make yourself at home. Fridge in the corner. Plenty of space on the comfy sofa.

MIA

(reacting to something on her phone she shouts)

WANKER!

(they all stop and look at her shocked. She gestures to her phone)

Sorry...

FRANKIE

So, where's the actual recording desk?

NICKY

Yeah. Where's the famous *BEAT BOI*?

RICHIE

(putting a patronizing arm round her and she recoils slightly)

That, my sweetheart

(pointing in the distance)

Is up there

(They all peer in the distance, Richie gets a message on his phone and start reading not paying attention to the subsequent conversation)

ALEX

Bloody hell I should have brought my binoculars!

NICKY

Is he in there?

ALEX

(shouting)

Hello..

(waving)

MR BEAT BOY?

NICKY

(semi laughing)

Alex stop taking the piss!

RICHIE

Right, I have a very quick call to make.

(the others look at each other in puzzlement)

Just get yourselves in the zone and we will begin very shortly...

(holds his phone to his ear)

Kanye my man! Long time no speak..

(he exits still talking)

ALEX

That guy is so full of shit.

NICKY

(worried he may hear)

Alex! Jesus! Come let's do some vocal warm ups.

ALEX

(grabbing her bag and searching inside)

Yeah just a sec.

(Nicky exits)

SUZIE

(heading to the door)

I'm just going for a wee.

FRANKIE

Ooh wait up.

(Frankie and Suzie exit)

MIA

(just finishing messaging on her phone, she approaches Alex who is still rummaging in her bag and finally pulls out a bottle of pills)

DICKEHAD!

ALEX

Me, or just everyone in general?

MIA

(indicating her phone)

Aiden's dad! Suddenly out of nowhere deciding he wants to see him.

ALEX

Isn't that good though?

MIA

No he's a twat!

ALEX

Oh.

(pause)

Look.

(showing her the pills and checking to make sure Nicky is not around)

Have one of these. They're great. Chill you right out.

(Alex swallows some)

MIA

(looking very disapproving and pointed)

No thank you. Not my method.

ALEX

Suit yourself.

(Alex gets bottle of water and swigs them down)

MIA

And you'll probably say it's not of my business, but as we're in a band together, it kind of is, you take too many of those for your own good.

ALEX

(shocked)

Yeah, you're right it's *none* of your business.

MIA

But affects all of us. And let's be honest it's not just those pills *is it*.

ALEX

(indignant)

I'm sorry?

MIA

Oh come on. I've seen those bloody massive pupils.

ALEX

Bollocks..

MIA

I can even see a bit round your nose now so don't pretend....

ALEX

(wiping her nose with her fingers)

Oh get down off your fucking high horse Mia.

MIA

But I've seen it before. It's going to affect us all if you can't function...

ALEX

(walking away to the exit)

Yeah well, shove it up your arse and focus on your own problems yeah?

MIA

Jesus

(trying to call her back)

Alex..

ALEX

(heading out the door and passing Nicky on the way in)

NICKY

(sensing the tension)

Alex?

(to Mia)

Is everything OK?

MIA

Yeah. I was just chatting your best friend about her hobbies.

NICKY

(not getting it)

What?

MIA

You know, the old *powder and pills* routine.

NICKY

(realizing)

Shit!

MIA

Yes shit!

NICKY

(keeping her voice down and checking others don't hear)

She *swore* she was going to stop after she got this.

MIA

(sarcastic)

Oh been going on a *while* has it?

NICKY

Fuck!

MIA

If she screws it up for the rest of us, I gonna be....

NICKY

Listen I *promise* I'll talk to her. She has been through a *lot* of shit OK. She just hides it well.

MIA

That's the *last* thing we need. She needs to get herself sorted.

NICKY

(pointed)

I guess you're not the *only* one trying to keep a secret then.

(She exits to go and find Alex as Frankie and Suzie enter. They sense some tension)

FRANKIE

(to Mia)

Everything OK?

MIA

Fabulous!

(Frankie is suspicious. Suzie is oblivious)

(Richie enters still on phone)

RICHIE

I hear what you're saying bro! Yep. Ok stay strong. And don't give in to the haters. Ciao!

(with real enthusiasm)

OK

(looking around and also sensing tension)

Is it me, or is there just a hint of an atmosphere in here...

MIA

Nope, everything is totally cool.

(Richie looks suspicious. We hear Alex screaming off stage)

ALEX

I wish everybody would just fuck off and leave me alone!

(pause)

MIA

(sarcastic)

It's like a warm up...thing!

(Alex enters with a face like thunder'. She seems oblivious of everyone watching her as she goes to her mic and gets ready, limbering up, rolling her shoulders, maybe applying some vocal spray, deep breaths etc. She finishes in a kind of meditative state – eyes closed and calm. Then opens her eyes and looks at the others who have been watching the whole routine, slightly afraid)

Come on then. Let's get on with it.

(the tension breaks and everyone moves towards their mics with differing responses, Mia shaking her head)

RICHIE

(still with slight suspicion)

OK then. If we are all ready.

(realizing Nicky is not there)

Hang on a minute where's the *other* one? It like herding cats with you lot. This Studio is £800 an hour. I haven't got ...

(Nicky enters briskly looking as if she may have been crying and goes to her mic)

(sarcastically)

Oh *welcome back*. Everything alright?

NICKY

(direct and with a mock clenched fist)

Yep. Ready to help reverse the decline of modern civilization.

RICHIE

(puzzled)

What? No forget it! Right. *If* we are *all* ready. It's time for you all to meet our genius producer. I can't even begin to tell you how excited I am he's agreed to work on this. He is *so in demand* at the moment

(comically under his breath)

And I don't dare tell you how much I'm paying him! Please give a big Girlz welcome to the fabulous BEAT BOI

(he gestures to the back of the room. There is an awkward pause)

FRANKIE

Where is he then?

RICHIE

Oh he's at the sound desk. He'll just communicate via the mic.

(slightly awkwardly)

BEAT BOY prefers a ...

(searching for the right term)

Professional *distance* between producer and artist..

MIA

(puzzled)

OK...

RICHIE

(under his breath to the Girls)

He's got a few....*anxiety* issues

NICKY

(trying to take it in..)

Uh Huh...

RICHIE

And some mild OCD...

(suddenly loud and positive)

but it all cool. Isn't that right BEAT BOI

(silence and Richie clearly slightly concerned)

ALEX

(in a comically patronizing tone like she speaking to small child)

Hello Beat Boi, I'm Alex

BEAT BOI

(his voice comes booming loudly over the mic very quickly and awkwardly)

Hi Alex...

(all five of the Girls are shocked by the volume and react with various 'jesus', 'woah' etc)

RICHIE

(trying to lighten things)

Hey, great to hear your voice. How's things...

(another awkward pause. Fetus sounds highly anxious and his voice is rather childish, with an occasional stammer or some unusual vocal tick)

BEAT BOI

Yes, II think I'm ok ...

RICHIE

(desperately trying to keep things light. The Girls are all reacting in various different ways to the strange voice they are hearing)

Excellent, excellent...well we're very excited...

BEAT BOI

(interrupting and sudden)

This mixing desk is dusty.

(pause)

RICHIE

Dusty? Ok....

(trying to mask his frustration)

I definitely asked for it to be thoroughly cleaned and wiped before the session.

(awkward silence...and finally conceding)

But I'll have one of the engineers some come a do it again in the break ok?

(pause)

BEAT BOI

Yes. ...I'd like that.

ALEX

(under her breath in sing song)

This guys a fucking fruit cake...

(Nicky gives her an evil stare. Another awkward silence)

RICHIE

So, shall we er

(looking at his watch and clearly starting to get a bit annoyed)

Crack on with the session? Clock's ticking!

(pause then worried he might have gone)

BEAT Boi.

BEAT BOI

OK.

(slight relief from everyone)

RICHIE

Excellent. Well then I've leave you to it, and I'll ,,erm go and organize the

(clearly annoyed)

Cleaning! Good luck everyone -make me a hit!!

(exits)

*(the girls prepare with some final stretched, neck rolls to get loose etc.
Then there is another length pause. Some awkward clearing of throats etc, some
trying to remain focused and calm etc)*

NICKY

RAZOR BOY

(various reaction from the others)

BEAT BOI

If it's ok, before we record I wanted to share my *vision* of this song with you.

(pause)

ALEX

(puzzled)

Vision?...it's just a pop s....

NICKY

(quickly interrupting)

Absolutely! I think that would be very helpful for

(pointedly to Alex)

all of us..

BEAT BOI

The title of this song ,

(says it with a sense of awe)

Three Minute Adventure right? For me the title totally encapsulates everything that a pop song can and should be. You know in 3 minutes we are given the opportunity to you know.... totally change people's fucking lives man!

(the girls seem taken aback and puzzled)

Do you *get* what I'm actually saying?

(they all seem hesitant to speak and eventually Alex goes to say something. Nicky sees her and quickly covers her mic)

NICKY

(with complete comic conviction)

Totally BEAT BOY Hundred percent.

BEAT BOI

Hearing this song should be you know an injection of adrenalin or line of coke you know...

MIA

Well that's more Alex's area really...

NICKY

(shouting)

Mia!

(realizing it was a bit over the top and trying to cover..)

Miaaa....erh Me And the Girls totally agree. We are so up for this –

(rousing them)

Aren't we girls?

(Various responses from genuine excitement from Suzie to a Mock 'COME ON from Alex)

BEAT BOI

Ok so first I'm just going to...

(interrupted by someone who has arrived to clean the mixing desk and speaking to them)

Oh – sure. Thanks. Yeahif you could just wipe that....and thatand that thanks.....oh you just missed a bit....thanks....

(continuing)

Ok so first we'll just run the number and check levels in your headphones are ok – but give it all you got cos we can always keep the good stuff...OK Nice a close to the mic..Everyone ready?

(they all give thumbs up. intro to song plays as Girls move and prepare for vocal entry. Just as they are all about the sing Alex raises her hand)

ALEX

Sorry, Sorry everyone. Sorry Beat Boi

(the track stops. Various reactions. Mia glares as Alex)

BEAT BOI

Is there a problem?

ALEX

I've just got this ringing in my ears. Is it these headphones?

MIA

Yeah? Have you got like flashing lights and the munchies too?

(Alex gives Mia the finger)

BEAT BOI

Hang on let me check the EQ.

(pause)

There you go is that better?

ALEX

Yep. Gone. Thanks Beat Boi

BEAT BOI

OK Lets again. Give it all you got...

START TRACK 5

**THIS IS THE START OF THE STORY
WHERE THE ACTION BEGINS
A THREE MINUTE ADVENTURE
BETTER STRAP YOURSELF IN
WE PROMISE YOU BABY THIS WON'T TAKE LONG
JUST SETTLE BACK AS WE SING OUR SONG
JUST 3 MINUTES IS ALL WE NEED
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

**SO GET WITH THE GIRLZ
GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES
WE GOT WHAT YOU WANT
WE GOT WHAT YOU NEED
SO TURN UP THE HEAT
ITS AN HUNDRED DEGREES
AND WE'LL ROCK YOUR WORLD
AND EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT
ALL WE NEED IS JUST 3 MINUTES
GET READY FOR THE
G I R L Z**

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ROMANCE
THEN YOU'RE DESTINED TO FAIL
THIS IS NOT A WHODUNNIT
THIS AIN'T NO FAIRY TALE
WE'VE SAID IT BEFORE BUT WE'LL SAY IT AGAIN
THIS IS A RED HOT THRILLER FROM START TO END**

**SO SETTLE IN FOR A SCARY RIDE
GET READY TO BE KEEP YOU SATISFIED**

**SO GET WITH THE GIRLZ
GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES
WE GOT WHAT YOU WANT
WE GOT WHAT YOU NEED
SO TURN UP THE HEAT
ITS AN HUNDRED DEGREES
AND WE'LL ROCK YOUR WORLD
AND EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT
ALL WE NEED IS JUST 3 MINUTES**

**WE CAN HEAR THE COUNTDOWN LETTING US KNOW
WE'RE TWO MINUTES DOWN AND ONE MORE LEFT TO GO**

**HERE COME THE GIRLZ
GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES
WE GOT WHAT YOU WANT
WE GOT WHAT YOU NEED
SO TURN UP THE HEAT
ITS AN HUNDRED DEGREES
AND WE'LL ROCK YOUR WORLD
AND EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT
ALL WE NEED IS JUST 3 MINUTES**

Act One Scene Six.

(Adam and Nicky's flat. Adam is working on song. There are clothes scattered around and several empty pizza boxes lying around. Nicky enters)

NICKY

The fat girl from the flat downstairs wants to know how her song's coming along.

ADAM

(getting up and going over)

Omigod. Is that NICKY from GIRLZ with a ZED in my flat? Am I hallucinating!

NICKY

Shut up Ads and make me a cup of tea.

ADAM

(goes over and Gives her a kiss)

Missed you.

NICKY

(seeing the flat in a mess. Picks up clothes from the floor) –

Yeah? Was it me, or my domestic skills you missed? I thought I asked you to tidy up.

ADAM

Ah – yeah sorry, I was just about to ...

NICKY

(seeing piles of pizza boxes)

And *please* tell me you've eaten something other than pizza for 4 days!

(Picking up a box)

ADAM

(mock offended)

Course of have. .

(holds up an empty Chinese Tray)

I had Chinese

NICKY

Oh Ads

(finding bit of cold pizza in box)

Gross

(she starts tidying)

ADAM

Here. Let me do that

(Starts clearing away pizza boxes and mess)

You sit down. I'll put the kettle on. I wanna hear all about it.

(takes boxes off stage to kitchen. Nicky standing and paces a little and looks nervous. He shouts from off stage)

Oh the man came to read the gas meter but I didn't know where it was.

NICKY

Oh Adam. You're useless. Actually Ads, can I just have a glass of water.

ADAM

No tea?

NICKY

No just water please.

(a bit of pause.)

ADAM

Here you go

(looks at her)

Are you ok? You look a bit pale.

NICKY

No. I mean yes. I'm fine. Just tired I guess.

ADAM

(confused)

Well standing up won't help!

NICKY

No. Sorry.

(she sits down clearly nervous)

ADAM

(sitting down, close in opposite chair)

Nick what's wrong? If this band isn't working out, then just quit

NICKY

(she takes hold of both his hands)

No...no It's not that. Adam...I'm pregnant.

ADAM

(small laugh of disbelief)

No way. You're going to have a baby?

NICKY

Well that's what usually happens

ADAM

No...I was just..you know. Jesus.

(pause and semi-joking)

It is *mine* right?

NICKY

Oh for God sake...

ADAM

But that's great.

NICKY

(clearly doubtful)

Is it

ADAM

What do you mean?

NICKY

Well it's not what we planned.

ADAM

What we planned? I don't remember planning anything!

NICKY

(getting agitated)

I don't understand how it happened. I'm always really careful. I must have lost track, or forgotten to take my pill or maybe ...

ADAM

Woah Woah. Nicky. Calm down. Listen to yourself. This is incredible. It's brilliant.

NICKY

I'm only 22 Adam. I'm not ready.

ADAM

So what. I'm 23. Big deal.

NICKY

Look at this place. There's barely room for *us* yet alone a baby. And we've got *no money* Adam. We can't even afford the rent without hand-outs from my parents. How could we possibly...

ADAM

(calming her)

People just manage Nicky. OK the timing's not *ideal*. But if this girl band works out, then we should be able to afford somewhere bigger.

NICKY

Yeah well firstly there is no guarantee of that. The single is absolutely shit.

ADAM

So what they all are..

NICKY

And, there's something else.

ADAM

Uh Huh?

NICKY

I can't *be* pregnant *and* in the band.

ADAM

(baffled)

What's that meant to mean?

NICKY

It's in the contract Adam. If any of us gets pregnant within the first year, they'll terminate the contract.

ADAM

Sorry. You signed a contract which says you can't get pregnant?

NICKY

(starting to get angry)

No of course not.

(calmer)

But don't be naïve. If things go well we'll be on tour in just under 2 months. It will start to become bloody obvious even if I don't tell them .

ADAM

Is that even legal? I mean can they do that?

NICKY

Of course they can.

ADAM

Well just tell 'em to shove it.

NICKY

(bit panicked)

What?

ADAM

You've said the single's crap. Just tell 'em to shove it.

NICKY

But this is really important to me. It could be really big. I'll probably never get a chance like this again.

ADAM

Well you haven't got really any choice now have you?

NICKY

Yes I have!.

(Pause while Adam processes this)

Of course I have.

ADAM

Please tell me you're joking. You're not seriously thinking about having..

NICKY

Oh Grow up Adam. I shouldn't have said anything.

ADAM

So now you're saying you wish you'd gone and had and got rid of it without telling me? For Christ sake Nicky. This stupid pop star thing has gone to your head.

NICKY

(shouting)

Oh don't be so fucking patronizing. It's easy to sit on your high horse running your little *indie* label and your indie club taking the piss out 'pop' music and bands that 'sell out'. But people actually *like* it Adam. People actually *buy* it. it makes money, and it is *proper* work..

(pause then realizing she's gone too far).

I'm sorry Adam I...

ADAM

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

NICKY

I didn't mean that. You know I didn't. I'm sorry I shouldn't have....

(Adam goes to get his coat and his keys)

No please Ad. I'm sorry

(trying to stop him)

ADAM

Get out of the way Nicky

NICKY

(panicky)

What I mean is we've *both* got a chance to earn some real money. I don't want to throw it away for..

ADAM

(stopping)

For *what* Nicky.

(pause)

For a *baby*. For *our* baby?

(heading out)

NICKY

Please don't go Adam.

(really fighting him from leaving)

I'm so confused. I just need some time..

ADAM

(pushing past her at the door)

I'm going to my brothers for the night. When you've gone back to your *proper* work tomorrow, I'll come round and get my things.

NICKY

No. Please Don't do this. You don't mean it.

ADAM

(standing in the doorway)

If you go through with it, I swear to you I never want to see you again.

(Adam leaves)

NICKY

No Adam.

(she gets her phone out and calls him. We hear his voice mail)

Hi. You've reached Adam. Sorry I'm unavailable. I'm probably either putting the finishing touches to my Mercury Prize speech, I'm in the middle of negotiating Radiohead signing to GO RECORDS. Anyway, leave me a message and I'll probably get back to you sometime.

(she goes to Leave a message and then doesn't. She calls again and we hear the message again. The music for #Without You begins as the message is playing)

START TRACK 6

**I USED TO DREAM THAT
WE WOULD GET MARRIED IN PARIS
AND I'D WEAR THE SAME DRESS
THAT MY MOTHER WORE AS A BRIDE**

AND WE'D HAVE OUR VERY FIRST DANCE
TO THE FIRST SONG YOU WROTE ME
AND YOU'D LIFT UP MY VEIL AND WE'D KISS
AND WE'D PAINT A PICTURE OF PERMANENT BLISS
BUT I NEVER DREAMED
IT WOULD END LIKE THIS
BECAUSE FRANKLY I DON'T HAVE A CLUE
WHAT TO THINK WHAT TO SAY WHAT TO DO
ALL THAT I KNOW IS I WON'T LAST A DAY
WITHOUT YOU

AND I USED TO DREAM THAT TOGETHER WE'D RAISE A FAMILY
AND WE'D HAVE OUR VERY OWN HOUSE AND WE'D LIVE BY THE SEA
AND EVERY WEEKEND WE WOULD SWIM IN THE DEEPEST BLUE OCEAN
AND WE'D LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SAY
THIS IS WHERE WE WILL BE 'TIL THE DAY WE TURN GREY
BUT I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE SPEAKING THIS WAY

AND I CAN BARELY BELIEVE MY OWN VOICE
AS I'M MAKING THIS TERRIBLE CHOICE

(holding her stomach)

BETWEEN THIS AND A DREAM THAT ONLY COME TRUE
WITHOUT YOU

I KNOW THAT I COULD REGRET THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
SOMETIMES I EVEN CONVINCED MYSELF
I FEEL YOU BREATHING
WELL IF YOU CAN FEEL ME JUST TELL ME
AM I BEING SELFISH
AM I BEING GREEDY
AND CAN YOU REALLY HEAR ME?

I USED TO DREAM THAT
WE WOULD GET MARRIED IN PARIS
BUT NOW FRANKLY I DON'T HAVE A CLUE
WHAT TO THINK WHAT TO SAY WHAT TO DO
ALL THAT I KNOW IS I WON'T LAST A DAY
WITHOUT YOU

Act Two Scene One.

(sound effects of screaming crowds. They are calling for an encore at the end of a show in what is clearly a large arena)

MIA

(to audience)

Thankyou. We've had such a great time tonight. We've enjoyed every second. Keep up the noise!

START TRACK 7

#7 B.A.B.Y

**IM NOT THE KIND OF GIRL TO MAKE A FUSS
MAYBE YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER US
BUT I FELT SOMETHING INSIDE
WHEN I SAW YOU JUST THE OTHER DAY
YOU THOUGHT YOU LEFT ME WITH A BROKEN HEART
YOU THOUGHT YOU TORE MY TINY WORLD APART
SO WHEN I SEE YOU NEXT TIME
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO SAY
COS THERE WAS SOMETHING 'BOUT YOU BABY
THAT USED TO DRIVE ME CRAZY
AND LEFT ME WITH A NASTY TASTE
AND I T HINK THAT ITS BEST
IF I GET IT OFF MY CHEST
AND TELL YOU 'BOUT IT FACE TO FACE**

**YOU'RE JUST A BABY, NOT EVEN A MAN
YOU THREW YOUR TOYS RIGHT OUT OF THE PRAM
NOTHING YOU DO COULD EVERY LEAVE A SCAR
CO YOU'RE NOT AS BIG AS YOU THINK YOU ARE**

**REMEMBER WHEN YOU BOUGHT THAT FANCY CAR
THOUGHT YOU LOOKED LIKE SOME KIND OF MOVIE STAR
WELL BEHIND YOUR BACK
EVERYONE WAS GIVING IT THAT (wanker sign)
REMEMBER WEARING THAT ARMANI SUIT
AND THOUGHT THAT EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU LOOKED CUTE
BUT BEHIND YOUR BACK
THEY ALL SAID THAT YOU LOOKED LIKE A
(four girls make TWAT with their fingers)**

**COS THERE WAS SOMETHING 'BOUT YOU THAT EVERYBODY KNEW
THAT USED TO REALLY DRIVE ME WILD
AND I THINK IT'S ONLY RIGHT IF I SEE YOU TONIGHT
AND TELL YOU 'BOUT IT WOMAN TO CHILD**

**YOU'RE JUST A BABY NOT EVEN A MAN
YOU CAN'T PLEASE A WOMAN BUT YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN
SO MANY GIRLS LIKE ME HAVE FOUND
YOU TRY TO HARD BUT YOU LET ME DOWN**

**YOU'RE JUST A BABY A BIG BABY BOY
I DON'T NEED YOU COS I PREFER MY TOY
YOU THINK YOU'RE CLEVER BUT YOU'RE JUST A FOOL
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO YOUR NURSERY SCHOOL**

(crowd interaction)

**YOU'RE JUST A BABY, NOT EVEN A MAN
YOU CAN'T PLEASE A WOMAN BUT YOU THINK YOU CAN
NOTHING YOU DO COULD EVERY LEAVE A SCAR
CO YOU'RE NOT AS BIG AS YOU THINK YOU ARE**

(improv crowd interaction)

ALEX

Thanks, you've been an awesome crowd! We're gonna finish with a song featuring the incredible Suzie Donnelly on lead!

START TRACK 8

#8 ALL ADDS UP

**WHATS THE MATTER BABY WHY 'DYA LOOK SO DOWN
WHEN I SEE YOU LATELY YOU BEEN WEARING THAT FROWN
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
IF YOU'RE STUCK IN A HOLE CAN I HELP YOU OUT
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SO COMPLICATED
MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU SEE THAT AL YOU NEED IS JUST A..**

**LITTLE OF BIT OF CONVERSATION
AL LITTLE BIT OF COMPANY
A LITTLE BIT OF TIME TO CLEAR YOUR MIND
FOR A LITTLE BIT OF T.L.C
I KNOW IT DOESN'T SOUND MUCH
BUT I CAN GUARANTEE
WHEN YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER IT ALL ADDS UP
TO A WHOLE LOT OF ME**

(ALL ADDS UP) etc

**YOU BEEN SPENDING TOO LONG LIVING IN YOUR HEAD
MAYBE YOU CAN SPEND SOME TIME WITH ME INSTEAD
WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WE ALL KNOW
WE'LL JUST TURN THE TV ON AND LET THEM GO
SOMETIME LIFE CAN GET too COMPLICATED
IT'S EASY TO FORGET SOMETIME THAT ALL WE NEED IS JUST A.**

**LITTLE OF BIT OF CONVERSATION
AL LITTLE BIT OF COMPANY
A LITTLE BIT OF TIME TO CLEAR YOUR MIND
FOR A LITTLE BIT OF T.L.C
I KNOW IT MIGHT SOUND CRAZY**

**BUT I CAN GUARANTEE
WHEN YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER IT ALL ADDS UP
TO A WHOLE LOT OF ME**

(final thankyou's, goodnights and bows)

Act Two Scene Two.

(Grlz dressing room. All except Alex enter the dressing room. Suzie, Frankie and Nicky all on a high. Mia is slightly more detached goes straight to sit down and remove make up sitting down removing make up etc)

SUZIE

Oh My God Guys we totally *smashed* it...

NICKY

Definitely the best show yet.

FRANKIE

Except I messed up so bad on *Liquid* in that last verse.

NICKY

(to Franklie)

...and I so nearly elbowed you in the face during *Love Bomb!*

FRANKIE

(laughing)

Oh God yeah.

NICKY

I'm so sorry, I'll practice that!

MIA

I told you the best crowds would be up north!

FRANKIE

They were mental. You see those two crowd-surfing during *Wasted?*

NICKY

Jesus! I was shitting myself. So scary!

FRANKIE

I literally thought they were gonna get killed!

SUZIE

Where's Alex?

FRANKIE

Think she just went to the loo.

MIA

(more to herself)

Oh Yeah. needed little 'pick-me-up' ?

SUZIE

(genuinely not hearing and nice)

What you say Mia?

(Nicky gives Mia a clear 'look' indicating she should shup up)

MIA

Nothing!

(Mia Enters)

ALEX

Oh My God Guys!

MIA

Talk of the Devil!

ALEX

I am totally buzzing!

MIA

(more to herself again)

I bet you are!

NICKY

(so only Mia hears)

Mia please.

ALEX

What a show. That crowd were mental!

SUZIE

I know we were just saying.

ALEX

Those 2 crowd surfers. Fuck me!

(seeing a bottle of bubbly)

Right – I is definitely *champagne* o clock...

(heading over to the bottle)

MIA

Just go steady, we have got another show tomorrow night.

ALEX

(walking being Mia who is still removing make-up etc)

No worries Mum. I'll just have the ONE.

(as she says one she gives her the middle finger behind her back and there are mixed reactions from the others. Alex pours a very large glass of fizz)

NICKY

(sniffing her armpit)

Jesus I am so sweaty. Sorry guys!

(she takes the top off. She has some kind of crop-top on underneath)

Here's to show number 5. We Love you Sheffield!!!

(she downs it, and the other watch with mixed reactions)

Bloody Hell that's good stuff!

(she pours another)

NICKY

(close to Alex so only she can hear)

Please don't get wasted Alex...

ALEX

(with a mock salute)

(Richie enters. He is wearing his trademark sunglasses)

RICHIE

OK. Everybody Naked I hope!

(He removes his glasses. The girls' reactions show they are not happy with him coming into their dressing room, but seem used to it. Nicky goes and quickly puts on a top, and other generally cover themselves up.)

FRANKIE

(under her breath to Suzie)

Same line every night!

(Suzie shakes her head)

RICHIE

(as he speaks he gets physically close to the girls who are clearly uncomfortable. Alex seems less bothered and sips her drink only semi-listening. She also starts looking at texts on her phone)

Good show, Good show. Another very happy crowd out there. Another sell -out. And I just hear from venue we've sold out Manchester Tomorrow.

ALEX

(raising her bottle)

Yes! Get in!

(throughout the following section, Alex continues to drink, only half paying attention to what is going. She is regularly sniffing and sipping)

RICHIE

So there's the good news! If I'm being totally honest, I think the energy levels were down a little on last night's show.

(some shaking of heads and some biting their lips)

We can't start getting complacent this early in the tour. And some of those vocal harmonies *really* need tightening in *Love Bomb* and *especially* in *World Gone Crazy*. Oh yes and Suzie...

(going up to Suzie and putting a comforting arm around her at which she is clearly unhappy)

Your lead on *Dynamite Boy*...

(Frankie and Nicky look at each wanting to say something)

SUZIE

I know what you're ..

RICHIE

(gives her a long a patronizing 'sshhh' which annoys the others even more)

Pick and key.....any key?

FRANKIE

(unable to hold it in)

....You know all our ear monitors went down in that song right. You know how hard it is to tune if...

RICHIE

(becoming angry)

YES!

(Girls quite shocked. Then he returns to a fake 'sweet' tone)

Thank you. I *did* know. I've already had a chat with Mike and the Sound crew. It *won't* happen again. So.... there'll be a vocal session with Tina to work on those tomorrow at 9.30am sharp.

(general disbelief and comments half to themselves)

FRANKIE

9.30?

NICKY

You're kidding me!

FRANKIE

We won't be at the Hotel 'til after midnight..

RICHIE

(interrupting and shouting)

Karen!

(pause)

Will be in touch with details.. And more good news I have managed to add 3 extra dates to the tour. Getting out his phone check. We play Southampton on 12th, Glasgow on the 14th and ..Dublin

SUZIE

Ah Dublin. That is cool!

RICHIE

On the 23rd. They were all spare dates in between other shows so...

ALEX

(looking around and interrupting quietly loudly not having really followed the conversation)

Are there any of those like *crisps* left

(everyone stops and stares at her with slight disbelief)

What?

MIA

Hang on.

(checking her own phone)

You said 12th 14th and 23rd right?

RICHIE

Yep.

MIA

You know that means we do

(counting in her diary)

6..7...8.....NINE straight shows without a break?

RICHIE

(shrug of the shoulders)

And ?

MIA

But you definitely said we'd never do more than five in a row.

NICKY

our voices are just gonna pack up...

FRANKIE

And our bodies. I felt a twinge in my hamstring tonight...

RICHIE

(very angry)

Jesus Christ! Do you people have even the first *bloody* clue how much effort you have to put it to actually make it. Do you? I am working myself into the ground to get you shows, radio play, interviews, TV slots, social media profiles. While you were in your comfy five - star hotel beds after last night's show do you know what I was doing at 2am? I was on a call to the head of *Bright Star Entertainment* in LA.

(mimicking them)

Oh I've never heard of them, I'm more interested in my hair and make-up, what do they do?

(back to his own voice)

Well they put together shows and tours for the biggest stars on the planet and just happen to after a British Girl band to open for Taylor Swift on her next tour.

(they are all a bit stunned)

You know how big that would be right? And when you're off to your hotel tonight in your luxury air-conditioned tour van, I'll be on a video call with head of Disney's

Licencing division who are interested in using *Innocent* as the Title Track for a new series.

(more reaction)

I know you all look at me and think all I do is wear incredible suits, fly around in private jets to celebrity Hollywood parties ...date beautiful women,

(various reactions to this including some coughing and some stifled sniggering from Mia who thinks he's just bragging. He looks at Mia)

And YES, I do do a LOT of that!

(shrugs her shoulders as if to say 'whatever you say'. In the following he increasingly delivers it in a grandstanding style, becoming high on his own self importance. The intonation gradually rises to a crescendo)

But I also work....like Trojan.....Tirelessly,...Ceaselessly...

(looking at them)

Thanklessly! Day in day out. To represent MY ARTISTS...my life Blood..My...

(searching for the word)

My Children! THAT'S how you *MAKE IT*. That's how you...rise above the Mediocracy. That's how you become respected by *everyone* as THE BEST. No by ..

(looking at Frankie)

whinging about bloody hamstrings. By sheer, bloody minded, HARD WORK..

(there is pause as Richie basks in the glory of his own rousing speech. The others are rather lost for words)

(After a moment Alex start clapping. She has a bottle tucked under her elbow cradling it like a baby. She is well on the way to being drunk)

ALEX

Oh My God... THAT was *incredible*.

(again everyone stares at Alex who has clearly misjudged to moment)

We *bloody love* you Zak Richie. Come on everyone let's have a toast .

(She raises the bottle in the air)

RICHIE

(After a pause.)

Is she pissed?

(others not sure what to say)

Get her to sober up....

ALEX

What? I'm fine...

(she is wobbly on her feet)

RICHIE

(pointedly)

And CLEAN herself up...or she *will* be OUT!

(continuing to protest as Richie speaks and Mia goes to take the bottle from her. We hear her say 'oh fuck of you..' but eventually she gives it to Mia and. Suzie go and gets her a glass of water and they both help her sot down)

RICHIE

(to Frankie and Nicky and pointing at Alex)

There are press literally outside that door who'd kill for footage of *that*. What do you think *that* would do to our chances with *Disney*?

(exiting)

For Christ sake, GROW UP, all of you!

(turning as he leaves. Voice changing suddenly to more friendly, business like)

Oh yes, I almost forgot. We're changing to costumes for *Lover Boy*. We're going more S and M. Costume fitting...tomorrow. 8am! Karen will give you the details!

(exits)

FRANKIE

8am? What the..

(Shouting after him)

8am? what.....Wanker!

NICKY

Pervert!

RICHIE

(from off stage)

I heard that!

MIA

Well that went well.

FRANKIE

Arghh he just does my head in!

SUZIE

Yeah but come on guys, the *Taylor Swift* thing!

NICKY

To be fair that would be incredible.

FRANKIE

Probably bollocks!

MIA

Look the guy might be a total dick, but he does get deliver we've got to give him *some* credit.

FRANKIE

Come on, can we just forget about it. We've got to up in less than 9 hours...

NICKY

Yeah I definitely need a shower!

(a man appears at the door. He has a large lanyard with PRESS on it. He is holding up a phone and filming)

PAPPARAZZI MAN

Hi Girlz. Steve Gibson from *The Sun*.

(various shocked reactions as he continues to speak)

FRANKIE

(Holding her hand up)

Woah. You really shouldn't be in here.

NICKY

What the hell?

PAPPARAZZI MAN

I just wondered if you a quick message for our readers.

MIA

Please leave. This is *private* dressing room.

PAPPARAZZI MAN

Just a quick one

ALEX

(standing up)

You from *The Sun* yeah?

PAPPARAZZI MAN

That's right..

MIA

Alex don't

ALEX

(walking towards him as he continues to film)

I *fucking hate* the Sun.

FRANKIE

Alex he's *filming!*

ALEX

Here's a message for the readers of your filthy rag.

(she turns round and starts to bend over)

SUZIE

(panicking)

Alex for God's sake

NICKY

(trying to stop the filming but he pushes further into the room. She screams)

We need Security in here now!

ALEX

(fully bent over)

KISS MY FUCKING ARSE...

MIA

(head in her hands)

Oh Jesus Christ!

FRANKIE

(pleading to him)

Please don't use that!

NICKY

(Shouting outside)

SECURITY!

(As she gets up Nicky drops her bottle of pills several of which spill out onto the floor. The Papparazzi continues to film.)

ALEX

Ah my fucking pills.

FRANKIE

Oh shit!

ALEX

(scrabbling around trying to find the pills. The Papparazzi is following her every move and she is totally unaware of the camera as she bellows)

Guys, help me. I really *need* these pills.

PAPARRAZZI MAN

(as he films)

Any more messages for our readers Alex

NICKY

(shouting)

No she hasn't

MIA

We're going to need to get that phone.

NICKY

(pleading)

Please stop filming. She's not well.

MIA

Just get the sodding phone!

(Frankie tries to grab the phone and there is a tussle)

PAPARRAZZI MAN

Get off my property.

NICKY

We need security NOW!

(The Paparazzi pushes Frankie and she falls to the floor and the other react. The Paparazzi runs out)

SUZIE

Oh My God. Are you ok

(goes to help Frankie)

FRANKIE

I'm fine – go after him and get security to take his phone..

(Suzie and Nicky screaming like Stop that guy...etc)

(Mia goes over to Help Frankie up. Alex is other side of the room preoccupied with looking for her pills and has been unaware of the scuffle or the significance of what has just happened. She picks up a Pill)

ALEX

(holding it up)

I think I've got them all.

(seeing Frankie)

You ok Frankie? What happened?

MIA

(Stunned)

Alex, do you have *any* clue at all what you've just done?

ALEX

It's just some stupid journalist...

MIA

(shouting)

No! It's not . Assuming that footage gets out, which I imagine will be in about 15 minutes, this band is probably over. Or almost certainly your part in it is. Thank God!

ALEX

Oh Don't exaggerate ...

FRANKIE

She's not exaggerating Alex. You just told the readers of the most popular paper in the UK they could kiss your fucking arse and then dropped all your drugs on the floor, and it all on film.

ALEX

OK. OK – I get it. I'm sorry.

(shrugging her shoulders)

It won't happen again...

MIA

Of course it' NOT, cos when Zak sees it first he's going to kill you, then he's Gonna scoop out your insides and replace them with sand so he and use you as a punch bag. Oh and *then* he's going to kick you out of the band...

(Nicky and Frankie enter)

FRANKIE

He's gone. *With* his phone.

NICKY

Where were security . How can someone just *walk* into our dressing room.

MIA

OK – band over...

ALEX

OK. Look I am really sorry. It was stupid. I couldn't help it OK.

MIA

(talking to herself)

Unbelievable.

ALEX

I told you I can't think straight at the moment. I admit it. I'm out of control. The moment we started having some success,

(indicating her phone)

my step-dad had been messaging every single day.

MIA

So what difference d.....

NICKY

(sharply)

Quiet Mia!

(pause)

Please let her talk

(Mia still shaking her head)

ALEX

I thought I'd be ok doing this. I thought I'd be able to not think about it. But *literally* the very first day he finds out I'm in this band, he starts calling, leaving texts, voicemails. And its got worse since the tour started. I've had like *six* today. He knows I don't want to see him *or* speak to him. I mean why can't he just leave me fuck alone. If you want to know I'm absolutely shitting myself he's going to turn up to one of the shows. I keep thinking he's just going to be standing there right at the front, or I don't know just walk in to the dressing room after afterwards. Before *every* gig I'm just shaking like a leaf ok. And I *have* to take something or I literally know I won't get through it. I *know* I won't. And Yes I know that was a *stupid stupid* thing to do. But that dickhead from that that horrible paper has the nerve to just walk in out fucking dressing room..

MIA

Yeah well you made his night alright..

ALEX

(shouting)

I KNOW. I said I'm sorry.. But I promise you I don't know what to do....

PLAY TRACK 9

#IN MY HEAD

**ITS LIKE I HAVE A THOUSAND VOICES SCREAMING IN MY HEAD
WHEN I TRY TO SHUT THEM OUT THEY KEEP RESISTING
AND THEY'RE REPEATING EVERY SINGLE WORD HE EVER SAID
I TRY TO CALL FOR HELP BUT NO ONE'S LISTENING
I TRY TO TAKE DEEP BREATHS AND SLOW MY HEART RATE DOWN
BUT ALL THE WARNING SIGNS ARE FLASHING RED
IN MY HEAD ARE A HUNDRED SONGS
THAT BRING BACK ALL THE MEMORIES
IN MY HEAD - BUT THEY'RE PLAYING
AT THE SAME TIME AND IN DIFFERENT KEYS
IN MY HEAD ARE THE MILLION PEOPLE
I WISH THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN INSTEAD**

**AND EVERY TIME I CLOSE MY EYES I ALWAYS SEE HIS FACE
I TRY TO SHUT IT OUT BUT HE ALWAYS FINDS ME
AN EVEN WHEN I FINALLY THINK HE'S GONE WITHOUT A TRACE
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WAITING TO REMIND ME**

**AND EVEN THOUGH I TRY MY HARDEST TO FORGET
I STILL REMEMBER EVERY WORD HE SAID**

**IN MY HEAD THERE'S A FRIGHTENED GIRL
STILL BULLIED BY THE BIG BOYS
IN MY HEAD WHEN SHE TRIES TO SCREAM
ALL SHE HEAR IS WHITE NOISE
IN MY HEAD ARE A MILLION PEOPLE
I WISH THAT YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN INSTEAD**

**I KNOW I SHOULD TRY TO BE STRONGER
I'VE TRIED A HUNDRED WAYS TO COPE
BUT I'M STILL LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS
I THINK I MIGHT BE STARTING TO LOSE HOPE**

**IN MY HEAD THERE'S A GREAT BIG WALL
THAT I CANNOT GET THROUGH
IN MY HEAD ARE A THOUSAND FACES
AND EVERYONE IS YOU
IN MY HEAD ARE A MILLION THOUGHTS
BUT THE ONE THAT HAUNTS ME MOST
IS EVERY DAY I WISH YOU WERE DEAD**

**ALL THERE THOUGHTS ARE IN MY HEAD
ALL THERE THOUGHTS ARE IN MY HEAD
ALL THERE THOUGHTS ARE IN MY HEAD!**

(Lights down. Single spot on Nicky)

NICKY

The next couple of days were absolutely crazy. Not surprisingly the footage of went viral, and *KISS MY EFFING ARSE* was the headline in the SUN the following day with Alex's bum front and centre! As you'd expect Zak Richie went ballistic, but surprisingly *didn't* fire Alex straight away. We cancelled the following night's show cos she was in no fit state to do it and then we had a couple of days off anyway so there was a bit of breathing space. There was some horrible stuff in the press and on-line, just vicious, awful. Fortunately we managed to keep Alex away from most of it. But after a couple of days things started changing. Stories about Alex 's step-dad started appearing. There was stuff about him Alex hadn't even told *me*. Mental health groups started to speak out. Simon found out the journalist had paid the 2 security guards £5000 each to let him through, and he sued the SUN for breach of privacy. There was suddenly backlash against the paper, accusing them of bullying a vulnerable young woman and a huge campaign the boycott the paper called (not surprisingly) *KISS MY FUCKING ARSE*, really affected their sales. In the end they actually printed an apology and donated a million quid to MIND! Simon paid for a personal rehab coach to be with Alex the whole tour. She started doing interviews and regular postings about mental health and drug awareness and got 6 million followers on TIK TOK. Not surprisingly it

had a huge impact on the band and downloads and ticket sales went through the roof. Everyone was turning up at gigs in T- Shirts with KISS MY FUCKING ARSE on them. We added another 17 dates to the tour in bigger venues and Simon started planning an American tour! It was just totally, totally crazy. But it was also, relentless and absolutely exhausting.

(In a London Hotel suite. Frankie is playing her guitar and strumming chords and writing lyrics)

Act Two Scene Three.

SUZIE

(shouting from offstage)

Woohooo. We're back.

(they both enter laden with shopping bags)

MIA

We made out *alive!*

FRANKIE

Jesus you guys. Is there anything actually left in London or did you literally buy everything?

SUZIE

You can't beat a bit of retail therapy Frankie.

MIA

To be fair I would have bought so much more, but *someone* kept stopping me.

SUZIE

(to Frankie)

She has got an *accessories* addiction like you wouldn't believe. Needs proper help.

MIA

You should have seen these Gucci Bags...OH MY GOD..

SUZIE

You already got four!

MIA

(going up to Frankie)

and look look.

(shows her the earrings she's wearing)

FRANKIE

Oh WOW – they are pretty damn funky!

SUZIE

Tell her how much they were ...go on.

MIA

I can't say it out loud.

(she whispers in Frankie's ear)

FRANKIE

(stunned)

Shut the fucking front door!

MIA

I know I think I blew my first royalty payment on one pair of earrings. Oh Oh Oh..
Hang on.

(rummaging in her bags)

I got these for Aiden..

(pulls out some ridiculously bright dungarees)

FRANKIE

No Way! They are so *cute*.

MIA

I know. I thought I might get KISS MY FUCKING ARSE embroidered on the bum..

FRANKIE

(Cracking up)

Oh you *so* should. You guys have literally been out all day..

SUZIE

I know, we kept getting stopped for selfies...

(mock starlet voice)

so tiresome...

MIA

She *loved* it, honestly you should have seen her.

SUZIE

Oh yeah, like you weren't too. Giving it all this..

(striking selfie poses)

and this...

MIA

You should have come with us. It was *such* a laugh.

FRANKIE

Ah sorry. First proper day off in three weeks. I just needed to crash.

SUZIE

Don't blame you though. I can't believe he booked an actual penthouse apartment for us. *So* much nicer than all those hotels. You reckon he's trying to keep us sweet?

FRANKIE

(going over to the window)

I know I've just been staring at that incredible view most of the day.

MIA

And *two* nights in the same bed. Honestly can't remember when I last did that.

SUZIE

I'm so excited for tomorrow's show. I've got so many friends and family coming.

FRANKIE

Same! Gonna be so special.

SUZIE

Where's Nicky and Alex?

FRANKIE

Nicky's ex is playing as his club tonight remember?

MIA

(shocked)

She 's not *actually* going to see him play? I thought she was joking.

FRANKIE

(shrugging her shoulders)

Says she is.

SUZIE

And he's still totally blocking her right? Won't reply to anything?

FRANKIE

Nope.

MIA

She's mad.

FRANKIE

I know. But she says she *has* to speak to him.

SUZIE

And Alex has gone with him?

FRANKIE

Yep.

MIA

But it's not really fair to like jump him before the show.

FRANKIE

She says she's going to watch and talk to him after.

SUZIE

But they'll get recognized won't they. Someone will tell him.

FRANKIE

Maybe. But they've bought these massive glasses and hats to try and avoid being noticed. I'm not kidding, I saw them when they left. They look bloody ridiculous.

MIA

(picking up some of the pieces of paper with lyrics on. Speaking with mock 'suspicion')

And what *exactly* have you been up to all day Francis Kendall?

(trying to grab the paper)

FRANKIE

(playful)

No, don't you dare. Give that back..

MIA

(mock detective)

Guitar...lyrics. I think the evidence points clearly to some songwriting activity?

SUZIE

Ah brilliant. What you been writing.

FRANKIE

No...honestly I was just messing about.

MIA

I think maybe we need to be the judge of that don't we Susannah?

SUZIE

Oh go on Frankie. Let's heat it. Please.

FRANKIE

It's just a stupid thing. It's not serious.

MIA

Well I could do with a laugh

FRANKIE

Arrgghhh OK then. But I only write it for a joke. It's like a county song, but its about us on the road. It isn't even properly finished.

SUZIE

No way! That's awesome. Like our theme song?

MIA

(giving her the lyrics as Frankie starts to strum)

You need these?

FRANKIE

No let me see if I can remember it. OK but *promise* you wont take the piss.

(We see them both cross their fingers)

MIA

No way.

SUZIE

Promise.

PLAY TRACK 10

**IT ALL BEGAN IN LONDON WHERE WE DID THE OPENING SHOW
THE FEELING OF EXCITEMENT WAS LIKE I'D NEVER KNOWN
WE JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN THE CROWD CALLED OUT OUR NAME
AND WE KNEW RIGHT THEN AND THERE
THAT THINGS WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME**

**AND SINCE THAT NIGHT IN LONDON, WE'VE DONE OVER FIFTY MORE
AND THIS IS OUR THIRD NIGHT OFF SINCE WE BEGAN THE TOUR
I REALLY HATE COMPLAINING I KNOW I SHOULD LET IT GO
BUT I REALLY NEED A BREAK
BUT WE'VE STILL GOT WE'VE GOT FIFTEEN MORE TO GO**

OK so here's the chorus that you need to learn for the next time round.

FIFTEEN MORE TO GO FIFTEEN MORE TO GO

**I'D LOVE TO PUT MY FEET UP AND TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW
I'M ACHING AND I'M WEARY PLEASE TELL ME IT'S NOT SO
PLEASE TELL ME THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE FIFTEEN MORE TO GO**

SUZIE

Ok, Me and Mia will add some harmonies on the next chorus.

**THERE ARE SOME THINGS I REMEMBER BUT MOST OF IT'S A BLUR
LIKE WHEN I SAID 'HELLO GLASGOW' BUT WE WERE IN MANCHESTER**

MIA

Oooh. That's a bit of a dodgy rhyme there Ellie. Needs a bit of work

ELLIE

I know. This is just a first draft OK!

AND THEN THAT NIGHT IN BRIGHTON, MIA FLEW OFF IN A RAGE

MIA

What? Omigod I'd totally forgotten that.

FRANKIE

BECAUSE SHE FORGOT THE DANCE ROUTINE

SUZIE

You totally *did!*

FRANKIE

(the other say this line as Ellie sings it)

AND SHE FELL RIGHT OFF THE STAGE

(Bridgit and Mia collapse with laughter)

SUZIE

Ellie please stop I think I'm gonna wee myself...

**WE WERE DRIVING UP TO LEEDS
AND SUZE WAS DESPERATE FOR THE LOO**

SUZIE

What? No way. You cannot put this in!

FRANKIE

**BUT THE TOILET ON THE BUS WAS BUST
AND WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO**

MIA

Omigod I'd so forgotten this

**HOW MANY MILES UNTIL WE STOP SHE SCREAMED
I REALLY NEED TO KNOW
WE SAID YOU'D BETTER USE THIS BOTTLE**

SUZIE

This is *so* embarrassing

FRANKIE

'COS THERE'S STILL FIFTEEN MORE TO GO

Come on girls let's hear those harmonies....

ALL 3

**FIFTEEN MORE TO GO FIFTEEN MORE TO GO
I'D LOVE TO PUT MY FEET UP AND TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW
I'M ACHING AND I'M WEARY PLEASE TELL ME IT'S NOT SO
PLEASE TELL ME THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE FIFTEEN MORE TO GO**

FRANKIE

OK, so this is the breakdown - take it down to nothing, nice and quiet....

**SOMETIMES I FEEL I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE
TRAVELLING ON THE ROAD.**

MIA

Sing it girl!

FRANKIE

AND NOW I FEEL SO WEARY THAT I THINK I MIGHT EXPLODE.

SUZIE

We all know that feeling

FRANKIE

LAST NIGHT I PRAYED TO JESUS, LORD RELEASE ME FROM THIS LOAD

SUZIE

(arms in the air)

Hear me Jesus!

**AND I HEARD HIM SAY
THERE AIN'T NO WAY.
COS YOU'VE STILL GOT FIFTEEN MORE TO GO**

OK double chorus to finish. Let's raise the roof...

ALL 3

**FIFTEEN MORE TO GO FIFTEEN MORE TO GO
I'D LOVE TO PUT MY FEET UP AND TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW
I'M ACHING AND I'M WEARY PLEASE TELL ME IT'S NOT SO
PLEASE TELL ME THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE FIFTEEN MORE TO GO**

FRANKIE

And key change

ALL 3

**FIFTEEN MORE TO GO FIFTEEN MORE TO GO
I'D LOVE TO PUT MY FEET UP AND TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW
I'M ACHING AND I'M WEARY PLEASE SAY IT ISN'T SO
PLEASE TELL ME THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE FIFTEEN MORE TO GO
PLEASE TELL ME THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE FIFTEEN MORE TO GO**

(as the light fade we hear continuing conversation)

SUZIE

You should write a verse about when that bloke got up on stage and started stripping

MIA

Or what about when ...

Act Two Scene Four.

(The U TURN Club. There is a small 'stage' on with an acoustic guitar and mic on it. One table on the opposite side from the stage is lit . The rest of the club is dark but we can make out a man and 2 women on a table close to the stage who are chatting and drinking. We don't really see their faces. They are played by the 2 remaining girls and Simon Richie actor. There is gentle of murmur of people talking, chinking glasses etc.)

(Alex and Nicky enter, both wearing large glasses and hats to try and not be recognized. They approach the table which is other side of the stage from the 'stage')

NICKY

This is fine I don't want to be too close.

(the both sit down. Nicky is anxiously scanning the room)

ALEX

Don't worry, it's so flippin' dark in here you can't see anybody. And with my stupid Bono glasses on I'm literally blind.

NICKY

What time is it?

ALEX

(checking her phone)

Quarter to ten.

NICKY

You're kidding ? We've probably missed him.

ALEX

Well if you hadn't spent half an hour outside working up the courage to actually come. Anyway look his guitar's still on the stage.

(a waitress comes to their table. We only really see the back of their head and this can be played by any of the other 3 girls)

NICKY

(keeping her head down)

Oh, um . Can I just have a tomato juice thanks.

ALEX

And I would like one of your very finest mineral waters *si vous plais!*

(waitress nods and leaves)

Look at us both on the bloody wagon! I mean I'm a recovering addict I've got an excuse. But *you?* What's that about, we've got a night off. Let your bloody hair down for once.

NICKY

I'm *fine*. And I need to be completely sober when I speak to him.

(looking around)

God I didn't think there'd be so many people here.

ALEX

But that's good. We're less conspicuous. Anyway it still doesn't make any sense to me why you would want to see him, let alone talk to him. He just dumped you because he couldn't handle your musical success. I mean fuck him and his indie principles. If you ask me he doesn't...

NICKY

(finding it hard listen and interrupting)

Alex, please. Can we just leave it OK?

ALEX

Whatever.

(waitress comes in and gives them their drinks)

NICKY

Thanks

ALEX

Grassy Arse!

(waitress leaves)

go on then get your glass up girl.

NICKY

Really. What are drinking to?

ALEX

We are drinking to Alexandra Hermionie Weston being 26 days sober that's bloody what.

NICKY

Wow! Has it really been 26 days?

ALEX

(looking at her phone for the time)

and 22 hours!

NICKY

Well, here's to that. I am so proud of you. Cheers.

(they clink glasses and drink. Then after a slight pause)

Hermionie?

ALEX

Mum loves Harry Potter!

NICKY

Ah!

(seeing Adam get on the stage and getting his guitar ready. Ripple of applause from the audience. One of the women at the front table starts whooping)

Shit he coming on.

ALEX

(pretending to shout out but know he can't really hear her)

Wanker!

NICKY

Alex shut up!

(Adam speaks into the mic)

ADAM

Hi everyone. Thanks so much for coming out. It's great to see so many people here.

(looking at the table at the front)

And so many good friends

(table raise their glasses and give a 'yay')

First things first. Please give it up for *Engine Room* for their great set earlier Brilliant stuff. So anyway . This is not my usual thing. I've left the band at home. I've been working on some new stuff recently. Bit different from what I usually do. But there come a time in life when you've just got to mellow out a bit and bring out the old acoustic! The boys in the band here are worried I've gone all 'Ed Sheeran' Well maybe a touch. Just without the money hey! Anyway I'm babbling on. This is song I never really wanted to write, inspired by real events...I hope you like it. It's called Girl from the Local Bar.

(Starts playing the song intro)

PLAY TRACK 11

NICKY

Oh Christ Alex, I really don't believe this.

ALEX

What is it babe?

NICKY

I *knew* this was a *stupid* idea.

ADAM

**SHE WAS JUST SEVENTEEN
SHE WAS WORKING IN THE LOCAL BAR
GOOFY BRACES ON HER TEETH
AND SHE DROVE A LITTLE BEAT UP CAR
SHE SAID 'WHAT D'YA WANNA BE WHEN YOU'RE OLDER'
AND I STILL REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD HER
AS SAID I WANNA BE
WITH YOU**

**GOT A FLAT - EDGE OF TOWN
SOMETIMES WE'D HAVE FRIENDS AROUND
AND I WOULD WATCH - WHILE SHE READ
SOMETIMES WE WOULD SPEND ALL DAY IN BED
OR SOMETIMES WE WOULD SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT LONG**

**CHILLING OUT TO JONI MITCHELL SONGS
SINGING 'YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT 'TIL IT'S GONE.'**

**AND MOST NIGHTS SHE CAN NOW BE FOUND
ON A GREAT BIG STAGE WITH A GREAT BIG CROWD
FOLLOWING A BIG BRIGHT CRAZY STAR
BUT I'M SURE THAT SHE'LL ALWAYS KNOW
WHATEVER SHE DOES, WHEREVER SHE GOES
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE JUST THE GIRL I USED TO KNOW
FROM THE LOCAL BAR**

NICKY

I really don't think I can listen to any more of this Alex.

(gets up to go)

ALEX

No. sit down.

(Nicky sits down a little shocked)

You're *not* giving up now. Drink your tomato juice!

ADAM

**THERE WERE TIMES IT FELT LIKE BLISS
BUT IT WASN'T MEANT TO END LIKE THIS
SHE TOOK MY HEART, SHE TOOK ME DOWN
SHE TOOK MY FAVOURITE ALBUM BY JAMES BROWN
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT I NEED TO REMIND HER
THE MOST PRECIOUS THING SHE TOOK WAS DEEP INSIDE HER**

(Adam stops and seems to 'lose it' for a moment)

ALEX

What's happening?

ADAM

Sorry everyone. Just lost it for a second there...

NICKY

(getting up)

I've got to talk to him.

ALEX

Not in the middle of a song!

(as Nicky takes a step towards the stage, one of the women at the front table gets up and takes a glass of water to Adam. She then gives him a very tender hug. Nicky stops in her track and watches them, stunned)

ADAM

(takes a sip of water)

Ok, where was I?

(starts playing again. Nicky turns and starts grabbing her things from the table)

ALEX

What's going on?

NICKY

We need to go.

(exits quickly)

ALEX

(quickly grabbing her things)

For fuck sake!

(chuntering as she exits)

ADAM

**SHE'S THE GIRL FROM THE LOCAL BAR
JUST THE GIRL FROM THE LOCAL BAR**

ADAM

(songs ends)

Thank you.

(lights start to fade)

Ok here's something a bit happier.

Act Two Scene Five.

(The following day. Dressing room before London show'. They are just going through some final prep, breathing, vocal exercises etc)

TANOY ANNOUCMENT

2 minutes 'til showtime girls. . 2 minutes. Have a good one.

ALEX

OK come on everyone. Group Hug.

SUZIE

Just finishing my face.

FRANKIE

Mia isn't here.

MIA

(entering)

Sorry,. I just saw my mum with Aiden in the VIP area.

NICKY

Ah brilliant.

MIA

I know. And get this, you know who else is in there? Only bloody Mel C!

SUZIE

Stop it!

MIA

Swear to God. Sporty Spice is in the house!

FRANKIE

That's *insane*.

ALEX

OK Everyone ready?

(everyone gathers in for the group hug)

SUZIE

Lets' do it!

ALEX

So, guys. Before we do this, just wanted to say a something.

FRANKIE

Oh look out. Emotional speech alert.

ALEX

Seriously though is a very special show for us. Our first show in London since the very first show we did.

MIA

In a venue about one tenth the size!

ALEX

We've all got friends and family here

SUZIE

And Sporty Spice.

ALEX

And Sporty Spice. But I totally mean it that there is no way that I would be here tonight, without all you guys and your incredible love and support over the last

(with real pride)

twenty-seven days and 19 hours!

(cheering and whooping from the others)

I know

(looking at Mia)

we've had our ups and downs

MIA

(pretend shocked)

What me?

ALEX

But I totally love you guys, and ...you know the drill, so let's do it together.

(they all get into a huddle and blow a low and rising 'woooooah' and at the all bellow in unison)

KISS MY FUCKING ARSE!

(they head to the exit with various shouts. Zak Richie enters before they reach the exit and somewhat kills the moment)

RICHIE

Hold up one second.

NICKY

(under her breath)

Well that killed the vibe!

RICHIE

I just wanted to say good luck. We know what a very special show this is tonight. There are a lot of very important people out there tonight, so let's *smash* it yeah? I know I can be hard on you, but since, well *you know what* we've come a long way. In fact it's hard to believe it's still only 5 months ago since all this started. So give it all you've got tonight and ...well KISS MY FUCKING ARSE

(there is a mixture of disbelief and stifled laughter at this but Richie is too thick skinned to realize it. They all head out, Alex is last and he stops her and says quietly to her)

Alex, 30 seconds.

ALEX

But the show's about...

RICHIE

It's fine. Listen.

(checking the others have left. he hands her a small box.)

this is just ...well ...to say thank you for everything you've done since...well ..you know.

ALEX

(puzzled)

What?

RICHIE

(slightly frustrated)

Just open it.

(she opens it and takes out a gold bracelet and stares at it now rather dubious)

yes, they're diamonds.

(no response)

Very expensive

ALEX

Yeah it's probably worth more than my fucking house. But why are you giving it to *me*.

RICHIE

Put it on

ALEX

No!

RICHIE

(more forceful)

I said put it on.

ALEX

And I said no!

(he grabs the necklace from her and there is a momentary 'stand off' as Richie works out his next move)

RICHIE

(he unclasps the necklace and makes a sudden lunge towards trying to put it round her neck)

I want to see it *on you*.

ALEX

(grabbing his wrist tightly and a tussle ensues)

Get the fuck of me

RICHIE

(talking as he struggles)

You don't say 'no' to me you *fucking bitch!*

(Alex slaps him hard in the face. He reels back a few steps genuinely stunned. Alex is visibly shaking. There are both breathing deeply.)

TANOY

Alex to the stage please, Alex to the stage.

(Richie makes an aggressive move towards Alex just to scare her and she winces, but he stops. He gives a wry laugh)

RICHIE

You'd be literally *nothing* without me

(Alex continues to shake. He picks up the necklace from the floor

Big fucking mistake.

(he exits)

ALEX

(still rooted to spot petrified. Eventually shouts)

I'll keep the though necklace ...ta

TANOY

Alex to the stage please. Alex we're ready to go..

ALEX

(suddenly snapping from fear to panic)

Shit.

(she goes to the mirror still shaking. She adjusts some make-up which has become smudged in the struggle. She tries to calm herself with deep breaths. After a few seconds she says)

Fuck it.

(she rummages in her bag and gets out her pills. She hesitates, Then she opens the bottle and takes one. Then she pours out several into her hand. She sees an open bottle of wine on the side and she down the pills with a deep and long swig from the bottle)

FRANKIE

(shouting from offstage)

Alex? Alex?

(comes in)

There you are. Jesus. Is everything OK?

ALEX

(pulling herself together)

Yep. I'm ok. I just had aa moment.

FRANKIE

(putting an arm round her)

Come on babe. This crowd are mental!

(the exit and we hear the noise of the crowd rising)

Act Two Scene Six.

(new song to be added. Opening of the whole show)

SUZIE

OK, we have something *very* special for you now. You won't have heard this next song before. It's not on our first album. It features the wonderful ALEX WESTON.

(the crowd go crazy)

MIA

We all know what Alex has been through over the last month or so, and we are all so grateful for your love and support. So this next song is a song Alex has written herself.

(more crowd response)

FRANKIE

You'll be able to download the song from midnight tonight, and all the money from the song is going to the teenage mental health charity.

NICKY

So, London. Give up for the strongest person I know, who also happens to be

(looking at her)

the best fucking friend *anyone* could *ever* have. Alex Hermionie

(Alex laughs her head off)

Weston!

(Crowd go wild as Alex steps up to the Mic)

PLAY TRACK 12

FINALLY

**THERE USED TO BE A LITTLE GIRL
SHE LOVED HER LIFE SHE LOVED THE WORLD
SHE LOVED TO DANCE SHE LOVED TO PLAY
BUT YOU TOOK THAT GIRL AWAY
AND SHE WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME
SHE USED TO THINK SHE WAS TO BLAME
FOR ALL THE SADNESS IN HER YOUTH
BUT SHE'S FINALLY LEARNED THE TRUTH**

**AND FINALLY THE WORDS THAT SHE'S NEVER SPOKEN
ARE TUMBLING LIKE A MIGHTY WATERFALL
AND WHEN YOU THINK YOU'RE BREAKING HER
YOU'RE REALLY JUST MISTAKING HER
FOR SOMEONE THAT YOU NEVER KNEW AT ALL**

**NOW FINALLY I CAN SEE
THAT A FUTURE LIES BEYOND THESE FOUR GREY WALLS
AND NOW I KNOW THAT I CAN FINALLY LET GO
AND MOVE ON TO A BETTER PLACE
WHERE I DON'T EVER TO HAVE TO FACE
THESE DEMONS ANYMORE
FINALLY FINALLY**

**DON'T NEED TO YOUR HATE, DON'T NEED YOUR LIES
DON'T NEED YOUR PICTURE TO DESPISE
COS THAT'S ALL OVER, THAT'S ALL GONE**

COS I'VE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO MOVE ON

**NOW FINALLY THE FEELINGS I'VE BEEN HIDING
ARE CHARGING BRAVELY THROUGH THE BARRICADE
AND IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SOMEONE I STILL FEAR
THEN JUST SEE THE WOMAN STANDING HERE
AND LOOK , AT THE NEW LIFE THAT SHE'S MADE**

**NOW FINALLY I CAN SEE
THAT A BRAND NEW LIFE AWAITS ME FROM NOW ON
AND NOW I SEE I CAN FINALLY BE FREE
AND FINALLY WE'LL WIPE THE SLATE
BECAUSE ALL THE FEAR AND ALL THE HATE
WELL FINALLY THEY'RE GONE
FINALLY
FINALLY**

**SO I HAVE FINALLY LET YOU GO
AND I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW**

(A hospital waiting Room. Nicky sits on a chair. She has clearly been crying. She takes out her phone and makes a call. We hear Adam's answer machine message. She hangs up. Her phone rings)

NICKY

(totally choked up)

Hi Suzie

(listens)

No.

(listens)

Listen. *Listen* to me. She's gone. We lost her. About half an hour ago.

(pause)

Hello? Suzie? are you there?

(pause)

They said there was nothing they could do.

(pause)

No. Don't. Just stay there and be with the others. I don't really know what I'm doing. I just can't move at the moment. Ok yep

(hangs up. Puts her head in her hands and sobs)

(Enter Adam)

ADAM

Nicky.

(she looks up with total disbelief)

I just heard you on the phone. I can't believe it.

(He walks towards her and they hug hard. Nicky is sobbing. He talks as they hug)

It's been all over social media.

(break their hug)

NICKY

How did you find me?

ADAM

I can still track your phone.

(gives a wistful smile)

NICKY

I just don't understand it. She was getting *better*. She'd been clean for a month. I just doesn't make any sense.

ADAM

I know

(He looks at her with make up running and gets a hanky out)

Here. You've got mascara everywhere.

(he wipes her face).

I'm so sorry I've been ignoring you calls. I just couldn't. You know. I'm a mess. But when I heard, I had to

NICKY

We came to see you at the club the other night. Me and Alex. She was really happy.

ADAM

At the U turn? You were there?

NICKY

I wanted to talk. To tell you something. Then I saw you with that other girl..

ADAM

Other girl? No. You've gone it wrong. That's just. Well it's nothing.

NICKY

I don't know what to think anymore. But nothing seems to matter now anyway.

ADAM

No. I guess not.

(pause)

I'm just still sorry about the way everything ended. It was just such a shock. I couldn't deal with it. But like you say nothing seems to ...

NICKY

Adam, I'm still pregnant.

(Pause)

Adam?

(He is just stunned) .

I'm going to have *our* baby.

(Adam slowly moves towards her and kisses her)

(Lights)

(At the U Turn Club. There is the buzz of quite a large crowd packed in. Adam is on stage just tuning his bass and testing the vocal mics with a quick 'one two'.

Frankie is also on stage strumming a few chords in her acoustic guitar. Nicky is standing back of the room near the exit looking a little anxious. Suzie comes up to her on her phone)

SUZIE

It just keeps going straight to voicemail.

NICKY

Oh Come on Mia. What are you doing? We really can't wait any more, it's ten past.

(Mia enters all flustered)

Oh thank God she's here..

MIA

I'm so sorry guys, the tube was closed at Green Park, and took me 5 minutes to get past the security, It's crazy out there.

NICKY

Don't worry, just calm down. We've got to go on in a sec, but

(giving her a huge hug)

Oh My God it's so good to see you.

MIA

(hugging Nicky)

I can't wait to hear you guys.

SUZIE

(hugging her)

Arghh! I can't believe you're going to be in the WEST END!

MIA

Nor me, it's mental. It's like my *dream* role.

SUZIE

You are so perfect for Rizzo.

MIA

(teasing)

I'm going to take that as a compliment.

SUZIE

And I'm so desperate to hear all about you new man!

NICKY

He looks so hot!

MIA

Ah Danny is just incredible. And he just loves Aiden. Anyway where's Frankie.

SUZIE

She's just setting up and we've really got to go on. But you've got your own table here. And there's a special Alex Weston Bloody Mary all ready for you.

MIA

Oh My God you're trying to kill me.

(she picks it up)

Here's to her hey?

(a moment's pause)

Go on. Get up there. We'll catch up later.

(she sits down and they head to the stage)

FRANKIE

Ladies and Gentleman, Miss Mia Carluccio is in the house

(Cheering. Frankie raises a beer she has to Mia, and Mia raises her bloody Mary)

So I think that means that we can get this show on the road!

(cheering)

So we all know why we're here, and I promise I am not going to turn into a pile of blubbery jelly in front of you. We've all done enough crying over the last few weeks. We're here to say thank you for, and to celebrate the life of, our wonderful friend Alex Weston.

(cheering)

And judging from the queue outside it seems to be about the hottest ticket in town! No sentimental speeches, we're going let the music do the talking. So we've put this little band together and we've written a few songs. On vocals and percussion Suzie O'Brien, on Vocals give it up for Nicky Stansfield, on bass and vocal, needing no introduction at

his own club, Adam Campbell, and I'm Frankie, and this song is for Alex and for everyone who knew and loved her.

PLAY TRACK 13

#CASTLE IN THE SKY

AND AS THE PLANETS
IN THE ORBIT OF THE SUN
FEEL THE FORCE OF NATURE
THAT KEEPS THEM ALL AS ONE
AND AS THE MAGIC
THAT BINDS THE EARTH AND MOON
WE FELT YOUR FORCE OF GRAVITY
WHEN YOU WALKED IN THE ROOM
YOUR WERE THE CENTRE
THAT HELD US ALL TOGETHER FROM THE START
AND NOW THAT WE'RE WITHOUT YOU
WILL EVERYTHING JUST FINALLY FALL APART

I MISS OUR CUP OF COFFEE
AT THE START OF EVERY DAY
I MISS THE WAY YOU TALKED FOR HOURS
WHEN YOU HAD NOTHING MUCH TO SAY
YOU FILLED OUR DAYS WITH MADNESS
YOU FILLED THE DAYS WITH NOISE
NOW I JUST HEAR THE SILENCE
AND FEEL THE EMPTY VOID

IN A WORLD SO FULL OF SADNESS
IF SINGLE LIFE CAN BE A LINE
AND THE ONLY THING THAT GETS ME THROUGH
IS ALWAYS KNOWING YOU CAME INTO MINE

BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT I KNOW
WHEN I AM DEAD AND GONE
THAT WE'LL ALL MEET UP AGAIN
AND SING OUR FAVORITE SONGS
IN A CASTLE IN THE SKY
WHERE YOU'LL ALWAYS AND FOREVER BE THE QUEEN
OF THE GREATEST EVER GIRL BAND
THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

SO WE JUST WANT TO THANK YOU
AND FINALLY SAY GOODBYE
UNTIL WHEN WE MEET AGAIN
IN THAT CASLTE IN THE SKY

IN A WORLD SO FULL OF DARKNESS
EVERY SINGLE LIFE CAN BE A LIGHT
BUT I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD
THAT ANYONE COULD EVERY BURN SO BRIGHT

**BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT I KNOW
WHEN I AM DEAD AND GONE
THAT WE'LL ALL MEET UP AGAIN
AND SING OUR FAVORITE SONGS
IN A CASTLE IN THE SKY
WHERE YOU'LL ALWAYS AND FOREVER BE THE QUEEN
OF THE GREATEST EVER GIRL BAND THAT THE WORLD
OF THE GREATEST EVER GIRL BAND THAT THE WORLD
OF THE GREATEST EVER GIRL BAND THAT THE WORLD
HAS EVER SEEN.**

NICKY

(as the songs fades and we hear the opening music, members of the band leave the stage and exit and Nicky moves downstage a speaks directly to the audience)

I always suspected something had happened before that show to make Alex down almost an *entire* bottle of pills. But about two weeks later, Mick Richie's PA made an allegation of sexual harassment against him. Then someone else came forward, then another. He's currently awaiting trial for 6 separate counts of sexual misconduct and his days of management are definitely behind him.

Anyway this new band is totally mad. It started just as some fun but we've currently got 2 songs in the top 5 downloads. We're working on an album and have got a small tour lined in the spring and ticket sales are mental. Adam and Frankie write brilliantly together. Muso magazine described their partnership as a 'match made in indie heaven'

(enter Adam holding a bundle of baby)

ADAM

Nick can you just take her for a minute, I've just got to pop and get some milk.

(handing over the baby)

I'm not sure but she might need changing as well...

NICKY

Oh great timing Adam thanks!

ADAM

(exiting)

Sorry! Is there anything else we need?

NICKY

(cuddling the baby)

I don't think so..

(smelling and pulling a face)

Maybe some nappies!

(to audience)

So this little bundle of joy arrived 2 months ago. Not much sleep but it's just been the best thing ever.

ADAM

(shouting from offstage)

Car Keys?

(pause as Nicky pulls a frustrated face)

Sorry, got them!

NICKY

I made just enough money from Girlz to put down a deposit on this new flat, so things are OK. I have some really bad days, but mostly I'm good. And Adam and this little one get me through.

(sound of baby gurgling and Nicky looks at her and smiles. Thn turns the baby towards the audience)

Say hello to baby Alex!

(lights)