

Vocabulary



To kill two birds with one stone

— To complete, achieve, or take care of two tasks at the same time or with a singular series of actions; to solve two problems with one action or solution.



TWO STONES ONE BIRD

a play by Arnaud Cramoisan
and PICKLES BY EITC PROD.

vocabulary

The explanations below are based on the vocabulary found in the presentation of the characters, the scene by scene outline and in the dialogues of the play itself.

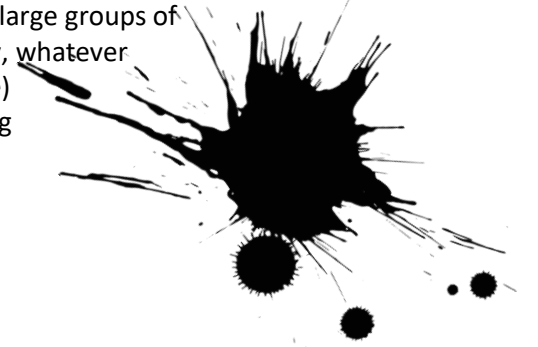
Characters

1. Superintendent Mike O'Neill

- An **effective policeman**: efficient, successful
- A bit **offbeat**: unconventional, unusual, different from what we expect
- He **is easily overcome by his emotions**: not able to deal with emotions, overwhelmed, very affected by emotions
- He **tries not to lose face**: be humiliated, to lose the respect of others
- He **is loyal and willing**: faithful, respecting his commitments and enthusiastic, ready to work to achieve his goals

2. Chief Parker

- She **learnt her skills the hard way**: to learn something through personal experience, especially an unpleasant and painful experience.
- **To work one's way up**: to rise in position in the hierarchy of an organisation
- She **runs the station**: to manage, to be the chief of, to lead
- She **runs her team with an iron fist**: in a severe and uncompromising way
- It's also a way of **asserting herself**: be forceful, more confident and to make her presence felt
- **The investigation is tangled with show-business**: linked closely with, intertwined
- **The hordes of journalists rummage around**: large groups of journalists search for information, in any way, whatever the consequences of their questions, ... (here)
- **To rummage around**: to search for something in an untidy way, creating mess



vocabulary

3. Lab guys

- They are **at the beck and call of the Chief**: to be a someone's command, having to obey any demand

4. Simon O'Donoghue: The victim

- He **sets off for the American Dream**: to leave, to start a journey
- His "real man" image, **rugged and seductive**, ... : rough

5. Britney Adams: The Star

- **A golden voice**: extremely talented at singing
- **The release of her first EP**: Extended Play: musical recording which contains more tracks than a single but is not a complete album yet.

6. Jacky: Interstellar musician

- **Interstellar**: starlike

7. Jenny O'Donoghue: Simon O'Donoghue's wife

- It's **disheartening to...** : dispiriting, causing discouragement
- **Competition is fierce**: extreme, intense

8. Gray McCarthy: The best friend forever

- **These qualities make Gray a likable person**: pleasant, friendly

9. Dr Kavanagh: Doctor to the stars

- **A livewire, it seems like he never sleeps**: somebody who has a lot of energy

Scene by scene

Introduction

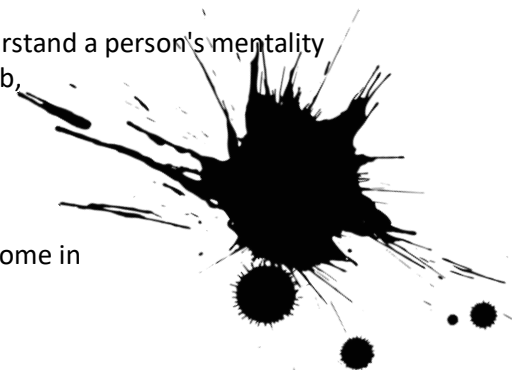
- **The rain. Cold and relentless**: persistent, uninterrupted

Scene 1

- **You get the picture**: you understand the situation, you see what I mean
- **Britney Adams didn't do things by halves**: do things thoroughly, completely, with a lot of energy
- **Screw you**: informal: Go away
- **She's getting a bit full of herself**: very pleased with herself, feeling better than others
- **Don't let the haters bring you down**: don't be depressed or discouraged because of what people say or think about you
- **The future looks bleak for the Irish star**: unhappy, hopeless
- **She's the perfect culprit**: the person guilty of a crime, of something forbidden

Scene 2

- **It is a tricky case**: difficult to deal with
- **Someone who won't make a big scene**: to create disturbance in public, to catch attention in an inappropriate way
- **I was trying to get in to her mindset**: to understand a person's mentality
- **It's not your paygrade**: it's not part of your job, it is not one of your duties
- **That's shame**: that's a pity, it is a situation we can regret
- **I don't give a crap**: informal: I don't care
- **Air out this office**: Open the window, let air come in



vocabulary

Scene 3

- His **humble beginnings**: modest, discreet
- I **owe so much to this country**: to have a moral obligation, to be very grateful for Irish people's support
- **Ta gra agam duit**: I love you in Irish Gaelic

Scene 4

- The journalists try and get their hands on any **scrap of information**: piece of information
- The two stars went to Britney's room, **away from prying eyes**: in private, where nobody could see them, far from people's curiosity
- Where are you **in relation to the case?**: respecting, about, regarding
- We are going to be the **laughing stock of the Americans again**: the object of ridicule, what Americans laugh about, mock
- He has declared a **day of national grieving**: day marked by the whole population mourning after the death of a renowned person.
- A **spoilt girl**: girl who has always received what she wanted
- You must **rest up**: to relax, to get some sleep

Scenes 5 and 6

- He was found **collapsed on the bed**: he had fallen on the bed, where he was lying, unconscious, not moving anymore
- He was killed by a **blow to the head**: a hard hit
- I hope you have a good reason to be **bugging me like this**: informal: to annoy, to disturb somebody

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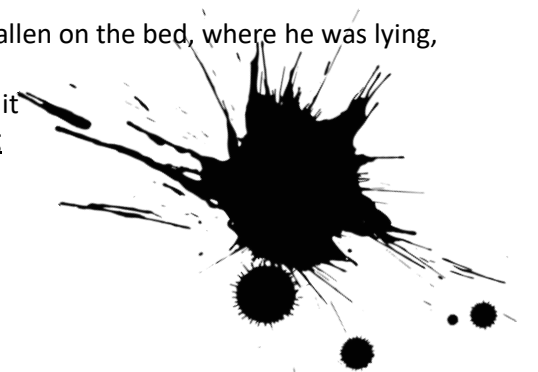
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Scenes 8 to 11

- **The key witnesses** are Simon's wife and his best friend: the people who saw/ heard what happened and can help understand what occurred.
- This **longing for the good old days felt by Gray and Jenny ...** : desire, here: nostalgia
- **With a hint of jealousy**: with a little bit of jealousy
- **Gray is distraught**: desperate, upset
- **Tell him I stopped by**: call in, come for a visit then leave
- **I'm going to hire the best lawyers**: to employ
- **I want her to rot in her cell**: to decompose, to disintegrate
- **It's not one of your lame scripts**: weak, poor, uninteresting
- **You could snog Jenny on stage**: informal: to kiss
- **We'll start rehearsals tomorrow**: to practice a play or movie scenes before public performance
- **I have commitments**: plans, engagements
- **The clock had just chimed**: to bell

Scenes 12 and 13

- **Illicit substances**: illegal
- **Her guilt is undeniable**: there is no doubt she is responsible for what she is accused of
- **Things don't play out as normal**: things don't happen as expected, as planned
- **She can't bear it**: she can't accept it, she can't stand it
- **It messes up your brain**: to disorder, to turn upside down
- **The game is up**: idiom: used to tell someone that you know what their secrets or plans are
- **We spend time socialising and schmoozing**: to network
- **She always had a crush on Jenny**: love feeling, sometimes kept secret
- **Can't you see that something doesn't quite add up?**: to make sense

Scenes 14 to 16

- **Mike is utterly confused**: completely
- **He doesn't know which way is up**: he doesn't understand the situation anymore, doesn't know what is the convenient thing to do, which decision is the good one, ...
- **What's your opinion on her involvement in the Simon O'Donoghue's case?**: here: role
- **What is this crap?**: informal: nonsense
- **My phone is ringing off the hook?**: constantly ringing, many people want to talk to her
- **I'll sort it out myself then**: to solve a problem, to deal with a difficult situation properly
- **Cut the crap**: slang: get to the point, stop lying or talking nonsense

Scenes 17 to 18

- **The grieving Irish public refuse to believe it**: to grieve: to feel really sad because a beloved person died.
- **The now infamous case**: well-known for sad/ bad reasons
- **One Bird, Two Stones**: idiom: Kill two birds with one stone: to solve two problems in a single action, to deal with two tasks at the same time
- **What a turn up for the books**: an unexpected situation, a surprise
- **We could have used it as scrap paper**: sheet of paper which has already been used and that you keep to make notes, write a draft etc.

