

# **CYBER WARS**

Stage play by

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*Mistaken identity in a digital world.*

## **STORY (DURATION: 45 mins)**

A bunch of teenagers online interact with fake profiles, trying to make sense of themselves and life but things turn sour.

## **CAST -**

ROSE – Doesn't trust relationships. In and out of one with Sam

SAM – Confused and vulnerable when it comes to relationships. Thinks he likes Rose

KYLIE – Loner. Study nerd but has a chip on her shoulder.

DARREN - Gamer. He doesn't like people. Impatient with others.

LUCY – Gamer. Has a crush on Darren. Is Rose's best friend.

JAMILLA – Popular girl with attitude. But is a deep thinker.

NATALIA – Jamilla's BFF. A little feisty and happy judging others.

**STAGING:** students on laptops facing audience. When student not lit up, they either freeze or move in slow motion.

Desk order (stage left to right). Darren&Sam – Jamilla&Natalia – Kylie – Rose&Lucy

### **Scene 1 - KYLIE'S ROOM**

*Kylie sits on her laptop, talking to herself.*

KYLIE: Okay two-thousand-word essay, let's get to work. Research document open...  
Wikipedia check... essay notes forum login...success...and A plus here we come.

### **Scene 2 - DARREN'S ROOM**

*Darren plays video games while Sam sits on his laptop nearby.*

DARREN: (to game) Oh come on! What kind of idiot puts a grenade there? I mean seriously!

SAM: What do you think I should do?

DARREN: Grab a controller and help me nail this dude. He's slaughtering me!

SAM: I mean with Rose.

DARREN: (groans)

SAM: Should I message her again? And which emogee should I use this time?

DARREN: Somebody shoot me now...(responds to game) Argh! I didn't mean that literally!

*Darren slams down his controller.*

DARREN: I'll never beat this Mad Max!

SAM: Smiley face. It's simple and straight to the point.

*Sam starts typing as Darren responds to a new player on line.*

DARREN: Oh good Lucy's playing. Now I'll kick some butt.

### **Scene 3 - ROSE'S ROOM**

*Lucy plays video games on her computer while Rose watches.*

ROSE: So which one's you Luce?

LUCY: (points) There. Princess Teefa.

ROSE: And I take it that's Darren?

LUCY: Yep. Captain Gorgeous.

ROSE: Seriously? That's his profile?

LUCY: Well no, that's what I call him.

ROSE: (groans)

*Rose is distracted by a message on her phone.*

ROSE: Ooh it's Sam. (reads message) he used two smiley faces.

LUCY: Too keen if you ask me.

ROSE: So how do I respond?

LUCY: Depends if you want to keep playing hard to get.

ROSE: It's not that Lucy! Sam's loyalty is all over the place. I don't know if I can trust him anymore.

LUCY: (stops playing game) Look, he only kissed Jamilla once, and it was dark at the party, he thought it was you.

ROSE: That's what he said, but I don't believe him.

LUCY: (resumes playing) Well you either forget about Sam, or give it another go. There's nothing in between.

*Rose thinks for a moment.*

ROSE: Or is there?

*Rose comes up with idea and opens her laptop and starts typing.*

LUCY: Oh how cute, Darren shot me from behind. He's always full of surprises. I have to post a screen shot of this.

*Lucy types on her computer.*

LUCY: Oh great, cow face is online.

#### **Scene 4 - JAMILLA'S ROOM**

*Jamilla and Natalia are on a laptop. Jamilla typing.*

JAMILLA: Hey...Princess Teefa...would've been better if he shot you...

NATALIA: In the face, put 'in the face'.

JAMILLA: In the face...definite improvement on the looks. Send.

*They high five.*

NATALIA: Nice one Jamilla.

JAMILLA: Okay who's next Nat?

NATALIA: (searching) well here's a new upload from some chick in...Uganda!

JAMILLA: Oh my god she looks god awful. Let's hear her sing.

*They play and SFX of girl singing badly. They cringe.*

JAMILLA: You have got to be kidding. That is gold.

NATALIA: (typing) hey girlfriend, we really love what you've done. But word of warning, the animal protection society might be in touch with you for strangling a cat in order to make that sound.

JAMILLA: A little long, but effective. Send.

*They hit send button and watch.*

JAM/NAT: Like...like...like...like!

*Natalia steps forward (or lit separately) and faces audience.*

NATALIA: I really don't care what people think. I don't care if they use fake names or profiles. In a way it kind of shows us how screwed up we are as a species. I know people bag me for being a troll – I am. I'll bring anyone down to size if I can. It's fun. But I don't think I'm above it all. If people want to bag me just as much, and they do, then I'll take it on the chin. Its only words. It's just a game. The whole thing is just a game. It only becomes a problem when people take it too seriously.

*Monologue ends. Natalia steps back.*

## **Scene 5 - DARREN'S ROOM**

*Sam pacing anxiously.*

SAM: She hasn't responded.

DARREN: Take that Princess Teefa!

SAM: Didn't you already kill her?

DARREN: Yeah but it's fun. Better than wasting my time with that other dufus.

SAM: Because he always beats you?

DARREN: Shut up.

*Darren steps forward (or lit separately) and faces audience.*

DARREN: I hate losing. I don't really care about people liking me just as long as they don't pity me. I just want to look good, y'know, make an impact of some sort. If you win, then you get noticed, and before you know it people look up to you for inspiration. Its human nature, so why would I accept anything less?

*Monologue ends. Darren returns to his seat.*

*Sam gets a message and leaps back onto the laptop.*

SAM: (surprised) Oh.

DARREN: What? Only one smiley face in return?

SAM: No, it's from Kylie.

DARREN: What does she want?

SAM: She's saying...(reading)...Hey Sam, loved what you were wearing today. I know this is a bit forward but was wondering if you wanted to hang out sometime soon. Two smiley faces...and a heart emogee!

DARREN: Sounds serious.

SAM: Well, maybe it is. What should I do?

DARREN: What do you mean?

SAM: How should I respond to Kylie?

DARREN: I dunno. Do you like her?

SAM: Well not as much as Rose. But then again Rose never showed me this much attention...it's kinda nice.

DARREN: Then play along, see where it leads. Can't hurt.

*Sam thinks, then starts typing.*

## **Scene 6 - ROSE'S ROOM**

*Rose looks at her computer and reads message.*

ROSE: Hi Kylie, surprised you messaged me.

LUCY: Why are you reading Kylie's messages?

ROSE: (typing) I know. I don't want my sister Rose finding out that I like you...

LUCY: What?!

ROSE: (typing) but I couldn't hold out any longer...two heart emogee.

*Rose hits send button.*

LUCY: You hacked into your sisters Facebook profile?!

ROSE: It's the only way I can know for sure if Sam is serious about us. It's just a little test. It can't hurt anyone.

LUCY: It's not very ethical Rose.

ROSE: (looking at Lucy's game) Oh really, then where's Princess Teefa gone?

LUCY: I...er...

ROSE: Who's Mad Max?

LUCY: Um...me.

ROSE: Looks like you're winning.

LUCY: Of course. I like to let Darren feel good about beating me as Princess Teefa, but then I'll login as Mad Max so I can cane him to oblivion...just to have some fun.

ROSE: That's kinda messed up.

LUCY: Well Darren has this thing about girls not being as good at games as boys, and if he knows I'm better than him, then he might not like me anymore.

ROSE: Ohhh. Yep, messed up.

*Lucy shrugs her off and returns to her game. She steps forward (or lit separately) and faces audience.*

LUCY: I hide behind a profile because it's the only way to get what I want. I know everyone says you should just be yourself, accept who you are blah blah blah – that's crap! I know for a fact that someone like Darren would never like someone like me if I showed my true colours. If he knew that I was the one humiliating him on the battlefield he'd never speak to me. This way I get the best of both worlds. Im okay with that. I'm under no illusion here.

*Monologue ends. Lucy returns to her seat.*

*Rose types again.*

ROSE: So... do you wanna hook up sometime?

*She hits send button.*

LUCY: What?! You asked him to hook up?

ROSE: that just means hang out.

LUCY: Er, no it means...you know...hook up!

ROSE: Oh my god.

*Rose notices something and panics.*

ROSE: Oh my god!!!

LUCY: What?!

### **Scene 7 - DARREN'S ROOM**

*SAM and DARREN looking at computer.*

DARREN: Oh my god. Oh my god! She seriously likes you man.

SAM: Yeah but she posted on my timeline instead of in a private message box! Now Rose will see it and freak out! Then she'll never trust me!

DARREN: Yep. You're screwed.

*Darren pats Sam on the shoulder and returns to his game. Sam slumps his head on the desk.*

### **Scene 8 - JAMILLA'S ROOM**

*Natalia's on the laptop while Jamilla is taking selfies.*

NATALIA: Oh my god check this out Jam Jam.

JAMILLA: (impatient) What?

*Natalia shows her laptop. Jamilla starts to smile.*

NATALIA: Looks like nerdy Kylie has a little nerdy crush.

JAMILLA: On nerdier Sam.

NATALIA: Which you kissed.

JAMILLA: Urgh, don't remind me. It was dark at the party and I thought he was...forget it.  
Let's have some fun with this.

*Jamilla starts typing.*

### **Scene 9 - KYLIE'S ROOM**

*Kylie busy looking at things and writing in her book when a message pops up.*

KYLIE: Well if it isn't the gruesome twosome Jamilla and Natalia. What do you want now?  
*She reads the message.*

KYLIE: What the? I tried *what* with Sam?

*She types and then looks at her messages and stands up.*

KYLIE: Are you kidding me?!

*She paces.*

KYLIE: I'm so sick and tired of these little tramps thinking anyone cares about their stupid comments. Oh my god they are so...infuriating!

*She turns to computer.*

KYLIE: That's right girls! You think this is funny now but when you're older and unemployed because every potential boss has seen your...!

*She calms herself, then has an idea. She returns to her desk, pushing her books aside.*

KYLIE: Alright you little trolls. Hack into my profile will you? Then let's see how you handle this.

*Kylie goes into overdrive on her laptop.*

### **Scene 10 - JAMILLA'S ROOM**

*Jamilla and Natalia await a response.*

JAMILLA: She respond yet?

NATALIA: Nope. Nothing.

*Jamilla groans.*

NATALIA: Probably crying into her books.

JAMILLA: Maybe we went too easy on her. Read it back to me.

NATALIA: (reading) Hey mole face, trying to hit onto your sister's boyfriend? Sucks to be you. I'd sleep with one eye open from now on.

JAMILLA: Did we use the devil emogee?

NATALIA: and the drop of blood. I think we made our point.

*Jamilla shrugs and takes another selfie.*

JAMILLA: Here, like this for me.

*Natalia types and reads it out.*

NATALIA: Hey Jamilla, love the new profile pic. Have you been offered a modelling contract yet?

JAMILLA: No I'm waiting on a couple more offers to come in.

NATALIA: (watching screen) Well given you just got twelve likes in fifteen seconds I'm sure it won't be long.

*Natalia notices something.*

NATALIA: Ooh ahh. Who are you?

JAMILLA: (playing up) My name is Jamilla Matthews. I'm fifteen years old, Sagittarius...

NATALIA: No I meant, him.

*Natalia shows laptop to Jamilla who sits and smiles.*

JAMILLA: Whoah. Grayson Jeffries.

NATALIA: What kind of name is Grayson?

JAMILLA: I don't care. He's smoking hot.

NATALIA: And he sent a friend request.

*Natalia goes to hit a button and Jamilla stops her.*

JAMILLA: No no, don't make me seem so keen. Just wait a while.

*Natalia smiles.*

## **Scene 11 - ROSE'S ROOM**

*Rose pacing in panic. Lucy on Rose's laptop.*

ROSE: Is there any way we can delete it?

LUCY: Yep done. But we don't know who's already seen it.

ROSE: And Sam hasn't responded?

LUCY: Nope. Maybe you scared him off.

ROSE: Just send a private message, saying sorry, I deleted it, and if Rose did see the message I'll just say I did it deliberately to get back at her for eating my chocolate last week.

LUCY: Did she really eat your chocolate?

ROSE: No Lucy I ate hers! Remember I'm Kylie?

LUCY: Oh yeah. Sorry.

*Rose steps forward (or lit separately) and faces audience.*

ROSE: I just don't get relationships. What's the point? Do you ever really know what people are thinking? I mean, when you start to know someone, it's always trying too hard to make a good impression and hide the things we don't like about ourselves. But then in time, you can't hide everything for much longer – it has to come out or you'll explode – and that's when you really get to know someone. Problem is, you may not like what you see...and then what? You can't unsee some things and you can't forget some things and it's never the same. I wish I could actually skip the fake part in the beginning and jump straight to total and brutal honesty – really find out if I want to spend time with this person or not – I could seriously save months of wasted time on something that could be resolved in a day. I don't know why this means a lot to me.

*Monologue ends. Rose returns to her desk.*

## **Scene 12 - DARREN'S ROOM**

*Darren's on Sam's laptop and Sam watching over his shoulder reading.*

DARREN: You have to respond with something or she'll think you're either ignoring her, or she'll think you saw it and are too freaked out.

*Darren types it out (as Sam says it).*

SAM: Alright then. Just say sorry I didn't respond as I had to...go to the toilet...and that's cool. If Rose says something I'll say I assumed it was a joke.

*Darren hits send. Sam steps forward (or lit separately) and faces audience.*

SAM: I hate the choices. It's too much. Any given day I can go online and have a hundred people like me – sixty of them I don't even know, twenty I've heard of through friends, ten I wouldn't even consider friends but think we are, and five maybe I actually like – hang on that leaves five unaccounted for – see the numbers never add up! So if I'm looking for friends that I can have meaningful conversations with... or a girlfriend, then I don't know who's the best bet. I'm so confused.

*Monologue ends. Sam returns to his seat.*

SAM: So now what?

DARREN: We wait. If Rose did see it, you may want to lay low on hooking up with Kylie.

SAM: I didn't say I was going to hook up with her.

DARREN: I'm just saying. But if Rose didn't see it, then no harm done.

*Sam sighs, a little relieved.*

DARREN: Then you can hook up with her.

### **Scene 13 - KYLIE'S ROOM**

*Kylie waiting impatiently. Then a message.*

KYLIE: Finally! Seriously Jamilla, as if it's not obvious you're trying to play hard to get. Now how about a little flirting.

*Kylie types away.*

### **Scene 14 - JAMILLA'S ROOM**

*Jamilla and Natalia watching screen.*

JAMILLA: He winked at me.

NATALIA: Babe, he likes you.

JAMILLA: Wink him back.

*Natalia types. They wait and read.*

NATALIA: I like what you're wearing?

*They're a little confused but snap out of it.*

JAMILLA: Worst generic line.

NATALIA: (reading) The blue really brings out your eyes.

*Jamilla is in a blue top and worried, but covers it up.*

JAMILLA: Lucky guess.

NATALIA: Of course. You always wear blue.

*Jamilla shrugs it off.*

### **Scene 15 - ROSE'S ROOM**

ROSE: Alright use your computer to log me in as me...

LUCY: As in Rose?

ROSE: Yes, Rose, that's me.

*Lucy rolls her eyes and types on her computer.*

ROSE: And just say...say hi to Kylie, make up something, just so Sam thinks I obviously didn't see what 'she' wrote, so make it friendly.

LUCY: But you're never friendly to your sister, won't that be more sus?

ROSE: True...just say mum wants her to set the table for dinner.

*Lucy types and waits for a millisecond.*

LUCY: She didn't respond. Probably busy studying.

ROSE: Probably. Then just message...you...about anything. Just make it up.

LUCY: (typing) Hey gorgeous girl Lucy how's the game going?

*Lucy changes to her computer.*

LUCY: (typing) Oh hey Rose (turns to Rose) I'm being me now.

ROSE: Yeah, I get it.

*Lucy keeps swapping computers.*

LUCY: (typing) Going great. Darren killed me again. He so good at this game, I think he might become professional one day.

*Rose rolls her eyes.*

LUCY: (typing) What are you up to? Heard any goss lately?

*Rose more interested – giving Lucy a thumbs up.*

LUCY: (typing) Nah Luce, pretty boring. I just got online and nobody's saying anything interesting.

*Rose clenches her fist in joy as she high fives Lucy.*

ROSE: Yes!