

EXTRACT

Playground

A ten-minute play

By

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Cast**THE ADULTS**

MRS DEEPIKA SHARMA the head teacher

MRS KHALIFA a visitor from the School Board

THE STUDENTS

ALEX

ALI

ANNA 1

ANNA 2

CONSTIE

ERIKA

MARIAM

MARY-LOU

MICHAELA

NICHOLAS

NATASHA

ROBERT

SARAH

TINA

Setting A playground.

Time Recess.

WRITER'S NOTE: The characters can be portrayed by actors of any age or nationality, male or female.

Playground

LIGHTS UP

WE HEAR The Blue Danube Waltz by Johann Strauss. IN SLOW MOTION WE SEE THE PLAYGROUND ERUPT IN AN ALL-IN-BRAWL. THE FIGHT AND MUSIC BUILDS TO A CLIMAX. SUDDENLY THE MUSIC IS CUT OFF AND THE COMBATANTS FREEZE.

ONE GIRL SKIPS FORWARD.

ANNA 1: (TO AUDIENCE) Ten Minutes earlier.

ALL THE OTHER CHILDREN UNFREEZE. IT'S NOW TEN MINUTES EARLY AND THEY PLAY TOGETHER - LOUDLY.

MRS DEEPIKA SHARMA: (ENTERING) Children, children. Quiet!

CHILDREN: Yes Mrs Deepika Sharma.

MRS DEEPIKA SHARMA: We have a very special guest today.

MRS KHALIFA STEPS FORWARD.

MRS DEEPIKA SHARMA: This is Mrs al Khalifa bin Mubarak bin Halali bin Hummus bin Hudar bin Khalifa. Bin Lettuce. From the education department. She has a very special announcement.

MRS KHALIFA: Good morning boys and girls. I am here to inspect your school today.

REACTION FROM THE STUDENTS

MRS KHALIFA: I'm here to do this so we can find the best school in Dubai.

REACTION FROM THE STUDENTS

MRS KHALIFA: The best school will also get a very special prize from me.

REACTION FROM THE STUDENTS

MRS KHALIFA: So I expect all of you to be on your best behavior today.

REACTION FROM THE STUDENTS

MRS DEEPIKA SHARMA: Thank you boys and girls. I know you will make us proud.

CHILDREN: Yes Mrs Deepika Sharma.

MRS DEEPIKA SHARMA: (EXITING) Now Mrs Khalifa if you would like to follow me I'll show you the torture chamber. I mean the Detention Hall.

MRS KHALIFA: (INTERESTED) Oh.

ANNA'S GROUP CONTINUES, ALL OTHER GROUPS FREEZE

ANNA 1 & 2: Hi Robert!!!

ROBERT: What are you guys going to do this weekend?

ANNA 2: We're going to watch –

ANNA 1 & 2: Frozen 2!

ROBERT: But it's not even out yet! That's so cool.

ANNA 2: And ask us what else we're going to do?

ROBERT: What?

ANNA 2: We're going to Vlog about it?

ROBERT: How you going to Vlog? You don't have a camera.

ANNA 2: Yes – but I got a new phone. (SHE PULLS IT OUT AND SHOWS ROBERT)

ROBERT: (LOOKING AT PHONE) You got the new iPhone GSXX-X.

ANNA 2: In Meridian Aqua.

ROBERT: That's so cool.

ANNA'S GROUP FREEZES. NICHOLAS' GROUP COMES TO LIFE.

SARAH: (BOUNDING OVER) Hi, I'm Sarah.

NICHOLAS: Hi Sarah.

SARAH: What's your name?

NICHOLAS: I'm Nicholas.

SARAH: Hi Nicholas.

NICHOLAS: Did you just come out of that Porsche 718 Cayman?

SARAH: Yeah. That's my daddy's car.

NICHOLAS: So your father has a Porsche.

SARAH: He has three Porsches. And a Ferrari and a Lamborghini and a Maserati and a –

NICHOLAS: How many cars in total does your father have?

SARAH: Twenty three.

NICHOLAS: That's nothing. We have fifty six.

NICHOLAS' GROUP FREEZES. ERIKA'S GROUP COMES TO LIFE. MICHAELA IS PLAYING HOPSCOTCH IN THE BACKGROUND.

ERIKA: I'm Mrs Deepika Sharma's favourite.

TINA: I don't care. I don't like Mrs Deepika Sharma.

ERIKA: That's only because she doesn't like you.

TINA: Like I care. Anyway, do you want to come to my house after school and play with the new GooGoo doll?

ERIKA: GooGoo dolls?

TINA: Yeah.

MICHAELA: (SKIPPING OVER) Did you say GooGoo dolls? I have one.

TINA: I have the new one. My mum got it from the USA. It has a detachable head.

MICHAELA: I have the newer new one. My Dad got it from Sweden.

TINA: They don't make GooGoo Dolls in Sweden.

MICHAELA: Yes they do.

ERIKA: Go away mean Michaela.

MICHAELA: I'm not mean.

ERIKA'S GROUP FREEZES. ALI'S GROUP COMES TO LIFE.

ALI: What do insects taste like?

ALEX: They aren't very nice.

ALI: Then why do you eat them?

ALEX: Because I'm poor. I don't have any lunch.

ALI: Why are you poor?

ALEX: Because my Dad didn't have any money left after he paid the school fees.

MARY-LOU: (LOOKING FOR HER FROG) Lester! Lester!

ALI: (PICKING UP FROG) Look at the frog. It's so cool.

ALEX: Wow! Lunch.

MARY-LOU: That's my frog.

ALI: It's my Frog.

MARY-LOU: No it's not that's Lester.

CONSTIE: Give it back!

ALI: I saw it first.

ALEX: How do we know it's your Frog?

MARY-LOU: He's got two black spots on the back of his head.

CONSTIE: (POINTING) One, two.

MARY-LOU: That's mine, that's Lester!

ALI: No he's not.

ALI'S GROUP FREEZES. ANNA'S GROUP COMES TO LIFE.

ANNA 1: (SEEING **MARIAM**) Who's the new girl?

ROBERT: That's Mariam – let me introduce you.

ANNA 2: You know her?

ROBERT: Yeah. (GOING TO **MARIAM**) Hi Mariam, come meet my friends. (HE BRINGS HER OVER, POINTING) Mariam, this is Anna No1 and Anna No2.

ANNA 2: I am Anna No1.

ANNA 1: I'm Anna No1.

ANNA 2: It's me.

ANNA 1: I've always been Anna No1.

ANNA 2: No you haven't.

ROBERT: This isn't the time to fight. You're embarrassing me in front of Miriam.

MIRIAM: So Robert, what are you doing after school?