

(Instrumental. THE BOYS dance. DEBBIE joins in as if she were actually there with them. YOUNG RACHEL watches in awe! DEBBIE tries to teach RACHEL.)

THE BOYS
ALL I DO EACH NIGHT IS PRAY

DEBBIE *(Ferrets two compacts out of her bag.)* HOLD Y'R MIRROR LIKE
THE VIDEO!

THE BOYS
HOPING THAT YOU'LL BE A PART OF ME AGAIN SOMEDAY

YOUNG RACHEL I CAN'T DANCE!

THE BOYS
ALL I DO EACH NIGHT IS THINK

DEBBIE ANYONE CAN DANCE!

THE BOYS
OF ALL THE TIMES I CLOSE THE DOOR TO KEEP MY LOVE WITHIN
ALL I DO EACH NIGHT IS PRAY

(THE BOYS disappear back into the lockers.)

DEBBIE / YOUNG RACHEL
I'M SO COLD AND ALL ALONE!

START

(YOUNG RACHEL and DEBBIE collapse into a heap of laughter as the song ends.)

DEBBIE *(Panting.)* So.

YOUNG RACHEL *(Panting.)* Oh my god.

DEBBIE 'V' y' decided yet which of the boys you're gonna marry?

YOUNG RACHEL Actually I decided it's a bit adolescent to think about marryin' a boy out of a boyband.

DEBBIE Right. Who 're y' gonna marry instead?

YOUNG RACHEL All five of 'em.

(DEBBIE laughs, pulls RACHEL up.)

DEBBIE Won't argue. Long as I get to be your bridesmaid.

YOUNG RACHEL *(Busying herself at the locker.)* Yeah you *have* to be my bridesmaid, Deb. You made that very clear at the age of six.

DEBBIE *(Points at her.)* 'Balloon promise'.

YOUNG RACHEL God's sake – million TIMES! – you are the only person in the world who has ever heard of a 'balloon promise'?

DEBBIE EV'RYONE'S heard of balloon promises!

YOUNG RACHEL They haven't! You only invented it 'cause we were at a birthday party an' you had loads of white balloons kickin' about!

DEBBIE It's the law! Write something on a balloon an' let it go, it becomes eternal!

END

(In come two more schoolgirls of sixteen – the charity-shop-Vivien Westwood that is HEATHER, with bookworm ZOE, who is struggling with a bag bulging with work files.)

YOUNG HEATHER OH my God. You have no IDEA – the NIGHT I just had.

(She removes her long retro (probably non-school-regulation) coat to reveal a non-regulation skirt.)

YOUNG ZOE Heather will y' stop goin' on –

YOUNG HEATHER *(Re. ZOE.)* She's sat at mine watching *Top Of The Pops*, okay. The boys come on. I turn round – honest to god she's started crying.

YOUNG ZOE I wasn't 'crying'. I was havin' a cathartic reaction.

YOUNG HEATHER What the hell's a 'cathartic reaction'?

YOUNG ZOE Heather, did y'not learn ANYTHING when we read Shakespeare?