

Extract from Scene 6 Gemma and Tyler



Photograph by Robert Workman

SCENE 6. ENTER GEMMA. SHE SITS AT THE DESK. TYLER JOINS HER. THEY LEAN OVER MATHS BOOK.

TYLER (TENTATIVELY) So. Are you thinking of going *away* to University?

BEAT. GEMMA'S FACE FALLS, SHE LOOKS AWAY

GEMMA Not sure.

TYLER Yeah you probably don't wanna . . . leave your Mum on her own do you?

PAUSE. GEMMA SHRUGS

TYLER Us Young Carers don't just have ourselves to think about do we?

BEAT

GEMMA What d'you mean 'Us Young Carers?'

TYLER Well you . . . [know]

GEMMA I'm not . . . I'm not . . . [that]

TYLER (RUSHING IN) Look its nothing to be ashamed of Gemma . . .

GEMMA . . . don't . . . I'm not . . .

TYLER [CONTINUES] The school's meant to be looking out for people like us, they should have identified you already really. Miss Kahn should have clocked something was wrong when you were texting in class, that's unusual behaviour for . . . [you]

GEMMA . . . it's not Miss Kahn's . . . [fault]

TYLER If you like, I can help you talk to the teachers about it, they're used to me having a go at them. Miss Nolan, maybe she could refer you? And you could come to the Group I go to. They're really good, they . . . [can help you too]

GEMMA Just . . . stop!

TYLER I'm trying . . . [to help you]

GEMMA I am *not* like you.

BEAT

TYLER What?

GEMMA I'm not one of those people! Yes so my Mum has MS, I have to help out a bit, but we're . . . she was an Art teacher, she's *still* a professional Artist, she has exhibitions and . . . [everything]

TYLER (PISSED OFF, GETTING UP) Oh. Right. I see. You're above all that are you?

GEMMA I don't mean we're . . . [above]

TYLER Too posh eh?

GEMMA No, Tyler, I . . . [didn't mean]

TYLER You're in denial mate.

GEMMA I don't think . . . You're looking after *three* people with *profound* problems, it's not the same!

TYLER STANDS UP, PACKS HIS STUFF AWAY IN HIS BAG.

TYLER Yeah whatever.

GEMMA Tyler, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to offend . . . [you]

TYLER Well, anyway, thanks for your help with the Maths.

EXIT TYLER.

GEMMA Tyler!

HE'S GONE

GEMMA Aargh!!!

GEMMA THROWS THE MATHS BOOKS ON THE FLOOR.