

Five

Fuller and **Tigs** are alone in the classroom

Fuller What were you thinking?

Silence

Well, what?

Tigs Dunno

Fuller Where did you get it?

Silence

Fuller Where did you get it?

Tigs You know I can't tell you that

Fuller What do you mean you can't tell me that?

Pause

Fuller I don't know...if I.. I just... I actually can't believe it. You're a bright boy Michael, sensitive, intelligent. And now this. *(Pause)* I don't know if I can keep this a secret. Just between us, I mean. I don't think... Do you realize how serious this is? Do you? *(Pause)* And how bloody stupid? It's the sort of screwed up thing you read about or they make films about but it doesn't happen. It's a gun. A gun Michael. Guns kill, guns are keys to open the prison door or the coffin. Guns don't solve problems Michael, they cause them. I can't... I mean... This shouldn't be happening. Not here, not in a school, not in this school and not with you. You, Michael... I just don't understand ... why?

Tigs You really wanna know why? *(Beat)* Have you got the time for why?

Fuller What?

Tigs I said have you really got the time?

Fuller You know I have

Tigs No I don't

Fuller What do you mean?

Tigs I know you've got the time to show us why we should be the sort of person you understand, that you like, that you accept

Fuller That's unfair Michael, and you know it....

Tigs Is it?

Pause

Fuller You know I encourage you to be yourself, to live the life you want to lead. I'm just trying to open doors for –

Tigs Doors. Doors yeah. Into what sort of room? A room furnished with things that you like, things that you would be happy to touch, to sit on, things that you appreciate. That's your world. And your world's got some nice things in it but it's still your world. And even if I wanted to belong, if I entered that room, people would come in and say who put that there, that doesn't belong here, put it upstairs or downstairs or wherever it is that people like me belong

Pause

Have you held it?

Fuller What?

Tigs The gun. Have you held it? Felt the way it makes you feel?

Fuller Don't be ridiculous

Tigs Then how do you know what you're talkin about? What did you say about literature, that it broadens your experience, well that's bullshit. Reality broadens your experience, not books. Studying books may get you through exams, may teach you some nice long words but it don't teach you nothing about life, about real life, about my life. You've read a lot of books yeah, that's true, but where have you been, what have you actually done. Look at you. Look. You've looked inside Macbeth but you ain't been Macbeth. Telling me like you know, telling me that's ridiculous. Well you know what's ridiculous: you're fucking ridiculous.

Fuller O.K. Michael, calm down. I'm trying to help –

Tigs Who? You? You wanna help, then help, try to understand what it's like

Silence

Fuller Haven't I given you time, listened to you? Taken your side. The amount of times I've gone to other teachers, to Miss Parnell, to argue your side, to get them to go easy on you. I've tried to help

Tigs Some. But you always wanna see the other side. Sometimes there ain't no other side

Brenda and Linda enter

Linda Sir, Miss Davis asked if you could go to S11 straightaway. Mr Winton got a problem with a few students.

Fuller leaves

Linda You shoulda seen it, Darren Jones was threatening to piss on his Science book if Mr Winton didn't let him out of the room. Then Stacey heard sir say "it might be an improvement on the shit you got in there at the moment". That's deep. Mr Winton's a joker. Darren went spastic. He started throwin' things and that. Miss Davis went in to try'n calm things down, yeah. Then all the usual retards tryin' ta get in on it, 'sjoke man

Pause

We just see Kelly Thompson. She askin' about you. Tigs man, we said the girl is askin' after you. You not listening to nuffin man

Tigs What?

Linda Nothin
Pause

Brenda You alright?

Linda Brenda stop tryin to chat him up man. Tigs got so many girls crawlin all over him that's what makes him so heavy. Why you think he spends so much time in here on his own? He's recovering yeah. All that hanging on him, that's peak man

Brenda Don't

Linda Come Brenda, lets go shop

Brenda No you go, I've got some maths to do

Linda What you doin that now for?

Brenda I forgot to do it last night

Linda Alright I see you later yeah *(She exits)*

Brenda moves to a desk near Tigs..

Silence

Tigs I thought you had some maths to do

Brenda I've done it

Silence

Tigs Look, I'm okay

Brenda Really? You don't look it, looks like things are not too good

Tigs I'm okay

Brenda There's something else

Tigs What?

Brenda Your sister

Tigs Nah man

Brenda She's in trouble

Tigs Again. *(Beat)* What happened?

Brenda I dunno. Just saw her being taken to Miss Parnell's office by two teachers. She was shouting and swearing

Tigs I gotta go Brenda. Sorry. Thank you *(Exits)*

Brenda sits for a moment then walks to the window.