
Extract from **Journey to X**
By Nancy Harris

© Nancy Harris, all rights reserved
Reproduced with permission from Bloomsbury Methuen Drama.

Characters

PENNY

DAVY

SCENE NINE.

PENNY and DAVY. The pitch after school.

PENNY sits, pensive.

DAVY bounces or kicks a ball, nervous.

PENNY Did Louise make you come?

DAVY Said she'd bite me if I didn't.

They smile.

DAVY He's such a wanker Vince. I hope he needs stitches. I hope his arm's infected and he gets gangrene and they have to cut it off.

PENNY They won't.

DAVY But I hope they do.

Beat.

DAVY I never told him anything you know.

PENNY looks away.

He keeps bouncing the ball.

PENNY So how's – stuff?

DAVY Good. We lost Saturday.

PENNY I heard.

DAVY So that was crap.

PENNY Yeah.

DAVY But we're going to France this summer.

PENNY Oh?

DAVY Yeah. You been to France?

PENNY No.

DAVY Me neither. But that'll be good. Playing in France.

PENNY Yeah. Brilliant.

He stops.

DAVY I don't want to be a ...you know.

She looks at him. Realises what he's saying.

PENNY Oh. Yeah, no, I know.

DAVY I mean I do someday.

PENNY Me too.

DAVY But not now.

PENNY No.

DAVY Really not now. I mean – shit you know.

PENNY Yeah.

DAVY Couldn't believe it when she told me first. Was up all night crying.

PENNY Really?

DAVY No. Well, sort of. I mean - weren't you?

PENNY I guess.

DAVY Couldn't sleep all last night. I was so - I wanted to tell my mum.

PENNY I know.

Beat.

PENNY You didn't did you?

DAVY No. No, but... imagine.

PENNY I know.

DAVY I can't. I mean it's your choice. It's up to you. But I can't. I just – like I have to say it now – so you know.

PENNY I know.

DAVY I want to do my exams. I want to go to France. I don't want to be a-

PENNY I know.

They sit in silence.

PENNY I want to go to France too. Not with you like – not to play football or anything. I meant – someday. I'd like to go to France someday. I'd like to go everywhere you can go in the world. Someday.

DAVY Yeah. Me too.

PENNY I'd like to be an explorer. Why don't they have explorers anymore?

DAVY They don't need them. They've explored everywhere.

PENNY Well, I'm still going. Want to see it for myself.

DAVY Yeah. Well, I'll let you know if France is good.

Beat.

PENNY Are you with Sandra now?

DAVY Sort of. Not really. Sort of.

PENNY Okay.

DAVY Sorry.

PENNY No. Look. You can do what you - I just...

Beat.

He sits down beside her and takes out an envelope. Gives it to her.

DAVY Here.

PENNY What's this?

DAVY Three hundred. That's how much Louise said you needed. She said you were desperate.

PENNY ...how did you get it?

DAVY Don't ask.

PENNY Did you steal it?

DAVY Seriously. Don't ask. (*Smiles*) But if I don't come in next week tell the cops to talk to my brother.

PENNY He'll kill you.

DAVY Doesn't know yet.

She smiles.

Beat.

DAVY Will it hurt?

PENNY They say it won't.

DAVY Is it an operation?

PENNY Yes.

DAVY Do they give you a needle?

PENNY Yes. But I'm going to stay awake.

DAVY And you can't do it here?

PENNY Nope.

DAVY But you're allowed to go over there?

PENNY Yep.

DAVY That's allowed?

PENNY They don't stop you.

Beat.

PENNY I mean. They used to stop you. Years ago. If they found out. But they changed the rules cos of a girl called X.

DAVY Her name was X?

PENNY In the newspapers.

Beat.

PENNY She was fourteen. She'd been raped. Said she'd kill herself if they made her have the child so...

DAVY Why did they call her X?

PENNY To protect her identity. Maybe. Or to cross her out. Maybe. Make like she didn't exist. I don't know.

DAVY God.

PENNY Imagine. No name, just an...

She draws an X in the air.

PENNY Anyway, now they let you go.

DAVY So is it a bad or a good thing – what you're doing?

PENNY shrugs.

PENNY Louise thinks it's a human right.

DAVY

My mum thinks it's murder.... She'd kill me if I

had a kid though.

PENNY

Mine too.

DAVY

She'd really-

PENNY

Mine too.

Beat.

PENNY

I wish it wasn't up to me. I wish it wasn't my ... I wish I could just close my eyes and wake up tomorrow and everything could be like it was. A few weeks ago. Before. You know?