

BAD EDUCATION

EPISODE 505

"Reading"

Written By

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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(Pink Rev. 25/07/23)
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2 1 INT. ABBEY GROVE EXAMHALL - MORNING

2 1

Students are sitting a LITERACY exam THE EXAMINER (beige, pudding bowl haircut, silent) watches over them balefully.

HBURN walks along 'subtly' cheating She taps a multiple choice answer on ONE PUPIL'S exam The Examiner looks up

HBURN reads what ANOTHER PUPIL is writing in horror.

HBURN
(fake cough)
"i" before "e".

The Examiner frowns at HBURN The pupil corrects what they've written.. but incorrectly. HBURN rolls her eyes.

HBURN (CONT'D)
(another, faker cough)
Except after "c"!

The Examiner has had enough of this. They stand up just as -
WAM Stephen throws the doors open In Drag Race style

STEPHEN
The library is open

Class Krush in, we track down the line of desks with them
As they deliver their reads, they pull on glasses/sunglasses.

HBURN
Class K This is unacceptable.

USM
The ONLY thing I can't accept is
that Dandruff! You got a whole
generation of Snowflakes on them
shoulders!

HBURN
Hw dare you!

BLESSING
Hw dare you with that Lennon and
Herb Energy!

HARRISON
Yeah what perfume you wearing 'Eu
De unseasoned chicken?'

JINK

At least you're doing your bit for
the environment 'cos those bags
under your eyes are for LIFE!

WARREN pops up dressed as a butler with a silver domed dish

WARREN

Madam could I suggest a Jacket
Potato to go with that Tuna and
Myo breath?

INCHEZ

Don't think that's her breath, Fam
You know what they say, plenty more
fish in the V!!!!

They've formed a V formation Now Stephen joins them

Class K / Stephen

Period!

HEBURN

Are you out of your tiny minds?!

USM

Ain't personal. It's a Reading exam
and you got Read Like Drag Race?
Sir's been prepping us all term

HEBURN

This is a reading exam in
LITERACY Reading and writing?
Books?

The examiner storms out of the room HEBURN chases after her.

HEBURN (CONT'D)

Look what have you done!

(to the examiner)

Wit! I'm so sorry, I haven't been
this embarrassed since we were
forced to participate in "Mental
Health" Awareness Week. You
wouldn't believe the sob stories!

USM

Oh shit! Sir!! If I fail another
exam my nuns gonna kill you

STEPHEN

Relax! Tell her education isn't
about the destination, it's about
the journey. She won't kill you

USM
I said she'll kill you. Who else do
you think our parents gonna blame?!

WE push in on STEPHEN in horror, the camera tilting queasily -

INT. STEPHEN'S CLASSROOM- FLASHBACK

HBURN

Mr Carmichael. Despite my best efforts, it looks like I'm stuck at this calamitous school for the long haul. And now thanks to you, we could go into Special Measures!

STEPHEN

Oh, well, by the way, exam!

HBURN

No, special is bad! We'll be under constant supervision..

(Low indicates examiner)

Qualified for every tiny mistake by these cat-in-the-hat apparatchiks. What are you doing here, Mr Harper?

MICHELL

Oh, I assumed I was in trouble too?

HBURN" RN

No, it's Mr Carmichael's head on the chopping board. Shoo

MICHELL

Sweet. Cheers, babe.

MICHELL exits. HBURN smiles unctuously at the examiner.

HBURN" TEN

At 8pm today. PUVB

(MORE)

HBURN (CONT'D)

But I've always got a thumb in
Bernard Shaw Two thumbs! If I
could, I'd get a whole fist in him

STEPHEN

Miss, are you sure there isn't a
different play they could read? We
perform *A Ghost Story* every
time they recast it. Warren's
homage to Cheryl is impeccable

WARREN

(a bad Geordie accent)

Awwsir, it's all thanks to your
inspirational dialect coaching

HBURN

Enough We are going to do this
presentation by the book Give me
your phones. Today all your friends
are dead Google, Tik Tok, that
fickle little floozy Wikipedia

The kids protest to STEPHEN as HBURN collects their phones.

HBURN (CONT'D)

Don't look at Mr Carmichael. He
couldn't help you if his life
depended on it...

(sotto, to STEPHEN)

Wich It. Des.

The examiner takes the phones. Then holds out a hand towards
HBURN Reluctantly, HBURN gives the examiner her own phone.

Then the examiner ushers HBURN and a very stressed STEPHEN
out. Then slams the door on Class K's scared faces.

HARRISON

I'm so stressed, I think I'm having
a stroke. I can smell dog shit!

WARREN

That's not a symptom of a stroke?

JINK

Um Blessing I think it might be
you? I saw you tread in it earlier.

They all look down - BLESSING has stepped in dog shit. Gross!

BLESSING

What? Why didn't you tell me?

27 INT MITCHELL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

27

JINK is crying on a weights bench MITCHELL approaches.

MITCHELL

What's wrong? You seen someone drinking out a plastic cup again?

JINK

Nothing! I'm fine! Sorry!

MITCHELL

Jink Come on, how thick do you think I am? You can tell me..

JINK

I don't think you're thick, sir. You're just the product of a broken system

MITCHELL

I meant you can tell me what you're crying about! I'm a good listener.

CUT TO 5
MINUTES LATER

JINK

And my therapist said I overthink things, but what child of 6 isn't traumatised by the bloodthirsty consumerism of Dick Dick Goose?

MITCHELL

Jesus, Jink You worry too much! Why do you care what people think?

JINK

I can't change that! My first word was 'sorry'! The other day, I apologised to my own reflection

MITCHELL

Well, I can help with that. Come on, girl, we got work to do

28 INT GM- MONTAGE

28

A 'My Fair MITCHELL' montage begins. MITCHELL's in football manager mode. The (non Class K) HUNGRY HIPPOKIDS are hhh/

Nervously, JINK sits on the chair like a normal person
MITCHELL blasts her with a deafening air horn Cue music.

MITCHELL
Two legs good, four legs bad If
you got both feet on the ground
you're involved you're listening
Are you listening?

JINK
Yes, sir—

MITCHELL blasts her with the air horn

MITCHELL
No! Never listen! Go again!

We see JINK leaning back on her chair...

MITCHELL (CONF D)
Further!... further!... further!

Until JINK leans so far back that she tips over! YES! A WIN

MITCHELL (CONF D)
Now let's make this interesting

Cut to MITCHELL's class acting as if they're on a train (very
Drama GCSE). One kid is dressed as an 'old lady'. Another is
'pregnant'. MITCHELL and JINK move between passengers.

MITCHELL (CONF D)
There's one seat left on the train

JINK
(to the old lady)
Would you l-

Airhorn Airhorn Airhorn JINK keeps trying to be polite!

MITCHELL
SHAKE IT OFF! GO AGAIN

Cut to MITCHELL using a whiteboard covered in mathematical
diagrams —the various "triangles" of 'Misreading'.

MITCHELL (CONF D)
The Isosceles. Legs and elbows out,
neck forward You gotta let 'em
know you're there, gotta get right
'up em in the first 5 seconds. Go!

Cut back to the train JINK is sitting in full man spreading
mode, straining to make her neighbours uncomfortable.

HEURN (CONT D)

Good Lord, there are two of you
You're popping up like mushrooms.
Now..

*

Class K watch HEURN being frogmarched off, as the examiners
confiscate the book INCHEZ turns to WARREN

INCHEZ

Yo Detective Hkachu, go faster!

WARREN

There are over a thousand pages -
the man wrote a lot of plays!

STEPHEN

Psst! Hw's it going?

STEPHEN has popped up in full disguise as 'the school nurse'.

HARRISON

Why are you dressed like a nurse?

STEPHEN

Cos we're in an emergency Harrison
and I'm always on them - so don't
come at me with that Kurtney & Kim
Season 18 Episode One energy.

USM

Will, we ain't even started
Pygmalion yet! Why don't you ever
teach us anything useful?!

STEPHEN

Will, that concealer application is
looking pretty useful, Sis! Oh God,
what are your parents gonna say?

INCHEZ

Bruv, I ain't scared of my dad. If
he steps toward me, he's getting
whacked!

WARREN

If he steps towards you, it would
be diagonally, him being a Bishop

They all stare at him Silence.

WARREN (CONT D)

It's a Chess joke!!!!

JINK
WHEYYY!!

Across the other side of the room **MITCHELL** joins in

MITCHELL
WHEYYYY!!

STEPHEN clocks e! llfL

BLESSING

Yeah? Why do you think they called the jacuzzi 'egg drop soup'?

USM

Jim! Come on, I know you love these dry old books. Before I met you, I thought a period drama was wearing white jeans on a heavy day.

WARREN yelps in delight. He's stuck the final pages together. He holds up a sellotaped wedge of old pages - Pygmalion!

WARREN

Last page! And look! There's something about a sculpture? And a character called Eliza Doolittle!

USM

U " It's a tip. Is she pretty? Show me her!
(then remembering)
Urgh. Forgot it wasn't a phone.

BLESSING

Okay. If we work together, we can read it back and forth.

INCHEZ has come out of the dressing up cupboard waving a notebook which says "BURN BOOK" on the front cover.

thes Rod! INCHEZ ! H !
Yo what is THIS? I found it stashed in the dressing up cupboard. It's got shit about all of you in it!

USM

Oh god, it's a burn book. It's gonna be full of shit. WARREN gash H in . . . !
B ! BLESSING

USM

**Wit - because she WROTE IT! Jinx
wrote down all the shit she's too
scared to say to my immaculate face**

JINK

Oh really? Fine. Mybe I did write

MITCHELL pulls his battered phone out, completely broken

STEPHEN

Urgh And I can't ask the other teachers, they'll rat me out. I need to google this play.

MITCHELL

We've gotta go looking in the shadows for the sickos and freaks - where no sane person would ever go

2 13 OMTIED

2 13

2 14 OMTIED

2 14

2 15 EXT. BY THE BINS - DAY

2 15

STEPHEN

**But you do have a dictionary. We
get it.**

STEPHEN and MITCHELL grumpily exit in different directions.

2 16 EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

2 16

USM walks towards the COOL GIRLS in the playground

USM

**Sis, let me use your phone for two
minutes and**

2 16E EXT. PLAYGROUND - MONTAGE

2 16B

FRASER

I knew you'd see sense. This piggy
pulp forms a crust which feels like
the inside of a moist washing up
glove. Think what you could build
with that! I know my mind's racing

INCHEZ

I just need a pig Fraser. Leave it
in the playground before the
presentation, yeah? Oh and then
examiners cannot see you help me.

INCHEZ runs out. **FRASER** salutes, then opens a bucket, takes a
big ol' sniff and then delves his hand into the slop

HBURN

Oh, stop babbling

HBURN opens her coat to reveal -- she's also wearing the exact same costume from **Pretty Woman**. **MITCHELL**'s speechless.

HBURN (CONT'D)

I found the English Teacher in a cupboard, babbling about Pretty Woman. Perhaps I should have taken his hood off before he passed out.

MITCHELL

But - you're cheating?

HBURN

Obviously! It's our only hope. This is the first time I've been able to shake off those examboard ghouls.

MITCHELL

So what's your plan?

HBURN

I'm going to flash the children during the exam.

MITCHELL

Don't worry, **Bern **Stephen**'s in there right now telling the kids.**

HBURN

In there? But the presentation's started! Can't you tell the time?

MITCHELL

They confiscated our phones.

HBURN

They took mine too, but I manage!

2 28 OMITTED

2 28

2 29 INT. STEPHEN'S CLASSROOM- AFTERNOON

2 29

HBURN and **MITCHELL** (pulling on a tracksuit) burst in, red faced and panicking to discover **Class K- MINS JINK-** in an examsetting about to face the panel of **THE THREE EXAMINERS.**

USM is dressed as someone from **Bridgerton**. **HARRISON** is dressed like a book. **WARREN** clutches the ruined play.

The examiners simultaneously raise fingers to their lips.

HURN

Sorry we're late. Good luck, Class
K Let the presentation begin!

The clock strikes 4. The examiners click their stopwatches.

2 30 **INT. INSIDE THE FIG - SAME TIME** 2 30

STEPHEN is freaking out. He's already very sweaty, and stifled, and revolted inside this disgusting pig

2 31 **INT. STEPHEN'S CLASSROOM - SAME TIME** 2 31

Silence. Then **HARRISON** waddles forward, dressed as a book. He unfolds his 'pages'.

HARRISON

Once upon a time... on a farm far,
far away, in Ireland, there lived
Dr. Doolittle.

WARREN

(under his breath)
We're dead

HARRISON

Shut up, yogurt boy.

INCHEZ barges **HARRISON** out the way with the pig

INCHEZ

IN A WORLD - move, man - IN A WORLD
WERE SWINE RULE...

INCHEZ starts throwing straw at the examiner.

HURN

What are you doing?!

INCHEZ

Chill, Miss. It's a 4D experience.
ONE LITTLE PIG REFUSED TO GO HOME
HIS NAME? PIG IRON MAN

The examiners are writing angry notes. **HURN** nudges **USMA**.

USMA

O dickhead, move to the left. It's
got nothing to do with pigs!!
(clearing her throat)
(MRE)

USMA (CONF D)

Sirs. Madams. Eliza Doolittle is a hot girl who has to deal with everybody's jealousy even in the olden days.

WARREN

Is 'olden days' a literary term?

USMA

Go find a personality.

WARREN

Go find a brain cell.

USMA grabs **WARREN** in fury, all decorum forgotten. Everyone starts yelling, throwing burn book insults in each other's face. The pig gets barged around as Class K begin to brawl.

2 32 **INC. INSIDE THE FIG - SAME TIME** **2 32**

STEPHEN is very uncomfortable. He's sweating now so much.

STEPHEN

Help! HELP!!!

2 33 **OMTIED** **2 33**

2 34 **OMTIED** **2 34**

2 35 **INC. STEPHEN'S CLASSROOM- SAME TIME** **2 35**

The examiners are making big crosses on their clipboards in a frenzy of failure. **HEBURN** and **MITCHELL** are trying to break it up but it's feeling like curtains for Abbey Grove when --

JINK

... aaaaaaa Scene!

Everyone turns to see **JINK** in the doorway. What's she doing?

JINK (CONF D)

Ladies and gentlemen of the exam board, we give you Class K's presentation on Pygmalion.

Simultaneously, the three examiners cross their arms and narrow their eyes. They don't believe a word of it.

JINK

And.. M Carnichael embodies the core theme of Pygmalion that within all of us is a beautiful, authentic self waiting to burst out. We just need the courage to be seen for who we truly are

Silence. Then the examiners start clapping! HBURN joins in STEPHEN bows, milking it. HBURN copies his move from Sc 1.

HBURN

Period!

STEPHEN

No

JINK turns to Class K

BLESSING

I thought you didn't want to be a white saviour.

JINK

(utterly mortified)

Oh God I am so, so, sorry.

BLESSING

I'm joking Jink. Come here.

Class K hug JINK. She hugs them back. Friends again

2 36 INT. STEPHEN'S CLASSROOM- DAY

2 36

STEPHEN and Class K sweep up the remains of the pig. They're working together again. JINK is back in the gang.

USM

You unblocked me!

JINK

And you followed me!

BLESSING

I didn't think you had it in you, but that burn book was jokes.

JINK

I didn't write it though! You guys assumed I did and I was so hurt, I just went with it. I'm sorry.

WARREN

But if you didn't write it, who did?

STEPHEN spots the Burn Book and snatches it off of JINK

STEPHEN

Oh! My notes! Thank GOD I've been looking for these!

INCHEZ

Are you serious? YOU wrote this?!

STEPHEN

Er, have you not you /