

Ádám DÁVID

Classbook

– social drama –

In memoriam Frigyes Karinthy

Characters:

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| MELANIE | – | the loser geek |
| BIRDY | – | the cool rapper |
| LOLA | – | the hot chick |
| MRS. LÓNYAY | – | the bloody teacher |
| BAUER | – | the teenage love |
| FREDDY | – | the old librarian |
| HEADMASTER | – | the sound of dignity |
| Classmates who comment & like (members of the audience) | | |

Social drama is an experimental genre: it invites the teenager into their second home – to the virtual world of the social networks. This strategy opens the door to them for the participation in the play which can (also) be directed as a classroom theatre performance. The audience has the opportunity to preregister at www.classbook.hu where everyone should fill in his or her name, upload a profile picture and answer some multiple-choice questions (about relationship, hobby, favorite book/movie/music etc.). The actual school can be presented on the site with some typical photos about the main locations, too. Through the written comments which are linked to the registered audience after the analysis of their Classbook profiles they become a part of the play's virtual level. The posts of Melanie, Lola and Birdy appear also on the Classbook site. All the comments and likes will be projected during the performance permanently. The changes of the characters can be seen on the screen: the virtual profile photos and names appear always in parallel with the real events on stage. The virtual texts are written in the manuscript with bold type.

*The drama is dedicated to Frigyes Karinthy, especially to his classical masterpiece [Tanár úr kérem](#) (*Please Sir!*). On the one hand it is the main topic of the school lessons. On the other hand the play is full of symbolic references to Karinthy's world from the titles of the scenes to the discrepancy between dream and reality.*

PREFACE(BOOK)

Please **DO NOT** switch off your mobile phones during the performance. Thank you.

SCENE 1 – SEVEN A.M.

On the left a window, on the right a door, in the middle a blackboard, a table and a chair, in the front three empty schooldesks. Ringing – the sound signal of the series 24. The date and the exact time appear on the screen: 03. 09. 2012., 7:00. The ringing stops, we hear the sound of a long yawn. The digital clock spins to 7.15. Music in emo style. Melanie hums the tone and climbs out of the window in a hooded pull-over with a pair of black jeans and with big headphones. Small street noise. Melanie flops down to the floor and she pulls out her phone from her hip-pocket. The main page of Classbook appears on the screen and while she's passing through the stage very slowly, she creates an event.

MELANIE **Log in**
 Events
 New event
 Name of the event: class meeting
 Date: 03. 09. 2012, 8 a.m.
 Location: X Y High School, the gym
 Details: new year
 new class-mistress
 new suck?
 Inviting: X Y class
 Save and close

Jump to 7:30. Melanie gets out through the door. School hubbub. The sound of taking photos repeats, some amateur photos about the actual school appear on the screen: the entrance hall, the crowded corridors, the canteen, the gym, the toilets, the entrance of the school library with an old tableau above the door.

SCENE 2 – THE GIRLS

Jump to 7:45. Empty school library.

FREDDY *(voice from outside)* Good morning, Melanie!

Freddy opens the door, Melanie stands behind him doubtfully.

MELANIE *(with hands in her pocket)* Morning, Freddy! May I come in?

FREDDY Of course you may! But no surfing!

MELANIE Nope, sure. Is the book *Please Sir!* in?

FREDDY Certainly, mam! I've just taken an inventory of it. You'll find it at your nook, you see?

They go to one of the desks, Freddy gives a book to Melanie.

FREDDY And where does this sudden enthusiasm come from, if I may ask?

MELANIE The new teacher gave it as an obligatory reading for the summer, and I... well, it's better late than never, right? *(She flops down on a bench)*

FREDDY Yeah, it is, it is. *(He sits to the table, he gets out a book and takes notices)* Anyway, did you enjoy your holidays?

MELANIE Not really. *(Pause)* I sat at home all day.

FREDDY You must have been somewhere.

MELANIE Nope. I really haven't. *(She's typing with her phone which is hidden by the book. She chooses among the previously made pictures the one about the gym)*

FREDDY But you have met your classmates at least, haven't you?

MELANIE Sure.
Photo upload.
Create the event.

The list of the invited users appears at the left bottom of the event. The name and a profile picture of the main characters and some other kids of the audience can be seen.

FREDDY You're not the first one, though.

The photo of Girl 1 appears at the category "Going".

MELANIE The first what?

FREDDY Runaway. She used to cover here in the corner, too. And she read the whole day or she pretended to do so. Oh my, it was good 20 years ago!

The photo of Boy 1 appears at the category "Maybe".

FREDDY The library wasn't really a popular destination even in those days. Nobody searched her.

MELANIE Why did she run away? And who was she?

BOY 1 **you're a sucker yourself, why do you want a new one?**

FREDDY Well she was never that friendly, open-minded type. But I still can't understand why everyone picked on her.

Brad Bird likes this. *(His name and photo disappears from the list of the invited people)*

FREDDY Then she even fell in love with the most popular guy of the high school who didn't notice her at all of course. All the girls were mad about him, you know.

Brad Bird and Lola Petty like this. (*Lola's name and photo disappears from the list of the invited people*)

FREDDY What the hell was the name of that dandy?

LOLA **MC BIRDY!!!**

FREDDY I got it! Johnny Bauer, that was his name. You'll find their tableau right above the door. Just look at him, how smart he was! Not surprisingly he smashed her heart.

MELANIE How was she called?

Girl 1 likes this.

FREDDY Mary Engel. After her high-school graduation she even left the neighborhood. As far as I know she married a lawyer and she became a teacher.

Someone knocks on the door.

Girl 1 and Girl 2 like this.

FREDDY (*to Melanie*) Stay calm. You should be in the gym for ages!

Melanie hides under the bench.

Boy 1 and 2 others like this.

BOY 1 **come on birdy!**
hiphop! ☺

FREDDY (*Loudly*) Yes?

Mrs. Lónyay comes into the library wearing a costume and old school glasses.

MRS. LÓNYAY (*with a stifled voice, looking around*) Hello, Mr... Freddy! I am Mrs. Lónyay, the new teacher. I don't know if you still recognize me.

Pause.

FREDDY Is that you, Mary? Well I never... I've just... thought of you. Come on, come in and don't be so affected, I beg you! We are colleagues now, for heaven's sake!

MRS. LÓNYAY *(she smiles confusedly, they give each other two pecks)* Well, yeah, I just wanted to talk about this issue with you. I've already mentioned it to the older teachers that... I wouldn't mind if... if they don't get known with the fact that I learned right here. Can I count with your discretion, Freddy?

FREDDY But my dearest Mary, I'm as silent as the grave!

MRS. LÓNYAY Thank you Freddy. I knew I could trust you.

Boy 2 and 3 others like this.

FREDDY Don't mention it.

MRS. LÓNYAY Well, I've got to go now. The opening ceremony begins right away and then I'll have my first homeroom lesson, you know.

FREDDY Wow, you got an own class at once? Congratulations! Who are the lucky ones?

MRS. LÓNYAY Class XY. I'm running!

FREDDY Go for it, Mary.

Mrs. Lónyay exits. Pause. Ringing.

FREDDY *(to Melanie)* The coast is clear, come on! *(He grasps Melanie's hand while she's about to leave the room)* Have fun with Karinthy. And the story of Mary Engel is our little secret, right?

MELANIE Of course, Freddy, I'm as silent as the grave. *(She exits, sound of taking a photo, the mentioned tableau appears on the screen)*

Freddy exits growling. Sound of locking the door.

SCENE 3 – I'M LATE

8:02. *In the gym. Sound of rasping whispers. Lola enters the room dressed in a middy blouse and a miniskirt. She turns to the audience. She glances at her phone. Change to Birdy's site.*

BIRDY **Yo! Dude! Everything comes to him who raps.
Calm down little buddy – Birdy'll fill in the gaps.
Let's meet in our classroom, but witchy-watch your steps!**

Lola grins.

Lola Petty likes this.

Mrs. Lónyay walks up and down nervously, she's counting.

MRS. LÓNYAY (to Lola) Is everyone here?

LOLA As far as I know, Brad got ill in the weekend.

Boy 1 and Lola Petty like this.

MRS. LÓNYAY Somebody else is absent, too.

BOY 1 **punish her emcee birdy!!!**

LOLA Oh, yes, it must be Melanie. She is always late.

MRS. LÓNYAY Hm. I see. (*She stands next to Lola*)

The national anthem is played. Meanwhile Birdy slips in to the classroom through the door. He draws a cube with a pig-head and a short tail on the blackboard, then he puts on his baseball cap, he starts a video recording with his phone and he imitates rap in front of the blackboard silently.

Girl 1 and 2 others like this.

MELANIE (*she comes in through the door, she looks helpless, she moves as if she would hustle through the crowd and whispers*) Sorry... Excuse me! (*She goes in front of Mrs. Lónyay and Lola then she stops*)

End of the anthem. Birdy finishes his solo rap and exits.

MRS. LÓNYAY (*whispering*) Where have you been wandering about?

MELANIE In the library...

Boy 3 and 3 others like this.

MRS. LÓNYAY I see. (*Biting*) And what's this junk?

Melanie pulls down the zipper of her pull-over, the sailor blouse is underneath.

MRS. LÓNYAY Come on, take it off!

Boy 4 and 4 others like this.

HEADMASTER (*voice amplified*) Khm. Dear children, dear colleagues!

The speech is breaking, only some short sequences can be heard and there are jumps in the time – 8:10, 8:13, 8:20. The characters change their position at all the new dates as if it would be a cut in a movie.

HEADMASTER Now in this festive moment when autumn sets in...

Girl 10 and 16 others like this.

BOY 1 **com'on birdy! where's that free style?!**

HEADMASTER ...and the reciprocal responsibility can be emphasized hand in hand with the desire for knowledge...

Lola Petty likes this.

HEADMASTER ...during the past years I have spent in this institution with all my engagement, I realized a personal belief that the early bird catches the worm. That lets me conclude...

Girl 5 and Lola Petty like this.

HEADMASTER With all these thoughts I open the forthcoming school year ceremoniously. To my greatest pleasure we can welcome a new colleague within the old walls of our high school. *(Mrs. Lónyay goes through the audience to the end of the hall confusedly)* Mrs. Lónyay is going to teach you grammar and literature lessons. In addition she will be a passionate class-mistress of the class XY. Let us greet Mrs. Lónyay with a huge applause! *(Recorded applause like in the sitcoms)* And now please listen to our wonderful school choir! *(Applause)*

BIRDY *(an embed video appears on his site)*
here's the staff
just watch and laugh

The instrumental part from Start of Something New (High School Musical) begins.

SCENE 4 – I LOVE THAT ANIMAL

The music goes on, but after a loud scratch the first seconds are repeated in rap style constantly. Melanie and Lola take a look at their phone, the video is started on the screen.

BIRDY Living in her geek world
She doesn't realize
That the virtual things that happen
To her are real lies

We never believed her
Because we could see
All the geeking she made
This pig's fuckin' crazy

In summer nothing has changed
 Still this bloody fat face
 Why are you in the school?
 Hey pig you're not cool
 Go back to the Elm street
 Shut the fuck up all right?
 And leave us alone, pigeek!
 You've got chips in your heart
 Please leave us alone, pigeek!
 You're the end of mankind
 Just leave us alone, pigeek!

The end of the song is the same as the original score. Melanie is pale, Lola looks at her pitifully. Stormy applause. Ringing.

MRS. LÓNYAY (claps eagerly, while she's coming back to the girls) We will meet after the break in our classroom. Hurry up! (She exits quickly, Lola and Melanie follow her)

Boy 1 likes this.

BOY 1 **LOL!!!!!!**

LOLA *(her voice from outside) Hi, Birdy! (she opens the door giggling and she comes in with Birdy)*

BIRDY Hell' Lola! *(Kiss-kiss-kiss)*

Girl 1 and Boy 1 like this.

Melanie slips in behind them, she sits on the bench on the left side. She takes back her pull-over, pulls the hood into her head, and she's surfing on her phone engrossed.

LOLA *(she gesticulates with her phone) It's bloody awesome, you know?!*

BIRDY Yeah, she got what she deserved, the fat-head.

BOTH *(to Melanie) Fat-ass-hole! (Laughter)*

MELANIE **You're such a beast, Birdy!**

LOLA We could hardly stand there without sneering. The new teacher was pretty near though. We had to shut up.

BIRDY Cool. Listen, I just heard that she let the geek pull off her bloody hooked stuff! She seems to be all right.

LOLA Yeah, she is quite normal. Have you checked her online?

- MELANIE She is completely offline.
- BIRDY Who asked you, pigeek?
- LOLA *(she looks at her phone)* Hey Birdy! Look at this shit the fucking geek scribbled about you! *(She shows Birdy her phone. He nuts up at once. Sound of bewilderment)*
- BIRDY *(to Melanie)* Have I ever allowed you to spam any of my sites with such bio-bullshit?! *(He runs to her bench and begins to pull at her shoulder)* Have I? Answer me!
- LOLA *(to Melanie)* Come on, delete your pathetic comment!
- BIRDY Don't you dare breaking in on this conversation, okay? A real rapper never restricts the freedom of speech. *(Melanie breaks into a smile)*
- LOLA *(upset)* Why are you trying to strangle her, then? Let her go, you idiot! *(Ringing)* The new teacher is almost here... Hey, listen! I told her that you're sick.
- BIRDY *(he lets Melanie go)* What?! You're a sicko!
- LOLA Oh, leave me alone, Birdy, I had to say something! She counted the class and she asked who is missing.
- BIRDY And Miss Asshole had to split on me at once, right? Thank you so much!
- LOLA You're such a jerk! Don't you get that...

Mrs. Lónyay enters the room.

SCENE 5 – I LIE

8.01. *Dead silence, stand-to. The characters turn their back to the audience and they look at Mrs. Lónyay who goes up and down in front of the teacher's desk with the attendance book of the class and she takes stock of them for almost a minute.*

- MRS. LÓNYAY Have you ever heard the front-harmonic infinitive to greet somebody? *(She throws down the attendance book on the teacher's desk)*
- EVERYONE Good morning!
- MRS. LÓNYAY *(she comes closer to the audience)* It doesn't sounds familiar in the rear ranks, does it? *(She plays this game until she force a greeting from the audience as well. She nods admiringly and shows with a gesture to sit*

down) Good morning, everyone. I appreciate your efforts. The thirst for knowledge is written on your face and this condition is hopefully going to hold out the whole school year. Let's examine another infinitive: *to introduce oneself*. *(Pause)* My name is Mrs. Lónyay. I have been teaching language and literature for exactly twenty years.

Melanie types with her phone under the bench. Her Classbook-site appears on the screen.

MELANIE **my name is mrs lonely...**

MRS. LÓNYAY Frigyes Karinthy belongs to my favourite writers. That gave me the idea to let you read his short book *Please Sir!* in summer.

Girl 4 likes this.

MRS. LÓNYAY I find it below my dignity to ask you who read the book. I would rather practice the introduction a bit. *(She picks out somebody from the audience at random)* Well? Name? Mission? What are you talented in? Favorite writer? *(After the answers have come)* There you go!

Boy 1 and Girl 4 like this.

BOY 1 **nicely done pigeek!**

MRS. LÓNYAY *(She looks at another person expectantly, she nods after the answers)* Very interesting indeed. Would you be so kind to empty your chewing gum into the rubbish bin? *(Pause)* Thank you.

Girl 1 and 2 others like this.

MRS. LÓNYAY *(she walks to Lola and smiles at her)* Dear Lola, we have already got to know each other. Tell us something about yourself please!

LOLA My whole name is Lola Petty. I would like to go on studying after my high school graduation. Humanities fit my interests perfectly. I have read all the works by Karinthy in prose and I have just started to interpret his posthumous poems under the title *Message in the bottle*.

MRS. LÓNYAY Hats off to Lola! That's how I imagine an introduction. And now I would like to hear the mysterious chronicler, the hooded Anonym. *(She stands behind Melanie, she waits for a while, then she pulls down her hood)* I speak to you, Miss Little Red Riding Hood!

Boy 6 and 3 others like this.

MELANIE I'm Mel.

Pause.

MRS. LÓNYAY Well, well. The daughter of prof. Alexander Kohl if I'm not mistaken.

MELANIE Yes.

MRS. LÓNYAY *(she opens the attendance book)* You are surprised, aren't you? I made some preparations, you see. This book conceals many secrets. What are your future plans, Melanie? I hope you don't want to become a train-driver because you would need more punctuality for it. *(Pause, Lola laughs stridently)* So?

MELANIE I love singing. *(Lola looks at her in unbelief)*

Girl 8 and 4 others like this.

MRS. LÓNYAY Really? Why were you absent from the marvelous school chorus, then? Did you miss that, too?

LOLA She has no time for such things, Mrs. Lónyay. She's a geek.

MRS. LÓNYAY A what?

LOLA A web-freak. She is nonstop online.

MRS. LÓNYAY Oh, online. I see. Let me ask you what have you searched in the library at the beginning of the ceremony then? *(Pause)* The Karinthy-book, maybe? *(Embarrassing silence)*

BIRDY *(he doesn't notice that Mrs. Lónyay stands right behind him so he looks at his phone and breaks out in laughter)* **LOL!**

MRS. LÓNYAY *(She snatches out the phone of Birdy's hand)* What on earth is so madly entertaining, young man? *(She discovers the last comments. Pause, she goes among the benches)* Okay. Listen everybody. You shouldn't be thinking that I haven't seen such things at my previous school. *(She waves the phone, and she reaches her hand to Melanie)*

MELANIE Please, Mrs...

MRS. LÓNYAY I hope that you'll know at least the title of the book by the next lesson. *(She takes over the phone)* I'm keeping this until then. I can see already the withdrawal symptoms. Of course I know perfectly well that I'm not allowed to confiscate your precious treasure forever. The dear parents would lodge a complaint anyway. So you'll get back your silly phones. But face the consequences if I'll see another machine in any hand. Did I express myself clearly enough?

BIRDY Yes, you did, Mrs. Lónyay.

MRS. LÓNYAY *(she looks back on Birdy's phone)* Oh, you must be that famous “seriously ill person”. Could you describe your symptoms? *(She leans to him, she breaths in and coughs affectedly)* I hope you haven't got an acute nicotine poisoning, have you?

BIRDY Nope, Mrs. Lónyay, I...

MRS. LÓNYAY Don't overstrain yourself, Brad. It would harm your illness. *(She looks at Lola)* This disease seems to be infectious. I'd rather like to know what your future plans are in case if you would come to maturity and...

BIRDY I'll be a musician.

MRS. LÓNYAY Oh, indeed? And which instrument do you prefer?

BIRDY *(Pause)* None.

MRS. LÓNYAY Another hidden singing bird, then! What a charming pair! Forget about the book issue. Allow me one single question instead: who may have created this amazing piece of art on the blackboard?

MELANIE I have.

MRS. LÓNYAY Well I never! That is really surprising to me. Is this also part of being a geek? *(Lola giggles)*

MELANIE *(looks at Birdy)* Yes.

MRS. LÓNYAY In this case wipe out the blackboard. The first lesson is almost over.

Dumb-show about the last minutes of the lesson. Everybody moves like on a high-speed shooting: Mrs. Lónyay sits to the teacher's table and fills out the attendance book. Lola and Birdy are also hyperactive. Melanie however moves in “slow motion”: she goes to the blackboard and starts wiping for at least a minute. The bell rings also delayed. Everyone but Melanie exit the room.

SCENE 6 – MY DAD

14:38. *Melanie puts on her bag and the headphones. She listens to some kind of emo music and starts her way home to the window very slowly. Soft street noise: grind of the gears, hooting. She hums louder and louder. Birdy comes from the right on his board. He stops just beneath Melanie who doesn't notice him and she almost bumps into him. The headphones fall to her neck, the music stops.*

BIRDY Wow, you have a really cool voice. You have inherited it from your mum, haven't you?

MELANIE *(confusedly)* No, I haven't.

BIRDY You shouldn't be ashamed, I know much about music.

MELANIE I don't have a mother.

BIRDY What? Who is talking about your mother?

MELANIE You did.

BIRDY How do you mean you don't have one?

MELANIE She left us.

BIRDY Did she get divorced from your dad?

MELANIE Yeah.

BIRDY That's why you're so worn out? My parents are also divorced, so what?
(Pause) And where's your mum now, anyway?

MELANIE Five feet under the ground, you jerk.

BIRDY What?! *(Pause, he gets the message)* Ugh, that's tough.

MELANIE Yeah, it is. What do you want?

BIRDY Me? Nothing. *(Pause)* Why did you show off with that blackboard story?

MELANIE Because.

BIRDY I don't get struck on your help, thanks. *(Pause)* Sorry for the phone, by the way. Real suck.

MELANIE No big deal. I've got some older phones and an iPad at home. My dad buys me anything when I beg him and start looking like Puss in Boots.

BIRDY Are you joking? Let me see!

MELANIE No way, leave me alone.

BIRDY Don't screw around, I adore the *Shrek!* I downloaded the whole saga plus *Puss in Boots* with all the extras and staff in blue-ray quality.

MELANIE And I'm a geek, right?!

BIRDY What are you playing at? *(He looks disappointed and steps on his board)*

- MELANIE All right, all right. Wait a sec, I have to get ready. *(Pause, she looks at Birdy with big, harmless eyes)*
- BIRDY *(mesmerized)* Holy... Mother, that's weird. Your eyes grew as big as in a manga. I'm not surprised that your dad can't resist you.
- MELANIE *(she grins)* I take it as a compliment. It succeeds 90 %.
- BIRDY That's real fluke. I worked two months in the summer for this bloody iPhone and Mrs. Lonely bags it. *(They laugh at each other)* I'd love to graffiti something nice on her house. Don't you have a clue where she lives?
- MELANIE Nope. Okay, I'm off. My dad is not cool lately. *(Pause)* But...
- BIRDY What's up?
- MELANIE I've got an idea what to do with Mrs. Lonely. An evening chat?
- BIRDY Dunno. Maybe. See ya! *(He leaves the stage to the back of the hall)*
- MELANIE Bye. *(She looks after him, then she turns back the music, she arrives at the window and starts climbing into it)*
- MRS. LÓNYAY *(she sticks out her head through the door and shrieks)* Hey, what the hell are you doing there?! Thief! Thief!
- Melanie doesn't hear it, she climbs further. Mrs. Lónyay puts on her glasses, she recognizes Melanie. She runs toward the window in a bathrobe and a pair of slippers.*
- MRS. LÓNYAY Melanie? Melanie! What are you up to? Are you completely out of your mind?! *(She pulls back Melanie from the window. The headphones fall again to her neck, the music stops and she flops down to the ground)*
- MELANIE Hi... Good afternoon, Mrs. Lone... Lónyay. I'm living here, you know and...
- MRS. LÓNYAY And you just walk home through the window?
- MELANIE Well, it happens sometimes in such a nice weather. I'm not always in the mood to walk round the block. My dad lets in fresh air the whole day, so...
- MRS. LÓNYAY You frightened me to death. Anyway, you should soften that machine unless you don't want get deaf in the short run.
- MELANIE Yes, I know. My mother kept it saying, too.

MRS. LÓNYAY Accept my deepest sympathies. *(She gets confused)* I saw it in the attendance book and...

MELANIE Thank you. *(Pause, Melanie stares at Mrs. Lónyay)*

MRS. LÓNYAY All right, I'm going back ... Oh my God, how I must look like... I live here, by the way. Just over the way. It's a nice neighborhood!

MELANIE Well, it's a matter of taste.

MRS. LÓNYAY See you tomorrow! *(She exits through the door)*

MELANIE Good by, Mrs. Lónyay! *(She exits through the window)*

SCENE 7 – THE COUNCIL OF WAR

23:55. *Melanie leans out of the window with her iPad in the hand. The Classbook-site of Mary Engel appears on the screen with a bad quality photo about the tableau, but Mrs. Lónyay's face is still easily recognizable. At the personal data there is the address and as job the XY school, too.*

MELANIE **Searching**
 Brad Bird
 Add Friend
 Message
 Greetings from Mrs. Lonely...
 Send

(Pause.)

BIRDY *(He comes back in parallel, he sits down at the bench on the right side and switches on his laptop)* **Confirm.** *(This is a chat scene where some sequences are also told, but Melanie and Birdy are mostly typing and gesticulating)*
NOOOOO WAY!

MELANIE **hiiii!!! ☺**

BIRDY **I always new that u r a geek but this much!?**

MELANIE **how many compliments do you reserve for me today? ☺**

BIRDY *(he laughs)* **LOL! but how didyou get the foto?**

MELANIE **I took it this mornin about the tableau which is hanging over the library door**

BIRDY **what???** r u saying that mrs lonely learnt at our school?!

MELANIE **I'm not saying it**
I'm writing

BIRDY **leave me alone with your silly geek jokes**

MELANIE **sorry ☺**

BIRDY **how did you save the picture?**

MELANIE **I programmed an automatic file transferring software in the summer**
my phone sends all the photos right after I shot them to my mail
address

BIRDY **no comment** (*Pause*)
and when did you find out the hole story with this fake profile?

MELANIE **freddy talked me about Mary Engel in the library**

BIRDY **come on! freddy has ca 1000 stories about himself as a woman-chaser**

MELANIE **an ex-woman-chaser...**

BIRDY ☺
allright
but how do you know that this chick is identical with mrs lonely?

MELANIE (*Pause*) **but you won't tell anyone, right?**

BIRDY **don't fool around**
I'm not that chattering type like lola!

MELANIE ☺ **ok**
so I was about to go to the ceremony when mrs lonely came in and
she kissed Freddy twice on the cheek

BIRDY **the old man knows something**
but 2 kisses are fuckin old school...

MELANIE (*loud cough in the background, Melanie sighs, she keeps tight hold of the*
iPad) **yeah**

BIRDY **andwhat happened after... no way!**

MELANIE **are you mad or what?! nothing happened! she just asked freddy to**
shut up about her past in the school
that's it

BIRDY **wat past?**
that she used to kiss mr lonely in the wc? ☺

MELANIE **almost**
she must have been a real loser as freddy's described it
but the real problem is an unfulfilled love

BIRDY **who was the wictim?**

MELANIE **his name was johnny bauer**
the idol of the school

BIRDY **the wat?**

MELANIE **idol, example**
I surfed on the net & in the school archive I found an article from the
annual yearbook
he was a top student and a baseball champion
no wonder that mrs lonely also fell in love with him

BIRDY **I didn't get that jack bauer is such a shit-hot guy!**

MELANIE *(she laughs)* **LOL**
yeah but the victim wasn't him but mary engel

BIRDY **cause?**

MELANIE **I only know that she moved from the city on his account and she**
married mr lonely
I created the class reunion group in order to understand the story

BIRDY **what have you geeked again? (Pause) got it!** *(she clicks on the class*
reunion group at Mary Engel's site. the profile picture is the whole
tableau and there are dozens of comments to the topic, Melanie is
answering one)

MELANIE **of course, Louis, we're waiting for you at 6 p.m.!**
(to Birdy as chat) **almost everyone from her class joined the group**
and we've already set the date of the meeting
it's gonna be next thuesday a couple of corners from us

BIRDY **what do u mean from us?**

MELANIE **oh yeah. i just realized that we're neighbours with mrs. lonely**

BIRDY **that sucks!**

MELANIE **the question is who's gonna loose
if my plan works well I'll lure jack to her flat I can start shooting
with my webcam...**

BIRDY **you sicko!**

MELANIE Not me, my father. *(another fit of coughing from outside, she shouts)* I'm coming, daddy!
so you don't like the idea?

BIRDY **are you kidding? yo yo I fuckin' like it!
I'd even steal the plan if I were a geek...**

MELANIE ☺

BIRDY **wait a sec, I don't see jack bauer in the team
call the CTU!!!**

MELANIE **well I expected that he won't swing into action at once but I
concluded from the comments that mrs lonely wasn't indifferent to
him!**

BIRDY **wow what a winding love story!**

MELANIE **yeah but I have to go, sorry...**

BIRDY **hey dude are you also a miggity miggity emcee?**

MELANIE **I just want to fit this bloody puzzle
let's see *(she logs out and disappears)***

23:59 – after the signal of 24 – 24:00.

SCENE 8 – THE BAD STUDENT TESTED

11. 09. 2012, Tuesday, 7:55. *Birdy sits at his laptop like he did in the last scene. His profile page is on the screen. Lola comes in through the door.*

LOLA Hi everyone! *(She comes to Birdy)*

BIRDY *(he's concentrating on his laptop)* Hi. *(Kiss-kiss-kiss)* Look at this!

LOLA What's up?

BIRDY Jack Bauer's just written to the virtual Mary a muddy love letter in German. *(He searches his messages, the sender is Mary Engel)*

- BAUER **„Du bist mein, ich bin dein,
dessen sollst du gewiss sein.
Du bist verschlossen
in meinem Herzen,
Verloren ist das Schlüsselein –
du musst immer darin sein.”¹**
- Erinnerst du dich noch daran?
Ich komme nur deinetwegen.**
- LOLA What’s so funny about this? You don’t know a word in German.
- BIRDY Mel is translating this shit.
- LOLA Who?
- BIRDY Melanie. She uses this bloody google translator or what.
- LOLA Are you chatting with pigeek? You’ve changed, Birdy.
- BIRDY Here it is. Listen:
- MELANIE **“You are mine, I am yours,
which you shall be sure.
You are locked
in my heart,
Gone is the Schlüsselein –
you have to always be there.”**
- Do you remember that?
I only come because of you.**
- BIRDY *(laughing)* Wow, that’s crazy!
(to Melanie as chat) **LOL!**
invite him to yourself after the class meeting

¹ The following love poem, of unknown authorship, is found in a Latin codex of the 12th century from the Tegernsee monastery:

“You are mine, I am yours,
Of that you may be sure.
Deep within my heart
You're safely locked away.
But I have lost the key
And there you'll ever stay”

LOLA Veeery exciting, indeed.

MELANIE **to myself?!**

BIRDY **you've got a slow processor, mel!**
invite him to Mary
to mrs lonely
to mrs lónyay
to the new fuckin teacher

MELANIE **ok ok**
I got it

LOLA All right. I leave you alone with your geek girlfriend. *(She moves away from him. Sound of sympathy)*

BIRDY What's the matter with you, Lola? We just want to punish Mrs. Lonely, that's all! She deserved it with all this shit. She stole our phones plus I'm sure she'll question us about that bloody Karinthy.

LOLA You're bloody crazy! *(She sits offended to the left bench)*

MELANIE **I wrote him where to come**

BIRDY *(to Lola)* Please don't tire me with this crap, Lola!
(to Melanie) **cool**
where are you by the way?
the first lesson is about to begin
questioning you know

MELANIE **my dad was taken ill last night**
he's in the hospital
I'm there with him now

BIRDY **that's fucked.**

MELANIE **yeah**
sort of

BIRDY **hop he'll get beter**

MELANIE **thanks (Pause)**
hey, don't you wanna pop in tonight?
I'm freaking out a bit to watch jack bauer's action all alone

BIRDY **okay**
why not?
let's talk about this after schol

Ringling. Birdy switches off his laptop and he slips it into the bench. As Mrs. Lónyay comes in, he jumps to her

BIRDY Good morning, Mrs. Lónyay. May I help you?

MRS. LÓNYAY Thank you, Brad. That's really kind of you.

BIRDY *(he helps her give out some books, then he springs to attention spectacularly)* Mrs. Lónyay! I report you respectfully that today is the 11th of September 2012, Tuesday. The number of the class is X, Melanie is absent.

MRS. LÓNYAY What's the matter with the poor girl?

BIRDY His father's got to the hospital. She stays with him.

MRS. LÓNYAY I'm truly sorry. *(She walks up and down)*

LOLA *(she speaks to herself)* Oh, that lying pigeek.

MRS. LÓNYAY What a pity, I wanted to question her exactly today in order to give back that phone to her. But you know what, Brad? You have the chance to get ahead of the young lady. You can stay at the blackboard. Set your fantasy free and tell me about your favorite short story by Karinthy!

BIRDY "Mam, please, mam, I have prepared the lesson." *(Laughing)*

MRS. LÓNYAY I see. *The Bad Student Tested.* *(Laughing)*

BIRDY By no means, mam! Not even *The Good Student Tested*. I think that this situation is rather equivalent with the story when *We Split Our Sides with Laughing.* *(Laughing)* "The whole class is possessed" you know. They emptied the dustbin and Deckner made an exhibition of the fallen litter and Kelemen played with Roboz the label-sticking game and Bauer had to run to the third floor for nothing and...

MRS. LÓNYAY Are you sure that he was called Bauer? Don't you think that this name might be familiar to you from another story?

BIRDY But Mrs. Lonely! You cannot be serious if you think that I'm mixing up Jack Bauer the action hero with the classic student character created by Karinthy?!

MRS. LÓNYAY All right, my boy. Don't take our sweet time, please. It's not Bauer who runs to the third floor. He's called Auer. Take a seat and...

BIRDY I know why this name seemed to be so familiar to me! Wait, Mrs. Lonely, let me show you. (*He runs out of the room like mad, sound of murmur, even Lola looks interested after her hurt – she is almost laughing*)

MRS. LÓNYAY What's the matter with you today? Are you so much under Karinthy's impression?

SCENE 9 – WE SPLIT OUR SIDES WITH LAUGHING

BIRDY (*he comes in with the tableau*) You see, mam? I've prepared the lesson! (*Loud laughing*)

MRS. LÓNYAY Bird, what are you doing with that tableau? Bring it back at once or I'll write you a warning!

BIRDY There he is! John Bauer. The pride of the school. The champion basketball player and the top of his class.

MRS. LÓNYAY How do you know that?

BIRDY Everyone remembers the report made with him in the festive yearbook. You also remember it, don't you?

MRS. LÓNYAY Take that tableau back, please! (*She flops into the teacher's desk palely*)

BIRDY (*rapping*)
 Yo, Yo, Mam, I've prepared the lesson here
 I've pressured my brain and I've prepaid the bill
 the boo-boo is that I've no kick left, I'm fuckin' ill
 fuckin' sick
 fuckin' ill
 fuckin' sick
 fuckin' ill
 So I have to miggity miggity take my pill.

The web is my drug,
 my weed and my love
 I inhale it till I'm fucked
 cause life's such a suck.

Yo, yo, it's daily three times a 'W'
 but I'm not quilty, it's you, it's fuckin' you!

My drug is daily three times a 'W'
 but I'm not quilty, it's you, it's fuckin' you!

MRS. LÓNYAY *(she looks at Birdy like mad, at the end she shouts)* Go to hell, all of you!
(She runs away)

SCENE 10 – THE MAN WHO FAILED

20:35. *Birdy's room. He's sitting on the right bench. Lola sits close to him, she's helping him out about Karinthy, the book Please Sir! lays open in front of them.*

LOLA We're finished for today. I gotta go.

BIRDY We should repeat the staff, shouldn't we? *(He comes closer to Lola)* You do it... you look so cool. *(He embraces her and strokes her face)*

LOLA *(giggling)* I can go over it with you if you like, but first I'll run to the toilet.

BIRDY *(He tickles her face with his hair)* You wet pussy...

LOLA *(laughing)* Thanks. You've just smeared my make-up. Great!

BIRDY Oh sorry, I didn't mean it.

Lola exits laughing, the door remains a bit open. Birdy takes out his laptop from the bench and he switches it on. He searches Melanie. The webcam videos appear on the screen. Behind Birdy there's the door, Melanie's leaning out of the window with the hood on her head and the iPad is in her hands.

MELANIE *(she speaks sadly and she's surfing the net)* Hi.

BIRDY Heydo! Listen, it's really fucked up that you couldn't come in the morning. Mrs. Lonely had this weird manga eyes like... What's the matter?

MELANIE You promised me to come here tonight. I'm completely alone, it's quite frightening, you know.

BIRDY I'm... I'm also alone, my mother sleeps at his new fucker. That's why I found out to talk online. It's more fun for a geek anyway, right?

MELANIE Very funny. Are you sure you won't come along?

BIRDY Why are you freaking out? I hope you haven't invited Jack the Ripper, have you?!

MELANIE Of course I haven't. He's coming to Mary, he can arrive any time.

BIRDY You should have seen Mrs. Lonely's face. It was convulsed like this (*He pulls faces*)

MELANIE I watched him the whole afternoon from the window. She has a crazy crying fit.

BIRDY No way!

MELANIE I mean it! She's running up and down and she howls aloud. You finished her off quite well.

Pause.

BIRDY I don't get where's Mr. Lonely in such a situation to cheer her up or something.

MELANIE I've never seen anyone there besides her. They must have split up like our parents.

BIRDY But why is it so fucking important for her to use his name?

MELANIE It's clear-cut. She hates Mr. Lonely and Mary Engel as well.

BIRDY Seriously, I'm almost feeling sorry for this witch. Completely schizo! I hope that Jack Bauer's gonna comfort her...

Pause.

MELANIE He's coming soon. My daddy is lying in the hospital and I'm here all alone. (*She begins to blubber*)

BIRDY Don't whimpel like this, please! (*Pause*) You should rather sing something.

MELANIE Is this good for you?

BIRDY What?

MELANIE That you're always so mean to me.

BIRDY You don't have to believe but I really like your voice. Last time on the street you were as cool as Hannah Montana or Vanesse Hudgens, I swear!

MELANIE All right, I guess I'm logging out.

BIRDY Wait a sec, Mel! I don't talk rubbish. Your free style was also hardcore! Respect!

MELANIE Really?

- BIRDY Absolutely. Listen, I was thinking of taking part on a competition. X-Factor, Eurovision, anything that works out.
- MELANIE Wow, that'd be cool.
- BIRDY Yo, yo! *(They're laughing)* Come on, sing me something!
- MELANIE Just a sec. *(She's typing)*
- BIRDY What are you geeking again?!
- MELANIE You'll see, watch out! *(She sends the German poem from Mary Engel's site to Birdy, then she starts singing the song Be free by Birdy with closed eyes)*
- The rain falls to the ground
So much harder when you're not around
'Couse my...
- LOLA *(She stops at the doorstep, she slams the door in the middle of the song, she runs to the laptop and pulls it away so that the door isn't in the background any more)* What's that?
- BIRDY Lola, I...
- MELANIE *(As the door bangs she opens her eyes and turns around. In the background of her webcam video appears the "street" and the entrance of Mrs. Lónyay's house)* I knew it. I knew it. *(She repeats it like a maniac)*
- LOLA What did you know, pigeek? *(To Birdy)* Are you kidding me?
- BIRDY I... I'm not... *(He stares at his laptop)* Look! There he comes!
- Jack Bauer comes on the "street" completely drunken. Melanie puts the iPad on the window-sill. Birdy and Lola can follow the events better. All the three of them are watching Jack Bauer knocking on the door. The sound of shuffling steps.*
- MRS. LÓNYAY *(her voice from outside)* Who's that?
- BAUER Mrs. Lonely...
- MRS. LÓNYAY Yes, that's me. But who are you?
- BAUER You piss me around with this bloody class meeting and you don't come.
- MRS. LÓNYAY Class meeting? *(She opens the door a bit and looks at Bauer with tear-stained eyes)* Do we know each other?

- BAUER You invite me to you and you don't let me in.
- MRS. LÓNYAY Sir, you are drunk, leave me alone... *(She wants to close the door)*
- BAUER *(he slips his foot into the doorway)* All that's fair enough because of the past. But why did you keep the secret that you've got a husband, huh? You wanted to protect this Lónyay guy, or what? Call him here and I'll teach him who is Johnny Bauer! *(He slaps Mrs. Lónyay's face, she falls down)* He can also get one.
- MELANIE *(she is sobbing)* Look it if you want, I can't stand this anymore! *(She disappears from the window)*
- BAUER *(he knees down to Mrs. Lónyay, he holds her in his hands)* Forgive me, Mary! Forgive me! *(Pause)* I didn't realize how much I loved you until I drove you away from here. I couldn't find you then anywhere for years. I didn't care about the others, I didn't care about anything, I just wanted to see you again. But you vanished, you disappeared completely. *(Pause, Mrs. Lónyay becomes conscious)* You are as mysteriously beautiful as on the tableau, you know?
- MRS. LÓNYAY The tableau...
- BAUER I got goose pimples, when I saw your photo again! *(hysterical laughing)*
Pause.
- MRS. LÓNYAY My students...
- BAUER What? What are you talking about?
- MRS. LÓNYAY Brad... Melanie...
- Mrs. Lónyay points at the window, Bauer recognizes the light of the iPad in the window.*
- BAUER What the hell is that? A hidden camera? *(He is stumbling around the street to the window)*
- LOLA Oh Lord, he's wasting Melanie.
- BAUER Hey! Who's there?! *(He climbs through the window with difficulty, he takes the iPad in his hand and sees Mary Engel's site)* You made it, fucking bastards! *(He switches back to the webcam, he notices Lola and Birdy)* You won't escape!
- BIRDY He's really killing her! *(Loudly)* It was me! Don't hurt Melanie! You hear me? Don't hurt the girl!

Birdy and Lola run out to the back of the room. Video sequence. Bauer is going from room to room – like a chainsaw killer in a horror movie – and he finds Melanie in the kitchen on the ground with a pill overdose.

BAUER My God. *(He drops the iPad from his hand)*

End of the video sequence. Pause. Hooting.

Birdy's page appears on the screen. He gets an event invitation from Mary Engel:

Name: **Class meeting**
When: **12. 09. 2012, 5 p.m.**
Where: **St. John Hospital, intensive care, room 107**
Részletek: **This site is going to be deleted. See you in the hospital.**
 Mrs. Lonely

Under the applause the whole class's joining the event, their names and pictures appear one by one at the opened category "Going".