

MORGAN
AIDEN

Daniel: Still must be difficult with Rosie turning up to the occasional rehearsal. Wouldn't it be dreadful if she found out?

Natalie: And what about Lauren? Does she know how you follow me around like a dog, with your tongue hanging out? Her Dad does, that's why he offered to be stage manager. That's it, you remind me of a dog. We had a dog when I was little. He always wanted what someone else had got. We could give him toys, food, walks, but he always wanted what we had. The only reason you want anything to do with me is to get at Lucas. You only want to know me because Lucas and I get on so well. It's quite sad really. You and that dog are so similar. He was randy too. Tried to hump anything that moved. We had him castrated. It calmed him right down.

(Morgan enters with Lauren and Aiden stage left.)

Lauren: (To Morgan.) And we're back to where the magic happens.

Morgan: Thank you. I think I've got everything I need, except a bit of background. The readers would be quite interested to find out more about all of you.

Daniel: Ask any questions you want.

Morgan: Yes. I'm always interested in the story behind the story. How are you all connected? Are you friends? Do you socialise? You know a bit more about the group as such. Who started the group?

Aiden: Oh it's been running for forty years or so. Mrs Armitage from the post office started it I think. Nice lady. There were about thirty or forty back in those days.

Morgan: But there's just the four of you now?

Daniel: Yes that's right. I prefer a more intimate group.

(Looking at Natalie.) You get to know each other better.

Morgan: Like a family?

Aiden: We all get along well enough. We're a good little group. An award winning group as well.

Daniel: Oh that was quite some time ago.

Aiden: We entered a festival. Won best play. It was before you joined actually wasn't it Daniel?

Daniel: Yes it was. Before you joined too.

Aiden: Daniel doesn't like awards much.

Daniel: I personally prefer the gratification of doing a good job and getting immersed in the characters than travelling to festivals and back, but each to their own really.

Natalie: You're really going for this article aren't you? Most journalists turn up for five minutes, write our names down wrong and are on their way.

Morgan: I told you. I want to get under the skin of the group. The things the audience don't get to see.

Aiden: The award might be a good angle.

Morgan: I'll bear that in mind.

Daniel: **(A little flustered.)** A photo of us all on stage perhaps?

Aiden: I'll shout Lucas. He is the star. Gone camera shy.

(Shouts off stage right.) Lucas.

(Lucas enters stage right.)

Lucas: Sorry, I was just finding my tie.

Daniel: You're here now.

Morgan: If I could have a picture first of all with everyone together. Everybody stand in the centre.

(Lauren, Aiden, Daniel, Natalie and Lucas stand in that order, centre stage. Morgan walks into the audience points her camera at them.)

Morgan: Everybody smile.

Daniel: Say Adieu.

All: **(Except Morgan.)** Adieu.

(Morgan takes photograph. Instant blackout.)

Scene 2

(Lucas paces with a script in hand. He is wearing a white T-Shirt. Natalie enters stage right dressed in a black hoodie and holding a bottle of water.)

Lucas: Morning Natalie.

Natalie: Good morning.

Lucas: How was your run?

Natalie: Painful, you should come sometime.

Lucas: I'll pass.

Natalie: I thought as much. **(She takes a drink from the bottle.)** I saw Rosie this morning. She ran with me.

Lucas: She said she was going. How was it?