

# *Remember, Remember!*

*A Healthcare Science play to perform at home*

*By Nicola Baldwin with Dr Elaine Cloutman-Green*

*Pathology Week Drama & Science At Home 2020*

*First created for Great Ormond Street Hospital  
Pathology Week, November 2018*

## Characters

*You can change character names, ages and whether they are male or female. We performed the play with 4 actors, by ‘doubling’ characters. We doubled like this: Princess Elizabeth played by same actor who plays Eliza; Lily / Sir Jasper Wingard; Rosa / Guard at Tower of London; Frank / Guy Fawkes. You can perform it with more, or less people. It’s up to you!*

**Princess Elizabeth (age 9)** – daughter of King James 1. Good at getting her own way.

**Lily** – Senior Healthcare Scientist, who works the whole ‘patient pathway’, she deals directly with patients as well as leading the team. Good at dealing with people.

**Rosa** – recently joined the lab, loves the science and equipment. Good at being enthusiastic.

**Frank** – experienced Healthcare Scientist, who thinks that nothing can surprise him now. Good at reading results.

**Guard at the Tower of London**

**Guy Fawkes (aka John Johnson)** thinks he is an international man of mystery

**Sir Jasper Wingard** Head of Security, His Majesty’s Parliament

**Other Plotters** a desperate band of hot-heads

**Eliza** – a clinical engineer

## Setting

Hospital laboratory in the present day, and 1605 London at the time of the Gunpowder Plot. ‘Stage directions’ to describe action / places are written in italic letters like this.

## Credits

*Written by playwright Nicola Baldwin with Dr Elaine Cloutman-Green, Lead Healthcare Scientist at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Created for patients, families and staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital. First performed at GOSH for Pathology Week, November 2018. Director, Hannah Jones. Our project was funded by SfAM; the performance at GOSH was also supported by the **Royal College of Pathologists**. Thanks to: Abi Bown, Melisa Canales, NT Costumes, Rachel McNery, She’iah Hastick, Miranda France, Polly Cheeseman, Anthony Manuel DeSouza (EDUCATION RESOURCES), Fionnuala Wilkins (GOSH SCHOOL), Amy Sutton (GOSH YOUTH FORUM), Laura Walsh (GOSH PLAYTEAM), Andrew Roast (GOSH DIGITAL), Royal Literary Fund. Photography was by Rabbit Hole Photography. This play is for performing at home.*

## CHAPTER 1: THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

**Lily, Rosa and Frank** run in, wearing lab coats, flustered and out of breath.

ROSA            Are we back?

LILY            Looks like it.

FRANK          Are you sure?

ROSA (*audience*)            These people don't look like dangerous rebels....

FRANK (*to audience*)          You don't look like scary prison guards with dirty hands

LILY (*to audience*)            You don't look like you are from the Royal Family! (*others agree*)  
 Okay boys and girls, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thanks for coming. Sorry we are a bit late starting. I know you are all excited for our presentation on....  
 (*proudly*) Principles of MALDI-ToF Spectrometry.

FRANK          On the Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/ Ionization Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer –

LILY            We call our MALDI-ToF 'Bonnie' for short.

ROSA            They thought I broke Bonnie – but I didn't

FRANK          Bonnie wasn't broken at all....

ROSA            It was a lot spookier than that.....

LILY            Yes, thank you Rosa! Frank! I'm sure our sensible science lecture students don't want to hear all about how we got lost in the fog and went back in time and....  
 Ooh... but I want to tell the story! (*Rosa and Frank nod encouragement*)  
 (*she lowers her voice, as if speaking confidentially*)  
 It started last night... in our laboratory. We are working late  
 (*all work, making notes, studying samples. Lily is at the MALDI-ToF*).  
 Have either of you been working on Bonnie?

FRANK          I'm running the new batch of SARS CoV2 tests -

ROSA            I'm putting samples on the plates in batches, how you showed me.

LILY            Bonnie's flashing, as if there are results -  
 (*to audience, serious voice*)

As you all signed up for the MALDI-ToF lecture, this will interest you. Mass spectrometry allows us to fire a laser at a test sample, blasting it into parts, and the pattern of lines identifies the bug

FRANK (*to Lily*)                      See what's in there - run the results

(*THEY STARE AT SCREEN*)

ROSA                      What's that?

FRANK                      Nothing I've ever seen before...

ROSA                      It looks like... letters?

LILY                      it's reading the impact of proteins, Rosa, not a book. It can't be writing

ROSA (*POINTS AT SCREEN?*)    Look, that's definitely an H

FRANK (*writes on clipboard*)      I'll write them down...

ROSA                      'E'.... this is spooky. .... 'L'?    ....P.. 'E'?

*Frank holds up the word he has written: 'HELPE'*

FRANK                      Help-e

LILY                      'HELPE? I don't know what's weirder, that Bonnie is writing, or Bonnie can't spell...

ROSA                      Bonnie is asking for our help.

LILY                      Bonnie is a sophisticated piece of clinical engineering, not a video game. She doesn't do messages. She doesn't need help. Turn the power off. (*does this*) And on again

ROSA                      oh my

FRANK                      'HELPE' has gone. Replaced by a map!

LILY                      Let me see that –

*They try to make out the lines on the screen.*

ROSA                      is that Great Ormond Street? I can't see the outline of the hospital...

FRANK                      Is that a little 'X' at the top of Lamb's Conduit Street by Coram's Fields

ROSA                      X marks the spot! Perhaps that's where the message comes from? Someone at the top of Lamb's Conduit Street.... needs our help?

LILY           Who? Little Green Children from the Planet Mars Bar? This is a mass spectrometer, none of this can be happening... You watch too much Doctor Who!

FRANK           But the evidence...?

LILY           We're tired. Working hard. We're in the middle of a pandemic. Our shift ended 2 hours ago. Unplug Bonnie, and say no more about it (*does this*) That's that.

ROSA           The map's gone.

LILY           it wasn't a map!

FRANK           It said Lambs Conduit Fields –

LILY           Come on Frank, have you ever come across secret messages in spectrometry charts, or maps in routine test results? Of course not. It's completely unscientific

FRANK           The chances are mathematically infinitesimal, less than 0.0013...

ROSA           But –

LILY           We're scientists. I'll have a biomedical engineer check over Bonnie's screen tomorrow, let's go home and never speak of this again.

FRANK           Alright, then. I'll head off -

ROSA           Me too.

LILY           Yes, we're on again in 8 hours, let's make a move.

*They move outside.....*

*Cold November fog envelops everything.*

FRANK           Blimey. Where did all this fog come from?

LILY           It's often foggy in November.

ROSA           I've never seen such thick fog. I can't see the streetlights

FRANK           I can't hear the traffic

ROSA           It's spooky....

LILY           Are you going to the tube station?

FRANK Er... I'm just going to pop to the shop for *(trying to think of something)*  
chewing gum

LILY Rosa?

ROSA I'm going to.... *(trying to think of an excuse)* go this way and get a bus.

LILY At least none of us is going up to the top of Lamb's Conduit Street!

ROSA No! Ha ha!

FRANK X marks the spot, ha ha!

LILY How silly!

ALL Ha ha ha. Very funny (etc)

LILY See you tomorrow then?

ROSA Good night.

FRANK Cheerie bye!

*They leave. When each has gone far enough to be out of sight, they double back. Rosa creeps carefully; Franks stretches his arms to feel for obstacles; Lily walks, touching the wall The fog is thick, and a bit creepy, so they talk to themselves as they walk...*

(FRANK) Lamb's Conduit Street....

LILY Right to the top...

ROSA X marks the spot...

*Arriving at the top of the street at the same time, they see....*

LILY What's that?

FRANK Who is it?

ROSA *(screams)* Aaaagghh!

## CHAPTER 2: THE PRINCESS IN THE FOG

*Lily, Rosa and Frank are shocked, but relieved, to see each other; they all laugh.*

LILY What are you both doing here? *(to Frank)* Did you get lost looking for chewing gum?

FRANK In all honesty, no. I couldn't resist coming up here to have a look at where X marked the spot... In a spirit of scientific curiosity.

ROSA Same here

LILY Well I can't see anyone

*They do not immediately notice **Princess Elizabeth** appear as if by magic, looking regal. She coughs.*

ELIZA Ahem. Here you are! *(They are shocked)*  
I've been waiting and waiting for you. On my own.

LILY Er... ok –

ELIZA You may curtsy now *(very surprised, the scientists try to do this)*  
*(to Frank)* Not you! Boys bow. *(Frank bows awkwardly)* I'm glad I don't bow. If I'm was wearing a tiara, it would fall off. Once, my father's courtier bowed so low in the garden at Dunfermline Palace, his beard got stuck on a rose bush! That's REALLY TRUE and it was SO funny. I'm not supposed to laugh so I had to do this with my mouth  
*(squishes up her mouth)*

FRANK I can't believe I'm asking this, but... did you send us a message?

ELIZA Not a message. A command.

LILY How did you.... send a command through our machine?

ELIZA No time for silly questions. Your Princess needs your help

ROSA Princess?

ELIZA Princess Elizabeth Stuart. And I'm nine. Nine and a quarter. Don't look so astonished at me I REALLY AM AND I'M TEN NEXT SO THERE!

LILY Elizabeth –

ELIZA / Princess –

LILY Princess Elizabeth.... what are you doing out so late on your own?

ELIZA It's truly terrible. You have to help.

LILY We'll help it we can

ELIZA (*checks no one listening*) There is a Plot to get rid of my father, King James 1<sup>st</sup> -

ROSA You mean The Gunpowder Plot?!

FRANK Of 1605?

ELIZA How do you know that?! Are you involved? Are you plotters? HELP! HELP!

FRANK HELP-E ?

LILY No, no, it's alright. We're here to help-e. We're scientists.

FRANK We work at the children's hospital

ROSA We help children all the time... we've never helped a Princess before

ELIZA Well it's like this. The soldiers at the Palace of Westminster uncovered the Plot. They arrested a stranger hiding in the UNDERCROFT! He won't say where the gang are hiding. But their Plot is to get rid of my father, and make me queen! At first I thought – 'I can eat cake for breakfast and throw my schoolbooks out of the window and make a law it's my birthday EVERY DAY!' Imagine! I'd be like TEN tomorrow?  
...Eleven on Sunday. By next... (*counts on fingers*) Wednesday I'm almost FIFTEEN -

LILY (*interrupts*) So, the help you need from us...?

ELIZA Well, I've realised being queen is actually quite rubbish. The big crown is SOOO heavy and you have to sit for HOURS signing papers which is even worse than homework. You have to do wars, have loads of portraits painted and YUK get MARRIED!

FRANK I don't exactly see how we can help /-

ELIZA /You said you would. You promised. You said you (*starts to cry*) help children... (*sobs heart-breakingly a few moments more*)

LILY Please don't cry.

ROSA We'll do what we can!

ELIZA (*brighter*) I knew I could count on you. But how can you help? (*upset again*) We'll have to go to the Tower of London and interview the Prisoner and go to the Houses of Parliament and look for clues – and if we don't catch the Plotters tonight it will be too late! It'll be HOMEWORK AND MARRIAGE forever and there's NOT ENOUGH TIME!  
(*she cries again*)



LILY            Now then, I'm sure there's a way. We're scientists. We'll do it systematically by splitting up. You and I can go to the Tower, Frank and Rosa will look for clues in the –

ELIZA           the Undercroft.

ROSA           How do we get to the Undercroft?

ELIZA           I drew you a map.

FRANK          That's the map we saw on Bonnie! How did you manage to project visual imagery across time and into our digital equipment?

ELIZA           It was easy. I'll tell you later. The boat is waiting.

FRANK                I didn't know there was a river near here.

ELIZA           You silly Science-issues! Everyone knows Mr Lamb built this water channel to conduct water from the Fleet River for drinking and washing. How do you think Lamb's Conduit Street gets its name?! AND THAT'S REALLY TRUE! Come on, get in the boat –

*They start to climb aboard. Lily halts them.*

LILY            Wait a minute. The State Opening of Parliament was delayed in 1605, because London had an outbreak of –

FRANK          the Plague!

*Frank and Rosa recoil from the boat/water*

ELIZA           Oh its fine, we burned lots of herbs and the evil air is quite gone! I ORDER you to get in. By royal command. I'm a Princess and THERE'S NO TIME!

LILY (*patiently*)    There's always time for infection prevention

FRANK          Be aware of risks when handling potentially contaminated materials.

ROSA           Always wash your hands!

*Princess reaches towards the river water as if to wash. Scientists react No/ stop*

LILY            Not in the river water!

ELIZA           Make up your silly minds.

*The Princess holds out her hand demurely. Frank helps her. The 3 scientists get carefully into the boat, elbows out, not touching anything that could be contaminated. Lily and Rosa pull on their scientists' rubber gloves to row.*

(ELIZA) To the Tower!

ALL The Tower!

*They all row towards the Thames and downriver.*

FRANK oh look! The Globe theatre!

ELIZA *(at last)* There's the Tower!

LILY Pull in here, Rosa

FRANK Steady, you need about a 40degree angle on your approach. That's it

ROSA Got it

*Lily helps Princess Elizabeth carefully out of the boat*

ELIZA I'm not touching the water

LILY Good girl –

ELIZA Good PRINCESS!

ROSA *(rowing off)* We've got the map and secret code!

FRANK See you later!

ROSA Byeeee!

FRANK Good luck!

*As Frank and Rosa row the boat away, Lily and Princess Elizabeth are left standing at the foot of the Tower, looking up.*

LILY So this is the Tower of London in 1605... A formidable place.

ELIZABETH Truly terrifying. I'm glad you're with me to go in first –

GUARD Halt!

*They freeze in shock.*

### CHAPTER 3: THE TOWER

*At that very moment, The Tower's chief **Guard** appears*

GUARD                    Halt! Who goes here?

LILY                    Hello.... Sir. This is Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King James -  
(*Princess is hiding half out of sight*) And I'm Lily. A Healthcare Scientist

GUARD                An Elf Care whatt?

LILY                    - scientist

GUARD                Tis whatt agin?

LILY                    Science –

ELIZA                  Put a spell on him, Lily!

LILY                    Elizabeth? I can't do that!

ELIZA                  Turn him into a Frog –

GUARD                    A Frog is it?!

ELIZA                  Make him fall asleep for a thousand years!

GUARD                    I am a bit tired, as it goes. (*to Lily*)                    Are you a witch? Cos if so,  
you b'long in 'ere. All locked up

LILY                    I know you're only doing your job. And can I say, you're doing it very well.  
Good for you. And I'm sure you're capable of being very helpful –

GUARD                    Nope

LILY                    We'd like to see the Prisoner. The mystery man from the Undercroft?

GUARD                    What you know about 'im?

LILY                    not enough. That's why I'd like to ask him a few questions –

GUARD                    Interrogation, is it? Cruel and brutal interrogation?

LILY                    A few scientific tests...

GUARD (*brightening*) Aha torture! Horrible torture and loud interrogation? Why didn't you say so? Come in. (*opens door*) Welcome to my 'umble abode.

LILY What's all this on the floor?

GUARD Clean straw....

LILY It's a long time since that straw was clean; it's very smelly

GUARD It's my special floorcovering invention. Every time yon floor gets mucky, put more straw on thy floor. Drop ye sandwich, spill ye drink; ye old dog poo-eth – do not ye worry, put more straw on't. Nice clean straw

LILY (*to Elizabeth*) Elizabeth –

*But Elizabeth understands. She holds her hands up*

ELIZA Don't touch -

LILY Good Princess.

GUARD This here's his cell (***Guy Fawkes*** *stands with his back to us*) Well, well Mister-I'm-Not-Talking Man of Mystery, your jig is up. Your goose is cooked. His Majersty The King, has sent two Science-witches to make you squark –

*Guy Fawkes turns slowly to consider them, he glances at Elizabeth, then Lily*

LILY We'd like to ask you a few questions

GUARD He don't say nothing, not to nobody

FAWKES Why Knave, you are mistook! I do not stoop to speak with thee, yet unto fair damsel such as she, forsooth, whose words are like unto the sweetest bell, her beauty like the fragrance of a rose inside this... cesspit –

GUARD She's here to torture you.

*Fawkes recoils*

LILY No, really, I'm a scientist

*Guard and Scientist both recoil*

FAWKES Tis what?

LILY A Healthcare Scientist. Do any of you know what that is? I diagnose people –

*They gasp as if it is the most horrible thing in the world*

GUARD                Boils and plagues!

FAWKES                What sorcery is this! I shut my mouth and speaketh not  
(*he watches them from the corner of his eyes*)

LILY (*to Guard*)                What do we know about the Prisoner?

GUARD                They caught 'im lurking under the House of Parliament, by a pile of wood

LILY                A bonfire?

FAWKES                Bonfire says you?! Zounds, nay! There was indeed all manner of  
crated goods and barrells thereabouts, perhaps of mead or oil or wine; I know not, for said  
wood was all trampled, perchance by the King's own men, or elephants. Who knoweth? Yet  
verily it was broke all into sticks before I ever came thence.

LILY                So, you're saying... you didn't build the bonfire?

FAWKES                My Lady doth hear me like my truest friend.

ELIZA                THAT'S NOT TRUE! Zap him, Lily –

LILY (*patiently*)                And what other evidence have we got?

GUARD                he had about him sticks and spills and flint for lighting fire

LILY                Matches? Do you have them?

GUARD                Over yonce –

*Lily picks them up and puts them into a plastic bag. Others stare at the bag in wonder.*

LILY                I'll analyse these later. What is your name?

FAWKES                ... it's..... John

ELIZA                John what?

FAWKES                John.... (*searches his imagination*) Johnson... A simple, honest name  
for an honest simple, honest man. Lately arrived in London, I met a Fellow, who offered me  
a job... to guard his pile of wood. I know not why

LILY                And the matches?

FAWKES                The place I was to guard, being underground, was dark. He gave me matches. Said he would bring me a lantern by and by. But he did not. I know not why.....

LILY                Anything else?

FAWKES                I asked yon Fellow if I might have a seat to sit, lest my feet ache from standing guard. He shewed me barrels...full of Gunpowder they were. I know not why.....

LILY                That's it. I've heard enough.

*Lily pulls out a small needle*

FAWKES    (*alarmed*)    What means you with that blade, dear lady?

LILY                To find out the truth

GUARD                Aha, torture!

LILY                Nonsense, this won't hurt him at all; a slight scratch, nothing more -

*Fawkes falls to his knees and turns to Elizabeth*

FAWKES                Pleeeease I beg you! Princess! Don't let the Psy-antist wound me.

ELIZA                It won't hurt if she says it won't, but Lily knows powerful magic. She can weave a spell upon your blood, so it will whisper all your secrets....AND THAT'S TRUE!

LILY                That's really not how a DNA test works, but YES IT'S A BIT LIKE THAT!

*Guy Fawkes breaks down. His accent may change. He may or may not be from Yorkshire*

FAWKES                Alright, alright! I am not John Johnson, I am Guido Fawkes, Plotter, and admit my crime. But you won't catch the others! Villains they are, determined to succeed and (*quickly and a bit shifty*) I know not where they're hid....

LILY                Listen Guido. I'm glad you're thinking about telling the truth. But your blood in this sample can tell us everything. When I analyse this, I'll know who you are; by the antibodies in your blood against plague, how recently you came to London; and who you've been in contact with -

FAWKES                You'll never stop them!

LILY    (*to Guard*)    Do you have a boat we can borrow to get to the Houses of Parliament?

GUARD(*showing them*) Me old water taxi here. Just let me... get my salted fish supper from the bottom of the boat –

LILY Wash that before you eat it, and your hands -

(*Guard about to stick hands in the river*)

ELIZA Not in the river!

LILY there are all kinds of bacteria – tiny living organisms - in rivers. Some of them can give you an upset stomach or worse. So always wash your hands in clean water, by boiling it. And at least get rid of this filthy straw!

GUARD Wash... but not water... boils and filthy straw?

LILY Let me write out some hygiene rules for you -

GUARD I can't read!

ELIZA I'm 9 and I can read in three languages.

GUARD I'm 29, and I'm not royalty. When I need to remember, I make a rhyme....

LILY Ok, let's try and think of a rhyme for you, then the Princess and I must hurry

*Lily and the Guard go off, working on rhymes*

LILY Hand hygiene is important because –

GUARD If you eat with hands that smell, you'll make yourself unwell –

LILY Ok, that's a good start

GUARD I work in the nick, and I often get sick -

*They move off, leaving Princess Eliza alone by the boat.*

ELIZA I like rhymes. You hear people all day long outside the Palace – like 'Fred the Baker, and Cake Maker', or shouting the news. The rhyme they're all saying about the Plot... *Remember, remember the fifth of November / Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

*We see no reason / Why gunpowder treason / Should ever be forgot.....*

It's a bit scary, really. Lily is brave and she makes me feel safe...She says it will turn out fine. What Lily did with Guy Fawkes, how she made him talk with her 'test' WAS SO CLEVER! But what about Rosa and Frank? How can they get a pile of wood to tell them anything? And if wood can't talk, how will the other Plotters be found?

It's after midnight but I'm not tired. I hope we catch them in time.

(*She sings / hums 'Ring a ring o' roses' to herself, then goes.*)

## CHAPTER 4: THE UNDERCROFT

*Meanwhile, under The Palace of Westminster, Rosa and Frank are pacing out the Undercroft – a cellar under the Houses of Parliament, followed by **Sir Jasper Wingard**, Head of Security of the Palace of Westminster. He is reading their note.*

ROSA (*pacing*)      Six, seven, eight metres across here

SIR JASPER                      / I must say –

*Frank paces in the other direction*

FRANK (*to Rosa*)      And 8 metres lengthwise, Rosa –

ROSA              I'll call this search sector 'C' (*makes a note on her clipboard*)

SIR JASPER                      - This coded message of yours was rilly (*really*) rather good

FRANK              A simple substitution code, Sir Jasper. The Princess thought you, as Head of Security for the Parliament, wouldn't want to let anyone in. Particularly with this Plot

SIR JASPER              No, indeed. One has to be rilly careful.  
(*he reads the note, again, appreciating his own cleverness for understanding it*)  
'Dear Guards' – not that I am a 'Guard' you understand. I am Head Of Security –

ROSA AND FRANK              Yes / you said

SIR JASPER (*reads, chuckling*)      "These people may be strange but they are here to help. They apparently can use good magic they call 'Science' to help us find the Gunpowder plotters. Please let them into the Houses of Parliament and listen to what they say. Codename: Sugared Violets"

FRANK              Do you mind, Sir Jasper?

SIR JASPER              Do I mind what?

ROSA              You're standing in a Crime Scene

SIR JASPER              How awfully thrilling. Am I safe to this side?

FRANK              This is where the barrels of gunpowder, and some barrels of river water were discovered, is that right?

SIR JASPER              Yes. What they wanted with the river water, one has no idea!

ROSA              We think the barrels were waterlogged; we found tiny particles of Gunpowder

SIR JASPER              Remarkable.



FRANK                    And over here, the piles of wood?

SIR JASPER            Yes, and that strange Fellow with the awfly big hat.

ROSA                    There are traces of blood, where one of the plotters hurt himself before he ran away.

SIR JASPER            You can see these tiny, invisible things? Remarkable!

*Sir Jasper stands over them, looking at the floor.*

ROSA                    We haven't got any of our equipment or machines from the lab? (*idea!*) Or do you have any lenses, or telescopes of any kind in the Palace?

SIR JASPER            I believe we do... I'll go and discover them.

*Sir Jasper strides 'orf' to seek some lenses. They can work in peace at last. Frank pulls out his phone.*

ROSA                    Can you magnify the river samples enough to spot the diatoms?

FRANK                   I think so, if you investigate the blood from the wood - Lily!

*Lily and the Princess arrive.*

LILY                    What have you managed to find?

ELIZA                   Ahem!

*Frank and Rosa bow / curtsey*

FRANK & ROSA            Your Highness!.

ELIZA                    You silly Sciencers. You can call me Elizabeth... if you let me help

FRANK                    Thankyou Elizabeth, will you help us look at the map?

*Princess Elizabeth studies the map.*

ROSA (*to Lily*)            We've got traces of blood

LILY                    And I've got a blood sample from Guy Fawkes - who has confessed to being a Plotter, but says he doesn't know where the others are hiding.

FRANK                    We think we know the names of the other Plotters, and Elizabeth has pointed out their houses on the map. So, their hideaway will be at any of these 4 possible places...

ELIZA                    But which one? Lily? Lily! Which one?

LILY            I don't know yet. We need to test the samples of river water to see the micro-organisms, or diatoms. Every river is different, so we can work out which river the water came from.

FRANK            The wood fragments we found are from trees that grow in these areas of the map, so we can cross reference the locations with the rivers.

ELIZA            You have to do all that? *(to Lily)* I thought you *knew everything!* –

ROSA            We only know, what we can find out by experiments and testing.

LILY            That's what science is.

ELIZA            THAT IS SCIENCE? All these little bits and spots and dia-tomatoes, and adding up, that's worse than homework!

LILY            Elizabeth –

ELIZA            Science is RUBBISH! It takes forever and you'll never find the Plotters. They'll make me queen, and the crown will squash my head AND ITS ALL YOUR FAULT!

FRANK            Lily is doing her best -

ROSA            We all are -

ELIZA            I'M NOT LISTENING! I'M GOING TO SIT IN THE BOAT AND STICK MY HEAD IN THE WATER AND DRINK UNTIL I AM SICK!

FRANK            She won't do it.... Will she?

*Lily thinks about this, and then goes over to Elizabeth, who is crying.*

LILY            Elizabeth? Princess...

ELIZA            GO. AWAY! If my dad the King was here, with his ARMY – they'd jump on their horses and chase all over the country to find out where the baddies are!

FRANK            But Lily wants to know *where* they are first, because that's scientific

ELIZA            Science is BORING and POO.

LILY            When I was a little girl I used to think science was boring. Or something only boys did.

ELIZA            Girls can do anything boys can! I can speak French, and ride a horse with my eyes closed AND THAT'S TRUE! I'M NEARLY TEN!

LILY            Ten, eh? I didn't look through a microscope until I was twelve.

ELIZA            What's a microscoop?

ROSA            A special lens -shaped glass- that makes things appear bigger.

LILY            When I was 12, someone showed me what river water looked like magnified, with all these tiny living organisms moving about inside–

ROSA            Like a tiny zoo.

LILY            And if you thought science was a kind of magic, in a way you're right. Because when you look through a magnifying lens, it's another world....

*They show Elizabeth the lens...*

ROSA            Look inside –

*Elizabeth looks in wonder through the lens*

ELIZA            What are they? *(laughs, delighted)* Little, fluffy, wiggly – *(she takes her eye away and looks at the water)* All that life...is in there?

LILY            And not only that, but all those diatoms in this glass tell us everywhere the river has been; what soil, what rocks, what plants it flowed over. Where it comes from...

FRANK            *(calls over)* we've got a match!

ROSA            The River Oakley!

LILY            We know where they are!

*Princess Elizabeth jumps excitedly.*

## **CHAPTER 5: THE CHASE IS ON**

*Frank and Rosa scramble to attention. Elizabeth arranges her costume for horseriding. Lily addresses the audience.*

LILY            Look, I know some of you are really disappointed about missing the lecture on Mass Spectrometry, but for anyone interested you can visit our Lab after the pandemic is over. And if you are interested in Microbiology or Pathology in general, you should look up SfAM or the Royal College of Pathologists online – because we really want to tell you the next part of our story!

*Elizabeth, Rosa and Frank 'mount' their imaginary horses. Lily joins them, all climb on horseback. Princess Elizabeth side-saddle. They all ride, with Lily and Elizabeth in front.*

(LILY)            None of us had ridden before, but Princess Elizabeth showed us how to hold the reins and soon we were galloping along the muddy roads out of London as the sun was coming up and the fog cleared until, at last, we saw .... Holbeech House, home of Robert Catesby, ringleader of the Gunpowder Plot *(she shouts)*  
Rockwood! Digby! Tresham! GIVE YOURSELVES UP

## 2 SHADY FIGURES IN HATS AND CLOAKS APPEAR BRIEFLY

PLOTTER 1 NO! (*dissolves into coughing*)

PLOTTER 2 Never!

PLOTTER 1 (*coughs*)

LILY Ok, here's the thing... someone scratched themselves on the wooden barrels left in the undercroft. It wasn't Guido Fawkes, because it's not his blood type. Whoever was scratched, got an infection.

It's not just living things, like microorganisms, or fungi that helped us track you down. Chemicals are found in the environment, and in our lab we can identify them by Mass Spectroscopy. Because different chemicals (or residues) have different molecular masses. The results of the mass spectroscopy at the scene look like this: (*zigzags finger in air*) If we are in our lab, the material that has all of its peaks is the one that is at the scene. But we don't need to do that... because your cough is identifying that one of you is infected. You are the Gunpowder Plotters! In our time, you would be vaccinated, but we know you are not. You're ill, and we can help... but you have to give yourself up.

*Noise of whispering... coughing. The plotters raise their hands in surrender.*

LILY Off to the Tower!

*We are back in Guy Fawkes cell in the Tower of London.  
Princess Elizabeth and Lily look around in amazement at the transformation...*

GUARD (*pleased*) Yeah, I took your advice about cleaning up

LILY It's spotless. I'm impressed.

ELIZA Guy doesn't look very pleased.

*Guy Fawkes sighs miserably.*

GUARD he's just fed up cos he's going to be hung, drawn and quartered

ELIZA What?

LILY I'm afraid that is actually true. Guy? Guido?

*He cringes in fear*

FAWKES Prithee damsel, stay back! Torment me not, with your evil needles!

LILY Listen, Guy. I and my team – we're the opposite of Gunpowder Plotters who just want to do harm. We're Healthcare Scientists. Your Plotter mate, Everard Digby was infected with a bacteria, Yersinia Pestis, when he was injured carrying the pile of wood. All we wanted to do was keep Princess Elizabeth safe, and find him and get him treated.

Frank and Rosa and I are just trying to make people well and stop diseases spreading –

FAWKES                That is why we are plotting! All the people in our towns up North and in the Midlands are sick and we've had plague and we don't know what to do! No one in Parliament is helping us!

ELIZA                are you always washing your hands?

FAWKES                What's the point of that?

ELIZA                There are a lot of things you can do, to stop diseases.

GUARD                She's right. I ain't never felt so well since I stopped spitting on my food to wash me vegetables!

ELIZA                We can teach everyone how to stop catching bugs!

GUARD                Yess your Highness, but your father, His Majersty, is really very set on the hanging and the drawing and the quarterin'

ELIZA                No! I won't allow it. We shall teach all the Plotters about hand washing and let them go. I will talk to my father.

GUARD                Begging your pardons, we can't just... pardon them -

LILY                You must. And teach them your rhymes... so the knowledge you pass on becomes the antidote to infection by plague and all these other illnesses.

GUARD                I don't think the King would allow it. The hangin' and what not is a disincentive against other crime...

FAWKES                I HAVE IT! As I have been John Johnson, Guy and Guido Fawkes – I, and my fellow Plotters shall new names take again. Mr Scientist, Sir Infection – simple, honest names! No one shall know us, and a story shall be invented, and spread abroad... that we were hanged, so that no one else will ever dare to Plot against Parliament again... and we can pay for our crimes by going out and spreading good across the world.

### **Back In the Lecture room...**

***Lily, Frank and Rosa return, taking off hats, like the beginning of the play***

LILY (to audience)                no sooner was the plan agreed, the birds began to sing. It was almost daylight and we rushed away and rowed the boat back to the top of Lamb's Conduit Street, and rushed in here to you...

FRANK                And that was the end of the adventure.

ROSA                We never had chance to say goodbye to Princess Elizabeth. I hope she continues her interest in science when she grows up...

*There is a cough, as 'Princess Elizabeth' appears. They all react/ shock. Frank curtseys. Except she is really **Eliza** – older and not at all sounding like the 9 year old Princess*

ELIZA            Sorry to startle you! And apologies for the costume. We're having a special event, to celebrate Pathology week at GOSH. I'm Eliza, by the way – the biomedical engineer? You called me in about your malfunctioning MALDI-ToF? I've had a look and I really can't find anything wrong with it...

LILY            Oh... ok. Thankyou

ELIZA            That's fine. Anytime. Goodbye. (LEAVES)

ROSA            All we have to do now is write up our reports...

LILY            Did anybody bring their notes back with them from 1605?  
*They look at one another and shake their heads.*  
We have no evidence. No one will ever believe this happened...

FRANK            Never mind. Plenty of real work to be getting on with.

LILY            How's it coming along with the COVID-19 tests?

ROSA            I'm starting a new batch of samples....I just need to wash my hands.

LILY            Listen...? Do you hear that? A sort of chanting.... And that voice, reminds me of being in the Tower of London....

GUARD (*entering, shouts*)            Get in line!

*They line up as a row of Prisoners*

GUARD            Alright, you horrible smelly prisoners!  
What do Healthcare Scientists do?  
(*the 'Prisoners' join in, performing actions to the song*)

GUARD / ALL            Healthcare Scientists are often consider-ed  
The forgotten workforce in the-  
(*they pump fists*) N! H! S!  
We are small in numbers, But for impact,  
(*pump fists*) we're the best!  
Eighty percent of diagnosis, and therefore people put on the pathway to better health, have that diagnosis made by –  
(*pump fists*) HCS!  
We don't just work in labs, many of you will meet us,  
and assume we are doctors or nurs-us.  
But we ain't  
We are Healthcare Scientists!

GUARD      What do we say?

*(they mime correct hand-washing for 20 seconds)*

ALL              Wash yer 'ands, wash yer ands wash yer ands!

GUARD              And again!

ALL              Wash yer 'ands, wash yer ands wash yer ands!

**THE END!**

**c. N. Baldwin**

**(November 2018, updated for Pathology Week, November 2020)**