

LYING

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An extract

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Act. 1

This is an extract from the start of the play, in which eva deliberately decides to get lost because she doesn't feel like going home yet. Things aren't good at home because her mother is having a difficult time. Which is something eva would rather not to talk about...

eva

explains to the audience

yeah sorry
that's zakaria
he's my best friend
and he came over to play today
which is really nice
except he's in a bit of a panic now
which isn't so nice
he's in a panic because he doesn't know where we are
I don't either actually
we were at the baker's just now
I do know that
we had to get some pastries for mum
it's the first time I've ever been to the baker's on my own to get pastries
all on my own
I think because mum didn't have time to come with
she was much too busy at the time
busy doing nothing
busy in her head
because she's having a 'day off'
or more like ... an *off* day...
then she says things like
quiet eva
not now!
I'm trying to talk to dad

you know
in a way that makes you think
oooo they don't want me around again
'cos they're gonna to talk about 'important things'
rolls her eyes
important boring things that I'm not supposed to hear
blah blah blah blah

and then she said
eva!
go to the baker's!
and then she wrote down how we were supposed to get there
here on this bit of paper
she shows the map
I can read you know

*(this is the first lie that is told
with each lie a white balloon appears in the set
a and z don't notice this
the audience does)*

of course I can read
very well in fact
it's just that my mother's handwriting is very unclear
she's written it much too scribbly-scrawly
and she's also drawn it a bit too
with some lines
much too slap-dash
it's a stupid map
a stupid map and a stupid day

Act 2. The Lie

At this point eva has accidentally summoned the character 'the lie'. A gigantic white bouncy castle cloud world appears, and a tired and overworked little white clown comes crawling out of it.

silence
a small white clown crawls out of the white world

I
I'm coming I'm coming
...
what do you need?
the groundwater contamination file...

some evidence to refute toxic leadership?
small print for an insurance contract?
studies that show instagram isn't addictive?
explanations of why climate targets aren't being met
some spin on european air quality
or what happened to flopsy the rabbit
...

e
you're weird

l
are you a politician?

e
a what?

l
are you a lawyer?
are you a director?
are you an accountant?
an actress
OHH are you a mummy?
ahhh you probably want to know what to say to the children about the divorce?
you about to run off with someone else?
for the nth time?

e
no

l
hang on
are you a grown-up
a ger-own-up
a grrrrr-own-up-p-p?
own up!

e
me?

l
are you a child?
...
ah that's nice..
that doesn't happen very often
I spend most of my time with grown-ups
...
what can I do for you?

e
no idea?

l
why do you need a little lie?
have you broken something?
drawn on the wall?
have you been fiddling with the knobs of a gadget?
I once had someone who'd accidentally ordered 500 cuddly toy unicorns on her mum's phone. they
came all the way from china.
have you ordered 500 unicorns from china?

e
no?

l
did you bite your little brother?

e
i haven't got a little brother

l
who's that then?

e
that's my best friend

l
did you bite him?

e
no

l
oh...
hang on
but what *do* you need then?

e
no idea?

l
but you summoned me here didn't you?

e
i didn't summon you here at all?

l
but why am I here then?

e
i don't know?

l
ah
ok
well I don't know either
...
I'll just wait here then...
it doesn't matter
I'll be gone again soon

z
to eva
what is this
why is this
why has everything gone all white?
I think we should go home
your mum's waiting eva
it's really late now
and...

e
wait
who are you actually?

l
the lie

e
what?

l
what?

e
the lie?

l
the lie

e
the lie?

l
the lie

z
but you're not supposed to tell lies are you?

*(the first time that the magic spell is spoken!!!
a big segment of the bouncy castle bursts with a bang)*

Act 3

At this point eva enters the magical world of 'the lie' and becomes very adept at it. But along the way she discovers that the truth beneath the lie is also painful, and sometimes she has no choice but to break through the lies.

eva

I can swim underwater with my eyes open
I'm swimming! now! underwater!
for a very long time
because I'm very good at it
I'm very good at everything
I'm very good at
at
at
at reading!
no-one laughs at me when I read
especially not lidewij
lidewij isn't even in my class
I'm actually the best reader in the whole class
I can read WITHOUT EVER HAVING TO GUESS A SINGLE WORD
I DON'T NEED TO GUESS
BECAUSE I CAN READ ALL THE LETTERS PERFECTLY
AND
EVERYONE IS PROUD OF ME
AND MY MUM IS NEVER ANGRY
AND NEVER TIRED
AND SHE CUDDLES ME
IN BED
UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP
AND THEN SHE SAYS YOU'RE MY LITTLE PRESENT
LIKE SHE SAID TO ME ONCE IN THE PAST
AND EVERYTHING IS FINE
I'M NOT SCARED THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO EXPLODE AND FALL APART

THE SUN WON'T
THE UNIVERSE WON'T
MY MOTHER WON'T
NOT EVEN ON AN OFF DAY
OFF DAYS AREN'T THAT BAD
I'M NOT SCARED OF THEM
I'M NOT SCARED OF ANYTHING
I'M NOT SCARED OF GETTING LOST EITHER
BECAUSE I'M NOT EVEN ACTUALLY LOST!

*(the bouncy castle starts to deflate
it's sprung a leak
eva has accidentally mixed some truth into the lies)*

I KNOW WHERE WE ARE
I'VE HIDDEN THE MAP
IT WAS A STUPID MAP
I COULDN'T EVEN READ IT
I ACTUALLY DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO READ IT
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME YET
I JUST
DIDN'T
WANT
TO
GO
HOME YET

*(the whole bouncy castle has collapsed
it's lying flat on the floor)*

*e looks at the collapsed world of lies
tears roll down her cheeks*

*z crawls out of the bouncy castle
he stares at e and holds her hand tight
e sobs*

z
you ok?

e
i'm sorry
the map was in my pocket
I had it the whole time
I just didn't want to go -

z
it doesn't matter
i already knew that
...

I didn't mind getting lost with you anyway
'cos i like being with you
i like you
they look at each other

l
er sorry
sorry
i don't want to butt in or anything
but i don't know if you've realised:
everything's disappearing here
me too...
bit of a technical problem
the truth started seeping through
did you know that?
it doesn't matter
it happens to the best of us
...

l tries to stand the castle up single-handed
it doesn't work
he tumbles into the white material and is almost swallowed up by it
...

so ermm i'm nearly gone
i've sprung a leak
as you can see
but that's ok
you're being all honest and sweet with each other now
yucky-yuck
cutesy-cute
so I'm just gonna go now
go and lie my head off somewhere else
but it was nice being here
short silence
thank you
...
I don't think I've ever had such a nice time anywhere

e
thank you too

l
i honestly think
it was the nicest day of my life

e
but
what if i ever need you again?
will you please come back?

l
I will

e
in case someone asks if i'm in love with someone
in case i have to eat broccoli!
so i can say: mmm delicious thanks

z
or if my granny gives me socks as a present? again?

e
or if I have to read aloud in class?
will you come back then?
so i feel brave enough?

l
in a very tiny voice
I will
you know what to do if you need me

just tell a little...
you know...
the thing that's not allowed
you're not supposed to...

and the lie has gone
