

Cupcake[©]

A play by Josh Knatt

Foreword

Cupcake – a story of acceptance through love.

Cupcake is a short theatre piece that follows the lives of 2 central characters Christy and Lauren, 2 bisexual cisgender women living in a large town. Both women try to make their families understand their sexual orientation and the ways that their lives will be different. However, this is met with some resistance from their two families due to their own commitments in their wider lives. Through a chance meeting, both come to realise that understanding may not be necessary when all they want is acceptance of who they are.

Characters

Voice - The internal monologue for the characters in each scene. The voice is never engaged with, or by, the other characters and often will be sat or stood near characters whilst sharing their feelings.

The Smith Family

Lauren - A 17-Year-Old A-Level Student studying Drama, Theatre Studies and English Literature. She is a trained, yet reluctant dancer of 12 years.

Mrs Smith - A middle aged (early 40's) middle class woman, who dreamed of being a dancer but never made it in the business. She is the matriarch of the family and is reliving her 'glory' days of being a dancer through Lauren. To her dance is everything.

Mr Smith - A middle aged (early-mid 40's) middle class man who, after many years of being 'piggy-in-the-middle' with Lauren and Mrs Smith is somewhat disengaged with the struggles and conflicts that occur between Lauren and Mrs Smith.

Christy's Family

Christy - A mid-late 30-year-old, single mother of 2. Runs her own cake boutique and café.

Jo - A early-mid teens character, Christy's oldest child who loves his mother but struggles with the fact that their dad walked out on the family. This often manifests in passive aggressive comments to Christy.

El - 3-4 years old. Christy's youngest child and Jo's younger sibling. Highly impressionable and will often mimic Jo's behaviours/comments without realising their meaning.

Scene 1 - Smith Household

Smith Family residents - 3 chair set to resemble a 2-seater sofa and an armchair. Mr Smith is sat in the armchair reading the newspaper, Mrs Smith is sat on the sofa reading a book.

Lauren: *(enters in stage left, through the living room door and sits on the sofa, voice follows and stands behind Lauren)* Hi Mum.

Mrs Smith: *(not looking up from the book)* Hi darling.

Lauren: So you'll never guessed what happened at college today...

Voice: Not that you'll care.

Mrs Smith: *(glancing up from the book briefly)* What happened?

Lauren: So me and my friend ...

Mrs Smith: My friends and I

Lauren: Right...

Voice: Seriously?

Lauren: ...so my friends and I were rehearsing for our A-Level drama performance next week, *(under her breath)* pretty big deal, and the teacher said we were doing really well!

Mrs Smith: *(still reading)* Oh that's good

Voice: She's not even listening to me.

Lauren: Yeah, are you gonna come and watch it?

Voice: *(moves to stand behind Mrs Smith)* With what time? She has a dance show!

Mrs Smith: I don't think we'll have time.

Lauren: What do you mean?

Mrs Smith: Well, I don't think you'll have time either because of the extra rehearsals.

Lauren: What extra rehearsals?

Voice: What rehearsals? She really needs to focus on what's important.

Mrs Smith: For the dance show that's coming up.

Lauren: *(pauses)* What? When are the rehearsals?

Mrs Smith: It's just a couple of hours a week. *(looking up from the book)* you'll be fine.

Voice: And that's the last I'll be hearing of this.

Lauren: But I have to rehearse for the college performance. It's so big mum and it's more important.

Mrs Smith: (Looking up from the book) Dance comes first. You know this.

Lauren: No mum, dance doesn't come first. College comes first.

Voice: (moving back to behind Lauren) College is my future, dance was just a hobby. She's taking it too far again.

Mrs Smith: (places book on sofa) So I've been speaking to your dance teacher this week about what you can wear for your solo and she suggested something pink, like I used to wear...

Voice: She's not even listening to me.

Lauren: (resting her head in her hands) It's taking over my life

Mrs Smith: (continuing to talk, ignoring Lauren) ...and I've been looking online and saw this lovely dress that's long and flowy...

Voice: She's still not listening

Lauren: I'm not wearing that

Mrs Smith: ...Oh and we can make your hair nice and wavy...

Lauren: Mum!

Mrs Smith: ...So that it can show your face off while you're on the stage.

Voice: I am so done with this. She doesn't get it! (Lauren, followed by Voice, exit upstage, angered)

Mrs Smith: So we've got some time, you'll have to change between first and second dance. (Realising Lauren has left) Oh.

Scene 2 - Christy's flat

Christy's flat - a small 2-bed open plan apartment, with a 3-seat sofa bed and a breakfast bar with 2 chairs positioned at it. Christy's oldest child (14 years old), Jo, is sat doing maths homework at the breakfast bar after school. Christy is decorating cupcakes in the kitchen. Voice sits on the side, DL of Christy.

Christy: (enters upstage right, holding a freshly baked cupcake) Hmmmm, how should I decorate these ones? I mean should they all be the same, or do something different on each one?

Jo: I think you should keep them all the same, so they look similar throughout.

Christy: Okay, that's a good idea. So, do you think the swirls or little flowers?

Jo: I really like the idea of the flowers! Then you can make them to make them look pretty and different types of flowers!

Christy: Okay good idea! And sprinkles?

Jo: (Pointing) those ones.

Christy: Oh ok...

Voice: should I mention April?

Christy@ ...Well April said about white chocolate but I'm not hugely sure (Jo's body language changes to reflect annoyance at the mention on April's name and begins focussing on her homework) What do you think?

Voice: Eurgh, April again? That's all she cares about.

Jo: (Aggressively) Y'know I don't actually care, I've got a test tomorrow so how about you focus on those, and I'll focus on this.

Voice: Oh no, that test must be really important.

Christy: Oh! A test? Well do you need my help with anything?

Jo: No, I'm fine. (Long pause, Christy returns to the cake mixture) Why do you always talk about April?

Christy: (Taken off guard) Darling, she's my friend. Well best friend.

Jo: Just a friend?

Voice: She can't be just a friend, the amount she talks about her. Maybe she's why..

Jo: Is that why Dad left?

Voice: Of course she wasn't, their father left years ago.

Christy: I... Um... Well... Um...

Voice: I'm done with this rubbish.

Jo: You know what, don't worry about it.

Christy: Oh come on sweetheart, we can talk about this..

Jo: (aggressively) Go away to your stupid baking. (Exits upstage)

Scene 3 - Smith Household and exterior

Smith household set up with dining table and 3 chairs DSL. Mr Smith is sat at the table reading the newspaper - Freezeframe image. Lauren and 2 of her friends walking towards DSL from USC.

Lauren: So how did you guys do on that test?

Friend 1: So bad!

Friend 2: I failed it for sure!

Lauren: I didn't answer a single question

Friend 1: (To Lauren) Hey, what are you up to now? We're about to head to town.

Friend 2: Yeah, there's that new cake boutique that's opened.

Lauren: Oh, um... I've got dance. Again.

Friend 1: Again?

Friend 2: You're always dancing!

Lauren: I know! I'm sorry, I'm going to speak to mum about it. It's only because there's a show and everything.

Friend 2: Really?

Friend 1: Can't you ask for a night off?

Lauren: Yeah, I know! Why don't I ask if I can have tomorrow off and we can go then instead?

Friend 2: Yeah okay...

Friend 1: I suppose.

Lauren: See ya guys

Friends 1&2: Bye (Exit DSL)

Lauren opens the door and walks through the house, voice is stood behind the place where Lauren sits

Voice: Oh good, mum isn't about.

Lauren: (Sitting at the table) Hi dad.

Mr Smith: Hello darling. How was school?

Lauren: Not great. I had a test today and did terrible. I did not answer a single question!

Mrs Smith enter stage right, listening in to the conversation.

Mr Smith: That's what first years for anyway. Don't worry about it.

Lauren: Yeah it was really tough. And it was Maths too...

Mrs Smith: (Walking ds at pace, interrupting) You're late!
(Sits at the table) You're late and your dinner's ready! And we've got to leave for dance in 20 minutes!

Voice: Oh yay, dance.

Lauren: (checking her watch) I'm only 5 minutes late mum, it's not going to make that much of a difference. [looks at dinner] What is for dinner tonight?

Mrs Smith: Chicken Caesar. Without the dressing.

Lauren: What?

Mrs Smith: Salad.

Lauren: [sarcastically] yay! [pause] Could I at least have a diet coke with this?

Mrs Smith: No. You've got water.

Lauren: Um... I was gonna ask, is there any way I can maybe, for once because it's never happened before, skip dance tomorrow so my friends and I can go into town together?

Mrs Smith: No. You've got a show coming up.

Mr Smith: (Placing down newspaper) What were you going to do?

Lauren: Well we were going to go to that new café that's at the top of town.

Mr Smith: (excitedly) Oh yeah! It's meant to be good that one!

Lauren: Yeah, apparently the service is amazing, they've got really nice drinks and the cakes are just out of this world!

Mrs Smith: Well regardless of the reviews. And regardless of what you've heard, you will not be going. You need to watch your weight.

Voice: what did she just say?

Mr Smith: (From behind the newspaper) Oh don't be so hard on her. She's a growing girl.

Voice: (moves to stand behind Mrs S) How dare he undermine my parenting! She has to remain thin for dance!

Mrs S glares at Mr S for a moment before standing up, collecting the dinner plates from her position and storming

off to the kitchen. Lauren is looking at the floor, Mr S is oblivious to his wife's anger. Voice stands behind Mr S.

Voice: Wonder what's up with her.

Mr S: So... (clears throat) did you hear about that attack on the edge of Kemp Town in Brighton the other day?

Lauren: No, what happened?

Mr S: (dismissively) Oh a bunch of gays got attacked.

Lauren: What?

Mrs S walks back into the room as aggressively as she left.

Mrs S: Are you done? (Grabs the plate and glass)

Lauren: Well I haven't really...

Mrs S: (Walks away with plate and glass) OK.

Lauren: What happened?

Mr S: Oh I don't know. But it's anything we'll have to worry about, hey love.

Lauren: Yeah.

Lauren becomes more tense in her body language and closes it off to the room.

Mr S: So I've finished that Netflix series you suggested. What else are you watching?

Lauren: (becoming more relaxed again) Oh.. um... I've been watching quite a lot of things lately. But something I am absolutely living for is RuPaul's Drag Race.

Mrs S: (enters SL to collect Mr S's dinner plate and glass) Why on earth would you watch that (exits)

Mr S: (turning to face Lauren) Well is it like a game show with cars?

Lauren: Not quite... It's sort of like Big Brother and America's Next Top Model but with drag queens.

Mr S: Oh some of the lads in the office watch that. Apparently they are quite talented and can sing.

Lauren: (building in excitement) Yeah! They can, they can sing, some of them are hilarious comedians. And oh my God, they can dance! The dancing dad, it's amazing!

Mrs S: (offstage) It's not real dancing though!

Mr S: Oh it sounds a bit like Stars in their Eyes.

Mrs S: (*marching from USC towards Mr S*) You know, if she keeps watching things like that, she could turn out like that.
(exits)

Mr S: (Standing up, dismissively and chuckling) What do you mean turn out like that? She's a girl. She's not going to become a drag star! (exits)

Lauren: (*sat at the table, head in her hands*) I'm done with this. (pause) I'm going to walk to dance, I need to clear my head. (exits)

Scene 4 Christy's apartment - evening

Scene opens, Christy is in the kitchen baking more cakes, her youngest child - El (approx 4 years old) is sat playing on the carpet in front of the sofa.

Jo (*enters DSL - walks towards sofa*): Hi mum, I'm home.

Christy: Hi darling, how was school?

Jo: It was fine.

Voice: It wasn't.

Christy: What did you get up to?

Jo: Just the English mock exam. I think it went OK

Voice: It didn't

Jo: (*sitting on the sofa*) What are you cooking? It smells lovely!

Christy: I'm doing a roast. Thought it'd be quite nice to have good food and chill.

Jo: Well it smells amazing!

Christy: Thank you! I'm also making apple pie as well.

Jo: Oh cool!

Voice: Apple pie was her favourite. She only made it for her birthday and special occasions.

El: (*to Jo*) Can you put Frozen on?

Jo: (*Reluctantly*) Yeah sure! (*Lowers to the floor next to her sibling to play with her toys*)

Voice: Frozen was played in the flat far too much. But nobody ever denied putting it on.

Christy: She's only watched it twice today. I think that's a new record. (*Jo and Christy laugh*) Do you mind helping your sister tidier her toys away and plump up the cushions on the sofa? Could you also give the coffee table a wipe? It's a bit gross.

Jo: Why? It looks fine.

Voice: It did look fine. She'd cleaned it twice already today.

Christy: (*Becoming mildly visually stressed*) Um yeah. I just... I just want to make things look perfect.

Jo: Why, is anyone else coming round?

Christy: April's coming over. Don't you remember?

Jo: *(looks upwards and sighs audibly in disgust)*

Voice: And that explains the apple pie.

Jo: Why is she coming?

Christy: Well she's my friend and I thought it'd be nice to all sit down and have a meal and a nice evening.

Jo: *(visibly annoyed, stands and walks to the kitchen)* Have you got a cloth then?

Christy: *(points to the side DS)* Yeah, there should be one just there.

Jo walks back across the open plan lounge to wipe the table.

Christy: Once you've done that can you get the table out and change?

Jo: Why are you making all this effort for her?

Voice: The last time the table was used was just before their dad had left.

Christy: I thought it would be fun. We always sit in front of the tele, instead we can all see each other and talk and bond

Jo: What's the point. It's not like she's important.

El: *(repeating but not understanding)* It's not like she's important

Jo and El both laugh

Voice: They didn't know how important April was yet.

Jo: Come on, grab your toys.

El and Jo pick up toys and place them in a tub under the sofa

Christy: Once you've done that darling, would you mind getting changed as well? *(Jo looks at her clothes and Christy confused and insulted)* Oh you look lovely, I just thought it'd be fun to dress up a little bit. I'm going to get changed in a minute too.

Jo: I'm not making all this effort for her. I don't care what she thinks about me.

Voice: I don't believe that.

Christy: It's not about what she thinks about you. It's just nice to sometime dress up a bit and have some fun. It'll be fancy.

Jo: We don't have fancy dinners. And it's not fun.

Christy: Can you just. Please. And can you get your sister changed as well. (to el) Do you want to put your princess dress on? Well your sister will go and get it for you!

El: Yay princess dress! (moves SR excitedly)

Christy: Go on, she'll be here any minute.

Door knocks, voice moves for the first time to stand behind Christy

Voice: (Panicked) Oh god, she's finally here

Voice: (Moves to Jo, despondent) Why is she here?

Voice: (Moves to El, curiously) Who's here?

Scene 5 - Christy's apartment, Morning

Christy is making coffee in the kitchen, Jo is sat doing last minute homework at the breakfast bar.

Christy: Are you sure I can't get you anything darling?

Voice: They weren't hungry

Jo: No. I said I'm fine.

Christy: But you haven't eaten this morning.

Voice: They didn't care

Jo: (inhales sharply) I said I'm not hungry.

Christy: Ok. What are you working on?

Voice: Nothing of importance

Jo: Maths.

Christy: Anything I can help with?

Jo: (walks to kitchen) No.

Voice: They didn't care

Christy: I thought you said you weren't hungry?

Jo: I changed my mind.

Voice: They hadn't

Christy: Is everything alright? You seem a little..

Jo: It's fine. (Long pause). Is April not joining us again for breakfast?

Voice: They hoped she wasn't

Christy: Well no. I mean she... (pause) So have you got any plans this weekend..

Voice: Good.

Jo: (under their breathe) I don't like it when she's here.

Christy: Pardon?

Voice: She's heard

Jo: I said I don't like it when she's here.

Christy: What's that supposed to mean?

Voice: A question she knew the answer too

Jo: I miss dad.

Christy: You miss your dad?

Voice: They did.

Jo: Is she why dad left?

Christy: I didn't even know her when your dad left.

Voice: She didn't

Jo: Do you like girls now? Because you can't like both.

Voice: She could.

Christy: *(Slowly and methodically)* Well... Ok, sweetheart. April and I are. *Jo stands up and exits SL.* Where are you going? I'm trying to talk to you.

Scene 6 - Lauren's College

Scene starts with Lauren UR walking DCL, 2 students are sat on a bench together DL, another is sat on a bench DCL on a phone. Lauren approaches the girl on her own and greets her with a brief hug before sitting on her lap. The 2 students behind Lauren and her girlfriend stand up and walk across to DR making vomiting noises and motions as they go.

Lauren: *(Gets off her girlfriend's lap, embarrassed)* Sorry. I shouldn't have sat there.

Girlfriend: Don't worry about it.

Mean student 1: Gross

Mean student 2: Freaks

Lauren: What's your problem?

Mean Students 1&2: You, it's disgusting.

Girlfriend: Do one would you. *(To Lauren)* I've got to go. Are you going to be, ok?

Lauren: Yeah sure.

Girlfriend exits DR, moving her chair to face Lauren. Lauren sits with her head in her hands.

Scene 7 - Christy's apartment, afternoon.

Jo and El are sat on the floor. No props. El is trying to tie her show laces

Jo: We're gonna have 2 mums.

El: (*successfully ties her shoelace*) What do you mean? We've only got one mummy.

Jo: We're gonna have 2 mums.

El: But what about dad?

Jo: Oh, he won't come back.

El: What's happening? I'm confused.

Jo: So our mum, is dating another woman.

El: What's wrong with that?

Jo: Everything's wrong with that!

El: (*distressed*) I don't get it.

Jo: It's supposed to be a mum and a dad.

El: Like mummy and daddy used to be?

Jo: Yes! Not 2 mums. Eurgh, I'll be that weird kid at school with 2 mums.

El: (*distressed*) We're gonna be the weird ones?

Jo: We're gonna be bullied.

El: (*distressed*) Oh no!

Jo: Yeah. It's wrong.

El: Repeating) It's wrong. It's really wrong.

Jo (*stands up*) Bloody dykes (*exits*)

El: Mummy dating another woman is wrong (*exits*)

Scene 8 - Smith House, evening.

Mrs Smith UR on the phone. Lauren sat in same position as Scene 6, head in her hands.

Mrs Smith: So they posted the roles today. Well of course she got that lead, where else would she go? Where did yours come? Oh... Well, that's a shame. Okay then. Take care. Bye. Walks into living room, sits next to Lauren. Oh, you're up late.

Lauren: I couldn't sleep.

Voice (*stood behind Lauren*): Not that you care.

Mrs Smith: What's the matter?

Lauren: It's just stuff at college.

Voice: She won't understand

Mrs Smith: Oh. Is it boy trouble? You know you can tell me anything. (Pause). You know if it's boy trouble, I've had my fair share of experiences, which I can talk to you about. And in the future, you'll have your own house, with your own husband, and your own children to worry about. And you'll look back on this and think "what on earth was I worrying about..."

Lauren: *interjecting*. What if I don't want a husband.

Mrs Smith: ... of course, then the real problems start. And on the subject of real problems, you've got a dance show next week and...

Lauren: You're not even listening to me.

Mrs Smith: ... we've got costumes to sort out, you've got your choreography to learn so you really don't have time to be worrying about silly things like boys, oh that reminds me...

Lauren: Mum, I'm gay!

Mrs Smith: ...I should really... (pause) What?

Voice *places a hand on Lauren's shoulder*

Lauren: (*sitting upright*) I said, I'm gay.

Mrs Smith: (*chuckling*) Don't be silly, you can't be gay.

Voice: What?

Lauren: What do you mean I can't be gay? (pause)

Voice (*removed hand and takes a step US*): She really doesn't get this. I need to leave before I say something I shouldn't.

Lauren: You're a joke. (Stands and walks UR)

Mrs Smith: Just wait until your father hears about this!

Voice: How dare she!

Lauren: Tell him. He might actually be proud of me. This is who I am. Deal with it.

Voice and Lauren exit DSR, Voice following Lauren.

Scene 9 - Christy's apartment, evening.

Christy and Jo enter UR, clearly having had an argument.

Christy: I'm trying to have a conversation with you!

Voice (*sat on kitchen work top*): She didn't care.

Jo: Stop following me!

Voice: She wouldn't.

El enters UL singing the tune to here comes the bride.

Christy, DL has her head in her hands. Jo looking disapprovingly at El.

El: I now pronounce Barbie and April, married! (Jo grabs the April doll and drops it, then takes a seat on the sofa, glaring at Christy) Hey! Mummy that's not fair, she threw April away.

Voice: She did and didn't care.

Christy. What the hell is your problem?

Voice: A question she knew the answer too.

Jo: April's my problem

Christy: Ok why?

Voice: Because (*Jo cuts voice off*)

Jo: Because she's tearing our family apart.

Christy: She is, or you are?

Voice: Neither of them were.

Jo: (*standing, aggressively*) What? She is. She's dirty, and it's gross

Voice: She didn't mean that.

Christy: What are you talking about?

Jo: She's disgusting. And she's too old.

Voice: She wasn't.

Christy: Old? You don't even know her?

Voice: She didn't.

Jo: I don't want to know her!

Christy: Why?

Jo: because she's not dad!

Christy: Your dad walked out and... (stopping herself)

Voice: Left when the youngest was born, stating he didn't want children and didn't love any of them.

Jo: What?

Christy: April. She.

Jo: She what? Why is she so important?

Christy: She...

Voice: Was in love with April

Jo: She's what? Just say it already!

Christy: She's my... She's my girlfriend!

Pause

Jo: Whatever (exits UL)

Voice: She felt bad about the situation, she should have handled it better. Especially in front of the youngest.

El: (after a long pause) Mummy?

Christy: Yes darling?

El: What's a dyke?

Christy: Where did you hear that?

Voice: She already knew.

El (points to where Jo is UL) she said it about you and April.

Christy: moves UL, to Jo Look after your sister. I'm popping out for some air. Exits DR

Voice: She couldn't have this argument, not right now.

Scene 10 - Bench Scene

Chairs or a bench placed CS. Lauren enters DR, texting on her phone. Sits on the Right of the bench. Both characters have separate halves of the same monologue.

Lauren: Why has everything got to be about dance?

Christy: (enters DL, sits on the left of the bench) I can't believe I've walked out.

Lauren: She doesn't even care about me.

Christy: I shouldn't have blown up on the kids like that.

Lauren: There are other things in life except dance.

Christy: Maybe these unfinished cakes from work will help calm them down. I just hope I haven't overdone it with the buttercream

Lauren: All my life has become is dance, dance, dance, dance. Who am I kidding, it's always been about dance.

Christy: If the kids just met April, they'd really like her.

Lauren: And now I've come out to mum. In the worst way possible.

Christy: I can't believe I called April my girlfriend. The little one will be so confused. Oh what am I going to tell them?

Lauren: I suppose I can just say I was joking. I was stressed about dance and the pressure and I blurted something out.

Christy: I could always just say April is a girlfriend as in a friend that is a girl.

Pause

Both: No. I'm not doing that.

Lauren: I am gay. And mum and dad needed to know.

Christy: I'm going to need to tell both of the kids that I'm bisexual.

Lauren: I suppose I'll need to explain it.

Christy: I need to help them understand it. Well the youngest at least. The oldest, I don't know.

Lauren: If they understand it then they will be fine.

Christy: Do I really need to make the kids fully understand? Do they need to?

Lauren: Do my parents need to understand what I am? Or do they just need to accept it?

Both lines said simultaneously.

Lauren: I'm gay

Christy: I'm bisexual

Both stand

Lauren: And I don't want to do dance as much anymore.

Christy: And April is my girlfriend. (*Looking at her watch*) Oh my god, is that the time?

Lauren: (*Checking her phone*) Uh-oh 12 missed calls from mum, and 2 from dad.

Both: I should go home.

Both characters exit the opposite side they entered, and bump into each other briefly before exiting.

Scene 11 - Smith household, evening

Mrs Smith is carrying a basket of laundry DR to DC, Lauren enters DL, through the front door. Mrs S drops the laundry basket and rushes to hug Lauren. Lauren is shocked, slowly pats Mrs S on the back

Mrs S: I was worried.

Lauren: *Ending the hug* Oh mum (*noticing the laundry*) Look, you've dropped the washing. Let me help. *Moves DC and begins folding laundry into the basket.*

Mrs S follows Lauren and does the same. Both then move DL to the living room. Lauren sits. Mrs S is 'pottering' about during the exchange.

Voice (*standing behind Lauren*): I need to talk to mum.

Mrs S: We need to talk.

Lauren: Yeah, we do.

Mrs S: I may have said some things that, um and I may have encouraged certain things. And um...

Voice (*places hand on Lauren's shoulder*): I can do this

Lauren takes a deep breath

Lauren: Mum, when are we going to talk about it?

Mrs S: (*hesitantly sits opposite Lauren*) I've known for a while now that you want to give up dance...

Lauren: Oh my god mum, not everything is about dance! And no, I'm not giving it up.

Mrs S: Oh that's a sigh of relief.

Lauren: (*Motion to her mum, as though to indicate there is something else*) it's about...

Mrs S: umm it's about...

Voice: I can talk about this. She needs to know and accept it.

Lauren: I have a girlfriend mum.

Mrs S: Like a friend?

Lauren: No, a proper girlfriend.

Mrs S: (*processing the news visibly*) a... a girlfriend?

Lauren: Yeah, like a couple. In a relationship

Mrs S: For how long?

Lauren: About 4 months now.

Mrs S: Will I see her at dance?

Lauren: Oh my god no! Not everything is about dance, mum!

Voice (*moves to stand behind Mrs S*): She still wants to do dance, and she seems happy.

Mrs S: Where did you meet her?

Lauren: At college

Mrs S: What does she study?

Lauren: Maths, Politics, Law and Spanish

Mrs S: Oh. So she's very clever.

Lauren: Yeah, really clever.

Mrs S: So, does she make you happy?

Lauren: She makes me very happy.

Voice: I'm so glad she's happy. That's what's important.

Mrs S: (slight pause) So, when can we meet her?

Lauren: (shocked) really?

Mrs S: (nods) yes.

Voice (*moves back to being behind Lauren*): Oh wow, I didn't think mum would be so accepting. And she wants to meet my girlfriend!

Lauren: I don't mind.

Mrs S: I could always get a spare ticket to your dance show?

Lauren: That sounds lovely.

Mrs S: Also, I remember you mentioning that new Café with the cupcakes. So I brought you one. Chocolate and Vanilla with salted caramel icing.

Lauren: Oh wow! Thanks mum.

Scene 12 - Christy's apartment, evening

El is playing with a toy train in the living room, Jo is in the kitchen. Voice is sat at the breakfast bar on a chair DSR. Christy enters DSR through the door.

Christy: Hi girls.

El: *(jumps up and runs to hug Christy)* Mummy's home! Look mummy! Look what we did! *(points towards the kitchen)*

Christy: Oh wow, what have you been up to?

El: We made cakes!

Christy: Oh wow! They look amazing!

Voice: They didn't look it, but they were.

El: Do you like them?

Christy: I do, they're lovely.

Voice: They were.

Christy: Did you make these by yourselves?

El: No! April helped us!

Voice: She did.

Christy: April helped you?

Jo: I found her number on your phone, so I called her. She said chocolate and vanilla was your favourite so we made chocolate and vanilla cakes.

Christy: Yeah I love chocolate and vanilla. Wait, did you say you called April?

Voice: She had.

Jo: Yeah, she's really cool. Anyway, try a cake!

Christy: Oh, yeah sure! Wow, ok. Chocolate and vanilla right? Oh, they smell good. *(takes a bite from the cupcake)*

Voice: The cake was really good.

Jo: Yeah, but we've run out of icing sugar, so April's gone to get some from the shop. She should be back soon, I think.

Christy: Wait, she's coming back?

Jo: Yeah, she's staying for dinner too.

Christy: She's what?

Jo: We invited her. So you might want to go and get changed. I picked out a nice dress for you.

Voice: She had, it was on her bed.

Christy: Oh darling. I'm so sorry I left you and your sister on your own. I really am.

Jo: (*hugs Christy*) No mum, I'm sorry. I didn't give April a chance, but I don't really care. She's really nice. (*breaks away, excitedly*) Now go and get ready, we're going to order take out and you haven't got much time!