

The S Club After Party
Centre Stage Rehearsal Draft 10/10/23

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Elizabeth and Vincent Edition

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Cast of Characters

SIMI :

NICOLE :

MOLLIE :

LEE :

MELODY :

DEENA :

SERENA :

JUSTIN :

ROBIN :

MAX :

VANESSA :

ALL :

MAMA NICOLE :

SIMONE :

PAIGE :

ELLIE :

VINNIE :

JIMMY :

NICOLE AND ROBIN :

ASHLEY :

AVA :

DIRECTOR V :

VINCENT :

ELIZABETH :

AVA GLAM :

S Club After Party Pre Show

Party music blares. The stage fills with the ensemble mingling as if at a house party. 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 song finishes and all apart from from Lee, Vanessa, Nicole, Simi, Mollie and Melody exit the stage. We see Vanessa and Lee at the door in conversation. They hug politely, Vanessa exits.

SIMI

What did they get you for your birthday?

NICOLE

Dad got me Mandarin lessons, he thinks the English language will soon be useless-

MOLLIE

I read that online-

NICOLE

And Mum doesn't believe that I should be rewarded for simply falling out of her womb when she did all the hard work **but**, with some persistent persuasion, she granted me 24 hours of mobile phone access!

Nicole excitedly reveals her phone and gives it a massive kiss. She then rapidly takes a bunch of selfies with the gang whilst they talk.

MOLLIE

Please, let me call Social services.

NICOLE

Seriously it's not that bad.

SIMI

How often do you leave the house?

NICOLE

Everyday! Our garden's massive-

MOLLIE

Oh My god!

SIMI

That doesn't count!

NICOLE

We go on bi weekly structured walks. We get organic vegetables from the farmers market via the bank, then we stop at the post office next to the pharmacy on the way back-

SIMI

Essential trips? It's 2024 Nicole and you're still in lockdown!

MOLLIE

(instant panic)
Please I can't hear that word-

SIMI

Talk to your GP Mollie
(to Nicole)
Lockdown PTSD!

Mollie shudders.

MOLLIE

(ignoring Simi)
Nicole, what do you make of your surprise guest?

Nicole is confused. Simi signals towards Melody who is now talking to Lee.

NICOLE

Oh her! Melody?

MOLLIE

Yes...

NICOLE

hmmm ..Yeah i dunno. She seems nice enough-

MOLLIE

(excitedly)
I knew you'd click! All our friends like her. You've got some so much in common.

Melody and Lee walk over over hearing the following conversation

NICOLE

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

Pause

SIMI

Why?

NICOLE

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

SIMI

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-

LEE

Prepared for what?

Nicole notices Melody and Lee.

MELODY

I did say it might be weird if I just showed up unannounced. I can wait outside. my brother's on his way

NICOLE

Yeah good idea, it's a bit crowded in here,

The gang look at the empty room then back at Nicole

NICOLE

I'm jokingggg! Seriously thanks for coming Melody, I'm glad you're having a wonderful time in my old school with my best friends.

Nicole goes for a handshake, Melody goes in for a hug.

LEE

This is weird

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

DEENA

Nicole!

Nicole rushes over to Deena glad to leave the conversation.

DEENA

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

Your unsolicited feedback is always appreciated.

DEENA

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

Serena walks over with their coats and a tray of cupcakes

NICOLE

I look forward to trying her cupcakes

SERENA

I took them back.

DEENA

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

SERENA

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

DEENA

This isn't America

NICOLE

I'm just homeschooled

SERENA

Jesus, you already lacked social integration. You're the type to spend weekends locked in your room performing Finding Nemo for your goldfish.

Justin enters, 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 hath arriv-ed!

(to Nicole)

Your dad is a top geezer, that 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".

(to the room)

Deuces

SERENA

Tell your friends not to talk to us in school.

NICOLE

(smiling)

Sure thing

They exit stage. Nicole lets out a large sigh of relief. The gang re-join her.

SIMI

Why did you invite them ?

NICOLE

(mimicking her mother)

"Her dad drops you at school in the mornings. You and Justin played tennis-"

LEE

"You were be best friends in nursery!" I hate it when parents do that!

MOLLIE

Statistically speaking, your friends kids are probably gonna end up being my enemies!

SIMI

Period!

LEE

A hundred percent facts!

NICOLE

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

LEE

Yeah, we went cinema yesterday, we snuck into a

horror movie-

MOLLIE

(nudging Lee)

We would've invited you obviously but-

NICOLE

I'm on house arrest, I get it.

MELODY

They gave me your old locker-

MOLLIE

Just for now, until you come back to school

MELODY

I kept your sticker collection. It's crazy actually meeting you, they talk about you everyday. Why did you have to leave?

LEE

She dropped a set in maths. Her parents are crazy!

NICOLE

Oi!

SIMI

And she would've been two sets above me. It was never that deep!

NICOLE

Well apparently it is Simi. Soon we wont be able to go to university without Maths A level so you best start paying attention!

LEE

Old people are so dumb!

Lee's phone buzz's, he taps Simi.

LEE

We gotta wait outside my Mum's five mins away.

SIMI

(teasing)

Yes we can't keep Mrs Thornton waiting

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

SIMI

Influenza! Stay away from 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.

SIMI

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-

SIMI

Fineeee! We'll do it

LEE

You've got 3 minutes

NICOLE

Amazing, you stand here, Mollie in the back. Simi in front-.

MELODY

Do you want me in it?

NICOLE

Sure, stand wherever you want.

Nicole gets her phone ready, they do the S club Party chorus 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 epitomises 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!
(determined)
I'm willing to take this straight to the Big boss.

MAX
No! 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
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 that, it's a sure commercial success.

Robin yells frustratedly, Max comforts them.

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 literally written on the 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 always having my back Max

Robin exits. Max pauses for a moment then quickly gets out their laptop and headphones. As they tap away we hear them working on a remix of "S Club Party"

Back in school

SONG- S CLUB PARTY REPRISE

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

Vanessa enters.

LEE
Please, stop it! Help!

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

Crap,I forgot to tell my mum. She's picking me up.

LEE

Oh okay, I wondered if you had any time over the summer 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 to Brent cross with your Grandma?

LEE

Yes, well with both of us actually.

VANESSA

Interesting. What would we do together?

LEE

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

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

VANESSA

Strange works for me. I like it. I Gotta run, need to get lunch money off my sis. See ya!

Vanessa exits, lee is visibly pleased.

SIMI
It's got how many views?

MELODY
I can't keep track
(to lee)
What happened to your hair

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

SIMI
Tik-Tok need 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-

SIMI
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 officially went viral at 6 am

LEE
Has anyone spoken to Nicole?

MOLLIE
How? She doesn't have a phone!

SIMI

Catch me outside 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-

SIMI

Foundation? Oh please let's not romanticise the situation. This school is rough! Even the teachers are making 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 eventually 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 Friendsss!

LEE

(To Simi)

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 lots were the last 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.

SERENA

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.
Adored 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

SIMI

Go on

JUSTIN

The iconic "Dj Max", big man! Did a post saying he
wanted to get in touch with the kids in the video.
Your video!

DEENA

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

SERENA

(giggling)
He's got great chat

MOLLIE

You were sending Dm's to a stranger online?

SERENA

(suddenly serious)
He's blue tick verified so I know we can trust him

MOLLIE

You can actually buy those now on twitter.

DEENA

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?

SIMI

Answer the call

SERENA

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

DEENA

Give it to me then, pull yourself together!

(answering the phone)

Hello Max, Deena speaking from Serena's phone, mhmmm,
mhmm, 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. Simi hold the phone. be
useful with your long limbs.

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

MAX

Hey, I'm on my break.. Can you hear me?

ALL

Hey Max/ Yo!/ whats up!

JUSTIN

That's the work experience kid. Where's the big man?

MAX
And this is why I rarely do face to face, I am "the big man".

JUSTIN
Oh, my bad

MAX
Many of the artists I've worked 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 in the music industry. We want authenticity, believable 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
I know those ends!

MAX
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..

SIMI
Nicole, she's been detained indefinitely

LEE
It's really sad

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. Tomorrow we make music history.

Serena walks away with the phone. Deena follows

SERENA	DEENA
Sure thing Max! Follow me back on insta	Bye Max! You're skin is flawless

DEENA
They're so powerful

SIMI
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 physically 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.

SIMI

Dont worry, Leave her Mama Nicole to me.

Nicoles front door

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

SIMI

So yes Mama Nicole that is 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 Oxford and Cambridge Mum, how many times?

SIMI

Yes for its "the oxybridges".

Nicole notices Simi's mistake and shakes her head.

MAMA NICOLE

The Oxy what?

SIMI

(spelling it out)

"The Oxy-bridges"

Yes, they were talking about personal statements and what makes us stand out and then it occurred to me that my best friend Nicole isn't doing any extra curricular activities at all.

MAMA NICOLE

Quite right, 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 Mum

MAMA NICOLE

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

NICOLE

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

MAMA NICOLE

The O levels are so confusing these days. A six, a D, I do not care, they are both below your potential!

SIMI

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

MAMA NICOLE

Hmm, maybe you do have a point. Thank you Simi for bringing this my attention. I shall email her father's secretary to schedule a meeting and we will find a solution.

SIMI
No need Mama Nicole, I've got one!

MAMA NICOLE
Go on

SIMI
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've acquired on the streets to fillet a fish.

MAMA NICOLE
Wow, the innovation. You'll meet such interesting sorts

SIMI
Of course, that's why I volunteered myself. I want to stand out so i can be at the "Oxybridges" and I need Nicole there with me. "We ended knife crime..forever" imagine that on our personal statements?

MAMA NICOLE
The optics would be great.

SIMONE
Yes I go to the opticians every year

NICOLE
(emotional)
Mama, let me go. The underprivileged clearly need me

Mama Nicole looks at Simi and then Nicole. She bursts in to tears

MAMA NICOLE
(hugging Nicole tightly)
Yes you must go my beautiful daughter. If not for the youth but for your academic future. Go forth and observe the struggle. When does she start Simi?

SIMI
Right now, thanks Mama Nicole!

Simi grabs Nicole and they run off

MAMA NICOLE
Please be safe girls.

NICOLE
Can i have my phone back?

MAMA NICOLE
No! I love you!

We hear a door slam. Nicole hugs Simi

NICOLE
Your a genius. How did that work?

SIMI
Your mother is living in a parallel universe. I feel sick

NICOLE
I'm sorry I posted the video, I couldn't resist. I didn't have a phone for months.

SIMI
Shh! It's fine, it's actually worked out for the best. Just do me a favour?

NICOLE
Anything

SIMI
When we get there. don't be yourself.

NICOLE
What?

SIMI
Listen when spoken to, smile when looked at and most importantly comply. This is an opportunity for us all to be rich like you. Don't 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 Simi enter. Nicole is unimpressed. They stop just before the chorus.

MAX
Cut the track!

DEENA
I feel like Whitney Houston

MAX
Not.... terrible. You have stronger voices than I

imagined. We can occasionally do live performances

NICOLE

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

LEE

Nicole!

*Mollie and Lee run over to Nicole and Simone.
They hug.*

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 a powerful vocal on it.

MELODY

I'd like to try,

MAX

Okay Melody,

MELODY

Could we sing it together?

MAX

Why not? Let's give it a try. Take it from the pre
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. Anyway

NICOLE

I want to discuss contracts-

JUSTIN

We deal with the fine print later lady. Protect the creative space.

MAX

No she's right lets get the house keeping out of the way. Have a seat. Paige, come in

They sit on the floor.

This is my personal assistant Paige, she handles all business affairs.

ALL

Hey Paige

PAIGE

Hello S Cluber's. Last time we managed a group there were too many rules and they all got broken.

MOLLIE

Inevitably

PAIGE

So we'd like to keep it simple with this group. Max has two rules. First one, more of a policy, majority rules. He's a hitmaker not a dictator, if theres a difference in opinion a vote shall be taken.

MOLLIE

I like this egalitarian approach

LEE

Again with the big words Mollie

MELODY

What else?

PAIGE

There are to be no new romantic relationships or situationships!

LEE

What?

MAX

I know it sounds extreme but 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?

PAIGE

They're fine. Any existing relationships must be reported to the PR team by 10am tuesday morning. There shall be no extensions or exemptions.

DEENA

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

SERENA

You just celebrated your second anniversary

DEENA

We gotta make sacrifices to secure the bag.

SIMI

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

SIMI

Nicole back down. Comply.

NICOLE

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

SIMI
Think of the money

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

NICOLE
It's bubblegum kids pop and 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'd like to actually listen to. 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 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 ruin that.

MOLLIE
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 bridge. 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! Today's 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

I couldn't get past the introduction.

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 so annoying me

ELLIE

The savagery

VINNIE

She's not a good person.

ELLIE

How can you tell?

VINNIE

She's just there taking up space, Her height is all wrong, she ruins every picture

ELLIE

Fair point. Finee, 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 embarrassing yourself

ELLIE
My main criticism 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,
whatever.. see you later bye!

Vinnie turns off the camera. Ellie is fuming

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 and you kept saying things-

VINNIE
(exiting)
You told me to speak more!

Ellie chases after Vinnie

ELLIE
Don't walk away from me!

Outside the Studio

*Nicole is making choreography for Don't Stop
Movin. 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?

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
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 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

Okay, 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. We're making risotto! 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. There's a 10 am deadline!

Vanessa puts her hand on lee's shoulder

VANESSA

Let's stick with the original plan, go out with your Grandma and see how we feel. It's early days

Justin makes a ringing sound like an emergency alarm. He runs in between them waving a textbook.

JUSTIN

woop woop! Excuse moi, textbook distance please.

SERENA

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 don't know what that means or where it's going but that's fine I think. She isn't 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.

SERENA
More camera time

DEENA
Whats it gonna be honey?

Lee is torn

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
I'm so sorry,

VANESSA
You're sweating

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 earnestly. Justin
takes over verse 2 mockingly, with Deena and
Serena on backing vocals. The full ensemble join
in for 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. Are we
running a farm here because these arms are giving
chicken wing. Especially you Mollie

MOLLIE
Excuse me!

SIMI
It's your choreography!

NICOLE
I wanna see it full out. Take it from top.

LEE
Nicole-

NICOLE
No excuses!

SONG DON'T STOP MOVIN

The group perform Don't Stop Movin. Nicole is directing the group over the microphone. It's quite bad. The group are forgetting the choreography and frequently bump 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

MELODY
We just need more time. We're not all natural dancers.

NICOLE
You can say that again!

MAX
Everyone take 5, Nicole

NICOLE
Maximilian

MAX
Can I have a 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.

t

NICOLE

Are you kidding me-

MELODY

But Nicole sounded great-

NICOLE

You had me in the studio for hours stacking vocals,
Adlibs-

MAX

Yes and we'll be using the background harmonies but
Melody will be the female lead on this. The song has
chosen her.

MELODY

Nicole I had no idea this was happening.

NICOLE

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

MELODY

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

NICOLE

Max, 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!

As the debate heats the group congregate

DEENA

We 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

JUSTIN

I think Melody on lead is massive improvement.

NICOLE

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

SERENA

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.

As if out of thin air, Paige appears.

PAIGE

How about a hiatus?

MAX

Perfect timing Paige

SERENA

Whats a hiatus?

PAIGE

A short break.

SERENA

Wow! She insults us then gets to go on a wellness retreat?

PAIGE

Nicole, respect to your talent but from what I'm sensing in this room your presence is destructive.

NICOLE

You just got here!

MAX

If this continues this band shall 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 of days off

MOLLIE

This is meant to be fun and you're making it really stressful.

JUSTIN

I'm sure the company can get you a therapist

MAX

Yes, the company will offer you whatever support you need. Thats right Paige?

PAIGE

Within reason, resources are limited.

SIMI

You need rest

NICOLE

I will rest when we have a camera ready performance.

JUSTIN

We cant rehearse anymore. My feet hurt

NICOLE

But are they bleeding?!

PAIGE

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!

SIMI

(raising their hand)
It's a couple days, you need it

NICOLE

Simi!

MELODY

I'd like to abstain

LEE

Me too

MAX

Doesn't matter, we have the majority. Nicole go home.

Nicole walks away

PAIGE

eh hmmm, Hand over your pass

Nicole walks up to Max and drops her lanyard at his feet and storms out

MELODY

Nicole!

LEE

Nicole, stop!

MAX

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

PAIGE

(to max)
Shall i fail a complaint?

Max signals for Paige to leave. They pick up the lanyard and swiftly exit.

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. Robin appears.

ROBIN

Tough day

NICOLE

Are you stalking me?
(calling out)
Security!

ROBIN

I work here.

NICOLE

Not in the mood for small talk-

ROBIN

I'll get straight to it then. I can see you're unwell, I believe 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

A couple

ROBIN

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

NICOLE

We have a voting system

ROBIN

Clearly not working in your favour.

NICOLE

(dry)
Haha Comedian

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.

NICOLE

What?

ROBIN

I discovered you on Tik Tok showed it to Max and they stole you from me. It's been toxic from the start. They don't know how to work with you, but I do!

NICOLE

Right. Okay, so Max is a fraud. Tell me something I don't already know. You work for the same company, why should I trust you?

ROBIN

Good question! The crucial difference between Max and I is that I am willing to admit that, without my artist, I am nothing! Max wants the artist to believe that they are nothing without him.

NICOLE

So what do you bring to the table?

ROBIN

I'm not one to brag but I am the best creative director, branding consultant, all in one that you will ever have. Your song writing skills and my creative vision....we will be unstoppable.

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

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

ROBIN

They've made their move, now we need to make ours. Hiatus today, replaced tomorrow! Max is ruthless and, by the sounds of things, so is Melody.

NICOLE

(instant rage)
She's stealing my life. First my friends and now my career. I don't believe her innocent act for a second. She wanted that lead and she begged 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.

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?

SIMI

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

No it wasn't your fault. Hopefully joining her on hiatus will prove that we have her back. Solidarity!

Mama Nicole opens the door

MAMA NICOLE

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

SIMI

So well! Mama Nicole, truly rewarding

MAMA NICOLE

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

SIMI

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?

SIMI
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?

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

MAMA NICOLE
Oxbridge darling, if you want to get in you should learn to speak properly. 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?

MOLLIE
No, thank you bye!

Simi slams the door, the gang run away.

LEE
What was all that about?

SIMI
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

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 our new 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.

ASHLEY

There's 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 i suppose theres no rush we could give you a later slot,

ASHLEY

How does Christmas sound?

JIMMY

(sung)

Rudolf the red nose reindeer.

You'd do a smashing cover

NICOLE

Actually, a couple of days sounds good.

ROBIN

We 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. She's a superstar!

ASHLEY

Understood. We will need to get contracts signed before the shoot. Protection for all parties. You'll need a guardian to sign with you Nicole. Do you need lawyers? Our company has many-

NICOLE

My mum's a corporate lawyer

JIMMY

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

Jimmy and Ashley leave

NICOLE

This is happening too fast, I love it but... Woah! I need to think

ROBIN

Breathe Nicole!

NICOLE

I haven't formally left the Group yet. I'll need to let my friends know.

ROBIN

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 bar

NICOLE

It's a different league. For the video, I'm seeing big production value, dancers, lasers-

ROBIN

No, I see a blacked out stage, a spotlight and a chair. No gimmicks. Just your talent. I trust you with song now you trust me with the visuals.

Studio dressing room

On one side of the stage the S Club members are rehearsing for the video shoot. On the other, Ava Glam is filming a "GRWM" video addressed directly at the audience. On completion she meets Deena and Serena centre stage.

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?

SIMI

Ava-

AVA

Heyy, 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 Simi and Ava. Simi sits in the chair. Ava gets out her make up and starts applying to herself. She does this throughout the following conversation occasionally looking at Simi through the mirror.

SIMI

Hey Ava i-

AVA

Your skin is so beautiful, you really don't need much make up at all. I'll just do a bit of powder.

SIMI
Oh no, I need the full glam, I've barely had any sleep

AVA
Ahhh, bless. Can I level with you? For your Make up we're fine, Easy. But with you hair, hmmm. I honestly wouldn't know where to start. I only have experience with standard hair types.

SIMI
what kind of hair do i have?

AVA
Amalgamation hair

SIMI
Amalgamation, Is that an industry term?

AVA
It's an Ava Glam original. You know my brand. "Anti problematique". You look confused babe?

SIMI
I'm sorry, this is a lot to process

AVA
No need to apologise but yes

Ava runs her hands through Simi's hair. Simi flinches

This **is** a lot to process. Are curls naturally dry or oily?

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

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

SIMI
Maybe google can help you

AVA
The shade
(clicking her fingers)
Don't send for me unless i send for you playa!

SIMI

(cringed out)

Wow

AVA

(smiling)

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

Ava goes into her bag and pulls out a Colourful head piece.

How about you wear this? The amazon reviewers swear it's authentic.

Ava tries to put the head piece on Simi's head, they doge it and stay up from the make up chair.

SIMI

Can I level with you Ava?

AVA

Of course

SIMI

You shouldn't have accepted this job. You lack the experience and basic knowledge.

AVA

Excuse me-

SIMI

and everything you've just said is beyond offensive.

AVA

(finding the words)

That is...disrespectful, hurtful... and factually incorrect.

SIMI

Don't touch my hair again

AVA

Is that a threat?

SIMI

It's a boundary

AVA

I've never been made to feel like this on a job before. You are being so unreasonable

SIMI

For asking for the same treatment as the rest of the group? This should be simple, it's just make up and hair.

AVA

(shocked)
Just make up and hair!?
 (shouting)
 Girls. Come in quick. Help me!

The rest of the band 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. I came in bursting with positivity but 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 shhh...I'm sorry, I must 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 Simi who is visibly pissed off.

DEENA

What the hell Simi?

JUSTIN

What did you do?

Simi's expression is blank

MOLLIE

Are you okay?

LEE

Simi whats wrong?

DEENA

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

SERENA

and No Nicole!

Max enters with paige

MAX
The Music videos is cancelled. Nicole stole our slot and our director.

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

MAX
(enraged)
She is not your friend! How many times! She is your direct competition.

PAIGE
Calm down Max-

MAX
Look. Maybe she was, a while ago, but fame changes people. We're down to six members. Melody is 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 Nicole and her team .

DIRECTOR V
(shouting)
And cut, we got it! That was the take. Great job team.

ROBIN
Director V, I got goosebumps watching the monitors. A crime was committed today, Musical witchcraft. Nicole, how do you feel?

NICOLE
(out of breath)
Powerful...Exhausted, i mean 32 takes. It's a lot-

DIRECTOR V

(shouting across the room)
And you nailed every angle, i could've stopped hours ago but you kept raising the bar.

ROBIN

We've got so much to play with in the edit.

DIRECTOR V

You're a Diamond Nicole

NICOLE

(tentative to start)
Director, would it be possible to have a face to face conversation with you? A bit closer, without the erm balaclava?

Director V walks towards Nicole. Robin smiles knowingly.

I mean, if i saw you in the shops or on the street I'd like to say hello

Director V takes of the Balaclava revealing Vanessa

OMG Vanessa...you're-

VANESSA

Director V, yes. I thought the shock might effect your performance.... I can see i was right..

ROBIN

Nicole, relax your forehead

VANESSA

You okay?

NICOLE

Yeahhh. Robin...explain?

ROBIN

Would you have trusted me if I said your school mate was going to direct your debut music video. Do you trust me right now?

NICOLE

Maybe

VANESSA

Definitely not

ROBIN

I told you I'd get you the best.

NICOLE

You said a director with industry experience.

VANESSA

I've been making music videos for the last 4 years.

ROBIN

Award winning videos. Dont be so modest.

VANESSA

Our foster careers work for Disney, they make great movies.

NICOLE

Yeah my mums a great lawyer wins most of her cases but if I'm the one representing you, you're going down for life! Robin what are you doing-

ROBIN

Watch the playback Nicole. Her work speaks for itself.

Robin hands Nicole an I-pad. Nicole watches the clip intensely

VANESSA

You don't have to use the footage, you can re-shoot with someone else.

NICOLE

No! Im sorry for doubting you, this was what I saw in my head and so much more. You're incredible

VANESSA

Thank you

NICOLE

Why does no one at school know about this? You're living a double life.

VANESSA

And I'd like it to stay that way, please. My family is so industry. At school I just get to be normal. I've got the best of both worlds-

ROBIN

Hannah Montana!

You get the best of
both worlds. Chill it
out take it slow, then
you rock out the show!

NICOLE

Hannah Montana!

You get the best of
both worlds. Chill it
out take it slow, then
you rock out the show!

*They all giggle and sing the theme tune of
Disneys Hannah Montana. It's a moment of pure
joy, they are acting their age for once. Robin
breaks the moment*

ROBIN

Right! Back to work.

NICOLE

Urghhh!

ROBIN

Let's get you freshened up

NICOLE

Surely we're done-

ROBIN

Nope. We have a day of interviews.

*Lee enters phone in hand holding his phone like
a compass. Vanessa notices lee and quickly grabs
her bag to exit. Lee spots Vanessa and waves.
She reluctantly waves back.*

VANESSA

Oh gosh, is that the only exit?

ROBIN

I'm afraid so

VANESSA

Crap, see you in the edit!

NICOLE

Good luck!

*Nicole exits. Robin stays on stage chatting with
crew members.*

LEE

What are you doing here?

VANESSA

I won a tour of the studios. School trip

LEE

Where is everyone else?

VANESSA

I got lost, how did you know I was here?

LEE

Snapchat, it buzzed me and said you were meters away.
So I had to investigate

VANESSA

That's very concerning,

LEE

You hungry? I can get you some pizza from the
canteen. It's Cheap!

VANESSA

No thanks, I'm gluten free

LEE

Im sure they have options..

VANESSA

I already checked-

LEE

Okay-

VANESSA

Good bye, nice to see you!

Vanessa makes for the exit

LEE

Vanessa, I'm sorry I haven't reached out. It's been
crazy busy with promo and rehearsals.

VANESSA

Pop-star life, I get it. I too have been busy

LEE

They have no right to dictate what I do in my
personal life. Who I'm seeing, when I see them, what
I do with them. It has nothing to do with the group.
Fair enough if I was in a gang or something..
scamming old people or whatever but I'm not. I just
wanted to take you to Brent cross

VANESSA

With your Grandma. I remember. We should let that go, the moment has passed.

LEE

Yeah thats fair

VANESSA

But I'm glad you have come to this realisation. You are growing

LEE

Thank you Vanessa

VANESSA

So whats the next steps?

LEE

Next?

VANESSA

Mmm hmm, what actions do you plan to take? Have you shared these thoughts with the others?

LEE

Well not quite yet. It's not a great time to discuss it.

VANESSA

Will there ever be a great time Lee?

LEE

I honestly don't know..I'm sorry, but i promise you i will talk to them.

VANESSA

Don't promise me Lee, promise yourself! Do better for you

Vanessa exits. Lee is dejected Max enters.

MAX

Get to rehearsals Lee

LEE

Yes Sir!

Lee exits

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 pop stars.

ROBIN
What do you want Max?

MAX
You suddenly 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 will play dirtier.

ROBIN
All this effort to get at me for taking back 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-

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 it iss 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.

ROBIN
I think you should go

MAX
Do we have a deal on the budgets?

ROBIN
Screw you Max!

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

Vincent and Elizabeth Youtuber's HQ
- Group statement

Vincent and Elizabeth are live on youtube. An alternative version of Vinnie and Ellie

VINCENT
(reading from queue card)
"We are saddened to hear Nicole has chosen to leave the band"-

ELIZABETH

Well obviously, she was the only one singing!

VINCENT

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

ELIZABETH

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

VINCENT

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

ELIZABETH

Awww they're putting their friendship first

VINCENT

(a threat)
Interrupt me again!

Elizabeth takes the queue card

ELIZABETH

"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."

VINCENT

(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.

Vincent cracks up laughing. Elizabeth is shocked and disgusted.

ELIZABETH

Vincent 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.

VINCENT

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

VINCENT

Oh my!

ELIZABETH

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 pop star and instead we gave them front row seats to a burlesque show. She's meant to be a role model!

JIMMY

You showed much promise Robin. You played a high stakes game and your luck has run out

ASHLEY

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 for a bit. Got married and divorced but all of that led her back to Dolly Parton. Now she's top of the charts again 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, I I I I I I, you selfish entitled little 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 my artistic freedom. If you push me on this, I'll walk away!

Robin cackles

ASHLEY

Walk away where? Go ahead, you can walk round the block as many times as you like but the second you open your big 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

ROBIN

You don't own your voice, the company do.

ASHLEY

You can leave but you won't be releasing music or performing anywhere if we don't approve it first. 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

ROBIN

I'm not the enemy. The company spent a lot on tis project 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.

The Vincent and Elizabeth show

Underscored to music, the stage is set up for a live talk show. Robin walks across the stage and meets Ava Glam. They exchange a greeting. They walk over to Vincent and Elizabeth. Ava sits on one side, Vincent and Elizabeth 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 kremes on the way in-

VINCENT

Whats your favourite?

AVA

Raspberry Glazed

ELIZABETH

Mmmmm

VINCENT

Get in the bin

AVA GLAM

which do you like?

VINCENT

Greggs. cheap, spongy- does the job.

ELIZABETH

Sorry Ava, you were saying?

AVA GLAM

Yes and then to be suddenly confronted with *that* energy.

ELIZABETH

Simi's energy. How would you describe it?

AVA GLAM

Warm at first, they're really beautiful

VINNIE

It's always the pretty ones

AVA GLAM

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

ELIZABETH

And who is Simi Ava, what are they really like?

AVA GLAM

Intimidating, aggressive, wounded maybe. They've clearly been through some stuff.

ELIZABETH

Ava I don't mean to push but we do need some details.

VINCENT

Specifics!

ELIZABETH

Simi is a beloved member of our favourite group. So we need facts, hardcore evidence before we dash them to the curb!

AVA GLAM

I don't feel comfortable going into the details but I will say that they 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 Paris fashion week, Vogue, Loose women! Dua Lipa's mum has me on speed dial. Put some respect on my name!

The audience applaud and cheer in support.

ELIZABETH

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.

ELIZABETH

I'm sure Simi will be watching this. What do you want to say to them?

AVA GLAM

Wow, on the spot.

(zoning in)

I think you need do the work. Simi. There's clearly unaddressed childhood trauma at play here.

ELIZABETH

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

VINCENT

They need to kick Simi out of the band

ELIZABETH

vincent!

VINCENT

No platform for bullies

ELIZABETH

But this is not confirmed, Simi is an alleged bully

VINCENT

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

ELIZABETH

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

VINCENT

The fans shall mobilise and take action on your behalf.

Sclub HQ

The group members apart from Simi 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. Simi's my best friend, they aren't 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. Simi either needs to apologise-

MOLLIE

They wont apologise if they genuinely doesn't believe they've did anything wrong. It's against their principles

MAX

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

SERENA

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

LEE

Simi's not here to explain

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 Simi's out.

MAX

Nope, I'll leave this up to the members. I will say this though. If Simi doesn't apologise and we keep them 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 Simi 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-

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

SIMI

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.

SIMI

No, and don't ask me again.

Simi exits the stage.

MOLLIE

Simi stays in the band. That's it.

DEENA

Idiots!

JUSTIN

Whatever

SERENA

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

The trio exit in a huff

MAX

Think about what I said. Get that apology or vote them out!

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

MAX

Melody, is there something you wanted to talk about?

BACKSTAGE BIG SHOW

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

SIMI

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

MOLLIE

Simi-

SIMI

(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 -

SIMI

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.

SIMI

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-

SIMI

This isn't a competition mollie

MOLLIE

I know it isn't-

SIMI

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

MOLLIE

I know I do

SIMI

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!

SIMI

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

SIMI

(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

SIMI

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

Simi walks off briskly. Mollie stops and

ponders. She takes some heavy breaths.

Performance Stage

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

PAIGE

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! 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

SIMI

Okay hands in.

S Club form 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 but I watched from the balcony. That was incredible. You were all in sync. Melody sounded amazing. 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)

Simi!

The rest of the group turn but before they can speak Max, followed by Paige, walks back on with Robin and Ashley

MAX

Get her away from my group Robin

ROBIN

Gladly, mediocrity is contagious. Nicole you should be doing warm ups, dressing room. Now!

Nicole and her friends acknowledge each other for a moment and then she goes.
You dealing with the Simi problem?

MAX

It's been handled, nice try!

ROBIN

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

Robin and Ashley exit. Max is visibly frustrated.

MAX

Simi, a word!

Simi approaches

Have you re-considered apologising to Ava glam? We can do it live just before our performance.

SIMI

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

MAX

So this is the kind of aggression Ava was referring to. You do yourself no favours

SIMI

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

MAX

Regrettably yes, I think we are. Everyone gather round. As you know we can't be seen to tolerate bullying and the fans want us to make a stand. Simi, I personally respect your position but it doesn't align with the groups interest.

SIMI

What are you saying?

JUSTIN

(Alan Sugar style)

Simi, you're fired!

SIMI

What?

LEE

You can't do that,

SIMI

There needs to be a Vote

MAX

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

MOLLIE

No they weren't

SIMI
On mums?

LEE
What?

SIMI
Swear on your Mum's

LEE
I swear on my mums I didn't!

SIMI
I believe you, move!

Simi shoves lee to the side

SIMI
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
oooohhh!

SERENA
She finally she reveals her claws

MELODY

Simi 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.

SIMI

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.

SIMI

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

Simi 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 being 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 drink our water 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 marching for
justice for Vanessa. End your relationship Justin!
(like a dragon blowing fire)
End it noooooow !

Vinnie does a close up on Lee

VINNIE
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, Paige and Robin enter from one side. Nicole and Simi enter from the other.

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! Ashley, Paige come with

me. I need a top 6 crisis meeting scheduled for right now!

They exit. Mollie is hyperventilating. Nicole and Simi 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 Simi)
I didn't lie to you

SIMI

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!

SIMI

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

SIMI

Mollie breathe, you're going to be okay.

ROBIN

Nicole, she'll be fine. Get on stage

NICOLE

I'm not leaving her!

SIMI

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!

SIMI

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 Simi. 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. Group therapy

ELLIE

My brain is fried, I expected drama but this is more than we could've ever imagined.

VINNIE

Thank you for your honesty and choosing us to host your group therapy session

ELLIE

We feared this day would never come. The fans mourned you. Hashtag "RIP S Club"

MELODY

Well as you can see we didn't die. We all agreed to take a social media hiatus

LEE

No new content for three months

VINNIE

Well now we know why. Mollie, we were horrified to hear that it was our videos that pushed you over the edge, we are so sorry.

MOLLIE

It wasn't just a your videos.

ELLIE

(offering the mic)
Speak on it sister

MOLLIE

There was so much going on even before I joined the group. I was struggling at school, there's so much social pressure and not enough people are talking about it. Fortunately I have great friends I can be honest with but not everyone feels like they have that

ELLIE

Yaaass gurl! come through mental health advocation queen! Lets get that Prince Harry podcast deal

MOLLIE

Gosh your still part of the problem-

ELLIE

Speaking of problems, Miss Ava Glam?

VINNIE

Anti problematique my ass.

ELLIE

Simone obviously none of us were there when it went down between you and Ava. So it's your word against hers but if its any consolation, after hearing you speak, we one hundred percent believe you!

VINNIE

By official decree of "ELV TV", Ava Glam is hereby cancelled!

ELLIE

We have your back Simi, but what about Ava's loyal fans, are you ready to take them on. How will you convince them?

SIMONE

To be honest I don't actually care what they think. My friends and family, my day ones, they support me. They know who I really am. And that's gotta be enough for me.... I'm done being judged by people I will probably never meet in real life.. people I probably wouldn't even like! I wont be returning to social media anytime soon.

ELLIE

But what if we fixed it? Made it a super safe space with no toxicity-

VINNIE

Like Elon musk did with X..formally twitter.

ELLIE

Could you be persuaded?

MOLLIE

Impossible! but thats just me I can't speak for the rest of the group

DEENA

Check your notifications straight after this broadcast, some of us will be back sooner than you think.

MELODY

Really Deena? what about solidarity?

DEENA

Solidarity doesn't pay the bills.

SERENA

Social media is our main source of income, we are bound for the rest of our lives

DEENA

DM us for promotions and brand deals.

VINNIE

Nicole, I hear your mum is representing the group in court in the lawsuit against your old record label. What can you tell us?

NICOLE

It's all settled now. My mum looked over our contracts. They were some of the worst she'd seen. It was a 360 deal. They owned everything and wanted to pay us minimum wage.

MELODY

but as they'd broken so many child labour laws and some of us had been encouraged to forge our contracts. They paid up to avoid any further legal action.

VINNIE

How much?

NICOLE

We are not-

ELLIE

Vinnie, some class please. Maybe someone else can share some right on the situation? let me think... Max and robin, HI! You're being awfully quiet

ROBIN

We've just been taking it all in

MAX

So much to process

VINNIE

Criminals

ELLIE

Well, Do you want to maybe apologise?

JUSTIN

We don't need an apology, I want hard cash. Run me my money!

LEE
Justin chill, no more fighting

MAX
We have apologised numerous times but the group wanted space.

ROBIN
We aren't going to try and justify our actions or blame anyone else but we want you to know that we have both left the record company and are seeking help.

MAX
That place made us into people we can't recognise

ROBIN
You describe us awful people and thats fair, that was your experience of us.

MAX
But when we joined this company we were young, filled with hope and positivity,

MELODY
Aren't you like 13?

ROBIN
Our parents warned us, this business will rob your youth-

LEE
And turn friends against each other

MAX
Yeah and make Siblings mortal enemies

ELLIE
Yeah..... What? Who is sibling?

MAX
Robin's my Twin

ALL
Woahhhhhh, what. Nahhh!

NICOLE
This is how you treat your own flesh and blood??

DEENA
Your family is messed up

ROBIN

Well all families have their problems

JUSTIN

Nahhh you lot are different breed

ROBIN

Well we are working through our issues with the family therapist

MAX

We're back in school pursuing normal lives. No music industry activity, We are having a great time..

MOLLIE

Its all lies for the audience

ROBIN

Okay fine. We are starting our own independent music production house and we'd love to get the group back together. We know you don't trust us right now but maybe one day . .

MAX

When the dust is settled and we've all grown up a bit we can come back together and do things properly. The fans would love it

DEENA

They wont care, they've already moved on.

SERENA

I've lost thousands of followers

ELLIE

I wouldn't be so sure, your music is special;

VINNIE

in 20 years time people will be paying top London Pounds to see you

NICOLE

Who knows, but for now, our friendship is our focus

ELLIE

How sweet, well there is one last matter we need to deal with: Mr Lee aka the Hulk vs the nations cupcake Justin.

VINNIE

After footage of Justin and Lee wrestling each other

went viral, hashtag "Justice for Vanessa" trended all over the world. With many asking "Who the hell is Vanessa"

ELLIE

Well fear not audience, though we have left our social media hacking days in our past, we had to go digging one last time for this noble cause.

VINNIE

Come on out Vanessa!

LEE

Gosh she's here, Vanessa I'm so sorry

ELLIE

Vanessa is there anything you'd like to say? How has this time been for you?

VANESSA

I am fine, but this whole justice for Vanessa movement is unnecessary and I'd like it to stop

VINNIE

Bit ungrateful

VANESSA

Lee. I saw red in your eyes as you clawed your nails into Justin's scalp. It was horrible to watch

ELLIE

He was going in, I'm surprised Justin didn't press charges

JUSTIN

Oh I did! I was ready to wipe his trust fund clean,

LEE

But we settled it in the playground

JUSTIN

Yeah we're good.....for now

VANESSA

c=Can I finish.

LEE

Sorry Vanessa

VANESSA

I don't condone violence but I am proud of you Lee

for handling business and finally standing up for yourself. Justin deserved to get beat

JUSTIN
She's got a point

LEE
Thank you

VANESSA
and I would like to take you up on your offer

ELLIE
Oooh a date, finally

VANESSA
I would like you to go Brent cross with you

ALL
Awww

VANESSA
And your grandma

ALL
Ugghhh? Eww, wow. Really lee?

LEE
Nooo! It's not what it sounds like

VINNIE
You do you Lee don't let them shame you.

ELLIE
Folks at home, it pains me to say this but we have come to end of our S Club special. Thank you to all our special guests. Your vulnerability and willingness to forgive is a lesson for us all. Your fans are so proud of you.

VINNIE
I suspect that this is the last time you will all be together.

ELLIE
For a while at least. I think I'm gonna cry

VINNIE
Fake tears, she never liked your music-

ELLIE
Vinnie!

VINNIE
Would you do us the honour of singing us out.

ELLIE
(breaking down)
The last ever S Club performance.

NICOLE
Sure thing, but only if everyone sings along

BRING IT ALL BACK FINALE

END.

END