

Audition Sides for **JOKE**

No. Of Pages: 2+

Characters:

Joke - Early 20s

Cinderella (Dere) - Early 20s

Scenario:

Dere and Joke discuss men, the future and the meaning of happiness. [New Scene]

INT. BADMOS GROUP INTERNATIONAL OFFICES (BGI) - AFTERNOON

JOKE and CINDERELLA are having lunch at JOKE's desk.
CINDERELLA steals a couple of looks at her, and then her
curiosity gets the better of her

CINDERELLA

Okay, I'm just going to come out
and say it - what's going on with
you?

JOKE

What d'you mean?

CINDERELLA

Your - fizz - it's gone. It's not
there. What's going on?

JOKE

Nothing's going on -
(evasive)
I'm just - not very fizzy today.

CINDERELLA snorts. They continue to eat in silence. JOKE
avoids her friend's look. CINDERELLA losing patience.

CINDERELLA

C'mon! Tell me! I don't keep
secrets from you!

JOKE

It's nothing - it's -

CINDERELLA looks at her as if to say 'please!'

JOKE (CONT'D)

I met someone a few days ago -

CINDERELLA

I knew it! I knew it!

JOKE

Keep your voice down! It's nothing
serious -

CINDERELLA

It is if you're trying to keep it
quiet -

JOKE

No, it's just -
(pause)

CINDERELLA

(grows serious)
What is it?

JOKE stares at her friend for a moment as if weighing a decision, and then takes the plunge

JOKE

What I'm going to tell you - you
can't tell another soul -

CINDERELLA

No -

JOKE

(interjecting)
Not a soul, Dere.

CINDERELLA

I promise.

JOKE

He's older.
(Beat)
And he's kinda married.

CINDERELLA

Ah.

JOKE

It - it just happened.
(Beat)
My parents aren't rich and
influential like yours, Dere. My
parents are - civil servants. We
rent the house we live in. My
father is still owed six months
salary, and my mother does the best
she can on her teacher's salary. I
pay my brothers' school fees.
(beat)
Sounds like an excuse, doesn't it?

CINDERELLA

No.
(Shrugs)
Life is - messy.

JOKE

I've made compromises, Dere - I
just -
(shakes her head)

CINDERELLA

(beat)
D'you like him?

JOKE

He treats me with respect - takes
care of me -

CINDERELLA

(joking)

So it's not just his money you're
after -

JOKE

Dere! I can't believe you said
that!

CINDERELLA falls about laughing.

CINDERELLA

Sorry! I'm sorry - I just couldn't
help myself!

JOKE

You're such a wind-up!

CINDERELLA

I know!

(Slight pause)

Listen, just make sure it's what
you want - ok?

JOKE nods, and smiles at her friend, unburdened.