


SUMMARY & CHARACTERS



GOSSIP & CRIME - Junior Play

INTRODUCTION:

Something suspicious is about to happen. A criminal, a police officer on their tail... Searching, hiding... HOLD ON! This isn't what the show is about. Nicky O'Neil (our true protagonist) appears and shuffles her dad (the cop a.k.a Michael O'Neil) and the criminal off the stage proclaiming this is her story and she's going to be the one to tell it!

SCENE 1: NICKY'S WORLD

Nicky is going to tell us a story while solving her first case - and she's going to need our help! Nicky introduces the different characters: Lauren (her best friend) who is obsessed with William and is a rebel who "doesn't care" about school or listening to her mum. We're introduced to the self-obsessed and new boy William, the demonic Diana, the curious Mr Robin - full of riddles, some tricky ones too, before Dad (Mike O'Neil) demands that he will solve the case and Nicky has to shuffle him off again. Nicky's story and case can begin!

SCENE 2: THE REPORT CARD

Nicky has got her report card and she has ACED it! But she remembers that Lauren would have got her's too and it's probably not so great. She texts with Lauren for a while and finds out that Lauren is failing everything! Lauren's mum finds her report card before Lauren goes silent... It's really weird... Lauren ALWAYS texts back. Nicky's dad shows up and Nicky tries to show him her perfect report card, but he hasn't got any time for her - there's been a whole bunch of disappearances and Michael O'Neil is on the case. Nicky tries to text Lauren again but there's no answer. Nicky remembers that Lauren has been taking dance classes in preparation for her date with William... maybe she'll be there?

SCENE 3: DANCE CLASS

Nicky finds out that Lauren isn't actually in her dance class. Nicky asks two of the dancers if they've seen or heard from Lauren. They haven't - wasn't she going on a date with that new boy William - the one with the really great dance moves and really nice hair? They haven't heard from her, but they're going to the new burger joint, VOM BURGER.

Nicky doesn't know what to do... should she go straight to Lauren's house to see if Lauren is there or should she ask her dad for help?

OPTION 1: ASK DAD FOR HELP

Nicky goes home to find her dad and ask him for help. He is super busy and barely has time for his daughter. When Nicky tells him it's serious, that she thinks Lauren might have disappeared, he laughs making up absurd conspiracy theories. Only when Nicky says we need to investigate does her dad take her seriously; gifting her a notebook and a pen. Mike O'Neil tells Nicky the most important parts of investigation and case solving: Follow the evidence, Press the suspect, Crack the case.

OPTION 2: GO TO LAUREN'S HOUSE

Nicky has to sneak out in order for her dad not to find out. When she gets to Lauren's house, she speaks with Lauren's mother who tells Nicky that Lauren is grounded in her bedroom. Nicky goes upstairs to Lauren's room to find that she's not actually there! So where is Lauren?

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SCENE 6: THE NIGHTMARE

It's late, Nicky must sleep and she's no closer to solving the case. In sleep, Nicky has an awful dream; William and Lauren are in love and together eating burgers. Did William kidnap Lauren? Nicky wakes with a start and decides to go to school to check if Lauren has turned up this morning.

SCENE 7: SCHOOL

Nicky gets to school and runs into awful Diana and putrid William. William, apparently, didn't see Lauren at VOM BURGER last night for their date... she stood him up, but Diana was there and now William and Diana are together (a match made in heaven). Nicky runs into another kid at school who is also looking for Lauren - they lent her 20 euro for her date with William and they need their money back. As Nicky leaves she overhears something awful; Diana and William talking about throwing someone in a basement, the look of horror in her eyes, how unsuspecting she must have been...

SCENE 8: NICKY'S THEORY

Nicky tries to put the pieces together; after hearing what demonic Diana and horrid William have said Nicky imagines the whole scenario: Lauren sneaking out, Lauren seeing William on a date with Diana, William and Diana throwing Lauren into a cellar... All the information isn't quite there so Nicky has a choice: Go to see William, press the suspect, ask a few more questions OR go and see Mr Robin, follow the evidence... he's always full of useful information.

OPTION 3: FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE

Nicky talks with Mr Robin, but he's full of more riddles. Nicky tries different strategies to get information out of Mr Robin when she realises the information she needs is right in her hand. Nicky figures it out and is slightly closer to solving this puzzle. Mr Robin reminds her of one important factor: she needs to think like her friend.

OPTION 4: PRESS THE SUSPECT

Nicky confronts William with the help of some friends: they know what happened! They heard what William and Diana were saying about Lauren! William proclaims it's all a misunderstanding. Nicky is back to square one...

SCENE 11-12: THE EYE OF THE TIGER

Nicky tries to call Lauren again, but she's still not answering. It's hopeless! Wait! Nicky is getting a call... from her dad? He says she needs to get down to the police station NOW!

At the police station, Mike reminds Nicky she can do this, she can crack the case - all she needs to do is put the pieces together. Nicky reviews her notes, makes an assessment and cracks the case! But that doesn't explain ALL of the suspicious activity - the other disappearances? ...

You'll have to put the pieces together yourself!

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NICKY O'NEIL:

Nicky O'Neil is the protagonist of our story, our narrator and our hero. She is the daughter of 'Super Cop' Mike O'Neil. Nicky is driven and passionate - she cares about her friends and her school work but particularly her best friend Lauren. Nicky is clever, adventurous and logical - she will go out of her way to get to the truth and to prove to her dad that she too can be a hero.

MICHAEL O'NEIL:

Michael O'Neil is a detective, a self-proclaimed super cop, but nonetheless is clumsy and chaotic though always getting to the bottom of a crime. Michael, the father of Nicky, is so preoccupied with work and investigations that he rarely has time for his 'little girl'.

LAUREN:

Lauren and Nicky have a bond like no other; secret handshakes, choreographed dances, and always messaging... These two have known each other forever and have been best friends forever, even though Lauren is sometimes a little superficial; obsessed with boys and no time for school work. Lauren is reckless - riding motorbikes without helmets, not handing in homework and not listening to her mother.

LAUREN'S MUM:

Lauren's mum is aggressive and pedantic. She is always worrying (or yelling) about/at her daughter to get off her phone, and stop riding her motorbike! Lauren's mum has little patience, especially when it comes to Lauren.

WILLIAM:

William is the new boy in school, the one with the really great dance moves and the really great hair. He is vile; superficial, mean and self-obsessed. William cares about no one but himself and is in love with his own reflection. But EVERYONE at school has a crush on him, including Lauren who was meant to go on a date with him to VOM BURGER...

DIANA:

Nicky's mortal enemy, Diana is mean and nasty and just as obsessed with herself and her image as William is. No one likes her, but everyone is scared of her and the nasty gossip she might spread.

MR ROBIN:

The coolest teacher in school, well at least to Nicky... Mr Robin is the English teacher, obsessed with crime novels and psychology, Mr Robin is always giving Nicky complicated riddles to solve. Thoughtful and quirky, Mr Robin knows more and less than he lets on.

OFF CHARACTER(S):

Two actors play the OFF CHARACTERS, who are present on stage the entire length of the show. They help Nicky and aid the storytelling; making music, sound effects and changing into different characters.

A CRIMINAL:

Not to be missed... an old employee of VOM BURGER comes to seek their revenge? Or an agent of chaos seeking to mess with a secret formula?

CHARACTERS