

## The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Audition Sides

### Christopher

Scenes:

Christopher, Policeman, Siobhan

Christopher, Reverend Peters

Christopher, Christopher

Christopher, Mrs. Alexander

Christopher, Mrs. Alexander

Christopher, Lady in Street

Christopher, Station Policeman

Christopher, Man with Socks, Punk Girl

Christopher, Judy, Roger

Christopher, Judy, Roger

Christopher, Reverend Peters

Christopher, Judy, Mrs. Shears

Christopher, Ed

Christopher, Siobhan

Christopher, Ed

Christopher, Judy

Christopher, Judy, Siobhan

Christopher, Siobhan

Actor Three, Christopher

POLICEMAN. Would you like to tell me what's going on here, young man?

SIOBHAN. "I do not tell lies. Mother used to say that this was because I was a good person. But it is not because I am a good person. It is because I can't tell lies."

CHRISTOPHER. The dog is dead.

POLICEMAN. I'd got that far.

CHRISTOPHER. I think someone killed the dog.

POLICEMAN. How old are you?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm 15 years and 3 months and 2 days.

POLICEMAN. And what precisely are you doing in the garden?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm talking to you.

POLICEMAN. OK, why were you in the garden in the first place?

CHRISTOPHER. I was holding the dog.

POLICEMAN. Why were you holding the dog?

CHRISTOPHER. I like dogs.

POLICEMAN. Did you kill the dog?

CHRISTOPHER. I did not kill the dog.

POLICEMAN. You seem very upset about this. I'm going to ask you once again.

(*Christopher starts groaning.*) Terrific. Young man I'm going to ask you to stop making that noise and to stand up please calmly and quietly. Marvellous. Great.

Just flipping – (*He tries to lift up Christopher who screams and hits him.*) I'm arresting you assaulting a police officer. I strongly advise you to get into the back of the police car because if you try any of that monkey business again you stupid idiot I am going to seriously lose my shit. Is that understood?

Actor Four, Christopher

CHRISTOPHER. Reverend Peters, where is heaven?

REVEREND PETERS. I'm sorry Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. In our universe whereabouts is it exactly?

REVEREND PETERS. It's not in our universe. It's another kind of place altogether.

CHRISTOPHER. There isn't anything outside our universe Reverend Peters. There isn't another kind of place altogether. Except there might be if you go through a black hole. But a black hole is what is called a Singularity which means it's impossible to find out what is on the other side because the gravity of a black hole is so big that even electromagnetic waves like light can't get out of it, and electromagnetic waves are how we get information about things which are far away. And if heaven is on the other side of a black hole then dead people would have to be fired into space on a rocket to get there and they aren't or people would notice.

REVEREND PETERS. Well when I say heaven is outside our universe it's really just a manner of speaking. I suppose what it really means is that they are with God.

CHRISTOPHER. But where is God?

REVEREND PETERS. Christopher we should talk about this on another day when I have more time.

Actor Two, Christopher

DUTY SERGEANT. Christopher. Mr. Boone. Could you come this way please?

CHRISTOPHER. Are you going to interview me and record the interview?

DUTY SERGEANT. I don't think there will be any need for that. I've spoken to your father and he says you didn't mean to hit the policeman. Did you mean to hit the policeman?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

DUTY SERGEANT. But you didn't mean to hurt the policeman?

CHRISTOPHER. No. I didn't mean to hurt the policeman, I just wanted him to stop touching me.

DUTY SERGEANT. You know that it's wrong to hit a policeman don't you?

CHRISTOPHER. I do.

DUTY SERGEANT. Did you kill the dog Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I did not kill the dog.

DUTY SERGEANT. Do you know that it is wrong to lie to a policeman and that you can get into a very great deal of trouble if you do?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

DUTY SERGEANT. Do you know who killed the dog?

CHRISTOPHER. No.

DUTY SERGEANT. Are you telling the truth?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. I always tell the truth.

DUTY SERGEANT. Right. I'm going to give you a caution.

CHRISTOPHER. Is that going to be on a piece of paper like a certificate I can keep?

DUTY SERGEANT. No. A caution means that we are going to keep a record of what you did, that you hit a policeman but that it was an accident and that you didn't mean to hurt the policeman.

CHRISTOPHER. But it wasn't an accident.

DUTY SERGEANT. If you get into any more trouble we will take out this record and see that you have been given a caution and we will take things much more seriously. Do you understand what I'm saying?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

Actor Six, Christopher

CHRISTOPHER. 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, 97. Do you know anything about Wellington getting killed?

MRS. ALEXANDER. I heard about it yesterday. Dreadful. Dreadful.

CHRISTOPHER. Do you know who killed him?

MRS. ALEXANDER. No, I don't.

CHRISTOPHER. Somebody must know because the person who killed Wellington knows that they killed Wellington. Unless they were a loony person and didn't know what they were doing. Or unless they had amnesia.

MRS. ALEXANDER. You're Christopher aren't you?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. I live at number 36.

MRS. ALEXANDER. We haven't talked before, have we?

CHRISTOPHER. No. I don't talk to strangers. But I'm doing detective work.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I see you every day, going to school on your school bus, when I'm walking my dog. It's very nice of you to come and say hello. Even if it's only because you're doing detective work.

CHRISTOPHER. Thank you.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I have a grandson your age.

CHRISTOPHER. My age is 15 years and 3 months and 3 days.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Well, almost your age. You don't have a dog, do you?

CHRISTOPHER. No.

MRS. ALEXANDER. You'd probably like a dog wouldn't you?

CHRISTOPHER. I have a rat.

MRS. ALEXANDER. A rat?

CHRISTOPHER. He's called Toby.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Oh.

CHRISTOPHER. Most people don't like rats because they think they carry diseases like bubonic plague. But that's only because they lived in sewers and stowed away on ships coming from foreign countries where there were strange diseases. But rats are very clean.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Do you want to come in for tea?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't go into other people's houses.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Well, maybe I could bring some tea out here. Do you like lemonade?

CHRISTOPHER. I only like orangeade.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Luckily I have some of that as well. And what about Battenberg?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know because I don't know what Battenberg is.

MRS. ALEXANDER. It's a type of cake. It has marzipan icing round the edge.

CHRISTOPHER. Is it a long cake with a square cross-section that can be divided into equally sized, alternately colored squares?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Yes I think you could probably describe it like that.

CHRISTOPHER. I think I'd like the pink squares but not the yellow squares because I don't like yellow. And I don't know what marzipan is so I don't know whether I'll like that.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I'm afraid marzipan is yellow too. Perhaps I should bring out some cookies instead. Do you like cookies?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. Some sorts of cookies.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I'll get a selection.

Actor Six, Christopher

MRS. ALEXANDER. What happened to you the other day? I came out again and you'd gone. I had to eat all the biscuits myself. I was looking forward to our little chat.

CHRISTOPHER. I don't do chatting. I don't like it.

MRS. ALEXANDER. No, I don't suppose you do. Do you like computers?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes, I like computers. I have a computer in my room.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I know. I can see you sitting at your computer in your bedroom sometimes when I look across the street.

CHRISTOPHER. And I like maths and looking after Toby. And I also like outer space and I like being on my own.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I bet you're very good at maths aren't you?

CHRISTOPHER. I am. I'm going to do A-level maths next month. And I'm going to get an A-star.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Really? A-level maths?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm the first person to take an A-level from my school because it's a special school. All the other children at my school are stupid. Except I'm not meant to call them that, even though that is what they are.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Well I am very impressed. And I hope you do get an A-star.

CHRISTOPHER. I will.

MRS. ALEXANDER. And the other thing I know about you is your favorite color is not yellow.

CHRISTOPHER. No. and it's not brown either. My favorite color is red and metal-color. Do you know Mr. Shears?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Not really, no. I mean I knew him well enough to say hello but I didn't know much about him. I think he worked in the National Westminster Bank in town.

CHRISTOPHER. Father said he is an evil man. Do you know why he said that?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Perhaps it would be best not to talk about these things Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Why not?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Because maybe your father is right and you shouldn't go round asking questions about this.

CHRISTOPHER. Why?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Because obviously he is going to find it quite upsetting.

CHRISTOPHER. Why is he going to find it quite upsetting?

MRS. ALEXANDER. I think you know why your father doesn't like Mr. Shears very much.

CHRISTOPHER. Did Mr. Shears kill Mother?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Kill her?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. Did he kill Mother?

MRS. ALEXANDER. No. No. Of course he didn't kill your mother.

CHRISTOPHER. But did he give her stress so that she died of a heart attack?

MRS. ALEXANDER. I honestly don't know what you're talking about, Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Or did he hurt her so that she had to go into hospital?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Did she have to go into hospital?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. And it wasn't very serious at first but she had a heart attack when she was in hospital.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Oh my goodness.

CHRISTOPHER. And she died.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Oh my goodness. Oh Christopher, I am so, so sorry. I never realized.

CHRISTOPHER. Why did you say "I think you know why your father doesn't like Mr. Shears very much"?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Oh dear, dear, dear. Christopher, look, perhaps we should take a little walk in the park together. This is not the place to be talking about this kind of thing.



Actor Five, Christopher

CHRISTOPHER. Where can I buy a map?

LADY IN STREET. A map of where?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know.

LADY IN STREET. Where do you want to get to?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm going to the train station.

LADY IN STREET. You don't need a map to get to the station, you can see it from here.

CHRISTOPHER. No I can't.

LADY IN STREET. There. That building. Says Signal Point on the top. There's a British Rail sign on the other end. The station's at the bottom of that.

CHRISTOPHER. Do you mean the stripy building with the horizontal windows that you can see poking out over those houses?

LADY IN STREET. That's the one.

CHRISTOPHER. How do I get to that building?

LADY IN STREET. OK, we're done here.

CHRISTOPHER. I knew that the train station was somewhere near. And if something is nearby you can find it by moving in a spiral, walking clockwise and taking every right turn until you come back to a road you've already walked on, then taking the next left, then taking every right turn and so on. And that was how I found the station.

Actor Four, Christopher

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Are you all right, young man?

CHRISTOPHER. You're too old.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Are you all right, young man?

CHRISTOPHER. No.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. You're looking a bit worse for wear. The lady at the café says that when she tried talking to you, you were in a complete trance. What's your name?

CHRISTOPHER. Christopher Boone.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Where do you live?

CHRISTOPHER. 36 Randolph Street.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. What are you doing here?

CHRISTOPHER. I needed to sit down and be quiet and think.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. OK let's keep it simple. What are you doing at the railway station?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm going to see Mother.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Mother?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes, Mother.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. When's your train?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know. She lives in London. I don't know when there's a train to London.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. So, you don't live with your mother?

CHRISTOPHER. No. But I'm going to.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. So where does your mother live?

CHRISTOPHER. In London.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Yes, but where in London?

CHRISTOPHER. 451c Chapter Road, London NW2 5NG.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. What is that?

CHRISTOPHER. That's Toby, my pet rat.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. A pet rat?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes, a pet rat. He's very clean and he hasn't got bubonic plague.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Well, that's very reassuring.

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Have you got a ticket?

CHRISTOPHER. No.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. So how precisely were you going to get to London then?

CHRISTOPHER. I have a bank car.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Is this your card?

CHRISTOPHER. No it's Father's.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Father's.

CHRISTOPHER. Yes, Father's.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. OK.

CHRISTOPHER. He told me the number. It's 3558.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Shhh. Why don't you and I take a stroll to the cash machine, eh?

CHRISTOPHER. You mustn't touch me.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Why would I want to touch you?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. Well, neither do I.

CHRISTOPHER. Because I got a caution for hitting a policeman but I didn't mean to hurt him and if I do it again it'll be a lot worse because of the caution.

STATIONPOLICEMAN. You're serious aren't you?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

Actor Three, Actor Five, Christopher

CHRISTOPHER. Toby? Toby? Where are you? Toby, Toby, what are you doing down there? Toby, get back up here this instant. I'm warning you. Right. I'm coming down there. Toby and when I catch you, I'm going to be very cross.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Oi, what are you doing?

CHRISTOPHER. My rat is on here.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Get out of there for goodness' sake.

CHRISTOPHER. Toby, it's filthy down here. You'll get so dirty.

PUNK GIRL. Oh, my dayz. What is he doing?

MAN WITH SOCKS. What does it look like he's doing?

PUNK GIRL. Call somebody. Get somebody. Don't just stand there.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Mate please, please get back up here.

CHRISTOPHER. I can't get back up there my rat is on here.

PUNK GIRL. What?

MAN WITH SOCKS. Mate, please you're going to get yourself killed.

PUNK GIRL. You're going to have to go down there and get him.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Me? What the hell has it got to do with me?

PUNK GIRL. He's a kid. You can't just let him get hit.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Yes I know he's a kid. I can see he's a kid by bloody well looking at him. Mate. Please come on.

CHRISTOPHER. Toby, stop being so difficult.

MAN WITH SOCKS. I don't believe this is happening. This is ridiculous, mate get your arse out of there now. (*Tube train sound starts.*)

CHRISTOPHER. Don't panic. I found him.

PUNK GIRL. Help him, you muppet.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Oh shit. Oh shit. (*Christopher and Toby are back on the platform.*) What the fuck do you think you were playing at?

CHRISTOPHER. I was finding Toby. He's my pet rat.

MAN WITH SOCKS. Bloody Nora.

PUNK GIRL. Is he OK?

MAN WITH SOCKS. Him? Oh. Thanks a bundle. Jesus Christ. A pet rat. Oh shit. My train. Fuck. (*Exits*)

PUNK GIRL. Are you OK? (*She touches Christopher's arm and he screams.*) OK. OK. OK. Is there anything I can do to help you?

CHRISTOPHER. Stand further away. I've got a Swiss Army knife and it has a saw blade and it could cut someone's finger off.

PUNK GIRL. OK buddy. I'm going to take that as a no.

Actor Two, Judy, Christopher

JUDY. I don't care whether you thought it was funny or not.

ROGER. Judy look. I'm sorry OK.

JUDY. Well perhaps you should have thought about that before you made me look like a complete idiot.

CHRISTOPHER. You weren't in so I waited for you.

JUDY. Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. What?

JUDY. Christopher. *(She goes to hug him but he pushes her away hard.)*

ROGER. What the hell is going on?

JUDY. I'm so sorry Christopher. *(She spreads her fingers, Christopher spreads his fingers, and their hands touch.)*

ROGER. I suppose this means Ed's here.

JUDY. Where's your father Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I think he's in Swindon.

ROGER. Thank God for that.

JUDY. But how did you get here?

CHRISTOPHER. I came on the train.

JUDY. Oh my God Christopher. I didn't ... I didn't think I'd ever .... Why are you here on your own? Christopher, you're soaking. Roger, don't just stand there.

ROGER. Are you going to come in or are you going to stand out here all night?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm going to live with you because Father killed Wellington with a garden fork.

ROGER. Jumping Jack Christ.

JUDY. Roger, please. Come on Christopher. Let's go inside and get you dried off.

ROGER. Come on then soldier. You'll catch your death out here.

JUDY. You follow Roger.

CHRISTOPHER. *(Gives Toby to Roger.)* He's hungry. Have you got any food I can give him and some water?

Judy, Actor Two, Christopher

ROGER. (*Gives Christopher a radio and three children's books.*) Here we are. You wanted a radio. *100 Number Puzzles*. It's from the library. This one is called *The Origins of the Universe*. And this one is *Nuclear Power*.

CHRISTOPHER. They're for children.

ROGER. Well, it's nice to know my contribution is appreciated.

JUDY. Christopher I made you a chart. Because you've got to eat love. This is a SlimFast and it's strawberry flavored.

ROGER. SlimFast?

JUDY. Be quiet Roger. Christopher if you drink 200 millilitres then I'm going to put a bronze star on your chart.

ROGER. I don't believe this.

JUDY. Roger for God's sake, please. If you drink 400 millilitres you get a silver star.

ROGER. Ha!

JUDY. And if you drink 600 millilitres you get a gold star.

ROGER. A gold star. Well that's very original I have to say. You think you're so clever, don't you? Don't you ever, ever think about other people for one second, eh? Well I bet you're really pleased with yourself now aren't you?

Actor Four, Christopher

REVEREND PETERS. (*Enters, picks up envelope, opens it, and looks at it. He places it face down on Christopher's table. He sits opposite Christopher and takes out a stopwatch.*) So this is jolly exciting eh Christopher? Well I'm excited anyway. Now the exam is going to last for 2 hours Christopher, OK? First thing to do is to pop your name on the front. OK young man, are you ready to roll? Turn over the paper please Christopher. And begin.

CHRISTOPHER. (*Turns paper over. He panics. He counts the cubes of cardinal numbers to calm down.*) 1; 8; 27; 64; 125; 216; 343; 512; 729; 1,000; 1,331.

REVEREND PETERS. Are you all right Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I can't read the question.

REVEREND PETERS. What do you mean?

CHRISTOPHER. I can't read the question.

REVEREND PETERS. Can you see the question?

CHRISTOPHER. I can see the question but I can't read the question because when I look at the words they all seem confused and mixed up and the wrong way to me.

REVEREND PETERS. Right.

CHRISTOPHER. What does this question say?

REVEREND PETERS. Christopher I'm afraid I can't help you like that. I'm not allowed to. (*Christopher groans.*)

Actor One, Christopher, Judy

MRS. SHEARS. Well look who it is.

CHRISTOPHER. Where are we going?

MRS. SHEARS. What a nerve. Strutting round here as though nothing ever happened.

JUDY. Ignore her Christopher.

MRS. SHEARS. So he's finally dumped you too has he?

CHRISTOPHER. What is Mrs. Shears doing?

MRS. SHEARS. You had it coming. Don't try and pretend that you didn't. Because you fucking did.

CHRISTOPHER. Where are we going?

JUDY. We're going to the school.



Christopher, Ed

CHRISTOPHER. I'm sorry.

ED. It's OK.

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't kill Wellington.

ED. I know. Christopher you have to stay out of trouble, OK?

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't know I was going to get into trouble. I like Wellington and I went to say hello to him, but I didn't know that someone had killed him.

ED. Just try and keep your nose out of other people's business.

CHRISTOPHER. I am going to find out who killed Wellington.

ED. Were you listening to what I was saying, Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes I was listening to what you were saying but when someone gets murdered you have to find out who did it so that they can be punished.

ED. It's a bloody dog, Christopher, a bloody dog.

CHRISTOPHER. I think dogs are important too. I think some dogs are cleverer than some people. Nicholas, for example, who comes to school on Thursdays needs help eating his food and he probably couldn't even fetch a stick.

ED. Leave it.

CHRISTOPHER. I wonder if the police will find out who killed him and punish the person.

ED. I said leave it for God's sake.

CHRISTOPHER. Are you sad about Wellington?

ED. Yes Christopher you could say that. You could very well say that.

Siobhan, Christopher

SIOBHAN. How are you today Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm very well thank you.

SIOBHAN. That's good.

CHRISTOPHER. In the bus on the way to school we passed 4 red cars in a row.

SIOBHAN. 4?

CHRISTOPHER. So today is a Good Day.

SIOBHAN. Great. I am glad.

CHRISTOPHER. I've decided I am going to try and find out who killed Wellington because a Good Day is a day for projects and planning things.

SIOBHAN. Who's Wellington?

CHRISTOPHER. Wellington is a dog that used to belong to my neighbor Mrs. Shears who is our friend, but he is dead now because somebody killed him by putting a garden fork through him. And I found him and then a policeman thought I'd killed him but I hadn't and then he tried to touch me so I hit him and then I had to go to the police station.

SIOBHAN. Gosh.

CHRISTOPHER. And I am going to find out who really killed Wellington and make it a project. Even though Father told me not to.

SIOBHAN. Did he?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

SIOBHAN. I see.

CHRISTOPHER. I don't always do what I'm told.

SIOBHAN. Why?

CHRISTOPHER. Because when people tell you what to do it is usually confusing and does not make sense. For example people often say "Be quiet" but they don't tell you how long to be quiet for.

SIOBHAN. No. Why did your father tell you not to try to find out who killed Wellington?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know.

SIOBHAN. If your father's told you not to do something maybe you shouldn't do it.

CHRISTOPHER. Mmm.

SIOBHAN. Well, we're meant to be writing stories today, so why don't you write about what happened to Wellington?

CHRISTOPHER. OK, I will.

Ed, Christopher

ED. What is this?

CHRISTOPHER. It's a book I'm writing.

ED. Is this true? Did you speak to Mrs. Alexander?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

ED. Jesus, Christopher, how stupid are you? What did I tell you Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. Not to mention Mr. Shears' name in our house. And not to go asking Mrs. Shears or anyone about who killed that bloody dog. And not to go trespassing on other people's gardens. And to stop this ridiculous bloody detective game. Except I haven't done any of those things. I just asked Mrs. Alexander about Mr. Shears because I was doing chatting.

ED. Don't give me that bollocks. You knew exactly what you were bloody doing. I've read the book, remember. What else did I say Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know.

ED. Come on Memory Man. Not to go round sticking your nose into other people's business. And what do you do? You go around sticking your nose in other people's business. You go around digging up the past and sharing it with every Tom, Dick, and Harry you bump into. What am I going to do with Christopher? What the fuck am I going to do with you?

CHRISTOPHER. I was just chatting with Mrs. Alexander. I wasn't doing investigating.

ED. I ask you to do one thing for me, Christopher. One thing.

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't want to talk to Mrs. Alexander. It was Mrs. Alexander who ... *(Ed grabs Christopher, Christopher screams, they tussle, Ed hits Christopher hard, Christopher falls.)*

ED. I need a drink. *(Takes book and leaves, then reenters.)* I'm sorry I hit you. I didn't mean to. I love you very much Christopher. Don't ever forget that. I worry about you, because I don't want to see you getting into trouble, because I don't want you to get hurt.

CHRISTOPHER. Where's my book?

ED. Christopher, do you understand that I love you! *(He holds his right hand up and spreads his fingers, Christopher does the same with his left hand. Their fingers touch.)*

CHRISTOPHER. Is it in the dustbin at the front of the house?

Judy, Christopher

JUDY. Are you OK Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm tired.

JUDY. I know love. I can get you a blanket?

CHRISTOPHER. No, don't. I've got a sleeping bag in my backpack.

JUDY. Will you let me help you get your clothes off? I can get you a clean T-shirt. You could get yourself into bed. (*Goes to Roger.*) T-shirt, pass me a T-shirt. (*Back to Christopher. She changes him.*) You're very brave.

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

JUDY. You never wrote to me.

CHRISTOPHER. I know.

JUDY. Why didn't you write to me, Christopher? I wrote you all those letters. I kept thinking something dreadful had happened or you'd moved away and I'd never find out where you were.

CHRISTOPHER. Father said you were dead.

JUDY. What?

CHRISTOPHER. He said you went into hospital because you had something wrong with your heart. And then you had a heart attack and died.

JUDY. Oh my God. (*Starts to howl.*)

CHRISTOPHER. Why are you doing that?

JUDY. Oh Christopher, I'm sorry.

CHRISTOPHER. What for?

JUDY. Bastard. The bastard. Christopher, let me hold your hand. Just for once. Just for me. Will you? I won't hold it hard.

CHRISTOPHER. I don't like people holding my hand.

JUDY. No. OK. That's OK.

Siobhan, Judy, Christopher

SIOBHAN. So you're Christopher's mother.

JUDY. That's right. And you're ...

SIOBHAN. I'm Siobhan. It's nice to meet you too.

JUDY. Yeah. Yes. Yes. It's nice to meet you too.

SIOBHAN. Hello Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Hello.

SIOBHAN. Are you OK?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm tired.

JUDY. He's a bit upset.

SIOBHAN. Because of the A-level, you said.

JUDY. He won't eat. He won't sleep.

SIOBHAN. Yeah. I spoke to Mrs. Gascoyne after you called.

JUDY. Right.

SIOBHAN. She still actually has your A-level papers in the 3 sealed envelopes in her desk.

CHRISTOPHER. Does that mean I can still do my A-level?

SIOBHAN. I think so. We're going to ring the Reverend Peters to make sure he can still come in this afternoon and be your supervisor. And Mrs. Gascoyne is going to call the examination board to say that you're going to take the exam after all. I thought I should tell you now. So you could think about it.

CHRISTOPHER. So I could think about what?

SIOBHAN. Is this what you want to do Christopher? If you say you don't want to do it, no one is going to be angry with you. And it won't be wrong or illegal or stupid. It will just be what you want and that will be fine.

CHRISTOPHER. I want to do it.

SIOBHAN. OK. How tired are you?

CHRISTOPHER. Very.

SIOBHAN. How's your brain when you think about maths?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't think it really works very well.

SIOBHAN. What's the logarithmic formula for the approximate number of prime numbers not greater than  $x$ ?

CHRISTOPHER. I can't think.

Siobhan, Christopher

CHRISTOPHER. What time is it?

SIOBHAN. 7 minutes past 2 in the morning.

CHRISTOPHER. I can't sleep.

SIOBHAN. It's because you're scared of Mr. Shears. You're being silly.

CHRISTOPHER. There's nobody about. You can hear traffic.

SIOBHAN. What cars are there?

CHRISTOPHER. A Fiesta. A Peugeot. A Ford Granada. A Mini Cooper.

SIOBHAN. What colors are they?

CHRISTOPHER. I can't tell. I can only see orange and black. And mixtures of orange and black.

SIOBHAN. Look at the things people have in their front garden.

CHRISTOPHER. Oh yes. Is that an elf?

SIOBHAN. It's a gnome. And a teddy bear. And a little pond, look.

CHRISTOPHER. And an oven. I like looking up at the sky.

SIOBHAN. Me too.

CHRISTOPHER. When you look at the sky at night you know you are looking at stars, which are hundreds and thousands of light years away from you. And some of the stars don't exist anymore because their light has taken so long to get to us that they are already dead, or they have exploded and collapsed into red dwarfs. And that makes you seem very small, and if you have difficult things in your life it is nice to think that they are what is called negligible which means they are so small you don't have to take them into account when you are calculating something. I can't see any stars here.

SIOBHAN. No.

CHRISTOPHER. It's because of all the light pollution in London. All the lights from the streetlights and car headlights and floodlights and lights in the buildings reflect off tiny particles in the atmosphere and they get in the way of light from the stars.

SIOBHAN. I have to go.

CHRISTOPHER. Don't.

SIOBHAN. I have to.

CHRISTOPHER. Siobhan? Siobhan? Where are you? Siobhan?