



A Change of PACE

Creatively supporting young people during the coronavirus crisis

The Monologue Pod Class

Episode 5

Character: Izzy
Gender: Female
Age: 14
Play: The Girl with the Red Hair, by Sharman MacDonald (2005)
Accent: Fife – but don't worry too much about this

IZZY: There's no letters from me here. You won't find any. I can talk to her like she's still alive. Easy as anything, I can. I don't even have to be in the cemetery.

(Corinne is watching Matt on the beach).

'Don't touch her hand,' they said, when she lay beneath the sheet. The mortuary people. They'd washed the blood out of her hair, my dad said. My dad christened her. Buried her grandmother. Married her parents. Her hand was hurt. They didn't want her mother to touch it, standing there to identify her. Of course, though, her mother rushed forward to take her hand out from under the cover, to hold it. Wanted to hold her daughter. It was my dad that held her back. He has a very sad job, my dad, which explains some of the things about him. See, he only believes in Hell. That's the cosmology I live with. My dad's not sure about Heaven but he knows there's a Hell. So I know there's a Hell too. And there's a devil but there is no God. I don't know how we cling to life at all, my and my dad. She felt nothing in the crash. She was asleep. She didn't see her life go. If she'd known it was going she'd have held on to it. Her face was unmarked. Her mother stroked her hair. They had the same hair. They were friends, her mother and her. Her mother misses her as a friend and a sister. She almost doesn't miss her as a daughter at all. For moths she came to the graveside every day. Then her husband left her and she was alone. 'Who can blame him?' my dad said. She'd lost her daughter, Cath, but her husband, he'd lost them both, his daughter and his wife as well; for though Cath wasn't dead, she might as well've been.

CORRINNE: You've got a crush on him, haven't you?

IZZY: You'll have to be dead to get letters like he writes her. [...]

'I miss everything about you.' That's the way Matt loved Roslyn. That's the way he loves her yet. He'll never love you like that.

Extract from *The Girl with the Red Hair*, by Sharman Macdonald (2005), Faber, London.

Character: Daphna
Gender: Female
Age: 20
Play: *Bad Jews*, by Joshua Harmon
Accent: New York

MELODY: It's fun, they have all these designs you can -

DAPHNA: Melody, I can't get a tattoo.

I'm Jewish?

It's against Jewish law.

MELODY: I know a Jewish person with tattoos.

DAPHNA: Well they're wrong.

MELODY: Oh

DAPHNA: Yeah. Jewish law prohibits tattoos of any kind but even if it didn't that wouldn't be a problem for me because just for like me personally, when I like step back and reflect on all the things that had to occur in the universe over billions of years so that I could be alive, in my body, right now, like, we're made of the same things as stardust, that's how connected we are, to everything, so to be like, who cares about the natural, larger-than-life mysterious universal reasons why my body was designed the way it is, like, screw that, I'm just gonna permanently etch this *doodle* onto my *body* which is composed of the same things that are in *stars!?!?*

Poppy had a tattoo, but that was different, obviously. That wasn't by choice.

B-14312. I memorized it. I used to – when I was little, I would trace it with my... he'd hold out his arm and I would – while he talked to my parents or watched....

I actually, actually, uhm, no.

(beat)

So. Liam. Liam, Liam, Liam. Has Liam ever told you his Hebrew name?

Extract from *Bad Jews* by Joshua Harmon (2015), Samuel French, London.

Character: Eck
Gender: Male
Age: 24
Play: Dead Dog Dad, by John McKay
Accent: Aberdeen – but don't worry too much about this

ECK This is where I come to think, awright?

WILLIE Could you no have stayed doon the park and thunk? It's aw dark and dingy in here.

ECK Aye it's dark and dingy. And that's the whole point. This is where I come to do what Scots are best at. Moping. It's a need we've got. And we're experts. Now most folk when they're depressed, after Scotsport and that, they make do wi crying into their last lonely can of special. But I come here to see history gummed up, life stuck on a pin. To see the elephants wi the wrinkly ears, and the dusty fish, and the big whale skeleton hanging from the roof, and sometimes, when I'm feeling really miserable, when I really want to reassure masel that life is utterly terrible, I come to the pickle room. You go up here, up through the insect's gallery, wi the Diseases Praying on Man section, and up the back stairs through the spiky crabs bit and blown-up jellyfish, and you're here: aw the pickles in jars in glass cases, aw white and still. Brilliant. Aw the things that didnae live, hangin in jelly.

Hail Caledonia! I'm fed up wi it.

Extract from *Dead Dog Dad* by John McKay, published in *Scot Free: New Scottish Plays* (1990), Nick Hern, London.

TRANSITIVE VERBS for actioning

- all verbs are things you do, but transitive verbs are special – they are things you do *to someone*.

abolish abuse accept acquaint acquit address affirm afflict affront aid alarm alert allow
allure amaze amend amuse anger antagonize anticipate appeal approach arrange assess
assist astound attack authenticate baby badger baffle bait bear beckon befuddle beg beguile
belittle berate beseech bewitch bid blame bless bluff boost brainwash bribe cajole calculate
call catch caution censure challenge charge charm chastise cheat check cheer chide clarify
cloak coax coerce collude command commend con conceal concern conciliate condemn
condescend confide confirm confound confuse consider consign contest convince correct
corroborate court cover criticize crucify crush curse damn dare deceive declaim deduce
defame defraud defy delight delude demean denigrate deny detect deter devastate dictate
direct disconcert discourage discredit disgrace disgust dishearten dispirit displease dissuade
distress divert dodge dominate dramatize draw duck ease educate elevate elicit elucidate
embroil enchant endear endure enflame engross enkindle enlighten enmesh ensnare
entangle entertain entice entrap entreat entrust eradicate eschew estimate evade evaluate
excuse execute exploit facilitate feed force frame free frighten frustrate fuddle gag gauge
gladden goad graft guarantee harangue hassle help humble humiliate humour hurt hush
hypnotize imitate impair implicate indict indoctrinate induce indulge insinuate inspire insult
interview intrigue invite judge lambast lampoon lead lecture libel liberate lure tantalize
tarnish tease tempt terrify thwart tickle titillate tolerate torment torture trammel trick
trouble tyrannize magnetize manipulate marshall mask mend mimic mislead misuse
mobilize mortify motivate muffle muster mystify nag nauseate negotiate notify nullify
obliterate offend oppose organize orient orientate overlook panic parrot patronize perform
perplex persecute peruse placate plan please pledge pontificate pose pray preoccupy press
prevail prick prod promise promote prompt propagandize propel propose propound
prosecute provoke purge purify pursue quash quench query rack rally ratify ravage reduce
read rebuke recreate rectify reiterate reject release relegate remedy renege repel
reprehend repress reprimand repulse resist retract revolt ridicule sanctify satisfy scheme
scold scrutinize sedate seduce settle shake shame shroud shun sicken simplify slander slur
smother snare sober soothe spellbind spoil spurn squash squelch startle still stir stretch
strike strip study stymie substantiate suffer suggest summon support suppress surprise
squash swindle unburden understand uproot urge warn wheedle woo worry worship
wrangle