



## Flux

### Characters/Cast

MARK GATE	Charlie
CONNOR ROBSON	Ellis (Charlie and Styx's friend)
	Grandad Pete (Dannie's Grandad)
PAIGE GRANT	Debbie the guidance counsellor
	Courtney (Styx's friend)
NINA MAXWELL	Dannie
	Guitarist in the band
ALEX HANCOCK	Tommi (Dannie's friend)
	Phil - the Assertive Parent of Kim
	Percussionist and backing singer in the band
JOSEPH WALDOCK	Harry (Dannie and Styx's friend)
MAISIE SAUNDERS	Sam
	Ms Eve
ALEX WRIGHT-JONES	Chris (Sam and Dannie's friend)

AMAAYA TADAA	Voice in Sam's head
	Jo - the enthusiastic but overbearing Mum of Charlie
	Pat - the shy kid from Pride Club
VITA BARWICK-PLANT	Jess (Sam's friend)
	Marie - the distracted teacher
	Chloe (Sam's popular friend)
KATIE ROBINSON	Kim (Charlie and Sam's cousin & lead singer in the band)
	Emily (Sam's schoolmate)
NEVE STUART	Styx
	Bassist in the band
JACK HOUSTON	Jickey (friend of Styx) / Identity Emporium Man (alter ego of Jickey)
	Mr Scott - Dannie's 'cool', woke art teacher
	Percussionist in the band

Key:

Blue = movement script

Green = Lyrics, written by cast and composer

## **SECTION 1 (COFFEE SHOP)**

### **SCENE 1: Suffocated**

**Song Plays, Suffocated:** *When piano starts, Dannie enters. When guitar starts, the cast enter one by one. First chorus of 'Suffocated' is mimed by band:*

*Suffocated, I can't breathe*

*Feel frustrated, No release*

*Moving forward, feels backwards*

*Must be strong, mustn't falter, must be good for something*

**Kim:**           **People are really keen to figure out who you are. To choose a route for you because of your sexuality, your fashion choice, your music tastes. Stick a label on you; a name, a gender, a direction.**

**An identity.**

**Because they think that what you do -**

Sam:           *(About Pat)* Oh there goes the cry-baby.

Chris:         *(About Courtney)* Oh watch out for her, she might get angry.

Ellis:         *(About Charlie)* Look out, they might sacrifice a goat

Pat, Courtney & Charlie : *(in unison)* That was one time!

**Kim:**           **Or what your interests are -**

Charlie:        You like football, don't you?

Harry:         You're into cars, aren't you?

Courtney:      You love makeup, don't you?

**Kim:**           **Defines who you are.**

Jess:            Yeah, why?

Harry: Oh, you won't be into this then.

Jess: Why not?

**Kim: And who you aren't.**

Harry: I just didn't think it was your sort of thing.

*Suffocated Chorus 2 is mimed by band:*

*Suffocated, I can't breathe*

*Feel frustrated, No release*

*Moving forward, feels backwards*

*Must be strong, mustn't falter, must be good for something*

**Kim: And if you don't give too much away -**

Sam: *(To Charlie, about Pat)* Bit quiet, aren't they?

**Kim: Then they'll make *assumptions* about who you are -**

Chris: You're gay, right?

Pat: You're a goth, right?

Charlie: You're a sweat, right?

**Kim: - sometimes based not on you -**

Pat: Me? No. Why?

**Kim: - but who you're friends with.**

Charlie: Oh. Just because you hang out with... *(gestures at their friends)*.

**Kim: And they'll keep imposing their ideas on who you are**

**Or who you aren't**

**Who you could be**

**Or who you should be**

**Because not being able to define you - see you as a complete finished product with a neat little label on it - is the most confusing thing in the world for people.**

Courtney: But... what do I call you?

*Suffocated ending fades out:*

*(I'm suffocated, I'm suffocated*

*Each time you say it,*

*This time I mean it,*

*You'll never box me in)*

*Band members and Courtney exit. The following characters are set in the cafe:*

*Kim, Charlie & Ellis (at the cafe 'bar')*

*Sam, Jess and Chris (at a table/seating area)*

*Harry and Tommi (at a table/seating area)*

*Jo (Charlie's Mum) (sat separately reading Harvard Business Review)*

*Kim steps out of narrator/lead singer persona and into her job as a barista, puts apron on, getting ready to surprise Sam.*

## **SCENE 2: Sam - Birthday**

*A coffee shop where Kim works. Sam and Christina are sitting at a table. Kim brings over a cupcake with a candle in it.*

Kim: Happy birthday to you...

*Chris and Jess join in enthusiastically.*

Chris, Jess & Kim: Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday dear Saaaam. Happy birthday to you!

Kim:            Make a wish!

*Sam makes a wish and blows out the candle.*

Let me know if I can get you anything else.

*Kim leaves the table. Sam picks up her phone and starts scrolling. Jess and Chris look at Kim.*

Jess:            Your cousin is so great.

Sam:            Yeah she is.

Jess:            Is she still in that band?

Sam:            Er...yeah... I think so.

Jess:            Are you okay?

Sam:            Yeah, yeah I'm fine.

Chris:           What are you looking at?

Sam:            Oh. It's Chloe's birthday as well today.

Jess:            Is it? You're like practically twins!

Chris:           What's wrong?

Sam:            Er...I don't know. She just got Jordans as a present and now it looks like she's doing an escape room in Newcastle and a big meal out.

Chris:           Yeah but she's just showing off, isn't she? I thought you just wanted to do something a bit quiet for your birthday.

Sam:            Yeah. Yeah I did. I do. This is fine. Great.

*They sit for a moment in awkward silence. Straight into...*

### SCENE 3: Dannie - Coming Out

*Dannie is on their way to the cafe, walking fast and thinking about what she is going to say, nervous. Tommi, Harry and Cassidy are sitting at the cafe. Tommi and Harry are looking at something funny on one of their phones.*

Dannie: Just go and tell them you're queer. It's 2022, it's not like it's some massive taboo subject anymore. They're your friends, they're your best friends. They've known you forever. No one is going to think of you any differently because of it. It'll just make it easier for them. The more pronouns you use, the more impossible it is for someone to misgender you! That's a positive. Start with that? No, don't start with that. Just...get it over with.

*Kim comes over to take Dannie's order.*

Dannie: (blurting out) I'm queer!

Kim: I'll pop back in a minute.

*Friends look at Dannie.*

Tommi: Hi Dannie

Harry: Been waiting to say that?

Dannie: *(relieved laughter)* Yeah...been waiting a while.

Harry: I did assume. But I'm glad you've told us anyway.

Dannie: So it's just like...fine?

Tommi: Yeah. Course it is. We've known you forever, we're not going to care about something like that.

Dannie: Oh. Okay. Cool. Also, just so you know, I use all pronouns.

Tommi: Okay, thanks for telling us.

Harry           Cool

*Kim comes back over*

Dannie:       Salted caramel cappuccino please

Harry:        Classic

*Kim goes back to the bar*

Tommi:        I actually asked Mr Scott about setting up a Pride Club for an extra-curricular. Maybe we could do that together?

Dannie:       Oh. Yeah. Cool.

Tommi         You can sort it out

Dannie        Yeah sure, okay

*Straight into...*

#### **SCENE 4: Charlie - Where do you see yourself in the future?**

*Charlie and Ellis are sitting at the coffee shop bar whilst Kim is making coffee. Ellis is looking at/playing with his new model train.*

Kim:           Do you want chocolate on your Cappucino?

Charlie:       Oo.. erm... maybe. I'm not sure. Whatever you think!

*Kim hands Charlie a coffee cup.*

Charlie:       *(to the audience)* I'm really struggling to decide what to do after college.

It's difficult thinking that a decision I make now is going to impact who I might be for the rest of my life. I don't know how to decide that! I don't know anything! I only just realised that the numbers on a toaster are minutes and not just levels



of toastiness. Or that the “little piggy” that goes to market in that nursery rhyme isn’t just off for a nice day of shopping. And when I realised that I thought - well if I’m ever a father I can’t sing that song to my child! It’s traumatising. But on the other hand...that nursery rhyme is an absolute banger so...

I just can’t decide. I can’t decide on anything! And how am I expected to figure it all out right now? I wasn’t too worried about it but then my best friend Ellis freaked me out saying something about a 20-year plan.

Ellis: I’ve got a 20-year plan. Train engineer apprenticeship, entry level job, senior role with British Rail - sorted!

Charlie: I don’t have a 20-year plan. Should I have a 20-year plan?

Ellis: Oh. No of course you don’t need a 20 year plan. But you’ve got a 10 year plan right?

Charlie: No.

Ellis: 5 year plan?

Charlie: Er...

Ellis: Yeah...you should maybe...think about that.

Charlie: My friend Kim on the other hand is a bit of a drifter...

Kim: You should totally come and jam with the band, you still play keyboard don’t you?

Charlie: Yeah -

Kim: *(shouts to coffee shop) salted caramel cappuccino?! (Dannie awkwardly gets it)*

Charlie: I talked to my Mum about it and she sort of mumbled something about a path.

Jo: I'm sure you'll find the right path.

Charlie: And then about twenty minutes later she found me again and gave me a copy of The Harvard Business Review with the corner folded over on one of the pages...

Jo: Read this.

*Chris, Harry, Dannie leave the coffee shop. Upbeat, computer game style music starts to play.*

*Charlie starts to wander round reading the article, bemused by it, while Sam, Kim, Ellis, Jess, Jo and Charlie group together and act out a movement sequence of what Charlie is describing. Charlie is amongst them in the centre speaking the text.*

Charlie: "Your personality, skills, likes, and dislikes change over time — but that change isn't out of your control.

What can you do to become the version of yourself that you most want to be?

Start by acknowledging the differences between your past, current, and future selves.

Next, imagine your desired future self: Set goals that are as clear and specific as possible to maximise your chances of achieving them.

Finally, develop (and re-develop) an identity narrative consistent with the person you want to become — and share that story with others!

Your identity drives your behaviour, which over time creates your personality.

So, start acting like the best version of yourself, and you will become that person."

Sam: Could I borrow that?

*Other characters start to put on 'adults' costume items and become their adult characters. Mr Scott and Pete the Assertive Parent enter. Sam exits hastily. Charlie is bewildered.*

Charlie: I sort of thought there would be a magical moment when I turned 16 when suddenly I would just have everything figured out. But it just...didn't happen. But I figured....okay. Fine. 17 then. Surely when I turn 17 everything will all click into place. I mean - you can drive when you're 17. They're not just going to let any old idiot who has no idea what they're doing drive, are they? Well, turns out, they are. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed for 18. 18 is when it's all just going to figure itself out, right? I'll be able to vote! They're not going to let me vote without knowing what's going on, right? Right?? I mean. I'll be an adult.

*Adults chorus come to life, looking at Charlie pretending they've got everything together.*

Charlie: Parents

*Jo and Phil characters greet him*

Charlie: Grandparents

*Grandpa Pete greets him*

Charlie: Even teachers.

*Mr Scott greets him in an uncool way that he thinks is cool. Mr Scott nudges Marie who is distracted - she greets him*

It's like they knew all along who they were going to be. And that's what I want.

*He looks at them again. They look a bit cringey.*

I Think.

But there are so many different paths I could take, so many future versions of myself I could be. So I try and talk to them about it...

#### **Scene 4b: Adults - What's Your Future Plan?**

Jo: You're "not sure?"

Phil: Okay.

Marie: Hm?

Mr Scott: *(A knowing laugh)*

*Charlie looks at Grandad Pete*

Grandad P: *(Silence, nods)*

Jo: Well let's just look into your options then, shall we?

Phil: I've got a pal who works at the local council.

Jo: Do you want to go to university?

Phil: I'll get him to have a chat with you about what it's like. Good, steady job that, working for the council.

Jo: How about an apprenticeship?

*Charlie looks at Grandad Pete*

Grandad P: *(Listens, gestures as if to say 'go on' to Charlie)*

Jo: Hold on I'm just looking up apprenticeships now.

Mr Scott: Yeah when I was your age I just wanted to get a job at the local arcade so I could play the games when it was quiet.

Phil: You just leave it to me. I don't want to hear anything else about it. I'm taking care of it.

Mr Scott: Arcades are still a thing, right?

Jo: Right I've booked you in for an open day and signed you up to a few taster sessions as well.

*Charlie looks at Grandad Pete*

Grandad P: *(Silence, smiles)*

Jo: Alright?

Phil: Alright?

Mr Scott: Alright?

Grandad P: It's alright.

Marie: Sorry pet, did you say something?

*Adults exit and Charlie is left to clear up to café. Suffocated song reprise. SFX: School bell.*

## **SECTION 2 (SCHOOL)**

### **SCENE 5: Sam - Lunchtime**

*Jess and Chris are hanging out in school yard, Jess is showing Chris her TikTok dance Sam rushes over with a flyer for Kim's band. She has her hair in a half high ponytail.*

Sam: Do you two want to come to my cousin's gig on Friday?

It's like this kind of cool alt rock pop indie band. They're so cool.

Jess: Oh yeah, I love Kim, I'll come!

Chris: Not sure it's really my sort of thing, but have a good night!

Sam: But...they're really cool. I think Chloe might be going.

Chris: Oh well I'm definitely not going if Chloe's going.

Jess: I like Chloe.

Sam: Everyone likes Chloe.

Chris: Why? Because she's really loud and talks over everyone? I don't know why that makes you popular.

Sam: Well it does. Obviously.

*Jess looks at the flyer.*

Jess: Oh look. You've got your hair the same as Kim's got hers here.

Sam: *(A bit embarrassed)* Oh have I? I just like the style.

Chris: Are you wearing the same jacket too?

Sam: What? Two people can't like the same style?

Chris: Sorry. I didn't mean anything by it. .

*Sam starts to take her hair out and struggles with it a bit*

Sam: It's literally just the trend at the moment

Chris: Right, okay

Jess: You look fine whatever you wear

Sam: Maybe I don't want to be fine. Maybe I want to be ...you know...better than fine.

Jess: How?

Sam: I don't know. Like Kim - she's in a band, you know, she's doing something.

Chris: We're in a band.

*Sam starts getting more flyers out of her bag, drops them and gets flustered.*

Sam: We're not in A band. We're in band. There's a difference.

Chris: No there isn't.

Sam: Yes there is. Kim sings in a band. I play the saxophone.

Jess: I think it's cool that you play the saxophone!

Sam: Really?

Jess: Yeah! But if you want to be more like Kim, we could easily start a band.

Chris: We're already in a band.

Sam: We're not in a band. We're in school band.

Jess: But we could start A band. We all play instruments.

Chris: Because we're in a band.

Sam: School band.

Jess: So, we're starting one. Okay?

Sam: Okay. Yeah. Thanks.  
See you later!

*Sam rushes off to hand more flyers out to people. Chris and Jess leave.*

**SCHOOL BELL SFX**

## **SCENE 6: Dannie - The Representative**

*Dannie is rushing off to first lesson after lunch and bumps into Mr Scott - their enthusiastic 'cool' art teacher*

Mr Scott: Dannie! I'm so glad I caught you. Tommi told me you were interested in starting a Pride Club for extra curricular.

Dannie: Oh. Yeah. Well it was Tommi's idea really -

Mr Scott: I just think it's so great that you're doing that and feel free to use my classroom for it.

Dannie: Oh that's great. Thank you.

*Dannie goes to leave*

Mr Scott: Aaaaand I wondered if you might do me a little favour? The school newspaper is really keen to represent queer voices and I thought you might like to write us a little piece about - you know - being queer and what that's like.

Dannie: Er - well I don't know if I've really got anything specific to say about it -

Mr Scott: Just, you know, half - a page. A page of A4.

*Dannie goes to leave*

Mr Scott: And... I do have to run but I thought you might be able to talk to Pat.

Dannie: Pat?

Mr Scott: Pat? Where are you?

*Pat, a younger student peers out from where they have been hiding.*

Pat is having some...identity issues...  
I thought maybe you could talk to (*overly emphasising*) them about it?

Dannie: Er...

Mr Scott: Great! Have fun at Pride Club!

*Dannie and Pat are left standing together awkwardly.*  
*SFX: School bell, Dannie and Pat rush off*



## SCENE 7: Charlie - Guidance Counsellor

Debbie: Helloooo...?

Charlie: Charlie.

Debbie: Charlie. Of course. What can I do you for?

Charlie: Oh... well I'm having some trouble choosing what to do when I finish sixth form and Mr Keith thought it might be a good idea to check in with you.

Debbie: Rightio. Say no more. Let's have a little looksee at your predicted grades shall we?

Oh well. You're predicted As or above across all your subjects. The choice is yours really.

Charlie: Yeah...that's the problem. I don't know how to choose.

Debbie: Sure sure sure sure sure sure sure. Well with these sorts of things it's always good to think about your long term goals. So. Who do you want to be when you grow up?

Charlie: I haven't decided really. That's the -

Debbie: Okiedokeydoo. Well it's good to think about the job market that you're going to be graduating into. I can tell you that sciences will always be a good option. With that you could go into Medicine.

Charlie: Hmmm

Debbie: Veterinary Sciences?

Charlie: Hmmm

Debbie: Dentistry?

Charlie: My parents are both doctors. And my grandparents. Two of my cousins.

And my older sister is studying medicine at the moment actually.

Debbie: Well there you go.

Charlie: I thought maybe I could do something a bit...different.

Debbie: Like what?

Charlie: I don't know. I like playing the piano?

Debbie: Well obviously I can't tell you what to do. But I'd suggest you do medicine.

Charlie: I don't think -

Debbie: You've got the grades. Obviously you want to go to university. Anywhere in the country you particularly want to study?

Charlie: I don't -

Debbie: And you know, you're statistically likely to meet your future spouse at university so maybe pick somewhere you could see yourself settling down for the rest of your life.

Charlie: I haven't really thought about that stuff yet.

Debbie: Why not?

Charlie: I'm only 17.

Debbie: 17 is old enough to enrol in the army! Have you considered enrolling in the army?

Charlie: I'm a pacifist.

Debbie: Oh so you've made one decision at least.

Charlie: I'm just worried that maybe I'll make the wrong decision and maybe the thing I want to be when I'm 17 isn't who I'll want to be for the rest of my life?

Debbie: Well you're going to be 68 before you retire so you'd better make sure you're picking something that you'll be happy doing for the next 51 years. Well. That's our time up. When do you need to make your decision?

Charlie: End of the week.

Debbie: Good luck.

### **SCENE 8: Kim - Talk**

*Kim enters*

Debbie: Ahhh... *(she can't remember her name)*

Kim: Kim.

Debbie: Kim! So pleased you're here. I'm just about to get the hall set up. Give me 5 minutes.

*Guidance Counsellor exits. Kim takes a seat where Charlie had been sat before, and addresses the audience.*

Kim: I've been asked back to my old school to do a talk for GCSE students. They gave me the title: Where Do You See Yourself in 5 Years? 15, imagining who you're going to be when you're 20. If I asked my 15 year old self, "where will you be at 20?" she'd say, "well that's a long way away, I can't even imagine being in my 20s. That's really old.

I see my friend Charlie, and my cousin Sam being so stuck on what they're lacking or who they're going to be in the future and I just want to scream, I get it!

When I was 15 I looked like Dora the Explorer.

I was really shy and it stopped me from doing what I wanted to do and be the person I wanted to be. I didn't dress the way I wanted, I didn't make friends with the people I wanted to be friends with. I wish I had because I wasted 5 years, worrying about what other people would think about me.

Then there was a moment when I was like woah, I'm in control of my own life. I don't have to follow exactly what is expected of me. I can decide who I am...who I want to be. And once I've decided that I can just...be it.

#### **SCHOOL BELL – SFX**

### **SCENE 9: Styx's story**

#### **(a) - Friends**

*Kim exits. Pat enters and takes a seat.*

*Jickey (wearing a hoody, instead of a blazer), Courtney (wearing leggings instead of a skirt), and Harry (wearing trainers, instead of school shoes) enter chatting about McDonalds. They notice Pat sat near them, and Courtney gestures for Pat to leave.*

*As they continue chatting, Styx enters wearing goth-style make up and clothing. They look at her, confused. Not recognising her.*

Courtney: Caaaaan we help you?

Styx: It's me.

*Pause then realisation.*

Jickey: Oh

Harry: Annabelle?

Courtney: Wow.

*Jickey is a bit passive aggressive throughout this scene. Courtney doesn't really get it but is trying to be supportive/enthusiastic and Harry has no idea what's going on/no filter.*

Jickey: You look...different.

Courtney: Good different.

Jickey: I like the...shoes.

Courtney: It really brings out the purple in your...eyes...are those contact lenses?

Jickey: It's...sharp.

Harry: Bit *too* sharp.

Courtney: Don't say that.

Harry: What made you dress like that?

Styx: I mean... this is how I like to dress. I just thought it's about time I stopped hiding it. And I go by the name Styx now.

Harry: Sticks?

Styx: (*spells it out*) S, T, Y, X

*The others don't get it*

Styx: It's one of the rivers of the underworld in Greek mythology.  
And also a 70s rock band.

Courtney: Nice!

Jickey: So...are you wearing "that" on Friday?

Harry: That?! Wearing that?

*SFX: school bell*

**(b) – Teacher**

*Ms Eve, a straight-laced teacher walks past, Jickey exits and the others try to hide their 'incorrect' uniforms.*

Ms Eve: Annabelle Stevens. WHAT have you got on your face?

Styx: It says you're allowed to wear minimal make up

Ms Eve: Minimal?? That's a right angle. And what have you done to your hair???

Styx: I just didn't brush it.

Ms Eve: Well brush it!

Styx: This is just my style, Miss.

Ms Eve: Well, I'm afraid your style doesn't fit in with our expectations, Anabelle.

Styx: Actually - I go by Styx now.

Ms Eve: Is that right? Well do you know what I think?

Styx: No, Miss.

Ms Eve: You need to go to isolation with the other people who don't seem to think the rules apply to them.

*Upbeat, computer game style music starts to play. Other cast members enter wearing white shirts and school ties.*

**(c) - Uniform**

Courtney: Shirt

Harry: Polo Shirt

**ALL:** No

Courtney: We have to wear a button down shirt

Harry: Tie, blazer

Courtney: Hoodie?

**ALL:** Hoodies are not allowed

Harry: Jumper

Styx: Piercings?

Harry: Earrings no bigger than 5mm

**ALL:** No jewellery allowed.

Harry: Trousers

Courtney: Not leggings

Styx: Skirt?

Courtney: Not stretchy

Harry: It has to be the right material

Courtney: Even though the only reason I don't wear pleats is because they blow up in the wind

**ALL:** Not a valid excuse.

Courtney: Shoes with a small heel.

Styx: Doc Martens?

*Courtney goes to say trainers and gets cut off...*

Ms Eve: No trainers. No Heels. No Doctor MartINS

Harry: Minimal makeup

Courtney: Natural makeup

Styx: Barely there makeup

**ALL:** No makeup

Courtney: The skirts blow up in the wind

Harry: The school shoes are uncomfortable.

Styx: The blazers don't fit right

**ALL:** And we all just end up looking exactly the same...

*Ms Eve exits. Styx seats down in isolation, while the other stay standing around her. Styx starts scrolling through her instagram feed seeing people looking exactly the same.*

*We hear the following voiceover soundscape of Jickey questioning Styx's style from earlier:*

Oh  
You look...different.  
I like the...shoes.  
It's...sharp....

*Strange, circus style music and lighting starts and Identity Emporium Man (Jickey alter ego) is revealed. The other cast members are performing strange, stylised movements around Styx as Identity Emporium Man speaks.*

#### **(d) - Identity Emporium**

Identity Emporium Man: Welcome to the Identity Emporium.

We sell one potion and one potion only - the answer to all your personality problems, the identity ideal, the likeability liquid.

With one sip of this potion all your problems will disappear. You will finally fit in. You will be exactly like everyone else.

That's right. With one drop of this magical elixir we will strip away everything that makes you - well - you.



That love for an old 70s rock band that nobody else your age understands?  
Gone.

A hobby that sets you apart from everybody else like crochet, croquet, or even ballet? No more!

A quirky dress style, a weird sense of humour, anything that slightly sets you apart from the crowd, makes you stand out, an individual.  
Gone gone gone.

Sure it's a bit dull...but you never have to worry about not fitting in again. And that's what you want. Right?

So...are you wearing "that" on Friday?

*Identity Emporium Man holds out the potion bottle to Styx who reluctantly takes it. Identity Emporium Man exits smugly.*

*Everybody exits, leaving Styx along on stage.*

*Styx opens the bottle, takes a sniff.*

Styx: Smells plain.

*She contemplates the potion.*

Styx: He's not wrong. Fitting in is a lot easier than standing out. And it's easy. I should know, I've done it enough. You just make yourself a little bit less, a little bit at a time. Bit by bit. A little bit less interesting. A little bit less opinionated. A little bit less... you.

It would be easy to fit in.

*She goes to take a sip. Changes her mind.*

But it wouldn't be me.

And I've realised...all the things that make me not fit in with my friends (all the things that make them stick out; Courtney with her rugby; Ellis with his model trains and aeroplanes; Harry with his... crisps). Well they're all the things that make me like them. And maybe the things that make me stick out (loving obscure 70s rock bands and wearing so much eyeliner I get detention for a week). Maybe they're the things that make them like me too.

And even if they're not... they're the things that make me like me. And that's the person whose opinion I really care about.

*She stands up, and lifts the lid of the block she's been sitting on and raises the potion above her head.*

To not fitting in!

*She drops the potion in the block, slams the lid shut, and exits.*

### **SECTION 3 (AFTER SCHOOL)**

#### **SCENE 10a: Dannie - Pride Club**

*Dannie, Tommi, Harry, and Pat are at Pride Club. Mr Scott wanders around checking what everyone is doing. Dannie is looking disinterested writing on his hand.*

Mr Scott: Ooo I like the colours, what do those ones represent?

...

I've got some block paint if you want it

...

*Dannie walks over to Mr Scott*

Dannie: Sir, I was wanting to switch clubs.

Mr Scott: On another day?

Dannie: No, there was another club that I wanted to go to.

Mr Scott: What club?

Dannie: Dungeons and Dragons.

Mr Scott: So you want to leave pride club?

*Everyone reacts*

Mr Scott: Okay, well I'll see what I can do. No promises mind.

*Dannie goes back to his friends*

Tommi: You're leaving pride club?

Dannie: Er...yeah.

Harry: Are you straight now?

Dannie: No - I just. I've got other interests, you know?

Pat: But we've got Pride party coming up. Who am I going to go to pride party with now?

Dannie: I'm sorry erm... what's your name again?

*Pat storms off, upset.*

Tommi: I thought you liked being in pride club.

*Tommi goes after Pat to console them. They start to change into their Adult costumes.*

Dannie: It's fine. I just...you know I have other things I want to do too.

*Mr Scott enters.*

Mr Scott: Good news, Dannie! We can switch you.

Dannie: That's great!

Mr Scott: But it'll have to be next term.

Dannie: But the half term just started.

Mr Scott: Sorry, but remember I'm here to give you advice on your identity journey.

Dannie: Right now I don't need any advice, I'd just like to -

*SFX: SCHOOL BELL. Harry and Chris leave. Marie and Grandad Pete enter, and all Adults take up the same positions as last time we saw them. Grandad Pete is sat near Dannie, offering him support.*

### **(b) Parents - Expressing Identity**

Jo: You feel like what?

Phil: So, you're a boy now?

Marie: Sorry, what was that?

Mr Scott: Queer. Cool. Got it. *(he does a cringey finger guns click at Dannie)*

Jo: I actually thought this might be coming and...well... I bought flags. I am totally on board with however you identify and whoever you want to be. Now exactly which part of the LGBTQIA+ community do you identify with?

Phil: No, I completely understand. You feel like a boy. A man. Like your dad.

Jo: Are you gay?

Phil: That's sorted then. You've made your decision.

Jo: Bisexual?

Marie: I am listening to you. I'm just in the middle of something.

Jo: Are you Trans?

Grandad P: *(Listens quietly)*

Jo: What about pansexual?

Mr Scott: I think it's great. Put it on Tik Tok yet?

Phil: Right you're booked in at the doctors and they can help

Mr Scott: Tik Tok's still a thing, right?

Jo: I actually got myself an "ally" flag too so we can go to pride together. And I'll just keep all of these flags until you've figured out exactly how you identify and then we can get rid of the rest.

Grandad P: *(Silence)*

Jo: Alright?

Phil: Alright?

Mr Scott: Alright?

Grandad P: It's alright.

Dannie: Thanks Grandad.

*Everybody exits, apart from Marie who is still distracted on her phone.*

Marie: Sorry pet, what was that again?

### **SCENE 10c: Tommi and Dannie - Making a Joke**

Tommi: I was meant to speak to Dannie after Pride Club and I haven't. Instead I've come to the music room. They said they wanted to talk to me about something. Last time they said they wanted to talk to me about something they didn't really say anything and I'm

really bad at dealing with serious conversations. I just try and make a joke and lighten the mood and somehow that seems to make everything worse.

It's not that I don't want to help.

I never know the right thing to say. When I try and talk about stuff it just comes out sounding really false? Like I'm not taking them seriously.

It's better for them to ask someone else about it.

*They check their phone.*

They've just texted me.

I'll think of something to cheer them up later.

### **SCENE 11: Sam - Lies to be Accepted**

*Sam is looking out at the audience. She starts to copy how different people are sit. Crossed legs, then relaxed, then leaning back. She circles round these different positions – starting slowly and then getting faster and faster until she can't keep up anymore. Eventually, she gives up, stands up and addresses the audience.*

*The 'Voice in her head' enters and positions themselves by the microphone.*

Sam: You know how magpies apparently like to collect shiny things? I've been doing that a bit too, recently. Except instead of shiny objects, it's the shiny bits of people's personalities. It's impossible not to see someone else and think, I wish I had their laugh or they've got such an easy way of talking to people or they just pick up a new skill and are instantly good at it. It can be anything. Appearance, hobbies, interests. So those things that I see in people that I like...I just...try on. See how it fits. Like the other day...

#### **(a) Metrocentre**

Sam: I'm in Newcastle shopping, everyone's with their friends. I've just seen a load of people from my school come out of an amazing vintage shop.

Voice: I bet you wish you were with them and not on your own.

*Emily & Charlie enter and walk towards Sam.*

Emily: Hi Sam

Sam: Hi Emily, how are you?

Emily: I'm good how are you?

Sam: Oh I'm good thanks how are you?

*Awkward pause*

Voice: Nice one

Sam: I love your coat, where did you get it?

Voice: *(strictly)* Why did you say that?? Now she's going to know you don't know where her coat is from and you're not cool enough to shop in those sorts of shops anyway. Walk away, now! Just say you've got to be somewhere

*Emily is about to respond -*

Sam: I've just got to go Build a Bear!

### **(b) The Hoppings**

Sam: I'm in the park, Chloe and her mates invited me

Voice: Why are you just standing about? Go and say hi. No, don't say hi. Sounds too eager. Maybe just do a nod. A little nod of the head. Practice. No. What are you doing. You just look like you're nodding along to something. Maybe they'll think you're listening to music or something.

Chloe: Sam! Over here!

Sam: Oh. Hi. Yeah, I was just listening to a song.

*Sam walks over. They see she doesn't have earphones.*

Sam: In my head.

Ellis: Oh right. Cool. Hey, Sam, you coming to the Hoppings?

Voice: What's the Hoppings?

Sam: *(Uncertain)* Errr yeah I'll come

Ellis: You're going to love the big rides!

Chloe: It's going to be epic. I can't wait, can you?

Sam: Haha no I can't. I love the Hoppings. Front of the ride. Or back. Whatever's cooler. That's me.

Voice: Text Mum and ask her to get you tickets

**(c) Family Dinner**

Sam: I'm at a family dinner and my really cool cousin Kim and her mate Charlie are here

Voice: Think of something to say!

Sam: So erm... good night last night ey?

Voice: They didn't even know you were there

Charlie: We ended up in Market Shaker after Kim's gig

Kim: We even got a queue jumper

Charlie: Where were you Sam?

Sam: Err, I'm 16.

Charlie: I'm 17, have you not got a fake?

*Sam looks confused.*



Voice: What's a fake? Note to self – get a “fake”?

Kim: You can come next time.

*Kim's parent, Phil appears*

Phil: What's this? What's happening? Where are you going?

Kim: Dad, it's none of your business.

*Sam, Voice and Charlie exit.*

*Kim rolls her eyes as the scene becomes the cafe, Kim puts her apron on, and we hear the sound of hear cafe atmosphere.*

*Phil sits at a table in the café.*

## **SCENE 12: Kim - Asking Permission**

Kim: I turned 18 during the pandemic which meant that time sort of froze when I was 17. And that meant that all of the things that normally happen when you officially become an adult just...didn't. I didn't go to university so I didn't move out of home. Everywhere shut down so it wasn't like I was going on a gap year. And all the restrictions meant that I was just sort of stuck...in time...in my parents' house.

*Jo enters and joins Phil.*

And even when I'm out of the house, trying to have my own space... even at work... they just seem overly... involved.

Phil: You didn't tell me you were working today

Kim: What can I get you?

Phil: Jo tells me you and Charlie were out clubbing last night?

Jo: *(to Phil)* Charlie got in past his curfew.

Kim: I'm actually 20 now so -

Jo: - I'll have... *[she gives a ridiculously complex order, involving various types of milk, cup size requests and 'non-choking' size chunks of oreo pieces]*

Phil: I'll have a black coffee.

Kim: Okay

*She goes to walk away but Phil looks at her, questioning.*

Phil: Mind that lipstick's a bit much

Kim: Well, I've got a gig after work

Phil: I would tone it down if I was you

Jo: Have you eaten today?

Phil: Do they give you proper breaks here?

Kim: I don't need a break.

Phil: Do you want me to speak to your manager?

Jo: Ooooh... I'm ever so thirsty...

Kim: *(to the audience)* I'm stuck... in time...

Phil: Let me know what time you'll be back tonight

Kim *(to the audience)* And because of that I think they just sort of forgot that I'm not a child anymore. That I shouldn't have to ask for permission to go out. I know I still live at home but I'm an actual complete adult who can vote and drive and rent my own house and make my own doctors' appointments and -

Phil: Who are you talking to?

Kim: Let me get those drinks for you.

### **SCENE 13: Charlie - Imagining Futures**

*Charlie enters and starts playing the piano. Phil exits. Jo takes a seat and starts drinking her cup of coffee. Kim takes a mixing bowl from the café and starts stirring – as if she’s baking something. Debbie (the Guidance Counsellor) enters with her files. Ellis enters with one of his model planes. They are all in their own worlds.*

*Charlie is playing a happy, gentle song on the piano.*

Charlie: There’s this theory that every decision you make, big or small, can create whole new universes, like a whole different life of possibilities. And I’ve got so many decisions to make. How am I going to choose one when any could lead me on to so many others. I’ve got to choose what I do after college by next week and I don’t have a clue...

Ellis: You could go to medical school, be a doctor!

Debbie: Good house, stable income...

Kim: You could save someone’s life!

Charlie: But...what if I don’t save people’s lives.

*Charlie starts to go wrong, and the tune becomes messy and out of tune.*

Jo: What if you kill somebody?

Kim: Don’t worry about what ifs

Ellis: And then you get sued. And then you’ve got nothing.

Debbie: You’ve lost your job.

Jo: Everyone hates you.

*Charlie crashes down on the piano.*

Charlie: Yeah.... Maybe not a doctor.

*He starts playing again, regaining control.*

Ellis: You could do an apprenticeship, be a journalist!

Debbie: Good house, stable income...

Kim: You could break a really important story and change the world!

Charlie: But... what if I break a story about the wrong person...

*Charlie loses control of the tune on the piano once again.*

Jo: And they come after you.

Kim: You can't let thoughts like that stop you..

Ellis: And then they find you. And then you've got nothing.

Debbie: You've lost your job.

Jo: Everyone hates you.

*Charlie crashes down on the piano.*

Charlie: Yeah.... Maybe not a journalist.

*He starts playing again.*

Ellis: You could go self-employed, be a professional musician!

Debbie: Good hou-.... *(she trails off...)*

Kim: You'd be doing what you love! Performing at amazing festivals all over the country!

Charlie: But... what if I'm not good enough at piano

*Charlie loses complete control of the tune here, and the piano becomes an unbearable mess of sound.*

Jo: Or you get writer's block

Kim: Charlie for goodness sake stop catastrophizing

Ellis: And you can't ever top your last album and you never make music again.  
And then you've got nothing.

*Kim is too frustrated and gives up and exits.*

Debbie: You've lost your job.

Jo: Everyone hates you.

*Charlie finally crashes down on the piano in frustration, into silence.*

Charlie: Yeah.... Okay.

Ellis: Anyway... wanna go Nando's?

Charlie: Er... *(in his head he is picturing all the things that could go wrong with even something as simple as a trip to Nando's).*

I think I might just stay in, actually.

*All exit apart from Charlie and Jo.*

## **SECTION 4 (TIPPING POINTS)**

### **SCENE 14: Parents - Committee Meeting**

*Charlie keeps playing his piano as Jo sets up the committee meeting, she greets the audience now and then and thanks them for coming.*

Jo: Charlie, can you stop playing piano for a minute and help me set up this meeting?

*Charlie stops playing piano and helps Mum set up the meeting, put out blocks, leaflets etc. gives some leaflets to the audience. Jo is making small talk with the audience between giving Charlie instructions.*

*Marie, Mr Scott, Phil and Grandad Pete enter one at a time, say hello to Jo and take a seat. Jo stands on the 'stage' at the mic ready to lead the meeting/presentation*

Jo: Alright - I've called this committee meeting because the teenagers are struggling to make decisions.

Er, Charlie you can go now, this doesn't concern you.

*Charlie looks at the audience in disbelief and leaves. Mr Scott gives him an awkward high five.*

Phil: *(puts his hand up and stands)* Well I told them what to do. The problem is they just don't listen. *(sits)*

Marie: *(puts her hand up)* Sorry, what's the problem?

Mr Scott: They probably just don't want to think about the future. I know I didn't when I was their age.

Grandad P: *(puts his hand up and waits for Jo to come to him)* We could try just listening to them?

Jo: Well, we need to fix this.

Phil: *(puts his hand up and stands)* I think we give them a deadline. Deadlines always help.

Jo: How about we give them a multiple choice option?

Phil: No. Multiple choices. Too many choices. Their brains can't handle that.  
*(sits)*

Marie: Whatever you think.

Jo: I could write a quiz for them to figure out "WHO YOU ARE!"

Grandad P: *(puts his hand up)* We could just give them some space and let them know we're here if they need us?

Jo: Hold on I'm just writing the quiz now.

Mr Scott: Yeah, when I was their age I used to love doing those quizzes. "Which Rockstar are you?" They were always in Kerrang magazine.

Marie: Sorry what was that?

Mr Scott: Kerrang's still a thing, right?

Jo: Okay so we'll give them a few choices, but tell them that they absolutely need to make a choice by the end of the week and if they don't then we'll choose for them?

Grandad P: We could just support them to come to their own decisions?

Jo: *(ignoring Grandpa Pete)* We can sort them out, Alright?

Phil: Alright.

Mr Scott: Alright.

Marie: Sorry, what did we decide?

*The young people storm in on the meeting, led by Charlie who has gone to tell them all what's happening.*

## **SCENE 15: Mess**

***Song plays: Mess. Instrumental as the band takes their positions, and the young people storm the stage and force the parents off the stage:***

Charlie: Right, get out.

Jo: What?

Courtney: It's time for us to take over this meeting.

Jo: You can't just storm in here like this! We've got this space booked until 8pm.

Charlie: If you're going to talk about us

Sam: you should include us

Jo: We just thought we –

Harry: That's the problem!

Jo: What's going on?

Chris: We've got ideas

Harry: And opinions

Charlie: And we think it's time for US to take over this meeting.

*All the adults have been forced off stage, except Grandad Pete who is encouraged to stay.*

*Young people mock the adults' committee meeting on the mic (Grandad Pete thinks it's great):*

Sam: The problem with teenagers is they're so antisocial!  
Yeah they just don't want to talk.  
Exactly! And when they do talk it's just about me-mes [mispronounced]

Charlie: Yes. And they're always so stroppy.  
You ask what's wrong and they say  
I don't want to talk about it!



Sam: But then I can't fix it.  
If they don't tell me about it!  
Exactly. The problem with teenagers is...

**SONG: Chorus 1**

*I am my own mess  
And I like it like that  
I dance to no music  
And I smile when I'm sad  
And now you're hiding out, finding out  
I'm a bad hill to die on  
So move one.  
[MESS]*

*Young people are performing fun, movement duets during the first chorus.*

**SONG: Instrumental 2**

*The young people move as a big group up stage (looking at phone together), then downstage (fighting over donuts), then to stage left (Queing at McDonalds), then upstage to the band – taking Grandad Pete with them.*

*They dance around the band as Charlie speaks into the mic:*

Charlie: Ask me what's wrong. But just know that I might not tell you straight away.  
But that doesn't mean that I don't want you to ask again. I might just not want to talk about it right at that moment. Or you might just have to give me a chance to figure out what I'm going to say.

**SONG: Chorus 2**

*I am my own mess  
And I like it like that  
I dance to no music  
And I smile when I'm sad  
And now you're hiding out, finding out  
I'm a bad hill to die on  
So move one.  
[MESS]*

*Young people are dancing around the band.*

**SONG: Instrumental 3**

*The music shifts, and the young people start to dance in slow motion, the band play in slow motion, at the same time as Sam speaking on the mic:*

Sam:            So if I say “I don’t want to talk about it” that doesn’t necessarily mean that I don’t want to talk about it. But it also might mean that I don’t want to talk about it. And if you ask me too many times about it then, yeah, I might get a little bit irritated with you because constantly being asked if you’re okay is really annoying, even if it’s really obvious that I’m not okay.

**SONG: Chorus 3**

*I am my own mess  
And I like it like that  
I dance to no music  
And I smile when I’m sad  
And now you’re hiding out, finding out  
I’m a bad hill to die on  
So move one.  
[MESS]*

*Back to normal speed, young people lift Sam off the platform and they all run downstage while Charlie puts the microphone down. Charlie then runs towards the group and they all disperse around the room.*

**SONG: Instrumental 4**

*Young people sit all over the stage and listen to Charlie speaking on the mic:*

Charlie:        And sometimes I might want advice. But sometimes I might want you to just agree with me. And sometimes I might want you to do absolutely nothing at all. Just listen. Don’t even react.

**SONG: “I am my own mess”**

*MOVEMENT: Young people listen to Sam speaking on the mic and Courtney moves around the stage to gather up Pat, Harry and Grandad Pete, ready to leave, they get to Charlie last just after Charlie has said his last line:*

Sam: Because if I see you reacting I might interpret it as you judging me or trying to tell me what to do and I really don't want you to tell me what to do. Unless, you know, I obviously need your help and for you to tell me what to do.

Charlie: And if you think that sounds confusing. You should try living it.

**SONG:** *"I am my own mess"*

*Music echoes and gradually fades out as Courtney, Pat, Harry, Tommi, Grandad Pete, Charlie leave and the band leaves*

*Sam, Chris and Jess are sitting around the set.*

## **SCENE 16: Sam - Falling Out**

**SFX: Beach ambience.** *Sam is paddling and skimming stones, Chris and Jess sit looking at their phones.*

Sam: Oh wow. She looks incredible. Do you think I could pull off that makeup?

*Christina looks at Jess' phone.*

Chris: Well yeah, but you really suit your make-up too

Sam: I don't know...mine just looks a bit...blah.  
I think he's vegan now. Do you think he's vegan now?

Jess: It doesn't matter.

Sam: It does! How am I meant to keep up with all this?

Chris: [to Sam] You don't have to keep up. Most of those other people that you follow are just trying to be like somebody else.  
And then you see those people trying to be somebody else and you want to be like them. But you're not like them.  
You're not even like the people that those people are trying to be.  
Because everyone is just trying to be something that they're not.

I just think why can't we all just be happy as we are now?  
Just follow our instincts, do the things we are interested in.  
Without trying to be someone else.

*Sam ignores her.*

Sam: Oh my god her brows are amazing. Do you think they're HD? I'm going to get HD brows.

Chris: What's wrong with your brows as they are?

Jess: They don't look like hers.

*Chris looks at the photo of the HD brows*

Chris: Good!

Sam: They're always posting their runs. Maybe I should start running.

Chris: Yeah!

Sam: Sign up to a 10K.

Chris: Erm...

Sam: And download that app for sleep tracking. And shave my head. And start a YouTube channel.

Jess: Oh for your saxophone?

Sam: No. I don't play saxophone anymore.

Chris: Why not?

Sam: I just. Don't. It's weird. I need to learn piano now that's more...

Chris: Are you for real??

*Sam moves away and sits on her own in frustration. Jess goes over to Sam.*

Jess:           What are you looking at?

Sam:           I have to get my outfit sorted for Friday.

Chris:          What's Friday?

*Sam ignores her.*

Jess:           What's Friday.

Sam:           I'm going to the Hoppings Fair with Chloe

Chris:          Have you forgotten? We've got our first performance for the new band on Friday

Sam:           Oh no, I know...I just...I can't do it, sorry.

*Chris is annoyed. Jess is visibly upset.*

                  What's wrong with you?

Jess:           It's just -

Sam:           Chloe finally invited me out!

Chris:          Oh well if Chloe invited you out!

Jess:           We started this whole band thing because of you. I thought you wanted to be like Kim.

Sam:           Well now I don't.

*No response.*

Chris:          Well, I suppose that's all that matters then.

Sam: Are you just jealous?

*Jess storms out. Chris goes after her. Sam leaves in the opposite direction.*

### **SCENE 17: Dannie - Dungeons and Dragons**

Tommi: Okaaaaay Dannie. I know you were disappointed that you couldn't get out of Pride Club to go to Dungeons and Dragons so Pride Club has brought Dungeons and Dragons to you!

Chris: And I brought snacks!

Tommi: Bagsy the popcorn. What do you want, Harry?

Harry: Crisps

Chris: Okay. Danni, what do you want?

*Danni isn't paying attention.*

Tommi: Dannie come on!

Danni: What?

Tommi: What snack do you want?

Danni: I'm not bothered. I'm going to see my Grandad in a bit so I can't stay long.

Tommi: You've got to have a snack! Do you want cherryade?

*(Beat)*

Yeah cherryade is the best.  
Give him the cherryade.

Harry: There you go.

*(Beat)*

Are you alright?

Danni: Yeah.

Harry: Shall we make our characters?

Tommi: Who do you want to be Dannie?

*Chris starts to give out costumes*

Danni: I'm not bothered.

Chris: You can be a paladin

Harry: A *gay* paladin

Dannie: Why do I have to be a *gay* paladin?

Tommi: What's wrong with being a *gay* paladin?

Dannie: Nothing. I just mean...nothing, it's fine, come on then.

Tommi: Did you bring the rainbow dice?

Chris: I brought the rainbow dice.

Dannie: I'll use this dice.

Cassidy: Right are you ready?

***Dramatic, adventure style music starts to play. Lights dim and Tommi stands on the block. Tommi and Chris are completely in the zone throughout.***

Tommi: *(melodramatic)* You start off on your journey. You and your band of intrepid adventurers. You are in a place you have never been before. It is dark and scary. You reach into your backpack and pull out.... a pride flag.

Dannie: A pride flag?

Tommi: Yes. That is your team's emblem.

Dannie: Really?

Harry: Yeah.

Cassidy: Just go with it, you're slowing the game down.

Tommi: In the distance you see enemies approaching. Who could it be? Orcs? Goblins? No. It is the most fearsome enemy of all. You thought they had all been eliminated but you were wrong. So wrong. They have been incensed by your team's emblem.

Harry: *(to Dannie)* The pride flags.

Dannie: Yes, thank you.

Tommi: They are furious. Ferocious. As they get closer you can see they are your team's worst enemy. The scourge of the Forgotten Realms. They are. The homophobes.

Dannie: What? *(they are starting to lose their temper at this point)*

Cassidy: You and your team must defeat the homophobes and throw a pride parade.

*Dannie storms off, everyone looks at each other and Harry eats his crisps. A long, awkward silence...*

Harry: I liked the gay paladin

## **SCENE 18: Charlie(4) - Proud**

**SFX: COFFEE SHOP ATMOS.** *At the coffee shop, Ellis and Charlie are talking. Ellis has a train magazine which he's flicking through.*



Charlie: Played my piano yesterday

*(Beat)*

Ellis: Right

Charlie: I hadn't played for ages

*(Beat)*

Because - you know - none of the careers I was looking at require a level 5 in piano so I thought, what's the point?

Ellis: Well yeah

*(Beat)*

Charlie: But then yesterday I was just like, you know what, I'm going to play, just for fun and I played Happier by Ed Sheeran all the way through. No mistakes. I proper smashed it, it was great.

Ellis: Alright...

*(Beat)*

Charlie: What?

Ellis: Just - "I played it all the way through. No mistakes". "It was great". Just sounds like you're showing off a bit.

Charlie: I'm just telling you what happened.

Ellis: Well, you're bragging about what happened.

*(Beat)*

You just sound a bit full of yourself.

Charlie: Right. Sorry. It was just nice to think about something other than my entire future, 20-year plan, perfect future self what do I do after sixth form thing for a bit.

*Pause.*

Ellis: So... what are you going to do after sixth form?

*Charlie is mad and storms off to another table. Ellis is bemused and exits*

Kim: Everything okay?

Charlie: Fine.

Kim: *(Kim is losing patience)* Charlie, stop stressing so much about this decision

Charlie: That's easy for you to say.

Kim: What do you mean?

Charlie: Maybe I don't want to just drift around aimlessly until I figure out what I'm doing. I need to pick what I'm going to do and who I'm going to be right now and I don't need your useless advice about not worrying.

*He storms off. Kim goes after Charlie.*

Kim: What was that?

Charlie: Sorry. There's just too much to figure out at the minute. I just want someone to tell me what the right choice is.

Kim: Well what happens if you don't make the right choice?!

Charlie: I'll have nothing, I'll lose my job, and everyone will hate me?

Kim: What? No Charlie. You make a new choice.

Charlie: What?

Kim: When I was your age I thought by now I would be at uni, living by myself, have a car, a boyfriend.

Charlie: So?

Kim: I *thought* I'd know exactly who I am. Thought I'd have everything in place.

Charlie: No offence Kim, but you don't.

Kim: I know, I've got no idea what's going to happen!

Charlie: You're not really selling this.

Kim: But I'm happy.

*Kim starts to clear up the café.*

Charlie: Really?

Kim: Yeah. I'm not as anxious. I've got good mates. I'm doing stuff I enjoy. And I like the clothes I wear.

Charlie: But what about your 20-year plan?

Kim: *(Laughing)* You don't need a 20 year plan. No one needs a 20 year plan. I'm still working out who I am! We all are.

You can't worry so much about who you're going to be when you're 35 that you forget who you are now.

*The penny starts to drop for Charlie, he's a bit embarrassed/annoyed at himself*

Kim: You're 17 Charlie! You'll figure it out. We all will.

*Kim exits and signals for Charlie to follow her.*

## **SECTION 5 (RESOLUTION)**

### **SCENE 19: Dannie - Ice Cream Resolution**

**SFX: Beach atmosphere.** Dannie and Grandad Pete are sitting at the beach and finishing their chips

Grandad P: So I said to them - you cheeky thing - do you think I look old enough to be a Grandad?!

Dannie: But Grandad... you are a Grandad.

Grandad P: Aye, but they don't need to know that! *(he laughs)*

*Dannie doesn't laugh*

Grandad P: *(encouraging Dannie, they stand to start walking over the rocks)* Ready for ice cream now?

Dannie: Yeah, I'm not bothered

Grandad P: Are you okay?

Dannie: Yeah

Grandad P: Are you sure? I'm here to listen. If you want to talk. Up to you.

*Beat*

Dannie: Just feeling a bit like I can't really...be who I want.

Grandad P: Are people giving you a hard time about being queer?

Dannie: No. The exact opposite in fact. I feel like that's all people can see now. And they're really supportive of it, and that is a big part of who I am, but it's not everything, I'm...I...

Grandad P: Go on.

Dannie: Apparently all I am is a walking pride flag

Grandad P: Who says that?

Dannie: No one says it. I can just tell that's what my friends think of me now.

Grandad P: Have you tried talking to them about it? Explaining how you feel?

Dannie: *(reluctantly)* No...

Grandad P: Well. I know you don't need my advice. But if you want it. That might be a good place to start.

*Dannie takes this in.*

*He waits a moment. And casually says the following as they sit together. Thoughts come to him spontaneously.*

Grandad: You're kind. You're caring.

You don't mind watching films with the subtitles on.

You like chocolate and strawberry ice cream, mixed together, even though that's disgusting.

You wear cool socks.

You stand up for what you believe in.

I know exactly who you are.

And so do you!

*Dannie smiles*

Grandad: Ready for ice cream now?

Dannie: Sure, Grandad.

*They exit together, excited for ice cream.*

## **SCENE 20: Sam - Fitting In Resolution**

***Busy, upbeat music plays.***

Sam: I'm getting better at the borrowing thing. I think. But the problem is when you borrow lots of things from lots of different people it gets a bit...hard to keep up with. Not all of them seem to fit. And even the things about myself that I thought I did really know about myself - well they're sort of starting to get pushed out now to make room for all the other stuff.

*Everyone is in their spot/small area doing their solo activity. Sam goes to them one by one and copies them exactly. Interjected with text:*

*Courtney runs from one side of stage to other with rugby ball in hand*

Sam: So, you throw the ball sideways?

Courtney: Aye (*stops and sits*)

*Charlie is playing piano*

Sam: This is nothing like saxophone

Charlie: Well no, it's piano so...

*Kim is stirring her mixing bowl*

Sam: So what exactly is tofu scramble?

Kim: It's like eggs, but vegan!

*Chloe is drawing her brows on*

Sam: (*drawing brows on*) Mine look wonky

Chloe: Yeah, they are!

*Styx is sitting listening to The Cure*

Sam: So...is this all we do?

Styx: Yep.

*MOVEMENT: Sam moves around the stage copying:*

- *Jickey doing a cool walk*
- *Harry sitting completely still gazing into the distance*
- *Ellis flying his paper aeroplane*
- *Tommi and Chris meditating*
- *Dannie reading a book about philosophy*

*Sam becomes completely overwhelmed.*

Sam: Okay.

Get a fake.

Voice: Even though you still don't even really know what that is

Sam: Learn how to cook amazing vegan recipes.

Voice: Even though you've only just learned beans on toast.

Sam: Sign up for a 10K.

Voice: But you haven't done any training.

Sam: Train for a 10K.

Get tickets for the hoppings.

Voice: But the rides give you motion sickness.

Sam: Shave my head.

Voice: Really?

Sam: (To herself) JUST SHUT UP!

*Music cuts out and everybody leaves suddenly. Sam gets an alert on her phone. She sees it is a voice note, and plays it.*

Chris: Hey Sam! It's Chris -

Jess: And Jess!

Chris: We just wanted to say that we miss you. And not the person you think you need to pretend to be. You. The person we've been friends with since Primary School. You, just as you are.

Jess: And any changes!

Chris: Any changes YOU decide to make.

*Sam thinks for a moment and sits down.*

## **SCENE 21: I Am...**

**Song plays: I Wish I'd Known.** The only lyrics are 'I Wish I'd Known' played subtly throughout.

*Charlie enters, with Dannie, Styx and Kim.*

Charlie: I've been meeting a lot of new people again recently.

Dannie: Which is weird

Styx: because for a while that thing that we don't really want to talk about happened and you didn't really meet people.

Sam: Or if you did you just met a little 2D version of them and you could just be a little 2D version of yourself.

Kim: And your name was already there, up on the screen so you didn't even have



to tell them “Hi, I’m...”.

Sam: I’ve been trying to figure out the end to the sentence “I am.” Every time I meet someone new.

Styx: Figuring out how to tell someone who I am.

Charlie: Because the truth is, more often than not, the end of the sentence is “Unsure”.

*Chris and Courtney enter.*

Chris: I’m unsure.

Courtney: I’m unsure and I’m unfinished –

*Jess enters.*

Jess: - and I’m unable to be condensed into a sentence.

*Ellis enters.*

Ellis: But I feel better that I could tell you that. That I could tell you how I feel and you can just...listen.

*Jickey enters.*

Jickey: You’re listening and you’re allowed to not know the answers and you’re allowed to have time to think and you’re allowed to not solve my problems.

*Harry and Tommi enter together*

Harry: Because I am figuring it out.

Tommi: And maybe, one day I’ll have done that.

*Harry and Tommi look to Dannie, they go over to them and sit with them, Harry offers Dannie a crisp*

*Pat enters and sits on the edge of the band.*

Pat:            Figured out where I fit in.

Sam:            And I'll know exactly who *I* am. Not as a reflection or imitation of who other people are, but as a whole complete version of myself.

Charlie:        I will be who I am becoming. However long that takes. Whether it's 5 years, 10 years or 20.

Dannie:        I'll know exactly where my place is and be unafraid to move and change when I don't feel like that's the right place for me anymore.

Styx:            Whether I'm fitting in or standing out. I'll be who I'm meant to be.

Charlie:        Maybe one day I'll be all figured out. Sorted. But maybe I won't.

Dannie:        For now, I am in a state of flux.

Sam:            For now, I'm...

*Black out.*

**The End.**