**Pre-workshop**

**Terminology**

**LGBTQ choice**

**Myths**

**Sexual harassment**

**Sex, contraception**

**Conception**

**Sexual pleasure**

**Legal age of consent**

**Legal age to drink alcohol**

* If a guy wants to have sex, he’ll get an erection
* Sexual pleasure is just for men

**POST-SHOW**

**Tom & Emily**

**Identify negative relationship**

Slut vs. frigid dilemma – more of a positive outcome, young people can have positive relationships

**Break down consent**

**Alcohol & sex**

Advice to Emily

How to say no

Build self-esteem to leave relationship

Knowing when it had gone too far: warning signs (possessive, stopping her doing activities, controlling what she wore, jealousy.)

You are always allowed to change your mind.

Tom – advice, forum with Emily & Tom

How he can combat peer pressure i.e. Adam

But taking responsibility for his actions. He was pressured but in turn, pressured Emily

Ways she could have addressed his self-esteem issues

FORUM CONSENT SCENE

Forum scene Emily & Tom (how could this young couple have a positive, sexual relationship).

Identify a positive sexual relationship

**Emily**

You are Tom! I know you think you’re not, but you are! Even if you’re not saying anything, I know in your head, you’re always asking, or waiting for me to say yes or change my mind, I know it’s always on your mind, ‘when is Emily going to have sex with me.’

**Tom**

Well when are you going to have sex with me?

You said after we’ve been going out for a few months, we’ve been going out for nearly 6 months. You said once you were 16, you’ve been 16 for ages. You said tonight…

**Emily**

I didn’t say tonight. *You* said tonight. You kept saying tonight until you convinced yourself I said tonight too.

Let’s address Adam

Erica

Generally made positive decisions, had a good support network and talked about her concerns, checked in with herself and where she was at.

Erica was bullied for her sexuality, what other problems could she have faced?

What could she have done in that situation?

Hot-seat, any advice/questions

Things to dispel

* You do not wake up at 16 ready – everyone reaches sexual readiness at different times
* Being possessive is not romantic or sweet – it is ok (& important) to want to do things on your own
* Relational bullying is bullying – Erica was bullied
* Sexting = child abuse imagery
* Porn/Love Island/Body Image = not real
* Offensive language (gay), everyday homophobia
* What could Erica have done to help Emily notice abusive behaviour
* Bi-sexual is not a phase
* You are allowed to change your mind

Things I think we’re missing

Messages vs. reality – social media portrayal of their relationship

More pressure from Emily on herself (self-peer-pressure, to be older, to be the first).

Shift subtler from Tom – exasperated, desperation,

Emily’s fear of Erica’s sexuality

Before Anyone Else – maybe she wouldn’t be one of the first

* a young people's sexual health service – call the National Sexual Health Helpline on 0300 123 7123

**Before Anyone Else**

**Cast**

Emily / Tom’s Mum

Erica / Adam/ Drama Teacher / Doctor

Tom / Regina /Jason ~~/ Nurse~~

**Props**

Collapsible clothes rail on wheels, with blue/green (hospital-like) curtains: this creates the locations

Romeo and Juliet books x3

Tea mug

School Bags x3

Clothes on hanger

Fairy lights

Beer cans

Game Controls

**Costume**

Towelling robe/ Dressing gown

Doctors

3 white polo shirts

3 ties

(black trousers/trainers)

Party wear

Jason jacket

Pillow

***Scene 1***

*Sound effect of shower running, Emily is humming in the shower. Alarm clocks going off and music starts.*

*Tom is tangled ‘under the covers’ in one of the curtains, Mum (Emily) pops her head around the other side of the screen.*

**Tom’s Mum**

Tom, are you up yet?

*Tom grunts.*

*Erica enters, still in dressing gown, drinking tea and reading a book.*

**Erica**

Mum, have you seen my bag?

*Exits*

*Mum pops her head around the other side of the screen.*

**Tom’s Mum**

Tom – I don’t hear any movement in here. Come on mate, it’s the first day of term. Tom-Bear?

**Tom**

Don’t call me Tom Bear Mum, I’m getting up.

*He doesn’t*

*Enter Erica, stands in front of the shower.*

**Erica**

Urgh Mum, Jason’s hogging the shower!!

**Emily’s Mum (Tom) Offstage**

Emily, I need the shower!

**Emily**

I’m out!

*Erica pulls the shower curtain back as Emily steps out, ready for school and sending a message.*

*Tom’s phone beeps, he picks it up, grumbles and falls back asleep.*

**Erica**

Mum, Jason used all the hot water again!

*Enter Tom’s Mum.*

**Tom’s Mum**

Right! Enough is enough! Tom, it’s time to get up!

*She pulls back the screen/covers*

**Tom’s Mum**

What are you doing with that phone?

**Tom**

I…

**Tom’s Mum**

We’ve talked about this – you’re not going to learn anything realistic from those “pornographic websites”…

**Tom**

Mum! GET OUT!

*Tom throws a pillow at Mum out and closes the screen. Screens rotate.*

*Erica and Emily step out.*

***Scene 2 – outside school gates***

**Emily**

I can’t believe we’re in Year 11! Aww, look how tiny the Year 7’s look. That summer flew by!

**Erica**

Really?! I felt like mine was so slow.Yours sounds so fun.

**Emily**

Ah it was, I did that theatre week away and met loads of cool people, I wish you’d have come with me.

**Erica**

Emily, I hate drama!

**Emily**

That’s because you’re smart! Some of us need to learn people skills to get by!

**Erica**

How was Spain? Did you practise your Spanish?

**Emily**

Hmm, does ‘Hola Chicos’ count! So many cute guys… speaking of which…

*Enter Tom*

**Tom**

Hey Emily.

**Emily**

Oh, hey Tom.

**Tom**

You look nice.

**Emily**

Thank you?!

*He smiles and exits.*

**Emily**

Was that just me or was he…

**Erica**

He definitely was. He’s been saying he thinks you’re hot.

**Emily**

What?!

**Erica**

Yeh, apparently the guys ranked the girls' Instagrams to see who got hot over the summer and you came out top.

**Emily**

I’ve always fancied him, do you think he’s going to ask me out?

*The bell rings*

**Erica**

Maybe, I’ve got to get to biology…

**Emily**

Stop making out this is not a big deal – we’re continuing this conversation at break time!

*Exit Erica, Enter Tom*

**Tom**

Emily!

**Emily**

Oh, hi Tom.

**Tom**

Erm, you’re taking drama, right?

**Emily**

Erm. Yeh.

**Tom**

Me too. Wanna walk together?

**Emily**

Yeh sure.

**Tom**

Want me to take your stuff.

**Emily**

Yeh sure.

***Scene 3***

*Movement/music, implying time passing. Enter Adam, intercepts Tom*

*School Hall*

**Adam**

“Can I walk you to class, Can I carry your books,”…

**Tom**

Hi Adam.

**Adam**

I see what you’re doing - you like Emily.

*Tom tries to escape.*

**Adam cont.**

Nothing to be ashamed of, she got pretty hot over summer now she’s got tits. Solid 8… in fact, we’ve been back for 3 weeks now, and you’re not getting anywhere. If you’re not gonna make a move, maybe I will…

**Tom**

No Adam. All right, all right, I like her.

**Adam**

I knew it.

**Tom**

It’s not a big deal. I just think she’s pretty. And she’s pretty smart too…

**Adam**

You wouldn’t care that she’s smart if she wasn’t hot. You’re like a puppy! No wonder it’s taking you so long!

**Tom**

What?

**Adam**

To seal the deal.

**Tom**

Adam!

**Adam**

You’re telling me you haven’t even thought about that!

**Tom**

Well obviously… but I haven’t even asked her out yet.

**Adam**

Asked her out, what do you think this is! It’s just sex, man!

**Tom**

Whatever!

*They exit, bantering.*

***Scene 4***

*DRAMA STUDIO*

*Enter Emily, she creates the ‘stage’ with the screens. Enter Tom.*

**Emily**

Hi Tom

**Tom**

Oh, hi Emily.

**Emily**

Oh hi, Tom. I like your… tie.

**Tom**

Thanks! I like yours too.

*Enter drama teacher, Emily & Tom join the audience.*

**Drama Teacher**

Settle down, settle down everyone. Hands up if you completed the reading assignment this week. *(Look to audience. Emily raises her hand.)*

**Emily**

I actually ended up reading the whole play! I love Romeo and Juliet.

**Tom**

I read the play too, Miss – I thought it was really good. Really romantic. Especially the fish tank, where Juliet’s wearing those wing things.

**Drama Teacher**

Ok, here’s a question, for everyone now. Hands up if you know the story of Romeo and Juliet. (*Hands up).* Hands up if you think it’s romantic. (*Probably some hands).* Ok, hands up if you think it’s realistic. (*Probably some hands).* And hands up if you don’t think it’s romantic or realistic.

*Emily raises her hand.*

Why’s that Emily?

**Emily**

Well first thing, they only meet each other once and they fall in love. And actually, Romeo’s even ‘in love’ with some other girl who he drops for Juliet. And they get married after only knowing each other for about a week and…

**Drama Teacher**

Good points Emily…

**Tom**

No way, it’s a story! It’s ‘love at first sight’, they really care about each other, it’s romantic.

**Emily**

Doesn’t mean it’s realistic!

**Tom**

You’re telling me you don’t believe in love at first sight?

**Emily**

Not true love. That’s when you’ve been married for like 20 years.

**Drama Teacher**

You’re both right – it is an extreme, not entirely ‘realistic’ love story, but this story is still being told over 400 years later – why?

**Tom**

Because girls love romantic stories?

**Emily**

Says the boy who believes in love at first sight?!

**Drama Teacher**

Because *people* love romantic stories! Emily, Tom, seeing as you’re so vocal today, why don’t you jump up and have a go at the scene where they first meet.

**Tom**  
If I profane with my unworthiest hand

This holy shrine, the gentle sin is this:…

The words are all funny.

**Drama Teacher**

Keep going

**Tom**  
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand

To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

Ah Miss, this is filth!

**Emily**  
Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,

Which mannerly devotion shows in this;

For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch

And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

**Tom**

…what does it mean?

**Emily**

It means he wants to kiss her.

**Tom**

Really?

**Drama Teacher**

Good work today everyone, we will continue with Romeo and Juliet next class.

*Drama Teacher exits right, Emily hurries to leave.*

**Tom**

Emily, wait, I didn’t know that’s what it meant. You’re really good at all this stuff. Drama, I mean.

**Emily**

Thanks, it’s my favourite class. I’d really like to study it, you know, at Uni. *(pause)* I’ve actually got to go, I’m meeting Erica…

*He catches her hand.*

**Tom**

Wait Emily. I did want to kiss you. I do. Actually.

**Emily**

You’ve hardly spoken to me before.

**Tom**

Yeh but I’ve always noticed you. I think you’re really pretty. I guess I’m shy. Ok, not shy! I just didn’t think you’d be interested – all the girls in our year like older guys.

**Emily**

Well, I like you.

**Tom**

Can I kiss you now?

**Emily**

Yes.

*They kiss.*

*Enter Erica*

**Erica**

Where have you been?! You know I hate being on my own at breaks!

**Emily**

Oh sorry, Erica.

**Erica**

Are you coming to biology?

**Emily**

Tom’s actually… erm… can I talk to you at lunch please?

**Erica**

Oh, yeh sure, sorry.

*Tom and Emily exit, chatting*

***Into Scene 5***

**Erica**

~~Sorry,~~ I hate being on my own at break time, it makes me really nervous.

Basically, Emily and I used to be friends with this big bunch of girls. We’d been a group since primary school, we’d all been to each other’s birthday parties since we were like 7, we’d grown up together. We told each other everything.

When we moved up to secondary school, one of the girls, Sophie, decided that I didn’t ‘fit in’ with the group anymore*…*It started off with little things, like them laughing and whispering whenever I came into a room.

Then they wouldn’t let me sit with them at lunch or in classes.

I took the hint, I left the group but Sophie will not let it go – her favourite thing is spreading rumours about me.

**Emily (as Sophie)**

*Something with screens*

When she went through puberty, she got this thing which makes her sweat way more than normal people.

**Tom (as Regina)**

Gross! That’s why she smells so bad – and I’ve heard she doesn’t use deodorant.

**Erica**

Problem is, some of it’s true.

**Emily (as Sophie)**

*Something with screens*

Erica said when her parents split up, she had to go & see a therapist!

**Tom (as Regina)**

I bet it was her fault.

**Erica**

Her favourite one at the moment is…

**Sophie**

Well, you know she’s a massive dyke.

**Erica**

(at same time) Dyke.

**Tom (as Regina)**

What! No?

**Sophie**

Come on! She even looks like a dirty lesbian.

**Tom (as Regina)**

Who’d want to do stuff with her, I bet she’s really hairy down there.

**Sophie**

Well, no boy’s going to go anywhere near her, so I guess she has no choice but to try girls.

**Tom (as Regina)**

It’s just so unnatural, it’s disgusting!

**Sophie**

Oh my god, do you think she fancies me?

**Tom (as Regina)**

Probably.

**Sophie**

Erica, get out of the changing rooms! Urgh, you freak!

**Tom (as Regina)**

Stop looking at us you dyke – we’re not going to get with you! Gross.

**Erica**

And now it’s everywhere I go – I try to keep my head down but it’s relentless. And she’s popular so everyone goes along with her. Emily is the only person who stood by me – she’s an amazing friend, but now she’s got Tom…

***Scene 6***

*Physical scene change, implying time passing*

*Enter Tom & Emily, piggybacking.*

**Tom**

I’ll see you at break beautiful!

*Adam spins through the screens*

**Adam**

*Mimicking* Bye beautiful! You two are disgusting!

**Emily (direct address)**

Oh my god, this is too intense! Tom and I went out that weekend and most weekends after. He asked me to be his girlfriend at Bonfire night, under the fireworks – sounds cringe I know, but it was so romantic! We’ve already been dating for a month! This is like a dream come true! Everyone knows I’ve liked Tom since primary school! I know I’m young, but I genuinely think I’m in love.

***Into Scene 7***

*ERICA’S HOUSE*

*Enter Erica, using the screen as a mirror, hangs some clothes on the hanger, the girls are getting ready to go out, Emily’s holding up outfits.*

**Erica**

You are so overdramatic!

**Emily**

I’m serious! No one has ever noticed me before. I think guys think I’m too much.

**Erica**

You are too much! I’m joking! You’re confident and ambitious, I think that can be intimidating, especially to the guys in our year, who can be – let’s be honest – very immature.

**Emily**

Er, excuse me, my boyfriend is in our year. Ah! I can’t believe I have a boyfriend.

**Erica**

Why is it so important to you to have a boyfriend?

**Emily**

I don’t know. It just is. You know, you see other people on Instagram & TikTok challenges, it's just nice to have that with someone, to be a couple – come on, it’s cute. And, you know, I don’t want to be a virgin forever.

**Erica**

Hardly forever! So, are you thinking about, you know, having sex? With Tom?

**Emily**

Thinking about it. We haven’t talked about it properly, but he’s definitely made some hints. We’ve sent a few ‘sexy’ messages and stuff.

**Erica**

Don’t you think it’s quite soon?

**Emily**

I’m not saying right now! Anyway, other people in our year have…

**Erica**

Yeh, but not many, most people haven’t.

**Emily**

Yeh, but I think I’m pretty mature.

**Erica**

I don’t get it.

**Emily**

I know, and it’s weird! Especially when loads of guys like you.

**Erica**

What? No, they don’t. People think I’m weird.

**Emily**

Yeh, which is why they like you, especially the older guys. You’re different and you don’t care what people think.

**Erica**

I wish that was true.

**Emily**

Are Sophie and that lot still giving you a hard time?

**Erica**

Yeh, especially if they see me on my own. It’s like they can’t just let it go. Sophie’s newest thing is telling everyone that I’m a lesbian and I’m obsessed with her.

**Emily**

A lesbian? Where did she get that from? You don’t look gay or anything.

**Erica**

What do you mean?

**Emily**

Like butch, or flamboyant.

**Erica**

Right.

**Emily**

It must be hard to be gay, don’t you think? More than if you’re just normal, I mean. There’s that guy, Tim, in the year above. He came out and apparently had a really hard time because of it. I don’t know why anyone would choose to be that…different.

**Erica**

No, why would anyone choose that.

*Erica leaves*

***Scene 8***

**Emily**

It’s been 3 months now since Tom and I have been officially dating. I can’t believe he still actually wants to be my boyfriend - I mean he wants to be with me all the time and know where I am. He’s so protective, it’s so cute! I’m really happy.

But there is this one thing. This is embarrassing. But he really wants me to send him a picture, you know, like a ‘nude’. Loads of people do it, I mean, he sent me a one, I didn’t really ask for it, but we are dating…but I don’t know, I don’t really want to. But I don’t want him to break up with me because I won’t do it.

Honestly, I think he’ll be disappointed – I’ve seen porn, and come on! I don’t look anything like those girls.

We have done stuff, not everything, not sex. And I send him flirty messages, so he thinks it shouldn’t be a big deal. But it kind of feels like it is – I just want to make him happy. Does that make sense? It’s complicated, like sometimes, I do want to do things, like *really want* to and it feels good…and sometimes I don’t – even if we’ve done it before. But how can I say no to something which I’ve already agreed to? So usually, I don’t say anything at all.

***Scene 9***

*Enter Tom & Adam*

*Playing video games*

**Adam**

How’s Princess Emily?

**Tom**

Don’t call her Princess Emily.

**Adam**

Why not! She’s got you running around like some slave. And you’re not even getting any.

**Tom**

We’ve done bits.

**Adam**

Yeh but not properly. It doesn’t count unless you go all the way. I mean, I knew a girl like Emily was going to take some work, but this is ridiculous!

**Tom**

I’m not going out with her just to have sex. I really like her.

**Adam**

I really like her! You’re so gay.

**Tom**

Shut up man! We do stuff. She can actually be pretty dirty.

**Adam**

Really!

**Tom**

Yeh, she pretends to be all cute and nice, but you forget, I know her. Look, read these!

*Passes Adam his phone.*

**Adam**

I’m never going to look at her the same way again! Emily – the secret slut! Any pictures?

**Tom**

Nah, not yet.

**Adam**

No sex! No photos! You are patient!

**Tom**

It’s just she’s just got this thing about waiting until she’s 16…

**Adam**

Ah mate, that’s just a line! If she’s this dirty (*waggles phone*), I bet you she’s playing you and getting her fun somewhere else. I know a few of the year 12’s think she’s hot.

**Tom**

Nah man!

**Adam**

Seriously, you’ve got to let her know you won’t wait forever, you’ve got needs.

**Tom**

I can’t make her do something she doesn’t want to do.

**Adam**

Yeh you can, I saw a thing on Reddit, you just need to remind her she’s not all that!

**Tom**

But she’s my girlfriend – I don’t wanna be a dick.

**Adam**

Nah, you’d be doing her favour, she’s just waiting for you to take control so she can drop the frigid act. Be a man.

**Tom**

Yeh?

**Adam**

Yeh, they all want it! Especially Emily! ~~I knew she was filthy!~~

*Exit Adam*

**Tom**

I hate when he talks about her like that, I don't know what's wrong with me. I should stand up for her. But he says that stuff and I just can’t help it, I just go along with it.

I mean, I really like Emily, like, really like her, I think I love her. ~~She’s smart, she’s pretty and funny~~… but there’s no way I could tell my friends that – to be honest, the only person I can talk to about real stuff is her. All my friends care about is what we’ve done.

I know she wants to wait and to be honest, I’m not mad at that. *I* don’t know what I’m doing. Half the time, I’m just embarrassed that I’m doing things wrong or that there’s something wrong with me – maybe there is! Maybe that’s why Emily doesn’t want to… you know… with me.

I’m such an idiot, this one time, I tried to pick her up because that’s the kind of thing you see in porn, but I nearly dropped her – we just ended up laughing. It was pretty funny, actually.

She’s amazing - I’m so scared she’s going to see through me, see that I’m just some scared little virgin and get with someone else. If I see her even talking to another guy, I get so angry, like jealous. Problem is that I end up taking it out on her. That’s why I want to be near her and know where she is all the time. I'm so scared of losing her.

***Scene 10***

*School classroom, Emily & Erica join*

**Emily**

There you are! Have you seen the notice up about the school play? It’s a musical!

**Tom**

That’s going to be rubbish then, all the guys who do drama are gay.

**Erica & Emily**

You do drama.

**Tom**

Yeh, but…

**Emily**

And I need actual performance experience if I’m going to study drama.

**Erica**

Speaking of studying…

**Tom**

*(Joking)* Oh, I forgot, studying with Erica actually means studying. If you’re that much of a genius, Erica, why do you have to study at all.

**Emily**

She doesn’t, she does it for fun!

**Tom**

At least you don’t have to study babe, you can get by on being beautiful! No offence Erica.

**Erica**

None taken. Your opinion on my beauty has no impact on my day.

**Tom**

Although I heard I’m not really you’re type.

**Erica**

What do you mean?

**Tom**

I heard you were more into, well, girls. It’s fine, being a lesbo is hot, it’s a good look.

**Erica**

I’m not a lesbian and even I was, it wouldn’t be to turn you on. Can’t think of anything worse.

**Tom**

Relax, I’m joking. Is she always this serious? Come on babe, I said we’d sit with my friends at lunch.

**Erica**

Emily, can we still hang out after school today? I feel like I haven’t seen you for ages.

**Emily**

Oh yeh sure, you don’t mind if Tom tags along though, right?

**Erica**

Oh right, no, sure.

*Emily and Tom exit.*

**Erica**

It’s been like this for months. Wherever Emily goes, Tom isn’t far behind.

It would just be nice to talk to my friend alone sometimes, because there’s something really big I need to tell her.

The truth is, I didn’t have a boring summer - I went on this coding course and one of the people there, Mel, was really cool and we got on really well. She was gay. Like it was no big deal. I’d never met anyone like that before. We had loads of conversations about sexuality and she ended up asking me if I liked girls. It kind of surprised me. But I thought about it, and I said yes. I think I do like girls. I liked her. & we kissed. But I’ve been feeling really guilty and confused because the thing is, I like guys too - there’s a guy in extra maths who I think is cute.

Mel and I have been messaging a bit ever since, she suggested I might be bi – you know, into guys *and* girls. But I can’t get my head around that, I wish I was just one thing or the other, or normal.

I wish I could talk to Emily about it, help make sense of it all, I feel totally mixed up at the moment.

*Exit Erica.*

***Scene 11***

*Park. Enter Tom and Emily holding hands.*

**Tom**

I don’t think you should do the school play, Em.

**Emily**

What, why not?

**Tom**

First of all, you’re too good for it. So, you’d definitely get the main part. And then you'll spend all your time rehearsing with some other guy and I’ll miss you.

**Emily**

Ok, I haven’t even done the audition yet…

**Tom**

I’m serious Em, I don’t want you getting with other people, I just want it to be you and me forever, I really love you Emily, I don’t know what I’d do without you.

**Emily**

I love you too, so obviously I’m not going to get with other people!

**Tom**

You’re choosing some stupid school play over me.

**Emily**

I’m not Tom, I’m really not.

**Tom**

I don’t want people talking about me and saying things about my girlfriend.

**Emily**

What’s this all about?

**Tom**

You know what.

**Emily**

Oh, not this again.

**Tom**

Come on babe, we’ve been dating for months. My mates think there’s something wrong with me.

**Emily**

There’s nothing wrong with you. I’m just not ready.

**Tom**

When will you be ready? You send me messages saying you want to have sex, but when it comes to real life…

**Emily**

But they’re not real life, that’s the point!

**Tom**

I know there are other girls who would… I don’t know how much longer I can wait.

**Tash**

I don’t know Tom.

**Tom**

You’re never gonna be ready, seriously, there’s something wrong with you. I’m being serious, this isn’t normal. I don’t know how much more of this I can take. It feels like you’re leading me on.

**Emily**

Tom, why are you being like this?

**Tom**

The whole time, I’ve been thinking there’s something wrong with me, but it’s you. You’re the problem. Seriously Emily, you need to get over it, sex is not this much of a big deal.

*Emily doesn’t say anything.*

**Tom**

Listen, there’s a big house party at the end of term, it’s months away, you’ll be 16 by then. I’ll make it super romantic.

**Emily**

Maybe, Tom.

**Tom**

Yes!

**Emily**

I said maybe!

***Scene 12***

ERICA/EMILY’S HOUSE, EVENING

*Enter Erica, on phone.*

*Text in blue is being messaged, black is to self/audience*

**Erica**

Hey, Em. Are you on your own?

*Enter Emily in a dressing gown.*

**Emily**

Hey. Yeh.

**Erica**

Can I talk to you about something?

**Emily**

Of course, anything.

**Erica**

Ok, how do I start this conversation?

I think I’m bi… no, delete delete delete

You know Sophie’s been saying I’m a lesbian

**Emily**

Oh no, ok, be casual…

Yeh. But I know it’s not true.

**Erica**

I don’t fancy Sophie.

**Emily**

What!

I know.

**Erica**

But I do… come on Erica, just tell her… I do fancy girls. Some girls. And boys.

**Emily**

What?

**Erica**

Why isn’t she replying?

Em, you still there?

**Emily**

What am I supposed to say to that?

What are you saying?

**Erica**

I think I might be coming out.

**Emily**

As a lesbian?

**Erica**

I think I may be bisexual. Or queer or whatever. I definitely don’t think I’m straight.

**Emily**

Right.

Where has this come from?

**Erica**

Please don’t tell anyone.

Please don’t tell Tom.

**Emily**

I won’t. Why are you telling me if you don’t want to be ‘out’?

**Erica**

You’re my best friend!

I wanted to tell someone.

**Emily**

Will you tell your parents?

**Erica**

No way. My Dad’s super homophobic - I feel like he’d disown me. I don’t know about Mum - we’ve never really talked about it before – I think she’d think it’s a phase.

**Emily**

Maybe it is a phase. Tom says bisexuals are just greedy.

**Erica**

Emily!

Oh my god, she has told him! You haven’t told him, have you?

**Emily**

No, of course not.

**Erica**

Please don’t.

**Emily**

I won’t! But he doesn’t like us having secrets.

**Erica**

It’s not your secret. It’s mine. Please Emily, someone has already outed me before I was ready. I just want to be in control for once – please.

**Emily**

Ok ok, it’s not that big of a deal. Loads of people are gay.

**Erica**

Urgh I’m not gay – I’m queer – has she listened to a thing I’ve said.

I guess. I’ve got to go. Night.

**Emily**

Night.

**Erica**

Well, that went well.

*Exit Erica, Enter Tom*

**Tom**

Have you done it yet babe? I can’t wait.

*Emily looks nervous.*

Remember, you are beautiful x

**Emily**

I don’t know why I’m doing this. I don’t even want to. He just will not stop asking. Constant messages, asking me at school, being nice to me, being nasty to me, threatening to break up with me, begging me! Every way he could have asked, he’s asked. I’ve run out of ways to say no to him.

And anyway, like he says, he’s my boyfriend, and he’s a really good boyfriend. I do trust him, and I do love him. This is just something couples do.

*She goes behind the shower curtain. Photo sound effect.*

***Scene 13***

*Party. Fairy lights on around the screens*

*Music – dance section at party*

*All 3 dancing.*

**Tom**

Shall we go upstairs now?

**Emily**

Not now babe, I have to go to the bathroom. Erica, can you come with me please!

*Emily and Erica exit*

**Tom monologue**

Why do girls always go to the bathroom together at parties?

So tonight’s the night… apparently.. except Emily’s acting really weird. She’s been 16 for ages now, and she said we could do it tonight.

~~I don’t feel ready,~~ I’m scared shitless to be honest, like what happens if I finish too quickly, what if she laughs at me – no, I’ve told all my friends that it’s happening so it’s got to happen. They’ll tear me apart if I don’t - I’ll never live it down.

Adam told me to down a couple of these, it seems to be working, I’m feeling more confident. Like Adam says, I just need to man up and get it over with. I can’t be a virgin forever.

*Emily and Erica enter dancing*

**Erica**

Are you alright Em? You seem a bit, I dunno…

**Emily**

I’m fine. Do you want some? *(offers her a drink)*

**Erica**

What’s in it?

**Emily**

No idea.

**Erica**

Look, I know you and Tom kind of said you’d have sex tonight, but you know you don’t have to, you know you can change your mind?

**Emily**

I know. I do want to. I don’t want to be a virgin forever. And I do want it to be with Tom.

**Erica**

Wasn’t he threatening to break up with you if you didn’t do it?

**Emily**

Yeh but that’s just boys being boys.

**Erica**

Not all boys, Em… All I’m saying is, you don’t have to do it here, tonight. I mean, you’re drunk.

**Emily**

I’m not that drunk. Everyone’s drunk.

**Erica**

I just don’t want you to do something you might regret.

**Emily**

I won’t.

*She walks off to Tom*

**Erica**

I’m just trying to help! Things have been weird with us ever since I told her about being bi. I know she’s going through something but it’s hard to be supportive when she’s not there for me when I need her.

*Exit Erica*

*Tom and Emily dancing.*

*They loop behind the screens and re-enter*

*PARTY BEDROOM*

**Tom**

Ta-da! Finally babe, I’ve been trying to get you up here all night.

**Emily**

I wanted to dance with my friends – it is a party.

**Tom**

Aren’t you going to say how nice it is?

**Emily**

It’s really nice Tom.

**Tom**

It’s all for you. Everything is for you.

*They kiss.*

Come on.

**Emily**

Urgh Tom, what have you been drinking?

**Tom**

It’s just beer.

**Emily**

It tastes horrible.

*Tries to kiss her again.*

**Emily**

Wait Tom, slow down.

**Tom**

Slow down! I haven’t done anything!

**Emily**

Well just stop a second then, will you.

*He stops*

**Tom**

I’m not doing anything!

**Emily**

I know babe, I just…

*Emily doesn’t say anything. Tom takes her hands.*

**Tom**

Emily, have I ever forced you to do anything you don’t want to do?

**Emily**

No.

**Tom**

Good. And you do trust me, right?

**Emily**

Of course I do.

**Tom**

Good because I really love you Em. All these nice things are to make it special. For you.

**Emily**

I know. I know.

*She kisses him.*

**Tom**

Don’t you think we just need to get it over with? You’ve built it up as this big thing. We just need to do it, then we can start enjoying it. Come on babe, you can trust me. I won’t make you do anything you don’t want to do.

*They kiss*

*Emily leads him behind the curtains. Music gets louder.*

***Scene 14***

*Erica’s house. Enter Erica*

**Erica**

Emily told me that her and Tom did end up having sex that night. She said it was fine, but she didn’t want to talk about it ~~in school~~. Everyone seems to know anyway. That’s the worst thing about having a girlfriend or boyfriend in school, everyone knows your business.

I don’t get the rush! Let’s be honest, I can’t even work out who I fancy, let alone all of that other stuff. I’ve tried to talk to Emily about being bi, but she always seems a bit embarrassed or like I’m doing it for attention. I think I’ll talk to my older brother, Jason. He’s just started uni and is pretty cool about most things, one of his best friends is gay so I don’t know, he just seems like a good person to talk to.

*Enter Jason*

**Jason**

So, what did you want to talk about?

**Erica**

Remember when Mum and Dad got divorced and they said they would love us no matter what.

**Jason**

Yeh.

**Erica**

Well, there’s something about me Jason, something that I’m so scared to tell you and Mum. And Dad.

**Jason**

Well, I can’t know unless you tell me. *(Big pause)* Do you want to write it down? Or Whatsapp it.

**Erica**

No, it’s ok. (*Takes her time.)* Ok. I’m bisexual.

**Jason**

Ok?

**Erica**

Ok what?

**Jason**

Ok, is that it? Seriously, Erica, the way you were going on, I thought you were going to tell me you were into, I don’t know, killing puppies for fun!

**Erica**

You don’t think it’s a big deal? Or a phase? Dad used to say it’s wrong, and unnatural.

**Jason**

Listen, not everyone is going to understand, but this is *your* life. And you can’t change who you are or who you love.

**Erica**

But what about Mum - do you think they’ll be disappointed? and Dad is never going to understand. ~~I don’t want them to think it’s their fault, because of the divorce or anything?~~

**Jason**

~~A divorce can’t make someone gay! Your sexuality is who you love, who you find attractive, it just is. In terms of Mum and Dad,~~ Erica, there’s no rush to tell them. But if you want to, I can be there too, I’ll be there. & I’ll support you whatever you decide.

**Erica**

Thanks Jason.

*Hug, Erica and Jason exit.*

***Scene 15***

*Enter Emily.*

**Emily**

I’m so bored of talking about sex. Ever since Tom and I did it, people seem to think it’s ok to ask me about it, or tell me what they think… I thought this stuff was supposed to be private!

If I’m honest, I just want everyone to leave me alone. Including Tom. I want to be on my own. I used to think having a boyfriend was the most important thing ever, but I’ve forgotten what it feels like to just be me. I want to spend more time with my friends and doing drama. Tom gets so funny if I ever spend time with anyone apart from him, and I don’t think I like it. It’s not cute anymore. But I don’t know how to end things. He says things like he doesn’t know what he’d do if I broke up with him, and that feels like a lot of pressure. Like, what if he did something dangerous, because of me?. And, he knows things about me, private things. He has pictures of me. I’m so scared that if I break up with him, he’ll show them to everyone.

***Scene 16***

*Adam’s house, Enter Tom & Adam*

**Adam**

So, the ice queen finally crumbled! Best thing about this is, now you’ve done it, you can get it whenever you like! How does it feel to be a man!

**Tom**

Yeh, it was all right.

**Adam**

All right! You need to work harder! Don’t want Emily getting bored.

**Tom**

She’s definitely not bored, mate.

**Adam**

No? How do you know?

**Tom**

Well based on the photos she sent me…

**Adam**

Ah mate! Come on, share!

**Tom**

Come on man, it’s private.

**Adam**

Exactly! Oh come on, girls talk to their friends about this stuff all the time, she’s probably saying all sorts about you.

Look, I didn’t want to say anything but loads of people think you and Emily are lying – that you just said you did it to get everyone off your backs.

**Tom**

What? No! We did!

**Adam**

Yeh, but no one’s actually going to believe that.

**Tom**

Look.

*Tom holds out his phone.*

**Adam**

Very nice. Can you send me that?

**Tom**

Are you having a laugh, no way! Emily’d kill me.

**Adam**

Why? She looks great!

**Tom**

Come on man.

**Adam**

All right, all right, can I just see it one more time. You are such a legend! Remember, I’m learning from you!

*Tom laughs and shows him again, Adam takes a picture.*

**Tom**

Adam, come on! Delete that.

**Adam**

I’m not going to do anything with it. I’m not an idiot! It’s just a picture.

*Exit Adam*

**Tom**

I know. I’m an idiot. I should never have shown him. But it was banter you know, he’s my friend. It didn’t seem like a big deal – I was only showing it to one other person. But that’s how things start, isn’t it! Adam claims he only sent it to one other person. The next thing I know, it feels like everyone in the school has seen this picture.

Emily was furious – everyone was. She broke up with me. ~~She said she’d been thinking about it for a while, that she wasn’t happy for ages… I think I knew, maybe that’s why I did it. To try and prove something.~~

The school got involved, me and Adam got suspended, they’ve said the police may have to get involved. They’ve told me I need to go to therapy, they think I’ve got some problems understanding consent, that my attitude could be dangerous to women. That makes me sound like some kind of rapist. I’m not. I never made Emily do anything she didn’t want to do.

*Exit Tom*

***Scene 17***

*Enter Doctor*

**Doctor**

Emily Morgan, would you like to come in. Ok, just having a quick look at your form, no symptoms, you had protected sex 2 weeks ago. Was he a long-term partner?

**Emily**

He was my boyfriend, ~~I had sex with my boyfriend…~~ ex-boyfriend. We used a condom. I just… I don’t know… it was my first time. Sorry, I’m probably wasting your time - I just want to check everything’s ok…

**Doctor**

It’s never a waste of our time. You used a condom, so it’s very unlikely that you’ll have gotten pregnant or contracted any sexually transmitted infections, but it’s always a good idea to have a check-up if you’re worried. ~~It doesn’t even have to be sexual – any concerns down there, that’s what we’re here for. Were you and your boyfriend sexually active before you had sex?~~

**~~Emily~~**

~~What do you mean?~~

**~~Doctor~~**

~~Well sexual activity doesn’t have to mean full penetrative sex, it could mean foreplay, non-penetrative sex, oral sex…~~

**~~Emily~~**

~~We had done bits, yeh…~~

**~~Doctor~~**

~~It’s ok, you don’t have to be embarrassed, believe me, I’ve heard it all before. The reason I ask is that some STIs can be passed on without penetrative sex.~~

**~~Emily~~**

~~We were both… it was both of our first times.~~

**Doctor**

Can I ask if your ex-boyfriend has made an appointment too?

**Emily**

I told him he should come. He said it was too embarrassing.

**Doctor**

Nothing embarrasses me, I’ve seen it all before! And I would argue that if you think you’re mature enough to have sex, then you need to be mature enough to take responsibility, which includes sexual health checks.

**Emily**

What is the check, will it hurt?

**Doctor**

We’ll do a vaginal swab – which is painless. Then we’ll take a urine sample – also painless. If you want to test for syphilis and HIV, a nurse will do a blood test…

**Emily**

A needle?

**Doctor**

Just a tiny one – don’t worry!

**Emily**

Tom said for boys it’s really painful…

**Doctor**

No, it’s exactly the same – swab, urine, blood test.

Before we do that, just another a routine question ~~and once again, these are completely routine. Please can you tell me if you were under the influence of alcohol any drugs or alcohol?~~

**~~Emily~~**

~~We’d had a few drinks, but I knew what I was doing.~~

**~~Doctor~~**

~~But do you find alcohol affects your decision-making?~~

**~~Emily~~**

~~Sometimes.~~

**Doctor**

Have you ever felt scared or pressured by a partner?

**Emily**

No. Well, sometimes.

**Doctor**

Did you consent to sex with your ex-boyfriend?

**Emily**

I didn’t say no.

**Doctor**

That doesn’t matter, was it consensual?

**Emily**

Well, I was nervous, we both were. I said yes, so…

**Doctor**

Forget about saying yes and no for now. Did you want to have sex?

**Emily**

I would have been happy to wait a bit longer to be honest. But it seemed easier to just get it out the way. *(She starts to get upset).* Sorry, I don’t know why I’m getting upset. Did I do something wrong?

**Doctor**

No, you didn’t do anything wrong. It’s important to understand that you never have to engage in any sexual activity if you don’t want to.

**Emily**

But we were nervous. How do I know the difference between nerves because it was the first time and not wanting to do it?

**Doctor**

That’s a good question – have you ever felt nervous before doing something, but because *you* *really wanted* to do it, you were going to do it no matter how nervous you felt?

**Emily**

Yeh, when Tom and I first started dating and you know, doing stuff, I would be nervous but excited… I always wanted to carry on. I felt like we were on the same page and he’d check in, you know things I liked and didn’t like. But that changed, it didn’t feel like that before we had sex.

**Doctor**

How did that feel?

**Emily**

Like, you know when you have to do something, like, erm, like nerves before an exam or an injection…

**Doctor**

So, you felt nervous about something you *had* to do as opposed to something you *wanted* to do?

**Emily**

I suppose.

**Doctor**

But sex is not an exam or an injection, it’s a choice between 2 people. You should never have been made to feel like you didn’t have a choice. Any sex or sexual activity without consent is sexual assault and rape.

**Emily**

No, I don’t feel like I was raped! He didn’t hurt me, or you know, pin me down…

**Doctor**

Sexual assault doesn’t have to leave a mark, it doesn’t have to be violent, but by making you feel like you can’t say no – that’s force.

*Pause*

**Emily**

Sexual assault, rape… it all seems so… serious.

**Doctor**

It is serious.

*Pause*

**Emily**

Can I ask a question - Everyone says sex is supposed to be fun, but I didn’t feel that. I didn’t feel anything really, like he was doing it, but I was just there.

**Doctor**

No that is not what sex should feel like - it should be fun! And every time you engage in any sexual activity, you should be thinking, ‘Yes! I want this! With that person! And they want it with me!’

I can understand this is a lot to take in, have you considered talking to a professional?

**Emily**

I think I’d like that.

**Doctor**

We can help with the referral, in the meantime, websites like Rape Crisis and Safeline might be useful. I’m really glad you came in today, Emily.

**Emily**

I am too. Thanks.

**POSSIBLY THE END? / OR**

*Doctor exits*

*Emily gets out her phone*

**Emily**

Hey Erica, it’s me, I’ve just finished… yeh it was fine… she said some stuff I hadn’t really thought about but I need to talk to you about it properly… actually, I don’t want talk about me. I’ve been a really bad friend recently. I’ve been so hung up with the whole Tom thing, I forgot that you were dealing with your own stuff, I mean you came out as bisexual and I didn’t even acknowledge it.

**Erica**

Yeh. It’s been hard without your support, I really needed you. But Jason’s been amazing, and I’ve started to go to this LGBTQ group, which has been really helpful.

**Emily**

I’m so sorry I’ve not been as supportive as I should have been. I think I was confused, I couldn’t really take in what you were saying and that you were asking for my support… you always seem so strong and sorted, but this must have been hard.

**Erica**

I guess that makes sense. Do you want to hang out this weekend? No boys?

**Emily**

Yes! Definitely!

*MUSIC / THE END*

|  |  |  |  | **Cast** |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Scene** | **Type** |  |  |  | **Location** | **Time** |
|  |  |  | **Actor 1** | **Actor 2** | **Actor 3** |  |  |
| 1 | Opening, getting ready for school | Physical | Tom | Emily | Erica | Bedrooms | Sept Y11 |
| 2a | 1st day back | Scene |  | Emily | Erica | School gates |  |
| 2b | Tom & Emily meet | Scene | Tom | Emily |  | School gates |  |
| 3 | Tom & Adam (pressure, porn) | Scene | Tom |  | Adam | School | Oct Y11 |
| 4a | Romeo & Juliet | Scene | Tom | Emily | Drama | Drama Studio |  |
| 4b | Erica crossover | S/C | (Tom) | (Emily) | Erica | Drama Studio |  |
| 5 | Erica monologue – bullying | Monologue |  |  | Erica | Inside head |  |
| 6a | Cutesy scene change | S/C | Tom | Emily | (Adam) | School gates | Nov Y11 |
| 6b | Emily in love | Monologue |  | Emily |  | Inside head | Dec Y11 |
| 7 | Girl talk – pressure & sexuality | Scene |  | Emily | Erica | Erica’s house |  |
| 8 | Sexual pressure | Monologue |  | Emily |  | Inside head | Jan Y11 |
| 9a | Guy talk – girls love it/porn | Scene | Tom |  | Adam | Adam’s house |  |
| 9b | Tom self-esteem/guilt | Monologue | Tom |  |  | Inside head |  |
| 10a | Studying | Scene | Tom | Emily | Erica | School | Feb Y11 |
| 10b | Erica talks about her sexuality | Monologue |  |  | Erica | Inside head |  |
| 11 | Tom stops Emily doing the play | Scene | Tom | Emily |  | Park |  |
| 12a | Erica comes out to Emily | Abstract |  | Emily | Erica | Em/Er home |  |
| 12b | Sexting | Monologue | (Tom) | Emily |  | Emily home |  |
| 13a | Party | Physical | Tom | Emily | Erica | Party | April Y11 |
| 13b | Consent | Scene | Tom | Emily |  | Party |  |
| 14a | Erica update | Monologue |  |  | Erica | Erica home |  |
| 14b | Erica comes out to Jason | Scene | Jason |  | Erica | Erica home |  |
| 15 | Emily wants to end relationship | Monologue |  | Emily |  | Inside head |  |
| 16a | Adam & Tom forward Sext | Scene | Tom |  | Adam | Adam’s house |  |
| 16b | Tom reflects | Monologue | Tom |  |  |  |  |
| ~~17~~ | ~~Girl support~~ | ~~Scene~~ |  | ~~Emily~~ | ~~Erica~~ | ~~Drama Studio~~ |  |
| 18 | Sexual Health Clinic | Scene |  | Emily | Doctor | STI Clinic |  |