

# **Sarah-Jane Dickenson: Not Yet.**

Great Britain, Hull , 2008

*(Edited by Jörg Harriers und Jörg Klöppinger. Solingen 2009)*

## **Cast:**

Choir

Class 11c

**Sigrid Heilmann**

**Headteacher**

**Marta**

**Anna**

Marta's & Anna's Father

**Jenny**

**Jenny's Mother**

Mrs. Kremer, social worker

Lawyer

Prisoner

Judge

*All roles except Sigrid Heilmann are played by participants of the choir. The choir is on stage during the whole play and watches everything constantly and concentrated with the intensity of a youth being under tension.*

*Props and scenery should be very simple.*

# Scene 1

The space of the chorus [music of the chorus at volume]  
The CHORUS are exploding pouring, oozing, emerging into the space - their space - with feral energy which is only just contained. They are focused, distracted, focused again. They move as an aggressive shoal. Ultimately they are completely and utterly threatening to everyone and everything [music stops]

CHORUS  
You!

CHORUS  
You!

CHORUS  
You!

[These can be repeated if so desired]

**CHORUS X**  
Yooooooooou!

CHORUS  
A shadow

CHORUS  
A speck

CHORUS  
Speck of speck

CHORUS  
Speck of dust

CHORUS  
Speck of nothing

CHORUS  
Dust of nothing

CHORUS  
Nothing

CHORUS  
Hear that

CHORUS

Nothing

CHORUS

But you know that

CHORUS

Hear that

CHORUS

Unless....

CHORUS

Unless

CHORUS

Unless-

CHORUS

Unless what?

CHORUS

Oh c'mon!

CHORUS

C'mon what!

**CHORUS X**

C'mon! C'mon! C'mon! C'maaaaarn!!!!

CHORUS

[Pause] Oh!

CHORUS

Yes 'Oh'!

**CHORUS X**

Oh oh oh oh! Yeeeeeees!

CHORUS

A clue hidden in plain sight

CHORUS  
Clue

CHORUS  
Plain sight

CHORUS  
Ain't it just

CHORUS  
But hey!

CHORUS  
Google me

CHORUS  
Go on - google me

CHORUS  
I'm there

CHORUS  
I bet I'm there

CHORUS  
I'm definitely there

CHORUS  
My Space me

CHORUS  
I'm there

CHORUS  
Definitely there

CHORUS  
Loads there

CHORUS  
Face book?

CHORUS  
Course

CHORUS

Blog?

CHORUS

Yeh

CHORUS

I'm a right little blogger

CHORUS

I'm all over

**CHORUS X**

And you?!

CHORUS

Yeh right

**CHORUS X**

Victim

CHORUS

You

CHORUS

You are toast

CHORUS

Burnt toast

CHORUS

Roasted toast

CHORUS

Numpty

**CHORUS X**

Victim!

CHORUS

X factor?

CHORUS

Hope factor?

CHORUS  
Dream factor?

CHORUS  
Nah!

CHORUS  
Fail factor

CHORUS  
Forget it factor

**CHORUS X**  
Fear factor

CHORUS  
Victim!

**CHORUS X**  
I bet you just ... DON'T!

CHORUS  
I bet you really don't

CHORUS  
I really bet you don't

CHORUS  
Don't do-

CHORUS  
Don't think-

CHORUS  
Think about-

CHORUS  
Care about-

CHORUS  
I bet you just ... WANT!

CHORUS  
Want, want, want, want, want

CHORUS  
Right little want-er

CHORUS  
Victim

CHORUS  
Ain't you just

CHORUS  
Mind you

CHORUS  
We like a victim

CHORUS  
Love a victim

**CHORUS X**  
Oh we love you

[Sigrid music. Enter SIGRID. The Chorus swarm around her as only they can.]

CHORUS  
Oh yes!

CHORUS  
Oh look!

CHORUS  
Oh my!

CHORUS  
A special one

CHORUS  
A chosen one

CHORUS  
Fresh one

CHORUS  
Victim!

[Enter HEADTEACHER]

SIGRID  
Heilmann

HEADTEACHER  
The new trainee teacher?

CHORUS  
See

CHORUS  
Nothing

CHORUS  
Nada

SIGRID  
Sigrid Heilmann, I teach German and history.

HEADTEACHER  
You're from Berlin? East or west?

SIGRID  
East.

CHORUS  
Eeeeast!

CHORUS  
Traineeeee!

CHORUS  
Not reeeeeal then

[A chair appears for Sigrid]

HEADTEACHER  
How long have you been with us?

SIGRID  
Two weeks now

HEADTEACHER  
Excellent! And how are you getting along?

SIGRID  
Well, its hard to –

HEADTEACHER  
You see I believe in letting people –

CHORUS  
Here's the blag

HEADTEACHER  
Fulfil their potential and you I think are the future of teaching

SIGRID  
Really?

HEADTEACHER  
Yes! Absolutely you also have the potential here to fulfil –

CHORUS  
The gaps-

CHORUS  
The vacancies

HEADTEACHER  
Yourself. And I think you're ready

SIGRID  
Ready?

HEADTEACHER  
Ready to make the move from trainee to teacher

SIGRID  
Really?

HEADTEACHER  
Oh yes

**CHORUS X**  
Oh no

HEADTEACHER  
Look there's a class that needs an East-German ...  
'experience'

**CHORUS**

This gets better

**HEADTEACHER**

They have a short time frame, they're 11c. Have you met the class?

**CHORUS X**

11c! [Exclamations of knowing]

**SIGRID**

No

**HEADTEACHER**

Good. At this school we like to treat each class as individuals, they have specific needs and this class has its very own specific needs

**SIGRID**

They have problems?

**HEADTEACHER**

Not problems exactly ...

**CHORUS**

That's a yes then

**HEADTEACHER**

More ... wants

**SIGRID**

Wants?

**HEADTEACHER**

Wants from us and them. I as Head want them to work together, want them to gain an understanding of each other, want them to achieve ...

**CHORUS**

Anything

**CHORUS**

Something?

HEADTEACHER  
A certificate

CHORUS  
Which is worth ...

CHORUS  
Zilch

SIGRID  
And they want ...?

CHORUS  
To kill each other?

HEADTEACHER  
They want ... the same. They just don't know it yet. All you  
have to do is point that out to them. Simple really

CHORUS  
Sooooo simple

CHORUS  
She's simple if she believes that

HEADTEACHER  
What about the wall?

SIGRID  
The wall?

HEADTEACHER  
The Berlin wall – it's on a syllabus somewhere – couldn't  
you use it as a metaphor?

SIGRID  
For what?

HEADTEACHER  
There was a divide – a barrier – the wall came down and  
there was ... unity? Reunification wasn't it?

SIGRID  
Well, it's hard –

HEADTEACHER

It was reunification. There are divisions ... barriers in this class. [Exit Headteacher]

CHORUS

Victim

[The chorus swarm around Sigrid as only they can.]

CHORUS

Whatcha

CHORUS

Whatcha

CHORUS

Whatcha going to do?

CHORUS

Whatcha gonna do

CHORUS

Whatch gonna doooo

SIGRID

Real teaching ...

CHORUS

Yeh right

SIGRID

But real teaching ...

CHORUS

You said

SIGRID

But really real teaching ...

CHORUS

Yeah – real interesting

SIGRID

Trouble is ...

CHORUS  
Trouble?

CHORUS  
Sounds good

CHORUS  
Getting better

SIGRID  
Trouble is ...

CHORUS  
Go on

SIGRID  
I don't know –

CHORUS  
Anything?

SIGRID  
If I want to teach

**CHORUS X**  
Doh!

CHORUS  
Numpty

CHORUS  
Ain't she just

SIGRID  
What?

CHORUS  
Most teachers don't want to teach

CHORUS  
Yeah!

## Scene 2. Practice teaching scene

[Sigrid's music. The Chorus and Sigrid are there but the space is still owned by the Chorus. Music fades]

SIGRID  
See I've prepared

CHORUS  
Very good

CHORUS  
Very education

CHORUS  
Very boring

SIGRID  
I've researched, prepared and here [Holding up cards]

CHORUS  
In this country – yeah

CHORUS  
Ain't they just

CHORUS  
Numpty

SIGRID  
They're my notes. If I get lost in the lesson

CHORUS  
Get lost

ChORUS  
But if you keep still

CHORUS  
Very still

CHORUS  
Then you won't get ... lost

SIGRID

[Beat] Hopefully I won't need them

[The chorus begin to swarm]

CHORUS

Hopefully?

SIGRID

Maybe I won't be so very bad if I.. Practice.  
May I?

CHORUS

What?

SIGRID

Practice

CHORUS

Oh please

CHORUS

Go on

CHORUS

What?

CHORUS

It might be fun

SIGRID

I'll start then

CHORUS

We can't wait

SIGRID

[She is awkward and puts on a 'teachers' voice'] Welcome  
class. [Pause as she smiles nervously]

CHORUS

Wow! Look at the eyes

CHORUS  
Feel the fear

SIGRID  
And as I'm a Berliner ... from Berlin ... I thought we'd start  
by learning about the Berlin Wall.

[Shows a very boring picture of the Berlin wall. Sigrid looks  
at Chorus. Chorus give her the 'thumbs up' sign but grimace  
at each other]

SIGRID  
At first the wall was barbed wire. Then bricks, then concrete  
... and towers ... and Stalin Lawn ... and dogs ...

CHORUS  
Are you asleep

CHORUS  
No  
SIGRID  
East Germany built the wall ...

CHORUS  
Your eyes are shut

CHORUS  
I've lost the will to live

SIGRID  
They said to keep safe ... No to ... reject ... [looking through  
notes]

CHORUS  
She's rubbish

CHORUS  
Ain't she just

SIGRID  
The wall came down 9th November 1989. See  
[Awkwardly shows another picture of wall (upside down).  
The Chorus laughs]  
It had divided the city for many - [looks at file notes]  
28 years.

**SIGRID**  
I don't think I can do this

**CHORUS X**  
Whoah!

**CHORUS**  
Hold on

**CHORUS**  
This is interesting

**SIGRID**  
But to deal with cards and –

**CHORUS**  
11c

**SIGRID**  
And pictures and –

**CHORUS X**  
11c

**SIGRID**  
And the Wall and –

**CHORUS X**  
11c

**SIGRID**  
I'm just not ready

**CHORUS**  
Yeh you are

**SIGRID**  
No, Not Yet.

Shall I go on?

**CHORUS X**  
No!

CHORUS

No, we've seen enough

CHORUS

Heard enough

CHORUS

Suffered enough

CHORUS

Oh we know good education when we see it

CHORUS

And that wasn't it

SIGRID

Do you think they'll –

CHORUS

You'll slay them

CHORUS

Or they you

SIGRID

You think?

**CHORUS X**

We know



## Scene 3. Classroom

[CLASS 11c music. Enter Jenny & Marta as part of class 11c. The level of aggression is high but simmering. The Chorus is watching and thoroughly enjoying]

SIGRID  
Welcome

**CHORUS X**  
(Pointing) 11c!

SIGRID  
[She is awkward] Welcome 11c.[She smiles nervously]

CHORUS  
Like a car crash waiting to happen

SIGRID  
I thought we'd start by learning about the Berlin Wall and its  
fall and the reunification of-

CHORUS  
Why?

SIGRID  
Why?

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
You said 'fall'

CHORUS  
As in fall down

SIGRID  
Yes

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
If it's fallen down

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
It ain't there

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

So why do it?

**SIGRID**

But it is still there

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**

You said it had gone

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**

Gone

**CHORUS**

The Berlin Wall has left the building

**SIGRID**

Well not really –

**CHORUS**

Is it there or not?

**SIGRID**

Most of it...not

**CHORUS**

Well then

**SIGRID**

They've built some more

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**

Why?

**SIGRID**

To remember it

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**

Exactly the same?

**SIGRID**

Yes, no, it's not the same...there are gaps...no towers....no –

**CHORUS**

Not the same then

**SIGRID**

No

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Checkpoint Charlie!

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Weren't that in spy films?

SIGRID  
Yes

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Is that there?

SIGRID  
No, yes. They rebuilt it

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Is that the same?

SIGRID  
No. It is smaller, a student stands dressed as a soldier

CHORUS  
Not the same then

SIGRID  
It is popular with Americans

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
So its gone or its new and not the same

SIGRID  
That's not the point

CHORUS  
There's a point to this?

SIGRID  
There's a line on the floor through the city to mark where the  
wall was

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
[Pause] And?

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
And that's it?

SIGRID

There are some museums –

CHORUS

With the wall in?

SIGRID

No that's mainly abroad but –

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Excuse me!

SIGRID

Yes?

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

We don't want to sound rude..

CHORUS

That'll be a first

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Well ok - yeah we do

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Why should we be bothered by the wall.

SIGRID

We should remember

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Why? It was only a stupid wall - bit of concrete

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Bit random doing a lesson on concrete

SIGRID

History is random

CHORUS

Teaching of it is

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Your teaching of it

CHORUS / CLASS 11c

Too right, this is weird

**CHORUS**  
(To Marta) Like you

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
Like boring

**SIGRID**  
Look if there is a crime-

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
Weren't me

**CHORUS**  
(To Marta) Was it you?

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
Innocent me  
**CHORUS**  
As always

**SIGRID**  
Look evidence is important

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
Oh evidence!

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
But I'm a victim of society

**CHORUS**  
A sad statistic

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
I'll sob into my beany

**SIGRID**  
To remove evidence is a criminal act

**CHORUS / CLASS 11c**  
Should remove you immi

**SIGRID**  
We need to remember where we come from

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Hear that Immi

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
[To teacher] Ere you notice that smell?

SIGRID  
What smell?

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
The stink of Steel road you Immi

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Immi comes from Steel road

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Stinks of foreign crap down there

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
[To teacher] Don't worry we'll get rid

SIGRID  
Now c'mon

MARTA  
[mumbling] You are stupid

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
Ooh what she say?

CHORUS / CLASS 11c  
She mumbling a spell

SIGRID  
Stop this!

MARTA  
[Angry] Do you know how thick you are, how thick and  
stupid, and stupid and thick –

CHORUS  
[Gesturing - she's looking at you - & quietly to Jenny] think  
she's calling you

JENNY  
[Just tuning in] Who you calling stupid

**SIGRID**  
Please let's not –

**MARTA**  
With your stupid waste of your stupid time stupid talk, stupid  
noise, stupid - stupid-! And my time - waste of my time!

**CHORUS**  
Wouldn't take that

**JENNY**  
I'm not stupid!

[Music of Class 11c. Jenny attacks Marta who fights back. Sigrid tries to stop them. She is hit. Marta and Jenny realise what they have done and leave quickly. Class 11c disappear. The chorus smell blood, literally, and begin to circle Sigrid. They pause, try to figure out how to play this. Not surprisingly they decide to go for the sensational. Music fades]

**CHORUS**  
Did you see that!

**CHORUS**  
Kicking-

**CHORUS**  
Kicking right off!

**CHORUS**  
No messing

**CHORUS**  
Complete truth!

**CHORUS**  
Fact complete fact

**CHORUS**  
No need!

**CHORUS**  
No way-

CHORUS  
Should you put up with that

CHORUS  
That's disrespect

CHORUS  
That's assault

CHORUS  
Ain't it just

CHORUS  
Look that's dark

CHORUS  
Way dark

SIGRID  
No, it's ...

CHORUS  
No?

CHORUS  
She say no?

CHORUS  
She did

CHORUS  
You can't say no!

SIGRID  
Why not?

CHORUS  
You're bleeding that's what

CHORUS  
Could lose an eye

CHORUS  
Lose an ear

CHORUS  
Lose a kidney

CHORUS  
Could sue!

**CHORUS X**  
Aaaaaaaah!

CHORUS  
Compensation  
CHORUS  
Sweet

SIGRID  
No

CHORUS  
No again!

CHORUS  
Gift horse in bleeding mouth

CHORUS  
Why not sue

SIGRID  
There must be ... some sort of ... story. Is there?

CHORUS  
Dunno

CHORUS  
Doubt it

SIGRID  
But you know them

CHORUS  
Immi's new

SIGRID  
Immi?

CHORUS

Immigrant

**SIGRID**  
That's her name?

**CHORUS**  
Oh c'mon

**SIGRID**  
What's her name?

**CHORUS**  
[Quietly] Marta

**SIGRID**  
Marta

**CHORUS**  
[Same one] Is it, dunno

**SIGRID**  
And the other girl?

**CHORUS**  
Oh we know her

**CHORUS**  
Sort of

**CHORUS**  
She's not an Immi  
**SIGRID**

Not a Marta  
**CHORUS**  
She's Jenny

**CHORUS**  
Bit dull

**CHORUS**  
Usually

**CHORUS**  
No bother

CHORUS

Usually

SIGRID

No clues there then

CHORUS

Clues?

CHORUS

Clues to what?

SIGRID

Clues to why

CHORUS

Why?

SIGRID

Yes why

CHORUS

How about, 'why not'

SIGRID

There is always a why

CHORUS

No there isn't, you're born, you live, you die, no why

SIGRID

You think that

CHORUS

Course

SIGRID

You feel that?

CHORUS

[beat] Might do

CHORUS

Look, they kicked off

CHORUS

Big time

CHORUS

It was great

CHORUS

End of story

SIGRID

End of your story

CHORUS

It's the truth

SIGRID

Your truth maybe, not their truth

CHORUS

Eh?

CHORUS

You saw!

SIGRID

We saw one moment

CHORUS

We saw the truth

SIGRID

One moment of the truth. Other moments may make that  
truth a lie

CHORUS

You calling us liars!

CHORUS

She calling us!

SIGRID

No. Not calling you... I'm just hoping you...

(Chorus look belligerent)

I'm just asking you to...

(more so)

I'm just wanting you to...(Chorus are belligerent and bemused) (Sigrid realise she has to use a different approach)  
Actually I'm testing you

**CHORUS X**

Testing

**CHORUS**

She testing us?

**SIGRID**

Yes testing ... but hey if you can't handle it

**CHORUS**

Hey!

**CHORUS**

Hey!

**CHORUS**

Hey!

**CHORUS**

Can't what?

**CHORUS**

Can't handle what?

**SIGRID**

No problem if you can't

**CHORUS**

What can't?

**CHORUS**

Can't what?

**CHORUS**

C'mon can't what!

**SIGRID**

Can't handle ... the whole truth

**CHORUS**

[Beat] Who says

SIGRID  
Well ... can you?

CHORUS  
[Beat] Course

CHORUS  
Sure

SIGRID  
You don't sound sure

**CHORUS X**  
Who doesn't? [Looking at each other accusingly]

CHORUS  
[To another chorus person] That's you

CHORUS  
No way!

CHORUS  
Look we're sure

SIGRID  
Are you?

CHORUS  
Ain't we just

CHORUS  
C'mon give us some truth

SIGRID  
The truth before

CHORUS  
Truth, whatever

**CHORUS x**  
Bring it on

SIGRID  
Before they came to class



## Scene 4. Int. a flat on Steel Rd.

[Marta's music. Marta is home. Enter ANNA]

ANNA

Hey

Marta

Chow

ANNA

[Tired, but she smiles] chow yourself

MARTA

Where's Dad?

ANNA

He stormed off after work.

MARTA

Again?

ANNA

I called after him but ... [Beat] Good day?

MARTA

No.

ANNA

[She smiles] Could be worse

MARTA

Could it?

ANNA

[Suddenly serious] You know it could

MARTA

If you say so

ANNA

[Beat] Anything new?

MARTA  
No

ANNA  
Sure?

MARTA  
Just more ... of the same

ANNA  
Right. [Beat] Marta ... When your German gets better - have  
you been watching television - it is supposed to help

MARTA  
[Beat] It's not my language, It's where I'm from

ANNA  
That's true, most people here could not find our country on a  
map of Europe

MARTA  
They are stupid

ANNA  
They are ignorant not stupid

MARTA  
No, my class are stupid, they call it the idiot class - my maths  
is better, my everything is better. It's just my German..

ANNA  
Then get your German better.

MARTA  
I am trying! Bit hard when no one will talk to you

ANNA  
No one?

MARTA  
Pretty much

ANNA  
Care about you're certificate Marta.  
MARTA

But its not worth –

ANNA

then a better one and a better one, showing the words you  
will know, the things you do know

[Enter Dad. He is simmering with resentment]

MARTA

Dad! Good day?

DAD

Good day?

MARTA

[Beat] I asked you first

DAD

Let me see, did I have a good day, no I did not have a good  
day. My foreman said I worked to slow, which I don't, he  
said I take too many breaks, which I don't, he made me work  
through my lunch which I did,

DAD

A soon as we've saved enough money we will go away from  
this strange country and back to what we know, what feels  
right

[Dad starts to go]

MARTA

Where are you going?

DAD

The office buildings, they need night cleaners

MARTA

All night?

DAD

All night

MARTA

When will you sleep?

DAD

When we go back home

[Exit Dad. Pause]

MARTA

I guess I needn't bother about the certificate

ANNA

I want you to work hard for that certificate and the next one  
and the next one and the next

MARTA

But that could take – ages

ANNA

And I will work as long as it takes for you to get them

MARTA

[Beat] In the factory?

ANNA

Yes

MARTA

In the factory here?

ANNA

[Beat] See, you are bright [Beat] In any factory here. As long  
as it takes. Do you understand

MARTA

[Beat] Yes

ANNA

Marta, do you really understand, understand what it means?

MARTA

Anna ...Yes ...Yes, I do ... I really do  
[Long pause]

## Scene 5. Chorus space

[It is the space of the chorus, but they are a tad uncomfortable]

CHORUS

Look ...

CHORUS

Look ...

CHORUS

Loook ...

CHORUS

Look we didn't

CHORUS

Can't have

CHORUS

No way have –

**Chorus X**

Realised

SIGRID

[Beat] And that's your reason for ...

CHORUS

Yeah, reasons good

CHORUS

Ain't it just

SIGRID

Or is it ... an Excuse

CHORUS

Look ...

CHORUS

Look ...

CHORUS

Loook

CHORUS  
Look she's got her Dad

CHORUS  
The Dad's a plus?

CHORUS  
Good point –

CHORUS  
Yeah, he's a bit –

CHORUS  
She's got a sister

CHORUS  
Fit sister

CHORUS  
You're not helping

CHORUS  
Sisters just ... ok

CHORUS  
And she's got her So ..

SIGRID  
So that's alright then?

CHORUS  
Look

CHORUS  
Look

CHORUS  
Loook

SIGRID  
Yes lets. Lets look some more ... for a moment ...

## Scene 6. Jenny's house

[Jenny's music. Mum is sitting in a chair, mug in hand. She hears Jenny. She hides the mug under a newspaper next to the chair. She leaves the room. Enter Jenny - she is very wary.]

JENNY  
Mum? [Pause] Mum?  
Mum

[Off] In the kitchen - won't be a mo  
[Jenny furtively does a check of the room - she is looking for something - checking odd places. Eventually she finds the mug under the newspaper. She is disappointed by the inevitable.]

MUM  
[Off] Jenny - Do you want a cuppa?

JENNY  
No – thank you

[Jenny puts the newspaper back. Enter Mum]

MUM  
Hello babe  
[Comes over and hugs and kisses Jenny rather roughly]  
Good day?

JENNY  
You smell of mints Mum

MUM  
Do I? I'm making mint tea it's very good for you.

MUM  
What time is it?

JENNY  
Five

MUM  
The magic hour

JENNY  
Isn't that six?

MUM

[Sharply] No. Not today. I've had such a bloody awful day,  
five is the magic hour... Jenny, get your Mum a small one  
[Jenny reluctantly pours her mother a drink]

MUM

Thanks [Tastes it]  
God don't drown it girl [she gets up and tops up her drink -  
sits down]  
That's better. Did you make any new friends?

JENNY

No

MUM

Not surprised with a face like that

JENNY

Like what?

MUM

Don't 'like what' me [Beat] not after the day I've had [she  
drinks - pause] I've asked you about yours. Why don't you  
ask about mine?

JENNY

What was wrong with your day?

MUM

[drinking] everything

JENNY

Such as ... ?

MUM

Get your mother another drink and I'll tell you  
[Mum holds out her glass but Jenny doesn't move]

MUM

Don't you want to know about my day?  
[Jenny gets her Mum a drink]

JENNY

So what happened?

MUM  
I've told them to stuff their job [taking glass] thank you baby

JENNY  
You resigned?

MUM  
Pretty much

JENNY  
Why?

MUM  
I was sick of them, you know I was sick of them

JENNY  
No, I didn't. You said it was an alright place, you said it wasn't like the place before, you said you felt good there

MUM  
Yeah ... well ... I lied

JENNY  
Oh Mum!

MUM  
Don't 'Mum' me. They treated me like a child there - kept watching me - Checking up on me. Others made mistakes too. I felt like I was back with your father

JENNY  
Are you sure it's final, sure you can't go back?

MUM  
I told you I told them to stuff it

JENNY  
Was this after lunch?

MUM  
Yeah - so?

JENNY  
Nothing

MUM  
I won't say sorry. I have my pride  
[Jenny looks]

MUM  
[sharply] what?

JENNY  
We were just getting sorted - with bills and things. I'd sorted  
it down the centre and –

MUM  
So, I'll get another job

JENNY  
It took nine months last time

MUM  
[menacing] Don't nag me. I don't want to be nagged  
[She gets up to get another drink]

MUM  
Oh God could it get any worse, we're out of mixer [gets  
purse] go round to the corner and get me some will you - and  
get some fags

JENNY  
Mum. I can't –

MUM  
No it's alright - I've had a word. Just make sure it's not the  
wife serving

JENNY  
And if it is?

MUM  
Tell her she's welcome to her ugly sweaty husband [gives  
Jenny a £20 note] here you are

JENNY  
[recognising the note] Mum ...

MUM  
[Irritated] what?

JENNY  
This is mine

MUM  
Don't be daft

JENNY  
Nan sent it to me, she wrote on it - see?

MUM  
[Beat] Silly cow thing to do. No wonder she bred such a  
stupid son

JENNY  
But Mum –

MUM  
'But Mum' what?!

JENNY  
I was saving this - for trainers. I need trainers for school for –

MUM  
[Throughout the following Jenny stands like prey keeping  
still as a last resort]

And I needed it because I've been sacked! Have you ever  
been sacked ? Well have you? [Beat] No. Because you're too  
dull to get sacked. Too dull and too stupid and too bloody  
lazy. You're like him you are - the same bloody stupid face,  
judging me, always bloody judging me - well think about this  
Miss smart arse, if you're so bloody good why didn't he take  
you with him eh? Why not eh because I wouldn't have  
stopped him. I would've packed your bloody bag. In fact I'll  
do that now shall I? Pack your bloody bag and put your  
stupid face out the bloody door and then you can go and see  
if he'll have you! [Beat] Still standing there! [Beat] That'll be  
because you know I'm right eh? Well I'll tell you something -  
you don't know everything - you don't know he left because  
of you - you and your bloody lazy stupid face - he got sick of  
seeing it and couldn't get away fast enough. Doesn't seem to  
mind looking at his new kids.. So don't judge me. Don't you  
bloody judge me.

Here [gets paper] take your bloody paper [hits Jenny with it]  
See if you can get a bloody job where they don't judge you. I  
have a slow metabolism, I've had a husband leave and I'm

stuck [she grabs Jenny violently by the throat] with a stupid smart arse brat whose ugly face I can barely look at. What are you? I said - what are you?

JENNY  
[quietly] Ugly

MUM  
I can't hear you

JENNY  
Ugly

MUM  
And..?

JENNY  
Stupid

MUM  
Louder

JENNY  
Stupid

[Mum calms a little, lets go of Jenny in disgust and sits. She drinks the drink that was covered by the newspaper. Jenny goes to move]

MUM  
Stay there!

[Jenny stays still, Mum looks at her. Pause]

JENNY  
Mum –

MUM

[Pause] All I want is someone to take me in their arms and tell me it'll be alright...that's all I want...is that too much to ask, eh?[Pause] Oh baby. Give your Mum a hug. {She holds her arms out to Jenny who does not move.} Please?  
[Reluctantly Jenny moves towards her Mum who hugs her in a way that is not pleasant. Mum stops and looks at her.]

Dear god. Its like hugging a wet fish. [Pushes Jenny away.]  
You get that off your father. There is not one bit of me in you, not one bit. When I was your age I was so beautiful, so bloody popular - have you got any friends, I bet you bloody haven't - I had a whole bloody gang - we had a right laugh. [Beat] I can't remember the last time I had a laugh - how bloody sad is that...and your face doesn't help - now sod off and get those fags and don't you dare come back without them.

[Jenny doesn't move. For a brief moment it looks as though she will defy her Mum.]

Well? What you waiting for?

[Beat. Jenny goes.]  
[Mum and Jenny fade away. Sigrid and Chorus are the main focus. Chorus begin to move]

CHORUS  
Aww man!

CHORUS  
That woman!

CHORUS  
That bitch!

SIGRID  
That truth

CHORUS  
Yeah but ... like ... a hidden truth

CHORUS  
Yeah like well hidden

SIGRID  
Hidden in plain sight

CHORUS  
Yeah but like she didn't say

SIGRID  
How do you start that conversation then? Hello my name is  
Jenny I like R&B, and by the way my Mum is a drunk

CHORUS  
Ex..ac..tly

SIGRID  
Exactly?

CHORUS  
[Beat] ok, b...ut, ok, but Jenny has her Dad ... sort of

SIGRID  
Does she?

CHORUS  
She definitely has her Nan

SIGRID  
Does she?

CHORUS  
Yeah, the twenty notes

SIGRID  
[Beat] Shall we take a moment

CHORUS  
Another one?

SIGRID  
Just a moment

CHORUS  
Save us from moments ...

SIGRID  
Go on then

## Scene 7. Social Security Office

[Jenny's music. Jenny is sitting looking lost. MRS. KREMER]

MRS. KREMER  
Jenny?

[Pause] Your Mum ...

JENNY  
What about her

MRS. KREMER  
[Beat] This is hard to hear but ... She feels she can't cope

JENNY  
[Beat] Is that all?

MRS. KREMER  
From what she's said I believe she's tried really hard to hold things together ...

JENNY  
[Right] Did you smell her breath

MRS. KREMER  
Look our concern is for you now. Your Mum says you're sixteen

JENNY  
About that

MRS. KREMER  
About ... ?

JENNY  
Nine months

MRS. KREMER  
Oh ... Right ... well I'll be honest with you these things take  
time to sort, we'll try to get you fostered, but when you're  
sixteen we'll definitely get you somewhere, your own place

MRS. KREMER  
Bedsit ... usually

JENNY  
Where is it?

MRS. KREMER  
We always definitely have spaces on Steel Road, I know that  
for sure, so don't worry we'll make sure you get somewhere.

JENNY  
Steel Road?

MRS. KREMER  
They're nicer inside

[Music. Mrs. Kremer goes. Jenny fades. Chorus and Sigrid  
take over]

CHORUS  
Man, that's harsh

CHORUS  
Ain't it just

CHORUS  
[To Sigrid] That's really harsh

SIGRID  
You think

CHORUS  
Can't you do something!

SIGRID  
Can't you?

CHORUS

Us!

SIGRID

Yes you

CHORUS

You're the teacher

SIGRID

As you pointed out, I'm a trainee, and a victim, a numpty.  
You're the ones with the power

**Chorus x**

Power?

CHORUS

Aw c'mon

SIGRID

Look, take a moment

CHORUS

Aw man!

CHORUS

'Nother ask

CHORUS

Ain't it just

SIGRID

I ask one more. Just one.

CHORUS

To see what?

SIGRID

Not see, think, a moment to think

[The Chorus music begins quietly. At first no one notices,  
then more as the music builds]

**CHORUS X**

Think?

**SIGRID**

Yes, think for a moment

**CHORUS**

Hear that?

**CHORUS**

Hey, yeah

**CHORUS**

Just ... think?

**SIGRID**

Yes

**CHORUS**

Yeah, yeah, we can do that

**CHORUS**

Brilliant at thinking us

**CHORUS**

Yeah, brilliant

**CHORUS**

Ain't we just

[The chorus begin to follow their music as it build]

**SIGRID**

You will take this moment ... ?!

**Scene 8**

**CHORUS/CLASS is killing time, everybody does anything else than thinking**

## Scene 9. The space of the chorus.

[Chorus music. The chorus explode into the space. Little has changes except they are more familiar. They are relaxed, energised and looking for distraction. They have obviously not thought about anything but themselves, Enter Sigrid]

SIGRID

Well?

CHORUS

Well what?

SIGRID

Have you ... thought?

**CHORUS X**

Oh man ...

CHORUS

She's off

CHORUS

[muttering] off-er-ead

CHORUS

Ain't she just?

CHORUS

[Beat] Yeah we've thought

SIGRID

Yes?

CHORUS

Course

SIGRID

Like?

CHORUS

Like loads

CHORUS

Massive loads

SIGRID  
Like what?

CHORUS  
What?

SIGRID  
Yes, what?

CHORUS  
Like ...

CHORUS  
Like –

CHORUS  
[pointing to head] Like loads in here  
[Rest of chorus agree wholeheartedly as they see the  
possibility of a way out]

CHORUS  
Loads in here

SIGRID  
Right ...

CHORUS  
Huge in here

SIGRID  
Really ...

CHORUS  
Massive in here

SIGRID  
Of course ...

CHORUS  
Course

SIGRID  
[Beat] and you've concluded ...

CHORUS  
Concluded?

SIGRID  
Decided ... ?

CHORUS  
Decided?

SIGRID  
Decided to change what?

[Chorus music begins quietly, some begin to hear, then more]

CHORUS  
Oh c'mon –

SIGRID  
C'mon? After all you've seen, after all you've done?

CHORUS  
Done?

CHORUS  
We can't just –

**CHORUS X**  
You don't want to rush –

CHORUS  
That's it – rush

CHORUS  
Not good rushing

CHORUS  
Rushing not good

CHORUS  
We've only just seen –

CHORUS  
Just heard

CHORUS  
Just need to –

CHORUS  
[Pointing to their heads] You know - sort in here

SIGRID  
You've sorted nothing in here

CHORUS  
Not yet but –

SIGRID  
Not yet!?

CHORUS  
Yeah, not yet but –

[The music stops]

SIGRID  
No not yet! You can't do not yet! You just can't!

CHORUS  
Oh c'mon

SIGRID  
No not, 'not yet'! No!

CHORUS  
Not for ever

CHORUS  
Just for-

CHORUS  
Now

CHORUS  
Just now

CHORUS  
Just right now

SIGRID  
No. I said no!

[Pause]  
CHORUS

Yeah, well, why not!

CHORUS  
Yeah why not

CHORUS  
Why not, yeah

SIGRID  
[Beat] Because I couldn't

CHORUS  
[Beat] Couldn't what?

SIGRID  
Couldn't do 'not yet'

CHORUS  
Couldn't-

CHORUS  
Or wouldn't!

CHORUS  
Yeah right

SIGRID  
[Beat] You, sit there

[She starts to organise the chorus]

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Why?

SIGRID  
Just do it!

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Fine! [Sitting where told]

SIGRID  
And you

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Me?

SIGRID  
Yes you - you sit there

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Fine

SIGRID  
And you sit next to him

CHORUS/LAWYER  
Here?

CHORUS/JUDGE  
If it's boring I'll walk

CHORUS  
We'll all walk

SIGRID  
- to the side a little - that's it. Now. This is a trial  
[the chorus are not impressed]

CHORUS  
Aw man!

CHORUS  
Is there a judge?

SIGRID  
Him

CHORUS/JUDGE  
I'm liking this

CHORUS  
Who's the criminal?

SIGRID  
He's the accused  
CHORUS  
So who is that?

SIGRID  
That's his lawyer

CHORUS/LAWYER  
Cool

CHORUS  
And the rest?

SIGRID  
That's it

CHORUS  
That's it?

CHORUS  
Witnesses?

SIGRID  
None

CHORUS  
Prosecution?

SIGRID  
That's him

CHORUS  
But he's the Judge?

SIGRID  
I know and he [Judge] went to University with him [Lawyer]

**CHORUS X**  
Ahh!

SIGRID  
Did I tell you we we're in a prison?

CHORUS  
[Few] You mean court?

SIGRID  
No, prison. Hohenschönhausen. This is a piece of glass, they  
are in one room, he is in another

CHORUS  
Is he dangerous?

CHORUS  
High security?

CHORUS  
Violent?

CHORUS  
Shouldn't there be a guard?

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Maybe I'm a murderer/terrorist

CHORUS  
Looks dodgy

CHORUS  
Well dodgy

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Hey!

SIGRID  
Let's see shall we

CHORUS/JUDGE  
So let's see ...

CHORUS/LAWYER  
[quietly] Just thought I'd mention, two more before lunch

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Oh right. That's helpful. [reading] Right, says here your  
crime is one of subversion ...

CHORUS  
Sub - what?

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Subversion against the state. Let's see, you wrote, printed and  
circulated inflammatory material in order to undermine,  
destabilise, disturb and destroy the socialist ideals which  
underpin the state

CHORUS  
He wrote stuff?

CHORUS  
Printed stuff?

SIGRID  
Yes

CHORUS  
No murder then?

SIGRID  
No

[chorus are disappointed]

CHORUS/JUDGE  
This isn't your first crime is it? Have you got the file?

CHORUS/PRISONER  
I don't believe I've committed a –

CHORUS/JUDGE  
This isn't his first is it?

CHORUS/LAWYER  
Technically ... ?

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Of course, technically

CHORUS  
Files?

SIGRID  
Stasi files

CHORUS/LAWYER  
Technically ... I'm afraid its yes ... it's his first

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Oh

CHORUS/LAWYER  
Although there's been a file for years

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Of course

CHORUS  
The stuff he wrote ... ?

SIGRID  
Yes

CHORUS  
Was it bad?

CHORUS/JUDGE  
Well for this sort of thing I usually hand down a sentence of  
two years and two months

CHORUS  
[Indicating prisoner] Why doesn't he say something

CHORUS  
Maybe he can't

CHORUS  
[Quietly] Maybe he daren't

SIGRID  
Why don't you ask him

CHORUS/PRISONER  
There's no point

CHORUS

See. No point asking

CHORUS/PRISONER  
There's no point me saying  
CHORUS  
Why no point?

CHORUS/PRISONER  
He is really their lawyer, this is only their law

CHORUS  
Get another lawyer

CHORUS  
Must be others

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Not here, we're not allowed

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Now, can I sleep now?

CHORUS  
But what exactly did you write

CHORUS/PRISONER  
I need to sleep [to Sigrid] Please, you tell them?

SIGRID  
Me? You sure?

CHORUS/PRISONER  
It's not your fault

CHORUS  
[Few] He knows you!

CHORUS  
You knew him!

SIGRID  
[To Prisoner] Thank you I –

CHORUS  
Brother?

CHORUS  
I have a sister

CHORUS  
Boyfriend!

SIGRID  
It was the eighties

CHORUS  
Last century

CHORUS  
Ancient

SIGRID  
Over twenty years ago

CHORUS  
Your Dad - he's your Dad!

CHORUS  
Cool Dad!

CHORUS  
Dunno

CHORUS  
Dunno?

CHORUS  
Depends

CHORUS  
On what?

CHORUS  
What he wrote

CHORUS

[To Sigrid] What he write?

CHORUS  
He said to tell us

CHORUS  
Yeah, you tell us

CHORUS  
Was it radical?

CHORUS  
Extreme?

CHORUS  
Extremely radical

CHORUS  
Stirring up hatred

CHORUS  
Stirring up fear

CHORUS  
Fear of what?

CHORUS  
Hatred of what?

SIGRID  
No, It was –

CHORUS  
Don't defend him

CHORUS  
Just 'cos he's your Dad

SIGRID  
Alright - I'll tell you. [Beat] It was a New Romantic fanzine

CHORUS  
A what!

SIGRID  
A New Romantics fanzine. About bands like Duran Duran.  
Depeche Mode, Japan ... Like I said, it was the eighties

CHORUS  
[Pause] He liked Duran Duran!

CHORUS  
That is criminal  
CHORUS  
That was it?

CHORUS  
A fan mag?

CHORUS  
Duran Duran ...

CHORUS  
Two years two months?

CHORUS  
You're making it up

CHORUS  
Ain't she just

SIGRID  
No I –

CHORUS  
Serious

CHORUS/PRISONER  
Serious

CHORUS  
Your Dad got two years two months for writing a fan mag

SIGRID  
No

CHORUS  
But you said-

CHORUS/PRISONER  
She means ... I'm not her Dad

CHORUS

[Beat] You're not?

**SIGRID**

No, he's not [Beat. Indicating lawyer] He is

**CHORUS X**

[Beat] Him!

**SIGRID**

Yes him

[Pause. The Chorus starts to move in]

**CHORUS/LAWYER**

Baby, do we have to do this now?

**CHORUS**

But he ... ?

**CHORUS/LAWYER**

[To Sigrid] Now is not the time to

**CHORUS**

Yeah but you - ?

**Chorus/LAWYER**

Baby at this moment –

**SIGRID**

Moment?

**CHORUS**

Are you saying –

**CHORUS/LAWYER**

Yes, this moment is not –

**SIGRID**

It's the only moment we ever live

**CHORUS**

[Beat] But then that means

**CHORUS/LAWYER**

Means what? What does it mean, I worked hard that's what it  
means

CHORUS/LAWYER

[to Sigrid] We had a good life, good holidays, she had good holidays, every year by a lake, it was for the few, not the many, I worked as hard as I could for my family [to Sigrid] Is that so bad?

CHORUS

Yeah, but you did –

CHORUS/LAWYER

I did what lots of people did, many went further - I did it for my family - [to Sigrid] for you. What else could I do? I did my best for you at that moment.

SIGRID

[Quietly indicating prisoner] That moment there, was that the best you could do for him?

CHORUS/JUDGE

Did you want him that side of the table?

CHORUS/PRISONER

[indicating judge] I wouldn't even wish that on him

CHORUS

Excuse me!

CHORUS

Are you mad!

CHORUS

He completely stuffed you!

CHORUS/JUDGE

Do you know how many unofficial informers there were? At least we had a profession - a career. We didn't do it for a pair of western jeans and the latest album

CHORUS

He didn't do that

CHORUS/JUDGE

Didn't you

CHORUS

He did it for freedom of speech

CHORUS  
Freedom of thought

CHORUS  
Freedom of ... Duran Duran?

CHORUS/PRISONER  
I did it because I was young

CHORUS  
Aren't you in prison?

CHORUS/JUDGE  
I'm a barrister. of course not

CHORUS/LAWYER  
[To Sigrid] You shouldn't have looked at the files

SIGRID  
I had to

CHORUS/JUDGE  
We only want an apology, we gave our life to state security, that's all

CHORUS/LAWYER  
Those files - they should have shredded them all

SIGRID  
They're evidence

CHORUS/LAWYER  
[to Sigrid] I know what you think of me

SIGRID  
No, you don't

CHORUS/LAWYER  
But it's just your truth

SIGRID  
Just mine?

CHORUS/LAWYER

If what you think of me is the truth, my life was for nothing,  
nothing. [Lawyer and Sigrid stay where they are]

## **Scene 10. Classroom.**

[Class 11c music. Enter Headteacher]

HEADTEACHER

The noise level, there was arguing, noise of arguing, do you  
need assistance?

CHORUS/LAWYER

Please...Sigrid...

HEADTEACHER

Ms Heilmann

CHORUS/LAWYER

We need a shared truth, shared  
[Exit Lawyer.]

CHORUS

You want to hear the truth

HEADTEACHER

Yes

CHORUS

You are seeking the truth

HEADTEACHER

Yes

CHORUS

You are the truth seeker

HEADTEACHER

Well

CHORUS

So what you are looking for is a distinction between lies and  
truth

HEADTEACHER

Yes

CHORUS

But you see Head. The truth –

CHORUS

That is what we were trying to wrestle with here

CHORUS

We were pinning it down

CHORUS

In a headlock

CHORUS

Arm up behind it's back

CHORUS

We got to the point where it was begging for mercy

CHORUS

A submission guaranteed

CHORUS

And then you ... !

CHORUS  
[Sharply] You listening

CHORUS  
You came in  
[They all stare hard at the Headteacher]

HEAD  
[Beat] I ... I'm –

CHORUS  
You see all we were doing

CHORUS  
All we were doing was trying to expose lives

CHORUS  
Ordinary lives

CHORUS  
In order  
CHORUS  
Not out of order

CHORUS  
In order

CHORUS  
To strive, bleeding strive, for a truth

CHORUS  
But not just any truth

CHORUS  
A shared truth

CHORUS  
Ain't it just

CHORUS  
That's all

CHORUS  
'Cos then

CHORUS

Then ...

CHORUS

You keeping up?

HEADTEACHER

I –

CHORUS

[to Sigrid] Is he keeping up?

CHORUS

You know ... Heads ... these days

[The chorus move in on the Headteacher. They get up close  
and personal]

CHORUS

I know

CHORUS

Don't have the concentration anymore

CHORUS

'Cos then

CHORUS

Then

CHORUS

You with us

CHORUS

Cos this ain't to be taken lightly

CHORUS

We ain't messing

CHORUS

Cos when we have a shared truth

CHORUS

We can think

CHORUS  
Really think

CHORUS  
Focus, Head, Focus

CHORUS  
We can think about ... Change

CHORUS  
You good with that yeah

CHORUS  
Better be

CHORUS  
Cos we bleedin are

CHORUS  
Aren't we just  
[Pause]  
HEADtEACHER  
[to Sigrid] Are you ... good with this?

SIGRID  
Me?

HEADTEACHER  
Yes you

SIGRID  
[Beat] Yes ... thank you

HEADTEACHER  
Right ... right ... I'll ...

Exit HEAD

CHORUS  
Numpty

CHORUS  
What about our common future

SIGRID

Yes

CHORUS

Are we getting there?

SIGRID

I think ... I think we're getting there

**CHORUS X**

Ain't we just

[Explosion of Chorus]

End