

VIRTUAL HEROES

by

Clive Duncan

www.schooltours.at

© Vienna's English Theatre Schooltours
(Vienna's English Theatre Gastspiel GmbH)
Neudeggasse 14/17
A-1080 Wien

Hi there,

... and welcome to Cyberspace where gamers live in fantasy worlds and their avatars can be anyone or anything they want to be.

The online world has become a major factor in all our lives. Just think – if you had no PC/PS/Tablet/Smartphone, what you you do instead?

- more homework or studying
- more sports or hobbies
- read lots of books or watch interesting films
- go to the theatre and watch a play? In English? (Good choice, btw 👍)

This year's VET touring production, *Virtual Heroes*, is set partly at a school IT room, and partly in a virtual gaming world. As you follow the two main characters, Rita and Kevin – or rather Sapphire and Byron – through their adventures in Egypt and Peru, these two 'realities' merge, i.e. interact.

At school, Rita is clever and a good pupil while Kevin is not. Rita doesn't have any friends and is being bullied. Kevin misses his dad and plays the class clown. Both are looking for adventure, creating a virtual 'reality' for themselves, taking on the personalities they are in their dreams.

In a virtual world, gamers (or their avatars) communicate with each other in chat-rooms and via *Direct Messaging* (DM) – but because everybody uses a nickname, you never know who you are really 'talking' (writing) to.

Eventually, Kevin and Rita end up falling in love. But be aware that the good-looking millionaire, the beautiful model, or the heroic character you chatted with in a gaming episode might actually turn out to be a boring, annoying, weird or even dangerous person.

So, now sit back, follow the exciting story and have lots of fun with the English language! Don't worry if you don't know every single word you hear – just enjoy yourself! You'll find that you understand a lot more than you thought you would.

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

cu 😊

Helena Hirsch

Note to teachers:

When working through the text booklet before watching 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 story. During the **performance**, through voice, action, movement and mime, there is no need to translate – students **see, hear, feel** – and understand.

Vocab:

The translations in the footnotes of the text mostly refer to full (or part-) sentences so that students can familiarise themselves with contexts and collocations of words/lexical units. For colloquial language/phrases we offer an approximate, appropriate German equivalent. 'IT speak' (English terms and phrases) is becoming more and more part of our everyday (German) vocabulary. To support students using IT phrases accurately (prepositions often get mixed up with the way they are used in German, e.g. 'im Internet' – 'on the internet'), you can download an **overview of PC and internet phrases that appear in the text**. To encourage transfer, students should write their own personal sample sentences in the spaces provided.

'**Quick comprehension**' questions at the end of the text, and the extensive **Worksheet** (download from www.schooltours.at) offer flexible ways to reflect on the play and encourage students to talk about and exchange opinions.

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 (a cyber character)

Bent - a crook (a cyber character)

Kevin's parents

The characters will be performed by four actors.

The set:

The play takes place in a school IT room; Kevin's and Rita's bedrooms; a lift in the British Museum; and different locations within a gaming episode.

Virtual Heroes

by Clive Duncan

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 aims 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 embarrassed 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 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 winding her up¹. She's the swot² – 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 disaster³. 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 around the IT room⁴?

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

KEVIN: French!

MR. SMITH: Ah, non, Monsieur! Tu as une banane! Il est interdit de manger⁵...

Kevin points the banana again and says ...

KEVIN: Dog!

¹ Mir taugt es, sie zu ärgern (aufzuziehen)

² Streberin

³ ... jemand von einem schrecklichen Unglück bewahren

⁴ Was machst du da im Computerraum?

⁵ Oh nein, mein Herr, Sie haben eine Banane. Es ist hier verboten, zu essen ...

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

KEVIN: Big dog!

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

MR. SMITH: Ra! Ra! Ra! Grrrrrrruuuuuufffffff!

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

MR. SMITH: *getting up* – So put the banana away and we'll pretend I haven't seen it¹. I've dropped my exercise books. 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 ... split². 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. They leave.

KEVIN: It'd be some banana³ 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 doing some homework, and they let me get on with it⁶. What I'm really doing is playing online games – yeah, I know – my guilty pleasure⁷!

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. Just half an hour ...

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

Music – Fantasycraft

¹ ... und wir tun so, als hätte ich sie nicht gesehen.

² ... haben sich getrennt.

³ Das müsste schon eine Super-Banane sein (... die das bewirken könnte)

⁴ Banause, Loser

⁵ ... meistens kann ich es mir erlauben

⁶ ... und sie lassen mich einfach weitermachen

⁷ ... mein Laster

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

RITA: What's this? This isn't *Minecraft*. 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 *Fantasycraft*!
Find yourself on
WWW dot *Fantasycraft*.

RITA (*reading*): You have been redirected to [www dot Fantasycraft dot com](http://www.fantasycraft.com)¹.
Get a second life. Build yourself a dream. What rubbish²! Aaagh! It won't close down.

MAN: Please type in your name.

RITA: I haven't got time for this now!

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 *Fantasycraft* ...

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 avatar³?

¹ Sie wurden auf www.fantasycraft.com weitergeleitet

² So ein Quatsch!

³ Benutzerbild, das einem User in der virtuellen Welt zugeordnet wird

RITA: Sure...

Rita types as she speaks.

RITA: Human.

MAN: Sex?

RITA: Female.

The woman steps forward.

MAN: Height?

RITA: Five foot seven¹ ...

The woman smiles ...

RITA: No, five foot eight!

The woman makes herself taller ...

MAN: Clothes ...

RITA: Something folksy yet glamorous² ...

Rita continues typing... the man slips off the woman's coat to reveal the chosen outfit.

MAN: Measurements³?

RITA: Let's see...?

Rita types in the measurements and the woman puts her chest out ...

RITA: No ...

Rita types again and the woman sticks her chest out further ...

RITA: This is fantastic!

MAN: Waist⁴?

Rita types and the woman sucks her stomach in. 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: Profession⁵?

Rita types ...

SAPPHIRE: Hi, my name is Sapphire Stone and I'm an eco-activist⁶. I've had articles published in 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 over a million times...

¹ Ca 170 cm (engl. Längenmaß -> siehe Worksheet)

² So in die Richtung volkstümlich aber trotzdem schick (Boho)

³ Maße?

⁴ Taillenweite?

⁵ Beruf, Tätigkeitsbereich

⁶ Umweltaktivistin

Rita types ...

SAPPHIRE: Two million times. But all that is just a cover. I really work for ...

Kevin enters.

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

Rita begins to close the site down. Sapphire goes.

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

KEVIN: Surfing the web, more like¹. 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 prefect²!

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 wallet 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 weird³ ...

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 schoolwork.

RITA: How would you know? You don't know what schoolwork 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?

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?

¹ Sieht eher nach Surfen im Internet aus.

² Aufseher, Ordner (ältere/r Schüler*in)

³ ... du bist wirklich schwer daneben.

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 properly, like you mean it², 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. That'll go on *Tik Tok* later! Rita, I hope you haven't spent your lunch money on ... lunch!

Rita reaches into her bag and pulls out her purse.

RITA: £4.50. Here, take it.

She holds out the money.

SHARON: Nice purse ...

Rita hesitates 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 in⁴? 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 coward, right⁵? Let's look at the options⁶ ... this is what I really wanted to do ...

Kevin punches and kicks an imaginary 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 ...

¹ Gib deiner kleinen Freundin einen dicken, feuchten Kuss

² Wenn du sie nicht richtig küsst, so, als wenn es dir ernst wäre ...

³ Also mach schon, Miller. Mit der Zunge!

⁴ Was? Es tut dir leid, dass du da mitgemacht hast?

⁵ Ich bin ein Feigling, nicht wahr?

⁶ Schauen wir uns mal die Möglichkeiten (Optionen) an ...

Aaron hits Kevin again.

KEVIN: Ouch! Option three – tell someone. So, I tell a teacher, and Aaron gets detention, or has to leave school¹. What happens after that ...?

AARON: Grass²!

He hits Kevin again.

KEVIN: I'm running out of options³ here. One last one; the magic banana ... (*He pulls a banana from his pocket and points it at Aaron.*) Be a nice guy, Aaron.

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

Kevin picks up the banana.

KEVIN: Banana squasher! I'll get you for that⁴ ...! Who am I trying to kid⁵? If you stand up to bullies, you just get bullied⁶. 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 before class. The teachers will all be safely in the staff room ...

Kevin goes to the computer which Rita has been using.

KEVIN: I thought so, Rita has been surfing the web. What's this – Fantasycraft? 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: Cheesy⁷!

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 Fantasycraft

Find yourself on

WWW dot Fantasycraft.

KEVIN: Name? (*typing*) Kevin Miller.

WOMAN: Password?

KEVIN: Killer Miller.

WOMAN: Confirm your password.

¹ ... entweder Aaron muss nachsitzen oder er fliegt von der Schule

² Petze, Verräter

³ Mir gehen hier die Möglichkeiten aus ...

⁴ Bananenzerstörer! Das wirst du mir büßen!

⁵ Machen wir uns doch nichts vor!

⁶ Wenn du dich gegen Bullys wehrst, mobben sie dich noch mehr.

⁷ So ein Quatsch!

KEVIN: Killer Miller.

WOMAN: Welcome ...

MAN: Kevin Miller ...

WOMAN: To Fantasycraft ...

Music.

KEVIN: No!

Kevin stops the music.

WOMAN: Would you like to create your avatar?

KEVIN: Yes!

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

KEVIN: A giant penguin, perhaps? No, no – a massive octopus¹! 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 point² – there are probably other gamers. There might be ... girls! Right. ... (*He types*) ... Male. Six foot tall. Rugged-looking³ ...

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.

WOMAN: Profession?

KEVIN: Archaeologist! No, I can't spell that. Explorer. No. Historical explorer⁴!

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 preserved for the good of mankind⁵.

KEVIN: Cool! He even looks like me!

WOMAN: Welcome, Byron Tombs, to Fantasycraft. You can go anywhere, be anything you want to be, and if I may say so ... you look fantastic!

KEVIN: Wow!

BYRON: Thank you, miss, but if you'll excuse me, I've got to find the lost treasure of Tutankhamun's younger brother ...

KEVIN: That's what I call style⁶. But, sadly, I've got Biology in five minutes. I'm going back on, tonight, when I get home ...

Kevin types on the keyboard. Byron goes.

WOMAN: Goodbye, Byron Tombs. Come back soon.

¹ Ein Riesenpinguin vielleicht? Na – lieber ein riesiger Tintenfisch!

² Ja, genau – (Das ist eine Idee – ...)

³ Kräftig, mit markantem Aussehen ...

⁴ Archäologe! Nein, ich weiß nicht, wie man das schreibt ... Geschichtsforscher!

⁵ Ich suche vergessene Schätze ... damit sie erhalten bleiben, zum Wohle der Menschheit.

⁶ So was nenne ich mal Stil (vgl.: Das kann was!)

The woman goes.

KEVIN: I will, don't you worry¹. I can't wait till I can get home to my bedroom ...

The school bell rings.

Kevin rearranges the computer workstations and the panels...

Scene 2

KEVIN: Home at last! 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 appears.

BYRON: Ah, Egypt – land of the Pharaohs! Home of the pyramids. (*He pulls out a map.*) Now, according to my ancient map² – with the city of Alexandria behind me and the sun shining over the left shoulder when it's exactly two o'clock in the afternoon, the second pyramid on the left is where the treasure of Tutankhamun's younger brother has lain hidden for centuries³.

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 dealers⁴ who have been following you all the way from England. And guess what – you've led us right to the pyramid of Tutankhamun's younger brother. We'll take over from here⁵.

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

CROUCH: We are. The Golden Sphinx, to be precise⁶. 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 over⁷, 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 ...

¹ Das werde ich auch, keine Angst!

² Also, laut meiner historischen (Land)Karte ...

³ ... wo (der Schatz) seit Jahrhunderten verborgen sein soll.

⁴ Antiquitätenhändler

⁵ Ab jetzt sind wir dran.

⁶ Die Goldene Sphinx, um genau zu sein.

⁷ Her damit, Mr Tombs.

Sapphire Stone appears ...

SAPPHIRE: Not so fast.

CROUCH & BENT & BYRON: Who are you?

SAPPHIRE: I'm Sapphire Stone. I'm an eco-activist 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 with stealing the Golden Sphinx¹?

CROUCH: Can I have your autograph², Miss Stone?

BYRON: This is just the distraction³ 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 snatches it back and runs in the direction of the audience. Byron chases after him, whilst Bent tries to catch Sapphire. She responds with impressive karate moves. Crouch gets back to the acting area, rescues 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 yourself⁴.

SAPPHIRE: That's just a cover. I work for IRS: International Rescue Service.

BYRON: What a busy life!

SAPPHIRE: I've been following those two punks⁵ all the way from London.

BYRON: And they've been following me.

SAPPHIRE: What will they do with the Golden Sphinx?

BYRON: Sell it to someone who will hide it away and it won't be seen again for years and years. Or worse – they might melt it down⁶.

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 ... what a man ...

Rita sits at her PC. Kevin sits at his.

¹ Können wir weitermachen – wir sind gerade dabei, die Goldenen Sphinx zu rauben.

² Kann ich bitte ein Autogramm haben, Miss Stone?

³ Das ist genau die Ablenkung (Unaufmerksamkeit), die ich jetzt brauche

⁴ Für eine Sängerin weißt du aber genau, wie du dich durchschlagen kannst!

⁵ Ich folge diesen Mistkerlen schon von London aus.

⁶ Oder noch schlimmer, sie schmelzen sie ein.

RITA: Byron Tombs. Wow! I wonder if all the guys in Cyberworld 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: DM for Sapphire¹ – Sapphire, you have a message.

Sapphire goes.

RITA: Who can be DM-ing 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.

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 man². 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 up in the Fantasycraft chat room³? OK!

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

RITA: Oh, I'm not ... all that good-looking. Don't be fooled by my avatar⁴.

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?

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 bully me.

KEVIN: Really?

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

KEVIN: I hate bullies.

¹ Direct Message -> privater Kommunikationsmodus zw. Social-Media-Nutzern

² ... dann bin ich der Richtige.

³ Könnten wir uns vielleicht im Fantasycraft chat room treffen?

⁴ Lass dich nicht von meinem Avatar täuschen.

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 victim¹. And there's another thing – if you're being bullied you're a victim. I never asked to be a victim².

KEVIN: The important thing is to tell someone.

RITA: Grass them up? They'd only get back at you in the end³.

KEVIN: I meant: talk about it. Tell someone you can talk to. A problem shared is a problem halved⁴.

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 thought it was – at the time. I thought I must have done something wrong, because he didn't want to live with me and Mum. I just wondered why he didn't want to see me or talk to me?

RITA: He probably felt very guilty about you. Didn't know how to handle the guilt⁵.

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 tag⁶.

RITA: The IRS never reveal their true identities⁷. It's not safe on the web.

¹ Schikaniert zu werden ist ein echtes Problem, wenn man das Opfer ist.

² Ich habe ja nicht darum gebeten, ein Opfer zu sein.

³ Sie verraten? Sie würden es einem ja nur wieder heimzahlen.

⁴ Geteiltes Leid ist halbes Leid.

⁵ Er hat wahrscheinlich ... große Schuldgefühle gehabt und konnte damit nicht umgehen.

⁶ Pseudonym, *Nickname*

⁷ IRS-Leute geben niemals ihre wahre Identität preis.

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 lectures to teach on ... the lost world of the Magyars¹.

RITA: I'd love to watch you teach. It would be interesting.

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

Where's a hero
When you need one?
They all look the other way.
They read the rules on Health and Safety
And worry what the world might say.

I need a hero,
Not with muscles,
Don't need Thor or Superman.
Just a person who can hear me,
And will try to understand.

Oh, when life gets
Overwhelming,
When I'm lost out in the storm,
Need a hero who can find me.
Give me shelter, keep me warm.

I need a hero
For a rescue
Whenever trouble is at hand,

¹ Ich muss Vorlesungen über die untergegangene Welt der Magyaren halten.

Someone kind, who I can count on,
Someone I can call a friend.

Sapphire takes a bow and Byron appears.

BYRON: Sapphire, that was fantastic. I'm sorry I can't stay for the rest of the concert; my plane is about to leave for Peru¹ ...

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

BYRON: The lead I have on the Golden Sphinx is too important². 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.

Byron finds a poster on the floor ...

BYRON: What's this? International Antiques Fair³ – 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 disguise myself⁴ ...

He puts on a false moustache ...

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 rumour⁵ that you two have the Golden Sphinx.

CROUCH: That is correct. I also have in my possession⁶, Mr Graves, this ... (*He pulls a gun.*) Tie him up⁷.

¹ ... mein Flug nach Peru geht in Kürze.

² Die Spur zur Goldenen Sphinx ist wichtiger.

³ Internationale Antiquitätenmesse

⁴ ... aber vorher sollte ich mich unkenntlich machen.

⁵ Es gibt da ein Gerücht ...

⁶ Was ich auch noch in meinem Besitz habe ...

⁷ Fessle ihn.

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: Curses!¹

BENT: What are we going to do with him?

CROUCH: Set the bomb.

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 IRS might be, too. We have to get out of Lima, fast. A little explosion will get rid of Tombs and cause a diversion², giving us time to get to the airport and away.

Bent places a bomb under Byron's chair.

BYRON: You won't get away with this.

BENT: Watch us³.

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

CROUCH: Nice try⁴, 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 struggles in his chair but can't get out.

BYRON: It's no use, the rope is too tight. Perhaps I could dismantle the bomb with my feet⁵ ...

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 moustache⁶.

Sapphire pulls off Byron's moustache.

SAPPHIRE: Byron! What have they done to you?

She puts her arms around him.

¹ Verflucht!

² Eine kleine Explosion lässt Tombs verschwinden und lenkt (von uns) ab.

³ Sie werden es gleich sehen.

⁴ Guter Versuch, aber ...

⁵ Vielleicht kann ich die Bombe mit meinen Füßen unschädlich machen ...

⁶ Nimm meinen Schnurrbart runter.

BYRON: Let's not worry about that now ... There's a bomb underneath the chair and it's due to go off in fifty seconds¹.

SAPPHIRE: It's lucky I'm here. Thanks to the IRS I am an expert in all types of explosives². There is no bomb that I cannot dismantle. A small device like that one³ 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 untie you⁴.

She unties Byron from the chair.

BYRON: Thanks, Sapphire, I owe you one⁵.

SAPPHIRE: I'm sure you'll find a way to repay me.

BYRON: I will, but not now. We've not a moment to lose⁶. 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 clue⁷.

Byron picks it up and reads it.

SAPPHIRE: What does it say?

BYRON: I don't know.

SAPPHIRE: Is it in code⁸?

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 lucky. 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.

¹ ... und sie wird in 50 Sekunden explodieren ...

² ... eine Expertin für alle Arten von Sprengstoffen.

³ Eine kleines Gerät wie dieses ist kein Problem.

⁴ Lass mich dich losbinden (befreien).

⁵ ... dafür stehe ich in deiner Schuld.

⁶ Wir dürfen jetzt keine Zeit verlieren.

⁷ Der könnte einen Hinweis enthalten.

⁸ Ist er verschlüsselt (in Geheimschrift)?

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: And as criminal as Bent and Crouch, if he's prepared to buy the Golden
Sphinx.

SAPPHIRE: We must get the next plane to Vienna!

BYRON: There's no time to lose ...

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! Run!

More beeping, getting louder. Byron and Sapphire make a dash for it.

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 through my alarm²!

KEVIN: I shouldn't have stayed online 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. I mustn't forget to pack it.

KEVIN: I'll never make it 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.*

¹ Sie hat eine Schlummerschaltung.

² Ich habe den Wecker nicht gehört.

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 lucky¹, being allowed to spend lunchtime with me.

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: 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. If you must know I was up late chatting with my boyfriend online.

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 geek².

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

RITA: A beautiful girlfriend? Who would go out with you?

KEVIN: We're not actually going out – we're sort of ... internet dating³. But as soon as we can, we'll meet up in person⁴. 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?

¹ Du solltest dich glücklich schätzen (dass du die Mittagspause mit mir verbringen kannst)

² (Was weißt du schon über Beziehungen) ... du bist doch so ein Internetfreak.

³ ... wir daten sozusagen online.

⁴ ... werden wir uns persönlich treffen

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.

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 the song-writing and singing. And the bomb disposal was good¹.

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 wasted half the night³ 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*) I need a hero... For a rescue...

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? Well, so is kissing me when I don't want to be kissed!

KEVIN: I didn't want to.

RITA: But you did.

KEVIN: I didn't have a choice.

RITA: You could have chosen not to.

¹ Und die Bombenentschärfung war wirklich spitze.

² Sapphire, wir haben gerade unseren ersten Streit.

³ Wenn ich denke, dass ich die halbe Nacht verplempert habe ...

⁴ Warte nur, bis ich allen in der Klasse erzähle, wer du vorgibst zu sein ...

⁵ Ist mir doch egal.

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

RITA: If you won't mention¹ 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 me².

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

Music – Fantasycraft

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 other.

SAPPHIRE: Hmm. No more chasing criminals, 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 full of gigabytes

¹ Wenn du nichts von der Sache erwähnst, sage ich auch nichts.

² Passt.

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 einfach 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 PS5
But there's no firewall I won't scale
So don't delete or block my mail
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 DM him ... 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 messages? 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 Fantasycraft from my favourites ... there! Gone.

As Kevin turns away from his PC.

RITA: From Rita. No ... Love Rita. (*Thinks*) Kiss. Send!

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

RITA: Kevin is not responding. I don't blame him¹. I wish I hadn't DM'd 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?

Kevin puts his hand up ...

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

² Fertig ausgefüllt

³ Kein Herumgeblödel ...

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 DM, Kevin?
 KEVIN: What DM?
 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 stuck with you²?
 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 stuck³, 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 Warum bleibe ich immer bei dir hängen (d.h. warum kann ich dich nicht abschütteln)

³ Der Lift ist stecken geblieben ...

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 trapped 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 attention to ourselves³.
KEVIN: You weren't like this when we were on Fantasycraft 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 help us.
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 IRS.
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 ...
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.

¹ Das ist wahrscheinlich ein Stromausfall.

² Ich bin mit einem Dummkopf in einem Lift stecken geblieben.

³ ... die Aufmerksamkeit auf uns lenken (auf uns aufmerksam machen)

⁴ Ich bin die Grundlage für ihn ...

RITA: Then what?

KEVIN: Then ... he'd shoot a thin wire up to the top of the lift shaft², 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 reconnect the power⁵!

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 IRS and get them to send the boys around ...

Kevin uses the banana like a phone..

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

Kevin suddenly laughs and smacks his forehead.

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 up, that's who we want to be⁶ – it's another version of 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.

¹ ... ok, da ist eine Falltüre.

² Er würde ein dünnes Drahtseil den Liftschacht hoch schießen ...

³ ... an dessen Ende ein Haken befestigt ist ...

⁴ der praktischerweise an einem Mauervorsprung hängen bleibt ...

⁵ ... damit sie den Strom wieder anschließen.

⁶ ... wir haben sie erfunden, so möchten wir eigentlich sein ...

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 IRS.

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 and Sharon get into the lift.*

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 that³.

SHARON: Aaron!

AARON: Hand it over, Miller.

¹ Sie müssen nur den FI-Schalter (Kontrollschalter für Stromkreis) wieder einschalten.

² Halt die Klappe (keinen Mucks)!

³ Darauf werde ich aufpassen.

KEVIN: It's Tombs, Byron Tombs.

AARON: He's nuts¹.

SHARON: Hit him, Aaron.

Aaron punches Kevin in the stomach.

RITA: No!

SHARON: Worried about your boyfriend? Ah, so touching² ...

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 cause by beating me up³.

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.

Not only are you not getting the purse, but you've physically attacked me and it's all on the Museum's CCTV cameras⁴. (*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?

KEVIN: Nah! Well – a bit. Actually it hurt a lot.

RITA: I'm sorry.

¹ Der spinnt.

² Ach, wie rührend ...

³ Die Freude, die es mir macht, mich gegen euch Widerlinge zu wehren, wiegt die Schmerzen, die ihr mir verursacht, auf.

⁴ ... es ist alles auf den Überwachungskameras des Museums zu sehen.

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 finish 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, IRS? Could you log me in to Fantascraft ...

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

No, it don't cost a penny
To give someone a smile,
Or ask how they're doing
And linger¹ awhile.

There's too many lonely
Locked down in despair.

No, it don't cost a penny
To show that you care.

Reach out to each other,
Try a walk in their shoes.
And just don't turn away
To give someone the blues.

The End.

¹ verweilen

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 ‚Fantasycraft‘ 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?