



# The Village

Abi Falase & Tatenda Shamiso



## **Characters**

NEWSCASTER

MISSY

KYLE

CHIOMA

VERONICA

CHARLIE

INVIGILATOR

CLOUD

JULIAN

ZACHARY

ISLA

LARRY

PRIME MINISTER

FLORENCE

DEAN

DANIEL

ASHLEY

DARCY

TAMAYA

CHIEF MEDIATOR

CLAIRE

ANA

ADNAN

PROTESTERS

## **Note**

Where a line starts or ends with a dash ( – ) it is an interruption or the continuation of an interrupted line.

A lot of inspiration was taken from our original cast, we encourage future cast members to feel free to make the language and the characters your own.

## Scene One: Unrest and Revolution

*A series of breaking-news broadcasts which build and overlap.*

NEWSCASTER. The Department of Education has cancelled all resits for all GCSE and A level students indefinitely. The nation is asking: do young people deserve a second chance at a better future?

NEWSCASTER. Alexander Graham succeeds over Sheila O'Reily in a recent party leadership election, Graham states he is ready to affect change, effective immediately.

NEWSCASTER. The voting age in the UK is to be increased to twenty-one.

NEWSCASTER. Maths, English and at least one science-based subject are to be compulsory up to A level, new Education Minister states.

NEWSCASTER. Alexander Graham has stepped down as party leader.

NEWSCASTER. Parts of London are to be considered uninhabitable due to flooding in the next five years.

NEWSCASTER. The Department of Health is curtailing mental health services for young people.

NEWSCASTER. Young people across the country are –

*BOOM! An explosion. Sirens and the sound of protest. YOUNG PEOPLE flood the stage, they march, they chant, they yell. The noise dissipates as people leave the stage.*

MISSY. Are we ready?

KYLE. A lot of this seems pointless, man.

CHIOMA. And how is a flash mob gonna get our demands met?

KYLE. And gardening? Really? We need to riot!

VERONICA. I think it'll be sick if we burn it all down. I think that's very on-brand for me.

CHARLIE. It's not just gardening... it's guerilla gardening, a form of protest, raising food, plants, or flowers – on public land... by using guerrilla gardening as a form of protest or direct action...

*They all groan.*

CHIOMA. Yes, thank you, Mr Encyclopaedia.

VERONICA. I love you, but you are boring.

MISSY. Listen, the fact of the matter is that, for this to work, we need well-coordinated protests on multiple fronts, all at once. We've been building momentum for almost a year now. This isn't the time to slow down.

CHARLIE. We need to overwhelm them. Just rioting won't work.

Has everyone got their factions in order?

*They mumble unsatisfactorily.*

Good, we go at midnight.

*A range of protests! Both disruptive and mildly inconvenient. The different factions show both aggression and restraint.*

MISSY. Charlie, you know what to do. Kyle, get your deputies ready to lead the occupation of the Department of Education and Parliament.

KYLE. We need to attack transport.

MISSY. The sheer number of people commuting to protest will take care of that. Chi, you're on education.

*RING! School bell. The exam room.*

INVIGILATOR. You have sixty minutes to complete this exam. The start time is 11:04 and the finish time is 12:04. I will let you know when there are five minutes of the exam left... You may open your question papers and begin.

*The STUDENTS stand up and walk out.*

NEWSCASTER. Breaking news, teenagers across England have boycotted their exams.

MISSY. Veronica, you're on media.

NEWSCASTER. Breaking news, the United Kingdom is at a standstill. Teenagers across England have launched a number of protests against...

*Flash-mob troupe enter.*

VERONICA. We interrupt this very boring broadcast to bring you a special message from the Youth of England! We're over it, kisses. Please enjoy the next twenty-four hours of non-stop, somewhat poorly choreographed flash mobs. From us, to you, mwah. Oh and changing the channel won't work... we're everywhere, baby. Follow me on all socials @veronicaunlisted

*Flash mob begins, clapping.*

CLOUD. Rishi wants to take away the arts!

ALL. Rishi wants to take away the arts!

JULIAN/ZACHARY/ISLA (*sung*). Take away the arts!

CLOUD. He wants us to do Maths and English!

ALL. He wants us to do Maths and English!

JULIAN/ZACHARY/ISLA (*sung*). Maths, Maths, Maths and English!

CLOUD. Arts sets us apart from animals!

ALL. Arts sets us apart from animals!

JULIAN/ZACHARY/ISLA (*sung*). Animals!

*Clapping stops.*

CLOUD. And if you want animals, we'll give you animals

ALL. Woof, woof, woof!

*They all leave the stage, except LARRY.*

LARRY. Bark, bark, bar-

CHIEF MEDIATOR. Get off stage, Larry!

LARRY. How do you know it's me?!

LARRY *exists*.

## Scene Two: Brave New World

CHIOMA and VERONICA stand in anticipation, nervously pacing. CHARLIE walks in with gardening tools in his hands.

CHARLIE. Have we heard yet?

CHIOMA. Yes, Sherlock. We're pacing anxiously because all our demands have been met and everything's right with the world.

CHARLIE. Uncalled for.

KYLE enters, breathing heavily. He struggles to catch his breath.

KYLE. Guys! Guys.

CHIOMA. Anytime today, love.

VERONICA. Oooh, Missy is –

KYLE takes one last interruptive breath.

KYLE. Missy is going live

They gather around VERONICA's phone.

PRIME MINISTER. We have come to an agreement with the Youth for Today to bring an end to the numerous attacks and civil unrest within our nation. A message to our children: we want to assure you, you have been seen, your cries have been heard –

MISSY. Okay that's enough of that crap. People of this poorly constructed nation built on the backs of the marginalised, for too long you have held young people hostage, and we have had enough. Our Prime Minister has granted us a budget of one hundred million pounds a year to pilot our Youth Emancipation Programme. It's time to govern ourselves!

VERONICA. Yasss Missy!

CHIOMA. Devoured!

CHARLIE. Is this actually happening?

KYLE. Fuck order!

VERONICA. Shit, I have so much packing to do. Oh Missy just texted, she's round the corner.

MISSY enters, they all celebrate her.

MISSY. Thanks, guys. We got most of what we wanted, but there are prerequisites.

KYLE. What?

CHARLIE. Prerequisites are basically when –

KYLE. I mean, what are said prerequisites?

MISSY. We are subject to review in two years, population is capped at five thousand and we have less than two months to get this set up and going or we all go to juvie for delinquent behaviour.

CHIOMA. That's calm. Our choices are rebuilding an entire civilisation from scratch in two months or...

VERONICA....Or prison.

MISSY. Prison for all involved would have been way too expensive so making this work is in everyone's best interest. So I guess, let's get to work!

*Overlapping social media content.*

FLORENCE. Hi everyone ;) ☺ I'm just doing a live tonight cos a lot of my friends, so many friends, all the time, all my MANY many friends keep asking why I'm going to the Youth Emancipation village, drop your questions in the comments, I'll start with my usual answer why.

DEAN. – I'm going cos I want to find a new space to be myself outside the system.

CLOUD. – I'm going so I can spend my time communing with the natural world, and letting other young people inspire me, instead of –

DEAN. – Instead of spending all my time ticking boxes and fitting stereotypes and doing what *everyone else is doing*, I want to break out of the mould.

FLORENCE. I'm gonna meet so many people.

DEAN. Everyone always says young people are the future and I think they're right, so –

FLORENCE. – I'm taking five swimming costumes. As I said earlier in this video, I'm packing as modestly as I can.

FLORENCE. Tell your friends to follow me if you want to make their FOMO worse.

DEAN. I'll probably stop posting once I'm there. Screw social media.

CLOUD. The revolution will not be televised. It'll be all over my TikTok ;)

### **Scene Three: Incoming**

*Mockumentary interviews.*

DANIEL. Am I supposed to look here, or... over there...? Here? Okay.

ISLA. This microphone feels funny on my collar.

ASHLEY. My name? Ashley Campbell. I'm sixteen.

JULIAN (*at the same time as ISLA*). Julian Fimister.

ISLA (*at the same time as JULIAN*). Isla Fimister.

*They chuckle. Rival sibling energy right below the surface.*

JULIAN (*at the same time as ISLA*). Julian Fimister.

ISLA (*at the same time as JULIAN*). Isla Fimister.

*They look at each other.*

JULIAN. I'M JULIAN.

ISLA. AND I'M ISLA. Fimister.

JULIAN. Fimister.

ISLA. Fourteen.

JULIAN. Fifteen.

DANIEL. My name is Daniel Afari-Wilcott. I'm seventeen years old.

ASHLEY. Yeah, I heard they were bringing more people in now that they're a year into the programme, and I finally got the guts to leave home. I want to stamp my name on history, and engage in a little bit of anarchy.

*Beat.*

Do you interview all the new people, or am I just special?

DANIEL. I guess I'll be one of the oldest people here. I could've come from the start but I didn't really want to leave my parents, and some other things... I don't really want to get into it. Once they made a new entry window I decided it was time to be a part of this for real. It's a perfect opportunity for our generation to prove ourselves to the world.

JULIAN. Oh, we simply had to go.

ISLA. We were living under – abhorrent conditions.

JULIAN. Abhorrent.

ISLA. Mummy breathing down our necks.

JULIAN. *Daddy* nowhere to be found.

ISLA. Nowhere.

JULIAN. And then the truly terrible thing happened.

*Beat.*

I can't even say it aloud.

ISLA. They. SOLD. My third favourite horsie. Said it was the cost of living crisis. Whatever that means.

JULIAN. So we've had to put our foot down.

ISLA. I wasn't expecting we'd be in a documentary, though.

ZACHARY and KYLE *enter*.

ZACHARY *and* KYLE. Hello!

ZACHARY. Just popping in!

DANIEL *and* KYLE *greet each other silently*. JULIAN *whips out his phone and starts filming*.

KYLE. Ashley, Isla, Julian, Daniel.

DANIEL *smiles at* KYLE.

ASHLEY. And you are?

KYLE. We're your induction team! My name is Kyle.

ZACHARY. My name is Zachary. It's short for Zach.

KYLE. We're so excited to welcome you into our community. Over today, Zachary and I will be introducing you to the way things work around here. You'll have a tour of our justice system, education, and of course how we've been governing ourselves.

ZACHARY. You'll be assigned homes, jobs –

JULIAN. Sorry, jobs?

ZACHARY. Of course! We all play a role in keeping this place running.

ISLA. Don't you have housekeepers for things like that?

KYLE. We've built this society on bare bones. I'm sure you'll be impressed with how it's turned out, though.

ZACHARY. Right! I think it's time to begin. Follow me.

*They cross to meet* CLOUD.

We will begin with an interpretive dance by our poet laureate, Cloud.

ASHLEY. Cloud...

KYLE. Yes, Cloud.

ZACHARY. Most people rename themselves when they arrive – it's best not to ask questions.

Anyways, gather round please for the beginning of the ceremony.

*The national anthem plays, and CLOUD does their classic welcoming-induction-celebration-ritual dance. KYLE and ZACH may be tearing up by the end of this performance.*

KYLE. Thank you, Cloud.

ZACHARY. So much.

JULIAN *(to ISLA)*. I actually found that quite moving.

KYLE. We'd now like to personally introduce you to our high council! This is a very special opportunity, we rarely see them outside of our weekly Q&A livestreams.

*The high council enters.*

ZACHARY. They're here! Julian, Isla, Ashley, Daniel... This is our high council! Introducing Missy Evans, Chioma Wright, Veronica, Charlie Sanford, and Adnan Khan. Some are founding members of our society, and all have been fairly, democratically elected.

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