

Mini Conversational Tasks

By

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### Task One

*Find a moment in my story which shows a strong emotion and write how they are showing it:*

I have chosen the part where Jonathon has lost the battle to save the children, and addresses his videoblog. He only says the words, 'I am a coward. That is my sin'.

He would show it through looking hopelessly back at the screen, there is no coyness here. Nothing else matters. His eyes pierce into the screen for an uncomfortable time, he is mesmerised and disillusioned. He finally blinks and a single tear falls from his, he doesn't wipe it off because of how stunned he is. He barely reacts to it. He barely utters the words, then looks longer into the screen until he finally drops his head. It is at this point, when he pulls himself away from his trance, he wipes his wet eyes, but is now unable to look back at the screen – he has lost the battle.

The emotion is hopelessness.

### Task Two (A)

*Describe the body language during a conversation without reproducing any of the dialogue of the three people in the restaurant: 2 men and 1 woman, 1 man in love with woman, woman in love with other man, other man in love with himself.*

### Triangle of Nothing

Man 1 scratches the label of her beer bottle with one finger. The woman fondles the top of her beer bottle as she stares at Man 2, on his phone. He laughs at something he has read on his phone, she laughs too. He finally puts the phone down and brushes his hand through his thick hair. She tries to smell

its scent. She pulls the beer bottle close to her mouth but does not drink straight away. Man 1 tries to dry his increasingly clammy hands on his jeans as he watches the woman hover her pouting lips over the beer bottle. He picks up his drink and takes a sip when she does. Man 2 straightens his tie and uses the back of his phone as a makeshift mirror, the woman helps him with his tie, which man 2 sneers at. Man 1 gets angry and Man 2 for treating her that way. He puts his hand on her shoulder to show what side he is on. She waves her hand at Man 1, dismissing any problems. Man 1 can see what's happening here and heads to the toilet. As he leaves, man 2 get s phone call. He leaves the table and takes the phone call far from the woman. The woman looks at the ripped label on her beer, only just noticing it. She frowns. She drinks.

### Triangle of Nothing

#### Task Two (B)

Now rewrite the same scene using only dialogue.

Woman: It's a pretty hot day, huh?

Man 2: What? Hang on. (reads text and laughs)

Woman: Hahaha. (Man 2 looks at her with an odd expression)

Man 2: (puts phone down) well, looks like shit is kicking off that I've gotta sort out. As usual.

Woman: Wow, big stuff?

Man 2: I only do the big stuff

(Pause)

Man 1: (At woman) Seeing as it's nice, I'm heading to the park later on with a few mates, fancy it?

Woman: I'm not quite sure (at Man 2), fancy it?

Man 2: Nah, I'm probs gonna shoot, I gotta change into something a little more...slick

Man 1: That'll be the third change you've made today

Woman: Really? You've got so many clothes

Man 2: well, ya know. (fiddles with tie. Woman helps). Umm, I've got this. Chill out.

Woman: Sorry.

Man 1: Sorry? Don't say sorry, you were just trying to help! I'd let you fix my tie! (he leaves. Silence then Man 2's phone rings. He stands up). Hi honey, yeah, just hangin out with some peeps. Nah. Nah, they're not.

Woman: Say hi.

Man 1: Who that? Oh, nothing. (walks away)

### Task Three

*A scene in which two or three characters seem to be talking about nothing but the price of potatoes. However, what they are saying below the surface is completely surface:*

*Characters talk about the price, but are in fact referring to a secret that two of them have which they cannot reveal in front of the third. How is one going to make the second understand what she is trying to say when she cannot state it openly? Is the other person constantly misunderstanding, or do they indeed understand, but they add a complication the first had not thought of?*

### Tea With Nan

Adam has come to see his Nan at her home for his monthly visit. He has brought his girlfriend Charlotte. Nan is making a cup of tea in the kitchen.

CHARLOTTE: I'm bored and crazy horny. Please can we go soon? I really want you.

ADAM: I hate it when you get like this, you know how much I want you, but you know I have to do this. And anyway, nan really likes it when you come to see her with me.

CHARLOTTE: I couldn't get enough of you this morning and I want more! Your Nan's great and everything but not as good as you naked!

ADAM: Jesus, Char! You're turning me on! You know you need to stop this, your horniness is a bit less visible if you know what I mean (he eyes his own crotch).

CHARLOTTE: Oh, making you horny am I? Well maybe I should stop (she rubs his thigh), but then I would be able to get my mouth around your big, hot, horny, round...

NAN ENTERS THE ROOM WITH THE TEA. CHARLOTTE PANICS

CHARLOTTE: Potatoes! (Adam and Charlotte exchange glances)

NAN: (placing tea on table and taking seat) I wonderewd what it was you two were talking about. Bloody potatoes, I bought a large sack the other day and as I was walking them up the stairs the bloody bottom ripped and they all fell out.

CHARLOTTE: Sometimes those sacks can be a pain, you need to support them by cupping them underneath.

NAN: Well I know that now, Charlotte. As soon as they hit the bottom of the floor (Adam sips his tea) I said to myself, 'balls!' (Adam spits out tea) Are you ok, dear?

ADAM: Yeah, I'm fine. Sorry.

NAN: Nevertheless, I picked them up and have since used the best ones for my Sunday roast today. (She smiles as she sips her tea)

CHARLOTTE: Ooo, sounds lovely.

NAN: Yes, and I got my meat from the butcher downthe road who has a spit on the go

ADAM: So tonight, you're going to have a spit roast?

NAN: It would appear so (sips tea unbeknownst to what she has just agreed to)

#### Task Four

*Re-write one of the scenes either from your own script or from the exercise above by making one or both characters interrupt each other, have parallel conversations, be silent or not listen. What happens in the relationship dynamic? What do you discover about the subtext?*

HELEN: (OFF SCREEN) Hey, are you actually saying that stuff on your videoblog?

JONATHON: (SMILING) Come and say hi

SHE COMES INTO SHOT AND SITS ON JONATHON'S LAP

HELEN: (PLAYFUL) All of that was as cheesy as hell!

JONATHON: Cheesy? Oh co...

HELEN: Who's watching this?

JONATHON: No one's go...

HELEN: I don't really want the others knowing that we didn't start shagging like crazy (Jonathon starts laughing) the first moment we were allocated. Hey stop laughing!

JONATHON: (Laughing) I'm not laughing

(HELEN JUST STARES AT JONATHON, PISSED OFF)

JONATHON: Look, I was going to say, until I was rudely interrupted...

HELE: Come on, get on with it

JONATHON: (PAUSE) No one's gonna watch this, it's just for me really.

HELE: It better be (SMILING)

JONATHON: And anyway, we're at it pretty much all the time now!

HELEN PLAYFULLY HITS HIM

HELEN: Shut up you! So you mean all what you said just now?

JONATHON: (COY) maybe...

HELEN: Hmm. (SMILES) Lucky. Lucky is a good word.

THEY START KISSING AND JONATHON TURNS OFF THE VIDEOBLOG.