

VIRTUAL HEROES

by

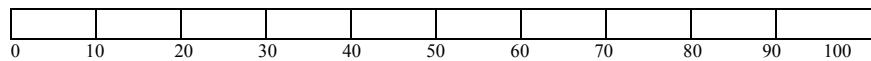
Clive Duncan

Hi there,

... and welcome to Cyber World!

How about you? Are you a computer-freak? Are you PS2 (or Xbox, Gamecube) crazy? Have you ever played until you fell asleep over your keyboard?

How important is your PC, your playstation and your mobile for you? Let's have a look! On the scale from 1-100 below, you would be – where? Take a pen and put a cross!



Now ask your parents/your brothers and sisters/a friend? What do they think? Do they agree?

Just think – if you had no computer/playstation, would you 1) do more homework instead? More sports? 2) Read lots of books? 3) See interesting films? Or 4) perhaps go to the theatre and watch a play? In English? (Good choice!)

Well, that's what you're about to do, and let me tell you, get ready for a special treat! This year's VET touring production, **Virtual Heroes**, is partly set in a virtual game world. As you follow the two main characters, Rita and Kevin – or rather Sapphire and Byron, through their adventures in Egypt and Peru, you'll think you're sitting at your PC/playstation. Rita is a good pupil, Kevin is not. Rita doesn't have friends and is being bullied, Kevin misses his dad. Both are looking for adventure, creating a virtual reality for themselves, taking on the personalities they would like to be – in their dreams.

Email and chatrooms are the main ways of communication – but because everybody uses a nickname, you never know who you are really 'talking' (= writing) to. Just imagine pouring your heart out to your cyber pal, and it turns out to be your neighbour! Or worse, your younger brother! And remember, the good-looking millionaire or the beautiful model you fell in love with in a game/chatroom might turn out to be a frog who wants to be kissed but is not going to turn into a prince/princess!

So, we hope you're going to enjoy the play and have lots of fun – after all, that's the idea of going to the theatre: have fun and enjoy a play in English!

Well, I'd better log off now and let you join Rita and Kevin in their virtual adventure!

cu ☺

Helena Hirsch

Note to teachers and students:

When **pre-reading the text** (i.e. working through it before seeing the performance) please bear in mind that students don't have to translate/look up every new word or phrase in order to understand the text. During the **performance**, through voice, action, movement and mime, there is no need to translate – students **see, hear, feel** – and understand.

We have deliberately reduced the translations in the footnotes of the text to **encourage students to 'guess'** – you might want to make a nice activity out of this: students guess the meaning of certain words/phrases, and after seeing the play, compare to find out if they were right.

We have also added a few quick **comprehension questions at the end of the text**, and there is, of course, an extensive **worksheet** to download (www.schooltours.at).

As 'computer and mobile speak' has become a large part of students' language, they occasionally tend to get certain terms and prepositions mixed up. You can download an **overview** of all **PC and internet phrases that appear in the text**. Next to the English and German words/phrases students can also write their own personal sample sentences!

Worksheet available online
www.schooltours.at

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY:

Kevin Miller - 15

Rita Dobbs - 15

Byron Tombs - a cyber character (Kevin's avatar)

Sapphire Stone - a cyber character (Rita's avatar)

Aaron - a bully

Sharon - a bully

Mr Smith - a teacher

Crouch - a crook

Bent - a crook

Kevin's parents

The characters will be performed by four actors.

The set:

The play takes place in a school IT (information technology) room; Kevin's and Rita's bedrooms; a lift in the British Museum; and different locations within a computer programme. The IT room consists of two computer workstations on wheels, with folding panels¹ behind them. On the panels are posters showing us this is a school. For the bedrooms, the computer workstations are moved and the panels turned around to show us the posters in Kevin's and Rita's bedrooms. These panels are pushed together to create the lift in the British Museum. At the back of the acting area, a large upright, rigid square² gives us an idea of a large screen from where the avatars might be created.

¹ klappbare Wände (z.B. für Posters)

² ein großes, senkrechtes, starres/steifes Viereck – wie ein Bildschirm

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Scene 1

Music – the James Bond theme plays loudly. Kevin Miller, 15, appears in school uniform. He walks across the acting area. When he gets to the centre he stops and turns and pulls a banana from his pocket. He points it at us, as if it were a gun. He then aims¹ it in a different direction, then another, and another. Rita Dobson, 15, appears in school uniform. She stops and watches Kevin for a moment. He turns round and aims the banana at her – and then is both surprised and embarrassed² to find her there. He stands up straight and throws the banana up and down, catching it.

KEVIN: Oh. Hello. *Referring to the banana:* Er ... lunch!

RITA: You are really ...

KEVIN: Good-looking?

RITA: No. Stupid!

Rita goes on her way. As she goes ...

KEVIN: True! But I'm also good-looking!

Rita ignores him. Kevin shoots her with his banana.

KEVIN: That was Rita. She's at my school. In my class. You can tell that she doesn't like me very much. That's all right. I don't like her very much, either. I enjoy making fun of her – winding her up³. She's the swot⁴ – you know, the clever one in the class, always getting good grades. She thinks the rest of us are stupid. Me, especially. I'm not, though – stupid. It's just that I'm a dreamer. But everyone dreams, don't they? Do you? I don't mean the dreams you have when you're asleep, I mean ... daydreams. Like winning a race, or saving someone from a terrible disaster. I dream all the time. Big dreams and little dreams. Little dreams like ... Take this banana, for example. I might dream that it can do magic ...

Mr Smith enters. He is a teacher and he is carrying a pile of exercise books underneath his arm ...

MR. SMITH: Ah, Kevin Miller. Why are you hanging around⁵ the IT room?

Kevin points the banana at Mr Smith and says ...

KEVIN: French!

MR. SMITH: Ah, non Monsieur! Tu a une banane! Il est interdit de manger¹ ...

¹ zielen, auf etwas richten

² verlegen

³ sie ärgern, aufziehen

⁴ Streber

⁵ herumhängen, sich aufhalten

Kevin points the banana again and says ...

KEVIN: Dog!

MR. SMITH: Gruuuff! Woof. Rrrrrrr. Grrrr-uffff!

KEVIN: Big dog!

Mr Smith gets down on his hands and knees ...

MR. SMITH: Ra! Ra! Ra! Grrrrrrruuuuuuffffff!

KEVIN: Wouldn't it be fantastic if you could really do that!

MR. SMITH: *getting up* – So put the banana away and we'll pretend² I haven't seen it. I've dropped my marking. Pick those books up, lad, and bring them to the staff room.

Mr. Smith goes. Kevin picks up the exercise books ...

KEVIN: I also have big dreams. The usual – like ... saving the world. But I also have daydreams about my Dad. He and Mum ... split³. Dad left last year. He lives with someone else, now. I haven't seen him for a while. I sometimes think that when I get home from school he might be there ...

Kevin's Mum and Dad appear. Romantic music ...

DAD: Darling, I've been such a fool ...

MUM: That doesn't matter, as long as you're home.

DAD: Yes. I'm home. I'll never leave you again.

MUM: Kevin will be so happy ...

The music stops. The couple go.

KEVIN: It'd be some banana that could make that happen.

He goes off with the exercise books he has picked up.

Rita appears.

RITA: He's gone. Thank heavens. Kevin Miller – class clown. Class slob⁴, more like. The boy's an idiot. I don't know why he talks to me. I don't want to be seen with a loser like him. Good, I've got the IT room all to myself.

She goes to sit at one of the computer workstations.

RITA: We're not supposed to be in here at lunchtime, but I can usually get away with it⁵. I'm top of my class. I tell the teachers I'm researching⁶ homework, and they let me get on with it. What I'm really doing is Facebooking. I've lots of friends on Facebook ...

She begins logging in ...

RITA: I've no friends here at school. They don't like me because I'm clever. I get called names – worse, sometimes. I'll just check to see if I've any messages ...

She looks around to see if anyone is coming, then types on the keyboard ...

¹ Oh nein, mein Herr, Sie haben eine Banane. Es ist verboten, zu essen...

² vorgeben

³ sich trennen

⁴ Faulsack, Faulpelz

⁵ ich kann es mir meist erlauben

⁶ nachforschen, Informationen suchen

Music – My Dream Space

A man and a woman stand in the large screen shape behind Rita and begin to sing ...

RITA: What's this? This isn't Facebook. They don't have music. Shh! How do I turn the sound off? Someone'll hear ...

SINGERS: You can be whoever you want to be.
You can get another life,
You can really be free.
Change your shape
Change your height
Change your clothes
And change your face
Find your other self
On My Dream Space!
Find yourself on W
WW dot My Dream Space.

RITA (*reading*): – You have been redirected to www dot My Dream Space dot com. Get a second life. Build yourself a dream. What rubbish! I'll go to Facebook. Aaagh! It won't close down.

MAN: Please type in your name.

RITA: I haven't got time. I want to check for messages on Facebook ...

MAN: Please type in your name.

Rita checks to see if anyone is coming and then types in her name ...

RITA: I'll try it. Rita Dobson.

MAN: Type a password.

RITA: Sexy Babe.

MAN: Confirm your password.

RITA: Sexy Babe.

MAN: Welcome ...

WOMAN: Rita Dobson ...

MAN: To My Dream Space ...

Music.

SINGERS: You can be whoever you want to be.
You can get another life,
You can ...

RITA: Shh! Stop it!

Rita types onto the keyboard and the music stops suddenly.

RITA: That's enough of that.

MAN: Would you like to create your avatar?

RITA: Avatar? What's an avatar?

WOMAN: An avatar is someone who will represent you in cyberspace. You can be a human, animal, bird or insect ...

Rita types as she speaks.
 RITA: Human.
 MAN: Sex?
 RITA: Female.
The woman steps forward.
 MAN: Height?
 RITA: Five foot seven ...
The woman smiles ...
 RITA: No, five foot eight!
The woman makes herself taller ...
 MAN: Hair colour?
 RITA: Dark brown.
The man takes a scarf from the woman's head showing her hair.
 MAN: Clothes ...
 RITA: A blue evening dress ...
The man slips off the woman's coat to reveal a blue evening dress ...
 MAN: Measurements?
 RITA: Let's see ... ?
Rita types in the measurements and the woman sticks her chest out¹ ...
 RITA: No ...
Rita types again and the woman sticks her chest out further ...
 RITA: This is fantastic! Waist?
Rita types and the woman sucks her stomach in². Rita types again and the woman puts her hands on her hips.
 MAN: Name?
 RITA: Er?
Rita types ...
 WOMAN: Hi, my name is Sapphire.
Rita types again ...
 WOMAN: Hi, my name is Sapphire Stone.
 MAN: Profession³?
Rita types ...
 SAPPHIRE: Hi, my name is Sapphire Stone and I'm a model. I'm on the cover of lots of magazines.
Rita types ...
 SAPPHIRE: And I'm also a singer-songwriter. I've just released my first album and it's been downloaded a million times...
Rita types ...
 SAPPHIRE: Two million times.

¹ die Brust herausstrecken

² den Bauch einziehen

³ Beruf

MAN: Welcome, Sapphire Stone, to Dream World. You can go anywhere, do anything. And if I may say so, you are very beautiful ...

RITA: Beautiful? Thank you.

Rita types ...

SAPPHIRE: Out of my way, creep¹! I've another album to record ...

MAN: Great! You need to get to the recording studio. What car would you like?

Kevin enters.

KEVIN: Ha! Caught you! You're not supposed to be in the IT room² at lunchtime.

Rita begins to close the site down. As she types, Sapphire goes.

RITA: I'm not! I wasn't ... I mean – I'm doing my homework. Go away!

KEVIN: Surfing the web, more like. Let's have a look.

MAN: Goodbye, Sapphire Stone. Come back soon.

The man goes.

RITA: What gives you the right to look at my private work?

KEVIN: I'm a prefect³!

RITA: No you're not. Since when?

KEVIN: Since ... ten minutes ago. Mr Smith just made me a prefect.

RITA: Where's your prefect's badge?

Kevin pulls a plastic wallet⁴ from his pocket and shows it to Rita like a detective.

RITA: That's your bus ticket, Kevin.

KEVIN: It looks like a bus ticket, yes ... but actually ...

RITA: Kevin, a prefect's badge is metal and is worn on the jacket. That is a bus ticket and you are seriously weird⁵ ...

KEVIN: You're not supposed to be in here.

RITA: Neither are you, so get lost.

KEVIN: You're not allowed to use the computers for anything but school work.

RITA: How would you know? You don't know what school work is.

KEVIN: You think you are so clever ...

RITA: I don't think it, Kevin. I am clever ...

Sharon enters.

SHARON: Look who we have here ...

KEVIN: Uh-oh ...

SHARON: Oi, Aaron! IT room, now!

RITA: I'm getting out of here.

She picks up her bag and is about to leave when Aaron enters.

AARON: Where do you think you're going?

¹ Schleimer

² du sollst dich nicht im Computerraum aufhalten ...

³ Aufseher, Ordner (ältere SchülerIn)

⁴ Ausweisetui aus Kunststoff

⁵ du bist wirklich schwer gestört

Kevin starts to go.

AARON: Who said you could go?

SHARON: *to Rita*: Did you think we'd forgotten you?

AARON: We'd never do that, eh, Sharon?

SHARON: Never, Aaron. You're here with your boyfriend!

AARON: Sweet. Miller loves Rita, forever.

SHARON: Ah. You two getting married?

RITA: He's not. We're not ...

SHARON: You are. You are if we say you are. Kiss her, Kevin.

KEVIN: Eh?

SHARON: You heard.

AARON: Give your little girlfriend a big slobbery snog¹. If you know what's good for you.

Kevin kisses Rita on the forehead. Aaron holds his fist close to Kevin's face.

AARON: Do you see this, Kevin, do you? It wants to say hello to your nose. If you don't kiss her properly², like you mean it, my fist is going to shake hands with your nose ...

SHARON: Do it, Miller. We want tongues³.

Kevin kisses Rita. Sharon records it with her phone. Rita pushes Kevin away.

RITA: Where's your prefect's badge now, Kevin?

AARON: Did you get a picture of the happy couple?

SHARON: Yeah. It'll be on You Tube tonight. Rita, I hope you haven't spent your lunch money on ... lunch!

Rita reaches into her bag and pulls out her purse.

RITA: £3.50. Here, take it.

She holds out the money.

SHARON: Nice purse ...

Rita hesitates⁴ and then holds out the purse which Aaron grabs. They laugh and leave. Rita takes her bag and starts to go.

KEVIN: Rita ...

RITA: What? You're sorry? You're sorry that you joined in⁵? You're as bad as they are!

She goes.

KEVIN: I know what you're thinking. You're thinking why didn't I do something? I'm a coward⁶, right? Let's look at the options⁷ ... this is what I really wanted to do ...

¹ einen dicken, feuchten Kuss

² richtig, so wie es sich gehört

³ (Anspielung auf) Zungenkuss

⁴ zögern

⁵ ... dass du auch mitgemacht hast

⁶ Feigling

⁷ Möglichkeiten (Optionen)

Kevin punches and kicks an imaginary¹ Aaron.

KEVIN: But Aaron is bigger and stronger than me, and if I had done that, what do you think Aaron would have done?

Aaron comes back and hits Kevin.

KEVIN: Ouch! Parents and teachers say: don't use violence; it makes you as bad as the bully. All right, let's try option two ... Aaron, you're a bully. You've got a problem and you need help. Let's talk about it. Leave Rita alone. Leave me alone. If you don't, you are going to get into serious trouble ...

Aaron hits Kevin again.

KEVIN: Ouch! Option three – tell someone. So, I tell a teacher, and Aaron gets detention², or excluded from school³. What happens after that ...?

AARON: Grass⁴!

He hits Kevin again.

KEVIN: I'm running out of options⁵ here. One last one; the magic banana ... *He pulls a banana from his pocket and points it at Aaron.* Be a nice person, Aaron.

Aaron bends the banana the wrong way and throws it on the floor. He goes.

Kevin picks up the banana.

KEVIN: Banana squasher⁶! I'll get you for that⁷ ...! Who am I trying to kid⁸? If you stand up to⁹ bullies, you just get bullied. Now Rita thinks I'm as bad as they are. You can't win. One day, school will have finished and I won't have to come here any more. What's the time? Ten minutes to go¹⁰ before class. The teachers will all be safely in the staff room. I've just got time to check my emails. I've emailed my Dad. I'm waiting for him to email back ...

Kevin goes to the computer which Rita has been using.

KEVIN: I thought so, Rita has been surfing the web. What's this – My Dream Space? Get a second life. Build yourself a dream. I've never heard it. I wonder what it does ...?

Kevin types on the keyboard. Music – the singers return ...

KEVIN: Cheesy¹¹!

¹ sich vorstellen, dass jmd. da ist

² nachsitzen

³ von der Schule ausgeschlossen werden

⁴ Spitzel, Verräter

⁵ mir gehen die Möglichkeiten aus

⁶ Bananenzerstörer

⁷ das/dafür wirst du büßen

⁸ wem mache ich hier eigentlich was vor

⁹ sich gegen jmd. wehren

¹⁰ noch 10 Minuten bis ...

¹¹ mies (so ein Quatsch)

SINGERS: You can be whoever you want to be.
You can get another life,
You can really be free.
Change your shape
Change your height
Change your clothes
And change your face
Find your other self
On My Dream Space!
Find yourself on W
WW dot My Dream Space.

KEVIN: Name? *typing*: Kevin Miller.

WOMAN: Password?

KEVIN: Killer Miller.

WOMAN: Confirm your password.

KEVIN: Killer Miller.

WOMAN: Welcome ...

MAN: Kevin Miller ...

WOMAN: To My Dream Space ...

Music – My Dream Space.

KEVIN: No!

Kevin stops the music.

WOMAN: Would you like to create your avatar?

KEVIN: An avatar? Wow! That's someone who can represent me in cyberspace.
Yes!

WOMAN: Human, animal, bird, insect ... ?

KEVIN: A giant¹ penguin, perhaps? No, no - a massive² octopus! I could
terrorise the world. No, that's no good, I don't want to be like Aaron and
Sharon. I want people to like me. That's a point³ – there might be other
people in My Dream Space. There might be ... girls! Right. ... *He types ...*
Male. Six foot tall. Dark hair. Rugged-looking⁴ ...

The man takes on the qualities Kevin is giving him.

KEVIN: Wears a hat.

The man puts a hat on.

WOMAN: Name?

KEVIN: Byron ... Tombs!

MAN: Hi there ... my name is Byron Tombs.

¹ riesenhaft

² gewaltig

³ ... das ist eine Idee ...!

⁴ ein markantes Aussehen haben

WOMAN: Occupation¹?
 KEVIN: Archaeologist²! No, I can't spell that. Explorer. No. Historical explorer³!
 BYRON: Hi there ... my name is Byron Tombs and I'm a historical explorer ...
Kevin types ...
 BYRON: I look for hidden treasures that the world has forgotten so they can be preserved⁴ for the good of mankind.
 KEVIN: Cool! He even looks like me!
 WOMAN: Welcome, Byron Tombs, to Dream World. You can go anywhere, be anything you want to be, and if I may say so ... you look fantastic!
 KEVIN: Down, tiger⁵!
 BYRON: Thank you, miss, but if you'll excuse me, I've got to find the lost treasure of Tutankhamen's younger brother ...
 KEVIN: That's what I call style⁶. But, sadly, I've got Biology in five minutes. What's this website called? My Dream Space. I'm going back on, tonight, when I get home ...
Kevin types on the keyboard. Byron goes.
 WOMAN: Goodbye, Byron Tombs. Come back soon.
The woman goes.
 KEVIN: I will, don't you worry⁷. I can't wait till I can get home to my bedroom..
Kevin rearranges the computer workstations and the panels...

Scene 2

KEVIN: Welcome to my bedroom! Now where was I?
Kevin hits the keyboard and Byron Tombs appears.
 WOMAN: Welcome back, Byron Tombs. You can go anywhere ...
 KEVIN: Egypt!
Music – Egyptian music.
 BYRON: Ah, Egypt – land of the Pharaohs! Home of the pyramids. *He pulls out a map.* Now, according to⁸ my ancient⁹ map – with the city of Alexandria behind me and the sun shining over the left shoulder when it's exactly two

¹ Beruf (siehe: profession)

² Archäologe

³ Geschichtsforscher

⁴ ... damit sie erhalten bleiben (zum Wohle der Menschheit)

⁵ ruhig bleiben ...!

⁶ das nenne ich Stil (ugs.: das ist ur-geil)

⁷ das werde ich auch, keine Angst

⁸ laut, gemäß

⁹ antik, sehr alt

o'clock in the afternoon, the second pyramid on the left is where the treasure of Tutankhamen's younger brother has lain hidden for centuries¹.

Byron runs in a PC game way.

BYRON: Here we are. I need to find the stone marked with a Sphinx. That is the key to opening the pyramid. Here it is! All I have to do is press and ...

Two crooks, Crouch and Bent, appear – both carrying guns which they point at Byron.

CROUCH: Byron Tombs – famous historian and explorer.

BYRON: That's right, who are you?

BENT: We are antique dealers² who have been following you all the way from England. And guess what – you've led us right to the pyramid of Tutankhamen's younger brother. We'll take over from here³.

BYRON: You're not going to steal the treasure?

CROUCH: We are. The Golden Sphinx, to be precise⁴. It has been lost for centuries. We'll get millions of dollars when we sell it and we'll be rich. Now, Mr Tombs, if you would be so kind, reach inside and find our treasure!

Byron puts his hand into the pyramid and pulls out a small golden sphinx ...

CROUCH: Hand it over⁵, Mr Tombs.

Byron holds out the Golden Sphinx ...

BYRON: You won't get away with this. You're forgetting something ... I know what you crooks look like.

BENT: But dead men can't talk, Tombs. Say goodbye ...

Sapphire Stone appears ...

SAPPHIRE: Not so fast.

CROUCH & BENT & BYRON: Who are you?

SAPPHIRE: I'm Sapphire Stone. I'm a model and a singer-song writer and my first album has had three million downloads.

CROUCH: Oh, yeah – I've heard of her.

BENT: Can we get on with⁶ stealing the Golden Sphinx?

CROUCH: Can I have your autograph, Miss Stone?

BYRON: This is just the distraction⁷ I need ...

Music. Byron grabs Crouch who throws the Sphinx to Bent. Sapphire steps on Bent's toe, who throws the Sphinx in the air. Byron catches it, but Crouch snatches⁸ it back and runs in the direction of the audience. Byron chases after

¹ wo (der Schatz) seit Jahrhunderten verborgen war

² Antiquitätenhändler

³ ab jetzt machen wir weiter

⁴ um genau zu sein

⁵ übergeben, aushändigen

⁶ weitermachen

⁷ Ablenkung

⁸ schnappen, aus der Hand reißen

him, whilst Bent tries to catch Sapphire. She responds¹ with impressive karate moves. Crouch gets back to the acting area, rescues² Bent and they disappear.

Byron gets back to the acting area ... Music stops.

BYRON: They got away.

SAPPHIRE: Did you get the Golden Sphinx?

BYRON: No. Did you?

SAPPHIRE: Sorry.

BYRON: Then I need to get on their trail. There's not a moment to lose. Thanks for your help. For a singer-songwriter you know how to handle yourself³.

SAPPHIRE: That's just a cover. I work for ISS: International Secret Service.

BYRON: What a busy life!

SAPPHIRE: I've been following those two punks all the way from London.

BYRON: And they've been following me.

SAPPHIRE: What will they do with the Golden Sphinx?

BYRON: Sell it secretly⁴ – which means the buyer will hide it away and it won't be seen again for years and years. Or worse – they might melt it down⁵.

SAPPHIRE: Then it will be lost forever.

BYRON: But I won't let them. I'll get it back – somehow.

SAPPHIRE: Good luck.

BYRON: Thanks. Sapphire – you could come with me.

SAPPHIRE: Oh, Byron, I'd love to, but I have a concert to give in Hyde Park.

BYRON: I understand. Goodbye, Sapphire Stone. For now.

Byron goes.

SAPPHIRE: Byron Tombs ... he's a real man ...

Rita sits at her PC. Kevin sits at his.

RITA: Byron Tombs. Wow! I wonder if all the men in Dream World are like that. You can never tell who you're going to meet on websites. I once had a really boring time with a giant penguin.

A computer sound.

SAPPHIRE: Mail A Friend. Sapphire – you have mail.

Sapphire goes.

RITA: Who can be mailing me? I've only been on the website a short time. It's from Byron Tombs ...

KEVIN: Dear Sapphire. Thank you for helping me out in Egypt. I'm on the trail of those two thieves. They are somewhere in South America. It was really good to meet you. I hope we can meet again soon. Yours, Byron Tombs.

¹ antworten, zurückgeben

² retten

³ ... wie man mit etwas fertig wird

⁴ heimlich

⁵ einschmelzen

RITA: Dear Byron. It was a pleasure to work with you. I'm sorry I wasn't more help. I hope you catch Crouch and Bent and rescue the Golden Sphinx. If I ever need rescuing myself – I'll know who to come to. Love Sapphire.

KEVIN: Wow! If I ever need rescuing! Love ... Sapphire! This girl is hot! Dear Sapphire, if you are ever in trouble, I'm your man. Love Byron. Kiss.

RITA: He's put a kiss after his name. Oh! Dearest Byron, I needed help today. Someone saw that I needed help, and they just stood by and watched. If only you had been there ... Much love, Sapphire. Kiss. Kiss.

KEVIN: Two kisses! Dearest! My dear Sapphire ...

RITA: My dear ...!

KEVIN: It breaks my heart to think that I wasn't there to help you. Any time. Just call. Remember ...

RITA: I will be your friend, always. Yours, lovingly ...

KEVIN: Byron.

RITA: PS ... Any chance of meeting up¹ in the My Dream Space chat room?
OK!

KEVIN: I'm surprised that someone as beautiful as you would ever be in trouble.

RITA: Oh, I'm not ... all that beautiful. Don't be fooled² by my avatar. Because of the work I do, I don't have many friends. I try to make friends, but no one seems to like me. Is it my fault that I'm clever and can do things well?
Their typing turns into a conversation – although they can't see each other, it's almost as if they are in the same room ...

KEVIN: Not at all.

RITA: Some people beat up on me³, you know, bully me.

KEVIN: Really?

RITA: I don't mean now, of course, I meant ... when I was younger.

KEVIN: I hate bullies.

RITA: It's difficult to get out of. They say: stand up to bullies. But the people who say that aren't being bullied.

KEVIN: It's the bullies who have the problems.

RITA: They say that as well. But being bullied *is* a problem if you're the victim⁴. And there's another thing – if you're being bullied you're a victim. I never asked⁵ to be a victim.

KEVIN: The important thing is to tell someone.

RITA: Grass them up⁶? They'd only get back at you in the end.

KEVIN: I meant; talk about it. Tell someone you can talk to. A problem shared is a problem halved¹.

¹ könnten wir uns vielleicht ... treffen

² lass dich nicht von ... täuschen

³ verprügeln, quälen

⁴ Opfer

⁵ ich habe nicht darum gebeten, ein Opfer zu sein

⁶ verraten, bei der Polizei anzeigen

RITA: I am telling someone.
 KEVIN: And I'm listening.
 RITA: I bet you were never bullied.
 KEVIN: Not much. But, I was just lucky.
 RITA: Are you a lucky person?
 KEVIN: I don't think so ... I didn't think so when I was younger. When my Dad left home, I didn't feel lucky then. I wondered what I had done wrong.
 RITA: Why did he leave?
 KEVIN: Moved in with another woman.
 RITA: That wasn't your fault.
 KEVIN: I suppose not. But why doesn't he ... I mean, why didn't want to see me or talk to me?
 RITA: Your Dad was selfish. He probably felt very guilty² about you. Didn't know how to handle the guilt³.
 KEVIN: You're saying it's my Dad who has the problem and not me.
 RITA: Yes. We have something in common! We both have ... I mean *had* problems that had nothing to do with us, but we think it's our fault. It doesn't really help much, does it?
 KEVIN: It helps to talk about it ... to someone who understands.
 RITA: You're right, it does. It doesn't make it go away, but it makes it ... feel a bit easier.
 KEVIN: What's your name?
 RITA: Sapphire ...
 KEVIN: Your real name. Sapphire is a tag⁴.
 RITA: The ISS never reveal their true identities⁵. It's not safe on the web. I really like talking to you, but I don't know who you are. I know Byron is your tag – but you could really be anyone.
 KEVIN: You're right. I might be a giant penguin! It's not safe to give too much away on the internet. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have asked you.
 RITA: That's all right. I'd like to know more about you, too.
They are returning to the computer workstations.
 RITA: It's getting late. I don't want to, but I think I should go.
 KEVIN: I don't want to, either. But there is school in the morning ...
 RITA: School!!!???
 KEVIN: Yes! I have lectures⁶ to teach on ... the lost world of the Magyars⁷.
 RITA: I'd love to watch you teach. It would be interesting.

¹ Geteiltes Leid ist halbes Leid.

² Schuldgefühle haben

³ mit den Schuldgefühlen umgehen

⁴ Pseudonym, nickname, Spitzname

⁵ die wahre Identität preisgeben

⁶ Vorlesungen

⁷ Magyaren = Ungarn

KEVIN: It certainly would. I'd love to watch you sing. When is your concert in Hyde Park?

RITA: I'd forgotten about that. *Rita checks her watch ...* It is getting late, but I don't want to go to bed, yet. Dear Byron, the concert is just about to start ...

Sapphire appears. She is holding a microphone...

SAPPHIRE: Good evening Hyde Park! I'm going to sing you a song from my new album ... This is for a very special friend who is here tonight ... Mr Byron Tombs.

Music - Rescue

Rescue me when there is danger
Come to my aid when I need a hand
There are those who would see me in trouble
Let me count on you as a friend.
Rescue me
And I will rescue you.
Rescue
Oh, be my lifeboat in a sea of troubles
Be my saviour and save me from the storm
The tide is high and I'm in deep water
Give me shelter and keep me warm
Rescue me
And I will rescue you.
Rescue
Keep me safe from all types of disasters
I need someone who will watch over me
Hear my distress when I send S.O.S.
When I call for your help, rescue me.

Sapphire takes a bow¹ and Byron appears.

BYRON: Sapphire, that was fantastic. Sadly, I can't stay for the rest of the concert; my plane is about to leave² for Peru ...

SAPPHIRE: What about your lectures on the lost world of the Magyars.

BYRON: The lead I have on the Golden Sphinx is too important. The lectures can wait ...

SAPPHIRE: Good luck, Byron ...

She kisses him on the cheek and goes.

Music – Peruvian Pan Pipes.

BYRON: Ah, Peru, home of the Incas, land of the llamas. Somewhere in this capital city of Lima are Crouch and Bent with the Golden Sphinx. I have to find them.

¹ sich verbeugen

² mein Flug ... geht in Kürze

Byron finds a poster on the floor ...

BYRON: What's this? International Antiques Fair – today! Some of the World's finest treasures will be on sale. The Hilton Hotel, Lima. So that's what they are up to. They are going to sell the Golden Sphinx. I must get to the Hilton right away, but first, I'd better disguise¹ myself ...

He puts on a false moustache² ...

BYRON: There. Nobody will recognise me now.

Crouch and Bent appear.

BYRON: Just in time, for look who's here. Excuse me!

CROUCH: Yes?

BYRON: Are you going to this international antiques fair?

CROUCH: We are.

BYRON: Buying or selling?

BENT: Who wants to know?

BYRON: Er ... the name's Graves – Bryan Graves.

CROUCH: Take a seat Mr Graves. What are you looking for?

Bent puts out a chair which Byron sits on.

BYRON: There's a rumour³ that you two have the Golden Sphinx.

CROUCH: That is correct. I also have in my possession⁴, Mr Graves, this ... *He pulls a gun ... Tie him up⁵.*

Bent ties up Byron.

CROUCH: Or should I say ... Mr Tombs!

BYRON: How did you know it was me!?

CROUCH: Your disguise fooled me at first. But only four people know about the Golden Sphinx. Me, Bent, you and Miss Stone. You are obviously not Miss Stone. The similarity between the names Graves and Tombs told me it was you.

BYRON: Curses⁶!

BENT: What are we going to do with him?

CROUCH: Set the bomb⁷.

BENT: The bomb? Wouldn't it be easier to shoot him?

CROUCH: It would. But Byron Tombs has been able to get too close to us. If he's here, Sapphire Stone of the International Secret Service might be, too. We have to get out of Lima, fast. A little explosion will get rid of Tombs and cause a diversion⁸, giving us time to get to the airport and away.

¹ verkleiden

² Schnurrbart

³ Gerücht

⁴ was sich auch noch in meinem Besitz befindet ... ist ...

⁵ fessle ihn

⁶ Verflucht!

⁷ mach die Bombe bereit

⁸ ein Ablenkungsmanöver bewirken

Bent places a bomb under Byron's chair.

BYRON: You won't get away with this.

BENT: Watch us¹.

BYRON: If you can't sell the Golden Sphinx in Lima, where can you sell it?

CROUCH: Nice try², Mr Tombs, but you won't get any information out of me.

Who knows who might be listening?

BENT: It's set. We have two minutes to get out of here.

CROUCH: Goodbye, Mr Tombs.

As Crouch puts his gun away, he drops a letter on the floor. Crouch and Bent go.

Byron struggles³ in his chair but can't get out.

BYRON: It's no use, the rope is too tight. Perhaps I could dismantle⁴ the bomb with my feet ...

Byron begins to kick his shoes off. Sapphire enters.

BYRON: Sapphire! You! Here!

SAPPHIRE: Sorry, I thought you were someone else ...

She's about to go.

BYRON: I am someone else! I mean – it's me, Byron.

SAPPHIRE: Byron? You don't look like Byron.

BYRON: I'm in disguise. Remove my moustache.

Sapphire pulls off Byron's moustache.

SAPPHIRE: Byron! What have they done to you?

She puts her arms around him.

BYRON: Let's not worry about that now ... There's a bomb underneath the chair and it's due to go off⁵ in fifty seconds.

SAPPHIRE: It's lucky I'm here. Thanks to the ISS I am an expert in all types of explosives⁶. There is no bomb that I cannot dismantle. A small device⁷ like that one is no problem. Fifty seconds is more than enough time.

BYRON: That's good news, because now we only have ten seconds left.

Sapphire picks up the bomb.

SAPPHIRE: Now let me see ... Is it this button ... or this one?

BYRON: Five seconds!

SAPPHIRE: Only joking, Byron, it's this button of course ...

BYRON: Two seconds!

SAPPHIRE: There. It is safe. Let me untie⁸ you.

She unties Byron from the chair.

¹ das werden wir ja sehen

² netter Versuch, aber ...

³ sich bemühen, abmühen

⁴ entschärfen, unschädlich machen, zerlegen

⁵ sie wird gleich explodieren (eig.: fällig sein, zu explodieren)

⁶ Sprengstoffexperte

⁷ Gerät

⁸ losbinden, befreien

BYRON: Thanks, Sapphire, I owe you one¹.
 SAPPHIRE: I'm sure you'll find a way to repay me.
 BYRON: I will, but not now. We've not a moment to lose². We must get on the trail of Crouch and Bent.
 SAPPHIRE: Where have they gone?
 BYRON: I don't know. But before they left, Crouch dropped this letter. It may be a clue³.
Byron picks it up and reads it.
 SAPPHIRE: What does it say?
 BYRON: I don't know.
 SAPPHIRE: Is it in code⁴?
 BYRON: Worse than that – it's in German. I don't speak much German.
 SAPPHIRE: Neither do I. We need help.
She asks a member of the audience.
 SAPPHIRE: Excuse me. Sprechen sie Deutsch? Ja?
She gets two members of the audience who help translate the letter.
 SAPPHIRE: We're in luck⁵. I've just found two people in Lima who can speak German!
 BYRON: Can you help us translate this letter? What are your names?
The audience members tell us their names.
 BYRON: What does this mean? *Sehr geehrter Herr Crouch.*
The audience members translate into English.
 BYRON: *Danke für Ihren Brief.*
The audience members translate into English.
 BYRON: *Ja, wir sind daran interessiert zu kaufen.*
The audience members translate into English.
 BYRON: „Kommen sie zu meinem Geschäft in Wien. Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Herr Schmidt.“
The audience members translate into English.
 SAPPHIRE: Vienna! That's where they're going.
 BYRON: Thank you for your help. For Peruvians – you speak German very well. Thanks.
 SAPPHIRE: Herr Schmidt must be a gold dealer.
 BYRON: It looks as if Crouch and Bent will melt the Golden Sphinx and sell the gold.
 SAPPHIRE: We must get the next plane to Vienna!
 BYRON: There's no time to lose ...

¹ dafür stehe ich in deiner Schuld

² wir dürfen keine Zeit verlieren

³ Hinweis

⁴ Geheimschrift

⁵ Wir haben Glück

We hear a beeping sound – like an electronic alarm ...
 BYRON: What's that? It sounds like an alarm clock.
 SAPPHIRE: I think it's this.
She picks up the bomb.
 SAPPHIRE: Very clever. It has a snooze device¹. When you press the 'off' button, it goes back to sleep for five minutes.
 BYRON: And that means?
 SAPPHIRE: It's about to go off. Any second now!
More beeping, getting louder. Byron and Sapphire make a dash for it².
 VOICE OFF: Kevin! Kevin! You'll be late.
 VOICE OFF: Wake up, Rita! It's time for school ...
Kevin and Rita dash on. Both have bags which they quickly fill with books.
 KEVIN: Look at the time.
 RITA: I slept through³ my alarm.
 KEVIN: I shouldn't have been on My Dream Space for so long.
 RITA: Up all night.
 KEVIN: I am so tired.
 RITA: There's no time for breakfast.
 KEVIN: I haven't done my homework. I was going to get up early and do it.
 RITA: At least I did my homework before going onto My Dream Space. I mustn't forget to pack it.
 KEVIN: I'll never get to school in time ...
 RITA: I'm going to be so late ...
The beeping turns into a bell ringing. As the ringing stops, Kevin and Rita have just closed their bags and are just about to run off when Mr Smith, the teacher, appears.

Scene 3

MR SMITH: You two, you're late. Detention at lunchtime.
 KEVIN: What?
 RITA: The bell has only just gone.
 MR SMITH: Don't argue.
Kevin and Rita rearrange the computer workstations and the panels so that we are back in the IT room. They sit down, Rita with her back to Kevin.
 RITA: This is so unfair.
 KEVIN: You should think yourself lucky, being allowed to spend lunchtime with me.

¹ Schlummerschalter

² sich beeilen, davonstürzen

³ ich habe den Wecker nicht gehört

RITA: Huh!

KEVIN: It could be worse, you could be spending it with Sharon and Aaron.

RITA: Two bullies or an idiot. Some choice.

Rita yawns.

KEVIN: You were up late last night.

RITA: So?

KEVIN: Studying, I suppose.

RITA: No! I was up late, but I wasn't studying – I'm not a swot. I'm just naturally clever.

KEVIN: I was up late. I was on that website you were playing with yesterday.

RITA: I wasn't playing ...

KEVIN: You were. My Dream Space. It's good, isn't it?

RITA: I ... didn't really notice. If you must know I was up late emailing my boyfriend.

KEVIN: Boyfriend? You?

RITA: Yes, actually. He's a historian.

KEVIN: Oooh! Historian!

RITA: You wouldn't know anything about relationships, being such an internet geek.

KEVIN: I've got a girlfriend, if you must know. A very beautiful one.

RITA: A beautiful girlfriend? Who'd go out with you?

KEVIN: We're not actually going out – we're sort of ... internet dating. We talk to each other in chat rooms. But as soon as we can, we'll meet up in person¹. Perhaps I can find out where she lives and go and surprise her.

RITA: I think you mean: shock her.

KEVIN: She knows what I look like – I ... described myself to her.

RITA: You were always good at creative writing.

KEVIN: Thanks. So, a historian. (*Yawns*) Interesting.

RITA: He's more of an archaeologist. That's a long word, Kevin, need help?

KEVIN: It's not as long as historical explorer.

RITA: That's two words. How did you know Byron is a historical explorer?

KEVIN: Byron?

RITA: Yeah, funny name I know, but you can't have everything. If you met him, you just wouldn't mind he was called Byron Tombs.

KEVIN: Byron Tombs?

RITA: Please – don't make jokes.

KEVIN: No, I think it's a great name, it's just that Byron Tombs is ...

RITA: Is what ...

KEVIN: I don't know how to tell you this, but Byron is ... just a minute, if your boyfriend is ... Oh no! That means you must be ... Sapphire Stone.

¹ sich persönlich treffen

RITA: Aaagh! How do you know? Have you been hacking into my computer?
 You ... geek! Why can't you leave me alone!

KEVIN: Sapphire, it's me ... Byron.

RITA: What!!!? You can't be. Where's the hat!?

KEVIN: Where's ...? *He points to her chest.*

RITA: Typical male! I suppose that was all you were interested in!

KEVIN: No! I liked all the song writing stuff. And the bomb disposal¹ was good.

RITA: You're supposed to be at least six foot!

KEVIN: Sapphire, we're having our first argument²!

RITA: Our last argument. To think I wasted³ half the night playing stupid computer games with you.

KEVIN: No one asked you to come along. You just turned up.

RITA: Turned up? If I hadn't Crouch and Bent would have killed you.

KEVIN: It wasn't anything I couldn't handle.

RITA: And you've lost the Golden Sphinx.

KEVIN: I know where it is.

RITA: Just wait until I tell the rest of the class who you pretend to be⁴ – Byron Tombs. What a stupid name!

KEVIN: Tell them. See if I care⁵. I'll sing them a song ... *He sings: Rescue me ... and I will rescue you ...*

RITA: You wouldn't? You would! If you do, I'll tell them all about your Dad leaving.

KEVIN: That's ... bullying, Rita.

RITA: Yeah? So is kissing me when I don't want to be kissed and making a film of it and putting it on You Tube.

KEVIN: I didn't want to.

RITA: But you did.

KEVIN: I didn't have a choice.

RITA: You could have chosen not to.

KEVIN: Yeah. I could. I was scared of Aaron.

RITA: If you won't mention⁶ any of this – neither will I.

KEVIN: It's a deal.

RITA: But I never want to see Byron Tombs again. Ever! And I never want to talk to you again. Ever! And now we'll spend the rest of this detention in silence.

KEVIN: Good. Suits me.

¹ Bombenentschärfung

² wir haben unseren ersten Streit

³ verschwendet

⁴ wer du vorgibst zu sein

⁵ ist mir doch egal

⁶ erwähnen, verraten

Rita pulls a book from her bag and reads it. Kevin pulls a banana from his pocket. He's peels it and eats it. ... A bell rings.

Scene 4

Kevin and Rita rearrange the computer workstations and panels so that we are back in their bedrooms. They sit at the computers and begin to type on the keyboards.

KEVIN: My ...

RITA: Dream ...

KEVIN: Space.

Music – My Dream Space theme.

KEVIN & RITA: Shut up!

KEVIN: *typing*: Killer Miller

WOMAN: Welcome back, Byron Tombs.

RITA: *typing*: Sexy Babe.

MAN: Welcome back, Sapphire Stone.

Byron and Sapphire appear. They remain in different areas of the acting space during the following and do not relate to each other¹.

SAPPHIRE: Hmm. No more chasing villains², like Crouch and Bent, for me. The hidden treasures of the world can remain hidden. I've got another album to record.

BYRON: I need to get on the trail of the Golden Sphinx. I'll catch the next plane to Vienna. A hero has to do what a hero has to do³ ...

RITA: This is ... no fun at all.

KEVIN: What's the point? If Sapphire isn't part of the game ...

SAPPHIRE: Each time I try and write a song all I can think about is ... him ...

BYRON: It's no use⁴, I don't want to catch Crouch and Bent. My heart just isn't in it⁵. Some hero I am ...

Music. Sapphire and Byron sing ...

I never knew an avatar had feelings
How can a cyber hero feel so blue?
Must I spend my lonely nights
With a heart of 20 gigabytes

¹ nicht miteinander reden

² Verbrecher jagen

³ engl. Sprichwort, abgewandelt : a man's got to do what a man's got to do (ein Mann muss ein Mann sein)

⁴ es hilft alles nichts

⁵ ich bin nicht mit dem Herzen dabei

Waiting to download my love to you?
Why is computer-generated love so painful?
Are these tears real or just a video stream?
I might be digitally enhanced
But I still need romance
And it's of my virtual hero that I dream

I'm only coloured pixels on your monitor
A refugee from a PS2
But there's no firewall I won't scale
So don't log off or block email
Or you will break my virtual heart in two

Sapphire and Byron go.

RITA: I wonder if Byron is in Vienna. Probably, knowing Kevin.

KEVIN: I wonder if Rita has logged on. Ah ... Sapphire Stone ...

RITA: I'll send him an email ... Dear Byron. No. Dear Kevin, I am sorry about being so rude to you today. I was angry and I really didn't mean it. I enjoyed talking to you in the chat room last night. It helped. Meet me there and we can talk some more ...

KEVIN: I wonder if I have any mail? Nope. Thought not. Who am I trying to kid. Sapphire – Rita isn't going to talk to me. I'll log off. No ... I'll delete My Dream Space from my favourites ... there! Gone.

As Kevin turns away from his PC.

RITA: From Rita. No ... Love Rita. Send!

KEVIN: I think I'll do some homework, for a change.

RITA: Kevin is not answering. I don't blame him¹. I wish I hadn't sent that email now, he'll think I like him or something.

Scene 5

Mr Smith appears and walks to the front of the acting area. The panels are made into a small square shape which becomes the lift at the British Museum.

MR SMITH: All right, Year 11 ... please listen. Here we are at The British Museum. There's lots of fantastic things to see. You've all got your worksheets, and when we meet again here in one hour, I expect them to be completed². No messing about³, I don't want the school to get a bad name, or we won't come on school trips again. The important thing to remember is that you stay in your pairs. Do you all know who your partners are?

¹ das ist kein Wunder (das kann ich ihm nachfühlen)

² fertig, vervollständigt

³ kein Herumgeblödel

Kevin puts his hand up ...

KEVIN: Excuse me, sir, I don't know who my partner is.

MR SMITH: Let's have a look.

He pulls a list from his pocket ...

MR SMITH: Miller ... Kevin. You are partnered with Rita Dobson.

RITA: Oh, sir, do I have to?

MR SMITH: Yes, Rita. Now, off you go, everyone, and don't forget, meet back here in one hour ...

Mr Smith goes. Kevin gets out his worksheet.

KEVIN: Just your luck to get me, eh?

RITA: Great.

KEVIN: Question 1 is about Roman coins.

RITA: Did you ... get my email, Kevin?

KEVIN: Email? What email?

RITA: I wondered why you hadn't answered it.

KEVIN: What did it say?

RITA: Nothing. Phew. Good.

KEVIN: Roman Artefacts¹ are on the fourth floor. Come on, we'll take the lift.

RITA: What's wrong with the stairs?

KEVIN: It's the fourth floor.

Kevin and Rita get in the lift and press the button for the fourth floor.

RITA: Why do I always get stuck² with you?

KEVIN: Actually, Mr Smith is paying me to be your partner. No one else wanted to do it.

RITA: Funny. This lift is taking a long time.

KEVIN: It's a very old lift. It should be in a museum.

RITA: Funny, not.

KEVIN: We've stopped. This must be it. Why aren't the doors opening?

RITA: Look – we're not on the fourth floor. We're between two and three. Have you pressed the stop button?

KEVIN: No, of course not.

Kevin presses all the buttons

RITA: Don't do that, you'll just make it worse.

KEVIN: The lift's stuck, what are we going to do?

RITA: Let's not panic ...

KEVIN: Who's panicking?

RITA: You are!

KEVIN: That's because we're stuck in the lift!

RITA: It must happen all the time, an old lift like this. Press the alarm.

KEVIN: I have.

¹ römische Kunstgegenstände (Ausstellungsstücke)

² hängen- steckenbleiben

RITA: Did you hear a bell?
 KEVIN: No.
 RITA: There must be a power failure¹. Nothing is working.
 KEVIN: Now what do we do?
 RITA: Panic?
 KEVIN: Good idea. Help! Help!
 RITA: I'm stuck in the lift with a moron²!
 KEVIN: Help!
 RITA: An idiot has locked me in the lift!
 KEVIN: Help! What did you just say?
 RITA: I'm stuck in the lift with loser-boy ...
 KEVIN: That's very nice, that is.
 RITA: It doesn't matter what we shout as long as we draw attention³ to ourselves.
 KEVIN: You weren't like this when we were on My Dream Space together.
 RITA: What do you mean?
 KEVIN: Oh, Byron ... My dearest Byron, oh, I love you so much, I think you're wonderful ...
 RITA: I never said any of that. Anyway, you're not Byron Tombs, you're Kevin Miller.
 KEVIN: And you're not Sapphire Stone!
They both try and get as far away from each other as they can.
 RITA: Shouting did no good. No one is coming to our rescue.
 KEVIN: Actually, I am Byron Tombs.
 RITA: What?
 KEVIN: I am Byron Tombs. I made him up, so he is part of me.
 RITA: I made up Sapphire Stone, but I'm not working for the International Secret Service.
 KEVIN: I'm not a historical explorer, but I still created the character – he's based on me⁴.
 RITA: You don't look like him.
 KEVIN: Yet.
 RITA: Oh, please. All right, if you are Byron Tombs, get me out of here.
 KEVIN: Eh?
 RITA: Byron would get me out of here in two seconds.
 KEVIN: All right. Let's see ...
Kevin examines the lift. He moves around it, which involves moving Rita out of the way – they both become aware of their nearness to each other ...

¹ Stromausfall

² Dummkopf

³ die Aufmerksamkeit auf uns lenken, auf uns aufmerksam machen

⁴ ich bin die Grundlage für ihn

KEVIN: Phew, it's hot in here ... right, there's a trap door¹. Byron would climb up there and stand on the top of the lift.

RITA: Then what?

KEVIN: Then ... he'd shoot a thin wire up² to the top of the lift shaft, the end has a hook attached³, which gets caught on a handy ledge⁴ ...

RITA: A handy ledge ...?

KEVIN: And escape through another trap door that is probably at the top of the shaft. Then he'd get the security guards to reconnect⁵ the power!

RITA: Genius! Er ... how does Byron get the thin wire to the handy ledge?

KEVIN: Er ... shoots it up there.

RITA: With?

KEVIN: A ... thin wire gun thing ...

RITA: Interesting. Do you have one?

Kevin searches through his pockets, eventually pulling out a banana. He shoots it upwards ...

RITA: That's a banana, Kevin.

She laughs.

RITA: I am stuck in the lift with an idiot.

KEVIN: I made you laugh, though. So, how would Sapphire get us out?

RITA: Simple. She'd call up the International Secret Service and get them to send the boys around ...

Kevin uses the banana like a phone..

KEVIN: Hello? Hello? ISS? Can you help me ... oh, it's gone onto voice mail, they must be busy.

Kevin suddenly laughs and smacks his forehead⁶.

RITA: It wasn't that funny, Kevin.

KEVIN: I am so stupid!

RITA: That's what I've been trying to tell you.

KEVIN: I bet you that I can get you out of this lift in five minutes' time.

RITA: All right.

KEVIN: What do you bet?

RITA: What do you want to bet?

KEVIN: You have to agree that I really am Byron Tombs.

RITA: Okay ... What do I get if you lose?

KEVIN: I won't lose. We might not be exactly like Byron and Sapphire, but because we made them up⁷, that's who we want to be – it's another version of

¹ Falltüre

² einen dünnen Draht hoch schießen

³ am Ende ist ein Haken befestigt

⁴ der praktischerweise an einem Mauervorsprung hängen bleibt

⁵ wieder anschließen

⁶ sich an den Kopf greifen (tappen)

⁷ wir haben sie erfunden

ourselves, we want to be like them. I know all the spy stuff is just a game, but we both want adventure, and we both want to do the right thing, and do something useful with our lives. And neither of us wants to be put down by people like Crouch and Bent.

RITA: And Sharon and Aaron.

KEVIN: Yeah. And, like Byron and Sapphire, we make a good team – you gave me the idea of how to get out of here, although if I hadn't pulled out the banana, none of it could have happened.

RITA: I don't understand.

KEVIN: Calling ISS.
He pulls out his mobile phone.

KEVIN: The Museum's number is on this worksheet.
He keys in the number.

KEVIN: Hello, British Museum? I'm stuck in one of your lifts ... Er ... lift number 4. Thank you. I understand. That's all right. *(He puts his phone away)* We'll be out in no time. It happens in this lift all the time. They just have to reset the trip switch¹ ... there, we're moving!

RITA: Brilliant! You are a genius.

KEVIN: I promised I'd rescue you.

RITA: Why didn't you do it straight away? What was the five minutes all about?

KEVIN: I like being stuck in a lift with you. I didn't want it to end that quickly.
Ground floor!

RITA: That is so sweet, Kevin.

KEVIN: Byron.

RITA: Byron.
Rita kisses Kevin. As she does, Sharon and Aaron appear and block the entrance to the lift.

SHARON: Look who's here, Aaron.

AARON: Caught you. Snogging again.

RITA: No, we weren't.

SHARON: We've been looking for you, Rita. Haven't seen you for a while.

AARON: Second floor. It's where the toilets are. Nice and quiet.

RITA: Now what, Byron?

AARON: Who?

SHARON: Here we are. You two out. Aaron, keep watch. *To Kevin:* You. Keep it shut². Rita, I'm sure you've brought some spending money with you. You'd better hand it over and make it quick ...

RITA: Yeah. All right.
She reaches in her bag for her purse. As she pulls it out Kevin takes it.

KEVIN: I'll look after that¹.

¹ den Lift wieder in Gang setzen

² halt die Klappe (keinen Mucks)

SHARON: Aaron!
 AARON: Hand it over, Miller.
 KEVIN: It's Tombs, Byron Tombs.
 AARON: He's nuts².
 SHARON: Hit him, Aaron.
Aaron punches Kevin in the stomach.
 RITA: No!
 SHARON: Worried about your boyfriend? Ah, so touching³ ...
 KEVIN: You can hit me as much as you like, you're not getting the purse.
 AARON: If that's the way you want it.
 KEVIN: The enjoyment I feel at standing up to you creeps is much stronger than the pain you can inflict⁴ by beating me up.
 SHARON: We'll see about that ...
 RITA: And if you want to know ... Kevin is my boyfriend. We are going out together.
She puts her arms around Kevin ...
 AARON: Yuck!
 SHARON: Rita Dobson ... You really are a loser.
 KEVIN: Oh, no, you are the losers. You really are stupid, Sharon and Aaron ...
Aaron is about to attack but Kevin holds his hand up to stop him.
 KEVIN: Not only are you not getting the purse, but you've physically attacked me and it's all on the Museum's CCTV cameras⁵. *Kevin points to the ceiling. Wave to the cameras ...*
Aaron looks up to check. Sharon keeps her head down. Kevin waves at the cameras.
 AARON: He's right. There's two.
 SHARON: Keep your head down, moron! Don't let them see your face.
 KEVIN: Too late! So, attack me, Aaron.
 AARON: Let's get out of here.
Aaron and Sharon start to go. Sharon turns to Rita.
 SHARON: There's always tomorrow, Rita. Or the day after, or the day after that.
 RITA: No, Sharon. Never again.
Aaron and Sharon go. Rita and Kevin hug each other happily.
 KEVIN: We did it!
 RITA: My hero!
 KEVIN: I couldn't have done it without you, Sapphire.
 RITA: Did that punch hurt?

¹ ich passe schon darauf auf

² der spinnt

³ wie rührend

⁴ die Freude, die es mir macht, mich gegen euch zu wehren, ist viel stärker als der Schmerz, den ihr mir verursacht

⁵ Überwachungskameras

KEVIN: Yes.

RITA: I'm sorry.

KEVIN: Don't be. It wasn't your fault. Anyway, it was worth it.

RITA: What are we going to do now?

KEVIN: The worksheet. Mr Smith said we had to complete it. There's no time to lose.

RITA: Look at this – number 4: Egypt. Find and draw a picture of The Golden Sphinx!

KEVIN: Crouch and Bent didn't keep it after all. It's been saved for the good of mankind.

RITA: Idiot! Let's go and find it. We'll take the stairs.

KEVIN: We might need some help from you know who ...

He pulls the banana from his pocket

KEVIN: Hello, ISS? Could you log me in to My Dream Space ...

Music – My Dream Space. Sapphire and Byron return to sing with Kevin and Rita ...

You can be whoever you want to be.
You can get another life,
You can really be free.
Change your shape
Change your height
Change your clothes
And change your face
Find your other self
On My Dream Space!
Find yourself on W
WW dot My Dream Space.

The End.

Quick Comprehension Check

Scene 1

- What are the names of the two main characters? How old are they?
- What do the two think about each other?

Kevin thinks Rita.....

Rita thinks Kevin is.....

- Who is Sapphire Stone (describe what she looks like, what her job is, etc.)?
- Who are Aaron and Sharon? What are they doing to Rita and Kevin? Do you like them?
- Who is Byron Tombs (describe what he looks like, what his job is, etc.)?

Scene 2

- What is Byron doing in Egypt? Is the situation virtual or real?
- Who are Crouch and Bent and what are they trying to do?
- What happens when Sapphire Stone turns up? Who is she?
- Rita/Sapphire and Kevin/Byron are sending emails to each other:

What is Rita/Sapphire telling Byron about herself?

What does Kevin/Byron tell Rita about himself?

- Why is Byron going to Peru? What is he looking for?
- What do Crouch and Bent do his time to get rid of Byron?
- How does Sapphire rescue him?
- Sapphire and Byron hear a beeping sound. Where does it come from? What is it really?

Scene 3

- Rita and Kevin get detention for being late. Why are they so tired?
- Rita tells Kevin about her 'boyfriend'. Who is 'Byron' really?
- Kevin tells Rita about his 'internet date'. Who is she really?
- How do they feel now? Choose from the list below. Say why.

angry – disappointed – silly – unhappy – foolish – sad – terrible – hurt – or what?

Scene 4

- Back on the 'My Dream World' site, do Rita/Sapphire and Kevin/Byron still enjoy the game?
- What does Rita do?

Scene 5

- Where do they go on their school trip? Which task are they given?
- What happens when they take the lift to the fourth floor?

- Rita and Kevin are trying to call for help. Fill in the gaps, using the words in brackets.

First, they try (shout)

Then, Kevin imagines (Byron)

Rita tells him (Sapphire)

Finally, Kevin uses (mobile)

- Who is waiting for them back on the ground floor?
- What does Sharon want from Rita?
- How does Kevin react to Aaron's and Sharon's bullying now? What happens?
- Why do Aaron and Sharon leave so quickly?
- What is item number 4 on the worksheet?

Did you like the play? Say why/why not!

Which of the characters did/didn't you like? Why?

Which part(s) of the play did you find really funny? Interesting? Silly? Romantic? Boring?