

methuen | drama

'Don't think you've stopped me leaving  
because you haven't'

The end of summer. Two friends  
about to go their separate ways.  
But they will always share one  
moment. A moment that changed  
them forever. *Morning* is a dark  
coming-of-age play by acclaimed  
playwright Simon Stephens, devised  
through a workshop involving actors  
from the Young Company at the  
Lyric Hammersmith and the Junges  
Theater Basel.

*Morning* premiered at the Traverse  
Theatre, Edinburgh, in a production  
by the Lyric Hammersmith on  
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Lyric

# MORNING

By Simon Stephens



Simon Stephens

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# Lyric

The Lyric Hammersmith is one of the UK's leading producing theatres.

For over a hundred years, we have welcomed some of the world's finest writers, directors, actors and theatre companies to our stages. From Harold Pinter to Simon Stephens; Sir John Gielgud to Robert Lepage; Complicité to Frantic Assembly. Our recent productions have included a revival of Edward Bond's *Saved*, Sarah Kane's *Blasted* (Olivier Award winner – Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre) and *Ghost Stories*, which transferred to the West End.

Alongside our work on stage we have also gained a national reputation for our work with and for young people including our extensive programme of theatre for children and families and our creative learning and participation projects for schools and young West Londoners.

Over the next few years the Lyric is embarking on a major project to extend the theatre. The new facilities will create a unique learning environment at the heart of a professional theatre, which will inspire young people to become the artists, art managers and audiences of the future.

Beautiful theatre, cheap tickets and a rooftop garden.

Hammersmith and Proud.

Sean Holmes Artistic Director  
 Jessica Hepburn Executive Director  
[www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

The Lyric is committed to becoming more environmentally friendly by reducing our carbon emissions by 10% each year.

(Photos by Simon Kane, Helen Maybanks and Tristram Kenton)



*Blasted*



*Ghost Stories*



*Punk Rock*



*Aladdin*

## Cast

Stephanie **Scarlet Billham**  
 Anna **Korein Brown**  
 Mikey **Michael Czepiel**  
 Cat **Joana Nastari**  
 Jacob **Karl Queensborough**  
 Stephen **Ted Reilly**  
 Alex **Myles Westman**

## Creatives

Written by **Simon Stephens**  
 Directed by **Sean Holmes**  
 Designed by **Hyemi Shin**  
 Lighting by **Charles Balfour**  
 Music by **Michael Czepiel**  
 Sound by **Nick Manning**  
 Associate Director **Ashley Scott-Layton**

Company Stage Manager **Claire Bryan**  
 Deputy Stage Manager **Cleo Maynard**  
 Senior Producer **Imogen Kinchin**  
 Producer **Bailey Lock**  
 Production Manager **Seamus Benson**  
 Set Construction **Lyric Workshop**  
 Costume **Lyric Wardrobe**  
 Press **Simon Thompson**  
 (Tel. 020 8741 6870)

## Characters

**Stephanie**, *seventeen*

**Cat**, *seventeen*

**Stephen**, *seventeen*

**Alex**, *fifteen*

**Anna**, *seventeen*

**Jacob**, *seventeen*

Characters' given names can be changed to the given name of the actor playing each role.

The play was written after a workshop involving actors from the Young Company at the Lyric Hammersmith and the Junges Theater Basel.

Scenes 7, 10 and 12 are instrumental scenes and may be considered as starting points for choreography.

## One

**Stephanie** When are you going?

**Cat** On Friday.

**Stephanie** How are you getting there?

**Cat** My dad's going to drive me.

**Stephanie** Is he very sad about you leaving?

**Cat** I think so. He took me for lunch. He tried to talk to me about it. He couldn't say anything. He got all embarrassed and told me that my mummy was going to miss me and that I should try really hard to be kind to her for the next few days.

**Stephanie** Dick.

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** Where are you staying?

**Cat** I've got a room in the Halls of Residence.

**Stephanie** What'll that be like?

**Cat** Horrible. I've seen photographs of them. They're like small prison cells with printed curtains.

**Stephanie** I'll come and see you.

**Cat** You better had.

**Stephanie** I could sleep on your floor. We could get loads of booze in and stay in drinking it.

**Cat** Great.

*Some time.*

**Stephanie** It'll be shit here after you've gone.

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** There'll be nothing to do.

**Cat** There never is.

**Stephanie** No, but when you're around we usually think of something.  
*Some time.*

Are you excited?

**Cat** No.

**Stephanie** Are you nervous?

**Cat** No.

**Stephanie** Are you slightly concerned that you might be the most stupid person in the whole place?

**Cat** No.

**Stephanie** Why not?

**Cat** Because I won't be.

**Stephanie** What are you going to do about money?

**Cat** My dad's set up a bank account for me. He put shitloads of money in it.

**Stephanie** Has he?

**Cat** Fucking loads.

**Stephanie** You should spend it now.

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** We could go out together and spend it all.

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** And then you'd just have to ask him for more. He'd definitely give it to you.

**Cat** I know.

**Stephanie** When do you start work?

**Cat** On Thursday. There's an inaugural lecture about the history of the college and the history of the department. It'll be horrible.

**Stephanie** Have you met any of the other students?

**Cat** Some of them. I met them when I went for an interview.

**Stephanie** What are they like?

**Cat** Curiously ugly.

**Stephanie** I bet they are.

**Cat** Every single last one of them had an entirely cuboid head and all their clothes were exactly the same colour and when they spoke no real words came out, just a series of metallic clicks.

**Stephanie** *gives Cat an iPod Touch.*

**Stephanie** I brought you this.

**Cat** Thank you.

**Stephanie** That's OK.

**Cat** Where did you get it?

**Stephanie** It's my brother's.

**Cat** Excellent.

**Stephanie** The apps he's got on it are fucking immature but you could get some more really easily. His password's Cargese. C-A-R-G-E-S-E.

**Cat** What does that mean?

**Stephanie** It's a village in Corsica with a tower in it. We go there sometimes. It's his favourite place in the whole world. He goes fishing there. He sits on his own for hours. I've been with him a few times. It's shit.

**Cat** Won't he mind you stealing it?

**Stephanie** Yeah, probably. He loves it.

**Cat** How's your mum?

**Stephanie** -

**Cat** Have you seen Stephen recently?

**Stephanie** Last night.

**Cat** *How's he getting on?*

**Stephanie** *He's become unbearable. Sometimes I look at him and I can't stop myself from grinding my teeth. It's so loud he can hear it. He asks me what I'm doing. He stinks. I fucking hate him.*

**Cat** Say goodbye to him from me.

**Stephanie** OK.

*Some time.*

Do you know what I'd like?

**Cat** What?

**Stephanie** Some ice cream.

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** Don't go.

Stay here. You'll fucking hate it anyway. So you may as well. I know you extremely well and I know you'd hate it. I'll go fucking insane if you go.

**Cat** You wouldn't.

**Stephanie** I would.

**Cat** It doesn't matter. It wouldn't change my mind. I'm not staying here under any circumstances. It's horrifying. The whole town stinks of sugar. The shops are all wretched. The people are mentally retarded. It's cold. You can't get any good stuff. Nothing ever happens. All my friends apart from you are boring. Including you sometimes. Including you a lot of the time.

**Stephanie** -

*Some time.*

**Cat** You could leave.

**Stephanie** I couldn't.

**Cat** Why not?

**Stephanie** -

I'll follow you.

**Cat** You better hadn't.

**Stephanie** I'll move there and get a job and get a flat there.

**Cat** What job'll you get?

**Stephanie** I could do any job, I think. I'd be excellently equipped to work in any line of work I put my mind to. Apart from working as an astronaut.

**Cat** Why couldn't you work as an astronaut?

**Stephanie** I'm terrified of outer space.

**Cat** Why?

**Stephanie** Because it's so high up. It makes me feel sick even just to think about it.

*Some time.*

I mean it about following you, you know.

**Cat** Don't.

**Stephanie** I'll make you stay then.

**Cat** How would you do that?

**Stephanie** I don't know yet. I'll think of something.

*Some time.*

Everybody hates me here. Well. They don't hate me but they think they hate me.

*Some time.*

I sometimes get the feeling I was born in the wrong time. I bet it was much better being alive eighty years ago.

*Some time.*

What's your earliest memory?

**Cat** I guess . . .

*Some time.*

**Two**

**Stephen** Will you give me a foot-rub? My feet are freezing.

*She doesn't.*

Please Steph.

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** Meany.

*Some time.*

Are you hungry?

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Stephen** Do you want me to make you something to eat?

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Stephen** What would you like?

**Stephanie** I don't know.

**Stephen** Would you like some pasta?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** My mum made some of her tomato sauce. It's delicious.

Would you like some pasta and tomato sauce?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** Would you like some toast?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** You're being a bit annoying.

**Stephanie** Shut up.

**Stephen** A sandwich? We've got some cereal you could have. What are you drawing?

**Stephanie** Nothing.

**Stephen** You're in a mood. I can tell.

**Stephanie** I'm not.

**Stephen** Whenever you're in a mood like that you draw stuff. Just randomly.

**Stephanie** I don't.

**Stephen** You do. I know you so well sometimes I even astonish myself. What are you in a mood for?

**Stephanie** I'm not in a fucking mood, for fuck's sake. Do you ever fucking stop talking?

**Stephen** -

**Stephanie** Sorry.

**Stephen** You should be.

**Stephanie** That was probably an overreaction.

**Stephen** Is it your mum?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** Is it because Cat's going?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** One day I'm going to collect all your doodling together and make an enormous collage out of it. I'll say I made it. I'll make a fortune.

**Stephanie** -

**Stephen** Mum and Dad aren't coming back till about eleven o'clock.

Do you want to go and have a fuck?

**Stephanie** No, thank you.

**Stephen** We could go into their room again if we put my blanket on their bed.

**Stephanie** I said 'no', didn't I? Didn't you hear me or something? Are you going deaf? It's 'cause you listen to your music too loud.

**Stephen** I'm not. I don't.

**Stephanie** I can't believe the volume some people listen to their music at nowadays. They have absolutely no respect for other people.

*Some time.*

**Stephen** Do you want to go out and get something to eat?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** Do you want me to put the television on? Are you a bit mashed?

**Stephanie** No.

*He shows her his bracelet. It is a string bracelet. It has shells tied on to it.*

**Stephen** I put a new one on. I got it after you stayed over for the first time. I only just got it put on last week. Do you like it?

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Stephen** Whatever happens now I'll think of that night.

**Stephanie** Good.

**Stephen** It will live with me for ever.

**Stephanie** Good.

**Stephen** You're on three times now.

**Stephanie** Show me.

**Stephen** This is for our first kiss. This is for our first date. This is for our first fuck.

**Stephanie** Are you a bit obsessed?

**Stephen** A bit. Is that bad?

**Stephanie** It's nice.

**Stephen** Thank you.

**Stephanie** Can I nick it?

**Stephen** No.

**Stephanie** Better not take it off then. Ever.

**Stephen** I won't.

Do you want some booze?

**Stephanie** Yes, please.

**Stephen** What booze would you like?

**Stephanie** Really any.

**Stephen** My dad's got some gin. I could make you a gin and tonic.

**Stephanie** Yes, please.

**Stephen** I've not got one for when I first met you. Do you want to know why?

**Stephanie** Why?

**Stephen** Because I thought you were really weird and horrible.

Do you remember when I first met you?

**Stephanie** No.

**Stephen** I thought you were stupid. I thought the colour of your hair was just embarrassing. And the funny little jerky movements you made. And then, after a few months, I remember

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talking you in class and the way you held yourself. You were talking about God or History or something and you were really angry. And I remember thinking I only ever really get angry when my parents don't give me any money or they ground me or something like that and I realised there was something bigger about the way you saw the world. And to my complete astonishment I found myself falling in love with you.  
*Some time.*

What are you thinking?

**Stephanie** I'm trying to figure out if I've ever been more bored.

*Some time.*

No. Not bored. More nauseated. Have you ever had that? When somebody says something and you think about what they're saying and the thought of it makes you feel physically sick.

Three

**Stephanie** *has a half-drunk bottle of gin with her.*

**Stephanie** Alex. Hi. How are you?

**Alex** -

**Stephanie** Are you not talking to me or something?

**Alex** Where have you been?

**Stephanie** At Stephen's.

**Alex** You're late.

**Stephanie** -

**Alex** You said you'd be back hours ago.

**Stephanie** -

**Alex** I'm meant to be going out.

**Stephanie** -

**Alex** I'm meant to be going out, Stephanie.

**Stephanie** That must have been frustrating for you.

**Alex** You can't just turn up two hours late when I've made plans to go and see my friends. It's not fair. You know we're not allowed to leave her on her own. You didn't answer your phone. It was ringing. You must have put it on silent.

**Stephanie** I didn't.

**Alex** Why didn't you answer it then?

**Stephanie** I saw it was you. I didn't really want to talk to you.

**Alex** She's had a really bad evening.

**Stephanie** -

**Alex** She's been asking for you.

**Stephanie** How did she manage that? Sorry, can she talk now? When did that happen?

**Alex** Have you seen my iPod Touch?

**Stephanie** I gave it to Cat.

**Alex** -

**Stephanie** She needs it more than you do.

**Alex** It's mine.

**Stephanie** She's going away on Friday. She's not got one. I wanted to give her a present. Don't be judgemental. You're so selfish.

**Alex** It's mine.

**Stephanie** What?

**Alex** You can't just take it.

**Stephanie** It was on your desk.



**Alex** You can't just take something that belongs to me.

**Stephanie** Why not?

**Alex** I'm telling Mum.

**Stephanie** Good thinking.

**Alex** I'm going to call the police.

**Stephanie** OK.

**Alex** I mean it, Stephanie.

**Stephanie** Go on then.

**Alex** Get it back.

**Stephanie** No.

**Alex** I'll call Cat myself and get it back off her.

**Stephanie** OK.

**Alex** She'll give it to me. She's not a thief. She's not fucking mental like you are.

**Stephanie** Don't swear.

**Alex** Why fucking not?

**Stephanie** It indicates a lack of control.

**Alex** What are you smiling about?

**Stephanie** Nothing.

**Alex** You smile all the time. It's really weird.

**Stephanie** -

**Alex** I'm definitely going to call Cat.

**Stephanie** She won't give it back to you.

**Alex** She will.

**Stephanie** Are you growing a moustache?

**Alex** She doesn't even like you. She'll be embarrassed because you've been such a dick. It's the kind of thing you're always doing. It's why people hate you so much.

**Stephanie** It's cute. Your first moustache! People don't hate me.

**Alex** They do.

**Stephanie** They think they do. Secretly they really love me. I don't need a moustache.

**Alex** -

**Stephanie** If I wanted to I could grow quite an impressive moustache. In many ways I'm above a moustache. In many ways I am my own moustache. Have you got any money?

**Alex** No.

**Stephanie** Can you give me some money please, Alex.

**Alex** No.

**Stephanie** I really need some money, Alex, and if you don't give me some I'll just take it from your room.

**Alex** I've got three pounds.

**Stephanie** That'll do. Thank you. That's kind of you.

**Alex** When will you give it back?

**Stephanie** I'm sorry?

**Alex** When will you give me my money back?

**Stephanie** I'm sorry, I'm a bit confused. I'm not going to give the money back to you. It's mine now. Silly.

*Some time.*

**Alex** She's in there.

**Stephanie** I know.

**Alex** Have you been in?

**Stephanie** –

**Alex** She's gasping for breath.

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Alex** Have you heard the noise she's making?

**Stephanie** –

**Alex** I've never heard anything like it. I thought she was pretending.

**Stephanie** She isn't.

**Alex** I can't look at her in the eyes. Every time I look in her eyes the silence is terrible.

**Stephanie** *starts giggling*

**Alex** Don't laugh.

**Stephanie** I'm sorry. I'm trying not to.

**Alex** *smashes his fist against the wall incredibly hard.*

**Stephanie** Does that hurt?

**Alex** –

**Stephanie** Why did you do that?

**Alex** –

**Stephanie** That was a really stupid thing to do, what did you do that for?

**Alex** –

**Stephanie** Is it because of me? You think it's because of me, don't you?

It's not.

**Alex** –

**Stephanie** It's horrible, death, isn't it? People tell you to try to forgive death. It's about the stupidest thing I ever heard. It's completely unforgivable.

**Alex** –

**Stephanie** You should run it under cold water. I'll put a bandage on it for you. She'll be dead soon. It'll be a lot easier when she is.

**Alex** –

*He leaves. Some time.*

**Stephanie** *talks to her mother.*

**Stephanie** Mum. Mum, it's Stephanie.

Alex has gone out. I asked him not to.

I told him that you needed him here.

I'm sorry that he's so rude. Alex. It's because he's so young.

Are you OK?

Are you in pain?

Do you need some morphine?

Here.

Is that better?

What's it like? Morphine. Can I try some?

I can't really feel any difference.

Open your eyes.

Mum. Mum. Open your eyes.

–

–

Thank you.

–

I can't stop smiling.

I feel so sad it's like I'm going to be sick.

You're going to die soon, aren't you?

I'm six years old. I'm out shopping with my mother. We go into the butcher's. We buy some meat. We come out of the butcher's. I turn one way to go towards a toyshop and I don't realise but she turns the other way and before I know it she's completely disappeared. I'm totally on my own.

**Four**

**Cat** I like your hat.

**Stephen** Thank you.

**Cat** It suits you.

**Stephen** Thank you.

**Cat** Don't you think his hat suits him, Stephanie?

**Stephanie** *smiles*.

**Cat** It does. It makes you look cooler than you are in real life.

**Stephanie** It makes him look like he's trying to be cooler than he is in real life. That's different.

**Cat** Don't listen to her.

**Stephen** I try not to.

*Some time.*

What time is it?

**Cat** Nine o'clock.

**Stephen** Why hasn't it gone dark yet?

**Cat** I don't know.

**Stephen** It's beautiful the sky here, I think. I like it when it's as bright as this.

**Cat** Why?

**Stephen** I don't know. I like this time of day.

**Cat** Dusk.

**Stephen** Yes.

I like this time of year. You can really start to feel the height of the summer. Are you excited about going?

**Cat** I really am.

**Stephen** It's brilliant that you got a place.

**Cat** I know.

**Stephen** I'm not surprised, though. You're really clever.

**Cat** Thank you.

**Stephen** We should go and visit her, shouldn't we, Stephanie?

**Stephanie** We could do.

**Stephen** It'd be good fun. We could stay the night. Would it be all right do you think, Cat, if we stayed the night in your place?

**Cat** I think so.

**Stephen** Have a night away from home.

*Some time.*

**Cat** I brought us some sandwiches.

**Stephen** That's nice of you.

**Cat** They're tuna and cucumber. Is that OK?

**Stephen** That's lovely. Thank you, Cat.

**Stephanie** 'That's lovely. Thank you, Cat.'

**Cat** Should we have them now or should we save them till later?

**Stephen** I'm quite hungry now.

**Cat** Here.

**Stephen** Thank you.

*He eats his sandwich.*

**Stephanie** What are you doing, fattening him up or something?

**Stephen** I'm not fat.

**Stephanie** No, but you could get fat really easily, I think.

*Some time.*

**Stephen** I didn't think I'd see you before you left.

**Cat** No.

**Stephen** I thought I'd be coming here with just Stephanie.

**Cat** Didn't she tell you I was coming too?

**Stephen** No.

**Cat** Oh.

*Some time.*

Is it OK?

**Stephen** I think so.

**Cat** That's good. I can go if you want.

**Stephen** No. It's fine.

**Stephanie** I wanted her to come along as a kind of leaving present.

**Stephen** Why?

What do you mean, 'as a kind of leaving present'?

Oh.

Right.

*Some time.*

**Cat** Didn't you talk about it before? You told me you'd talked to him about it.

**Stephanie** I forgot.

**Cat** I see.

*Some time.*

This is awful.

*Some time.*

Do you want another sandwich?

**Stephen** No, thank you.

**Cat** Are you a bit embarrassed?

**Stephen** Not embarrassed exactly.

**Cat** Are you a bit shocked though?

**Stephen** Not shocked, no.

**Cat** Are you quite cross with her because she didn't ask you?

**Stephen** That would be one way of putting it.

**Cat** I don't blame you. I told you to tell him, Stephanie.

**Stephanie** I know.

**Cat** It's just thoughtless and it's really embarrassing now.

**Stephanie** I'm not embarrassed.

**Stephen** I am.

**Cat** I am too.

*Some time.*

Do you think you'll get over it, though?

**Stephen** -

**Cat** Do you think you'll get over it, Stephen, or is this just one huge, great big disaster?

**Stephen** -  
*Some time.*

**Cat** Have you ever had sex with two girls before, Stephen?

**Stephen** No.

**Cat** We don't need to do anything if you don't want to. I'm sorry.

**Stephen** It's not that.

**Cat** No. I'm not accusing you of being cowardly, it's just the clumsy nature of the way it's all been organised.

We could spend a bit of time getting used to the idea. Have some more tuna sandwiches. Look at the sky a bit more.

*Some time.*

Have you ever thought about it?

**Stephen** Sometimes.

**Cat** I'm really sorry, Stephen, I didn't hear you say that. It's either because you're muttering or because your mouth's full of tuna and cucumber sandwiches. Have you ever thought about it before, Stephen?

**Stephen** Once or twice I have.

**Stephanie** Have you ever thought about having sex with Cat?

**Stephen** -

**Stephanie** Don't you think that would be a nice way to send her on her way? We're probably not going to see her for ages.

**Cat** I should have brought some drink or some hash or something to get us in the mood but I didn't even think about it.

**Stephanie** I would have done but it was just she promised me she would bring it and I didn't have any money. Alex owed me some money and he never paid me.

**Cat** It's not very romantic or thoughtful of me, is it?

**Stephen** It's OK.

**Cat** Genuinely all I thought about was making some tuna and cucumber sandwiches. We've not handled this well at all.

**Stephanie** It's only because he's being difficult.

**Cat** He's not. It's an awkward enough situation and the way we've gone about it has only made it much more awkward. I'm really sorry, Stephen.

**Stephen** It's all right.

**Stephanie** He's being frigid.

**Cat** You're not being frigid at all.

**Stephen** I'm not frigid.

**Stephanie** He's ridiculous. I'm really sorry, Cat.

**Cat** It's fine.

**Stephen** I'm not ridiculous.

**Cat** I know you're not.

**Stephen** I don't even mind really.

*Some time.*

**Cat** We brought a blanket so we don't get any grass on our clothes because that can be really uncomfortable. That's about the only thoughtful thing we did.

**Stephanie** Or sand.

**Stephen** Sand?

**Stephanie** We could go down to the lake and the blanket would stop us getting any sand in our clothes or up our arses.

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**Cat** Sand does get everywhere.

*Some time.*

Should we go back?

**Stephanie** No.

**Cat** Should we just stop and start again?

**Stephanie** No.

**Cat** I think we should.

**Stephen** It's OK.

*The girls look at him.*

Here.

*He kisses Cat. She kisses him back.*

How was that?

**Cat** It was nice.

**Stephanie** Was it?

**Cat** It was lovely.

**Stephanie** What does she taste like?

**Stephen** She tastes of skin. Sweat a bit. Her deodorant smells nice.

**Cat** Should we just stick to kissing?

**Stephen** We could for a bit.

*They kiss. Stephanie watches them. Stephen breaks off from the kiss.*

**Stephen** What are you doing?

**Stephanie** I was just watching you. It's funny.

**Cat** What is?

**Stephanie** He looks really frightened.

**Cat** Does he?

**Stephanie** Don't you think, Cat?

**Cat** I can't tell. I hope not.

**Stephen** I'm not.

**Cat** There's honestly no reason to be frightened, Stephen.

**Stephen** Here.

*He kisses her more urgently.*

Does that seem frightened to you?

**Cat** I have to say that I don't think it does, no.

**Stephen** Told you.

**Stephanie** My turn.

*He turns to Stephanie. Kisses her too. She bites him.*

**Stephen** Ouch.

**Cat** What?

**Stephen** She bit me.

**Cat** Did you?

**Stephanie** Only a bit.

**Cat** Stephanie -

**Stephanie** I know.

**Cat** That's not very nice.

**Stephanie** I just wanted to see what it felt like. I really liked it.

**Stephen** I didn't.

**Cat** No.

I'm sorry, Stephen. She's so clumsy. Please will you try again for me? It was nice watching you.

*He kisses Stephanie again. Cat watches. Stephanie pulls his hair.*

**Stephen** Get off my hair.

**Cat** Yeah, Stephanie. Get off his hair.

**Stephanie** I can't resist it.

**Stephen** Look, I'm here, aren't I?

**Cat** He is. You are.

**Stephen** If you're going to start doing really stupid stuff like that I'll just go home.

**Cat** I don't blame you.

**Stephanie** You can't.

**Stephen** I can.

**Stephanie** How would you get home from here?

**Cat** She has got a point there.

**Stephanie** There's nothing but trees for miles around.

*He stares at her for a short time.*

**Stephen** I'll run on to the motorway.

**Cat** You'd never survive that.

**Stephanie** I've always wanted to do this.

**Cat** What?

**Stephanie** Kidnap somebody.

**Cat** I know.

**Stephen** What do you mean?

**Stephanie** What do you think I mean?

**Stephen** You've not kidnapped me.

**Cat** No. We haven't.

**Stephen** I came here because I wanted to.

**Cat** Exactly, Stephanie. You don't even think sometimes.

**Stephanie** Well, he's not exactly getting back, is he?

**Cat** He is. We'll take you home.

**Stephanie** After we've finished. Until then he's staying right here. That's exactly like kidnap.

*He goes to leave. Cat stops him.*

**Cat** Where are you going? Please will you stay here, Stephen?

*He stops.*

I promise I won't let Stephanie hurt you again or bite you again or anything.

*He comes back.*

Thank you. I'm sorry. Do you accept my apology? Do you, Stephen?

*She goes to him. He lets her. He kisses her again. She kisses him back. She bites him hard.*

Oh you're right, it is nice.

**Stephen** Fuck!

**Cat** Did that hurt?

**Stephen** Yeah.

**Stephanie** Did it, Stephen?

**Stephen** Yes, it fucking did.

**Cat** We're sorry. Aren't we? Aren't we sorry, Stephanie?

**Stephanie** No.

**Cat** We are really. Here.

*She gives him a long kiss. It stops him in his tracks.*

28 Morning

Would you do something for me?

**Stephen** It depends what it is.

**Cat** Put your arms out.

*He thinks. He puts his arms out.*

Put your hands together.

*He thinks. He puts his hands together.*

Would you mind, Stephen, if I tied your hands up?

**Stephen** What?

**Cat** With my belt. Would you?

**Stephanie** It'd be a giggle.

**Cat** I'd really like to tie your hands together. Is that bad?

**Stephanie** Please, Stephen.

**Cat** Thank you.

*She takes her belt off and ties his hands together.*

Is that a bit tight?

**Stephen** A bit.

**Cat** Not too tight, though.

**Stephen** It is a bit tight.

*She kisses him. He kisses her back.*

**Stephanie** *kicks the side of his knee quite hard. He stumbles and then falls to the ground.*

*He doesn't know whether they're playing or not any more.*

**Cat** *laughs. She climbs on top of him. She stops him moving. He doesn't know whether to shout out or scream or what to do. He's embarrassed. He's terrified.*

**Stephen** **Cat**, that hurts. **Cat**, stop it. **Cat**. **Stephanie**.

**Stephanie** *kicks him in the head.*

**Cat** Give me your scarf.

**Stephanie** *takes her scarf off and gives it to Cat. She puts it in Stephen's mouth as a kind of gag.*

*He realises they're not playing any more.*

*He tries to wrestle away from them. They hold him back. He screams when he can. He's too embarrassed to scream properly at first. His screams are muffled by the scarf. They're laughing.*

**Stephanie** Oh, look.

**Cat** What?

**Stephanie** My tooth's come out.

**Cat** When?

**Stephanie** Just now.

**Cat** How did that happen?

**Stephanie** I've no idea. It just popped out.

**Cat** Is it sore?

**Stephanie** No. Is it bleeding?

**Cat** I can't see any blood.

**Stephanie** What are we going to do now?

**Cat** I don't know.

**Stephanie** Do you think he's ever going to stop screaming?

**Cat** Ha.

**Stephanie** Wait here.

*She leaves. Cat is sitting on his chest. Stephen's screams become sobs, as he gets tired.*

**Cat** You look really funny. I've never seen anybody gagged before. Do you really regret coming here? Do you want me to untie you? Your eyes!

**Stephanie** *comes back carrying a large rock.*



30 Morning

**Cat** Where did you get that?

**Stephanie** By the lake. Feel it.

**Cat** It's heavy.

**Stephanie** I know.

*She smashes the rock down on his head. He carries on screaming behind his gag. She does it again. He stops.*

**Stephanie** I missed first time.

I could feel his skull caving in. It was like a shell.

Five

**Stephanie and Anna** are writing an essay. **Stephanie** has a half-drunk bottle of gin.

**Stephanie** Anna, your hair!

**Anna** What about it?

**Stephanie** You've changed it.

**Anna** Yeah.

**Stephanie** It's a different colour.

**Anna** Yeah.

**Stephanie** It really suits you.

**Anna** Are you sure?

**Stephanie** It brings out the colour of your eyes.

**Anna** That was the idea.

**Stephanie** I like colour.

**Anna** What?

**Stephanie** As an abstraction, I mean. Just as a general thing.

*They carry on writing*

**Anna** Are you sure it doesn't make me look like a retard?

**Stephanie** In no way.

**Anna** Does it make me look like Princess Diana?

*They carry on writing*

**Stephanie** How was your night, last night?

**Anna** It was lovely. How was yours?

**Stephanie** Boring.

*They carry on writing*

Why was your night lovely?

**Anna** I went out with Jacob.

**Stephanie** Again?

**Anna** Yeah.

**Stephanie** You must really like him.

**Anna** I do.

**Stephanie** What's he like?

**Anna** He's absolutely fucking magical.

**Stephanie** Princess Diana? Are you being serious?

**Anna** He's calm. He's gentle. He's fantastically sexy. He's intelligent. He notices things. He remembers things, which is a first for me.

**Stephanie** What kind of things?

**Anna** Things I tell him.

**Stephanie** What kind of things do you tell him?

**Anna** You know. Like I told him about my brother when I was at the zoo with him and how my brother was afraid of all animals and then last night he remembered it. He placed it

in conversation just kind of casually and it almost broke my heart because you know it meant he'd really listened.

**Stephanie** The zoo?

**Anna** I went to the zoo with him.

**Stephanie** When?

**Anna** On our first date.

**Stephanie** Why?

**Anna** Because it's good.

*Some time.*

**Stephanie** The zoo?!

**Anna** What's wrong with going to a zoo?

**Stephanie** That's a very odd place to take somebody for a first date.

**Anna** It's not.

**Stephanie** Is he an elephant or something?

**Anna** No.

**Stephanie** Is he a zoo keeper?

**Anna** No.

**Stephanie** Does he live in the zoo?

**Anna** No, we were visiting it.

**Stephanie** He sounds like he's mentally retarded.

**Anna** Stephanie!

**Stephanie** Well he does. A zoo!

*They carry on writing*

Can you do me a favour?

**Anna** Course.

**Stephanie** I'm sorry for suggesting Jacob was mentally retarded, that was probably a little over the top.

**Anna** Yeah.

**Stephanie** If you see Stephen and he asks you where I was last night, can you tell him I was with you, revising?

**Anna** OK. Why?

**Stephanie** Or anybody. If you see anybody and they ask you where I was last night could you tell them that?

**Anna** Yeah, course. Why?

**Stephanie** 'Cause I went out with Cat and I got drunk and Stephen said that if I ever went out with Cat again that he'd leave me.

**Anna** Why?

**Stephanie** He thinks she's a bad influence. I think he's probably right. But she's leaving on Friday and she asked me to go out with her and I couldn't refuse her that. It was like her last will and testament or something, but I don't want Stephen to leave me. I don't know what I'd do if he left me.

**Anna** Ah!

**Stephanie** What?

**Anna** Sweet.

**Stephanie** Shut up.

**Anna** Sorry.

**Stephanie** He earths me.

**Anna** Right.

**Stephanie** He keeps me calm.

**Anna** Well, something needs to.

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Anna** OK.

34 Morning

**Stephanie** Thank you very much.

*They carry on writing*

Can you smell that?

**Anna** What?

**Stephanie** Flowers.

**Anna** No.

**Stephanie** Where's it coming from?

**Anna** I can't smell it.

**Stephanie** I swear I can smell flowers all of a sudden.

**Anna** Weirdo.

*They carry on writing*

**Stephanie** How's your essay?

**Anna** Finished.

**Stephanie** So's mine. I'm going to re-check it tonight. I think I've nailed it, though. I think it could be the best essay I've ever written. I think it could be the best thing I've ever done. Are you going to see him again - Jacob?

**Anna** Course.

**Stephanie** When?

**Anna** He's going to take me round to his house. His parents are going out.

**Stephanie** Saucy.

*Some time.*

We need them. Especially nowadays.

**Anna** Who?

**Stephanie** People like Jacob. People like Stephen.

**Anna** Yeah.

**Stephanie** Do you want some of this?

**Anna** Thanks.

**Stephanie** passes **Anna** the bottle of gin.

**Anna** drinks from it.

*She smiles.*

*Some time.*

**Stephanie** It's raining.

**Anna** Yeah.

**Stephanie** I need to hide.

**Anna** From Stephen?

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Anna** Is he gonna be really cross with you?

**Stephanie** Really cross.

**Anna** Should do what he tells you to do then.

**Stephanie** I might leave.

**Anna** Leave?

**Stephanie** Leave the country. Go somewhere else.

**Anna** You can't. We've got to hand the essays in on Thursday.

**Stephanie** Yeah.

*Some time.*

I could place a car bomb in the school car park.

**Anna** You could do.

**Stephanie** Blow it up at about 8.45. When everybody's in there. Don't you think that'd be funny?

**Anna** Very.

**Stephanie** I'd love to see people with their legs blown off. I wonder what the inside of your legs looks like.

**Anna** Fat, probably.

**Stephanie** I wonder what your bones look like exposed. I wonder what your chest would look like if it were blown open by a nail bomb.

**Anna** Not pretty.

**Stephanie** No.

*The rainfall becomes heavier. They listen to it.*

I love that.

**Anna** What?

**Stephanie** The sound of the rain on the roof.

## Six

**Stephanie** *sits alone for a while.*

**Alex** *comes to join her.*

*Some time.*

**Stephanie** It's funny.

**Alex** What is?

**Stephanie** Most people my age who live round here hate the way it looks. They're stupid. My favourite aspect of this place is its appearance. Everybody's got their own garden. Everybody's garden looks exactly the same so nobody gets jealous. All the grass is green. All the flower beds are beautifully kept.

*Some time.*

**Alex** What time is it?

**Stephanie** I think it's about quarter to five.

**Alex** It's very quiet.

**Stephanie** I love that.

**Alex** There's no cars.

**Stephanie** No.

**Alex** No aeroplanes. I can't hear any birds even.

*Some time.*

We should call the hospital.

**Stephanie** Why?

**Alex** To tell them.

**Stephanie** There's nothing they can do about it.

**Alex** They said we should, though.

**Stephanie** Won't make any difference now.

**Alex** Will you call them, Stephanie?

**Stephanie** Why me?

**Alex** You're oldest.

*Some time.*

Is it right to call the hospital?

**Stephanie** I have no idea.

**Alex** Maybe we should call the police or somebody?

**Stephanie** No.

**Alex** The undertakers.

**Stephanie** I don't really care, to be honest, Alex.

**Alex** You do. How do you find out the phone number for undertakers?

**Stephanie** Go online.

**Alex** Good thinking.

*Some time.*

They came round. When you were at college.

**Stephanie** Who?

**Alex** The police. They were asking about you.

**Stephanie** What did they want?

**Alex** They didn't say. I told them you were at college. They said they'd find you there.

**Stephanie** They didn't.

*Some time.*

**Alex** It was horrible watching her, Stephanie.

**Stephanie** —

**Alex** I thought I'd feel peaceful or something. I don't.

**Stephanie** No?

**Alex** I didn't think she'd start screaming.

**Stephanie** No.

**Alex** She hadn't made a noise in weeks.

**Stephanie** —

**Alex** What are we going to do?

**Stephanie** When?

**Alex** From now on.

**Stephanie** I don't know what on earth you're going on about.

**Alex** Everything will be different now. It's my birthday next month. That'll be different. Christmas will be rubbish. Everything will be rubbish.

**Stephanie** It was always rubbish.

**Alex** It wasn't.

**Stephanie** —

**Alex** Christmas isn't rubbish. How's Christmas rubbish? Everybody's there. Everybody's happy. It'll be shit now.

**Stephanie** —

**Alex** What the fuck is the matter with you?

**Stephanie** Nothing.

**Alex** Don't you ever stop smiling?

**Stephanie** No.

**Alex** Doesn't it hurt your mouth?

**Stephanie** Sometimes.

*Some time.*

We are the cosmos made conscious.

**Alex** What the fuck does that mean?

**Stephanie** Actually I don't think that's true.

**Alex** What isn't true?

**Stephanie** There are other consciousnesses. Dogs are conscious. Sheep are conscious. Plants are conscious. They just don't go on about it.

And in the future there'll be other animals with different types of consciousnesses and they'll look back on our sense of time and art and space and science and language and maths and all the things we're conscious of and they'll barely be able to believe how small we are.

**Seven**

*This scene is instrumental.*

*In it Stephen comes alive again and turns into an angel.*

**Eight**

**Stephanie and Jacob, Anna's boyfriend.**

**Stephanie** You're Jacob. You're Anna's boyfriend. You took her to the zoo. I'm Stephanie. I'm her best friend. I've known her for years and years. Hi, Jacob.

**Jacob** Hi.

**Stephanie** Anna's gone home. She asked me to tell you. She said she wasn't feeling well. She was vomiting. She actually vomited in class. All over her books. She probably just ate something. She's probably got a virus. You were meant to be meeting her. She wanted me to pass on the information. I'm sorry. She asked me to ask you to call her.

**Jacob** OK.

**Stephanie** Will you call her?

**Jacob** Yeah. All right.

**Stephanie** Now?

**Jacob** OK.

**Stephanie** I mean not right now this second. Not when I'm standing here. That would be really rude. If you picked your phone up and rang her just when I was talking to you and we've not even met one another or anything. No, she wanted you to call her at a point that is both convenient and socially acceptable.

**Jacob** I will.

**Stephanie** Great.

**Jacob** -

**Stephanie** You probably knew not to call her right in front of me already, didn't you? I imagine you were exceptionally well raised and knew that to do that would have been, well, offensive, frankly. You probably knew instinctively to wait until you had a moment when you were on your own. You probably

don't even have to think about these things. That's probably just the type of man you are. I can't believe we've not met before.

**Jacob** No.

**Stephanie** It's a huge college. Do you know exactly how many students there are in this college?

**Jacob** Not exactly, no.

**Stephanie** Me neither. She talks about you and your obsessive love of zoology all the time. She's infatuated with you.

**Jacob** Right.

**Stephanie** Has she talked about me?

**Jacob** I don't think so, no.

**Stephanie** Hasn't she?

**Jacob** No.

**Stephanie** That's not a surprise. I can be quite annoying. She must be too embarrassed to admit that I'm her best friend. Nobody likes me. Well, Nobody admits they like me. They all do secretly. Everyone likes you, don't they?

**Jacob** Not really. No. I don't think so.

**Stephanie** Everyone likes you and they're all proud to acknowledge their affection for you openly.

**Jacob** -

**Stephanie** I don't blame them.

**Jacob** They don't.

**Stephanie** You're gorgeous. How much sport do you actually play?

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** How much?

**Jacob** I don't know.

**Stephanie** Your muscles are beautifully toned.

**Jacob** Thank you.

**Stephanie** It's really exciting.

**Jacob** —

**Stephanie** I've started watching you all the time.

**Jacob** Watching me?

**Stephanie** I've watched you pretty much constantly for the past two days.

**Jacob** —

**Stephanie** Don't think that a moment has gone by when I haven't watched you, because I've not been able to take my eyes off you. It's getting distracting. Don't get the wrong idea. It's not a sexual thing. It's just that you've become the subject of my pure admiration. Every single thing that you do I am impressed by. And when the ecological catastrophe happens that will really destroy everything I'll not panic because as long as there are people like you around I know everything will be all right. You know all the right people to talk to. You smell lovely.

**Jacob** You're Stephen's girlfriend, aren't you?

**Stephanie** That's right.

**Jacob** I thought you were.

**Stephanie** I am.

**Jacob** Are you OK?

**Stephanie** I'm, what? Yes. What? I'm fine, yes.

**Jacob** Are you not worried?

**Stephanie** I'm worried all the time. I'm terrified.

**Jacob** What do you think's happened to him?

**Stephanie** What do you mean?

**Jacob** What do you mean, 'What do I mean?' What do you fucking think I mean?

**Stephanie** I think he left.

**Jacob** Left?

**Stephanie** I think he had enough.

**Jacob** Of what?

**Stephanie** Of me, probably. Of this place. Of this country. Everybody's had enough nowadays, haven't they? They've all got exhausted. They all want to go and live in Spain or something. Go and live in Central America. Go and live in sub-Saharan Africa. It's really stupid. You'd never do that, would you?

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** Would you ever go and live in sub-Saharan Africa?

**Jacob** I've not really thought about it.

*He makes to exit.*

**Stephanie** Don't go. Don't walk off. Stay for a bit. Let's hang out.

**Jacob** *re-enters.*

**Stephanie** Let's be mates. I'd quite like you to be my new best friend.

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** Is that an unusual thing to say? I had a best friend but she's leaving, so I need a new one. I can't help thinking that it would make Anna happy if the two of us could be best friends. We could go on fishing trips together, for example. We could go fishing in Corsica if that's the kind of thing that you'd enjoy doing. We could ride our bikes.

**Jacob** You are fucking strange.

**Stephanie** I'm not in any way strange. My mum died.

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** This morning.

**Jacob** Fuck.

**Stephanie** I know. No. Not this morning. Yesterday afternoon.

*Some time.*

**Jacob** I'm really sorry, Stephanie. I didn't know. I'm sorry for saying you were fucking strange. If I'd known that I wouldn't have said it. That's awful.

**Stephanie** You should have seen her.

**Jacob** What did she die of?

**Stephanie** Cancer. She died at home which was one good thing, but she did smell the whole house out because she couldn't stop shitting and her shit smelt of stinking raw chicken for the past few weeks.

**Jacob** What are you doing in college, Stephanie?

**Stephanie** They rang me. They made me come in.

**Jacob** But your mum died.

**Stephanie** I know. They wouldn't listen. The police made me come in.

**Jacob** The police?

**Stephanie** Is your mum dead?

**Jacob** No.

**Stephanie** That's good. What does she do, your mum?

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** Has she got a job?

**Jacob** She's a singer.

**Stephanie** She's not.

**Jacob** She is.

**Stephanie** What, like a pop star?

**Jacob** No. She's an opera singer.

**Stephanie** Gosh.

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** That's a surprising character development, I have to say. If we were best mates I could go on holiday with you and your mum and the rest of your family. That's the kind of thing best mates do, isn't it? We could go to the sea. I've not seen the sea for six years. It'd be good just to get away from here. It's so loud round here. It looks beautiful but it's so noisy. Don't you think, Jacob, that it's too noisy round here?

**Jacob** I've not noticed.

**Stephanie** You're not going to be my best friend, are you?

**Jacob** I think it would be a bit unlikely.

**Stephanie** *roars with animal frustration.*

**Jacob** Are you all right?

**Stephanie** It's not you. OK? It's not you. It's not you. It's not you. It's just. It's just. It's just. Have you seen my fucking hands?

**Jacob** Your –

**Stephanie** My hands, have you fucking seen them? They're horrible.

Call Anna.

**Jacob** I will.

**Stephanie** Call her now.

**Jacob** I will.



**Stephanie** Make sure she's OK. People shouldn't vomit in class, for crying out loud. Can I tell you something?

**Jacob** What?

**Stephanie** He's not run away.

**Jacob** Who hasn't?

**Stephanie** Stephen.

**Jacob** How do you know?

**Stephanie** Let's just say I know one or two things about Stephen that would make your hair stand on end.

**Jacob** Like what?

**Stephanie** I can't say. I can't say. I can't say. I can't say.

## Nine

**Stephanie** Do you think somebody will find him?

**Cat** They might do, Stephanie.

**Stephanie** We should bury him more deeply.

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** We should call the police.

**Cat** Why?

**Stephanie** Because if they found out that we've been back here and we didn't do anything they'll probably realise we did it.

**Cat** You did it.

**Stephanie** Yeah.

**Cat** It was nothing to do with me.

**Stephanie** No.

**Cat** I thought we were going to take him home.

**Stephanie** Maybe it's better just to leave him then. It's probably better not to interfere. If we ignore it I think it'll definitely go away.

*Some time.*

I can't believe they've not found him. They must be idiots.

*Some time.*

I like your shoes.

**Cat** Thanks.

**Stephanie** They're beautiful.

**Cat** I got them second-hand.

**Stephanie** They're a real find.

**Cat** They were cheap as well.

**Stephanie** That's good.

**Cat** Thirty quid.

**Stephanie** Wicked.

*Some time.*

Are you all-packed?

**Cat** Yeah.

**Stephanie** That's good.

**Cat** Mum packed for me.

**Stephanie** That's nice of her.

**Cat** gives **Stephanie Alex's iPod Touch.**

**Cat** I brought you this back. You should give it to Alex. It's shit. Dad got us an iPhone 4. It's much better. The apps are better. The screen's better. It's got a phone on it.

**Stephanie** Brilliant.

*Some time.*

We could bury this with him and then the police'll trace it back to Alex and he'll have been framed.

**Cat** Ha!

*Some time.*

I'm sorry about your mum.

**Stephanie** What about her? Oh yeah. That's all right. Thank you for apologising.

**Cat** When's the funeral?

**Stephanie** I don't think we're going to have a funeral. We probably will. I'll let you know. You could come back for it.

**Cat** I don't think I'll do that.

**Stephanie** No. How old do you think he looks?

**Cat** I don't know.

**Stephanie** Do you think they'll be able to recognise him if they do find him?

**Cat** I think they probably will, Stephanie, yes.

**Stephanie** Where do you think he looks like he comes from?

**Cat** Not around here.

**Stephanie** How can you tell?

**Cat** I can't really. It was just a thought.

**Stephanie** He looks fatter than I remember him being.

**Cat** He's become bloated. It happens.

**Stephanie** Look at those marks in his skin. I didn't make those marks.

**Cat** They're from all the flies.

**Stephanie** Flies?

**Cat** Flies from the earth eating their way inside him. Soon they'll lay eggs and little maggots will start crawling out of him.

**Stephanie** He doesn't look sad at all, does he?

**Cat** No.

**Stephanie** What do you think it felt like being him?

**Cat** I don't know.

**Stephanie** I can't remember my lines.

**Cat** What?

**Stephanie** I can't remember what I'm meant to say next. Can you?

**Cat** I don't know what you're talking about.

**Stephanie** It's horrible. Do you want some gin?

**Cat** Yes, please.

**Stephanie** Here.

*She passes Cat a bottle of gin.*

**Cat** Thank you.

*She drinks.*

It doesn't even taste nice.

**Stephanie** No.

**Cat** I've noticed that for the past few days.

**Stephanie** What?

**Cat** Nothing tastes nice any more. My clothes feel horrible. Every time I stand up I feel heavy. I feel poor.

**Stephanie** You're not poor.

**Cat** No, but I feel it.

**Stephanie** bends down. She picks up **Stephen's** hat. She looks at it. She wipes dirt off it. She adjusts its size. She tries it on. It fits.

**Cat** Dick.

**Stephanie** How does it look?

**Cat** It suits you.

**Stephanie** nods.

*Some time.*

*She bends down again and picks up **Stephen's** bracelet.*

**Cat** What are you going to do with that?

**Stephanie** Sell it.

**Cat** How much will you get for it, do you think?

**Stephanie** Not much. Five pounds maybe. I'll ask for ten and probably end up with five.

**Cat** Have the police interviewed you yet?

**Stephanie** Twice. Once last night and again this morning.

**Cat** They probably know it was you then, don't they? They're probably suspicious. You're probably their prime suspect.

**Stephanie** I went round to see his mum.

**Cat** Why?

**Stephanie** I went round to ask her if he was in. I asked her if he wanted to come out. You should have seen her face. I couldn't stop giggling.

**Cat** I'm still going.

**Stephanie** -

**Cat** Don't think you've stopped me leaving because you haven't.

**Stephanie** What makes you think I was trying to stop you from leaving?

**Cat** -

**Stephanie** What time are you heading off?

**Cat** In the morning. Dad's taken a day off work.

**Stephanie** They'll still find you.

**Cat** They won't be looking for me.

**Stephanie** When they find you, are you going to tell them what happened?

**Cat** No.

**Stephanie** You better not.

**Cat** I won't.

**Stephanie** Do you promise?

## Ten

*This scene is instrumental.*

*In it **Stephanie** writes obsessively over and over again:*

'The philosophers have only interpreted the world. The point, however, is to change it.'

## Eleven

**Stephanie** All music is shit and all art is shit and all theatre is shit and all television is shit and all sport is shit and all cinema is shit. The food is shit and everything is fucking shit. The streets and the furniture and computers and everybody is just stuck inside a vacuous vapid hole of just fear and horror and nasty fucking rancid vile shit. And there is no connection

with anything and there is no future and all of the city is full of shit and there is waste everywhere and if I could I'd take all the waste that's gathered in the cities and put it into landfills and pour it out into the streets so that people can know what they have wasted every day and see the hundred million tons of shit every year put into the ground. You could make mountains of shit. You could sculpt the Alps out of shit. You could poison the seas with shit. And everybody wants a hopeful ending and there won't be one. We have a decade. And then everything will retract. Everybody wants a message and there is none. Everybody wants hope shining through the darkness and there isn't any. And we could take to the streets but it won't change anything. We could form a protest movement and it won't change anything. We could stand on the streets and give out flyers and it won't change anything. We could refuse to vote in the next election. We could all of us vote in the next election. We could burn down polling booths in the next election. We could smash in shop windows. We could repair all the shop windows. We could set fire to cars. We could repair all of the burned-out cars. We could recycle. We could refuse to recycle. None of it will change anything. There is only terror. There is no hope.

## Twelve

*This scene is instrumental.*

*In it **Stephanie** leaves the stage.*

***Alex** changes into clothes for his mother's funeral.*

*The set for the play is in some way dismantled and made brighter.*