

multiplay
drama

Blister

Laura Lomas



Characters

LISA

LIAM

BECKY

JAMIE

CHARLIE

DAVEY

ASHLEY

Scene 1

A bench at the top of Rykneld Park. Late evening. LIAM is sitting alone, drinking a can. LISA arrives behind him. She watches him a moment, he turns and sees her, and looks back again across the city line.

She hesitates before moving a bit closer to him.

LISA. Alright if I sit down?

He nods, she does so.

He drinks from his can.

Been looking for you.

Went all over Sev's. All round the park.

LIAM *drinks from his can.*

I'm sorry I missed your calls. My phone was on silent.

I tried calling you back. Few times actually, sent you a few messages.

You get them, Liam?

Liam /

LIAM. Left my phone at home.

LISA *nods.*

LISA. Went home, thought you'd be there at first.

Mum said she didn't know where you'd gone.

LIAM *shifts awkwardly.*

Been walking round for ages before I thought of checking up here.

She half-smiles.

What you drinking?

He shows her the can.

From the shop?

LIAM *doesn't answer.*

Got a message, from Davey Sutton. He was down at the shops, said you'd gone down there. Said you were looking for me.

LIAM *shifts awkwardly.*

You alright, Liam?

LIAM. Course I'm alright /

LISA. It's just, this message it said, it said that maybe you wasn't /

LIAM. Well, I am /

LISA. I know but /

LIAM. I just said I was alright. You asked me and I said it, don't have to keep asking me.

Beat.

LISA. Yeah. Yeah.

A short silence.

I like it up here.

S' nice. Can see all the lights from the city.

I never think to come up here on my own, I don't know why.

Liam /

LIAM. Where you been?

Pause.

Tried to call you.

LISA. I know, my phone was on silent, I just said /

LIAM. Loads of times, loads and loads of times, Lisa /

LISA. I know /

LIAM. Left you messages, I left you six messages.

LISA. I know /

LIAM. Six, Lisa.

LISA. Liam.

LIAM takes a swig from his drink.

LIAM. Guess you heard what happened, at school /

LISA. I heard a bit.

LIAM. What did you hear?

LISA. You and Adam had a fight.

LIAM. Wasn't a fight.

LISA. You threatened him.

LIAM. He laughed at me /

LISA. He wouldn't've been laughing at you /

LIAM. I saw him, he was laughing at me /

LISA. You're overthinking it /

LIAM. Making out like I'm thick, like I'm fucking...

LISA. Why would he be laughing at you, Liam, seriously? You're being paranoid.

LIAM *takes out a piece of paper from his jacket. He hands it to LISA. She reads it, he drinks.*

You get this back today?

LIAM *doesn't say anything.*

I don't know why you're stressing, it's only one module, don't matter if you pass or not, you can retake it, can't / you

LIAM. It's engineering.

LISA. I know.

LIAM. My BTEC, Lisa, I fucked it /

LISA. You were just having a bad day /

LIAM. You know how hard I tried on that, Lisa, I swear I give it everything /

LISA. Liam...

LIAM. A fucking 'U'.

LISA. It was just a practice paper, it's what it's for /

LIAM. How am I gonna get an apprenticeship when I can't even pass an exam.

LISA. You'll pass it /

LIAM. Then Adam, laughing at me /

LISA. He probably wasn't laughing at you, you probably just caught him at a bad moment.

LIAM. What was he doing then?

LISA. I don't know, smiling.

LIAM *looks away.*

You should've just ignored him.

Did you hear me?

LIAM *chews his lip.*

Liam /

LIAM. Where was you? After school. I waited for you, outside the gates.

LISA. I don't know, I /

LIAM. Text you. Sent you a text message, told you I'd wait for you.

LISA. I never looked at my phone, I /

LIAM. Waited for forty-five minutes, should have just text me back, everyone had gone.

Beat.

LISA. I'm sorry.

LIAM *drinks from his can.*

I didn't know you'd be waiting, Liam. I'm sorry.

LIAM. Yeah, well...

He drinks from his can.

LISA. How long you been up here?

LIAM. A bit.

LISA. How long's a bit?

LIAM. An hour.

He drinks from his can.

LISA. Are you cold?

LIAM. I'm alright.

LISA. You're shaking a bit.

LIAM. I'm not cold.

Beat.

LISA. 'Member when we used to come up here? Bonfire Night, best place to see the fireworks.

Beat. LISA pulls her coat round herself.

Liam, DAVEY. said you'd /

LIAM. I don't care what Davey said /

A pause.

You go home?

LISA. Yeah.

LIAM. You see Mum?

LISA *nods.*

You tell her what happened?

LISA. No, course I didn't. Just told her I was lookin' for you.

He nods. Drinks his can.

LIAM. Was he still there?

LISA. Think so.

LIAM. Mum tell you she was back with him?

LISA. I saw his coat, I just assumed /

LIAM. He's a fuckin' prick.

I walk in, yeah, I walk in, after waiting, after tryin' to call you, after tryina call you, how many times, Lisa, I walk in, thinking, maybe you're there, maybe I missed you, maybe you got home before me, go into the kitchen, and he's just sat there. Shoes off, just sitting there at the table. She's opposite him, eyes like saucers.

LISA. Liam...

LIAM. I wanted to smack him /

LISA. That'd be good, wouldn't it.

LIAM. Reckons he can just come back, come back into our house, as if nothin' like nothin' never even happened.

LISA. Liam /

LIAM. I hate it /

LISA. What did you expect to happen?

LIAM. What he did to her, Lisa.

LISA. I know, but /

LIAM. She was cryin', locked herself in her room, wouldn't come out for a week.

LISA. I know but /

LIAM. You never had to deal with it. Fucked off, didn't you. You and Ashley, get on a train, went to the fucking beach, two nights you was away, two nights I had to deal with her, while you wouldn't even turn your phone on to me.

I can't deal with it.

A beat. LIAM drinks his can.

LISA. What did you do?

LIAM. Nothin', went upstairs, grabbed my stuff. Tried to call you, but you was ignoring me, wasn't you / so

LISA. I wasn't / ignoring you

LIAM. I just left.

Beat.

LISA. I'm sorry I missed your calls, I didn't do it on purpose, my phone was in my bag, I just /

LIAM. Was you at Ashley's?

Beat.

LISA. What?

LIAM. Tonight? Did you go back to Ashley's? That why you never came to meet me, when I text you?

Beat.

LISA. His mum invited me for supper.

LIAM. Supper?

LISA. Yea, Liam, supper.

LIAM. Since when do you call it supper?

Beat.

That why you ignored my messages then?

LISA. No, I didn't... I told you, I never checked my phone, it was in my bag, I never looked at it once, that's the truth.

LIAM. Too busy eating your supper.

LISA. Fuck's sake /

LIAM. I went looking for you, Lisa.

LISA. I wasn't to know /

LIAM. If you answered your phone, if you'd just answered your phone, none of this woulda even happened /

LISA. It ain't my fault.

LIAM. It ain't your fault?

LISA. No, Liam, it ain't.

Beat.

LIAM. Where is he now?

LISA. He's gone to work.

LIAM. At Pizza Hut?

Beat. LIAM drinks his can.

LISA. I hate it when you get like this. Get all wound up like this, can't talk to you, it's like you can't even see nothing.

Why don't you go and see Jamie or someone /

LIAM. Jamie?

LISA. Yeah, Jamie /

LIAM. Don't wanna talk to Jamie, I wanted to talk to you /

LISA. I can't look after you all the time, Liam.

Beat.

LIAM. You think you look after me?

LISA. I didn't mean it like / that

LIAM. Just fuck off, Lisa.

LISA. What?

LIAM drinks. LISA watches him.

You know, I came to find you, to see if you was alright.

LIAM. I told you I was alright.

LISA. That why you went and made a dick of yourself in front of everyone.

LIAM. I ain't talking about that.

LISA. What the fuck is wrong with you?

LIAM. Nothin'.

LISA. You just turn up, out the blue, demanding to know where I am /

LIAM. I said I ain't / talking 'bout it

LISA. Like you're, like you're my fucking father or something, Liam /

LIAM. Shut up, Lisa /

LISA. Making a prick of yourself in front of my friends. Davey comes out the chippy, tries to break it up, for your own good, Liam, trying to look out for you /

LIAM. He wasn't looking out for me /

LISA. What do you do? Threaten to smack him too.

LIAM. He deserved it /

LISA. No he didn't.

LIAM. You weren't there.

Pause. She looks at him.

LISA. What did he say?

LIAM. Not going in to it /

LISA. Must've been important /

LIAM. It don't matter.

LISA. Must do.

LIAM. It don't.

LISA. Obviously does.

LIAM. Don't /

LISA. What he tell you, you need calm down, that you was making a scene of yourself.

LIAM. No.

LISA. What then?

LIAM doesn't say anything.

I don't know why you have to be like this. Always like it, soon as one thing happens, it's like you're not yourself, something in your head just bursts, I look at you, see it happen.

What did he say?

LIAM drinks.

Tell me, Liam?

LIAM doesn't answer. A long pause. LISA sits back, she looks up at the sky.

Stars are out. Can you see 'em?

Can you see 'em, Liam?

He doesn't look up.

You know we're made of the same stuff as stars.

LIAM. What?

LISA. All the same stuff.

LIAM. What the fuck are you talking about, Lisa?

LISA. It's true.

LIAM *laughs*.

It is. Same stuff, from the Big Bang, same stuff in our bones as in stars.

LIAM. S'bullshit.

LISA. S'not. I looked it up. Same like, material in our bones as was made in the Big Bang, just gets used up, over and over, and when we die all the stuff that was us, just goes back into something else, gets, like, recycled. S'what connects us. That we're all made from this stuff, like a collection of everything that's ever happened.

LIAM *doesn't say anything. He thinks. He almost softens, but then –*

LIAM. Davey text you?

Beat.

LISA. Yeah.

LIAM. Why's he got your number?

LISA. He's my mate.

LIAM. How do you even know him?

LIAM *doesn't say anything.*

He goes out with Ashley's sister, don't he?

LISA. You know he does.

LIAM. That why he got your number? You all been hanging out together. Happy Families?

LISA. It ain't like that.

LIAM. Who told you that?

LISA. What?

LIAM. That stuff about stars?

LISA. Learned it.

LIAM. From who?

LISA. Why does it matter?

LIAM. Ashley tell you?

LISA. No.

LIAM. He did, didn't he?

LISA. Does it matter?

LIAM. That why you like him? Cuz he's clever, cuz he tells you clever things, cuz he got a nice house and a nice family, with a nice sister who got a nice boyfriend and he ain't so much of a fuck-up like / us.

LISA. I am not a fuck-up, Liam.

Beat. A moment of eye contact. LIAM looks away, taps his foot.

LIAM. I thought you weren't coming back.

When I got in, I called you and called you, and kept calling you and you wasn't picking up and I started thinking that maybe you wouldn't come back, maybe you'd gone away again, like last time and I would have to stay in with her and him and I would be on my own, and the thought of it, Lisa, the thought of it...

LIAM *doesn't look at her.*

LISA. What did Davey say to you, Liam?

LIAM *looks over the park.*

LIAM. You know I was thinking 'bout the last time I came up here. It was Bonfire Night, you remember it? You was gonna go to the main show, down Darley Park. You really wanted to go, cuz all your mates was going, and you said you'd meet them there. I remember it, you was wearing this pink, like pink puffa jacket. Stood by the door.

LISA. Liam...

LIAM. Mum said it was fine you going but you had to take me with you, cuz I was your brother and I didn't have nothing else to do.

LISA. Liam /

LIAM. I remember your face. The look on it. You just walked out the room.

I came up here instead. That's what I did. Dad used to always say it was the highest point in the whole city, best place to see the fireworks. No one here, it was only me.

LISA *doesn't know what to say.*

Davey told me that you was gonna go live with Ashley. That you couldn't deal with being at home any more. That you couldn't deal with Mum, and that you couldn't deal with me.

Is that true?

LISA *doesn't answer.*

You ever think, if there was a moment. If I could go back to one moment. Make it different. Change it, what would it be?

LISA *can't look at him.*

I think you should go. Ashley'll be worrying about you.

LISA. What you gonna do, Liam?

LIAM. I wanna be on my own.

LISA. I'm not leaving you.

LIAM. You don't need to worry.

LISA. Liam...

LIAM. Seriously, Lisa, seriously.

LIAM *looks at him. He looks up at the sky.*

I think it's gonna rain.

Lights out.

*

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