

OpenLearn narrative

First Day

Naomi, Stephen, Ms Rivers, Ryan, Hope, Dean, Gemma, Mr Taylor, Charlotte:

Scene 1: Car parked outside a school

STEPHEN: Do you want me to come in?

NAOMI: I'll be fine. Aren't you going to be late for work?

STEPHEN: Perks of being a freelancer.

NAOMI: More like freeloader. Still living at home and mom and dad.

STEPHEN: I don't hear you complain when you need my credit card.

NAOMI: Oh. That reminds me you can pay for my laser hair removal.

STEPHEN: Isn't that covered on the NHS?

NAOMI: You're a funny guy.

STEPHEN: How much is it?

NAOMI: Just my face, 600.

STEPHEN: [jokingly] Piss off!

NAOMI: Minimum.

[LAUGHS]

STEPHEN: I'll see you after school.

NAOMI: Don't worry, I'll walk back.

STEPHEN: You sure?

NAOMI: Yeah, it'll be good to stretch my legs.

STEPHEN: All right. Call if you need to.

NAOMI: I will.

Scene 2: Classroom

MS RIVERS: Guys, please make sure you sign the bottom of the form, please, before I come around and collect them in.

RYAN: Miss. What are you doing this weekend?

MS RIVERS: Ryan, can you get back into your seat, please?

RYAN: What are you doing this weekend?

MS RIVERS: Thank you so much.

RYAN: Yeah.

[LAUGHS]

MS RIVERS: Keep signing that one there for me. Ah! You must be on this student. Naomi, formerly from Woodbridge? I've got you down to buddy up with Hope, if that's OK?

RYAN: Miss, Miss.

MS RIVERS: Yes, what is it?

RYAN: [To Naomi] Are you single?

MS RIVERS: Thank you very much, Ryan. Thank you. How was your journey in today?

HOPE: Don't fancy your chances. She was just with a guy who drives.

RYAN: So? I've got mates at the Bridge who can confirm her status.

MS RIVERS: So, in the meantime, you can sit...

RYAN: On my lap.

[LAUGHTER]

MS RIVERS: Bear with me a moment, I'll just go and get you a seat.

[Ms Rivers Exits and a moment of awkwardness takes place between the class and Naomi. Ryan then receives a message on his phone and shares it with friends. He then turns his attention to Naomi]

DEAN: Bro.

RYAN: Is your name Nathan? Are you a boy?

NAOMI: Do I look like a boy?

RYAN: You do here.

[LAUGHS]

So? What are you?

[As Ms Rivers returns to the classroom with a chair, Naomi storms out]

MS RIVERS: Right. I don't suppose anyone would tell me what that was all about.

[The students remain silent]

Scene 3: Toilets

[Naomi is looking in a mirror, visibly distressed and plucking her facial hair with tweezers]

Scene 4: Outside the school

MS RIVERS: Not a great start to your first day.

NAOMI: That guy was being a prick. And no, I don't want to talk about it.

MS RIVERS: Well, we don't use language like that in this school or storm out of classrooms.

NAOMI: Oh, but it's fine for boys to like offer up their laps, yeah?!

MS RIVERS: OK, I will talk to him about that later.

NAOMI: Why don't you talk to him now?

MS RIVERS: Because we're discussing your behaviour now. Was he being discriminating?

NAOMI: Yes.

MS RIVERS: OK, well we take accusations of racism very seriously at this school.

NAOMI: He wasn't being racist.

MS RIVERS: So, what then?

NAOMI: He was being transphobic.

MS RIVERS: I'm sorry, what?

NAOMI: [huffs] I'm trans.

MS RIVERS: Oh. Well, I wasn't aware.

NAOMI: And I wanted to keep it that way.

MS RIVERS: And now it's public knowledge.

NAOMI: Yeah, because you told everyone what school I went to.

MS RIVERS: Apologies... I've never encountered this problem before.

NAOMI: Problem?

MS RIVERS: Situation. Sorry. OK, going forward, would you like the school to put something in place where everyone recognises your new identity?

NAOMI: Or maybe you could just see me as a normal girl starting a new school. How about that?

MS RIVERS: Yes, sure.

NAOMI: What if someone calls me by my dead name?

MS RIVERS: Your what?

NAOMI: My dead name. What I was called before.

MS RIVERS: Um, unless it's inherently offensive to the words that are being said--

NAOMI: Dead naming a trans person is offensive. Look it up. People only say that to hurt us. Like what if someone's racist to me because I'm Chinese? What then?

MS RIVERS: Well, admittedly, we do have more experience when it comes to race... Look, for now, I advise you just to ignore them.

NAOMI: Ignore them... You don't care, do you? None of you do. People always come at me with like these statistics like, oh, one in every four trans people attempt suicide as though that's like the reason why my existence is wrong. But we're not killing ourselves because we're trans. We're killing ourselves because of people like that boy and because of people like you who let it happen.

Scene 5: Naomi is in the school cafeteria messaging a social media group on her phone asking which toilets are safe to use.

Scene 6: Locker room outside the female toilet

[Naomi walks out of the toilets and is confronted by a six-former.]

CHARLOTTE: Are you supposed to be here? These are sixth form toilets. What are you doing?

[awkward silence] Oh, cat got your tongue? Speak up.

NAOMI: Privacy.

CHARLOTTE: My God, your voice. Are you a guy?

[Hope enters the scene]

HOPE: She's trans. Leave her alone.

[Hope grabs Naomi's arm and pulls her out of the room into the corridor]

CHARLOTTE: Freak.

Scene 7: School corridor

HOPE: No need to thank me.

NAOMI: Thank you for what? Telling more people that I'm trans? Do you even realize what you-- no, of course, you don't, cis girl, I swear.

HOPE: I'm sorry. Look, I just want to learn.

NAOMI: Why?

HOPE: Because I want to help. Besides, I'm your official buddy. But I didn't get a chance to catch up with you yesterday, but I wanted to say you're really pretty for a trans girl.

NAOMI: For a trans girl?

HOPE: Yeah. I mean you look like a real girl.

NAOMI: Yeah, I am a real girl. It's kind of the point.

HOPE: No. Sorry, I misspoke again. But I mean you were still born a boy, weren't you? But even then, nothing about gives it away.

NAOMI: [joking] I did shave this morning.

HOPE: You shave?

NAOMI: Yeah. Don't you?

HOPE: No.

NAOMI: You've never shaved your legs?

HOPE: Oh. Yeah, I do that.

NAOMI: Yeah, me, too. I shaved my legs this morning. I guess we've got that in common.

HOPE: That's not all. I got bullied as well.

NAOMI: What, did people call you a boy, too?

HOPE: No. But I got called giraffe at primary school. Growth spurt. It was so embarrassing. I towered over everyone for years.

NAOMI: That must have been so hard for you.

HOPE: I mean, I'm not saying it's on the same level as what you deal with. But I guess I know from experience that it helps to have a friend to step in sometimes.

NAOMI: What, like if someone's giving me a hard time?

HOPE: Yeah, like with that sixth former just now.

NAOMI: Or like with your mate, Ryan.

Scene 8: Common room

RYAN: [approaching Hope] Where were you? I called. You're still joining us after school, yeah? Gemma and Dean are in.

GEMMA: I can speak for myself.

RYAN: Shut up.

HOPE: Sorry. I was with Naomi.

RYAN: Yeah, he's not coming.

HOPE: Why not?

RYAN: I don't invite liars.

HOPE: And what did she lie about exactly?

RYAN: He's trying to pass himself off as a girl. That's lying. Look {Ryan passes his phone to Hope]

HOPE: Delete. She is not obligated to share that information with everyone.

RYAN: He's obligated to because he looks like a girl.

HOPE: Why?

RYAN: What if someone gets with her?

HOPE: What if someone gets with her?

RYAN: He'd have to come clean, no?

HOPE: Why? Do you want to get with her?

RYAN: No. What? No.

HOPE: Well then, why do you care?

RYAN: I don't. [awkward silence then Ryan walks off in a strop]

GEMMA: To be fair, Hope, I don't want him perving on us in the changing room.

Scene 9: Drama class – students are improvising a husband-and-wife scenario.

DEAN: I promise to look after you both, with every inch of my soul.

MR TAYLOR: Well done, you two. That was very realistic.

[APPLAUSE]

So, for the next scene, can we have Ryan? You can be the husband. And Naomi, you can be the wife. So, you're five months pregnant, and you're discussing your expectations of parenthood.

RYAN: Uh – I don't think so.

MR TAYLOR: You selected drama over geography.

RYAN: I'm just not that good of an actor.

MR TAYLOR: To convince us of what?

RYAN: That I'm married to him.

MR TAYLOR: Excuse me?

RYAN: I'm not acting with him.

MR TAYLOR: Naomi, what are your pronouns?

NAOMI: She/her.

MR TAYLOR: I think you mean her.

RYAN: Oh, OK. How is SHE going to give birth? You said five months pregnant.

MR TAYLOR: You're right, I did, my bad. Lots of mothers don't give birth themselves. You could be doing IVF, using a surrogate, you could be thinking about adopting, there are plenty of options. So, you're a couple discussing having a child. Go.

RYAN: Hm. Ah, man. It's just not realistic.

MR TAYLOR: Ryan, you're acting. Make it realistic.

RYAN: [SIGHS] I'm not doing it.

MR TAYLOR: You're refusing to participate.

RYAN: Oh, looks like it.

MR TAYLOR: Well, your grades will reflect that decision. Can we have another partner, please? [silence]

HOPE: I'll do it.

MR TAYLOR: Thank you, Hope.

RYAN: What, so now she's gay as well?

NAOMI: Trans people can be gay too.

RYAN: What, so you pretend to be a girl to get with girls?

MR TAYLOR: [sternly] Ryan! That's enough.

NAOMI: No, no, no, no, no. I was pretending to be a boy. But you know what, yeah? Even back when I was pretending to be a boy, I still got more girls than you.

Everyone: Ooooooh!

[LAUGHTER]

Scene 10: Outside the school

[Hope and Naomi are walking]

HOPE: Nice acting earlier.

NAOMI: Thanks, you too. You make a good wife.

HOPE: Good to know. Not many boys worth dating in this school.

NAOMI: Mm.

HOPE: Are you with that guy who drops you off, then?

NAOMI: Oh my God, yuck! That's my brother.

[LAUGHING]

Oh, my god.

HOPE: Oh....That's awkward.

NAOMI: The thing is that I'm not even that into guys, really.

HOPE: You know it's so dumb what Ryan said earlier. About you pretending to be a girl, to get girls.

NAOMI: Why?

HOPE: Because you've made it so much harder for yourself. I don't know any girls who would date a trans girl.

NAOMI: I don't know, you seemed pretty into me earlier.

[LAUGHING]

HOPE: Stop it. So, you were straight, before?

NAOMI: I don't know. Not really. I mean, I was never really a boy, so I guess I was always gay.

HOPE: You were never a boy? Weren't you born as one?

NAOMI: I mean, like, I was assigned male at birth. But I never identified with that. My gender identity was always female.

HOPE: Sex and gender are different. I thought everyone identified as one or the other.

NAOMI: [SIGHS] OK, so most people like you are cisgender. That means that you identify with the gender that you were assigned at birth. But some people are transgender, which means that they identify as a different gender to the one that they're assigned at birth. And like me, I'm a binary trans woman, which means that I identify as female, even though I was assigned male at birth. But there are some people who are nonbinary, which means that they don't identify as either male or female.

HOPE: Oh, OK. So, you identify as female, and are attracted to females?

NAOMI: I don't know. I'm still working on it. Like, I'm attracted to femininity, but I don't know if that means that I'm just attracted to females. Like, I definitely like femboys, too. [LAUGHS] But I mean people aren't just, like, boys, girls, male, female, gay, and straight. It's way more fluid than that. Like, it's not just one or the other. Like, gender and sexuality, all of this, it's all on a spectrum, right? And you can identify anywhere on that spectrum.

HOPE: Wow. [LAUGHS] That's so confusing.

NAOMI: It's fun, though, isn't it?

[Ryan, Gemma and Dean cross the pathway]

RYAN: Oi, you coming or what?

HOPE: Urm. Maybe later.

RYAN: Later when?

HOPE: I'm walking home with Naomi. If I'm free later, I'll message.

RYAN: You what?

HOPE: [to Naomi] Come on

RYAN: You've changed.

[LAUGHING from Hope and Naomi who walk off]