

Secrets and Lies

By Lila Whelan

28 Plays Later – Challenge 23

*An interview room*

B A we're a happy family

A Very happy

B We play together

A Work together

B We're always together

A Until we need to be apart

B We understand that privacy is important. To young minds, growing bodies

A But we let our children know, we're here for them. Anytime, for anything

B It's important they feel respected, valued, listened to.

A Nothing's off the table

B I mean, Oliver was always on the more solitary side of things

A He liked his own space.

B Preferred those sports, you know, where he only had himself to compete against

A Long distances running, the javelin

B Hurdles

A Of course he was competing against other people

B But not in a team.

A But he did like sports. So we thought, what's the harm?

B Some people are team players

A Others are leaders.

B Oliver's a leader.

A His classmates look up to him

B And his sisters adore him

A I can't imagine why he'd be in any trouble

B Is he in trouble?

A It all feels a little serious this, a bit extreme don't you think?

B I'm sure whatever he's done can be resolved

A No need to have the police involved is there?

B For a first offence, if that's what's happened, a little rap to the knuckles would be enough

A Don't want to ruin his chances at Oxbridge

B He's a clean record, near perfect attendance

A Only missed three days earlier last year and that was for Oxford interviews

B We cleared it with the school first of course

A All three of us went down there, we were very proud of him

B We got a room together, all three of us. To help him study.

A It's difficult to even get to interview stage, never mind get a place

B He'll be the first of all of us to go to university

A We're very proud of him

B He's our shining star

A Perhaps we might have worked him a bit hard lately

B We've been trying to keep him focused

A Friends can be a distraction

B A strict diet is important

A Early to bed, early to rise

B A firm hand is necessary every now and then

A It helps him to focus

B Teenage rebellion is a myth

A We won't tolerate it

B If we could just see him

A If we could just explain

B Those bruises are nothing  
A He's always been clumsy  
B But he's not one to complain  
A He'd never complain  
B We love him so much  
A He knows that  
B We'd never hurt him  
A Of course not  
B He's our shining star  
A Did someone say we did?  
B When can we see him?  
A We can clear this all up  
B Can we see him?  
C No.