

SIDE 1

ED, CHRISTOPHER, SIOBHAN

CHRISTOPHER

I think dogs are important too.

ED

Leave it.

CHRISTOPHER

I wonder if the police will find out who killed him and punish the person.

ED

I said leave it, for God's sake.

CHRISTOPHER

Are you sad about Wellington?

ED

Yes, Christopher, you could say that. You could very well say that.

SIOBHAN (*reads more from the book*)

Mother died two years ago.

ED

Christopher, have you seen your mum?

CHRISTOPHER

No.

SIOBHAN

He went downstairs and started making some phone calls. I did not hear what he said. Then he came up to my room and said he had to go out for a while and he wasn't sure how long he would be. He said that if I needed anything, I should call him on his mobile phone.

Some of the COMPANY look at SIOBHAN or CHRISTOPHER or ED, waiting to find out what happens next.

SIOBHAN

He was away for two and a half hours. When he came back, I went downstairs.

Other characters watch CHRISTOPHER as he approaches ED. ED doesn't look at CHRISTOPHER. There is some time before ED speaks.

ED

I am afraid you won't be seeing your mother for a while.

CHRISTOPHER

Why not?

ED

Your mother has had to go into hospital.

CHRISTOPHER

Can we visit her?

ED

No.

CHRISTOPHER

Why can't we?

ED

She needs rest. She needs to be on her own.

CHRISTOPHER

Is it a psychiatric hospital?

ED

No, it's an ordinary hospital. She has a problem... a problem with her heart.

CHRISTOPHER

We will need to take food to her.

ED

I'll take some to her during the day when you're at school and I'll give it to the doctors and they can give it to your mum, okay?

CHRISTOPHER

But you can't cook.

ED

Christopher. Look. I'll buy some ready-made stuff from Marks and Spencer's and take those in. She likes those.

CHRISTOPHER

I'll make her a get well card. If I make her a get well card, will you take it in for her tomorrow?

SIOBHAN

How are you today, Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER

I am very well, thank you.

SIOBHAN

That's good.

CHRISTOPHER

In the bus on the way to school, we passed four red cars in a row.

SIOBHAN

Four?

CHRISTOPHER

So today is a Good Day.

SIOBHAN

Great. I am glad.

CHRISTOPHER

I've decided I am going to try and find out who killed Wellington because a Good Day is a day for projects and planning things.

SIDE 2

CHRISTOPHER, MRS. ALEXANDER

CHRISTOPHER

Do you know anything about Wellington getting killed?

MRS. ALEXANDER

I'm afraid you're going to have to say that again. I'm a little deaf.

CHRISTOPHER

Do you know anything about Wellington getting killed?

MRS. ALEXANDER

I heard about it yesterday. Dreadful. Dreadful.

CHRISTOPHER

Do you know who killed him?

MRS. ALEXANDER

No, I don't.

CHRISTOPHER

Somebody must know, because the person who killed Wellington knows that they killed Wellington. Unless they were a mad person and didn't know what they were doing. Or unless they had amnesia.

MRS. ALEXANDER

Well, I suppose you're probably right.

CHRISTOPHER

Thank you for helping me with my investigation.

MRS. ALEXANDER

You're Christopher, aren't you?

CHRISTOPHER

Yes. I live at Number 36.

MRS. ALEXANDER

We haven't talked before, have we?

CHRISTOPHER

No. I don't talk to strangers. But I'm doing detective work

MRS. ALEXANDER

I see you every day, going to school. It's very nice of you to come and say hello. Even if it's only because you're doing detective work.

CHRISTOPHER

Thank you.

MRS. ALEXANDER

I have a grandson your age.

CHRISTOPHER

My age is 15 years and 3 months and 3 days.

MRS. ALEXANDER

Well, almost your age. You don't have a dog, do you?

CHRISTOPHER

No.

MRS. ALEXANDER

You'd probably like a dog, wouldn't you?

CHRISTOPHER

I have a rat.

MRS. ALEXANDER

A rat?

CHRISTOPHER

He's called Toby.

MRS. ALEXANDER

Oh.

CHRISTOPHER

Most people don't like rats because they think they carry diseases like bubonic plague. But that's only because they lived in sewers and stowed away on ships coming from foreign countries, where there were strange diseases. But rats are very clean.

MRS. ALEXANDER

Do you want to come in for tea?

CHRISTOPHER

I don't go into other people's houses.

MRS. ALEXANDER

Well, maybe I could bring some tea out here. Do you like lemon squash?

CHRISTOPHER

I only like orange squash.

MRS. ALEXANDER

Luckily, I have some of that as well. And what about Battenberg?

CHRISTOPHER

I don't know because I don't know what Battenberg is.

MRS. ALEXANDER

It's a kind of cake. It has marzipan icing around the edge.

CHRISTOPHER

Is it a long cake with a square cross section which is divided into equally sized, alternately colored squares?

MRS. ALEXANDER

Yes, I think you could probably describe it like that.

CHRISTOPHER

I think I'd like the pink squares, but not the yellow squares because I don't like yellow. And I don't know what marzipan is, so I don't know whether I'll like that.

MRS. ALEXANDER

I'm afraid marzipan is yellow too. Perhaps I should bring out some biscuits instead. Do you like biscuits?

CHRISTOPHER

Yes. Some sorts of biscuits.

MRS. ALEXANDER

I'll get a selection.

JUDY

Dear Christopher,

Do you remember when we went shopping in town together? And we went into Bentnall's and it was really crowded and we had to get a Christmas present for Grandma? And you were frightened because of all the people in the shop. It was the middle of Christmas shopping when everyone was in town. And I was talking to Mr. Land who works on the kitchen floor and went to school with me. And you crouched down on the floor and put your hands over your ears and you were in the way of everyone so I got cross because I don't like shopping at Christmas either, and I told you to behave and I tried to pick you up and move you. But you shouted and you knocked those mixers off the shelf and there was a big crash. And everyone turned round to see what was going on and Mr. Land was really nice about it but there were boxes and bits of string and bits of broken bowl on the floor and everyone was staring and I saw that you had wet yourself and I was so cross and I wanted to take you out of the shop but you wouldn't let me touch you and you just lay on the floor and screamed and banged your hands and feet on the floor and the manager came and asked me what the problem was and I was at the end of my tether and I had to pay for two broken mixers and we just had to wait until you stopped screaming. And then I had to walk you all the way home, which took hours because I knew you wouldn't go on the bus again.

And I remember that night I just cried and cried and cried, and your father was really nice about it at first and he made you supper and put you to bed and he said these things happen and it would be OK.

SIDE 4

ED, CHRISTOPHER, MRS. ALEXANDER

ED

What is this?

CHRISTOPHER looks at ED.

CHRISTOPHER

It's a book I'm writing.

ED

Is this true? Did you speak to Mrs. Alexander?

CHRISTOPHER

Yes.

ED

Jesus Christopher, how stupid are you? What the hell did I tell you, Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER

Not to mention Mr. Shears' name in the house. And not to go asking Mrs. Shears, or anyone, about who killed that bloody dog. And not to go trespassing on other people's gardens. And to stop this bloody ridiculous detective game. Except I haven't done any of those things. I just asked Mrs. Alexander about Mr. Shears because...

ED

Don't give me that bollocks, you little shit. You knew exactly what you were bloody doin. I've read the book, remember. What else did I say, Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER

I don't know.

ED

Come on, you're the memory man. Not to go round sticking your fucking nose into other people's business? And what do you do? You go round sticking your nose into other people's business. You go around raking up the past and sharing it with every Tom, Dick and Harry you bump into. What am I going to do with you, Christopher? What am I going to do with you, Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER

I was just chatting with Mrs. Alexander. I wasn't doing investigating.

ED

I ask you to do one thing for me, Christopher. One thing.