

(HEATHER *steps away from ZOE.*)

YOUNG HEATHER

*Ta-da!*

YOUNG ZOE

Look, can I just say I AM interested in boys.

YOUNG HEATHER

(*Arm round her.*) Aw bless. Seriously, you should come an' live at our house. You are the daughter my mother always wanted.

(*A bus approaches.*)

YOUNG CLAIRE

(*Points.*) BUS COMIN'!

YOUNG ZOE

Forty-six! That's ours!

DEBBIE

Okay, just follow me an' remember! Confidence!

YOUNG RACHEL

But / Deb –

DEBBIE

We are girls. WE are sixteen. We are fantastic. (*Arm out.*) STOP!

(*DEBBIE causes a bus to emergency stop. The DRIVER and a handful of PASSENGERS lurch forwards.*)

BUS DRIVER DAVE

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL ARE Y' PLAYING AT?

DEBBIE

(*Holding onto ZOE.*) Driver, I'm REALLY sorry to bother you but our friend Zoe here's a student at Manchester doing a survey on local transport / and –

BUS DRIVER DAVE

No y're not. Y're a load of girls who've been to a gig, hung round trying to meet the band and missed the train home.

DEBBIE

(*Beat.*) How did y' know that?

BUS DRIVER DAVE

Because it happened all the time when I was in Spandau Ballet.

YOUNG ZOE

Eh?

BUS DRIVER DAVE

BECAUSE I DRIVE THIS BLOODY BUS AN' IT HAPPENS EVERY WEEK.

YOUNG ZOE

Which one was he in Spandau Ball– ?



*(There's a honk behind from traffic and complaints from the PASSENGERS.)*

PASSENGERS *(Variously.)* C'mon mate / ARE WE DOING THIS? / Oi! / Can we go, please?

BUS DRIVER DAVE Oh, just bloody get on.

### SCENE FIVE – THE MANCHESTER NIGHT BUS

*The GIRLS race on . . .*

Y. CLAIRE, Y. ZOE,  
Y. HEATHER *(Post coital.)* Go go go / Alright, ALRIGHT / Budge up, BUDGE UP.

*(Passing sodium lights suggest the bus is moving.)*

DEBBIE *(Post coital.)* Oh my God. What just happened in that gig?!

YOUNG ZOE *(Sitting comparatively upright.)* D'y think this bus'll stop in the town centre?

YOUNG HEATHER Zo, will y' stop rabbiting about the bloody bus route!

YOUNG RACHEL Have to say, as usual, I think the boys only noticed Heather.

YOUNG CLAIRE They'd've noticed ME if I'd been wearing a bloody top hat.

YOUNG HEATHER Dun't work like that, guys. Clothes only stand out if the girl WEARING 'em stands out. Like Deb, just then.

YOUNG ZOE When?

YOUNG HEATHER Steppin' in the road! THAT's what it's all about.

DEBBIE *(Repeats her pose.)* 'Sto-op'!

YOUNG HEATHER Doesn't matter what you wear unless / you –

DEBBIE Hold it right there, boys!

YOUNG HEATHER Absolutely! In – *(Taps head.)* – here, you're giving it . . . ta-daa!