



IN OUR WORLD

by Keith Badham

EXCERPT

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Rosie - A guide to being young

Isabel - Being at School

Tallulah - Being in Love

Emily - Being out of love

Thomas - Being ignored

Katie - I SAID being ignored!

Lily - a guide to growing up

Matthew - a guide to adults who haven't grown up

Jenna - it could be called

Sophie - Everything you wanted to know about youth, but were afraid to ask.....

Kes - Scene one

James - THE PLAYGROUND

Erin – Playground advice. Day One

Lily - Walk in confidently. Do not show that you are scared. It will all work out fine

Or.

Look aggressive. Scare other children off.

Or

Pick on the shortest person in the playground. Establish your superiority

Or

Find the person that everyone fancies, and befriend them

Or

Talk to people about something interesting. A knowledgeable person is always an interesting one

James - "The Sparrow has stout body, covered with brown, black and white feathers. Its wings are rounded. Males and females can be distinguished by the feather coloration: males have reddish backs and black bib, while females have brown backs with stripes."

Or

Lily - Just fade into the background

Kes - I'm shy. Not in a cute way. Not in a way that makes people go "Awwwwww, couldn't you just eat him up?". No. It's in a way that makes me want to cry when my name is read out on the register. Makes me want to run away, hide, and do anything but speak in public. "Oh he's so sensitive" is what they've always said. "He needs to come out of his shell"...But what if I don't want to? What if I'm really happy in this shell?

Jenna - Teacher advice

Jenna - When establishing a good relationship with your new teacher, it is important you make the right impression from day one.

Tallulah – (Teacher) - (Turning away from whiteboard to face the class) So...Who can tell me the answer?

Katie - The answer is...NOBODY CARES....Am I right?

Jenna - Alternatively..

Tallulah - (Turning away from whiteboard to face the class) So...Who can tell me the answer?

Sophie - Your hair is immaculate...What product do you use?

Jenna - Alternatively..

Tallulah - (Turning away from whiteboard to face the class) So...Who can tell me the answer?

Matthew - Is it.....Yer Mum!?

Jenna - Alternatively..

Tallulah - (Turning away from whiteboard to face the class) So...Who can tell me the answer?

Isabel - I think you'll find you framed the question unfairly Miss....After all...wasn't it Freud who said "The first requisite of civilization is that of justice."?

Jenna - Alternatively..

Tallulah - (Turning away from whiteboard to face the class) So...Who can tell me the answer? YOU? (Pointing at pupil)

Lily - I....I.....I don't know Mummy/Daddy (Class all laugh and point)

Jenna: Of course, it's not all bad. You can also discover.....LOVE

Relationship advice

Tallulah - Affairs of the heart are never easy at any age. but of course, you have little or no experience.....Let me give you some solid gold advice;

Firstly - Confidence. If you look confident, then you will set a good impression

(Scenario 1)

Secondly - a Gift always helps

(Scenario 2)

Thirdly - Poetry never fails

Katie - Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
 Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

Reality - Roses are red.
 Violets are blue.
 God made us beautiful
 What happened to you?

Tallulah: A twinkle in the eye

(The Door is brought sideways on to the audience. Thomas stands on one side looking nervous, making sure his hair looks good. He knocks)

(Isabel opens the door)

Isabel: Yes?

Thomas: Hi, Do you remember me? I was just wondering if you were busy tonight

Isabel: Yes

(Closes door. Thomas goes through same routine)

Sophie: Yes?

Thomas: Hi, Do you remember me? I was just wondering if you were busy tonight

Sophie: No, I'm not busy at all

Thomas: Oh, good, I was wondering if you fancied coming out

Sophie: I'm not busy, but I'm not desperate either

(Closes door. Thomas goes through same routine)

Erin: Yes?

Thomas: Hi, Do you remember me? I was just wondering if you were busy tonight

(Erin just looks at him, then to the audience, then slams the door, Thomas goes through same routine)

Rosie: What?

Thomas: Hi, Do you remember me? I was just wondering if you were busy tonight

(Rosie calls for girl 5. Girl 5 appears, looks at Thomas. Both girls collapse laughing and close the door. Thomas goes through same routine)

(Matthew Opens door)

Matthew: Yes?

Thomas: Ah, sorry...wrong house

Narrator: But Love is just a game, all of us players. The trouble is, what happens when you get dropped from the first team?

(The cast is stood Up-Stage on either side of the door which is centre stage facing the audience.)

(Enter Isabel the Commentator. Followed by Katie and Tallulah)

Isabel: Welcome to Young Adulthood for this the first match between Boy and Girl. On current form, I do not expect the Boy to get anything out of today's fixture.

Katie: ***(To girl)*** Alright?

(Crowd react with an Ooooh)

Tallulah: Hi.

Isabel: Well, a shaky start for the boy there, but he's gone for the steady opening move of "Alright". The Girl nervously counters with a predictable "Hi" and the ball is now back in his court

Katie: You look nice today

(Crowd - Excitable Ooohh)

Tallulah: Thanks

Isabel: Now this looks promising. Straight into a pattern of flattery, and followed with a bit of eye contact and a smile. Has she got an answer to this charm?

Katie: **(Feeling a little more relaxed)** Have you done something new with your hair? It looks **(pause)** well..

Tallulah: It looks what?

(Crowd: Sharp intake of breath)

Katie: It looks nice

Isabel: Oh good save

Katie: Much nicer than last week

(Crowd: Disappointed Oooooohhh)

Tallulah: What are you trying to say?

Isabel: Oh he's in trouble here. What's he got in his locker to save this situation?

Katie: Oh, you've always had nice hair, it's just it looks even better, now, than before....

Isabel: Just saves it

Tallulah: Mmm Ok

Katie: So. I've been thinking

(Crowd: oooooohhh)

Tallulah: Yes?

Katie: Whether you were busy tonight

Isabel: He shoots!

(Crowd: Ooooh)

Tallulah: Sorry yes I am

(Crowd: Awwwww)

Isabel: He misses

Tallulah: But.....

(Crowd: Sharp intake of breath)

Isabel: But hang on

Tallulah: How about tomorrow?

Katie: Tomorrow? Yes...I'm free

Tallulah: OK then

(Crowd: YYYEEEEESSSSSS)

Isabel: He SCORES!!!!!!

Tallulah: But.....

(Crowd: Oooohhh)

Katie: Yes?

Tallulah: Don't wear that aftershave

(Crowd: Oooohhhh)

Isabel: And out of the jaws of victory, has he managed to grasp a defeat.
We'll see you for the second leg tomorrow

Lily: But back to school....We know what happens when we meet someone we like.....What about the reverse of that?

(Door moves Up-Centre Stage facing audience. Cast stand in small clusters, avoiding eye contact with Bully. Bully enters, goes up to girl and stares at her)

Isabel:

The bully enters after break

And stalks upon it's prey

The huddled masses hide their heads

Or turn and look away

I try to stand up for myself

I think about my Mum

I meet the gaze and never blink

Dreading what's to come

(Cast Split into two gangs)

Isabel: I don't want trouble

Girl Gang: I do. I want to kick back

Matthew: I don't care what you want

Bully gang: Even though I'm a bit scared now

Isabel: Just pick on someone else

Girl Gang: Before I pick on you

Matthew: Or what?

Bully Gang: Don't hurt me

(Isabel *stands centre Stage. Cast operate like puppets behind her*)

Isabel: I'm a puppet. Being operated by my past, by the past of my parents. Whatever they did, whatever they got wrong, well it shows in me. I'm a mirror to their failures. It's their fault. Always their fault

(Back into gangs)

Isabel: Or this...(She hits the bully)

Rosie: And so it's off to the headmaster/mistress's office