

## Act I

### Scene 1. Present Day. Funfair/Circus. Younger and Older Age Groups.

Typical funfair/circus setting – background noise of crowd, lots of performers such as jugglers, strong man, Ring Master, bearded lady, acrobats, fortune-tellers etc are going about their business performing to the crowd. The back of stage is a black curtain – there is one sign on it that says ‘The Hall of Decades: see the truth for yourself!’

From the back of the theatre we hear arguing and shouts from a group of girls. One girl, Evelyn, is running away from other girls, Tracy, Lacy and Gracie, who are bullying Evelyn.

**Tracy:** Come back here! You owe us more money!

**Lacy:** Yeah, miss ‘leave me alone’.

**Gracie:** (sings) Evelyn, Evelyn, bumped her head, when we get her she’ll be dead!

The three bullies catch up with Evelyn (centre but in front of the stage – performers still perform).

**Tracy:** Right, you little worm. Where’s our money!

**Lacy:** Yeah, where’s our money?

**Gracie:** Yeah, where’s our money?

Tracy looks angrily at both Lacy and Gracie.

**Tracy:** Shut it Lacy! I ask the questions!

**Lacy:** (looks at Gracie) Yeah, shut it Gracie! She asks the questions!

**Gracie:** (looks around, but on one else to look at)  
Yeah, shut it! She asks the questions!

**Tracy:** Will you two dim-whits be quiet! I’m trying to extract miss goodie-two shoes’ protection money. And all you two excuses-for-life are doing is auditioning for the Parrot’s part in The Pirates of the Caribbean!

**Lacy:** Sorry Tracy.

**Gracie:** Sorry Tracy. (Getting excited) Tracy, Tracy I’ve a question, I’ve a question!

**Tracy:** Your mind has summoned up enough power to formulate a question? And they say schools are on the decline! Go ahead; stun me with your intellect.

**Gracie:** (nervous) Well, it’s just that, well, you see, they way I see it...

**Tracy:** (bored interrupts) Yes? It’ll be Christmas soon.

**Gracie:** You said protection money, and well, you see, if Evelyn is paying us protection money...

**Tracy:** (still bored) Yes?

**Gracie:** Well, you see, who is it we are protecting her from?

**Tracy:** (shocked at the question)  
Who are we protecting her from!

**Gracie:** Yes, you see... we're the only ones that bully her.

**Tracy:** (laughs starts of friendly)  
We're the only ones that bully her. Isn't that nice. (Fiercely) Of course we're the only ones bullying her – that's why she needs protection!

During the exchange between the bullies, Evelyn sees her change and runs off again – this time onto the stage.

**Tracy:** Where's she gone! You let her get away! Find her, find her!

Evelyn is looking for a place to hide. She spots a door, not noticing the sign above it that reads: The Hall of Decades: see the truth for yourself!

**Fair Worker:** Oi! You can't go in there without paying! Come back!

## **BLACK OUT**

### **Scene 2**

We hear the funfair noise fade and a harmonica playing blues fade in.

**Evelyn:** Where am I? Help! Help! Somebody help me!

**PAUSE** – music getting loader

**Evelyn:** Is anybody there? I can hear music. Who is that?

Music keeps playing, getting louder.

**Evelyn:** I'm lost. It's so dark. Is anybody here?

Gradually light fades up. We see Evelyn stage left, a black curtain with four signs with numbers on them: 1920s/1930s, 1940s/1950s, 1960s/1970s, and 1980s/1990s. Stage right we see the Harmonica Player seated on a box playing.

Evelyn stops and just stares. The Harmonica Player plays for a second longer. Then stops and looks at Evelyn.

**HP:** You looking for the truth?

**Evelyn:** Er... well, no actually. A place to hide.

**HP:** (friendly laugh) You can't hide from the truth, no way, always catches up with you.

**Evelyn:** I'm not hiding from the *truth*. I just need somewhere to hide.

**HP:** What's your name?

Evelyn looks a little uneasy.

**HP:** It's okay. What do folks call you?

**Evelyn:** Evelyn.

**HP:** (thinking, big smile) Evelyn, you say. You know what, Evelyn?

**Evelyn:** What?

**HP:** Things are going to be alright, you'll see. You is going to be just fine. Yes indeed. Just fine.

**PAUSE**

**HP:** Now what you hanging around for? (He nods to the nearest door to her) You better step through. You'll find what you're looking for in there...

Harmonica Player returns to playing harmonica.

Evelyn thinks for a second and hears the bullies in the distant calling her name. Evelyn quickly dashes through the door marked 1920s/1930s.

**BLACK OUT**

## Act II

### Scene 1. 1920s/1930s. Silent Movies – Empowerment – Younger Age Group.

#### FADE UP

Evelyn has entered the world of the Silent Movies! She is standing back stage left watching, curious.

In the background we hear ‘silent movie’ music appropriate to the scene. In the foreground a silent movie is being acted out (but because this is the world of the silent movie it is ‘real’ to the actors). The three sisters **Tia, Leila** and **Sophia** are centre stage.

**Note: As the silent movie is mimed, the actors moves will be provide by two people in turns, walking in front of the stage with the appropriate piece of commentary at the correct time.**

**Tia, Leila** and **Sophia** begin to act worried. They huddle together for protection.

**SIGN ONE:**                    **The three beautiful daughters Tia, Leila and Sophia are in terrible strife! Their father has gambled their home away to an Evil Gentleman who wants to throw the sisters onto the streets. Oh, what is to become of them?**

**SIGN TWO:**                    **There is a knock at the door! Who could that be? The House Keeper and maids will soon find out!**

**SIGN THREE:**                    **It is the Evil Gentleman come to claim his winnings! The House Keeper will sort this out!**

**SIGN FOUR:**                    **The Evil Gentleman won’t give up his prise that easily! He offers the return of the house in return for one of the daughters’ hand in marriage!**

**SIGN FIVE:**                    **The daughters are distraught and refuse to such demands! Their father arrives home to witness the dastardly deed. He is not happy!**

**SIGN SIX:**                    **The Evil Gentleman doesn’t want to wait – he wants his prise now!**

**Evil Gentleman starts to chase the three sisters around the stage. The House Keeper and Maids try to stop him. Father can’t cope and faints. This is basically the ‘chase’ bit in a silent movie to be acted with the classic chase music in the background. After a minute or so we see Evelyn move to the front of the stage.**

**Evelyn:** (shouts)                    **STOP!**

Sisters, House Keeper, Maids, Evil Gentleman, even the Father stop what they are doing and stares in surprise at Evelyn.

Evelyn stares back, a little shaken at the response she got.

**Evelyn:** (unsure)                    **Stop this madness... it just won’t do to be running about the house.**

Sisters, House Keeper, Maids, Evil Gentleman, even the Father stop what they are doing and stare blankly at Evelyn.

**Evelyn:** It's just not the done thing with all this noise and fuss. You should be talking about your problems not chasing each other.

Still Sisters, House Keeper, Maids, Evil Gentleman, even the Father stop what they are doing and stare blankly at Evelyn.

**Evelyn:** (more confident) Well, haven't you anything to say for yourselves?

Again silence.

**Evelyn:** One of you must want to say something? (Pause) You all seem headstrong? (Pause) Come on! Why are you just staring at me?

Sisters, House Keeper, Maids, Evil Gentleman, even the Father break there staring and look at each other with confusion and amazement.

**Evelyn:** And you, Evil Gentleman, you ought to be ashamed of yourself picking on three poor defensive girls! What have you to say?

Evil Gentleman just shrugs his shoulders.

**Evelyn:** Not so tough and evil now are we, (more to herself) for some reason... Wait a second. Can they even hear me?

Evelyn walks close to the House Keeper and shouts.

**Evelyn:** House Keeper!

House Keeper reacts normally by looking angry and covering her ears.

**Evelyn:** Sorry, sorry. It's just that if you can hear why won't you answer me?

Evelyn starts to explore the 'set' and looks around. Slowly she begins to get an idea of where she is.

**Evelyn:** The furniture, the music, your clothes! And the sign, the sign above the door! Of course this is the 1920s and 1930s! Somehow I've gone back in time. But, but not only that, I've crossed into a world with no sound... a silent world. A silent movie!

Evelyn excitedly moves to the 'dialogue' boards.

**Evelyn:** Yes, yes. Look, the words. All here ready for the next line.

The House Keeper walks to Evelyn and shows the next words – her own but not part of the movie.

**House Keeper:** **Who are you!**

**Evelyn:** (laughing) Who am I? Oh, I see. I'm Evelyn.

House Keeper stares at her blankly

**Evelyn:** Evelyn. My name is Eve... Of course! Silent means just that... silent. So, if you cannot talk but you can hear, you must not be able to understand me talking! A pen, a pen.

Evelyn looks for a pen but cannot find one.

**Evelyn:** (to House Keeper)

A pen, have you a pen. Oh, this isn't going to work.

Tia walks to the 'dialogue' stand and shows the next words – hers.

**Tia:** **I'm Tia. How did you get here?**

**Evelyn:** Tia, what a pretty name. Pleased to meet you Tia. Oh, this is so frustrating that I can't talk to them and they can only talk through writing. There must be another way.

Leila walks to the 'dialogue' stand and shows the next words – hers.

**Leila:** **Why do you move your mouth in that way?**

Sophia walks to the 'dialogue' stand and shows the next words – hers.

**Sophia:** **And what is that noise that comes out?**

**Evelyn:** (laughs) Talking, it's called talking. But I guess in this silent movie world you haven't got to this stage. How strange.

**Tia:** **Can you show us how to move our mouths and for noise to come out. It looks fun!**

**Evelyn:** Yes, it is. It is fun. It's also very important if you need to talk to someone. But how do you make your thoughts appear here on this board? Maybe you just think them and it automatically appears just like if I think my words they automatically sound when I move my mouth! Yes, that has to be it!

Evelyn starts to move all of them in a line.

**Evelyn:** Don't be afraid. I'm going to teach you how to talk. Watch me (Evelyn points at her mouth). You need to move this (points to her mouth) open and shut. Try it (Evelyn opens and closes her mouth several times to encourage the others).

The others begin to slowly copy Evelyn by opening and closing their mouths.

**Evelyn:** That's it! Well done. Keep moving them, keep moving them. Now while you are doing that just make a sound. Like this (Evelyn makes a long sound).

The others try but no sound can be heard.

**Evelyn:** Try again, nearly. Think the sound, think it from your brain right through to your mouth. Try it again, that's it.

The others keep trying. Eventually they start to make sounds.

**Evelyn:** That's it! That's it! Sound! You've done it!

The others look happy and some laugh.

**Evelyn:** Right, now you need to move your mouth in different ways while the sound still comes out. Like this (Evelyn demonstrates).

The others begin to copy. Eventually they do it correctly.

**Evelyn:** That's it! Okay, now we are going for actual words. Try to think of the word 'apple', okay? 'Apple' Think it here (points to her brain) and think it here (points to her mouth). Apple, apple, you try, apple.

The others try to say 'apple'. They can't at first but eventually they do. They are all joyful and excited.

**Evelyn:** That's it! I knew you could do it. Now you know the way, instead of transferring your words to into written speech you can actually talk! Try some more words.

The others start to try different words, all at the same time. Evelyn stares at them and laughs.

**Evelyn:** One at a time, just like before! It can get very noisy if you all talk at the same time.

**Tia:** Oh thank you Evelyn, thank you.

**Leila:** Yes, thank you Evelyn.

**Sophia:** You have given us something wonderful Evelyn. You've given us the power of speech! How can we repay you?

**Evelyn:** That's very kind but I don't need repaying. It was fun and besides being able to talk is one thing but being able to talk *and be heard* is a gift too valuable to misuse.

**Tia:** But we must repay you!

**Evelyn:** Well, okay, you can repay me by sorting out your troubles by talking sensibly and promise me that you won't fight or bully anyone. Okay?

They all agree.

**Evelyn:** (to herself) That reminds me... Maybe I can stand up to them? (To the others) I've got to go and sort out *my* problem back home. Do I just go back through the door?

The others all say 'yes' and things like 'thank you so much', 'come back and visit', 'take care,' 'safe' journey' while Evelyn leaves through the door with more confidence in her stride.

**BLACK OUT**

## Cast

### Act I Younger and Older Age Groups

**Crowd** – members of the public at a funfair/circus.

**Performers** such as jugglers, strong man, Ring Master, bearded lady, acrobats, fortune-tellers (a couple of fair workers).

**Tracy** – leader of the bullies – girl.

**Lacy** - bully – girl.

**Gracie** - bully – girl.

**Evelyn** - girl being bullied (is also a boys name so part can be played by a boy if need. Bullies' names can be Tommy, Johnnie and Ronnie if Evelyn played by a boy).

**Harmonica Player** – can be either girl or boy (could be any instrument that creates a feeling of blues or if actor cannot play could be a Game Boy – something he is concentrating on).

### Act II Younger Age Group

**Evelyn**

**Actors**

- **Three sisters, Tia, Leila and Sophia** who are frightened of Evil Gentleman because he has won their house at cards from their father but is willing to marry one of them instead of getting the house.
- **Evil Gentleman** (if gentleman played by girl she can have moustache painted on) Won the three sisters' house in a game of cards with their dad. Is bullying them into giving either the house or one of their hands in marriage.
- **Father** stupidly lost his house to the Evil Gentleman in a game of cards. Hasn't got the spine to stand up to him.
- **House Keeper** protective of the three sisters against everyone. It is the House Keeper who makes the first 'talking' breakthrough with Evelyn.
- **Two Maids** help the House Keeper in all duties.

**Best Boy** shows the silent movies' written dialogue.

### Act III Older Age Group

**Evelyn**

**Senior Research Officer Baxter** – Hard working industrial person who is mainly quiet but when always worth listening to when talks.

**Research Officer Williams** - Diligent but prone to mistakes, still training but a fast learner who is keen to please.

**Code Breaker Jill Paterson** - Civilian who was recruited into the Code Breaking department because of her high I.Q. and brilliant ability with mind puzzles and codes. She takes pride in her role to help the war effort.

**Code Breaker Sally Richardson** -

**Spanners**

- the team's 'fix-it' person who has designed and built the code breaker machines. A bit clumsy but has fierce mechanical knowledge.

**5 Suspected Traitors**

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**Colonial Blake** -

a bully who has no understanding of human nature let alone a child like Evelyn. Interrogates Evelyn and is surprised that he makes her cry with his questions. Not really a cruel person just lacks any perception of how people are.

**Chief Intelligence Officer Biggs** – a natural leader, kind, considerate but ultimately main concern is British security. Has no choice but to sanction the interrogation of Evelyn.

**Intelligence Officer Higgs**

- a straight, solid character very reliable especially in a crisis situation. Like his superior, Chief Intelligence Officer Biggs, he is also kind and considerate. Has family a daughter the same age as Evelyn.

**Intelligence Officer Riggs**

- Very career minded and wants desperately to impress the Colonial. Is a bit too tough on Evelyn for Higgs' liking.

**Act IV Younger Age Group**

**Evelyn**

**Anti-Vietnam War Protestors:**

**Ann**

**Stan**

**Fran**

**Rose**

**Lottie**

**Katie**

**Sandy**

**Mary-Beth**

**Act V Older Age Group**

**Evelyn**

**Martin** - city type who is being 'bullied' by his bosses who are blaming him for the crash.

**Mr Johns** – Martin's direct boss who bullies Martin.

**Mr Toms** – Mr Johns direct boss who bullies Mr Johns and Martin

**Mr Bonds – Mr Toms direct boss who bullies Mr Toms, Mr Johns and Martin.**

**Calc – Highly intelligent stock trader who is a mathematical whiz – is friends with Martin. It is Calc who figures out that it wasn't Martin's mistake at all. Evelyn gives Calc and Martin the courage to confront the 3 bosses.**