

Extract from Scene 7 Tyler



Photograph by Robert Workman

ENTER TYLER, WITH REMOTE CONTROL/LAPTOP

TYLER Right, so, I've been working on Part Two of my Poem, but I thought the whole thing might work better if it had some sort of backing, so I asked Zeb if he would do some music for me, I thought it might make him too nervous, but he said yes straight away! So, we stayed up late last night, it took awhile because Zeb is a *perfectionist*, but eventually we made this. Ladies and Gentlemen I give you Zeb the Legend and Tyler the Poet!

TYLER CLICKS THE MOUSE/POINTS THE REMOTE AND A YOUTUBE FILM COMES UP ON SCREEN. ZEB, STANDING BEHIND DIGITAL MUSIC EQUIPMENT (SYNTHESIZER?). MUSIC STARTS, ELECTRONIC, CONTROLLED BY ZEB. ZEB DOES NOT LOOK UP THROUGH ANY OF THIS, HE IS INTENT ON MAKING THE MUSIC. HE MOVES RHYTHMICALLY ALONG WITH IT. (THIS COULD BE DONE WITH TYLER ON FILM WITH ZEB)

TYLER 'A Day In The Life of Tyler Dodds Young Carer, Part Two'

So I get to school and I'm usually late.
And I used to get bullied, used to deal with the hate

Because people know my family, they've seen us around
And for some strange reason, people often look down

On anyone who's different, guess it makes them feel better
But I learnt to ignore it cos those people don't matter
Cos they're ignorant or stupid, they think that they're cool
But I know that I'm stronger, I know *they're* the fools.

So the bullying stopped, I get on with my lessons
And I get through my day, though I'm often just guessing
What the hell's going on, I've missed so much stuff
And if the teachers get cross, well that's just tough.

I know that I've built up a bad reputation
Cos I disappear from classes and I'm quite vexatious.
I speak my mind and I won't stand down
And I'm always questioning, the rules laid down.

And if I get a call from one of my kin
I have to skip school cos that's the family I'm in.
So school is OK, but don't ask me please
To do extra curricula activities.

I don't have the time, I don't have the cash.
All them booster classes? You're having a laugh.
They're always at the weekend, or late in the evening,
So Tyler just can't be the one who's achieving.

And so what do I do when I finally reach home?
Well I've made a list, and I'm sorry if it's long.
I fold up the washing, iron the clothes,
My Mum can't use the iron now, her fingers kind of froze.

And sometimes my Dad will cook our tea
But sometimes he don't feel well so then it's me.
And after tea, Zeb helps me wash dishes
And then he watches DVDs, X-Men is his favourite.

Then sometimes I go shopping with Mum in her chair
If she ain't had time or energy to do it before.
And we get back home and unload the food
And I put away the washing if Mum aint in the mood.

She's often in pain now, she takes some more meds,
And I hang around, to help with Zeb
Because sometimes he needs some calming down,
Especially at night, when he's feeling down.

So it's not that often that I ever go out,
I don't have many friends to care about,
I'm not really there to do all that crap
Constantly chatting on Snap and WhatsApp.

So that's my life, that's my routine
I guess you could say I'm a busy young teen
I guess you might think I got too much to do
But I've probly got more life skills than any of you.

TYLER (OFFSCREEN, SMILES) Yeah, that's a bit better I reckon. Thanks to Zeb the Legend.

EXIT TYLER