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SCENE 7: BULLIED

The library at college. MOLLY is revising for her AS exams. Her laptop is open in

front of her and she’s surrounded by books. She is listening to music on her iPod.

Enter LOUISA, with a clutch of books. She sits down opposite MOLLY.

LOUISA Hi.

MOLLY (Shouting.) Hi! (LOUISA laughs and puts her finger up to her lips.)

Sorry. (They go about their work. MOLLY’S laptop pings. LOUISA

looks up and then goes back to her work. MOLLY’S phone chimes.

She looks at it and puts it down. It chimes again. Her laptop pings

again. LOUISA calmly gathers her books and gets up.) I’m sorry.

LOUISA It’s okay. I can work over there.

MOLLY No, please. I’ll switch it all off.

LOUISA You don’t have to do that.

MOLLY I do.

LOUISA Molly, it’s okay.

MOLLY It’s not, it’s not okay!

MOLLY gets all her stuff together to go, dropping her paper and pens. In an instant,

LOUISA’S around the table with her arms around her

LOUISA What’s going on?

MOLLY It doesn’t matter.

LOUISA Who texted?

MOLLY Please.

LOUISA Let me see.

MOLLY It’s not – it’s private.

LOUISA I don’t care. Show me. (MOLLY shows her the text message.) Who

wrote that?

MOLLY It’s stupid. It doesn’t matter. I know I shouldn’t let it get to me.

LOUISA Listen, to me Molly. (A student shushes them.) That text is abusive.

You should never have to tolerate that. Was it on your email, too?

MOLLY Yes.

LOUISA Who’s doing this to you?

MOLLY I don’t want to say.

LOUISA What, in case I kick their head in? Come on!

MOLLY Jennifer Harding.

LOUISA Since when?

MOLLY A few weeks.

LOUISA Why?

MOLLY I don’t know. I have wracked my brains and I have no idea. We used

to be best friends.

LOUISA Just texts, or –

MOLLY She’s posted stuff. And she created a Facebook profile. I mean it’s

stupid stuff. It’s stupid, childish stuff.

LOUISA That wasn’t childish. That was hateful.

MOLLY There’s no crime against it.

LOUISA Harassment’s a crime.

MOLLY I’d rather just ignore it. Thank you.

LOUISA I used to get bullied at primary school. This one boy used to push me

around, call me names. I could never figure out why. He didn’t do it

to anyone else. Turned out his dad had just remarried, and he had a

step-sister, and she looked like me. He hated her, not me. But I was

there. I was available to be attacked. (Beat.) I know Jenny Harding.

You should talk to her. Tell her this has to stop.

MOLLY I don’t want to. Not after the things she’s said. And her friends.

LOUISA Screw her friends. They’re just sheep. They don’t even know you,

right? (MOLLY shows LOUISA her laptop. LOUISA is shocked.)

That’s just … you’re a good person, Molly. You can’t let this happen.

MOLLY I don’t want to make it worse.

LOUISA How unhappy must she be to do this to someone she used to be

friends with? She’s screwed up and you’re not. So you can do

something about it.

MOLLY You don’t know how hard it is. You’re Little Miss Popular.

MOLLY moves to leave.

LOUISA Molly, none of that is true. What she said. You know that, right?

MOLLY Yeah.

LOUISA She’d be lucky to have you as a friend.