

# **Detention**

**By**

**Rachel Loveday**

**© 2012**

# **INFORMATION ON THE PLAY**

**Duration of the Play: 7 minutes**

**Time and Setting: Australian High School English Classroom. Now.**

## **CHARACTERS**

- 1. Mia (Year 12 student)**
- 2. Alex (Year 12 student)**
- 3. Miss Sloane (the English teacher)**

## **SET DESCRIPTION**

**An empty High School English classroom with a few empty chairs and desks. Blackboards and posters adorn all three walls.**

**DETENTION (as defined by the Oxford Dictionary):**

- 1. The action of detaining someone or the state of being detained in official custody.**
- 2. The punishment of being kept in school after hours.**

*The sound of a bell ringing, to tell that it's lunch time.*

*The sounds of high school students laughing and chatting offstage.*

*Lights Up.*

**MIA and ALEX** walk in stage left, through the classroom door.

*Once they're on stage, they walk towards the front of the stage, they are facing each other and they don't sit down.*

ALEX: Well, that didn't work, we only got detention, not a walk to the principal's office to get a 'stern talking to.'

MIA: We only mouthed off to Miss Sloane, if you wanted us to end up at Mr Holland's office, we should have mouthed off to Mr Bens he's the head teacher, we would have gotten into way more trouble with him.

ALEX: Okay okay, it was a bad idea, I screwed up. What do we do now?

MIA: I think mouthing off to Mr Bens or any other teacher isn't gonna fly since we mouthed off to Miss Sloane, and I think we need to think big.

ALEX: How big?

MIA: Not too big that we'll expelled, just big enough that we'll be able to get into Mr Holland's office.

ALEX: And then what? How are we going to get into his office just to get him out of it?

MIA: I don't know, maybe you'll distract him outside or something?

ALEX: How can I be outside distracting him, if I'm stuck in his office with you?

MIA: Oh yeah, didn't think about that. Well, what if we find someone to distract him for us?

ALEX: No way, no one else can get involved, that'll just get them into trouble, it has to be just us.

MIA: Okay. What if....you pretend to be sick, pretend your appendix is about to explode?

ALEX: He'll probably call the nurse into his office to get me out of there. we need to think of something that will definitely get him out of his office.

MIA: What if we wait until lunch time?

ALEX: He might have lunch in his office.

MIA: No, he'd probably have it in the teacher's lounge with the rest of them.

ALEX: Probably? That's not good enough and even if he did, how are we going to be able to get into his office without being seen?

MIA: He gets his lunch from the canteen, maybe I can volunteer for canteen duty and bring it to him whilst he's in the lounge and I can 'conveniently' get lost on my way out.

ALEX: Okay, that could work, that could get you into the office and then what? You don't know what you're looking for or where to look.

MIA: Well his computer would be a good place to start.

ALEX: What if its password protected?

MIA: There are plenty of ways to get around it.

ALEX: And if you don't find anything on the computer?

MIA: I'll go through his desk.

ALEX: Most teachers lock their desks.

MIA: I know how to pick a lock.

ALEX: Okay, and how long do you think that is going to take? Even if you do find some evidence, you have to put everything back the way it was and that will take you even more time.

MIA: It'll be fine, I can do it.

ALEX: Are you sure you'll be able to find evidence in his office?

MIA: I'm not just sure, I know I'll be able to. He kept me there for half an hour.

*(Pause)*

MIA: Look if you're not sure about this, then leave. I don't need you.

ALEX: Even if you do find evidence, he's the principal and a very well-known and highly regarded one. Taking him on isn't going to be easy. You'll need a good solicitor, and my Dad's the best one in town.

MIA: Have you told your Dad about this?

ALEX: Of course not.

MIA: Well if he's gonna be my solicitor, you're gonna have to tell him. I don't know a lot about the law, but he's gonna ask me where I got the evidence.

ALEX: You can tell him and tell him the truth. He doesn't need to know that I'm involved.

MIA: What? You don't want to be daddy's big hero?

ALEX: If he knows I'm involved, it'll be a huge conflict of interest, and he won't be able to help.

MIA: No one is going to believe that I got the evidence all by myself and your dad's gonna wonder why I came to him, especially since we both go to the same school. He won't believe it's just a coincidence.

ALEX: Just get the evidence you need, call my dad's office and make an appointment and if he does ask, just say that you saw his ad in the phonebook or on a bus or something.

MIA: Alright, but if you do get asked questions—

ALEX: Don't worry, I know what to say.

*(Pause)*

*ALEX sits down on a desk. MIA takes a deep breath and sits down on the desk next to him, facing him.*

*(Pause)*

ALEX: Are you sure you really want to do this? Why not just go to the police?

MIA: I did go to the police. I did everything I was supposed to do. I gave a statement, gave them his name, had the exams, I did everything right and it got me nowhere. They said they couldn't go forward because they didn't have enough evidence, so I'm getting them some. So, yeah I am sure. And like I said, leave if you're not sure about this, and if you're not sure, don't try to help me or anyone next time.

ALEX: If I wasn't sure and if I didn't want to help, I wouldn't be sitting here right now. I just wanted to make sure that you're sure.

MIA: I couldn't be more fucking sure.

*(Pause)*

MIA: You know even if this does work, there would be more girls, I wouldn't be the only one. I can help myself, but how can I help the others?

ALEX: I don't know. Maybe if you come forward, others will. Maybe you'll get really lucky and find some of the evidence.

MIA: Yeah maybe. I've asked you this before but I need to ask you

again...why are you helping me?

ALEX: Well, I don't know about other people, but when you tell me that the principal.....now that I know I can't just do nothing.

MIA: Thank you.

ALEX: You're welcome.

*(Pause)*

ALEX: So is the plan clear?

MIA: Yeah, I'm going to volunteer for canteen duty so I can bring him his lunch to the teacher's lounge, so that I can get 'conveniently' lost on my way out and find myself in his office and go through his computer and his desk to try and find the evidence that I need, put everything back the way it was when I'm done. And then I'll call your dad's office and make an appointment to see him.

ALEX: You're right, you don't need me.

MIA: No actually I do, I couldn't do this without you.

ALEX: With that plan you can do it without me, but I'm not going anywhere.

MIA: And now that we have a new plan, we got into detention for nothing.

ALEX: If we weren't in detention right now, we probably wouldn't have thought of this plan.

MIA: I guess so. But how are we going to get out of it?

ALEX: It's Miss Sloane, she'll keep us in here for a few more minutes and then she'll let us go.

MIA: Do you think she overheard us?

ALEX: No, she'll be too busy eating her lunch and even if she did, you can explain your story to her. Speaking of which, why didn't you tell a teacher?

MIA: Come on, you and I both know that teachers never side with 'kids' they only look out for themselves. I'd probably get expelled.

ALEX: And getting expelled would be a bad thing?

MIA: Yes because if I get expelled, I have no way of getting the evidence I need.

ALEX: Are you sure he hasn't got rid of it himself?

MIA: I told you, he kept me there for half an hour, I know he didn't.

ALEX: So...other than me and the police, who else knows about this?

MIA: My parents. Although they didn't believe me.

ALEX: Why not?

MIA: My dad's friends with him.

ALEX: Oh....so your dad's friends with him, what about your mum, why didn't she believe you?

MIA: I don't know.

ALEX: So you've been dealing with this on your own?

MIA: I have you.

ALEX: I guess so, but I don't really know how to be a good friend in this situation.

MIA: You've been great, don't worry.

ALEX: That's good to know.

*(Pause)*

ALEX: So when do you think you'll do it?

MIA: I'm thinking tomorrow. It's lunch time on sports day, it'll be chaos, and the perfect time.

ALEX: I'm not in this little plan of yours, but I still want to help, what do you want me to do?

MIA: Watch my back.

ALEX: Definitely.

*The door opens, both **MIA** and **ALEX** look stage left. **MISS SLOANE** is standing in the doorway, holding the door open with her right arm.*

MISS SLOANE: You two can go now.

***MIA** and **ALEX** get off the desks that they were sitting on and walk towards the door. **MISS SLOANE** remains standing in the doorway.*

MISS SLOANE: You two are my best students, not only were you behaving

badly, you weren't behaving like yourselves.

MIA: We're just stressed out with the HSC coming up, it won't happen again.

ALEX: We're sorry Miss Sloane.

MISS SLOANE: Apology accepted, but I don't want to hear those words come out of your mouths again.

MIA: You won't.

MISS SLOANE: Okay, off you go.

**MISS SLOANE, MIA and ALEX walk out through the doorway, stage left. MISS SLOANE closes the door behind her.**

*Lights Fade.*