

ACT ONE Sc 2: THE INTEROGATION

FRIDAY JUNE 9th – 1989. 1.00pm

The separate offices of the Principal – Ms BOWEN and the Vice-Principal – Mr HENDERSON.

JAMIE and JENNIFER sit at separate desks, in separate offices, talking to separate people; JAMIE to the Principal and JENNIFER to the Vice Principal. They cannot see each other. At times, their gestures and mannerisms should imitate each other, often doing the same gesture at the same time.

They each have a stapled foolscap assignment sitting in front of them, facing away from them, slightly out of reach. Jamie's is handwritten on foolscap writing paper and is marked B MINUS; JENNIFER's is typed up in an old computer style font on blank white computer paper and is marked A.

The set up should be reminiscent of a crime scene interrogation, a blinding light in the eyes of each "perp". Both girls appear completely convincing, and it should be difficult for the audience to tell if anyone is lying.

JAMIE	What?
JENNIFER	Sorry, / what is this about?
JAMIE	/ what is this about?
JENNIFER	The Assignment?
JAMIE	The English Assignment?
JENNIFER	For English? / Yeah. . .
JAMIE	Yeah. / The Great Gatsby.
JENNIFER	The Great Gatsby, yeah?
JAMIE/ JENNIFER	I handed that in. . .
JAMIE	. . . ages ago / right after May Day
JENNIFER	right after May Day weekend.
JAMIE	Yeah, I definitely handed that in.
JENNIFER	I remember putting it on Miss Fraser's desk.

Both look and take into their hands the assignment that is sitting in front of them.

JENNIFER	Oh
JAMIE	So . . .
JENNIFER	An A!
JAMIE	What's wrong with it?

JENNIFER That's awesome

JAMIE B minus

JENNIFER A for awesome

JAMIE Again. Interesting.

JENNIFER That's great.

JAMIE Well, at least I'm consistent.

JENNIFER I've never gotten an A.

JAMIE Not sure / Miss Papdopoulous even reads them . .

JENNIFER Miss Papdopoulous?

JAMIE You know, if I'm being honest.

JENNIFER She read *my* essay?

JAMIE Sorry -

JENNIFER but I'm not in her class, why did Miss Pap read it?

JAMIE I know she's like the Head of English and that but -

JENNIFER Because I got an A?

JAMIE Just outta curiosity, did she give anyone an A?

JENNIFER Oh, I didn't know that.

JAMIE You know, out of like / the whole of Grade 11?

JENNIFER The whole of Grade 11?

JAMIE Just curious, anyway, doesn't matter - so I got another B minus, big whoop -

JENNIFER How boring?

JAMIE Is that why I'm here, miss?

JENNIFER So why am I here, sir?

JAMIE Cause I got my 100th B minus?

Pause. As if hearing something completely confusing. Confusing and bad.

JAMIE What?

Beat.

JENNIFER What?

Beat.

JAMIE What. . .

JENNIFER What / did you say?

JAMIE Did you say / identical?

JENNIFER Identical?

JAMIE You mean like / word for word?

JENNIFER Word for word?

JAMIE Huh?

JENNIFER I see.

JAMIE That is. . . .

JENNIFER So wait. . .

JAMIE How does that . . . ?

JENNIFER How can that . . . ?

JAMIE/ JENNIFER Are you sure?

JAMIE Who is it?

JENNIFER Cause, that's sorta . . .

JAMIE Whose assignment is word for word the same as mine?

JENNIFER Who wrote the other one?

JAMIE Why not?

JENNIFER Why can't you tell me?

JAMIE Are you accusing me, miss?

JENNIFER What are you accusing me *of*, sir?

Beat.

JENNIFER Stealing?

JAMIE I didn't *steal* someone else's assignment.

JENNIFER I *wrote* that assignment.

JAMIE Why would I *steal* someone else's assignment and still get a B minus?

JENNIFER I worked really hard on it, actually.

JAMIE If I had of *stolen* it off someone, I would've *stolen* it off of Paula or Mark so I'd at least get an A, don't ya reckon?

JENNIFER Well it feels like I'm in trouble for getting an A.

JAMIE I know I'm just a B minus student but / I'm not stupid.

JENNIFER I'm not stupid / I can get an A without cheating.

Beat.

JAMIE Sharing?

JENNIFER What do you mean sharing?

JAMIE Did I *share* my assignment?

JENNIFER With who?

JAMIE No, I didn't *share* my assignment.

JENNIFER I didn't *share* my assignment.

JAMIE No, I didn't *show* it anyone.

JENNIFER I don't remember *showing* it to anyone. / Why would I do that?

JAMIE Why would I do that?

JENNIFER I just remember handing it in / that day.

JAMIE That day, we didn't have English until after lunch so / it was just in my port.

JENNIFER It was just in my port – til after lunch.

JAMIE On the port racks / outside the drama room.

JENNIFER Outside the drama room. I guess someone could've gotten it outta my port?

JAMIE Look, / I didn't *steal* anyone's assignment!

JENNIFER I didn't steal anyone's assignment, sir.

JAMIE And I didn't *share* it with anyone and I didn't *show* it to anyone, either, miss.

JENNIFER I can't believe that / you don't believe me.

JAMIE You don't believe me.

Pause. As both girls begin to get upset.

JENNIFER I'm not upset 'cause I did anything wrong, sir . . .

JAMIE I'm upset because -

JAMIE/ JENNIFER I'm being accused of doing something I didn't do.

Beat.

JAMIE Word for word? Seriously, not a single word different?

JENNIFER Are you gonna call my Dad?

JAMIE I don't care, call 'im

JENNIFER I feel like I might chuck up, sir.

JAMIE It's obviously one of my friends.

JENNIFER Who would do this to me?

JAMIE 'Cause you think I "*shared*" it with them . . .

JENNIFER I just can't think . . .

JAMIE . . . or "*showed*" it to them.

JENNIFER Actually, maybe I did *show* it to . . .

JAMIE . . so they must be a friend or someone I'm friendly with.

JENNIFER I don't wanna get her into trouble . .

JAMIE . . .If you think I would risk getting in trouble for 'em . . .

JENNIFER . . . I do remember Jamie talking about it, near the port racks.

JAMIE Hang on, why am I the one who got called up to the office?

JENNIFER Jamie, yeah. Jamie Kelly.

JAMIE How come *they* didn't get called up to the office.

JENNIFER Was it her?

JAMIE Wait a second . .

JENNIFER Was it Jamie Kelly?

JAMIE She did.

The tables, chairs and assignments are removed as the scene segues immediately into the next.