

CONNECTED

By

Craig Christie

SAMPLE



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- DO contract ORiGiN™ Theatrical if you have any questions about anything. At all. And we mean anything. One of us that works here (not me) has a peculiar interest in recording the unusual bird calls of the adult hoatzin (a species of tropical bird found in the wet forests and mangroves of the Amazon and the Orinoco delta in South America) so we should be able to answer any questions you have about the Hoatzin. Plus we know some things about some other things too.
- Thank you for taking the time to read this.

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CHARACTERS

DYLAN – a computer nerd. Shy and socially inept

KATE – popular, egocentric and manipulative

EMMA – the new girl. Uncertain and vulnerable

MICHAEL – school jock. Nice guy but not that smart

LILY – Kate’s friend. Not that smart

JESSICA – Kate’s friend. Secretly in love with Kate

SARA – Kate’s friend and rival for head mean girl

ROSA – Kate’s friend. A follower.

DAN – Mike’s best friend

THOMMO – Another friend of Mike’s. The silent type.

MADDEE- Emma’s friend from her old school in Sweden

CHELSEA – girl from Los Angeles who Dylan pretends to be someone else to online

DYLAN’S MUM – concerned and caring

MOLLY – an independent, alternative girl at school.

The story is set in and around the school yard and in the bedrooms of Dylan and Emma..

SONGS

1. Connected – Dylan, Kate, Emma, Michael
2. Planet Kate – Michael
3. 184 Friends (Parts 1,2 & 3) - Emma
4. Gotta Do – Kate
5. Oh Nothing – Dylan and Emma
6. Somebody Else – Dylan
7. Bitch – Michael and Dylan
8. Made Of Glass – Dylan and Emma
9. Oh Nothing (reprise) Mum
10. Got To Stop – Michael
11. Easy Way Out – Emma
12. Don’t Ask Me – Dylan, Kate and Michael
13. Connected (reprise) – Dylan, Kate, Michael and Emma.

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CONNECTED

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DYLAN IS IN HIS ROOM AT HIS COMPUTER WHEN HE STARTS TAPPING A KEY REPEATEDLY.

DYLAN: Oh shit! Shit shit shit!

CONNECTED

DYLAN: I just got disconnected
When I was about to see
This sick new game from Europe
Someone sent the link to me
Can't go to school Tomorrow
Because I don't want to be
The only guy who looks as if he doesn't know what's going on

KATE: I just ran out of charge as
I was reading Sara's text
I know that Dan arrived but
I don't know what happened next
She'll think that I am pissed off
Coz that's what the bitch expects
I hate it when I can't find out just what the hell is going on

TOGETHER: You've got to be connected
You've got to know what's in and what is out
You've got to stay connected
The only way to know what life's about
It don't take much to have it
Or to have it ripped away
Coz that's what's needed to be popular
Just be connected.

EMMA: I heard about some crazy girl who lived in Tennessee
She said that she would kill herself and stream it publicly
Nobody tried to stop her coz they all wanted to see
She's been a guest on Ellen and is now a star on MTV

MICHAEL: A mate filmed me a while back sticking pencils up my nose
I posted it on youtube, I was joking I suppose
It's now had forty million hits and everybody knows
The pencil guy from Melbourne who's more popular than Ed Sheeran *

ALL: You've got to be connected
You've got to know what's in and what is out
You've got to stay connected

*name can be changed to whoever is most relevant at the time of performance.

The only way to know what life's about
It don't take much to have it
Or to have it ripped away
Coz that's what's needed to be popular
Just be connected

FULL COMPANY: If you've read something online well then it must be true
If someone heard it somewhere then it must be true
If it is on a website then it must be true
If you think that perhaps maybe then it must be true

If it was texted to you then it must be true
If everyone is tweeting it, it must be true
If it's up on someone's facebook then it must be true
If you believe it there's no doubt it must be true

EMMA: Hi. My name's Emma. My family has just moved to the city from up north.
I don't know anyone here but I'm looking forward to making some new friends.

DYLAN: My name's Dylan but if you're like most people you're not really
interested.

KATE: I'm Kate but most of you would already know that because I'm one of those
people who everyone knows and everyone wants to be friends with. I get on well
with just about everyone. I'm even nice to losers and geeks.

MICHAEL: Michael. (winks and gives a thumbs up sign)

FULL COMPANY: You gotta be connected.
You've got to know what's in and what is out
You've got to stay connected
The only way to know what life's about
It don't take much to have it
Or to have it ripped away
Coz that's what's needed to be popular
Just be connected.

* * * * *

MICHAEL, DAN AND THOMMO ARE IN THE CAFETERIA.

DAN: Did you see the new girl?

THOMMO: What new girl?

MICHAEL: Yeah. She was in my English class.

DAN: And....?

MICHAEL: And she was in my English class. Nothing to get excited about

THOMMO: What's she like?

MICHAEL: Didn't really have a chance to check her out properly. She sort of hid herself away in the back of the classroom.

DAN: Not like you to miss a chance to check out some new talent, especially now you're a single man.

MICHAEL: Yeah. Well maybe I'm enjoying being solo.

DAN: Yeah but what's that got to do with checking her out. EMMA HAS ENTERED AND LOOKS A BIT LOST.

MICHAEL: Well you can check her out for yourself. That's her over there.

DAN: Not bad.

MICHAEL: I bet Sara would love to hear you saying that right now.

DAN: Having a girlfriend doesn't make me blind.

THOMMO: Oh my God. She's walking this way.

EMMA WALKS UP TO MICHAEL.

EMMA: Hi. Could you help me for a second? I didn't get the name of book we have to read for English.

MICHAEL: Huh?

EMMA: I'm in your English class. It's my first day here. I don't remember what book it was we have to read for English.

MICHAEL: Don't worry about it. You're new. That gives you a few weeks to do nothing if you don't want to I reckon. The teacher's will just think you're 'adjusting'.

EMMA: Don't worry about it. SHE GOES TO LEAVE.

MICHAEL: What's your number?

EMMA: What?

MICHAEL: You're mobile number. I'll text it to you.

EMMA: I don't even know your name.

MICHAEL: That's okay. I don't know yours.

EMMA: It's Emma.

MICHAEL: Okay Emma. Give me your number and I'll text the name of the book to you when I remember what it is

EMMA: It's fine. I can find out from the teacher. KATE ENTERS AND WATCHES ON.

MICHAEL: Suit yourself.

EMMA: You didn't tell me your name

MICHAEL: Mike

EMMA: See you in class I guess Mike. SHE EXITS.

MICHAEL: Well someone's up themselves.

DAN: I thought you said you weren't interested.

MICHAEL: I'm not. KATE COMES UP TO MICHAEL:

KATE: That was quick work.

MICHAEL: What was?

KATE: I saw you chatting up the new girl just now. Are you sure she's your type?

MICHAEL: I'm sure she's not. Weird. First day at a new school and she is spending her time worrying about school work and just ignoring me when I try to be friendly.

DAN: TO MICHAEL We're going to get something to eat. You coming?

KATE: What do you mean 'try to be friendly'?

MICHAEL: Sure. Let's go.

KATE: TO DAN AND THOMMO. He'll be with you in a second. THEY LEAVE.
TO MICHAEL; I said, what do you mean 'trying to be friendly'?

MICHAEL: I was just trying to help her out. She asked me something about English but she wouldn't even give me her number so I could text her the name of a book she was banging on about.

KATE: So you DO like her then.

MICHAEL: I told you I was just trying to be friendly. How was I supposed to know she had issues?

KATE: She better watch out. People don't like it when a new girl comes in and starts showing interest in guys without even checking if they might be in a relationship with someone else.

MICHAEL: A relationship? With who? With you? Kate you dumped me.

KATE: Don't say it like that. It sounds as if it was all my fault and I explained to you why.

MICHAEL: I don't get you. Never did I guess.

KATE: I don't blame you – well not entirely. But I think you should act sad about us breaking up a bit longer before you crack onto every new girl who walks into the school.

MICHAEL: I didn't crack onto her

KATE: Doesn't matter. There are rules and she needs to learn them.

MICHAEL: Whatever. But I wouldn't worry. She didn't even want to give me her number so I could help her out. I wouldn't call that a pick up.

KATE: Playing hard to get is the oldest trick in the book.

MICHAEL: Maybe that's why it doesn't work.

KATE: If you're referring to me in any way I thought I made it clear to you why I had to break up with you Mike.

MICHAEL: You expect me to buy that bullshit about your horoscope and keeping yourself free for opportunities.

KATE: Obviously you're too immature to understand. I sent you the link to explain it. Did you even bother to look at it?

MICHAEL: A link. You break up with me and send me a link to a horoscope website and expect me to say 'hey that's cool. I accept that'

KATE: The horoscope just pointed out what I had been feeling anyway Mike. It's not the right time for me to limit myself with my relationships. The wrong choice now could ruin my life.

MICHAEL: Why are you so sure I'm the wrong choice though?

KATE: You want me to take that chance?

MICHAEL: Come on Kate. Remember the end of last year when you thought the world was going to explode because of the Mayan calendar? You need to stop getting sucked in by this shit.

KATE: One thing I'm not going to be sucked in by is you.

PLANET KATE

MICHAEL: You're pathetic and you know it
You are gonna fall flat on your face
It's just bullshit and you'll blow it
Then you'll disappear without a trace.
Look at me I'm real I'm here and asking you to come back to your senses
Don't forget the good things that we have.

You're a dreamer yeah I get that
And you're wanting something to believe
But it makes me want to throw up
Sweetheart how can you be so naïve
Buy your magazines and watch your crap TV if that stuff makes you happy
But remember none of it is real.

Oh This is Mike to Planet Kate
It's time you came back down to earth
Sure I know the view is great
But let me tell you what it's worth.
It's nothing. It's nothing It's nothing
You'll soon have nothing at all.

SHE TURNS TO LEAVE. HE BLOCKS HER

MICHAEL: Kate.

KATE: What?

MICHAEL: Just hear me out

Look you hurt me. I forgive you
If you promise you will pack it in
I'll pretend it never happened
But the joke is wearing pretty thin
What's your problem? Tell me honestly what's wrong with living in the real
world
It can get lonely there in outer space.

KATE ROLLS HER EYES AND EXITS

Oh This is Mike to Planet Kate
It's time you came back down to earth
Sure I know the view is great
But let me tell you what it's worth.
It's nothing. It's nothing. It's nothing
You'll soon have nothing. HE STARTS TEXTING HER

No –one to hide your face on at the scary parts in movies
No-one to bitch to when you fight with your dad
No-one you can rely on to be patient when you go out shopping
Nobody who loves you
No-one who doesn't think you're barking mad

Oh This is Mike to Planet Kate
It's time you came back down to earth
Sure I know the view is great
But let me tell you what it's worth.

KATE RE-ENTERS WAVING HER PHONE HAVING READ HIS TEXT

I am calling Planet Kate
Hey, is there anybody home?
The lights are on but no-one answers
Come back from the twilight zone
There's nothing. It's nothing You're nothing

KATE: What do you want Michael?

MICHAEL: I am just trying to have a sensible conversation with you.

KATE: Maybe you should have tried that before we broke up

MICHAEL: It's hard to talk sense to someone who doesn't have any of her own.

KATE: Are you finished? SHE TURNS TO LEAVE. ENTER DYLAN.

DYLAN: Hi Kate.

KATE: Bye Dylan. SHE EXITS.

DYLAN: CALLING AFTER HER. Did you see that link I sent around about that band you like? PAUSE. Guess she's busy.

MICHAEL: Yeah whatever.

DYLAN: Well it doesn't matter is she hasn't got time to talk to me now. I can talk to her online tonight. She'll need to catch me at the right time though. She hasn't got nearly as many friends as I have on facebook and I can get really busy if a whole lot of them are online at the same time.

MICHAEL: And you think that's an achievement? Well done. MICHAEL EXITS

DYLAN: CALLING AFTER HIM Maybe people in this crappy school don't think I'm cool but I've got friends all over the world.

HE STANDS THERE AWKWARD. EMMA ENTERS AT A DISTANCE. THEY EYE EACH OTHER SELF CONSCIOUSLY UNTIL FINALLY EMMA BREAKS THE TENSION AND MOVES ACROSS.

EMMA: Hey look. I'm looking for where the senior staff room is. Could you just point me in the right direction? I seem to have walked right around the whole school in a big circle looking for it.

DYLAN: Umm sure. Looks it's just in the next block, you take the second doorway down and... how about I just show you.

EMMA: Thanks.

DYLAN: New huh.

EMMA: Yep. First day.

DYLAN: How's it going?

EMMA: Ok.

DYLAN: Cool. THEY WALK A BIT. DYLAN SUMMONS HIS COURAGE. So what's your name?

EMMA: Emma. AWKWARD PAUSE.

DYLAN: Dylan. What year level?

EMMA: Eleven.

DYLAN: Me too. ANOTHER PAUSE. Umm just down there. See the second door.

EMMA: Cool thanks....Dylan.

DYLAN: Cool. HE STANDS FOR A MOMENT. Okay. Bye. HE EXITS

184 FRIENDS - PART ONE

EMMA: Well this is awkward
Well this is not how things should be
I'm not six, I'm sixteen
Yet here I am not sure how to move forward
What's the best way to settle in?
I don't know anyone
And I don't want to stuff things up before I have begun
But then I look at my phone and see
 I've got 184 friends – big deal
I've got 184 friends

Not one of my 184 friends
Can help me in this situation
Make sense of this new location
There's no point in communication with
All of my 184 friends if they're not here.

* * * * *

DYLAN COMES HOME FROM SCHOOL AND GOES TO HIS ROOM

VOICE OF MUM: Dylan. Is that you home from school?

DYLAN: Yeah Mum. I just got in. MUM ENTERS

MUM: Well you could at least say hello and let me know you're home.

DYLAN: Hello. I'm home.

MUM: Do you want a drink?

DYLAN: No Mum. I'm...I've got homework to do. PAUSE HE GOES TO HIS COMPUTER

MUM: You better not be wasting time playing games on that thing.

DYLAN: I've got to do my homework. How else am I supposed to get it done if I don't use the computer? Do you want me to write it on the bedroom wall with a crayon?

MUM: Just don't spend the next two hours on Instantgram.

DYLAN: Real funny Mum. Can I have some privacy please MUM LEAVES. HE FOCUSSES ON THE SCREEN. Let's see. Emma...Emma...Emma Williams. That's her. Add.

* * * * *

NEXT MORNING AT SCHOOL. KATE IS ONSTAGE WITH HER FRIENDS AS EMMA ENTERS.

KATE: Hey.

EMMA: Hi.

KATE: I'm Kate. You're Emma aren't you?

EMMA: Yeah.

KATE: Well this is Sara. And Jessica. And Rosa.

LILY: And I'm Lily. But most people call me...Lily. What was your name again?

EMMA: Emma.

JESSICA: New girl eh? What school did you come from?

EMMA: I was at (insert school name here). We just moved down to (appropriate city) a week ago.

KATE: Country girl. Bet you're finding it a bit different here.

EMMA: Not really. Well it's hard to tell. I don't really know anyone yet.

KATE: Really? You seem to have made a bit of an impression already with a few people here.

EMMA: Seriously? Who?

KATE: Oh I just heard a few people talking about the new girl.

EMMA: I only got here yesterday. I've hardly even spoken to anyone.

SARA: Hey don't stress. You know how everyone always wants to know about the new person.

EMMA: Yeah I guess.

KATE: So how are you finding it so far?

EMMA: To be honest it isn't much fun having to move to the city and start at a new school half way through year 11. I wanted to stay back at home, I mean my old home, until the end of the year but my folks wouldn't let me.

KATE: Yeah that would totally suck.

EMMA: I mean all my friends are up there still. It's hard to start meeting new people and making new friends when you wish you were somewhere else.

KATE: Why did you come to Helsinki anyway?

EMMA: Didn't have a choice. Dad got a promotion and the whole family had to move.

ROSA: That is so unfair.

EMMA: Yeah well...

SARA: You just have to make the most of it I guess.

KATE: I'm sure you'll be fine. For starters there's so much more to do here. You must have been bored out of your brain living in a small town. It would kill me being stuck in the middle of nowhere.

EMMA: It wasn't the middle of nowhere. And there was always plenty to do. I mean maybe not the same shops and stuff but you wouldn't catch me or my friends texting each other saying 'I'm bored'.

JESSICA: I suppose if you don't know any different...

KATE: What were your friends like?

ROSA: Did you have a boyfriend?

EMMA: No-one special. As in boyfriend.

KATE: And your friends? You must miss them

EMMA: I sure do. Most of my friends I had grown up with since before we started school.

LILY: Amazing.

KATE: I suppose the rules are different where you're from – I mean who your friends are and all that.

EMMA: From what I've seen it's pretty much the same here as it was back home.

SARA: Yeah guess you're right. Probably the same everywhere.

EMMA: What do you mean?

KATE: Schools around the world are full of cool people and then there are the losers and geeks. What were your friends in back in Rovaniemi?

EMMA: I don't know. I mean is it really always like that? There were all kinds of groups at home. I just had my friends and people seemed to get along okay most of the time. MOLLY HAS ENTERED AND IS WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE

KATE: That just means you were probably in with the geeks. Well it's a whole new start now you're here. You can leave all that behind if you play your cards right.

JESSICA: Nobody knows you so you can be a totally new person.

SARA: Just be careful who you talk to and make friends with these first few days.

EMMA: Okay...um thanks.

KATE: Just being friendly. See ya. THEY ALL EXIT MOLLY COMES FORWARD

MOLLY: Be careful what you say to them.

EMMA: I'm sorry?

MOLLY: Just a friendly warning. They might seem to be nice but it's a dangerous game you play when you mix with them.

EMMA: Really? They didn't seem that bad.

MOLLY: They always seem nice to begin with. Anyway it's your life. MOLLY EXITS

184 FRIENDS – PART TWO

EMMA: Well that's confusing
So what am I supposed to do?
Let her make up my mind
Or find out for myself. I should be using
My common sense at times like this
I should tread carefully
Until I understand the way that I'm supposed to be
Despite the fact when I'm online
I've got 184 friends – big deal...

ENTER DYLAN.

DYLAN: Umm hi.

EMMA: Hi.

DYLAN: Dylan.

EMMA: Yeah I remember.

DYLAN: I added you on instagram last night.

EMMA: Yeah I know. First person from here.

DYLAN: You okay?

EMMA: What? Yeah just trying to figure stuff out.

DYLAN: Must be tough having to start at a new school not knowing anyone.

EMMA: You have no idea.

DYLAN: It's not so bad. You'll settle in pretty quickly I reckon.

EMMA: Guess so. I just miss all my friends back home so much. Going to school just feels weird without them.

DYLAN: It won't take you long to make new ones.

EMMA: I hope so. It's only my second day right?

DYLAN: Right.

EMMA: Well I better go see what classes I have today. Catch you later.

EMMA HEADS TO CLASS. MICHAEL HAS BEEN WATCHING HER AND DYLAN

MICHAEL: Made a friend already I see?

EMMA: Huh?

MICHAEL: I saw you talking to that dickhead Dylan just now.

EMMA: I wouldn't exactly call him a friend. I've said about ten words to him in my life. He was just saying he had added me on Instagram last night, that's all. Why is he a dickhead?

MICHAEL: Born that way I suppose.

EMMA: I'll keep that in mind.

MICHAEL: You're a bit more chill than you were yesterday

EMMA: What do you mean?

MICHAEL: Well you wouldn't give me your mobile number yesterday when I just wanted to help you out and the next day you're friends with every knob in the school.

EMMA: It's not like that.

MICHAEL: Whatever.

EMMA: Look I'm new. I'm just trying to find my way around and settle in.

MICHAEL: And I'm just trying to help you. Why are you so paranoid?

EMMA: Can't afford to make mistakes.

MICHAEL: Then you can't afford not to listen to me.

EMMA: Ok. PAUSE. I gotta go see what classes I've got.