

CAST list:

Family 1: new car story: Scene 1 (+ children 2, 6), Scene 3

Brian full-time work and crofter

Agnes – also works part-time

Ingrid – girl, footballer

Lorna – keen swimmer, competition level

Ruby – youngest, keen on horses

Parents' divorce story: Scene 2, Scene 4, Scene 6, Scene 9, Scene 11

Kirsty: instrument. Helpful friend.

Leona: instrument. Parents have just split up – really upset.

Georgie – extra friend

Family 2: Scene 5, Scene 7

Tom

Kathie

Steve – gamer but also musician

Family 3: Scene 8, Scene 10 (+ Jim, 14)

Agnes

Friends **Lilian** (free for doubling: children 4, 5, 12)

Sue

Ava gymnast girl

Hakki: Magnus footballer

Ref: **Eva**

Netballers:

Other children:

Joanne – keen on noise – musician – friend of Steve, Pat, Lilian

Pat: instrument

Ingrid2: animation, online gamer.

Jim

Chris: online gamers and footballers – boys

... and the rest of the cast when not being characters.

**Bairns these days ...
spend all their time on computers not like when we were young...**

All cast are on stage throughout, as children, in jeans and predominantly white t-shirts. 'Adult' costumes in that family's area, to be put on as required.

SET: table and chairs on rostra up R; 'sofa' of two chairs and cover on rostra up L. 4 chairs in centre at start, as car: Agnes and Ingrid in front, Joanne and Hakki in back. Football bags at Ingrid's feet and in 'boot'.

All cast are occupied at the back and sides of the stage doing sports they might play at a club.

Scene 1: Family 1.

Agnes , Ingrid, Joanne , Hakki

Sound: car becoming sick, ending with bang.

Cast: Shocked emoji!

Agnes: Git oot! Git oot, noo!

Ingrid: Quy?

Agnes: Joost git oot! Mind the road!

Children obey and Agnes hustles them away from the car.

Agnes: Keep awa fae it.

Ingrid: Whit happened?

Joanne: Is it going to explode?

Agnes: I hoop no.

Cast: Hisssss.

Agnes and children wait until it's obvious nothing more is going to happen.

Joanne (*disappointed*): Is it not going to explode after all?

Hakki: Can we get wir kit oot?

Agnes: Oh ... well ... I'll do it.

Cast: Scared emoji.

Children watch as she opens boot, very gingerly, and throws bags out to them.

Ingrid: Don't forget mine ida front.

Agnes gets it, still very carefully.

Joanne: Now what?

Agnes: You walk ae fitba, an' I'll phone Dad. Watch oot for cars.

Children: Yeah, yeah.

Children start walking; Agnes goes on mobile, mimes conversation.

Hakki: We're gaun tae be late.

Ingrid: Only twartree meenits.

Joanne: It might still explode.

Hakki: Come on, hurry.

Ingrid: Foo ir we gaun tae get hom?

Cast: Hashtag need a new car.

Scene 2: In school corridor, before school starts. Children sitting round with bags; Kirsty, Leona and Georgie downstage L

Cast: Good to see our friends emoji.

Joanne: So we all had to jump out and run away from the car, in case it exploded.

Ava: And did it?

Joanne: No.

Cast: Drrrrrrring!

Cast rise, get bags and cross stage in groups, chatting.

Kirsty to Leona: English, my favourite.

Leona doesn't move.

Kirsty: You okay?

Leona shakes head. Me mam ...

Kirsty sits down again, Georgie stands waiting.

Leona: Dir wis anidder row dastreen. Yellin' an slammed doors. Den Mam cam up and kissed me, and said she was gauin.

Kirsty doesn't know how to react. Georgie sits.

Leona: Dan when I got up, she wisna dere.

Georgie: Dat's awfu.

Leona: I hed brakwist aa be mesel.

Kirsty: Wiat about your dad?

Leona: He sterts wark at 8. He got me up. Said I'd need to look efter mesel today. He'd sort something for tomorrow.

Pause. Kirsty still trying to think of what to say.

Leona: I feel seek.

Kirsty: Bide here.

Georgie: We'll tell the teacher du's no weel.

Leona: Tanks, lasses.

Scene 3:

Cast in families at table or doing mealtime sort of things.

Family 1:

Brian, Agnes, Ingrid, Lorna (Ruby ready to come on)

Up R, at the table, where children Agnes is about to serve up tea.

Cast: Worried face emoji

Brian (*lays mobile down*): That was the garage. The car's had it... well, they could fix it, but it would cost more just in parts than it's worth.

Agnes: We need two cars.

Brian: I don't know ... things are so uncertain at the moment. Brexit ... I just don't know what's going to happen. What money we'll have. Can't you do without it? We could go into Lerwick for a big shop once a week.

Agnes: It's the bairns' activities.

Brian: If I did less overtime I could be back from work by half past five.

Agnes: Can we afford you not doing overtime?

Brian: My overtime pay probably equals a new car.

Agnes: But even if I got your car at half past five it's all so complicated.

Ingrid and 4: Sundays. Lerwick.

Lorna: Swimming, 4-5.

Ingrid: Football, 4.30-6.

Brian: Well, that's all right. The car's free on Sundays.

Ruby (*bursting in*): Mum, Dad, Julie that runs the pony club was saying she thinks Sheltie and I are good enough to join the Jump League now.

Cast: Oooh. Impressed emoji.

Ruby: It's Saturday and Sunday afternoons. It's here in Walls, so you don't need to worry about transport.

Agnes: But your *instrument* lesson is on Sunday afternoons.

Ruby: We could change that to another day. Mam, please ...

Agnes: I can't go off to Lerwick with the other two and leave you on your own.
 Brian: I'll make sure I'm here.
 Ruby: Great. I'll phone Julie and tell her.
 Agnes: Is that instead of your riding club at Whiteness?
 Ruby: Oh, no! I need all the practice I can get. *Gets phone out, mimes conversation.*
 Ingrid and 4: Monday.
 Lorna: Swimming at Aith, after school. Come and get me at 6.
 Ingrid: Bringing me too so we can go straight up to Brae for the sailing.
 All 3 children: Fish and chips from Frankie's.
 Brian: Okay, well, so long as I'm back from work on time on Mondays.
 Agnes: Tuesday. Nightmare.
 Ruby: Riding. Whiteness. 4.30 to 6. Andrea's mum picks us up from school, and we go straight there, then she brings us back to Aith ...
 Ingrid: ... where I have hockey at the leisure centre, half six to half seven...
 Lorna: I go up to Brae with David, for swimming, half 6, and you bring us back to Aith after it.
 Brian: Hang on, hang on.
 Cast: Confused emoji.
 Brian: So, you drop *name* off at David's –
 Lorna: Before six.
 Brian: Then you hang around in Aith for *name's* hockey –
 Ingrid: Half six to half seven.
 Ruby: I arrive in Aith around quarter to seven.
 Agnes: We eat a sandwich together.
 Brian: Then you bundle them both into the car at half seven and go up to Brae for the boys... no, you can't fit four of them in.
 Children 1 and 5: Youth club!
 Agnes: I take them over to Bixter for Youth Club while I fetch the boys.
 Brian: I'm getting a headache.
All together:
Ingrid: Wednesday! Football! Thursday! Badminton!
Lorna: Wednesday! Swimming! Thursday!
Ruby: Wednesday! Day off! Thursday! Trampolining!
 Agnes: Both of these are at Aith. At the same time.
 Lorna: But my swimming's at Brae.
 Brian: Okay, okay, I'm getting the picture. But do you need to do all this?
 Ingrid: We like doing it!
 Lorna: I'm competing south next month!
 Ruby: I love working with horses. It's what I want to do.
 Ingrid: We meet up with all our friends.
 Lorna: I've got to practise.
 Brian: But ... do all your friends do this much?
Rest of cast steps forward / stands up, except for 4 gamers.
 Ava: I do gymnastics and baton twirling. Three evenings a week, in Lerwick.
 Hakki, Jim, Chris: We play football.
 Hakki: Two one and a half hour sessions during the week.
 Jim: One in Aith and one in Scalloway.
 Chris: Two two hour sessions at the weekend, in Lerwick.
 Lilian: I play the fiddle. *(fiddle pose)*
 Joanne: ... the piano *(piano pose creating band with fiddle)*

Steve: ... the clarinet (*clarinet pose, band*)
Pat: the saxophone ... (*Sax pose, band*)
All: An hour's practice every day.
Steve: Well, usually. We play in the wind band. Wednesdays, after school, in Lerwick.
Lilian: I'm in the Forty Fiddlers. We get together twice a week, in the evening, in Lerwick.
Tom: I do animation. Mostly at home, but I get together with friends as well. We're making a short for Screenplay.
Kathie, Mhari and Kirsty (*raising their heads from the computers*): We play games online, against each other.
Kathie: *Name of game*. I've got you all on the run.
Mhari: Not for long!
Brian: We need another car.
Cast: Hashtag he's got the picture.

Scene 4: In school. Ava, Steve and Pat are talking about Leona.

Ava: Leona's mum has moved out completely.
Steve: Gone to Lerwick, my mam said.
Ava: But Leona won't want to change schools.
Steve: That's why s/he's staying with his/her dad.
Pat: No wonder s/he's been looking so miserable.
Ava: Must be horrible, your folk splitting in.
Cast: Drrrrring. *General movement, as before. Ava goes over to Leona's group.*
Ava: Leona, I'm sorry to hear about your folk.
Leona: Thanks.

Scene 5:

Cast are doing in the house after tea things round the stage.

Family 2:

Agnes on couch up L, Steve is on the computer on floor, and Joanne is on the computer down R.

Cast: Excited emoji.

Steve: Cone on, Renaldo, run ... run... dodge him ...

Jim: Faster, tackle him ...

Tom: Time to do your clarinet practice.

Steve: One second, one second ...

Tom: No seconds. No way. (*Pulls plug out of computer*)

Joanne: What?

Steve: Dad! I was about to score!

Tom: Practise time. Your lesson's tomorrow, and you've never touched your clarinet all week.

Steve *getting up reluctantly*: Why do I have to do clarinet anyway?

Tom: You were getting good at it.

Steve: It's boring.

Tom: Until you stopped practising.

Steve: I keep doing the same tunes, like, over and over again.

Tom: You can't expect to play in a band unless you practice.

Steve: I don't want to play in a band.

Tom: Yes you do. It's really rewarding playing with other folk.

Steve: Fine, I'll do it then.

Tom: Half an hour of practice, then you can have half an hour of computer.

Steve: Okay. *Goes offstage and starts making horrible noises.*

Cast: Horrible noise emoji.

Kathie: Maybe we should give up.

Tom: Give up?

Kathie:: If he doesn't want to practise.

Tom: No child wants to practise.

Kathie:: Maybe he really doesn't want to play any more.

Tom: He has real talent. I don't want him/her to waste it.

Kathie:: Keeping on at him will put him off.

Tom: There's a kind of hump you have to get over.

Kathie:: Maybe he'll come back to it when he's older.

Tom: No. No. It doesn't work like that. If you want to be any good, you need to keep going while you're young.

Kathie:: But is it worth all the 'you need to practise' arguments?

Tom: It will be worth it, if we can just get him past this 'don't want to' stage.

Kathie:: He needs something worthwhile to work towards.

Cast: Hashtag thinking cap on.

Scene 6: at school. Children 8, 9 and 16 down L

Kirsty: How's it going?

Leona: Awful. Like a nightmare. I just want to wake up and find it never happened.

Kirsty and Georgie *sympathetic silence / gesture.*

Leona: And it's really stupid and selfish, but I keep remembering it's my birthday next week. I'm going to be a teenager. I was planning a party ... but Mum's staying in digs, and I can't talk to Dad about parties. Not now.

Georgie: No.

Leona: They're not even going to be together for my birthday. *Puts head on knees.*

Kirsty makes sympathetic gesture.

Scene 7: still at school. Musician children Pat, Steve, Joanne

Pat: I had this idea.

Cast: interested face emoji.

Other children register interest.

Pat: Well, okay, it was my mum had it really. Possibly from your mum.

Steve *warily* My mum?

Cast: Suspicious face emoji.

Pat: No, listen. Why don't we go as trainees and musicians on board the *Swan*?

Lilian: The *Swan*? Like, the fishing boat?

Joanne: Where to?

Pat: There's a trip to Portsoy for the traditional boats festival. It's in June.

Joanne: A skive off school!

Steve: On our own.

Lilian: We could do it!

Pat: Yeah, we could.

Steve: But, here, as musicians ... are we good enough?

Pat: Yes, we are!

Joanne: I can't do any of that trad stuff.

Pat: Folk like other tunes. All that stuff in the grade 1 books.

Lilian: The Beatles, and tunes from TV series. We can do that.

Steve: We could, couldn't we? If we practised.

Joanne: Let's do it!

Cast: hashtag off to adventure

Scene 8:

Cast: getting ready to go out to clubs.

Family 3

Downstage r, children 6 and 3 are charging around finding their kit. Their mother, Mhari, is calculating.

Cast: racing round in circles emoji. *Cast recreate car.*

Mhari: So if we go for chips between gymnastics and football. *the phone rings* What now? *She answers it.* Oh, Lilian, hi.

Downstage left, Julie, on chair

Lilian: Hi! Listen, it's about the netball. They've had to change the match to Thursday.

Mhari: Thursday! *(Chivvying children)*

Lilian: Seven o'clock.

Mhari: I don't know if I can do Thursday. *(gives socks to boy)*

Lilian: You've got to!

Mhari: But it's my day to fetch the boys from football. *(gives gymnastics lycra to girl)*

Lilian: We need you. We got creamed last time without you.

Mhari: But ...

Lilian: That Sharon's as much good in defence as a stick of spaghetti.

Mhari: Yeah, but ...

Lilian: And she can't score goals. She misses every time.

Mhari: We have this rota. *Car. shoos children to car*

Ava: I'm not missing my gymnastics!

Lilian: Swap with someone.

Mhari: I can't, really I can't. *shuts door,* Jim's mum is on nights this week, and Chris's mum takes the girls to gymnastics, while I do the boys.

Lilian: Bring them with you then.

Mhari: What? To watch? *gets in car.* Seatbelts.

Lilian: Do us good to have our own personal cheerleaders. See you Thursday.

Hakki: You have got to be joking. Watch netball?

Mhari: My team needs me. *on phone again* Sue?

Hakki: You're going to make us late.

Sue picks up, upstage L.

Sue: Hi, what's up?

Mhari: They've gone and changed the night of the netball match.

Sue: When to?

Mhari: Thursday. Is there any chance you could hang on to Ava till I get back?

Ava: Yes! Can we do a sleepover?

Mhari: No.

Sue: Thursday... *looking at calendar* Thursday ... yeah, that should be fine. How late will you be?

Mhari: Nine at the latest.

Hakki: Netball.

Sue: Yeah, no problem.

Ava: Yes!

Mhari: Thanks! I'll do the same for you another time.

Hakki: What about Chris and Jim?

Mhari: I'll just take all of you.

Hakki: Aw, come on!

Agnes: You can bring your tablets and play Mindcrush, or whatever it's called.

Hakki: Minecraft.

Cast: *parents!* emoji.

Ava: Don't forget we have to pick up Georgie too.

Mhari: Where?

Hakki: Bixter.

Ava: She was at the bus stop.

Mhari: Blast!

Cast: *screech of brakes – stop – reverse – return.*

Cast: Hashtag not paying attention.

Scene 9: Brian and Agnes of family 1 in the car. *Whole cast coming out from school, including children 1, 4 and 5.*

Cast: Beep, beep.

Everyone jumps and looks.

Ingrid: Dad!

Lorna: What's wrong?

Agnes: Jump in everyone.

Children obey. Cast make car noises softly.

Ruby: What's happening?

Brian: Some idiot went through a fence at the Hummelees and our sheep are all over the road.

Agnes: We need to gather them up now.

Ingrid: Only two weeks to lambing.

Agnes: Ten days.

Brian: I'm sorry about your clubs.

Lorna: It's okay.

Ruby: This is important.

Ingrid: We can text and let them know.

Children text. Car stops. Rest of cast spread across stage. Turn and go beeeeh then turn again showing white backs.

Brian: Carefully now. Don't scare them. Let's get them back through the gap.

All the cast go through the gap between the rostra except for one – chasing round stage. Finally get it in.

Ingrid: Good thing we keep ourselves fit.

Scene 10: at school. Everyone except Leona. Kirsty and Georgie are talking to the others.

Kirsty: She's really upset about her parents being apart for her birthday. So I thought, well, my mam's fine for a party at ours.

Georgie: What night can everyone come?

Joanne: I can't do Monday or Wednesday.

Jim: Not Tuesday.

Ingrid and Chris: Me neither.

Joanne: Please don't make it Thursday!

Hakki: Friday's no good for me.
Kirsty: Hang on. Who can't do Monday? *hands raised*
Chris: Tuesday? Wednesday? Thursday? Friday? Saturday evening?
Joanne: I've got a wedding this Saturday.
Jim: Oh, is it this Saturday? We're going too.
Pat: It's mad. We don't have one night we can get together.
Ingrid: We've got to make one. This is important.
Lorna: Leona is important.
Kirsty: We can all do school though.
Georgie: Yeah! Lunchtime, in our register class.
Ava: I'll talk to Mrs Anderson.
Ingrid2: I'll organise drinks.
Georgie: We can do decorations.
Steve: We'll do food. If everyone brings something.
Pat: I'll write a list.

Scene 11: *at netball. Hakki, Jim, Chris are sitting at the side; in the centre, up to 8 girls including Agnes and Julie with netball bibs. NO BALL. For this scene we turned two spare children into commentators with a clipboard each, and they dictated the moves of the players.*

Cast: Yawn emoji.

Hakki: Netball!

Mhairi and 3 others are standing centre, obviously watching play at other end.

Suddenly the ball starts coming their way – to Lilian – Mhari – Hakki starts watching – Mhairi is poised, ready to score – scores. Ref blows whistle.

Ref: Two-one.

Hakki: *softly, to friend* Mam just scored! *slightly louder* Good goal, Mam.

Hakki in now watching. He didn't realise his non-football mam was poetry in motion on a netball court. The ball goes up then comes back down their way.

Hakki: *soft* Go on, Mam! *louder* Tackle her! Get that ball! Yes!

Jim: Good catch!

Chris: Go on, score!

Mum scores

All 3 children: Yes! *high fives, etc. Whistle,*

Ref: Two all.

Back to centre. Game at far end – reactions of children show they are now watching intently. They rise when another goal is close (off) –

Jim: Come on, Reds!

Chris: Tackle!

Disappointment. Whistle.

Ref: Three – two.

Hakki: Come on now!

Chris: Don't let them get the ball! Yes!

As the ball comes to this end, they're on their feet, gesturing.

Jim: Keep it coming down.

There's some sort of scuffle, and Mhari staggers / falls.

Hakki: Foul!

Jim: Ref, are you blind?

Chris: Give her a yellow card!

Lilian gets the ball – pass - Mhari gets it.

Boys: Yes!
Shot; cheers on bench.
Hakki: Nice one, Mam!
Ref whistle
Ref: Three all.
Reactions as the ball goes back to the other end, then returns.
Jim: How long have they got?
Hakki: Dunno. Come on!
Lilian gets ball – passes it to Mhari. It's a long shot. Mhari weighs it up ... scores.
Whistle. Delirium on bench.
Ref: Four three. *Long whistle.* Game over.
Hakki: Pitch invasion!
They run forward, slapping backs, high fives etc.
Hakki: Mam, you were amazing!
Cast: hashtag well impressed.

Scene 12 *In school. Behind the characters at the front, everyone else is desperately hanging balloons, banners, laying out food etc at top speed with maximum movement.*

Cast: Frantic rush emoji
Joanne: Just keep her talking.
Georgie: Five mintues, that's all we need.
Kirsty: What about?
Pat: Anything. Make up a problem.
Joanne: We'll signal when it's all ready. Cool.
Enter Leona.
Leona: Hey. We not going to the classroom?
Kirsty: No, well, see ... I've got this problem. I wanted to talk to you.
Leona: Okay. *They sit down. Pause.* So what is it?
Kirsty: Well, it's like ... well, I fancy this person.
Leona *encouragingly* Yeah. *Another pause.* Anyone I know?
Kirsty: Yes. I mean no. I mean sort of. *Looks desperately to see if others are ready.*
No signal. Yes, you do know them.
Leona: Well, who is it?
Kirsty: Oh, em, well, I don't want to say.
Leona: How can I help if I don't know who it is?
Kirsty: Well ... *another look for signal* ... it's complicated.
Leona: It's not one of the teachers? *She names the headteacher, the PE teacher, and then as a last resort, Never tell me it's the fun depute-head.*
Kirsty: No! Absolutely not! It's nothing like that! It's just ... *another look.*
Leona: What's going on?
Kirsty: Well, you see ... *signal at last* Phew! Classroom.
Leona: Weird.
Kirsty leads Leona to classroom – everyone jumps out.
Cast: Hashtag surprise!
We see Leona's delighted face. Lights dim as everyone sings Happy birthday.

