Bianca and Gemma peeped through the curtain of the window, then withdrew quickly as one of the people in the other room glanced up.

Gemma giggled as she said, ‘what do you think, Bianca, any potential candidates there?’

Bianca looked at Gemma giggling and smiled, ‘Gemma, it’s very unprofessional of us to behave like this. Tom trusted us to do this properly.’

‘Ok,’ Gemma said, straightening her face. ‘Who do we need again?’

‘We need someone to play Peter, someone for his mate. Someone for his girlfriend, and someone for his parents. That’s five all up.’

‘Well, we’ve got three looking good for either Peter or his mate. Then there are two women that could do for his girlfriend. But there’s only one bloke that could pass as his father and we could push one woman to be his mum. I think there would have to be a lot of freethinking in the audience, though.’ Gemma looked up from her list at Bianca. ‘Shall we get them to read separately or together?’

Bianca looked at the list Gemma was holding, then peered through the curtain again. ‘Let’s get the blokes in separately to read for Peter and his mate. We’ll see how they go with that. Then they can read together, and we’ll see how they gel.’

Gemma opened the door, and the group that was waiting all looked up expectantly. ‘Could you come with me please, Ryan?’ and she smiled at the him as he followed her into the room where Bianca was waiting.

Shortly after, Gemma collected the other two young men. They came into the room and read through the scene with Bianca. Then read the scene together.

Once the men had returned to their seats, Gemma turned to Bianca. ‘What do you think? I reckon Ryan is good as Peter, and Raj as his mate?’ ‘Yes, I thought so too. Let’s get the women in and see how they go.’

Gemma returned with the three women. As they read their parts, Gemma thought about how well they acted. Just seeming to morph into their character right in the chair as they spoke.

‘Ok, just the dad to go. We’ll hear him by himself, then with Peter and then with Ann who’ll play Peter’s mum. She said she’s happy to age up for the part.’ Bianca gave a tired sigh.

She looked up as their final actor arrived in the room. But was a little concerned as she saw confusion on his face. Checking her file for his name, she asked, ‘Jack, are you ok? We just want you to read for the part of Peter’s father. If you’re ok, we’ll then get you to read with Ryan and Ann to see how you work together.’ She smiled reassuringly.

Jack looked first at Bianca, and then at Gemma. ‘Well, that sounds perfectly fine, luv, and I can give it a crack. But I was actually here waiting for my wife to come out of her doctor’s appointment.