

Five

Stephanie and **Anna** are writing an essay. **Stephanie** has a half-drunk bottle of gin.

Stephanie

Anna, your hair!

Anna

What about it?

Stephanie

You've changed it.

Anna

Yeah.

Stephanie

It's a different colour.

Anna

Yeah.

Stephanie

It really suits you.

Anna

Are you sure?

Stephanie

It brings out the colour of your eyes.

Anna

That was the idea.

Stephanie

I like colour.

Anna

What?

Stephanie

As an abstraction, I mean. Just as a general thing.

page 31

They carry on writing.

Anna

Are you sure it doesn't make me look like a retard?

Stephanie

In no way.

Anna

Does it make me look like Princess Diana?

They carry on writing.

Stephanie

How was your night, last night?

Anna

It was lovely. How was yours?

Stephanie

Boring.

They carry on writing.

Why was your night lovely?

Anna

I went out with Jacob.

Stephanie

Again?

Anna

Yeah.

Stephanie

You must really like him.

Anna

I do.

Stephanie

What's he like?

Anna

He's absolutely fucking magical.

Stephanie

Princess Diana? Are you being serious?

Anna

He's calm. He's gentle. He's fantastically sexy. He's intelligent. He notices things. He remembers things, which is a first for me.

Stephanie

What kind of things?

Anna

Things I tell him.

Stephanie

What kind of things do you tell him?

Anna

You know. Like I told him about my brother when I was at the zoo with him and how my brother was afraid of all animals and then last night he remembered it. He placed it page 32 in conversation just

kind of casually and it almost broke my heart because you know it meant he'd really listened.

Stephanie

The zoo?

Anna

I went to the zoo with him.

Stephanie

When?

Anna

On our first date.

Stephanie

Why?

Anna

Because it's good.

Some time.

Stephanie

The zoo?!

Anna

What's wrong with going to a zoo?

Stephanie

That's a very odd place to take somebody for a first date.

Anna

It's not.

Stephanie

Is he an elephant or something?

Anna

No.

Stephanie

Is he a zoo keeper?

Anna

No.

Stephanie

Does he live in the zoo?

Anna

No, we were visiting it.

Stephanie

He sounds like he's mentally retarded.

Anna

Stephanie!

Stephanie

Well he does. A zoo!

They carry on writing.

Can you do me a favour?

Anna

Course.

page 33

Stephanie

I'm sorry for suggesting Jacob was mentally retarded, that was probably a little over the top.

Anna

Yeah.

Stephanie

If you see Stephen and he asks you where I was last night, can you tell him I was with you, revising?

Anna

OK. Why?

Stephanie

Or anybody. If you see anybody and they ask you where I was last night could you tell them that?

Anna

Yeah, course. Why?

Stephanie

'Cause I went out with Cat and I got drunk and Stephen said that if I ever went out with Cat again that he'd leave me.

Anna

Why?

Stephanie

He thinks she's a bad influence. I think he's probably right. But she's leaving on Friday and she asked me to go out with her and I couldn't refuse her that. It was like her last will and testament or something, but I don't want Stephen to leave me. I don't know what I'd do if he left me.

Anna

Ah!

Stephanie

What?

Anna

Sweet.

Stephanie

Shut up.

Anna

Sorry.

Stephanie

He earths me.

Anna

Right.

Stephanie

He keeps me calm.

Anna

Well, something needs to.

Stephanie

Yeah.

Anna

OK.

page 34

Stephanie

Thank you very much.

They carry on writing.

Can you smell that?

Anna

What?

Stephanie

Flowers.

Anna

No.

Stephanie

Where's it coming from?

Anna

I can't smell it.

Stephanie

I swear I can smell flowers all of a sudden.

Anna

Weirdo.

They carry on writing.

Stephanie

How's your essay?

Anna

Finished.

Stephanie

So's mine. I'm going to re-check it tonight. I think I've nailed it, though. I think it could be the best essay I've ever written. I think it could be the best thing I've ever done. Are you going to see him again – Jacob?

Anna

Course.

Stephanie

When?

Anna

He's going to take me round to his house. His parents are going out.

Stephanie

Saucy.

Some time.

We need them. Especially nowadays.

Anna

Who?

Stephanie

People like Jacob. People like Stephen.

Anna

Yeah.

page 35

Stephanie

Do you want some of this?

Anna

Thanks.

Stephanie *passes Anna the bottle of gin.*

Anna *drinks from it.*

She smiles.

Some time.

Stephanie

It's raining.

Anna

Yeah.

Stephanie

I need to hide.

Anna

From Stephen?

Stephanie

Yeah.

Anna

Is he gonna be really cross with you?

Stephanie

Really cross.

Anna

Should do what he tells you to do then.

Stephanie

I might leave.

Anna

Leave?

Stephanie

Leave the country. Go somewhere else.

Anna

You can't. We've got to hand the essays in on Thursday.

Stephanie

Yeah.

Some time.

I could place a car bomb in the school car park.

Anna

You could do.

Stephanie

Blow it up at about 8.45. When everybody's in there. Don't you think that'd be funny?

Anna

Very.

page 36

Stephanie

I'd love to see people with their legs blown off. I wonder what the inside of your legs looks like.

Anna

Fat, probably.

Stephanie

I wonder what your bones look like exposed. I wonder what your chest would look like if it were blown open by a nail bomb.

Anna

Not pretty.

Stephanie

No.

The rainfall becomes heavier. They listen to it.

I love that.

Anna

What?

Stephanie

The sound of the rain on the roof.