



**TX: Friday 21 December 2012 at 2245 in The Essay BBC Radio 3**

## **Scene One – Ellie’s bedroom**

### **Music IN; 00:00**

Giles Fraser: In the year 1210, Pope Innocent III issued a ban on clergy performing in any sort of drama on the public stage. For a while, the church had been getting increasingly twitchy about the popularity of religious plays that had spilled out from the church and into the market place where they were often sponsored by the local town guild. But no one ever granted the church some exclusive deal to be the sole custodians of the Christian message. The proliferation of popular interpretation represented a confidence that the stories of the Bible could be understood in a whole host of different ways and by different people. In this new cycle of commissions, Radio 3 has asked a series of contemporary playwrights to do something similar, to take some familiar New Testament stories and to set them in the context of the modern workplace. In this renarration of the Parable of the Sower, Ellie meets a weird woman on the bus and is inspired to turn the Biblical story into a school science experiment. But as the experiment develops one begins to ask whether the whole thing is not so much about growth of Ellie’s cress but much more about the growth of Ellie herself.

### **Music out 1:26**

1. Ellie: Dear God and or Jesus.  
Ellie D. Rickman Street. Monday night.  
Just wanted to say: cheers for the miracle.  
You know the one.  
On the bus, on the number 8.  
Cos you sent that woman didn’t you?  
Who reads the Bible out.  
Normally I just think ‘nutter’ but today I realised: no. She’s sent from God.
2. She looked a bit like you actually. Same beard.  
I was just sat there thinking ‘what the eff-word am I gonna do?’  
Cos of my science club issues. And Daniel was all asking what’s up why are you distracted but everyone knows,



5. Marcus: Yeah it was but then I thought about it, decided, this is better. Cos it's the same science either way isn't it? And this is Science Club. So it should be about the science.
6. Miss: Marcus.
7. Marcus: It's the science that's important. In science club.
8. Miss: I suppose but -
9. Marcus: You're all about the science Miss.
10. Miss: I am all about the science.
11. Marcus: So what I'm thinking is: as long as I'm using the same science - and it is good science Miss, you said that. Long as I'm doing that, the experiment stands. The experiment is just as good. You can't hold it against me Miss.
1. Miss: I'm not holding it against you Marcus.
2. Marcus: I can't believe you're holding it against me Miss. Getting fat.
3. Miss: I'm just thinking about your health Marcus.
4. Marcus: Don't be fattist Miss.
5. Miss: I'm not being fattist.
6. Marcus: You're a fattist. You're a fattist dictator.
7. Miss: I'm not a fattist dictator Marcus.

8. Marcus: You are though.
9. Miss: I'm just saying -
10. Marcus: Not my fault Miss.
11. Miss: It is your fault Marcus.
12. Marcus: Miss!
13. Marcus: You've gained weight on purpose.
14. Marcus: Yeah, for science.
15. Miss: I just don't understand why you'd choose to -
1. Marcus: Think about it. We come in here every lunch time. End of term, we get to do our own experiments. One of us wins a prize. Which you won't tell us what it is.
2. Miss: It's a surprise.
3. Marcus: I'm not being funny Miss, you pulled that one at half-term, we got a Chomp.
4. Miss: It's better than a Chomp. I promise.
5. Marcus: Doesn't matter Miss. Cos this way, I win whatever. I am a winner. Every day.
6. Miss: I don't...

7. Marcus: Today I've won a Twirl and three Yorkies. It's only lunch time.

8. Miss: Marcus you have to stop this.

9. Marcus: Nah Miss, stop Friday.

10. Miss: You'll make yourself ill. You will.

11. Marcus: Got to do it properly.





**Scene Four – Science Club**

1. Daniel:           A uterus. A uterus. A womb.
2. Miss:             Oh a uterus.
3. Daniel:           It's a model. A wool model, knitted model. Of -
4. Miss:             Wow Daniel. Very unusual.
5. Daniel:           I just got the pattern off the internet. Just googled it.
6. Miss:             And is it, is it...?
7. Daniel:           Is it...?
8. Miss:             I don't know is it, accurate? Biologically.
9. Daniel:           Hopefully. What do you think?
10. Miss:            Very lifelike.
11. Daniel:          It's not finished yet.
12. Miss:            Oh.
13. Daniel:          Needs another fallopian tube. And some pompoms. For the ovaries.  
I might not get it finished to be honest.
14. Miss:            What?

1. Daniel: Might not finish.

2. Miss: You must do Daniel.

Daniel sighs.

3. Why not?

4. Daniel: Oh I dunno Miss. Taken ages already hasn't it? So I might not.

5. Miss: Is everything alright?

6. Daniel: Yeah, fine thanks yeah.

7. Miss: Good.

10. Daniel: D'you think it's worth doing Miss? Worth finishing it?

11. Miss: Course it is, Daniel. This is: wonderful, this is exactly the sort of thing -

12. Daniel: Only, people are, yeah, saying stuff.

13. Miss: What d'you mean?

1. Daniel: Quite a few people have been sort of, yeah, taking the piss or, whatever.

2. Miss: Don't listen to them.

3. Daniel: Not that easy Miss.

4. Miss: Do you want me to have a word with these -

5. Daniel: No. Thanks Miss but. I'm, I'm alright so...

A moment.

6. Miss: It's a good prize Daniel. I think you'd really like it. And I think you could, easily... I mean this is... And I know how much you care about... Think you'd regret it, if you didn't finish.

A moment.

7. (whispers) It's a trip to the Planetarium, Daniel. The London Planetarium. With an astronomer, a proper astronomer to show you round. Galaxies, constellations, the whole, the universe.

A moment.

8. Daniel: Does sound good actually Miss.

9. Miss: Stick with it. It's worth sticking with it.

## Scene Five – Ellie’s bedroom

1. Ellie D: Yo team God slash Jesus.  
Ellie D. Wednesday night.  
I’m being outgeeked, it’s a nightmare.  
Marcus isn’t really a threat, he’s not fooling anyone. Getting fat on purpose - not science, it’s an attitude problem. But then Alice is up to something properly technical.
2. I don’t know much but I know this: it’s got a remote control.  
And Daniel’s is...  
Like, I was looking at it today, like the craftsmanship - it is just: very good. To knit a uterus. Who does that? Daniel does.  
I can’t even grow cress.  
And that is fine because, that is sort of the plan isn’t it?  
Sort of.
- 3.



## **Scene Six – Science Club**

1. Alice:                You can ask him stuff.

2. Miss:                Wow, Alice. What shall I...?

3. Alice:                Anything.

4. Miss:                What sort of...?

5. Alice:                Anything.

6. Miss:                Alright, er. Well. What's your name?

7. Alice:                It has to be yes or no Miss.

8. Miss:                Right.

9. Alice:                His named[ (AI2c.7494 494ri.am though. TJ-8.7494 -3.45372 j8.70aQgI

A moment.

1. Alice: Oh for f -

2. Miss: Alice.

3. Alice: No I'm sorry he keeps doing this. So annoying. Aren't you you div?

4. Will.i.am: Yes.

5. Miss: Can I...?

6. Will.i.am: Yes.

7. Miss: There we go.

8. Alice: I mean it's not very...

Miss opens him up.

9. Miss: Alice, this is extraordinary.

10. Alice: Yeah, well, still not working right though is it? Just meant to press this button and -

11. Miss: But I mean, this kind of circuitry, even the soldering it's so detailed. How did you...?

12. Alice: Just did it.

13. Miss: How though?

1. Alice: Just, you know. The usual way.
  2. Miss: What d'you mean?
  3. Alice: Dunno just. Finished the Shreddies, turned him into a robot.
  4. Miss: It's amazing. Last term you couldn't even put the batteries into a torch. Now...  
Look at those resistors. How many did you use there?
  5. Alice: Where?
  6. Miss: By the capacitor.
  7. Alice: Oh. Two?
  8. Miss: No there.
  9. Alice: Oh right, 60.
  10. Miss: Sixty!
  11. Alice: Yeah. Ish.
- A moment.
12. Miss: Is this definitely your own work Alice?
  13. Alice: Yes.
  14. Miss: Really?



1. Alice: You don't have a go at Ellie cos her Mum works in Greggs.  
Where d'you think she gets the cress from?
2. Miss: Can you leave Ellie's Mum out of this please?
3. Alice: Can you leave my Mum out of this?
4. Miss: Come back here Alice! Come back.

**Scene Seven – Ellie’s bedroom**

1. Ellie D: Dear God and or Jesus. Buddha. Vishnu. Anyone.  
Ellie D. Thursday night.  
I’m starting to wonder if getting science out of the bible was actually a good plan.  
I’m screwed. Is the thing.  
It’s not growing. My petri dish cress.
2. Stood there in the loo looking at it, whispering to it, singing a bit (Rihanna).  
Nothing.  
It’s the Flash Spray isn’t it? It is though.  
So frustrating.
3. All these beady little seeds and I know there’s big leafy worlds inside. Big cressy worlds. I know there is. But they’re not getting out.  
And Daniel’s in the end cubicle sobbing cos some dickhead’s

1. We sit in the girls loos and talk about the stars and the planets and the galaxies and so on.

He stops being sad about his uterus. I stop worrying about people not taking me seriously as a scientist. Daniel's like - you were born to be a scientist, think about it, your name's L.E.D.

2.