

Treehouse (EXTRACT)

By

Sally Gamgee

Use of this script must be approved by Sally Gamgee prior to rehearsals and performance.
sallygamgee@gmail.com
07432 455 627

A treehouse. Homemade and faded from age, but well preserved and protected from the elements. It is elevated and set to the stage right, with a ladder in the tree to climb up on the wing side of it. Underneath will be a simple set that can be used as a garden, car park and hospital for the memories. This section will only be lit when memories are played out.

Sparkly princess stickers and discoloured children's paintings are taped to the walls; each painting has two girls holding hands in various scenes/settings. One prominent painting is larger than the rest and it has the girls dressed as princesses fighting a dragon together, with a castle in the background.

In the middle of the room is a short-legged desk- large enough for the girls to have painted on- it now has a play tea set laid out on it. There are 2 giant bean bags on either side.

The left hand corner has posters of bands popular in the late 90s - 00s such as Green Day, Blink 182, System of a Down etc. It is a stark contrast to the rest of the treehouse. There is also a guitar with various teenager stickers on it.

KATE (27) enters. Her blonde highlighted hair is up, styled perfectly. She is dressed in black, elegant designer clothes with flat shoes, with the only piece of colour being her bright pink lipstick. She nimbly climbs up and into the treehouse.

Kate looks around at the paintings, and picking up random toys- as she does this, child Kate and Becks play out her memories on stage left, as do teenage Kate and Becks (Child and Teenage girls are not seen together). The treehouse stays lit along with the memory stage.

Children: They are holding hands and dancing in a circle.

CHILD KATE

Ring-a-ring-a-rosie a pocket fully of posies,
atischoo, atischoo, WE ALL FALL DOWN!

CHILD BECKS

Bring-a-bring-a-rosie-a duhduh duh duh posies, choo,
choo, WE ALL FALL DOWN!

Teenage: Becks is pacing around obviously angry.

TEENAGE BECKS

So not fair! Rita's allowed to watch The Beach! Why can't we?

TEENAGE KATE

Shh. Don't worry! We'll sneak downstairs when the
parentals are asleep and watch it!

TEENAGE BECKS

Promise?

TEENAGE KATE

(Pinky swearing)
Promise.

Children: Kate is brushing Beck's hair

CHILD KATE

Rock-a-bye Becksie on the tree top, when the wind
blows the-

CHILD BECKS

When I grow up I want to have lots of babies to dress
up

CHILD KATE

Me too!

CHILD BECKS

And do their hair-

CHILD KATE

What if you have all boys?

CHILD BECKS

I'll give them all back!

*BECKS (25) starts to climb up the treehouse
ladder. Kate does not hear this.*

TEENAGE BECKS

Rory likes me. ME! Not you. Stay away from him,
understand?

TEENAGE KATE

HE'S BAD NEWS BECKS!

TEENAGE BECKS

Oh sure. Not good enough for me, BUT perfect for YOU?

TEENAGE KATE

No!

TEENAGE BECKS

I HATE YOU!

*Kate jumps suddenly as Becks emerges in the
treehouse.*

KATE
Who's that?

BECKS
ME!

KATE
Oh

BECKS
Becks. Hi. Nice to meet you. Your name?

KATE
Don't be like that! You just startled me, that's all... Ahem... How are you?

BECKS
Fine. You?

KATE
Good. Good.

BECKS
What time did you arrive?

KATE
Last night. Wanted to avoid the rush.

BECKS
Same old Kate. Always thinking ahead.

KATE
Much traffic?

BECKS
Not really.

They are silent for a moment and each sit down on a bean bag. They sit on opposite sides of the room.

There is a basket of dolls beside Kate and she plays takes one out as something to keep her preoccupied.

Becks sits next to the guitar in the band area. She absentmindedly rubs her belly every so often.

KATE
Rory here?

BECKS
Here we go! I suppose I should say well done! You managed to make a little small talk before you brought him up!

KATE

I just asked if he was here!

BECKS

Makes a change from asking have we broken up yet!

KATE

I wasn't going to ask-

BECKS

Give me a break! Yes you were. It's like
deja-flippin-vu with you! GET OVER IT ALREADY!

KATE

There's nothing to get over!

BECKS

It's been ten years. A decade. A TENTH of a century!

KATE

I just thought he'd break your heart.

BECKS

Him break my heart? No that job lies solely with you!
You broke my heart.

*They pause. Becks starts to draw on a poster.
Kate brushes a dolls hair.*

KATE

I only ever wanted to protect you.

BECKS

Protect me from what?

KATE

Rory

BECKS

You didn't even know him!

KATE

I did.

BECKS

How did you know him? The closest you got to him was
him rejecting you after you THREW yourself at him!

KATE

That's not what happened!

BECKS

You would follow him around- practically stalk him!

KATE

Not to throw myself at him!

BECKS

Yes you did!

KATE

That's just Rory's word against mine!

BECKS

There were witnesses! Everybody knew that you were infatuated with him, and after he rejected you were jealous that he liked me!

KATE

You're rewriting history.

BECKS

I'm really not. You continuously tried to break us up- why? Because if you couldn't have him, I couldn't! Simple as.

KATE

Do you know... that... Do you realise, you never- not once- asked me for MY side of it? You just took his word for it and that was that.

BECKS

The facts speak for themselves.

KATE

Fine.

Long pause. Becks puffs out her tummy and traces shapes around her belly button.

BECKS

Fine. What is YOUR side of the story? Hmm? I'm sure it's great- you've had enough time to perfect it!

KATE

Screw you!

BECKS

(Deep breath)
I'm listening. What's your side.
(Pause)
I want to know!

KATE

Fine. But don't interrupt.

BECKS

Can't promise that.

KATE

You probably won't believe me-

BECKS

Probably not!

The lights dim- but not totally in the treehouse.

The memory stage is lit. Teenage.

RORY is chatting with a FRIEND. Kate walks on stage and straight to the two boys. She is wearing a school uniform.

TEENAGE KATE

Rory. Can I speak with you? In private.

Rory steps away from the friend.

TEENAGE RORY

What's up Kate?

TEENAGE KATE

You know what! Becks- STAY. AWAY. FROM. HER.

TEENAGE RORY

(Loudly so friend can hear)
Are you a bit jealous?

TEENAGE KATE

Far from it. I want you to stay away from her.

TEENAGE RORY

(Loudly)
You want me to go out with you instead of Becks?

TEENAGE KATE

Of course not. No way I'd go there again! She is my little sister and I just want to protect her from you is all.

TEENAGE RORY

Protection?

TEENAGE KATE

Yeah! From you! I only wish I'd had it! Now leave her alone!

Lights suddenly go dark on memory stage and light the treehouse.

BECKS

Bullshit!

Becks is on her feet in anger.

BECKS (cont'd)

Absolute bull! He has never raised a hand to me- or you- or ANYONE! He doesn't even like fighting GUYS, let alone girls!

Kate is on her feet too.

KATE

You said you wouldn't interrupt!

BECKS

I said I couldn't promise that, AND I interrupted you spinning your web of lies!

KATE

I'm not lying!

BECKS

Could have fooled me!

KATE

No, that's Rory's job!

BECKS

Rory is not violent at all!

KATE

No I don't suppose he is. He's able to manipulate people under his control...

BECKS

What is it with you and this giant stick up your arse about Rory- seriously it's been ten years- Build a bridge and get over it!

KATE

I don't think I ever will.

BECKS

Well that's your issue not mine!

Becks flops back into the bean bag and continues to draw. Kate wanders around the room looking at pictures.

KATE

Did he tell you that months before you and him happened... me and him happened?

BECKS

Your nose is growing.

KATE

I'm serious. We went on a date. We were supposed to go to the cinema.

BECKS

What film?

KATE

Can't remember-

BECKS

Whatever Pinocchio!

KATE

Well we didn't actually go...

BECKS

So you're telling me that you didn't go on the fictional date that you were supposed to go on? But yet you and him still happened?... Well in your head!

KATE

He has you wrapped around his little finger!

BECKS

Our school was so small, people even held hands the whole place knew about it! So I think I'd know if you went on a date with Rory!

KATE

I know you THINK you know everything- but you really don't... Something did happen between me and Rory.

Treehouse lights dim- but not completely.

Memory stage lights up. Teenage.

There is a bench.

Kate is sitting on a bench. Rory walks on stage.

TEENAGE RORY

Hey Kate! Sorry I'm late, had an argument with the folks. They didn't want me to take the car!

TEENAGE KATE

Did you walk?

TEENAGE RORY

Nah, just grabbed the keys and left!

TEENAGE KATE

Won't you get in trouble?

TEENAGE RORY

Maybe... who cares!

TEENAGE KATE

My parentals would KILL me if I did that! Like they are so strict like you wouldn't believe!

Rory sits beside her, puts his arm around her and kisses her.

TEENAGE RORY

You are so hot!

TEENAGE KATE

(Slightly embarrassed)
So what film are we going to?

TEENAGE RORY

Hmm?

TEENAGE KATE

Film?

TEENAGE RORY

Oh I don't want to do that any more.

(kissing her neck)

There are so many people there. My friends. Your friends. And other peeps from school.

Rory kisses Kate on the mouth again.

TEENAGE KATE

So where are we going to go?

TEENAGE RORY

Well I thought me and you could get to know each other...

TEENAGE KATE

Yeah that'd be nice.

They kiss again and Rory tried to put a hand up Kate's skirt.

Kate pulls back and moves down the bench away from him.

TEENAGE KATE (cont'd)

Wait-

TEENAGE RORY

What?

Kate struggles to find the words.

TEENAGE RORY (cont'd)

(Mockingly)

You're not still a virgin are you?

TEENAGE KATE

Oh. Eh. No. Of course not.

TEENAGE RORY

So what's the problem.

Again Kate struggles to find the words.

TEENAGE RORY (cont'd)

Is it because we're in the open?

TEENAGE KATE

Um. Yes, yeah that's it. Someone might see us.

TEENAGE RORY

Don't worry I have a car! It's dark, nobody will see!

TEENAGE KATE

Oh, yeah. The car.

Rory takes Kate by the hand and leads her off stage.

Memory lights go dark. Treehouse lights up.

Becks is sitting up and watching a tearful Kate. She is intently trying to figure out if she is telling the truth.