

Three Hot Chocolates and a Murder

A short screenplay inspired by I Think I Murdered Miss

Characters

- **LUCY (11)** – dramatic, imaginative, talks fast.
- **BEN (10)** – logical, loves facts and correcting people.
- **OLLIE (9)** – funny, always hungry, easily distracted.

Setting:

A cosy café after school. Rain taps against the windows. The children sit around a small table with hot chocolates, cake crumbs everywhere, and one very battered copy of the book between them.

SCENE 1 – THE CAFÉ

(Lights up. The sound of a café machine steaming milk. LUCY slams the book dramatically onto the table.)

LUCY

I'm telling you right now — Simon definitely thought he murdered Miss Belcher.

BEN

Thought, yes. Actually murdered her? No. Scientifically impossible.

OLLIE

Not if he's secretly a wizard.

(BEN stares at him.)

BEN

That's not science.

OLLIE

Neither's a circus bus with clown pictures on it running over your teacher.

(Beat.)

LUCY

Fair point.

(OLLIE stuffs marshmallows into his mouth.)

BEN

What I liked was Simon's brain. He notices EVERYTHING. Like the exact type of bus and how many bus stops there are and random flower facts.

OLLIE

Yeah, but imagine hanging out with him in real life.

(Imitating Simon.)

“Actually, technically, your Curly Wurly cannot become a crocus because chocolate lacks root structure.”

LUCY

That was hilarious though.

BEN

The funniest bit was Isabella trying to make him do magic spells.

(BEN picks up a spoon like a wand.)

BEN

“Hocus Pocus, your Curly Wurly's a crocus.”

(OLLIE nearly spits out his drink laughing.)

OLLIE

Imagine if it actually worked and suddenly the café filled with chocolate flowers.

LUCY

I'd eat them.

BEN

You'd eat anything.

OLLIE

Correct.

SCENE 2 – TALKING ABOUT SIMON

(LUCY flips through pages.)

LUCY

I kind of felt sorry for Simon though.

BEN

Same.

OLLIE

Because everyone calls him “Nutter”?

BEN

Yeah. And because he doesn’t always understand jokes or expressions.

LUCY

Like when Isabella says “keep your eyes peeled” and he starts talking about peeling eyeballs.

(OLLIE covers his eyes.)

OLLIE

NOPE. Horrible image. Absolutely horrible.

BEN

But that’s why the book works. Simon says exactly what he thinks.

LUCY

Most people don’t.

OLLIE

I do.

BEN

That explains why you told Mrs Jenkins her soup smelled like wet socks.

OLLIE

It DID smell like wet socks.

(Pause.)

LUCY

Simon’s weird in a good way though.

BEN

He’s honest.

OLLIE

And obsessed with Star Trek.

BEN

And maps.

LUCY

And flowers.

OLLIE

And not stepping on cracks.

(OLLIE carefully lifts both feet off the tiled floor.)

OLLIE

Wait. What if there are cracks under this table?

BEN

You are impossible.

SCENE 3 – WHO WAS THE BEST CHARACTER?

LUCY

Isabella was my favourite.

BEN

Really? She manipulates him constantly.

LUCY

Only because she's trying to help.

OLLIE

Also she feeds flowers burgers and tries to turn chocolate into plants.

BEN

Which is biologically—

LUCY & OLLIE

WE KNOW.

(BEN sighs dramatically.)

BEN

Fine.

OLLIE

I liked when she said they'd burn Simon as a witch.

BEN

Wizard.

OLLIE

Right. Wizard.

(Beat.)

LUCY

Anthony scared me a bit.

OLLIE

Same. Especially when he says there'll be blood on Simon's shirt.

(They all go quiet for a moment.)

BEN

But he's believable. Every school has someone who acts tough because they know people are scared of them.

LUCY

You sound like a tiny therapist.

BEN

Thank you.

OLLIE

That was not a compliment.

SCENE 4 – THE ARGUMENT

(LUCY suddenly points at BEN.)

LUCY

You're basically Simon.

BEN

What?!

OLLIE

Ohhhh yes you are.

BEN

I am NOT.

LUCY

You literally corrected our science teacher when she spelled "meteorological" wrong.

BEN

Because she spelled it wrong.

OLLIE

And you once brought a labelled rock collection to football practice.

BEN

Sedimentary rocks are interesting.

(LUCY grins.)

LUCY

You even talk like him.

BEN

I do not.

OLLIE

You absolutely do.

(Imitating BEN.)

“Technically, chips are potato batons.”

BEN

That is not what I sound like!

(A WAITRESS passes.)

WAITRESS

Everything alright over here?

OLLIE

Technically yes.

(WAITRESS slowly walks away.)

LUCY

See? Simon!

(BEN folds his arms.)

BEN

At least I'm not Isabella.

LUCY

What's THAT supposed to mean?

BEN

You create chaos and then act surprised when chaos happens.

(OLLIE points dramatically.)

OLLIE

OH. That's true.

LUCY

Traitor.

SCENE 5 – THE BIG QUESTION

(Rain grows louder outside.)

OLLIE

Okay, serious question.

(They lean in.)

OLLIE

What if Simon really did have magic powers?

BEN

He didn't.

OLLIE

But WHAT IF.

LUCY

I think the book wants you to wonder about it.

BEN

Or maybe it's about coincidence and guilt and people misunderstanding each other.

(LUCY and OLLIE stare.)

OLLIE

Tiny therapist strikes again.

LUCY

Still... some weird stuff happens.

OLLIE

Exactly! The glowing pencil! Isabella acting suspicious! The bus thing happening twice!

BEN

That's what makes it fun. You never totally know.

(Pause.)

LUCY

If you had Simon's powers, what would you do?

OLLIE

Easy. I'd make homework disappear.

BEN

That's selfish.

OLLIE

Fine. I'd ALSO make chips healthier.

LUCY

I'd make teachers stop giving tests on Mondays.

BEN

I'd use the powers responsibly.

(Beat.)

OLLIE

That is the most Ben answer possible.

SCENE 6 – ENDING

(The café begins closing. Chairs scrape in the background.)

WAITRESS *(offstage)*

Five minutes, kids!

LUCY

Already?

OLLIE

I still have cake left.

BEN

You've had three cakes.

OLLIE

A growing boy needs fuel.

(LUCY picks up the book and hugs it to her chest.)

LUCY

You know what I liked most?

BEN

What?

LUCY

Even though Simon's different, Isabella still sticks with him.

(Small pause.)

OLLIE

Yeah.

BEN

That part was good.

(They gather their bags.)

OLLIE

You know... if either of you ever wish me to get hit by a bus—

LUCY

We won't.

BEN

Probably.

OLLIE

PROBABLY?!

(They laugh.)

(As they head for the door, OLLIE carefully steps over a crack in the floor.)

LUCY

You just did the Simon crack thing.

OLLIE

No I didn't.

(Beat.)

OLLIE

...I just didn't want my world to end.

(Lights fade.)

END