



## Flux

### Characters/Cast

Mark	Charlie
Connor	Ellis (Charlie and Styx's friend)
Connor	Grandad Pete (Dannie's Grandad)
Maisie	Sam
Maisie	Debbie the guidance counsellor
Grace	Chloe (Sam's popular friend)
Grace	Cassidy (Styx's friend)
Eloise	Dannie
Annalise	Noa (Styx Ensemble)
Alexx	Aydan (Dannie's friend)
Alexx	Phil the Assertive Parent of Kim
Amaaya	Chris (Sam's friend)
Amaaya	Voice in Sam's head
Amaaya	Jo, The overly enthusiastic Mum of Charlie, a businesswoman

Mark	Charlie
Connor	Ellis (Charlie and Styx's friend)
Connor	Grandad Pete (Dannie's Grandad)
Maisie	Sam
Maisie	Debbie the guidance counsellor
Grace	Chloe (Sam's popular friend)
Ash	Pat - the shy kid from Pride Club
Ash	Bee (friend of Styx)
Ilana	Kim (Charlie and Sam's cousin)
Ilana	Harley (Danni's friend in D&D & Pride Club)
Neve	Styx
Jack	Dave (friend of Styx) / Identity Emporium Man (alter ego of Dave)
Jack	Mr Scott - Dannie's 'cool', woke art teacher

## SECTION 1 (COFFEE SHOP)

### SCENE 1: Suffocated

#### *Song Plays, Suffocated.*

*Cast enter one by one and get into position onstage ready for chorus to start.*

#### **Chorus 1**

##### **Text Section 1:**

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 -

Ellis: (*About Aydan*) Tell us a joke.

Styx: (*About Pat*) On your way to fight an elf?

Dave: (*About Chris*) Off to see your mate Greta Thunberg?

Kim: Or what your interests are -

Styx: (*about Noa*) You like cooking, don't you?

Pat: (*about Chloe*) You love makeup, don't you?

Dannie: Sam, you're / into...

Dave: Er...you like /...erm...

Noa: Sam, what do you like?

Kim: - defines who you are.

Sam: Should we invite them?

Aydan: Nah, they won't want to come.

Kim: And who you aren't.

Sam: Why not?

Aydan: I just don't think it's their sort of thing.

## **Chorus 2**

### **Text 2:**

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

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

Styx: Do you know what you want to order yet Charlie?

Charlie: Erm.../not yet.

Ellis: Come on.

Charlie: What are the options again?

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

Chris: You're gay, right?

Charlie: You're a sweat, right?

Ellis: You're a loner, right?

Chloe: Dannie, I absolutely have to try out this new makeup tutorial on you. It's sooo pretty.

Dannie: I don't really -

Chloe: You're a girl, aren't you? You should love this.

## **Chorus 3**

### **Text 3:**

Kim: And they'll make those assumptions, sometimes based not on you -

Chris: *(to Dave)* You're a goth, right?

Dave: A goth? Me? Absolutely not. Why?

Kim: - but who you're friends with.

Chris: Oh. Just because you hang out with Stephanie.

Aydan: Yeah Stephanie's a proper goff.

Dannie: So if she is...

Charlie: You must be too.

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

Kim: Or who you aren't

Kim: Who you could be

Kim: Or who you should be

*Action (Backing Vocals come in)*

### **Instrumental**

Kim: 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.

Aydan: But what do I call you?

*Transition into busy Coffee Shop*

### **SCENE 2: Sam(1) - Birthday**

Chris: *(goes over to Kim)* We're ready!

*Kim brings over a cake with a candle in it.*

Chris & Kim: Happy birthday to you! 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.*

Happy Birthday! Let me know if I can get you anything else.

*Kim leaves the table. Sam picks up her phone and starts scrolling.*

Chris: Happy birthday! *(sits down)*

Sam: Thanks.

Chris: Wish my cousin worked at a coffee shop.

Sam: *(distracted)* Why?

Chris: Free cake!

Sam: Uh huh...

Chris: Is she still in that band?

Sam: Who?

Chris: Kim!

Sam: Oh. Yeah she is...

Chris: Are you okay?

Sam: Yeah, yeah I'm fine.

Chris: What are you looking at?

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

Chris: Oh is it?

*Beat.*

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 meal at Wagamama's.

Chris: Yeah but she's just showing off, isn't she? I thought you just wanted to do something a bit more casual 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(1) - Coming Out**

*Dannie is on their way to the cafe, walking fast and thinking about what she is going to say, nervous. Aydan is sitting at the cafe looking at something funny on their phone.*

Dannie: There's Aydan. Okay. Here we go. Just go and tell them you're queer. They're going to be fine with it. More than fine. They're your friend, they're your best friend. They're not going to think of you any differently because of it. It'll just make it easier for everyone. 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.

*Aydan looks at Dannie.*

Aydan: Hi Dannie. Been waiting to say that?

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

Aydan: Yeah, I'm not surprised. Being queer is such a trend now.

Dannie: What? No! I didn't - Do you think I'm copying you?

Aydan: No, I was joking! Sorry, bad joke. It's fine. Good! Obviously.

Dannie: Really? I didn't want to mention anything because I was worried maybe you'd think I was just...you know...doing it for the attention.

Aydan: You? Want attention?

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

Aydan: Yeah. Course it is.

Dannie: Oh. Okay. Cool.

*Pause.*

Aydan: Is that it?

Dannie: Yes. Well. Um. No. I use all pronouns.

Aydan: Okay. Cool.

*Kim comes back over.*

Dannie: Salted caramel cappuccino please.

Aydan: Classic.

*Kim goes back to the bar*

Aydan: Mr Scott was going on about setting up a Pride Club for an extra-curricular. I think he was hoping I'd organise it but...why don't you do that?

Dannie: Oh. Yeah. Cool.

*Straight into...*

### **SCENE 3.5: Steph/Styx Intro**

*Styx is sitting with Dave, Bee, Noa and Cassidy. They are all working on homework or something similar - something that allows them to be together but in their own spaces. She is currently in her typical "Stephanie" attire, not standing out. She already has her headphones in. Kim goes over and gives Dave a drink.*

Kim: Cappuccino.

*Styx turns her music on - Loud rock music plays. She doesn't immediately notice that her music is not playing through her headphones but those around her start to notice and smile a little, realising what is happening.*

*Suddenly the lyrics kick in. Everyone stares at her. Styx realises what has happened and turns the music off quickly.*

Dave: What. Was. That?

Styx: Oh, just -

Bee: You didn't mean to put that song on did you?

Dave: That wasn't a song that was a dying cat.

Cassidy: More like a wailing child.

*They start to have fun with it, describing the music in more ridiculous ways.*

Noa: An in pain old man.

Cassidy: Someone falling down a well.



*They look expectantly at Styx, wanting her to join in too.*

Styx: It's not that bad.

*Pause.*

Bee: Noise.

Cassidy: Static noise.

Dave: Just screaming.

Styx: Okay, it's off.

*Pause.*

*Cassidy takes Styx's phone and headphones.*

Cassidy: I'll put The Killers on.

Bee: Yeah! Mr Brightside.

Dave: I love alternative music.

*Cassidy listens to the music. She notices Styx's expression and hands her a headphone.*

Cassidy: That's more like it, isn't it?

Styx: Yeah...

#### **SCENE 4: Charlie(1):**

##### **(a) Where do you see yourself in the future?**

*Charlie and Ellis are at the coffee shop bar whilst Kim is making coffee. Ellis is looking at/playing with his new model plane/reading a magazine.*

Charlie: 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.

*(opportunity for a little audience interaction here - "I know, right??")*

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. Plane engineer apprenticeship, entry level job, senior role with British Airways - 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: You’re really good, we’d have such a good time.

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

Charlie: I tried to talk to my Mum about it but before I could finish what I was saying -

*Jo holds her hand up, interrupting Charlie.*

Jo: I’ve got the perfect thing!

Charlie: And then about twenty minutes later she found me again and handed me a stack of magazines.

Jo: Read this.

Charlie: The Harvard Business Review?

***LX change / music “CHARLIE’S MONOLOGUE”***

*Others leave the coffee shop.*

*Charlie starts to wander round reading the article, bemused by it, while Sam, Ellis, 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?

*Sam exits hastily. Other characters exit to put on ‘adults’ costume items and become their adult characters.*

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.

*Mr Scott, Phil the Assertive Parent, Jo, Debbie and Grandad Pete enter. Adults chorus come to life, over the top body language, 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 and Debbie greet him.*

It's like they knew all along who they were going to be.

*Adults respond all at once.*

Debbie: From the start.

Jo: Of course.

Phil: Absolutely.

Mr Scott: Jack of all trades. Master of none.

Grandad P: No.

Charlie: 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...

### **(b) Adults(1) - What's Your Future Plan?**

Jo: You're "not sure?"

Phil: Okay.

Debbie: Right.

Mr Scott: *(A knowing laugh)*

*Charlie looks at Grandad Pete*

Grandad P: Talk to me about it.

Charlie: Well I'm feeling a bit unsure and -

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

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

Debbie: Ah he'd fit right in at the council.

Jo: Do you want to go to university?

Debbie: He's got the grades for it.

Grandad P: Why don't you tell me what you think?

Charlie: Well I -

Jo: How about an apprenticeship?

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

Debbie: I've always said he'd do well at an apprenticeship. *(Importantly)* Work. Ethic.

Grandad P: Go on, Charlie.

Charlie: I think I'm struggling to actually know what I want to -

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 a university open day and signed you up to a few taster sessions as well. Alright? *(exits)*

Debbie: Alright? *(exits)*

Phil:            Alright? *(exits)*

Mr Scott:       Alright? *(exits)*

Charlie:        *(No further forward)* Alright.

*Charlie looks at Grandad Pete, too confused and overwhelmed to be able to express himself.*

Charlie:        Nevermind.

Grandpa P:     Are you sure?

Charlie:        Yeah, thanks. I'll just erm...I'll just think about it.

Grandad P:     Well, whenever you're ready. I'll be right here.

*Suffocated song reprise.*

**SFX: School bell.**

## **SECTION 2 (SCHOOL)**

### **SCENE 5: Sam(2) - Lunchtime**

*Chris is hanging out in the school yard, Sam rushes over with a flyer for Kim's band. She has her hair in a half high ponytail/distinctive style.*

Sam:            Do you want to come to my cousin's gig? They're like this kind of cool alt rock pop indie band. They're so cool.

Chris:          Yeah, definitely! Looks amazing. *(looking at date and realising)* Ah it's on Thursday? I can't sorry - I'm going to a silent protest on Thursday. I'm sure I told you. It's / in support of -

Sam:            But...they're really cool.

Chris:          Yeah I know! But I've got plans, sorry.

Sam:            Fine. Doesn't matter. I think Chloe might be going so maybe I'll hang out with her.

Chris:          *(sarcastically)* Have fun.

Sam:            What's that supposed to mean?

Chris: Just Chloe.

Sam: What about her? She's great. Everyone likes Chloe.

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

Sam: Well it does. Obviously. She's friends with everyone. I love her makeup.

Chris: You know she still uses MAC.

Sam: So?

Chris: So...? They still test on animals in China. Everyone knows that. We've talked about this.

Sam: Have we?

Chris: Yes! And she knows that but she still makes Tik Toks pretending to be vegan.

Sam: Dunno why you're so pressed about it.

*Chris looks at the flyer.*

Chris: *(Trying to make peace)* Oh look. Your hair is just like Kim's here.

Sam: *(A bit embarrassed)* Is it? 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: 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.

Chris: How?

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

Chris: You're in a band.

*At some point around here Sam starts getting more flyers out of her bag, drops them etc.*

Sam: I'm not in *a* band. I'm in band. There's a difference.

Chris: No there isn't.

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

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

Sam: Really? ... Well ...what if we started our own band? Like Kim?

Chris: We're already in a band.

Sam: We're not in a band. We're in school band. But we could start *a* band. We both play instruments.

Chris: Because we're in a band.

Sam: School band. So, we're starting one. Okay?

Chris: *(Laughing)* Okay.

Sam: Ahhh! Okay! Thanks! See you later!

*Sam rushes off to hand more flyers out to people*

*Chris leaves. Straight into...*

### **SCHOOL BELL SFX**

### **SCENE 6: Dannie(2) - The Representative**

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

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



Dannie: Oh. Yeah. Well Aydan mentioned it but -

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.

Mr Scott: I think it's really brilliant, the school definitely needs it, so many students are going to benefit from it.

Dannie: Yeah. Okay, well, 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, a little para[graph] - half a p - 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! See you at Pride Club!

*Dannie and Pat are left standing together awkwardly*

**SFX:** *School bell, Dannie and Pat rush off straight into....*

## SCENE 7: Charlie(2) - 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: Right. Well. Let's have a little look 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: Riiiiight. Well with these sorts of things it's always good to think about your long term goals. So. What do you want to be when you grow up?

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

Debbie: 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: Right. 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: Right 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. Right. That's our time up. When do you need to make your decision?

Charlie: End of the week.

Debbie: Right. Good luck.

*Straight into...*

## **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.

*Debbie exits.*

Kim: I've been asked back to my old school to do a talk for the Year 9s. They gave me the title: Where Do You See Yourself in 5 Years? 14, imagining who you're going to be when you're 19. If I asked my 14 year old self, "where will you be at 19?" she'd say, "well that's a long way away, I can't even imagine being 19. 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 14 I used to think if you ate apple pips a tree would grow out your ears. There are so many things I've learned and ways I've changed since then.

Back then I was really shy and it stopped me from doing what I wanted to do and being 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.

*Debbie re-enters.*

Debbie: Right, all ready?

**SCHOOL BELL - SFX**

**SCENE 9: Styx's story**

**(a) - Friends**

*Styx enters, she is wearing heavy eyeliner.  
Her friends, Dave, Cassidy, Bee and Noa are chatting.*

*When they notice Styx's changes, Dave is a bit passive aggressive throughout this scene. Cassidy doesn't really get it but is trying to be supportive/enthusiastic and Bee has no idea what's going on/no filter. Noa is awkwardly caught in the middle trying to keep out of trouble.*

Cassidy: Oh my god. The Killers are playing Leedsfest this year. We should totally go.

Noa: Yeah! I bet Steph would love that.

Cassidy: Oh there she is. Steph! Over here.

Dave: You got any more mad songs for us to listen to today?

Styx: Haha...no.

*Cassidy does an impression of the song.*

Dave: That is spot on, to be fair.

Styx: No, I've taken that song off my playlist.

Cassidy: Oh. You didn't have to do that.

*Dave has been looking closely at Styx.*

Styx: What?

Dave: Have you changed something?

Styx: Oh, yeah. I've been watching some eyeliner tutorials and decided to copy one.

Dave: That's it! I thought you looked...different.

Cassidy: Good different.

Dave: It's...sharp.

Bee: Bit too sharp.

Cassidy: Don't say that.

Dave: It's a bit much is all we're saying. Like full on. What made you do your makeup like that?

Styx: I mean... this is the kind of style I like.

Dave: Is it?

Noa: I like the shoes.

Cassidy: You've never mentioned it, Steph.

Styx: Actually. Um. I wondered as well. Do you think you could try out calling me Styx?

Dave: Sticks? Like. The bits of wood?

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

*The others don't get it.*

Cassidy: Styx.

Bee: That's weird.

Noa: Unusual.

Cassidy: Interesting.

Styx: *(encouraged by Cassidy's apparent enthusiasm)* It's one of the rivers of the underworld in Greek mythology.

Dave: Uh huh.

Styx: *(A bit less enthusiastic)* And also a 70s rock band...

Cassidy: Nice!

Dave: Cool cool. So... *Styx*. Are you planning on looking like "that" on Friday?

Bee: That?! Looking like that?

**SFX : school bell**

*Into...*

**(b) - Teacher**

*Debbie enters, the others go into the classroom and sit down.*

Debbie: Stephanie Stevens. WHAT have you got on your face?

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

Debbie: Minimal?? That's a right angle.

Styx: It's just a bit of eyeliner.

Debbie: And what have you done to your hair???

Styx: I was just experimenting.

Debbie: Well I don't think you should be bringing the results of these experiments into school.

Styx: This is just my style miss.

Debbie: Well I'm afraid your style doesn't fit in with our expectations, Stephanie.

Styx: Actually - I go by Styx now.

Debbie: Is that right? Well for now you need to get to class. But I expect you to take that off as soon as we're finished, is that clear?

Styx: Yes miss.

*Into...*

**(c) - Montage**

*Styx sits in their class. The stage fills with other students. Debbie takes the register.*

Debbie: Bee

Bee: Here.

Debbie: Cassidy.

Cassidy: Here.

Debbie: Stephanie.

Styx: I told you, miss, it's Styx.

John: Styx?

Styx: What?

John: Styx isn't a name.

Debbie: Yes, thank you. This is a classroom not have a good old natter...club.

Bee: Good one, miss.

Debbie: Jonathon.

John: *(mockingly)* It's *John*, miss.

Debbie: Sorry. John.

John: Here.

Styx: Eh?

John: What?

Styx: How come you can go by John and I can't go by Styx?

John: Because John is an actual name. It's normal. Stick is a bit of wood.

Styx: It's Styx. Not Stick.

Cassidy: Just leave her alone.

John: I didn't know you were a goff as well, Cassidy.

Cassidy: I'm not.

John: You're hanging out with a goff.

Dave: Thanks a lot.

Styx: What?

Dave: You're making us all look bad.

Styx: It's just a bit of eyeliner!



Debbie:       What is all this noise?! I want everyone to sit in silence and get on with their work. I think some of you need to have a good hard think about your behaviour.

*The students sit in silence. Styx puts their headphones in as an act of defiance towards Debbie and begins to daydream and the world changes. Other students become part of Styx's daydream and as the sequence continues.*

## **SONG INTRO**

*The classroom changes into Off the Wall style as Styx starts to let loose. Styx starts to put on their makeup at the mirror whilst John and Debbie appear.*

John:         Are you really going to let her call herself Styx miss?

Debbie:       I've already told you, I'll deal with it.

John:         It's not even a real name, miss.

Debbie:       Yes, thank you Johnathan.

*Debbie is on the phone to Styx's parents. Dad crosses on the phone past Debbie.*

Debbie:       I'm sure you can appreciate that we take our uniform policy very seriously. I can't help but feel like Stephanie is trying to... push the boundaries a little bit.

## **SONG CHORUS**

*Styx passes through the ensemble as if at a party trying to find her friends, everyone else is too engrossed in their conversation to notice her. She gets bored and changes them to all rock out to the music.*

*Styx's Dad appears with an old KISS t-shirt.*

Dad:         Stephanie, can you come here a minute?

*Styx enters.*

Dad:         I found one of my old band t-shirts.

Styx:         Ah cool, but remember Dad it's Styx.

Dad:         *(Looking at the shirt)* No, that's KISS.

Styx:         No, not the shirt. I'm Styx.

Dad: Ah right, yes. I'm just so used to calling you Stephanie. *(Pause)* Here you go.

*He hands Styx the band T shirt, she puts it on.*

## SONG CHORUS

*Styx is in school and passes by everyone as they make comments and look at them. As Bee and Dave talk Styx unplaits her hair, lets it down then throws it back (replicated in ensemble).*

Dave: Bee, have you seen what she's wearing today? You don't actually like her style do you?

Bee: I don't know, I don't mind it

Dave: You know people are talking about her right, about *us!*

Bee: Really? I guess it is a bit much.

*Transition into John and Styx. Ensemble spread around the stage, John and Styx DSR.*

John: Nice shirt Stick.

Styx: It's Styx.

John: Call yourself a goff?! Do you even listen to any bands other than Kiss?

Styx: Yeah I do. Guns N Roses, Cinderella, Def Leppard.

*The group react (amazed that Styx just showed John up)*

## SONG CHORUS

*Styx looks through different jackets and picks one out that she likes. She puts it on and they have finished their look. Cassidy passes.*

Cassidy: Ah nice jacket Styx!

Styx: Thanks.

*Styx continues to walk through the corridors at school and we hear all the different opinions. This ends with Styx meeting the Identity Emporium Man in a sudden stop.*

FOLLOWING LINES ARE PRE-RECORDED VOICEOVER:

Ilana: Did you see Stephanie today?  
Alexx: You named yourself after a bit of wood  
Maisie: I'm actually a bit scared!  
Annalise: What even is that jacket?  
Amaaya: Weirdo  
Ash: \*dog bark\*  
Grace: Nice jacket Styx  
Eloise: It's certainly interesting...

*The Identity Emporium Man looks Styx up and down and sniggers. (Hear Dave's voiceover throughout this section).*

V/O: Oh  
You look...different.  
I like the...shoes.  
It's...sharp...

*Identity Emporium Man (Dave alter ego) is revealed. Suddenly into Identity Emporium (Styx doesn't know what's going on - swept up in the chaos).*

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

IEM: 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.

*(to the audience)* Make some noise!!

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.

*He gets the audience to join in with the following "Gone's" as we go.*

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? **Gone!**

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. *(to the audience)* And that's what you all want. Right?

*(to Styx as Dave)* So...are you planning on looking like "that" on Friday?

*Identity Emporium Man exits.*

Cassidy: He's not wrong. Fitting in is a lot easier than standing out.

Bee: And it's easy.

Styx: I know, I've done it enough.

You just make yourself a little bit less, a little bit at a time.

Bee: Bit by bit.

Noa: A little bit less interesting.

Bee: A little bit less opinionated.

Cassidy: A little bit less... you.

*The classroom scene filters back in around her.*

Debbie: Right, well done everybody. Now get to your next lesson.

**Transition - end of school day**

**Music: TRANSITION S9 > S10**

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

### **SCENE 10: Dannie(3)**

### **(a) Pride Club**

*Dannie, Aydan, Harley, Noa 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*

Aydan: You're leaving pride club?

Dannie: Er...yeah.

Harley: 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?

Noa: It's Pat! *(goes to console them)*

Aydan: I thought you liked being in pride club.

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

Mr Scott: Good news, Dannie!

*Dannie goes over to Mr Scott.*

Mr Scott: 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 Into...*

### **(b) Adults (2) - Expressing Identity**

*Jo, Phil, Grandad Pete and Debbie suddenly appear at Pride Club with Mr Scott in 'off the wall' world.*

Jo: You feel like what?

Phil: So you're a boy now?

Dannie: Well I -

Debbie: Hang on. I think I've got a poster about this somewhere.

Mr Scott: Yeah. Cool. Got it.

Grandad P: Go on Dannie, what did you want to say?

Dannie: Okay, I wanted to say...

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 LGBTQQIAAP community do you identify with?

Dannie: Er...

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

Grandad P: I don't think that's what Dannie's trying to tell us.

Debbie: I am listening to you. I'm just looking for that poster.

Jo: Are you gay?

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

Jo: Bisexual? Are you Trans?

Grandad P: Just let Dannie tell us!

Dannie: I want to use the term "queer".

Grandad P: Okay.

Jo: Queer? What colour flag is that? 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.

Dannie: What?

Grandad P: Hang on.

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

Debbie: We can talk about it. Absolutely. I just want to make sure I'm using all the correct language. It's all on the poster...hang on.

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: Just breathe.

Jo: Alright? *(then exits)*

Phil: Alright? *(then exits)*

Mr Scott: Alright? *(then exits)*

Grandad P: It's alright.

Dannie: Thanks Grandad.

*Dannie and Grandad exit*

Debbie: Found it! Oh. Wait. That's about cyberbullying. Are you being cyberbullied by any chance?

*Debbie scoops up the rest of the posters and chases off after Dannie.*

### **SCENE 10.5: Dannie(5) - Making a Joke**

***Dannie comes back on and messages Ayden. Projection of Dannie messaging Aydan. Aydan comes on and sees Dannie but Dannie doesn't see them then Aydan runs off to avoid them. Dannie exits.***

*SNAPCHAT MESSAGES:*

*Dannie: Hey. Can I talk to you about earlier?*

*Dannie: I thought we were going to talk after Pride Club.*

*Dannie: I didn't mean to upset you.*

*Dannie: I thought you were here to support me (typed then deleted)*

*Dannie: I just don't want to be seen as... (typed then deleted)*

*Dannie: I just feel like you're going about this all the wrong way (typed then deleted)*

*Dannie: I just want to do other things.*

*Aydan: (seen)*

*Dannie: Hey, did you get my message?*

*Dannie: Hey, I can see you've read my messages. Where are you?*

*Dannie: Aydan?*

***At some point Harley enters.***



*The music room, Harley is sitting, messing around on the keyboard. Aydan enters like they're rushing to hide/avoid Dannie.*

Aydan: Hey Harley.

Harley: Yo

Aydan: I think I've got a problem.

Harley: *Come on!*

Aydan: I'm trying to tell you. I was meant to speak to Dannie after Pride Club. They said they wanted to talk to me about something.

Harley: *Go*

Aydan: I can't go. Last time they said they wanted to talk to me about something they didn't really say anything.

Harley: *Okay.*

Aydan: And I didn't know what to do. It's like any time I have to have a serious conversation my brain just goes -

Harley: *Horn.*

Aydan: 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.

Harley: *Good.*

Aydan: I do.

Harley *Very good.*

Aydan: I just don't know the right thing to say.

Harley: *Dictionary.*

Aydan: Yeah, I guess that might help.

Harley: *Excellent.*

*Aydan receives a message. Projection.*

Dannie:        *Aydan, can we talk?*

Aydan:        That's Dannie. I'll think of something to cheer them up later. Thanks for this, Harley. You always know the right thing to say.

*Aydan exits. Harley sits for a minute. Before pressing a combination of keys that make it sound like they are involved in an action fight. They look at the audience chuffed and leave.*

### **SCENE 11: Sam(3) - Lies to be Accepted**

*Sam sitting movements*

*As the voice in Sam's head gets stronger, "Chris" takes on more of Sam's physicality at certain moments, reflecting her as she becomes the voice in her head.*

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 hear a little voice in your head saying...

Both:        I wish I had their laugh.

*Charlie and Styx walk on and laugh*

Sam:        Or

Both:        They've got such an easy way of talking to people.

*Chloe and Ellis walk on and make each other laugh*

Sam:        Or

Both:        They just pick up a new skill and are instantly good at it.

*Charlie walks on and is good at something*

Sam:        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...

### **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: ***ON MIC (with reverb?)*** I bet you wish you were with them and not on your own.

*Styx & Charlie pass Sam.*

Styx: Hi Sam

Sam: Hi Styx, how are you?

Styx: 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. It's probably a one-off. She's not going to get something everyone else has, is she? Walk away, now! Just say you've got to be somewhere

*During the above Styx realises she has received a compliment about the style she actually likes. She is about to respond when Sam interrupts her.*

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

## **The Park**

*Chloe and Ellis enter.*

Sam: I'm in the park, Chloe invited me. Her hair is such a lush colour.

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.

Ellis: Is she alright?

Chloe: Sam! Over here!

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

*They see she doesn't have earphones.*

Sam: In my head.

Chloe: Oh right. Cool.

Ellis: We were just talking about the Hoppings, are you coming?

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 rollercoaster. Or back. Whatever's cooler. That's me.

Voice: Text Mum and ask her to get you tickets. If you need tickets. Do you need Tickets?

*Chloe and Ellis leave.*

## **Gig**

*Kim and Charlie enter. Gig sound effects.*

Sam: I've come to a gig and my really cool cousin Kim and her mate Charlie are here

Voice: Think of something to say!

Sam: So excited to be here. Not that this is unusual for me. I'm always at gigs. Every night. Most nights. Whenever gigs are on. I'm there.

Voice: Stop talking

Charlie: That last song was amazing. That solo the keyboardist played isn't in the studio album. I loved the cross-rhythms. It's just so much better live, isn't it?

Sam: I know what you mean. I actually do a bit of music myself... In my spare time...

Voice: Pardon?

Charlie: You play saxophone, don't you?

Voice: You shouldn't have said anything. Now they know you play *saxophone*.

Kim: Oh cool, are you into jazz then?

Sam: Not really...

Voice: This is a disaster.

**SFX - SONG FINISHES / APPLAUSE**

*Sam awkwardly bops away. Voice leaves.*

**SCENE 12: Charlie and Kim continue at gig**

**SFX - GENERAL GIG / PEOPLE MILLING ABOUT**

Charlie: Thanks for inviting me out tonight. I really needed it. Back to it tomorrow though.

Kim: What?

Charlie: Real life.

Kim: This is real life.

Charlie: I'm not saying this isn't real life. I'm saying...you know... this is fun for now, but tomorrow back to...

Kim: Real life?

Charlie: Well. Yeah.

Kim: What counts as real life?

Charlie: Structure.

*The scene starts to change around Charlie as he talks about "real life". Jo brings keyboard on.*

Organisation.  
A clear plan.

Goals.  
Strong decision making.

*Kim tries persuading Charlie as “real life” starts to take over...*

Kim: Or we could just enjoy the gig!

**MUSIC: TRANSITION S12 > S13**  
**SCENE 13: Charlie(3) - Imagining Futures**

*Jo, Kim, Debbie and Ellis enter.*

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...

*Charlie plays keyboard.*

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.

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: Yeah.... Maybe not a doctor.

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...

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: Yeah.... Maybe not a journalist.

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

Debbie: Good hou-....

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?

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.

Debbie: You've lost your job.

Jo: Everyone hates you.

Charlie: Yeah.... Okay.

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

Charlie: Er.... I think I might just stay in, actually.

*Kim, Ellis and Debbie leave.*

MUSIC: PARENT MUSIC

## SECTION 4 (TIPPING POINTS)

### SCENE 14: Adults(3) - 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, hands out leaflets, tidies keyboard away etc. gives some leaflets to the audience.*

*Debbie, 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.*

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

Debbie: 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: We could try just listening to them?

Jo: Well we need to fix this.

Debbie: They'll figure it out.

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)*

Debbie: Making the tough choices. That's what they need to learn. It's character building.



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

Grandad P: How about instead of trying to fix all their problems for them we 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.

Debbie: *(Importantly)* Sink. Or. Swim.

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: I think all we can do is give them our support and let them come to their own decisions.

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

*Kim, Styx, Dannie, Bee, Noa, Cassidy start creeping on, sit down facing the back of the stage.*

Debbie: Alright.

Phil: Alright.

Mr Scott: Alright.

*Music starts.*

## **SCENE 15: Mess**

### ***SONG PLAYS: Instrumental 1 (longer)***

*Adults talk and start commenting about them being there:*

Jo: What are you all doing here?

Debbie: You aren’t invited to this meeting. We booked this room.

Mr Scott: Hey peeps!

Phil: No come on, off you go.

*Charlie enters, holding leaflet.*

Charlie: Can I just ask you about this leaflet?

Jo: Charlie, what are you still doing here? I already said, this doesn't concern you.

Charlie: Yes, but it's about me so I just thought -

Debbie: Right, I don't have time for this.

*Debbie exits (quick change for Maisie into Sam - re-enter as soon as you're ready)*

Mr Scott: Don't worry kids, we got this.

*Dannie picks up a leaflet.*

Dannie: What's this about?

Jo: Never you mind.

Styx: *(showing leaflet to Bee)* Have you seen this?

Bee: Hang on, don't we get a say in this?

Cassidy: *(to audience)* Have you seen what this says?

Kim: Come on, let's clear this space out.

*YP start clearing up the chairs, leaflets, etc. from the adults meeting and getting stuff out - e.g., microphone, lost property, flyers, other detritus found in a village hall etc. MOVEMENT: SR (Noa, Dannie, Styx, Bee) clear blocks DSR, SL (Kim, Cassidy, Charlie) clear blocks DSL.*

Jo: No! What are you all doing?

*MOVEMENT: Charlie sends Jo off, she exits. Charlie and Dannie move the platform and microphone in front of SL flat.*

Styx: Joining the meeting.

*Styx ushers off Mr Scott, he exits.*

Grandad: Brilliant!

Phil: This doesn't concern you -

Kim: Actually, it does.

*Phil leaves.*

Charlie: Now, if you could stand aside, that would be great.

*MOVEMENT: Adults try to argue back as YP move them and furniture out of the way. Adults leave except Grandad Pete*

*[Alexx and Amaaya quick change into young person costume - enter as soon as you're ready and join in with young people.]*

### **SONG: Chorus 1**

*MOVEMENT: Kim on platform SL, singing into mic. Rest of YP spread out in groups, dancing with each other:  
Chris and Aydan, Sam and Charlie, Cassidy and Dannie, Styx and Bee, Noa and Grandad Pete.*

### **Text 1**

*MOVEMENT: At end of chorus, YP cross to opposite sides of stage and gather on blocks (sitting or standing) leaving Sam and Charlie in the centre. Young people mock the adults' committee meeting on the mic (Grandad Pete thinks it's great):  
MOVEMENT: Sam takes the microphone, mimicking Jo. Charlie finds different positions to be in the "audience" to deliver his lines from.*

### **(Drop vol in track)**

Sam: The problem with teenagers is they're so antisocial!

Charlie: Yeah they just don't want to talk.

Sam: Exactly! And when they do talk it's just about me-mes [mispronounced]

### *Crowd Reaction*

*MOVEMENT: Charlie moves Styx off of block DSL*

Charlie: Yes. And they're always so stroppy.

Sam: You ask what's wrong and they say 'I don't want to talk about it!'

Charlie: But then I can't fix it.

*Crowd reaction.*

Sam: The problem with teenagers is...

**SONG: Chorus 2**

*MOVEMENT: Kim grabs the microphone and brings it DSC.*

*YP dance in new pairs/groups: Sam and Grandad, Dannie and Charlie, Cassidy and Styx, Chris and Bee, Noa and Aydan.*

**Text 2**

*MOVEMENT: Charlie stands on block DSL, cast move in slow motion.*

**(Drop volume in track)**

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.

**Text 3**

*MOVEMENT: Sam stands on block DSR. Charlie comes down from block and joins in with slow motion with rest of cast. Cast find new people to dance with.*

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**

*MOVEMENT: YP back to normal speed, dance.*

*Middle "mess" everyone picks up their block ready to move it around.*

**SONG: Instrumental**

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

*MOVEMENT: Cast freeze.*

**Text 4**

*MOVEMENT: Dannie, Styx and Charlie come together around CS blocks.*

Dannie: 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: SINGING: "I am my own mess"*

*MOVEMENT: YP move on sung line then freeze again, gradually coming towards DSC.*

*Styx stands on block CS and Charlie comes DSL for their lines*

Styx: Because if I see you reacting I might interpret it as you judging me or telling me what to do and I really don't want you to tell me what to do.

Charlie: Unless, you know, I obviously need your help and for you to tell me what to do. And if you think that sounds confusing. You should try living it.

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

*MOVEMENT: YP adopt positions of adults pretending to be teenagers. All leave except Sam and Chris, straight into...*

**SCENE 16: Sam(4) - Falling Out**

**SFX: Beach ambience**

*Sam is looking at their phone.*

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

*Chris looks at Sam's 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 Jay's doing an extra A-level now. Do you think he'll get into Edinburgh?

Chris: I don't know. Why does it matter to you?

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

Chris: 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* want to do.  
Without trying to be someone else.

*Sam ignores her.*

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

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

Sam: They don't look like hers.

*Chris looks at the photo of the 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.

Chris: What?

Sam: And start a YouTube channel.

Chris: 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. And I'm going to go on a march with Extinction Rebellion.

Chris: Are you for real??

Sam: It'll look good on my TikTok. It'll really fit in with my aesthetic.

Chris: Climate change isn't just the trend at the moment you know.

Sam: How would you know?

Chris: Because that's what I'm actually interested in.

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

Chris: What are you looking at?

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

Chris: For our gig?

Sam: No, I'm going to the Hoppings Fair with Chloe

Chris: But 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.

*Beat. Chris is annoyed.*

What's wrong with you?

Chris: It's just -

Sam: Chloe ~~finally~~ invited me out!

Chris: Oh well if Chloe invited you out! 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.*

Sam: Are you just jealous?

*Beat. Chris storms out.*

## SCENE 17: Dannie(4) - Dungeons and Dragons

Aydan: 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!

Harley: And I brought snacks!

Aydan: Bagsy the popcorn. What do you want, Pat?

Pat: Crisps.

Harley: Noa?

Noa: Creme egg.

Harley: Okay. Dannie, what do you want?

*Danni isn't paying attention.*

Aydan: Dannie come on!

Dannie: What?

Aydan: 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.

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

*Beat.*

Yeah cherryade is the best.  
Give him the cherryade.

Harley: There you go.

*Beat.*

Are you alright?

Danni: Yeah.

Pat: Shall we make our characters?

Aydan: Who do you want to be Dannie?



*Harley starts to give out costumes*

Danni: I'm not bothered.

Pat: You can be a paladin

Aydan: A gay paladin

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

Aydan: What's wrong with being a gay paladin?

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

***MUSIC STARTS***

Aydan: Who brought the rainbow dice?

Noa: We did.

*Pat reveals the rainbow dice.*

Dannie: I'll use this dice.

Harley: Right, are you ready?

*Goes into 'off the wall' world. Aydan is completely in the zone throughout.*

***SFX: D&D GAME MUSIC kicks in***

Aydan: *(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?

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

Dannie: Really?

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

Aydan: In the distance you see enemies approaching. Who could it be? Orks?

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.

Harley: The pride flags.

Dannie: Yes, thank you.

Aydan: 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.

*Pat has been watching quietly during this time but suddenly becomes a warrior and begins miming a great battle. It goes on for some time.*

Dannie: What?

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

*Dannie storms off, everyone looks at each other and Pat eats their crisps*

Pat: I liked the gay paladin.

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

### **MUSIC: TRANSITION - S17 > S18**

*At the coffee shop, Ellis and Charlie arrive to pick Kim up, Ellis is on his phone. Ellis is being light hearted and encouraging, gently taking the mick a little bit. Charlie gets agitated because he's stressed.*

*Ellis just wants to have banter with his mates, then go to Nandos.*

*Charlie wants to have a deep conversation and get lots of praise and reassurance about what he can do (music).*

Charlie (Shouts) Hello!

Kim (from backstage/recorded) We're closed!

Charlie It's Charlie!

Kim Oh - I'll be 2 minutes!

*Charlie and Ellis wait for Kim.*

Charlie: Played my piano yesterday

*Beat*

Ellis: Right?

Charlie: I hadn't played in ages

*Beat*

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

Ellis: Yeah, what's the point.

*Beat*

Charlie: But then yesterday I was just like, you know what, I'm going to play, just for fun and I played The Pixies - Where Is My Mind all the way through. No mistakes. I proper smashed it, it was great.

Ellis: Alright.

Charlie: *(defensively)* What?

Ellis: Show off.

Charlie: I'm just telling you what happened.

Ellis: I was only joking.

Charlie: *(frustrated)* 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.

Ellis: What are you going to do after sixth form?

Charlie: I don't know, that's the problem!

*Kim enters carrying a box. Charlie goes to leave and they bump into each other.*

Kim: Everything okay?

Charlie: No

Kim: What's wrong?

Charlie: There's just too much to figure out at the minute.

*(Kim takes off apron, gets ready to lose cafe etc. during the following text)*

Kim: Is this about the future thing again? You just need to chill out...

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 "chilling out".

*Beat.*

Charlie: Sorry. I just want someone to tell me what the right choice is.

Ellis: But I've told you -

Kim: And I've told you -

Charlie: But that's not what I want!

Ellis: Well, what do you want then?

Kim: *(keen to leave)* Just see what happens...

Ellis: What do you hope to have achieved in 5 years time?

Charlie: *(sits)* This isn't helping.

*Beat.*

Kim: You know, I thought *I'd* have everything in place by now.

Ellis: 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 fine.

Charlie: Really?

Kim: Yeah. I'm way more confident now than I was 5 years ago. I just know everything's going to fall into place, there's no need to worry about it.

Charlie: But what about your 20-year plan?

Kim: You don't need a 20 year plan.

Ellis: What?

Kim: *(to Ellis)* You can't spend so much time thinking about being 37 that you don't enjoy just being 17.

*Beat.*

Kim: Right, come on. I've got to lock up now.

*Kim starts gathering her bag and coat.*

Charlie: I know you say that you just don't worry about it, but surely there's got to be more to it than that. You can't really be happy not knowing -

Kim: Charlie, stop. Just because you want to know what your future holds, doesn't mean I do. I've told you what I think, and so has Ellis. You've got to decide something for yourself, even if that's deciding not to make any decisions at all. Although I would recommend making a decision right now.

*Kim puts **alarm** on and exits with her bags, Ellis goes with her. Charlie thinks about this for a moment, then leaves (before the alarm goes off!).*

*Beat.*

## **SECTION 5 (RESOLUTION)**

### **SCENE 19: Styx Resolution**

*Charlie passes by Dave and co. on their way to wherever they're going.*

*Dave, Cassidy, Bee and Noa are all waiting to meet up with Styx.*

Bee: Where is she?

Dave: Is she even coming?

Noa: She said she was.

Cassidy: I'm sure she'll be here soon.

*Styx enters.*

Dave: Oh.

Styx: What?

Dave: I thought we agreed you weren't going to...look like that.

Styx: No, you said that. I didn't agree to it.

Dave: It just doesn't fit with our...you know...our whole group aesthetic. Right Cassidy?

Cassidy: Err...

Dave: And people are starting to say...

Styx: I don't care what other people are starting to say. I'll dress how I want and if you don't like it, that's fine because you don't have to dress like me, and I don't have to dress like you. How I look is nothing to do with you or anyone else. Can we just go to this party now?

*Beat.*

Bee: Wow.

Dave: Okay. *Okay.* Come on, we're going to be late.

*He exits.*

Cassidy: I think it looks good.

*They exit together.*

## **SCENE 19.5: Dannie (6) Ice Cream Resolution**

### **SFX - BEACH ATMOS**

*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 walk. 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 and they walk off*

## **SCENE 20: Sam(5) - Fitting In Resolution**

***"Fitting in" music and projection showing it's a Friday night at the Hoppings.***

*Cast enter and get into their 'Friday night' settings (The Hoppings, A House Party, Eating Ice Cream at the Beach, writing a song together)*

*Enter: Sam and Chloe (CS). Sam and Chloe link hands and spin around.*

*Enter: Songwriting, then House Party with Voice, then Beach.*

### ***At The Hoppings***

Chloe: Come on, let's go on the rollercoaster next.

Sam: Hang on, I need a minute. The waltzer's made me feel a bit sick.

Chloe: I'll just see you later on then.

*Chloe leaves - exit USL (outer exit)*

Sam: I'm getting better at borrowing things. 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.

### ***Writing music - Round platform CSL***

*Charlie is playing piano and writing a song with Kim*

Sam: This is nothing like saxophone

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

Voice: Obviously.



Kim: So, the chorus then leads into the bridge, you see.

Voice: Say something cool about music.

Sam: That's clever how you made those lyrics rhyme.

Voice: Not that.

### ***House Party - DSR***

*Aydan is challenging people to arm wrestling.*

Aydan: Bet you a can of red bull you can't beat me in an arm wrestle.

Sam: I could

Voice: Right

Sam: But...I wouldn't want to show you up.

Voice: Leave.

*Noa is making nachos for the party.*

Sam: What are you making?

Noa: Nachos.

Sam: Ah!

Noa: But vegan.

Sam: Ahh...

Voice: Blurgh.

*Styx and Bee are dancing at the party. Sam goes over and joins in.*

Sam: What band is this?

Styx: Asking Alexandria.

Sam: Rock on.

*Sam does a goth sign to Styx who sarcastically does it back.*

Voice: Oh no.

***At the beach - US blocks***

*Dannie and Grandad Pete are eating ice cream at the Beach*

Sam: Cool socks!

Dannie: Thanks, they're Dumbo.

Sam: Oh cool, I love Dumbo.

Voice: You're a dumbo.

***Walking down the street.***

*Mr Scott enters and walks to the pub across the stage, does a "cool" click and wave to Sam.*

Mr Scott: Hey.

Voice: Even Mr Scott is cooler than you.

*MOVEMENT: Sam does an amalgamation of movements representing copying everyone's activities/characteristics*

*Sam becomes completely overwhelmed.*

Sam: Okay.

Learn to play piano.

Voice: Which is *completely* different to saxophone.

Sam: Start cooking 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.

Join Extinction Rebellion.

Voice: You don't even know who they are.

Sam: Shave my head.

Voice: Really?

Sam: *(To herself)* JUST SHUT UP!

*Voice transitions into Chris: Amaaya steps down from the block and sits facing away from Sam. **Sam crosses DSR.***

*Sam gets an alert on her phone. She plays it. Simultaneously we hear Chris leaving the voice note.*

Chris: *(live)* Hey Sam!

I just wanted to say that basically, I just feel a bit lost and like... I miss you. I just think you need to be more... yourself. I get that it can be a bit hard sometimes. I'm just saying, you're the best when you're yourself. I think you should try things that you actually want to do instead of trying to impress other people. Anyway, that's what I was just thinking. See you soon.

*Sam thinks for a moment and sits down. Into...*

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

SONG: I WISH I'D KNOWN

*The cast begin to enter. They sit in their final positions as the lyrics come in and are projected on the screen.*

**Verse**

**Chorus**

*After the chorus they look to each other for a moment. And then to the audience.*

Sam: *(To the audience)* I've been trying to figure out the end to the sentence "I am."

Dannie: *(To the audience)* Figuring out how to tell someone who I am.

Dave: Figuring out that people don't have to be the exact same way I am.

Cassidy: That sometimes it's enough to just accept someone. At the end of the day, if you're happy -

Noa: I'm happy.

Sam: *(To the audience)* Most of the time the end of the sentence is "Unsure". I'm unsure and I'm unfinished and I'm unable to be condensed into a sentence.

### **Bridge**

Dannie: *(To audience)* One thing doesn't form my whole identity. No matter how important that one thing might be.

Aydan: And if I'm a complex person with a whole range of interests...you probably are too.

Pat: We've all got a lot going on.

Charlie: *(To the audience)* But don't stress. We're all figuring it out.

Kim: *(To the audience)* Figuring out that I will not be one person for the rest of my life.

Chris: Figuring out exactly who you are. Not as a reflection or imitation of other people, but as a whole complete version of yourself.

Ellis: Which is a lot. So I guess it's okay to take it one step at a time.

Sam: *(To the audience)* 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.

### **Chorus**

Styx: *(to the audience)* And for now I'll just be me. Who I am, as I am, right now.

Charlie: *(to the audience)* Maybe one day I'll have everything figured out. Sorted. But maybe I won't.

Kim: *(to the audience)* Let's just see how it goes.

Dannie: *(To the audience)* For now, I'm in a state of flux.

Sam: *(to the audience)* For now. I'm...

*END*

## **SONG LYRICS**

### **Suffocated**

Suffocated, I can't breathe  
Feel frustrated, no release  
Pushing forward feels backwards  
Must be stronger mustn't falter, must be good for something  
I'm suffocated, I'm suffocated  
Each time you say it,  
This time I mean it - you'll never box me in

### **Mess**

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 on

### **Styx**

I can feel your eyes boring into me  
Judgement like a knife twisting in twisting in  
And I don't know what say to you  
Every time I walk into the room  
You are just a shadow stalking me  
Tryna make me doubt what it is I am!

### **Closing Song**

Star shaped, square box, never gonna fit  
Tryna figure out who am I changing me for?  
Fluid form, solid vessel, both are changing state  
Fluid form, solid vessel, both are changing state

Am I more than I was?  
Am I less than I'll be?  
I sometimes think I don't have a shell to come out of

Know what to hold tight, what to let go  
Know when to be solid and when to flow  
Find solace in the noise give yourself space  
Find solace in the noise give yourself space