

The S Club After Party

Rehearsal Draft 03/02/23

Written and Created by Olisa Odele
Additional Material by the Cast

Inspired by life and stuff

Cast of Characters

MOLLIE:

NICOLE:

SIMONE:

MELODY:

LEE:

SERENA:

DEENA:

JUSTIN:

ROBIN:

MAX:

VANESSA:

MAMA NICOLE:

ELLIE:

VINNIE:

JIMMY:

NICOLE AND ROBIN:

ASHLEY:

AVA:

DIRECTOR:

AVA GLAM:

ALL:

Pre Show

Party music blares. The stage fills with the ensemble separated in their character groups mingling as if at a house party. Nicole is teaching her friends the "S Club party" dance routine. The music stops and the lights are dimmed. The ensemble sing "Happy birthday" to Nicole. They use their phone lights as candles and Nicole makes a wish.

SONG "S CLUB PARTY"

The ensemble dance to the song! The song finishes and the ensemble exit the stage apart from Lee, Vanessa, Nicole, Simone, Mollie and Melody. We see Vanessa and Lee at the door in conversation. They hug politely and say their goodbyes.

MOLLIE

Are you leaving the house much?

NICOLE

Here and there. Daily walks, food shopping-

SIMONE

Essential trips? Lockdown all over again

MOLLIE

Don't wanna hear that-

SIMONE

Miss undiagnosed PTSD over here. What do you think of your surprise guest?

Nicole is confused, Simone indicates to Melody who is sat talking to lee.

NICOLE

Yeah i dunno. She seems nice-

MOLLIE

We knew you'd click! You've got some so much in common

Melody and Lee walk over

NICOLE

Could've given me a heads up before you brought her to my dads house

Pause

SIMONE
Why?

NICOLE
Because thats what people normally do, it's polite
no?

MELODY
I did say it might be weird if I just showed up
unannounced.

SIMONE
A friend of ours is a friend of yours Nicole. what's
with the formalities?

NICOLE
No i'm just saying i would've prepared-

MELODY
My brothers on his way, i can wait outside?

NICOLE
This is silly. Im glad to be acquainted with you
Melody. I hope to get to know you properly when the
time permits.

MELODY
Likewise

*Nicole goes for a handshake, melody goes for a
hug.*

LEE
This is weird

Serena enters, she's ready to leave the party.

SERENA
Nicole!

*Nicole rushes over to Serena glad to be out of
the conversation.*

SERENA
You failed the vibe check again. The music was whack
and you were line dancing most of the night. It was
giving year 6 disco

NICOLE

(calmly)
Thank you for your unsolicited feedback

SERENA

You're welcome! I only say it because our mothers are friends and for now I have to keep attending your parties.

Deena walks over with their coats and a bag of snacks.

NICOLE

I look forward to trying her cupcakes

SERENA

I took them back.

SERENA

(to Deena)
You owe me a tenner.
(gesturing to nicole)
She hasn't cut off her hair

DEENA

She could be wearing a wig? I thought they sent her to the military

SERENA

This isn't America

NICOLE

I'm just homeschooled

DEENA

Jesus, you already lacked social integration. I can see you in your room performing the Lion King with your teddy bears.

Justin enters, Swarve, dressed up to the nines.

JUSTIN

(declaring to the room)
The party was dead but the chicken wings were very much alive

MOLLIE

I should hope not

JUSTIN

Our Uber has arrived! Your dads a top geezer, man can

cook! I got him to pack me some Souvla for the road.

NICOLE
great-

JUSTIN
Tell him, I'll be back for Greek easter and I want
some Makaronia Tou Fournou. Deuces

SERENA
Tell your friends not to talk to us in school.

NICOLE
Sure thing

*They exit stage. Nicole lets out a large sigh of
relief.*

SIMONE
Why did you invite them ?

NICOLE
"We used to car pool in the mornings, you and Justin
played tennis"

LEE
I hate it when do they do that!

SIMONE
Your friends kids are not automatically gonna be my
friends.

NICOLE
So you've been spending a lot of time together, as a
group?

MELODY
Yeah, we went cinema this morning actually-

LEE
She's fitting right in. It was so quiet after you
left then melody arrived and there was singing in the
science lab again

MELODY
They talk about you all the time. From day 1 they
said "you remind us of Nicole", "she used to go
here". And then when they heard me sing they were
convinced we'd been separated at birth.

LEE

You're basically the same person

MELODY

What did they get you for your birthday?

NICOLE

Dad got me mandarin lessons, he says the English language will soon be useless and my Mum doesn't believe we should be rewarded for simply falling out of the womb **but**, with some persuasion, she granted me a days mobile phone access

Nicole excitedly reveals her phone. She gives it a kiss

MOLLIE

Mobile Phone access is a right for every child its essential to modern life

SIMONE

Call social services and tell them that

LEE

All this because you dropped a set in maths?

NICOLE

Apparently, soon we wont be able to go to university without it. And apparently, I must go to university!

Lee's phone buzz's

LEE

(nonchalant)

Old people are dumb. My mums five mins away.

NICOLE

Wait, you cant leave yet.

Nicole runs side of stage and picks up her ring light and stand.

NICOLE

We need to film a tik-tok

LEE

No way

MOLLIE

Absolutely not

MELODY

(admiring the ring light)

Nice set up

SIMONE

Influenza! You disgust me.

MOLLIE

You saw the way they laughed at us last time

LEE

They made memes

NICOLE

I've learnt my lesson. I won't post it.

SIMONE

Then why are we doing it?

NICOLE

To immortalise this moment in the Cloud. We'll be gone and everyone will forget us but the cloud will remember. And when they make the technology to revive us all, they can upload the memory to our virtual brains. We'll be grateful in a hundred or so years time that we filmed this.

They look at her like she's insane.

NICOLE

Fine, too far. But seriously, when I'm locked in my room, solving complex equations, I can watch this back and remember i actually have friends-

SIMONE

Fineeee! we'll do it

NICOLE

Amazing, you stand here, mollie in the back. Simone in front-.

MELODY

Do you want me in it?

NICOLE

Sure, stand wherever you want

Nicole gets her phone ready, they do the dance with Nicole singing.

Max and Robin in the studio

Robin walks on stage watching the group as if they're on a television screen. She uses a remote control to pause them.

ROBIN
What are your thoughts?

MAX
It's-

ROBIN
Magic-

MAX
Crap-

ROBIN
What?

MAX
A pile of crap, who are they?

ROBIN
You're kidding me-

MAX
Average at best-

ROBIN
Average is what the people want. Relatability, it was
on the brief. Watch it again

*Robin presses play and the group resume. Max
takes the remote and closes the screen. The
group swiftly leave the stage.*

MAX
This is the next killer British pop group?

ROBIN
This optimises British pop!

MAX
They're all over the place

ROBIN
That's the British charm

MAX
I'm not gonna let you embarrass yourself in front of
the team. They'll laugh you out of the building.

ROBIN
(savage)
We'll see who's laughing when I'm on the Forbes list

and they cant even get a desk cleaning job!

Robin softens

I've got the vision. I'm willing to take this straight to the Big boss.

MAX

You'd be better off leaving the label and doing it on your own. So when it doesn't work out-

ROBIN

I need you in on this! The Spice Girls, One Direction- objectively average. **But**, with the right songs they became legends. You produce hits in your sleep Max.

MAX

Robin, trust me. They're not stars, they're just school kids-

ROBIN

But-

MAX

And this conversation is a waste of our time.

Pause

ROBIN

(defeated)

I was so sure you'd get it.

MAX

When you spend all day scrolling through mediocrity you loose your grip on reality. We've all been through it. Remember that group you showed me yesterday

ROBIN

The singing nuns?

MAX

Sister Act 3 - The pop group. Go with them, that's a sure commercial success.

Robin yells frustratedly

ROBIN

You're right. It's just hard to trust people here. I know we all wanna impress but=

MAX

"Competition breeds success". It's written all over these walls. I'm glad we can trust each other.

ROBIN

Same. Wanna get a bubble tea?

MAX

Not tonight, I gotta finish up a demo. See you in the morning.

ROBIN

Thanks for having my back Max

Robin exits. Max pauses for a moment then quickly gets out their laptop and headphones. As they tape away we hear a sounds of beats and Dj scratches over the top of S Club Party.

Back in school

SONG- SCLUB PARTY REPRISE

The ensemble perform the last chorus of "S Club Party". They film each other on their phones. The song ends. Lee is in the centre of a rowdy crowd of students who are mocking him. Some show the video on their phones, others make him dance. He tries to fight them off

Vanessa enters.

LEE

Please, stop it!

VANESSA

(pushing through)
Oi! get off him!

She squares up to the biggest student
Do you know who my big sister is?

The student backs down and the rest walk away
Yeah, thats what i thought. Run!

LEE

Thanks Vanessa. Are we still walking to the bus stop?

VANESSA

Oh no I forgot to tell my mum. She's picking me up.

LEE

Oh okay, I wondered if you had any time over the break. We could hang out..

VANESSA

What did you have in mind?

LEE

Well I don't get a lot of free time coz i've got a lot of activities booked in. But my grandma goes to Brent cross on Saturdays..

VANESSA

You want me to go Brent cross with your Grandma?

LEE

Yes, well with both of us actually.

VANESSA

What would we do together?

LEE

We can walk around the shops and stop in Fenwicks for tea when she gets tired. I dunno, maybe this is strange-

Enter mollie, Simone and melody. They walk over to Lee

VANESSA

No it's cute. Sounds very fun. Gotta run, need to get lunch money off my sis. See ya!

SIMONE

It's got how many views?

MELODY

I can't keep track
(to lee)
What happened to you?

LEE

They got physical. I've reported the video on all my accounts. This needs to end

SIMONE

Tik-Tok needs to ban Nicole for life. I told you she'd upload it.

MELODY

But she barely has any followers. How did it get so big?

MOLLIE

Well I've looked at the statistics

SIMONE

Course you have

MOLLIE

It was nothing for hours, no traction. Then DJ Max, a mega producer from surrey, got hold of it, did a remix and reposted it around 8.03 pm.

MELODY

Peak time for socials-

MOLLIE

Indeed, but even then, more hours of low activity. until 11.07pm when we went strata-strophic. Exponential growth-

LEE

Simple english please

MOLLIE

We went viral at 6 am

LEE

Has anyone spoken to Nicole?

MOLLIE

She doesn't have a phone!

SIMONE

I'm showing up at her house after school.

MOLLIE

Sorry melody, you've just started here. You don't deserve to go down like this

MELODY

Am i missing something? We're in a viral video and our sound is like number 3 on UK tik-tok in less than 24 hours. We can build on this foundation-

SIMONE

Foundation? oh please let's not romanticise the situation. This school is rough! Even the teachers will make fun of us.

MELODY

I honestly don't think its that bad

MOLLIE

It is!

LEE

It is!

Serena, Deena and Justin (The Trio) walk over.

MELODY

Well even if it is, people will get bored of us. they'll move on-

SERENA

Hopefully not. This is the most relevant thing you've ever done. Why would you wish that away?

DEENA

Hey Friends!

LEE

(To Simone)

Are they talking to us?

JUSTIN

If someone had asked me who else in this school had the "je ne sais quoi", the "jeu de vivre" the "Va va voom!" to go viral, you lot were the last people on my list.

SERENA

In Australia they're recreating your video with their pet Koalas. Congratulations, you've made it

MELODY

I told you!

LEE

But everyone here hates it.

DEENA

You will always have haters in your home town, they're jealous of anyone who finds a way out.

JUSTIN

They will never know what it's like to be one of us. Loved by more people than you could ever care about

DEENA

We didn't come here for motivational small talk. we come with some bad boy information

SIMONE

Go on

JUSTIN

Well the iconic "Dj Max" posted saying he wanted to get in touch with the people in the video

DEENA

So obviously not wanting our friends to miss an opportunity, we slid in his dm's on your behalf

SERENA

He's got great chat

MOLLIE

You were sending Dm's to a stranger online?

DEENA

I'm not stupid. He's blue tick verified so I know we can trust him

MOLLIE

You can actually buy those now on twitter.

SERENA

It was instagram you idiot!

JUSTIN

Anyway, he'd like to meet you all at the studio.

MOLLIE

Absolutely not

MELODY

When?

SERENA

(sudden fear)
Right now, oh my God, Max is calling me on instagram.
what do i do?

SIMONE

Answer the call

SERENA

Phone calls make anxious, why isn't he texting us?

DEENA

Give it to me then
(answering the phone)
Hello max, Deena speaking from Serena's phone, mhhmm,
mhhmm, yeahh I'm with everyone now. Uh huh
(aside to the group)
he wants to video chat
(calmly on phone)
yeah sure, one sec.
(panicked to the group)
omg I'm not camera ready!

JUSTIN

I was born camera ready

The group huddle around Deena.

DEENA

Ughh I hate this angle. Mollie hold the phone, be
useful with your long limbs

*We split screen. The group stand on on one side
of the stage and Max enters on the other.*

MAX

I'm just on break. can you hear me?

*The group respond freely- Hey Max/ Yo!/ whats up
etc*

JUSTIN

Thats not Max, she's the assistant

MAX

And this is why i rarely face to face, I am Max.
Pronouns They/Them

JUSTIN

My bad

MAX

Some of the artists I work with wouldn't take me
seriously if they saw me. They definitely wouldn't
pay me as much.

MELODY

How did you find us?

MAX

The algorithm was in my favour. The record company i
work for are looking to launch a pop band in time for

summer holidays.

LEE

That's next week

MAX

Always quick turn arounds. We want authenticity, chemistry. You're all friends right?

LEE

Erm some of us-

Deena nudges lee

SERENA

Are related!

DEENA

We're a chosen family

MAX

So if we offered you a deal you'd be interested?

MELODY

A record deal?

MAX

Come down to the studios for a meeting. We're based in Shoreditch

JUSTIN

Thats my spot!

MAX

Free tomorrow daytime?

DEENA

Sure we have nothing on-

MOLLIE

Apart from a full day of education-

JUSTIN

But we're on compassionate leave-

MAX

Wait! Someones missing..

SIMONE

Nicole, she's under house arrest at the moment

LEE
It's very unfortunate

MAX
She wont be joining us? That changes things.

JUSTIN
No she definitely will be joining us!

MAX
Perfect. She's the obvious lead vocalist

MELODY
Will the rest of us get a chance to sing?

MAX
Okay gotta go, I'm in a session with Ariana. She's
back form Puppy Yoga. come down tomorrow and lets
music history.

Serena walks away with the phone. Deena follows

SERENA
Sure thing Max! Follow
me back on insta

DEENA
Bye Max!

DEENA
They're so powerful

SIMONE
I wasn't joking! Nicole definitely wont be allowed to
come

JUSTIN
Well sort it out babe!

MOLLIE
Should we cancel?

DEENA
Are you out of your mind? Max is producing for Ariana
mochocolatte Grande.

SERENA
Hit after hit, When does she flop?

DEENA
You have the chance to level up your existence and
take your place at top of the social food chain.

JUSTIN

Near the top, you'd need to be physical attractive to be top 5%

SERENA

Throw that away and you'll be the walking dead in this school. You will never live this pathetic video down.

MOLLIE

What a conundrum!

MELODY

We have no choice, we have to get Nicole on board

LEE

And her mum.

SIMONE

Dont worry, Leave her with me

Nicoles front door

Simone walks to the side of stage and meets Nicole. They are speaking to Mama Nicole who is offstage. Nicole is visibly annoyed

SIMONE

So yes Mama Nicole that's why I came over here. In the careers day session they talked about our university applications.

MAMA NICOLE

University in year 8?

NICOLE

It's for oxbridge Mum, how many times?

SIMONE

Yes for "the oxybridge". They were talking about our personal statements and what makes us stand out and then it occurred to me. Nicole isn't doing any extra curricular at all.

MAMA NICOLE

Yes and that's because when she was at school she did all the extra curricular and her grades were abysmal!

NICOLE

They weren't all bad

MAMA NICOLE

You wont be getting into any decent universities with a D in maths.

NICOLE

It was a 6! We don't use letters anymore!

MAMA NICOLE

Oh the O levels are so confusing these days. A six, a D, I don't care, they are both below your potential

SIMONE

But even if Nicole gets the nines or the "A*'s" she's capable of, they wont give her an interview because she lacks life experience and social interaction skills.

MAMA NICOLE

Oh gosh, you do have a point. Well thanks for bringing this my attention. I shall email her father and discuss a solution.

SIMONE

No need, I've got one!

MAMA NICOLE

Go on

SIMONE

My local community centre are joining the fight to end knife crime. We're putting underprivileged youths in the kitchen so they can use the skills they learn to survive in the streets to fillet a fish.

MAMA NICOLE

Wow innovation, you'll meet such interesting sorts

SIMONE

Of course, that's why I volunteered myself. I want to stand out so i can be at the "oxybridge" and i want Nicole there with me. "I ended knife crime" imagine that on a personal statement?

MAMA NICOLE

The optics would be great.

NICOLE

Yes

NICOLE

Mama, let me go! The underprivileged need me

MAMA NICOLE

Yes you must go my love. If not for the youth but for academic future. Go and observe the struggle. When does she start?

SIMONE

Right now, thanks Mama Nicole!

MAMA NICOLE

Be safe girls.

NICOLE

Can i have my phone back?

MAMA NICOLE

No!

we hear a door slam.

SIMONE

She is living in a parallel universe.

NICOLE

I'm really sorry about the video, I hadn't been on socials for months I just couldn't resist.

SIMONE

Shh! It's fine, worked out for the best. Just do me a favour? When we get there don't be yourself.

NICOLE

What?

SIMONE

Listen, smile and most importantly comply. This is an opportunity for us all to be rich like you. Dont mess it up.

Max's Recording Studio

SONG REACH FOR THE STARS

Huddled around a microphone, the group sing reach taking a line each. Nicole and Simone enter. Simone joins the group. Nicole stands by the entrance watching un impressed. They stop just before the chorus.

MAX

Cut the track

DEENA

I feel like Celine Dion

MAX

We actually have more voices in the room than i thought. With some vocal training we can do live performances.

NICOLE

Agreed. Let's leave the lip-syncing to the drag queens. They do it much better.

LEE

Nicole!

MAX

Thanks for joining us

JUSTIN

(in her face)
2 hours late!

SERENA

Stand down Justin, we're best friends remember..

JUSTIN

Oh yeah,
(over familiar)
What up sis

MAX

(to nicole)
Do you wanna jump in on the bridge? It's pretty high, we could use your vocal power on this.

MELODY

I think i could get up there too, could we sing it together?

MAX

Why not? will give us a fuller sound. let's take it from the pre. try a harmony first then unison for the chorus.

*They sing acapella. Melody's voice cracks
embarrassingly on the high note. The trio laugh*

JUSTIN

You should probably change your name Melody

MELODY

sorry! I should've left it to Nicole

MAX

You'll get it next time Melody. Lets park that and do some house keeping

NICOLE

Yes, I wanted to discuss contracts-

MAX

Don't worry the legal team will be in touch

JUSTIN

Discuss the fine print later. protect the creative space.

MAX

No lets get the house keeping out of the way. Have a seat.

They sit on the floor.

Last time i managed a group we had too many rules and that they all got broken.

MOLLIE

Inevitably

MAX

So i'd like to keep it simple with you lot. I've got two rules. First one, more of a policy. Majority rules, I'm not a dictator, if theres a difference of opinion we'll take a vote.

MOLLIE

I like this egalitarian approach

LEE

Again with the big words

MELODY

What else?

MAX

No new romantic relationships or situationships. You're going to be famous and people will swarm this group like hyenas. I can't protect you from that.

NICOLE

I agree, we don't need romance till we're in our

thirties.

JUSTIN

Speak for yourself

LEE

What about existing relationships?

MAX

They're fine

DEENA

Ohhh, I'm gonna have to delete that break up text
real quick

SERENA

You just celebrated your second anniversary

DEENA

Gotta make sacrifices to secure the bag.

SIMONE

I don't think any of us are in relationships

MELODY

We can fall in love with the music

NICOLE

That's not going to be possible with this song.

They gasp

SIMONE

Nicole back down. Comply.

NICOLE

I have to be honest, this song isn't right for us.

DEENA

I completely disagree. We love this song and are
honoured to have a "Max original" as our first
official release.

NICOLE

It's bubblegum kids pop which might sell temporarily
but we're teenagers. People will know we don't like
this music

MAX

If we want to sell concerts and actual albums we need
to connect to a younger audience.

NICOLE

We can do that and make music we like. I'm a k-pop nerd. I don't know if you've heard of Blackpink

MAX

I've produced for Blackpink, I know them quite well.

NICOLE

oh!

DEENA

That a Vio!

MAX

Young people need permission to enjoy being young and not take themselves so seriously. That is why the world fell in love with your first video. I don't want to change that.

SIMONE

They speak sense Nicole

NICOLE

But we only debut once and I don't want us to be stuck singing these songs in our 40's.

DEENA

Shall we take a vote?

SERENA

Those in favour of reach, hands up

All apart from Nicole raise their hands, Melody puts her hand down to side with Nicole.

MAX

Glad that's settled. Nicole get on the mic

JUSTIN

Would you mind nailing this chorus in a couple takes. I'm having Lebanese and if i don't get home soon they'll be no Baba Ganoush.

SONG REACH FOR THE STARS REPRISE

We pick up the song at the pre-chorus. Nicole sings solo and the group jump in on the chorus with full choreography. The rest of the ensemble join in.

Vinnie and Ellie

A young youtube duo. Ellie is bursting with life whereas Vinnie clearly doesn't want to be there.

They use a bright ring light.

ELLIE

Are we on? is it working?

VINNIE

Yes

ELLIE

Double check, how many people are watching?

VINNIE

Just start

ELLIE

Heyyyyy, welcome back to our channel. I'm ellie,

Ellie gestures for vinnie to speak

VINNIE

I'll speak when i have something to say

ELLIE

Say your name!

VINNIE

Vinnie

ELLIE

We've heard your requests for more participation from Vinnie and Vinnie has promised to speak more.

Ellie gives Vinnie a queue card

VINNIE

(lethargically)

Remember we are running a competition. Our 100th subscriber shall receive a cash prize of 100 pounds donated by Vinnie's Mum.

(to ellie)

She said 50!

ELLIE

Yes, 150 pounds! 10 trips to Nandos! Todays hot topic is the new brit pop sensation S Club. We just listened to their new song Reach for the stars. what did you think Vinnie?

VINNIE

Grated Cheese powder

ELLIE

Deep! Okayy, let's talk about the members. Personally i love all of them, but mollie is 100 percent my bias! She'd be my best friend in the group

VINNIE

I hate Mollie

ELLIE

Woah

VINNIE

She disgusts me

ELLIE

The savagery

VINNIE

She's not a good person.

ELLIE

How can you tell?

VINNIE

She's just there taking up space, blocking the view, forcing us to notice her.

ELLIE

Fair point. "TBH" she is taller than the rest which does ruin the group pictures. Fine, I'm changing my bias to Justin. He seems like a really nice person. Someone i'd like to, you know, maybe go on a date with?

Ellie giggles intensely which then turns into a big ugly laugh. She double taps her cheeks.

VINNIE

What are you doing?

ELLIE

Im blushing

VINNIE

You're not well.

ELLIE

My main criticisms is the line distribution. We barely heard any of them sing apart from Nicole, who i think did a great job but maybe next time they can fix that. It seems a little selfish on her part to

keep snogging the microphone .

VINNIE
Hogging the microphone

ELLIE
Yes snogging that's what i said!

Vinnie's phone goes off.

VINNIE
My dads outside.
(rapidly)
Thats all we have time for. Like, subscribe. see you
later bye!

Vinnie turns off the camera.

ELLIE
How dare you!

Vinnie packs their bag to leave

VINNIE
What?

ELLIE
I always do the outro, it's my signature sign off. I
wasn't even finished. I had a whole extra segment-

VINNIE
(exiting)
You told me to speak more!
Ellie chases after Vinnie

ELLIE
Don't walk away from me!

Outside the Studio

*Nicole is doing some choreography. She's stuck
on a move*

NICOLE
(sung)
Don't stop movin-

No! Thats not it
(sung)
Don't stop movin

ROBIN

The first ones better

Nicole takes of her headphones

NICOLE

What?

ROBIN

I said the first combo was better.

(sung)

Dont stop movin

Robin does the dance

NICOLE

Thanks

ROBIN

You're Nicole from S Club right? Everyones singing your song.

NICOLE

Do you wanna a picture?

ROBIN

Nah i'm good. It must be a dream working with Max.
It's amazing what they've done for the group

NICOLE

I mean yeah they're good, but I had a lot to do with it as well it wasn't all max

ROBIN

Oh I assumed you're just a pretty face who does what she's told-

NICOLE

I'm an artist. I wrote our first single and its still on the charts. We should've never have released Reach it wont do as well.

ROBIN

Sounds like there's some tension

NICOLE

Yeah it was a split decision,
(sudden panic)

No actually now i think about it, we're really happy,
I love the song everything is amazing. Are you a reporter?

ROBIN

No, I'm just someone who knows what you're going through

NICOLE

Okayyyy, i'm gonna go, nice meeting you

ROBIN

(grabbing her arm)
If you ever need someone to talk to, someone who understands. I'll be there

NICOLE

Thank you, Bye!

Nicole picks up her stuff and runs off.

Back in school

A school bell sounds, students travel across the stage on their way to class.

Lee and Vanessa are mid conversation. Deena, Serena and Justin are eavesdropping.

LEE

I'm trying to protect us!

VANESSA

I cant make a decision now, i've got Food tech in five minutes. Why the sudden pressure.

LEE

I'm sorry, it's the band. We've agreed to a "no new relationships policy"

VANESSA

It's got nothing to do with them

LEE

We need to decide Now if we're "together together" or we cant be together at all.

Vanessa puts her hand on lee's shoulder

VANESSA

Dont be such a push over, its time to stand up for yourself! Let's stick with the original plan, go out with your grandma and see how we feel.

Justin makes a ringing sound like an emergency

alarm. He runs in between them waving a textbook.

JUSTIN

woop woo, textbook distance please. What's the meaning of this?

LEE

We were just-

DEENA

Save it for the judge bish, we heard every word

SERENA

A date, with his grandma??!

JUSTIN

Red flag!

DEENA

I don't know if you knew this Vanessa but Lee is With us now. We're Pop stars

VANESSA

Well obviously I knew, i saw the videos

SERENA

And now you wanna be in them. Which make you a groupie

VANESSA

Lee are you gonna handle this?

LEE

Can we have some privacy please?

DEENA

Yeah Vanessa

LEE

I actually meant you lot-

SERENA

Why are you still here?

JUSTIN

(gesturing to the door)
Exit sign!

VANESSA

Wow Okay!

Vanessa goes and stands in the corner.

SERENA

You can't trust her

DEENA

You've liked her how many years and now she's suddenly interested.

JUSTIN

I smell an opportunist.

LEE

I only asked her out yesterday, this isn't fair.

JUSTIN

She will take half your money in the divorce

LEE

We're not married

SERENA

Yet! You need a partner on our level

JUSTIN

Preach!

DEENA

For real

SERENA

Gigi Hadid

DEENA

Normani

JUSTIN

Harry styles

DEENA

Sam Smith

SERENA

Whatever you want sweetie

LEE

They're so old! I don't know what i want, i just really like hanging out with Vanessa. I dont know where its going but thats fine i think. She isnt a threat to the group.

They all look at Vanessa

DEENA

If her great aunt dies tomorrow and she inherits millions, then yeah we can talk about. But for now, it's not an option.

SERENA

She has to go

JUSTIN

Or you're out the band, which wouldn't be such a bad thing for us. More camera time

DEENA

whats it gonna be?

lee is struggling

JUSTIN

Vanessa baby, lee's ready for you

SERENA

We're just gonna go over and pretend to not listen

Vanessa comes back.

VANESSA

are they bullying you?

LEE

Im so sorry,

VANESSA

You look stressed

LEE

I just have to put my career first,

VANESSA

I thought you were better than this

LEE

We can still be friends

VANESSA

Friendship is not an option. Enjoy Brent Cross...with your grandma

SONG PUPPY LOVE

Initially led by lee who sings scinerly. Justin takes over verse 2 mockingly, with Deena and

Serena on backing vocals. The full ensemble join in by the bridge.

The Dance studio

NICOLE

Let's run it from the top. 5,6,7,8

Nicole notices that Deena and Serena are not participating.

I'm sorry, why are we not dancing?

DEENA

On my behalf, I thought by dancing you meant like...

Deena does a very light arm choreography

SERENA

And on my behalf, I'm sweating a lot and it's really gross

NICOLE

Okay step back step back

JUSTIN

Why do we keep stopping, you're cutting my flow!

NICOLE

I'm sorry but I have to put it out there. I'm not sure if we're running a farm here but these arms

Nicole does the dance move
Are giving chicken wing.

SIMONE

It's your choreography!

NICOLE

Lets go from the top. I wanna see it full out

SONG DON'T STOP MOVIN

The group perform don't stop movin. Nicole and Justin taking centre and most of the lead vocals. It's quite bad, the group are forgetting the choreography and bumping into each other. Max enters and watches the last parts of the

song.

NICOLE

Shocking, we have a music video in a couple days.
Lets go again

MOLLIE

We're trying to get it. We're not all natural
dancers.

NICOLE

You can say that again!

MAX

Everyone take 5, Nicole

NICOLE

Maximilian

MAX

Can i have word?

*the group disperse. They get water and wipe down
with towels.*

Melody join us . I've been tinkering around with the
track and I've cut a version with melody as the lead.

MELODY

What? But Nicole sounded great

NICOLE

Are you kidding me. You had me in the studio for
hours doing harmonies, adlibs-

MAX

Yes and we'll be using some of them but melody will
be the female lead on this. The song has chosen her.

MELODY

Nicole I had no idea this was happening.

NICOLE

Oh of course you didn't, you were just innocently
singing over my parts.

MELODY

Look you can have it back, I didn't ask for this!

NICOLE

Max, I know we've had our differences but I'm made

for this track. The shoots in two days we cant redo all the choreography, I'm in the centre

MAX

That will need to change. I just watched you rehearse, you're out of sync with everyone else.

NICOLE

They're out of sync with me!

MAX

They can't all be wrong. I think we should go for a more stripped back approach like the first single.

NICOLE

No! we need to improve every comeback so people stay interested

As the debate heats the group congregate

JUSTIN

I think melody on lead is massive improvement.

NICOLE

Oh come on! Surely none of you agree with this.

DEENA

Get to the back! see how it feels

NICOLE

You're letting Max ruin this.

DEENA

I've had enough. Im calling a vote. Nicole out the band. Now! All in favour raise your hands.

Justin and Deena and Serena enthusiastically raise their hands

JUSTIN

What the hell!

SERENA

She needs to go

NICOLE

You cant vote me out of the band I started.

MAX

Well how about a hiatus?

DEENA

Whats a hiatus?

MOLLIE

A short break.

SERENA

She's rude to us all then gets to go on a wellness retreat?

MAX

Nicole, respect to your talent but from what i'm sensing in this room your presence is destructive. If this continues we're gonna end up like the Sugababes. One in one out, completely unrecognisable.

Nicole turns to her friends

NICOLE

You lot have nothing to say on this?

LEE

Maybe you do need a couple days off

SIMONE

This is meant to be fun and your making it really stressful.

JUSTIN

I'm sure the company can get you a therapist

MAX

Yes, we'll offer you whatever support you need. You need rest

NICOLE

This is a joke, i will rest when we have a camera ready performance.

JUSTIN

We cant rehearse anymore. My feet hurt

NICOLE

But are they bleeding?!

MAX

All in favour of Nicole's hiatus. please raise your hand

The trio and Max raise their hands. They look at the rest of the members.

NICOLE

You're wasting your time, they're my best friends

they'd never vote me out.

MOLLIE

(raising her hand)
It's only temporary Nicole

NICOLE

Mollie!

SIMONE

Its a couple days, you need it

Nicole is stunned

MELODY

I'd like to abstain

LEE

Me too

MAX

Doesn't matter, we have the Majority. Nicole go home,
leave your pass at reception. We'll see you in a
couple days

Nicole storms out

MELODY

Nicole!

LEE

Nicole, stop!

MAX

Leave her! She'll be back, where else can she go?

MELODY

Max, that was really uncomfortable. I'd rather not
have a part then cause all of this.

MAX

I had to do this, you were too comfortable in
Nicole's shadow. With some work you could be on her
level if not better. Do you want a life after S Club?

MELODY

Of course I do

MAX

Well right now everyone thinks she's the Beyonce of
the group, prove them wrong.

Outside the Studio

Nicole is outside the studio pacing, fresh from the argument. She's still reeling. Robin appears.

ROBIN

Tough day

NICOLE

Are you stalking me?
(calling out)
Security!

ROBIN

I work here.

NICOLE

Look I'm not in the mood for small talk,

ROBIN

I'll get straight to it then. I can see your'e
unwell, I've had the same illness.

NICOLE

What are my symptoms then?

ROBIN

You're not being listened to, not getting the credit
you deserve. You're beginning to second guess
yourself and when you try to speak to friends about
your concerns they just can't see it. They've been
blinded by the Hitmaker. Are any of these ticking
boxes?

NICOLE

Maybe a few

ROBIN

Tell me this. Has max ever asked what you want?

NICOLE

We have a voting system

ROBIN

It's clearly not working in your favour.

NICOLE

(sarcastic)
aha haaha ahahaa

ROBIN

Let me be specific. Have you been allowed to make artistic contributions to the work? Do they acknowledge your creative abilities?

NICOLE

What's it to you?

ROBIN

I've heard that new recording, melody's good but she's not on your level

NICOLE

Well Obviously!

ROBIN

More of that energy please! This is a deliberate attack on you

NICOLE

I know, but what can I do about It?

ROBIN

Reclaim your time. Leave the band and work with me

NICOLE

Im sorry but Max had won music awards. I know who they are. The question is, who the hell are you?

ROBIN

Im the one who discovered you. Max stole you from me. That's why they're messing it up, they don't know how to work with you, but I do!

NICOLE

So what? Max is a fraud they steal artists. Thats standard practice, no? You work for the same company, Why should I trust you?

ROBIN

The difference between Max and I is that I am willing to admit that I am nothing without my artists. Max wants the artist to believe they're nothing without them. Nicole, you can work with anyone you want and you'll probably be successful, you're a great songwriter. Im not a musician-

NICOLE

So what do you bring to the table?

ROBIN

I'm not one to brag but I am the best creative director, manager, branding consultant ,all in one- you will ever have. I can get your music to the people. This place is built on my ideas.

NICOLE

Big statements from a 14..15 year old?

ROBIN

I have the receipts

*Nicole is impressed by her confidence. Pause.
Nicole puts her head in her hands and sits.*

ROBIN

Whats wrong?

NICOLE

I dunno, maybe I was being too harsh. I've just got my friends back I don't know if I can do this alone.

ROBIN

Stop doubting yourself. They've made their move, now you need to make yours. Hiatus today maybe you'll be replaced tomorrow. Max is ruthless and so is Melody by the sounds of things.

NICOLE

(instant rage)
She's so fake, she literally stealing my life. My friends, my career- I don't believe her innocent act for a second. she wanted that lead and she begged Max for it

ROBIN

One nil to Melody, i wonder who will score next?

NICOLE

It's gonna be me!

ROBIN

It better be because the clock is ticking and at the end of the day,

ROBIN

There/Can only be one
Beyonce of the group

NICOLE

can only be one
Beyonce of the group

They catch each others eye. They feel the synergy.

ROBIN

Think about my offer

*Robin exits, Nicole stays on stage in thought.
She walks off stage towards her house.*

Nicole's front door

*The gang enter stage and congregate outside
Nicoles*

LEE

Will she even want to speak to us?

SIMONE

Doesn't matter, we can sit in the park in silence if
we need to.

MELODY

She was so angry at me, maybe I should go

MOLLIE

It wasn't your fault. Hopefully joining her on hiatus
will prove to her that we have her back.

Mama Nicole opens the door

MAMA NICOLE

Simone, how's the cooking and saving lives going?

SIMONE

So well! Mama Nicole, so rewarding

MAMA NICOLE

I'm always expecting Nicole to come back with
something for me to try

SIMONE

Oh no, we couldn't possibly take anything home-

MAMA NICOLE

Of course, the gangsters must take it back to feed
their families. How silly of me?

Mama Nicole notices Mollie and Lee

My you've gotten tall. Are you applying for oxbridge
as well?

LEE

Ox what?

SIMONE

Yes they are, we're securing our futures in politics.

MAMA NICOLE

Oh bravo!

MELODY

Is Nicole in?

MAMA NICOLE

She left for the kitchen a while go, She said you started early today?

SIMONE

Yesss, I completely forgot. Nicole is working so hard she signed up for an extra session. She must really want this oxybridge.

MAMA NICOLE

I'm telling you, my home schooling has done your friend wonders. I'm headed to my aqua class, I could give you a lift to the kitchen?

SIMONE

No, thank you bye!

. Simone slams the door, the gang run away.

LEE

What was all that about?

SIMONE

Dont ask, I knew she couldn't handle the hiatus

MOLLIE

Oh Gosh shes gone rouge. we've pushed her to the edge.

Robin's studio

Robin and Nicole are sat across a desk.

NICOLE

I know what I want to say and I want the world to hear me. Im ready to be iconic and i'm willing to do whatever it takes.

ROBIN

Even lose some friends along the way?

NICOLE

Whatever it takes

*Jimmy, aka Big boss, has entered with Ashley
from finance.*

JIMMY

That's that Muhammad Ali talk. Welcome to the big leagues

ROBIN

Jimmy, oh my goodness i didn't think you'd be joining us. Nicole this is Jimmy B: music, fashion, sports, tech mogul. They run everything

JIMMY

I *fund* everything, I couldn't possibly run any of this. Not a creative bone in my body.

ROBIN

Thank you for letting me sign Nicole as my first artist

JIMMY

No, thank you for your Vision Robin. Nicole you're in safe hands, she was our best intern and that's why I poached her for my department. The commercial division.

ROBIN

Thank you Jimmy

JIMMY

As for you Nicole. You're potential is limitless. We want to back your assent to the top with the full might of our resources. Which is why I've brought in Ashley from finances. Say hey Ashley

NICOLE AND ROBIN

Hey Ashley!

ASHLEY

Hey Ashley!

JIMMY

Robin what do you need?

ROBIN

Well it's only day 1, usually i'd start with some artist development-

JIMMY

This artist is already packaged and ready to go. Im thinking we strike while the freezer is still cold. We've got a music video slot available day after tomorrow, do you want it?

ROBIN

I'm not sure we'll be ready by then.

JIMMY

Disappointing. Well we could give you a later slot, how does Christmas sound? Any covers up your sleeve?

NICOLE

Actually, a couple of days sounds good. I can pull it off

JIMMY

Excelente. Ashley, sign off whatever they need.

ASHLEY

Jimmy we agreed with the shareholders that you'd give clear parameters so we stay in budget-

JIMMY

Screw the budget. Sign it all off, I want maximum radio push and tv promo on this track.

ASHLEY

Understood

JIMMY

Get her contracts signed before the shoot. Protection for us both. You'll need a guardian to sign with you. Do you need lawyers? our company has many

JIMMY

No i'm good, my mums a corporate lawyer

JIMMY

A shark you can trust! How lucky you are. Okay, I'm off. Just know you have our support every step of the way. Welcome to the family.

Jimmy and Ashley leave

NICOLE

This is happening so fast, I love it but... Woah! I need to think, I haven't formally left the Group yet, I'll need to let my friends know.

ROBIN

Breathe. You focus on being an artist and leave the rest to me. Do you believe in this song?

NICOLE

100%. It's the best song I've written.

ROBIN

Is it better than anything Max has written? That's the standard

NICOLE

It's a different league. For the video, I'm seeing big production value, dancers, lasers. a good 6 locations. Costume changes.

ROBIN

No, i see a blacked out space, a spotlight and a chair. No gimmicks. Just Talent. it says "Me against the music", Thats all you need. I trust you with song, you trust me with the visuals.

Studio dressing room

The S Club members are rehearsing for the video shoot. Serena walks in with Ava Glam and Tilly

SERENA

Okay everyone, introducing our friend Miss Ava Glam.

AVA

Finally we meet in the real world.

DEENA

She's agreed to do our make up for the music video today. She's worked with all the hot girls.

SERENA

You are in the presence of Hair and make up royalty

AVA

Oh my goodness, stop it. We're gonna need to keep this proffesh coz i am fan girling like crazy right now. I can't get your music out of my head.

DEENA

Ahh we're fans becoming friends.

AVA

This is actually my first time with a group, so many interesting faces.

JUSTIN

We're ready for the beat down

LEE

What?

JUSTIN

The Beat as in beat the make up on the face, haven't you been watching the tutorials?

SIMONE

Ava-

AVA

Hey sista, You wanna go first? Let's find some space.

DEENA

Thanks for doing this. We'll be outside

SERENA

If you need anything let us know.

*the group leaves apart from Simone and Ava.
Simone sits in the chair. Ava gets out her make
up and starts applying to herself. She does that
throughout the following conversation
occasionally looking at Simone throw the mirror.*

SIMONE

Hey Ava i-

AVA

Your skin is beautiful, you really don't need much make up at all. Just a bit of powder.

SIMONE

Is that why I didn't receive a demo for my look? Everyone else got a picture through and a couple options.

AVA

What? but we definintly did one for you. how is that possible-oh god! I remember now.

SIMONE

What happened?

AVA

The model we hired was extremely pale, like surgical grade SPF coz she burnssss like hell and i was about to put your colour palate on her and then send you

the pictures. Which is obviously is a big no. You know me, i'm "anti-problematique!"

SIMONE

Oh gosh yeah, but couldn't you get another model?

AVA

One model for the group, gotta save money where we can

SIMONE

So whats the plan for today?

AVA

Can I level with you. For your Make up, we're fine. Your shade isn't too dark-

SIMONE

Too dark?-

AVA

To colour match with the other girls. We're going for a tanned look on everyone. But with you hair, hmmm. I honestly wouldn't know where to start. I only do standard hair types.

SIMONE

I'm sorry, this is a lot to process

AVA

No need to apologise but yes

Ava runs her hands through Simone's hair. Simone flinches
this **is** a lot to process. Are curls naturally dry or oily?

SIMONE

I'm not a curl specialist, I'm a singer in a pop group

AVA

Neither am i, clearly! Would you like me to comb it out? straighten it? How long will that take?

SIMONE

Dunno, Ask Siri

AVA

(over the top)
You sassing me up girlfriend?

SIMONE

(cringed out)
urgh!

AVA

Don't worry, I always have a plan b.

*Ava goes into her bag and pulls out a giant
sheet*
How about you wear this?

SIMONE

What is that?

AVA

An African American headscarf. Isn't it beautiful,
the amazon reviewers swear its authentic.

SIMONE

I'm not gonna wear that

AVA

well you wanted options

SIMONE

Can I level with you now?

AVA

Of course

SIMONE

You shouldn't have accepted this job. You lack the
experience and basic knowledge and everything you've
just said is beyond offensive.

AVA

Excuse me!
(finding the words)
That is...disrespectful, hurtful... and factually
incorrect.

SIMONE

If you touch my hair again, we're gonna have a
problem.

AVA

Are you threatening me?

SIMONE

I'm setting a boundary, don't cross it.

AVA

I've never felt like this on a job before. You are being so unreasonable

SIMONE

Im asking for the same treatment as everyone else here.

AVA

(shouting)

Deena, Serena. come in quick. Help me!

the girls enter

SERENA

Is everything okay Ava?

AVA

(on the verge of tears and panic)

No, I, I'm so so sorry to everyone here but i physically cant do this shoot. The energy has shifted and it has become clear to me that not everyone here values my gift. I am an artist, i am sensitive about my sh...I'm sorry, i have to go.

Ava bursts into tears. The rest of the group enter stage and Ava pushes past them and runs off stage. All eyes go to Simone who is visibly pissed off. Mollie and Lee rush over to her

DEENA

What the hell Simone?

JUSTIN

What did you do?

MOLLIE

Are you okay?

LEE

Simone whats wrong?

DEENA

Great job, we have a music video to shoot and no glam team

SERENA

and No Nicole!

max enters

MAX

Music videos is cancelled. Nicole's stole our slot and our director.

LEE

She wouldn't do that, we're her fr-

MAX

she is not your friend! How many times!.... Maybe she was, a while ago, but fame changes people. We're down to six members. Melody's your new lead singer.

The room is shocked

Music Video Shoot

SONG - SWEET DREAMS MY LAX

The music intro plays. Its a Blacked out room just as Robin described. water on the floor. A lone chair in the centre. Nicole struts in, she looks incredible. She does an epic dance break.

For the last chorus her ex band mates walk on stage and sing the words at her as an aggressive warning.

After the song, the S Club leave the stage leaving Simone and her team .

DIRECTOR

And cut, that was it. Thats the take.

NICOLE

Thanks Director P, I cant wait to see the edit

DIRECTOR

My mind equals...blown. Wooo. The class you exude from your fingertips, the way you catch the camera. You ate and left no crumbs, You are the moment. You are the season, You are the generation!

ROBIN

Okay Director P, give the artist some space. Nicole, let's get you freshened up and we'll shoot some more content.

NICOLE

I thought we were done

ROBIN

Nope. We have a day of on set promotional content to shoot. The interviewers are waiting.

Max enters

MAX

Robin

ROBIN

Excuse me this is a closed set

NICOLE

Maximilian, what are you doing here?

MAX

Don't call me that!

ROBIN

Nicole take a break

Nicole exits

MAX

You stole my artist.

ROBIN

I didn't steal anything that wasn't already mine.

MAX

Come off it, you were stupid enough to show a partially formed idea to another creative.

ROBIN

You took my pop stars away from me

MAX

Nope, you gave me school kids, I made them popstars.

ROBIN

What do you want Max?

MAX

You now have triple my budget. Why?

ROBIN

Jimmy was persuaded restructure

MAX

Un-persuade him! Get our budgets back on equal terms.

ROBIN

Why would I do that?

MAX

You think you can play dirty? I've already proven I can play dirtier.

ROBIN

All this effort to get at me for taking Nicole

MAX

This is your problem, you think everything is personal.

ROBIN

You betrayed our friendship

MAX

It's the music business. What I did to you, I would've done to anyone. You're gambling your shot on Nicole just to get back at me.

ROBIN

I believe in her artistry

MAX

If you weren't so butt Hurt, you'd have gone with melody. She's prettier and a hell of lot easier to control.

ROBIN

Just wait to this video drops. Nicoles written a hit record and its better than anything I've heard of yours

MAX

You wouldn't know a hit record if it slapped you in the face mate. That's why you needed me on side.

ROBIN

I think you should go

MAX

Do we have a deal on the budgets?

ROBIN

Screw you Max!

MAX

Okay let the fun begin! Don't say I didn't warn you.

Youtubers HQ - group statement

Vinnie and Ellie are live on youtube.

VINNIE

(reading from queue card)

"We are saddened to hear Nicole has chosen to leave the band

ELLIE

Well obviously, she was the only one singing!

VINNIE

We found out the news at the same time as the fans, so it's come as big shock-

ELLIE

So she didn't even have the courtesy to let them know-

VINNIE

Nicole was an essential part of this team and she will be missed as a band member but most importantly as a best friend

ELLIE

Awww they're putting their friendship first

VINNIE

(a threat)

Interrupt me again!

Ellie takes the queue card

ELLIE

"We wish her the best with her solo career"- Lies! This is where it gets juicy: "Nicole had always wanted to push the group in a more mature direction which is something as a band we were not ready to for. Hopefully she finds happiness performing raunchy adult material in her early teenage years."

VINNIE

(like a posh news reader)

S Club have launched a fresh attack on the singer Nicole. As of yet, there are no reported casualties but heavy damages are to be expected.

Vinnie cracks up laughing. Ellie is shocked and disgusted.

ELLIE

Vinnie thats not funny! That's really dark!

(back to the camera)

We were as confused as you are but an industry insider **slash** friend of the show, has sent us an exclusive preview of Nicole's new video straight from the editing suite.

VINNIE

Perhaps this can give us some answers. Watch our live reactions

Nicole walks on stage with a chair sits centre stage and whips her hair in circles as if she is on loop

VINNIE

Oh my!

ELLIE

Disgustinnnnnn

Jimmy's office

Jimmy, Robin and Ashley are in Jimmys office

ROBIN

Max did this. I don't know how but they must've bribed the editors to make that clip

JIMMY

Instead of apologising, you walk into my office and make baseless accusations

ROBIN

The video is nothing like that! Can't you see that this has Max's hands all over it,

JIMMY

Max is the only reason you're still in this building. I begged them to takeover the Nicole project but they refused. They said give her a chance, let her explain herself. Well, I'm all ears..

ROBIN

I'm sorry

ASHLEY

You had unlimited resources and this is what you came up with? "teenage dirt bag", that's what they are calling her

ROBIN

She was just dancing Ashley

ASHLEY

On a chair? Whipping her hair back and forth

ROBIN

It's one hair whip on loop. We've been set up. If you'd just watch the full video

JIMMY

I don't have time to watch the video when i'm up to my ear in complaints. The Mama's and Papas are outraged.

ASHLEY

Their 9 year olds were eagerly anticipating a child friendly music video from their favourite popstar and instead we gave them front row seats to a burlesque show.

JIMMY

She's meant to be a role model! You of all people know that a rebrand must be handled delicately. This is worse than Miley swinging on the wrecking ball.

ROBIN

Miley Cyrus is the perfect example. she was a wholesome Disney princess then she went off the rails. Got married and divorced but all of that led her back to Dolly Parton. Now she's top of the charts and the mamas and papas love her. Full circle moment.

JIMMY

Im shutting down the project.

ROBIN

Please no, I can fix this. Scrap the video. I'll get her to record a kid friendly cover. Think bright lights, teddy bears.

ASHLEY

I'm not releasing anymore funds

ROBIN

Fine Ashley! I'll think of something. Just give us a another chance Jimmy. Please

The Studio

Robin and Nicole are mid debate. Ashley is taking notes

NICOLE

I'm not singing this 80s trash

ROBIN

We don't have a choice

NICOLE

I always have a choice! This is my one chance to debut as a solo artist. My video is perfect, it's a piece of me. It's a song I would actually listen too.

ROBIN

(Losing her rag.)

Me me me, IIIIII, you entitled selfish girl! What about everyone else? What about Ashley! We have all put our necks on the line to make your dreams a reality. You are not the first artist to have to scrap a stupid video. Plans change. Deal with it!

NICOLE

(calmly)

I'm not singing something I don't believe in. That's the whole reason I left the group I lost my friends for this. If you push me on this, I'll walk away!

Robin cackles

ROBIN

Walk away where? Go ahead, you can walk round the block as many times as you like but the second you open your mouth to sing, our lawyers will be on to you like a pack of hyenas.

NICOLE

What do you mean?

Ashley waves Nicoles contract in her face

ASHLEY

You don't own your voice, the company do! You can leave but you won't be able to release music or perform anywhere if they don't approve it. Didn't your corporate lawyer mummy read that in the contract?

Nicole is silent

ROBIN

Did she even sign the contract?

Silence. Nicole picks up her bag to leave.

Robin sighs

Nicole, i'm not the enemy. The company spent a lot on that music video and they won't let either of us go until we make some of that money back. You gotta work with me.

NICOLE

I want to go home

ROBIN

Fine, go home today but tomorrow we get back to work. Leave Max and his tricks with me.

Youtube HQ

Underscored to music, the stage is set up for Vinnie and Ellie's youtube show. Its levelled up. Robin walks across the stage and meets Ava glam. They exchange a greeting. They walk over to Vinnie and Ellie. Ava sits on one side, Vinnie and Ellie on the other. Members of the cast including Robin are sat on stage like a studio audience. Some watch live others through devices.

AVA GLAM

It was the perfect day. I met a friend, we stopped for Krispy kreme's on the way in-

VINNIE

Whats your favourite?

AVA

Raspberry Glazed

ELLIE

Mmmmm

VINNIE

Get in the bin

AVA GLAM

which do you like?

VINNIE

Greggs. cheap, spongy- does the job.

ELLIE

Sorry Ava, you we're saying?

AVA GLAM

Yes and then to be suddenly confronted with that energy.

ELLIE

Simone's energy. How would you describe it?

AVA GLAM

Warm at first, she's really beautiful

VINNIE

It's always the pretty girls

AVA GLAM

Yep they lure you in, then they show who they really are

ELLIE

And who is Simone Ava, what is she really like?

AVA GLAM

She's intimidating, aggressive. she's really heavy actually.

ELLIE

Is she? She doesn't look it! Where is she carrying?

AVA GLAM

Not her body weight, her soul is heavy. Emotional baggage

ELLIE

Ohh! thank you for clarifying.

AVA GLAM

That would never be me, I'm "anti-Problematic"

ELLIE

Ava i don't mean to push but we do need some details. Simone is a beloved member of our favourite group. So we need facts, hardcore evidence before we dash her to the curb!

AVA GLAM

I don't feel comfortable going into the details but i will say she made a personal attack on my character and my talent. Never has someone made feel so unworthy of my accolades.

(sudden rage)

I've done fashion week, Vogue, cosmopolitan. Dua Lipa's mum has me on speed dial. Put some respect on my name!

The audience applaud and cheer in support.

ELLIE

The way you're turning this unprovoked attack into a win. You're such an independent boss babe.

AVA GLAM

Thank you for sharing your platform.

ELLIE

Im sure Simone will be watching this. What do you want to say to her?

AVA GLAM

Wow, on the spot. Ermm I think you need do the work Simone. There's clearly unaddressed childhood trauma at play here. Some Projection perhaps.

ELLIE

I agree, she needs a wellness podcast. Actually, whats wrong with me, we're sponsored by a meditation app-

VINNIE

They need to kick her out of the band

ELLIE

Vinnie!

VINNIE

No platform for bullies

ELLIE

But this is not confirmed, she's an alleged bully

VINNIE

Streaming their music, doing their Tik-Toks, buying their photo cards is all putting money into Simone's trust fund. If she's behaving like this now, how bad will it get when she turns 18 and has the financial resources to cover up her fowl behaviour?

ELLIE

You don't speak much but when you do, points are made! Good for you taking the high road Miss Ava glam but Simone must be stopped.

VINNIE

The fans shall mobilise and take action on your behalf.

Sclub HQ

The group members apart from Simone are in the studio with Max. They are all on their phones

SERENA

They're boycotting our release. What the hell?

DEENA

This is a code red, i'm losing followers by the second.

MELODY

Max we have to put out a response

JUSTIN

And say what?

MOLLIE

The truth, we call Ava out for lying. Simone's my best friend, she's not a bully.

DEENA

Ava's our friend and we believe her.

MOLLIE

You've met once,

JUSTIN

I watch her videos, she talks to me everyday!

LEE

Whose side are you on?

JUSTIN

Justice league!

MAX

We have two options. Simone either needs to apologise-

MOLLIE

She wont apologise if she genuinely doesn't believe she did anything wrong. its against her principles

MAX

Okay, then option 2. We have to consider her future in the group

SERENA

Let's not waste time, Simone has to go.

LEE

she's not even here to defend herself

JUSTIN

Shush your mouth, All those in favour?

The trio raise their hands.

MOLLIE

Against?

Mollie, Melody and Lee raise their hands

DEENA

Okay Max has the deciding vote. So i guess Simone's out.

MAX

Nope, I'll leave this up to the members. I will say this though. If Simone doesn't apologise and we keep her in the band. There may be no S Club in a few weeks time. Summer will be over and you'll be back in school. All of the perks will go away but your reputations shall remain. They'll end Simone and cancel the rest of you by association.

JUSTIN

Silence is violence!

The group ponder for a moment. Does he have a point?

SERENA

I ask you again, all in favour-

Simone enters. The trio shoot up their hands and quickly hide them when they notice her.

SIMONE

Sorry I'm late, the bus drivers daughter is a big fan so he stopped the bus to take pictures. What did I miss?

MAX

Will you make a public apology to Ava glam as per the request of the fans.

SIMONE

No, and don't ask me again.

Simone exits the stage.

MOLLIE

Simone stays in the band. That's it.

DEENA

Idiots!

JUSTIN

Whatever

SERENA

She's killing our brand. I hope you're ready to go back to your **pathetic pointless lives!**

The trio exit in a huff

MAX

Think about what i said. Get that apology or vote her out!

Mollie and Lee walk out. Melody stays she looks troubled.

MAX

Melody, is there something you wanted to talk about?

BACKSTAGE BIG SHOW

Simone walks in closely followed by Mollie. They are mid debate. It's emotionally charged from the start.

SIMONE

I cant believe you're asking me this. You're the only person here who knows what's really going on-

MOLLIE

Simone-

SIMONE

(passionately)

She talked to me like there was wrong with me. Like me being in this group is an inconvenience, me looking like **this** is a problem.

MOLLIE

What Ava said was wrong-

SIMONE

Then stand up for me then or back me up when I'm ready to stand up for myself, **again!** Call her out; call Max out for hiring her and not asking any basic questions; Call Deena and Serena out for blindly supporting a piece of trash!

MOLLIE

I don't want either of us to make things worse, we can't win this. You can't rationalise with an angry mob.

SIMONE

Stop quoting books-

MOLLIE

It's true! I've had horrible things said about me from day 1. They crop me out of the group pictures; there are videos about how annoying I am; fan theories that I must have halitosis and "BO" thats why everyone keeps their distance from me on stage-

SIMONE

This isn't a competition mollie

MOLLIE

I know it isn't-

SIMONE

We avoid you on stage because you have bad spacial awareness. You smell fine-

MOLLIE

I know I do

SIMONE

That's not the same as what Im going through-

MOLLIE

If I had an opportunity, like you, to say sorry for whatever I've done to offend so many people that I've never even met- I would take it!

SIMONE

Even though they're in the wrong?

MOLLIE

Yes, if it would make some of the hate disappear. Absolutely, I want to be happy. I don't want to fight all the time

SIMONE

(rationally)

Okay, so you apologise and they stop..for now. Then they find something else about you they don't like. Let's say the YouTube dentist decrees that you must apologise to children across the world because the colour of your gums suggests that you brush too hard

and now they are constantly bleeding in pictures.
Will you apologise then?

MOLLIE

That analogy is nonsensical, it's ridiculous

SIMONE

Not as ridiculous as what you're asking me to do.

*Simone walks off briskly. Mollie stops and
ponders. She takes some heavy breathes.*

Performance Stage

*The studio is set, people are milling around on
stage. S Club members walk on stage apart from
mollie.*

DIRECTOR

S Club Pre show recording. Clear the stage! Pick up
you mics and in ears.

*S Club get in a huddle with Max. Justin is
distracted on his phone.*

MAX

This is not a rehearsal. Justin focus. This is your
first time on the same roster as Nicole.

MELODY

She's here?

MAX

Yes, hence I requested a closed rehearsal. Everybody
is watching to see who really needed who! We need to
come out the gate swinging.

SERENA

We got this!

MAX

Melody is on lead, take the mic, the rest of you on
backgrounds. Find that camera and charm the people at
home. Show them S Club 2.0

SIMONE

Okay hands in.

S Club for a huddle
We've worked really hard. Let's shut up the press by

showing them what we do best.

ALL

3,2,1 S Club!

SONG - ONE STEP CLOSER

The group perform. It's their best performance to date. Nicole walks in and tries to get to her friends in the band. She's stopped by the trio.

DEENA

Excuse me, closed set.

SERENA

Current band members only

NICOLE

I know sorry, I watched from the balcony. That was incredible. You were all in sync. Melody sounded amazing, the track is fire. You should be so proud. I'm proud of you

JUSTIN

Why are you proud?

NICOLE

Because it was a great performance-

JUSTIN

Are you my mum? Did you raise me? Get out!

NICOLE

Let me talk to my friends.
(shouting)
Simone!

The rest of the group turn but before they can speak max walks back on with robin

MAX

Get her away from my group Robin

NICOLE

Gladly, mediocrity is contagious. Nicole you should be doing warm ups, go to your dressing room.

Nicole and her friends acknowledge each other for a moment and then she goes

ROBIN

You dealing with the Simone problem?

MAX

It's been handled, nice try!

ROBIN

I didn't try, I succeeded. Your sales are plummeting, whilst my artists revamped image has gained us a whole new audience. I'd be surprised if you still had a budget by the end of the week.

Robin exits. Max is visibly frustrated.

MAX

Simone, a word!

Simone approaches

have you re-considered making a public apology to Ava glam? We can do it live just before our performance.

SIMONE

Wouldn't that be great. I did have a thought actually. i think that we should counter her request by requesting that she apologises to me by tattooing douche bag across her forehead.

MAX

This is the kind of aggression Ava was referring to in her interview you do yourself no favours

SIMONE

My position hasn't changed. Are we done here?

MAX

Fine, you left us with limited options. Everyone gather round. As you know we can't be seen to tolerate bullying, the fans want us to make a stand. I personally respect your position but it doesn't align with the groups interest.

SIMONE

What are you saying?

JUSTIN

(Alan Sugar style)

Simone, you're fired!

SIMONE

What?

LEE

You can't do that,

SIMONE

There needs to be a Vote

MAX

There was a vote, I abstained, but you were voted out.

MOLLIE

No she wasn't

SIMONE

By who?

JUSTIN

Me

DEENA

I did

SERENA

We did

SIMONE

Well obviously, but thats not a majority so which one of you did it?

LEE

I don't understand, we backed you up in the meeting

SIMONE

We'll maybe after your secret meeting one of you changed your mind.

MELODY

Max?

MAX

I'm not at Liberty to disclose,

SIMONE

"Its confidential". I get it. Cutting me out the group is easier than standing up for me. Easier than believing me, who you have known for most of your life, over a complete stranger. It makes perfect sense

MELODY

I believe you Simone

SIMONE

One of you is lying, be honest about it.

MELODY

Simone you have to believe me I would never,

LEE

I swear on my life I didn't

SIMONE

On mums?

LEE

What?

SIMONE

Swear on Mum's

LEE

I swear on mums I didn't

SIMONE

I believe you, move!

Simone shoves lee to the side

SIMONE

So its one of you too

MAX

This is a waste of time, the decisions been made

MOLLIE

It's obviously melody,

MELODY

Excuse me!

MOLLIE

She's new and has no emotional attachment to anyone here.

MELODY

You can't use the fact that I'm new against me.

MOLLIE

Where is the flaw in my logic? No one here has any idea of what your capable of

DEENA

(stirring the pot)
She could be the devil!

MELODY

Shut up Deena!

JUSTIN

ooooohhh

SERENA

she finally she
reveals her claws

MELODY

Simone you're essential to this group, forget the
personal stuff. It wouldn't make sense to get rid of
you, i want this group to blow.

SIMONE

It's bad enough being in a group with them but at
least I know where they stand. You lot are much
worse. You're fake. I don't even want to be here
anymore

JUSTIN

Well thats good because you're not meant to be here,
we kicked you out, so, time to go.

SIMONE

I'm done pretending we're still friends coz the
second we got here, no one cared about that anymore.
i don't wanna see any of you ever again

Simone exits

SERENA

See you in school!

DEENA

And then there were six

MELODY

What the hell Max? You're meant to be holding this
group together

MAX

This was your doing! We're going live in an hour.
Take a break then rearrange the formations

*Ellie and Vinnie enter the stage. Vinnie is
filming ellie. they are live on instagram.*

ELLIE

Oh my gosh, this stage is beautiful. Ohh hi Justin!
Say hi to my followers

JUSTIN

(into the phone)
What's up, Welcome to my crib.
(in melody and rhythm)
you're locked in to El-V-TV, keep it real, stay fly,
Stay freaky freaky fresh,

ELLIE

MC Justin, Vinnie said you cant rap but I told you
her you definitely can.

MAX

Actually scrap that break

MELODY

Who invited them?

SERENA

Justin, he's got something to announce.

MOLLIE

Max ask them to leave

MAX

They run your biggest fan page, we need the content.
Turn up those smiles and do your jobs.

MOLLIE

They say horrible things about me on a daily basis. I
don't feel comfortable with them here.

MAX

Deal with it. Never disappoint the fans, without them
you're nothing. Melody come with me, they want to
change your mic pack.

max and melody leave the stage

MOLLIE

I feel weird, maybe I should say something.

LEE

No do not engage, this will only end badly for us. we
just stay here and mind our business.

JUSTIN

Okay everyone, let me introduce you to my new
girlfriend,

LEE

What the hell!

Lee marches over to them

MOLLIE

I thought we weren't engaging?!

mollie follows lee. Ellie gives Justin a massive hug.

ELLIE

(dramatic)

Breaking news! We're exclusive

SERENA

Ohh my we ship-

DEENA

We Stan.

SERENA

Relationship goals!

DEENA

Relationship goals!

Lee taps Justin on the shoulder

LEE

What about the no dating policy?

SERENA

Oh it was a stupid rule, we'll get rid of it

LEE

A stupid rule?

JUSTIN

yeah, It wasn't working for me

DEENA

let's get rid! All in favour?

LEE

(exploding)

You specifically told me I had to break up with Vanessa for the "sake of the future of the band" and now you rock up with her!

ELLIE

I mean...if we match.. we match!

LEE

Me and Vanessa were a match made in heaven

DEENA

Urgh, so cliché!

JUSTIN

It seemed kind of fake to me

LEE

How dare you!

SERENA

Not gonna lie, you were forcing it

LEE

I'm not allowing this, break up with her right now!

MOLLIE

Calm down Lee, there's cameras

ELLIE

Me and Justin are meant to be together,

VINNIE

(Showing the phone)
And thousands of people agree.

MOLLIE

(starting to panic)
Let's walk away-

LEE

Im not walking anywhere unless its walking for
justice for Vanessa. End your relationship Justin!
(like a dragon)
End it noooooow !

Ellie gets the camera and gets close to Lee

ELLIE

As you can see S Club Lee is having a full on
meltdown. Tune in to our channel tomorrow for an
exclusive-

LEE

Get that camera out my face,

JUSTIN

I did you a favour, you were either gonna get stood
up or friend zoned. She was never going to date you.

LEE

Break up with her right now

ELLIE

Do i get a say in this?

JUSTIN

(big man energy)
Or what? are you gonna make me-

LEE

Argghhhhhhhhhh!

Lee launches at Justin. They wrestle on the ground. Lots of noise and commotion. The gang try to get the boys off of each other. Ellie and Vinnie are very entertained. Other staff members enter the stage and bring their phones out to film

ELLIE

Security, security!

MOLLIE

Lee stop it,

The security enter and try to lift lee off the stage. Lee notices Mollie is in a state.

LEE

Mollie, what's wrong?
(to the security)
Let me go!

JUSTIN

Get him outta here! Savage

People are still filming. Suddenly aware of this the trio exit the stage embarrassed.

Jimmy, Ashley, Max and robin enter. Nicole enters from the opposite side with Simone.

MAX

What the hell is going on?

ASHLEY

(to the room)
Turn off the cameras, stop recording or we will sue.

ROBIN

Everybody out. Clear the stage. Jesus Max, control your kids!

JIMMY

We are about to go live and my artists are at war. If this show does not go ahead, I shall fire every single one of you. fix it!

Jimmy exits. Mollie is hyperventilating. Nicole and Simone run over to her. There's a lot of people traffic on stage. Two backing dancers are setting up, a mic stand has been placed centre stage.

MOLLIE

I can't breath

NICOLE

Slow it down

MOLLIE

(to simone)
I didn't lie to you

SIMONE

Forget that, just slow down your breathing

MOLLIE

I can't

NICOLE

Can we get some water! Quick!

One of the backing dancers rushes over some water.

ROBIN

Clear the stage. Nicole opening positions.

Robin notices where Nicole is and runs over.

ROBIN

For gods sake, we are about to go live

NICOLE

She needs my help

ROBIN

Have you called for a medic?

NICOLE

That will make her even more anxious!

SIMONE

She gets like this sometimes, she just needs her friends and some air

ROBIN

She needs a medic!
(into her radio)
Medic to stage left

MOLLIE

I think i'm gonna faint

SIMONE

Mollie breathe, you're going to be okay.

ROBIN

Nicole, she'll be fine. Get on stage

NICOLE

I'm not leaving her!

SIMONE

Go on Nicole, I'm here.

ROBIN

(receiving through her ear piece)
Medic is 30 seconds away

NICOLE

Are you sure?

ROBIN

Get on stage!

SIMONE

Go!

Mollie gives Nicole a thumbs up. she'll be fine.

SONG - MORE MORE MORE

The intro for More More More plays. Nicole runs on just in time to sing the first verse. Her persona instantly shifts. Big smiles and high camp. She is giving a great performance but occasionally glances to the side of stage where we can see mollie is still hyperventilating. At the end of the chorus. Mollie faints and is caught by the Simone. Nicole runs off mid performance to pick up her friend.

SONG - HAVE YOU EVER

Feeling like a dream sequence, the characters

walk on to stage in their own world. Lost in
their thoughts singing Have You Ever.

Final scene

To be Written