

BBC SCREENPLAY FORMAT

by

(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

There should be one
contact address only
in the bottom left
hand corner.
Always include a phone
number and an e-mail
address if you have one.

"HOSPITAL"

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

NATALIE is asleep in the bed.

ADULT NATALIE (V.O.)

That wasn't first attempt and it wouldn't be my last. I remember being mad at myself every time for it never working. I'm 26 now and sometimes I still get mad that I came out the other side alive. I know, it's a horrible thing to say, but it's true and there's no changing it. Every time I did it, I was riddled with guilt but I was too beaten down by not only people but the voices in my head. I was terrified of them at 16, and it only got worse the older I got. People didn't understand what it was like to be me and live with these voices, screaming at me on a daily basis. And when I did explain it, people would look at me like I was crazy, and maybe I was but I was terrified.

TITLES.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

NATALIE lays in the bed, drugged up. She's awake but her responses are unintelligible. DR O'CONNOR appears at the door with another DOCTOR next to her.

DOCTOR

She's in there.

DR O'CONNOR opens the door.

DR O'CONNOR

Hi Natalie.

DOCTOR

I don't think you'll be getting much out of her.

DR O'CONNOR stands beside the bed. The other DOCTOR hovers in the corner.

DR O'CONNOR

Natalie, it's me Dr O'Connor. Do you know where you are?

(Pause.)

Do you know what day it is?

NATALIE

May.

DR O'CONNOR

Natalie can you look at me, please? It's me, Dr O'Connor.

NATALIE

I don't...

DR O'CONNOR

(To the doctor.)

What the hell have you given her?

DOCTOR

600 milligrams of Quetiapine.

DR O'CONNOR

600? She's 16! She only takes 400, and even that's far more than anyone of her age and size should be on!

DOCTOR

She was a state all last night, and well into the early morning! We had no choice. She was screaming and crying and wouldn't cooperate with us!

DR O'CONNOR

So you drugged her?

DOCTOR

Well it worked, didn't it?

DR O'CONNOR

She's a fucking child!

(To Natalie.)

Natalie, love, can you roll over and look at me? Please.

NATALIE doesn't move.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)

(To the Doctor.)

Right, you need to leave.

(MORE)

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)
I have to talk to her in private
and you've not helped whatsoever.

DOCTOR
Good luck with that. She won't be
much use to anybody.

DR O'CONNOR
Aye no fucking wonder, she's off
her face on antipsychotics!

The DOCTOR shrugs then leaves. DR O'CONNOR crouches down
beside the bed.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)
Natalie, can you hear me?

NATALIE
I'm tired.

DR O'CONNOR
I know you are but we need to talk.
I need to know that you know where
you are and what happened last
night.

NATALIE
Dead.

DR O'CONNOR
No, you are still alive.

NATALIE groans.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)
But you tried to kill yourself, do
you remember that?

NATALIE doesn't react.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)
Shit. Natalie, open your eyes.

NATALIE looks at DR O'CONNOR.

NATALIE
This isn't mine.

DR O'CONNOR
What's not yours?

NATALIE
This.

She motions vaguely to the room.

DR O'CONNOR

The room?

NATALIE giggles.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ. Natalie, you're in hospital. In a locked ward because of what you did yesterday. Your mammy found you and she called an ambulance, and now you're here. Do you understand that?

NATALIE

It's not real.

DR O'CONNOR

What's not real?

NATALIE

Me.

DR O'CONNOR

You are still alive, but the doctors gave you extra medication. You'll be fine.

DR O'CONNOR notices Natalie's teddy at the foot of the bed. She tucks it under the blanket next to Natalie. NATALIE's arm is still bandaged up from the previous day. On her other wrist are bruises wrapping right the way around.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)

Did they hurt you last night?

NATALIE is now asleep.

DR O'CONNOR (CONT'D)

Fuck. I'll come back later today. Get some rest.

DR O'CONNOR stands back up and exits the room, closing it quietly behind her.

INT. NATALIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

RITA opens the door and walks in. On the floor are the empty pill packets, scattered around. She picks them up and discards them into the bin under the desk.

RITA

Oh Natalie. Sweetheart.

RITA notices a letter on the bed. She sits down on the bed and reads it, however she doesn't finish the first page before breaking down.

INT. THE SCHOOL SOCIAL AREA - DAY

The girls have no idea about Natalie. ERICA and LILY are sitting on different benches, throwing a stress ball to each other.

LILY

Floss thought she was about to have the baby last night.

ERICA

At seven months? That's a bit early, isn't it?

LILY

Turns out it was just gas. She let the biggest fart rip. I have never heard or smelt anything like it.

ERICA

(Laughing.)

Fucking disgusting!

LILY

I so envy you missing it.

ERICA

Nah, I've been there with Naomi. She was the moodiest and gassiest bitch ever when she was pregnant. But I got a niece and nephew out of it. It's great when they start talking and you can teach them swears.

HARRIET comes out from a corridor, carrying a stack of papers.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Also, when you hype them up on sugar and send them back, it's fun to watch the carnage unfold. But, I'm not allowed to babysit anymore.

HARRIET approaches Erica and Lily. The girls aren't happy to see her.

HARRIET

Hi.

ERICA
What do you want?

HARRIET
I haven't spoken to either of you
all day.

ERICA
Is it any wonder?

LILY
Are you actually surprised?

HARRIET
Well yeah.

ERICA
What you did was shitty.

HARRIET
Someone had to tell her.

ERICA
No they didn't.

HARRIET
Have either of you heard from her?
She's been ignoring me all day.

ERICA
And you only have yourself to blame
for that.

LILY
We did tell you to stop. She wasn't
well yesterday and you were being a
dick.

HARRIET
Whatever. I'll need to see her
anyway after school, I have work
for her.

ERICA
You've done enough. I'll give it to
her.

HARRIET
Fine.
(Pause.)
Why are you not in classes?

ERICA

I'm supposed to have Ms Paisley
right now, but fuck that.

LILY

I've got a free.

MRS LAWRENCE comes out from a different corridor.

MRS LAWRENCE

Erica!

ERICA

Shit.

MRS LAWRENCE

I've been looking for you! Why
aren't you in English?

ERICA

I was, I just left for the toilet.

MRS LAWRENCE

Ms Paisley would beg to differ. Get
up to class now.

ERICA

Yes Ms.

MRS LAWRENCE

And what about you two?

LILY

I'm on a free.

HARRIET

I got asked to take this to
reception.

MRS LAWRENCE

Right. Erica and Harriet hurry up
please. Lily, you have exams you
could be studying for.

ERICA

Ms, have you heard from Natalie?
Cause she's been ghosting us since
last night.

MRS LAWRENCE

You girls don't know?

LILY

Know what?

MRS LAWRENCE joins the girls.

MRS LAWRENCE

Take a seat.

HARRIET sits. LILY moves to the same bench as the girls.

MRS LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Rita called me this morning. Last night Natalie tried to kill herself.

ERICA

She did what?!

LILY

Is she dead?

MRS LAWRENCE

No. She's still alive but she's in hospital. They found her in time.

ERICA

What did she do?

MRS LAWRENCE

She overdosed.

LILY

She was really upset yesterday.

MRS LAWRENCE

I know. Listen, can the three of you keep this to yourself? The last thing to poor girl needs is for the entire school to know about this.

ERICA

Of course.

LILY

I wouldn't tell anyone.

HARRIET gets up and starts to walk away.

MRS LAWRENCE

Harriet, where are you going?

HARRIET

To hand this to reception.

MRS LAWRENCE

It's fine, I can take them. Sit down for a minute please.

HARRIET ignores her and continues on.

MRS LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
Is she alright?

LILY
She and Nat had a fight yesterday.
Well, it was more Harriet yelling
at Natalie.

MRS LAWRENCE
Right, I'll talk to her. Erica is
you want to take a seat in guidance
for a time out, that's fine and
I'll call Ms Paisley and tell her
I've pulled you out for the rest of
the lesson. Lily the same goes for
you. I need to do a couple of
things but I'll be at my desk in
about ten minutes.

ERICA
Okay.

MRS LAWRENCE gets up and leaves the girls, walking in the
same direction as Harriet. The girls sit in silence, stunned
at the news.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

NATALIE is awake in the bed. Her phone pings multiple times.
She picks it up and reads the messages.

ERICA (TEXT)
Dude r u ok?

LILY (TEXT)
What happened??

ERICA (TEXT)
Please reply! I need 2 no u r ok!

LILY (TEXT)
Can we come see you?

She puts her phone back down.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

HARRIET heads back down to her class. She pulls her phone out
and looks at her texts to Natalie.

HARRIET (TEXT)
Nat, you can't stay mad at me
forever.

(MORE)

HARRIET (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Only trying to tell you how much
you effect our moods and own mental
state. Not my fault you're too
sensitive.

NATALIE (TEXT)

Not in the mood.

HARRIET (TEXT)

Fine. Fuck off then. I don't care
anymore. Do what you want.

She switches her phone off and puts it back in her pocket.
She passes the girls who are still sitting on a bench.

ERICA

What's the bet Stella had something
to do with it?

LILY

Very high.

ERICA

Harri!

HARRIET

What?

ERICA

What do you mean 'what'? You
haven't said anything about
Natalie.

HARRIET

I have nothing to say.

LILY

That's low. Even for you.

STELLA comes into the social area. She sees the girls but
ignores them.

ERICA

Oi!

STELLA doesn't respond.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Stella! Over here!

LILY

What are you doing?

ERICA

That bitch is the reason Nat tried to kill herself.

HARRIET

You don't know that.

ERICA

Oh I am pretty fucking certain.

STELLA

What do you want?

ERICA

You're a piece of shit, you know that?

STELLA

Tell me something I don't know.

ERICA

You don't deserve Natalie. She's too good for you.

STELLA

Whatever. She's a waste of space and I'm done with her.

LILY

Do you really not remember how you treated her yesterday?

STELLA

I didn't do anything.

ERICA

You called her names! You belittled her. How is that nothing?

STELLA

I don't see the issue. It was just a joke.

ERICA

Oh so we have a wee Billy Connolly on our hands? You're a cunt!

STELLA

Excuse me?

ERICA punches STELLA who then falls to the ground.

STELLA (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

ERICA starts to beat STELLA up. LILY grabs STELLA's hands and holds them on the ground. HARRIET watches in horror, but she doesn't stop them.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Get off me!

ERICA

You're a fucking asshole!

HARRIET

Girls.

ERICA

Leave Natalie alone!

STELLA

You're a fucking psychopath! Stop it!

ERICA

Not until you admit you're a fucking bitch! All you ever do is take advantage of her! You make her feel like shit!

STELLA

Because she is!

ERICA grabs STELLA by the hair and holds her down.

ERICA

You're going to be so sorry you ever walked into her life.

STELLA

I already am.

HARRIET runs away as footsteps can be heard coming towards the girls.

ERICA

She's too good for you! You should die in a hole! That's what you deserve! You're the biggest cunt ever!

ERICA punches her again. MR DEE comes into the social area. He hears the screaming and runs over the girls.

MR DEE

Oi! Erica!

ERICA ignores him and continues to beat Stella.

STELLA
Get off me you bitch!

MR DEE grabs LILY and pulls her away from the girls. He then grabs ahold of ERICA and attempts to drag her off but he can't. MRS LAWRENCE comes back from her tasks. She sees the mess.

MRS LAWRENCE
What is going on?!

ERICA
She's a bitch!

MRS LAWRENCE helps MR DEE separate the girls.

MRS LAWRENCE
Enough!

STELLA lunges at ERICA, punching her, before MRS LAWRENCE grabs her and holds her back.

MRS LAWRENCE (CONT'D)
What the hell is going on?

ERICA
She's an asshole! She's the reason
Natalie hurt herself last night!
She called her a 'fat cunt' in
front of everybody!

STELLA
Because she is!

MRS LAWRENCE
Miss MacIntosh!

STELLA
Natalie is a waste of life. I don't
care what happens to her. She
should have killed herself and long
time ago!

MRS LAWRENCE
Excuse me? I'd send you to the
nurse to get seen too, but that
would imply I care about you, and
right now I am really struggling
to. Get down to Ms Stewart's
office, right now! Erica, get into
the guidance base. Lily, you too!

(MORE)

MRS LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Mr Dee, can you make sure she gets to Ms Stewart?

MR DEE

Of course.

MR DEE nudges Stella. He follows her to the office.

MRS LAWRENCE

Erica, what is going on with you?

NATALIE

She made fun of Natalie yesterday. All she ever does is berates her and makes her feel worthless! And I'm not gonna sit back and watch it happen any longer!

LILY

It's true Ms. We saw it happen and Natalie just let her do it. After Nat went to the toilet, the two of us confronted her about it. She just laughed in our faces.

ERICA

All she ever does is berates her and makes her feel worthless! And I'm not gonna sit back and watch it happen any longer!

MRS LAWRENCE

You cannot beat people up!

ERICA

But she deserves it! Didn't you hear what she said? And look at where Natalie is today!

ERICA starts to cry from frustration.

ERICA (CONT'D)

She could have died.

MRS LAWRENCE hesitates before hugging Erica.

MRS LAWRENCE

I know. But you fighting Stella isn't going to help. The pair of you should have come and told me and we would have dealt with it professionally.

ERICA pulls away.

ERICA

Telling you wouldn't have stopped
Natalie.

LILY

She was already in a bad place
yesterday. And Stella obviously
said more to her. And then Harriet
on top of that.

MRS LAWRENCE

What happened between the pair of
them?

LILY

Harriet wouldn't stop asking her
what was wrong and then she went
off on her because apparently Nat
brings the mood down with her
'issues', and just generally making
her feel useless. We told her stop
but she wouldn't listen.

MRS LAWRENCE

Did either of you see where she
went?

They shake their heads.

MRS LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Right, go into the base and wait
for me. I need to find Harriet. I'm
calling all three of your parents,
you can all go home and get some
rest.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

NATALIE is now sitting up in the best looking lost.

INT. GUIDANCE BASE - DAY

LILY and ERICA sit together on the comfy seats, crying. MS
STEWART comes in.

MS STEWART

Erica and Lily, come with me.

ERICA

Why?

MS STEWART

'Why'? Because you beat Stella
within an inch of her life.

LILY

But Ms, she caused Natalie to try
and kill herself.

MS STEWART

Neither of you know that for a
fact.

ERICA

But we know Natalie and we see the
way Stella treats her.

MS STEWART

I don't care. Come with me now.

They reluctantly follows MS STEWART out of the room.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

MRS LAWRENCE walks through the school, searching for Harriet.
She stops beside a window and spots HARRIET sitting outside
in the quad, under a tree. MRS LAWRENCE walks out the door.

EXT. THE QUAD - DAY

HARRIET is crying. MRS LAWRENCE cautiously approaches her.
She sits down beside her and puts an arm around Harriet.

MRS LAWRENCE

The girls told me about your wee
falling out with Natalie.

HARRIET

It's my fault she's in the
hospital.

MRS LAWRENCE

It's not your fault.

HARRIET

But it is. I told her that I didn't
care about her anymore. And then
she did... whatever she did.

MRS LAWRENCE

I think the likelihood of you being
the reason she did it is quite
slim. I've heard about her
relationship with Stella from Erica
and Lily, and Stella herself, and
it's obvious to me that if anyone
was the main cause would have been
Stella.

HARRIET

But I didn't help.

MRS LAWRENCE

Well, you're not completely off.

HARRIET

Thanks Ms.

MRS LAWRENCE

What I mean is, you happened to have an argument on one of her bad days. We all have them but for Natalie's last longer and are more intense than most peoples.

HARRIET

What's your point?

MRS LAWRENCE

How long have you and Natalie been friends for?

HARRIET

Since we were three. I moved in across the road from her.

MRS LAWRENCE

So... 13 years of friendship. And how many fights have you had in those 13 years?

HARRIET

I couldn't count them all.

MRS LAWRENCE

Exactly. Natalie knows you didn't mean it. Friends fight, but the way Stella treats Natalie is borderline abusive. I wouldn't say this normally, so you better not repeat this to anyone, but, if I could drop kick a wean so hard, Stella would be in China. We've been having issues with Stella ever since she moved here. I had no idea the two of them were dating. If I did know, I'd have had words with Natalie about her, even though it's not my place.

HARRIET

We've been trying to talk to her about it for ages.

MRS LAWRENCE

So the girls were saying. And it says a lot that the three of you cared enough about her to realise what Stella was doing was so awful and wrong and you tried to stop it. Natalie knows you care about her, otherwise the pair of you wouldn't be friends.

PAUSE.

HARRIET

I just keep thinking that our texts to each other could have been the last thing we ever said. And I told her I didn't care about her.

MRS LAWRENCE

I know. And that's why you have to watch what you say to people. Because you never know when the last time you'll ever speak to someone will be. Nobody does.

HARRIET

And I do care about her! Of course I do!

MRS LAWRENCE

Why don't you text her?

HARRIET

I doubt she wants to hear from me.

MRS LAWRENCE

I disagree.

(Pause.)

I think there was a number of factors that contributed to last night. Rita called me not long ago to say she found a note. You three were mentioned in it. So was I.

HARRIET

We were?

MRS LAWRENCE

Aye. And from the sounds of it, she wasn't blaming any of you. It was more of an apology. I don't know exactly what it said, Rita never went into detail.

(MORE)

MRS LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

But I really think you should drop her a message. Check up on her, tell her you're sorry for what went down, and that you hope she's okay.

HARRIET

She's not exactly 'okay' is she.

MRS LAWRENCE

You know what I mean. Now is the time, more than ever, to show her that you're there for her, because she's in a scary place both mentally and physically, and she's probably lonely. If not for you, do it for her. Even if she doesn't respond, at least you made the effort.

HARRIET

What if she hates me?

MRS LAWRENCE

Harriet, she doesn't hate you. Think about it this way, if you were in her position would you want her to reach out?

(Pause.)

I don't want you to be alone for much longer. I'm calling your mum to come and get you. Plus I need to deal with Erica and Lily. You can come and chill in the base or go to the library until your mum comes. I don't mind where you go, but you shouldn't be out here by yourself.

HARRIET

Thanks Ms.

MRS LAWRENCE

You didn't do anything wrong. Remember that. Come inside.

(Pause.)

Wish me luck, I need to have a civilised conversation with Stella without attacking her myself.

MRS LAWRENCE gets up and walks away back into the school.
HARRIET soon follows her.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Natalie's phone lights up with a text from Harriet.

HARRIET (TEXT)

Hey. I'm sorry for last night. I didn't mean it - I was just stressed. I'm really worried about you. I love you Natty.

NATALIE stares at her phone for a moment, before responding.

NATALIE (TEXT)

I love you too.

INT. SCHOOL RECEPTION - DAY

JENNIFER DAVIDSON, JESS BROOKS and LYNN KENNEDY are standing in the reception waiting for the girls. MRS LAWRENCE is with them.

JENNIFER

What's going on?

MRS LAWRENCE

There was a fight between Erica, Lily and another student.

JESS

Trust Erica. Mum will loose her shit when she finds out.

LYNN

Then why am I here?

MRS LAWRENCE

Well last night there was an incident with Natalie where she tried to take her life. The girls found out today and that sparked a fight. I can't say for sure what caused Natalie to do what she did. And I really need you to take the girls home and keep them off for the rest of the week. It's a traumatic experience for anyone, especially teenagers. They just need some time to calm down and get to grips with what happened.

JESS

Oh my god, is Natalie okay?

MRS LAWRENCE

She's in the hospital. Her mum said she's about as okay as can be expected.

LYNN

Dear god.

JENNIFER

How's Rita?

MRS LAWRENCE

She's struggling. She found Natalie in her room. I can't imagine what she's going through and I don't pretend to.

JENNIFER

Jesus. Poor wee soul.

LILY and ERICA come out from MS STEWART's office. HARRIET walks down the opposite corridor.

ERICA

Jess!

ERICA runs to her sister and they hug.

JESS

I am so sorry.

ERICA

I wish I was there with her last night.

JESS

It's not your fault. But at least she's still alive.

ERICA

I wish Stella wasn't.

JESS

I know.

LILY

I can't wrap my head around it, mam. I don't understand it.

JENNIFER

It's okay, love. We'll go home and we can talk about it, okay?

LILY and JENNIFER leave the school together. HARRIET stands in front of her mum, awkwardly and not knowing what to do.

HARRIET

I didn't help. I was angry at her.

LYNN
I'm sure it wasn't your fault.

HARRIET
I'm a shit friend.

LYNN
No you're not.

HARRIET
I am.

LYNN
(Hesitant.)
Come here.

LYNN and HARRIET hug.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

NATALIE sits up in the bed. She's crying and scratching her arm. She doesn't realise at first, but her arm is bleeding. Once she notices the blood, she tries to clean it up with a tissue from her bag. NATALIE takes a moment before catching her breath back. She decides to go and get help. She leaves the room and walks down the long corridor. Once she arrives at the nurses bay, she knocks on the door quietly and waits patiently for a nurse. The door opens and a NURSE comes out.

NATALIE
I need help. I'm bleeding and I
want to kill myself.

The NURSE looks her up and down.

NURSE
You need to put trousers on.

NATALIE
I have shorts on. It's June and the
window doesn't open. I'm too hot.

NURSE
There are men on this ward that
will not control themselves around
you. Go back and change or stay in
the room.

The NURSE goes back into the room and shuts the door, leaving NATALIE stunned. She starts to cry again.

INT. LENOX LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

RITA and GEORGE sit in silence for a moment. They look lost.

RITA
I'm going to bed.

GEORGE
Can I make you anything?

RITA
No. I just want today to be over.

GEORGE
I know.

RITA
I just wish that I knew she was going to do that, and I could have stopped her.

GEORGE
But we didn't know. And we are so lucky that something more serious didn't happen to her.

RITA
That's not the point, George! She's our baby! Our only child. We struggled for years to have a baby.

GEORGE
I was there.

RITA
And when we finally get blessed with a baby, she goes and does this because she's so miserable!

GEORGE
You take your chances with having a child. This could happen to anyone.

RITA
I've failed her. I didn't protect her.

GEORGE
You didn't fail her. And protect her from who? Herself? It's not like she had an attempted murder. Natalie needs help. Her head is fucked up, but she's in a safe place.

RITA isn't convinced.

INT. HARRIET'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

HARRIET sits on her bed, looking through childhood photos of her and Natalie. The pictures range in ages from toddlers to current. HARRIET picks up her phone and goes onto her messages. She reads the last message from Natalie before locking it again. There is a knock on the door. LYNN pops her head around.

LYNN

Hello.

HARRIET

Hi mum.

LYNN

How are you feeling know?

HARRIET

Not great.

LYNN

Understandably.

HARRIET

She texted me back. I know she's not mad at me, but I can't shift the guilt.

LYNN

It's difficult. Have you told Ophelia?

HARRIET

No. I can't deal with her dramatics at the moment.

LYNN

That's probably best.

(Pause. She sits on the bed.)

Why don't we go and visit her tomorrow? I'm taking tomorrow off so you're not alone all day. We can get some things together and bring her something nice. Does that sound okay?

HARRIET

Yes. I would like that.

LYNN

I think she would too. I spoke to Rita and asked her if it would be okay, and she said yes. She thinks Natalie would love to see you, knowing you're still in her corner fighting for her.

HARRIET

Of course I am. I would never leave her.

LYNN

I know. I love you.

HARRIET

I love you too.

LYNN kisses HARRIET's cheek before walking out and closing the door. HARRIET goes back to looking at photos.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

NATALIE curls up on the bed. She has a tight grip of her teddy as she cries into the pillow.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.