

EXTRACT

# TRACK AND FIELD

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[[australianplays.org](http://australianplays.org)]

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### NOTE ON THE SCRIPT

This is an unedited manuscript as provided to us by the playwright. We distribute it in good faith; however it may contain layout inconsistencies or typographic errors.

## **Character Descriptions:**

**Odette:** the main character of the play, insecure young athlete and dealing with financial stress and relationships with friends and family due to anxiety. Her biggest obstacle is herself.

**Melanie:** suffering from depression and anxiety, due to being mercilessly bullied for years. Is internally struggling and on the verge of being suicidal

**Emersyn:** closeted homosexual who is in love with her best friend. Struggling with wanting to come out and the approval of others, especially her sister's

**Regina:** a competitive athlete who has been antagonised by the main characters. Has duality; caught between wanting to win and seeing those who deserve also succeed

**Camilla:** uses bullying as a coping mechanism to deal with past trauma

**Amaya:** sister to Emersyn. Internalises all her problems and struggling to have a healthy sibling relationship

**Toby:** twin brother of Odette. Carrying the burden of losing their house, and accepting being a background character to his sister. Forms awkward relationship with emersyn, and is the only one who knows her secret

**Sally:** Emersyn's enthusiastic best friend who is constantly trying to set her up with boys. Is oblivious to Emersyn's feelings as well as her own

**Lacey and Stacey:** Camilla's loyal minions who don't want to face Camilla's wrath

**Betty and Sara:** library nerd who act as background characters who try to help Odette better herself

**Disgust, Fear, Anger:** voices who appear in times of depression and anxiety for the main 3 girls

1-EXT-TRACK-DAY

[**ODETTE**, **REGINA**, **MELANIE**, AND **CAMILLA** ARE RUNNING A RACE. A CROWD INCLUDING **KRISTEN** CHEERS THEM ON FROM THE SIDES OF THE STAGE. **ODETTE** IS SLIGHTLY DOWNSTAGE FROM **REGINA**, INDICATING THAT SHE IS WINNING THE RACE. THE CHEERS ARE SILENT AT FIRST, THEN GET LOUDER]

[**ODETTE** LOOKS BACKWARDS AND THEN DELIBERATELY SLOWS DOWN BY MOVING UPSTAGE AS **REGINA** MOVES DOWNSTAGE. ONLY **KRISTEN** NOTICES WHAT **ODETTE** IS DOING]

[A STREAMER IS UNFURLED BY THE CHEERING CROWD AND **REGINA** BREAKS THROUGH IT. THE CHEERING CROWD SURROUNDS HER, AND THEY MOVE OFFSTAGE, LEAVING ONLY **KRISTEN** AND **ODETTE**]

[**KRISTEN** RUNS TOWARDS ODETTE]

**Kristen:** Hey

**Odette:** Um hey (OUT OF BREATH)

**Kristen:** What was that? Why did you slow down? You were going to win the race!

**Odette:** I didn't slow down and I wasn't going to win the race, Regina won fair and square!

**Kristen:** You have to be kidding me! You so did! You always do this Odette! What's your excuse this time?

**Odette:** I'm not purposely doing anything! And as a matter of fact, I had a stone in my shoe and that's why I didn't win! Not because of your wild conspiracy

**Kristen:** WOW... now that's a new one

**Odette:** Whatever Kristen, the last person I need is to hear this from is you! You only do high jump so you don't know how hard it is to run with a rock in your shoe!

**Kristen:** I might not be a track star but I sure as hell have common sense! You're trying to tell me that it was so hard to run with a "rock in your shoe" that you started speed walking instead of running? I thought track stars were trained to deal with such severe injuries while still continuing to run?

**Odette:** Leave me alone Kristen, I don't want to talk about this

**Kristen:** Whatever

[**KRISTEN** STORMS OFF STAGE]

FADEOUT

1-EXT-ATHLETIC FIELD-DAY

[**EMERSYN** IS SITTING ON THE BLEACHERS NEXT TO **SALLY** OBSERVING HER SISTER **AMAYA** RUNNING]

**Emersyn:** Oh wow. Amaya wore her short shorts and pink scrunchy. I guess Parker must be around today

**Sally:** Haha

**Emersyn:** Are you going to that fundraiser dance thing on the 20<sup>th</sup>?

**Sally:** Are you kidding? Obviously, I'm going!!

**Emersyn:** Well someone's excited

**Sally:** Hey it's for a good cause! We get to raise money to keep the track and field tournament going for another year and it's a chance to go out with cute boys

**Emersyn:** Ha-ha... yeah (SCRATCHES BACK OF NECK AND LOOKS AROUND)

**Sally:** Sooooo do you know which guy you want to go with?

**Emersyn:** Not really... (AVOIDS EYE CONTACT)

**Sally:** Hmm you can go with Carson or wait even Toby! Toby would be a great match for you!! You guys would be so cute! I'm a genius!

**Emersyn:** Yeah, I don't know about that... (LOOKS AROUND)

**Sally:** Okay you're going with Toby! remember that one-time you guys sat together in English that was so cute-

**Emersyn:** Sally...

**Sally:** And that other time in math's where you

**Emersyn:** Sally

**Sally:** What?

**Emersyn:** Look I... I don't want to go with any boys...

**Sally:** What are you on about Emersyn, don't be silly you have to go with a boy!

**Emersyn:** I-I don't want to go with anyone, but you

**Sally:** What? You can't go with me, we need to go with boys!

**Emersyn:** I-I

**Sally:** Hey look (STANDS UP) I need to go home but we can figure it out later ...maybe we can do a double date or something!

**Emersyn:** Umm okay

**Sally:** Okay bye see you tomorrow!

[THE VOICES SURROUND EMERSYN]

[RED LIGHTING]

**Fear:** she's going to tell everybody!

**Disgust:** she will never like you!

**Anger:** you're stupid why would you do that! Now everyone is going to know your gay!

**Disgust:** you don't deserve to be loved

[BLACKOUT]

[**EMERSYN** ENTERS STAGE INTO A SPOTLIGHT]

**Emersyn:** I love myself. I need you all to know that. I know who I am and I'm okay with that. It's just what others will think that really worries me. I make fun of my sister but her opinion of me really matters, and I know that Amaya is a bit conservative... and

so is Sally. Sally is just really cool, and funny and she's so passionate about everything she does. But if she knew that I liked her I think I would actually die from embarrassment. So, for now, I just have to keep quiet. Until a door opens to a place I can be free.

FADEOUT

1-EXT-TRACK AND FIELD-DAY

**Camilla:** Hey Melanie, where are you going?

**Melanie:** Leave me alone Camilla

**Camilla:** Awww are you going to cry, you little baby? Is the little baby going to cry?

**Melanie:** Camilla please just leave me alone

**Camilla:** Wow You're so fast aren't you? That's why you completely lost the 100-meter sprint. You could never beat me, you fat lazy slob

**Melanie:** Good job, you beat me

**Camilla:** It's not even worth the praise, it's just too easy. You really are just such a piece of shit, you can't even put in the effort to try and beat me. Because you know what happened last time you tried making something of yourself

**Melanie:** Yeah, I remember

**Camilla:** Remind me again what happened

**Melanie:** Why? You were there, you remember it

**Camilla:** Because I think it would be good for you to relive that experience, plus it cracks me up every time I hear it

**Melanie:** It's really not that funny Camilla. Why can't you just leave me alone?

**Camilla:** Because it's so easy to pick on you. Because it's funny, because I can because you're never going to do anything about it. So, remind me, why don't you ever try to beat me?

**Melanie:** Cause every time I try you push me, shove me, you publically humiliate me and straight-up ruin my life

**Camilla:** Stop playing the victim that's exactly what you deserve

**Melanie:** I can't listen to this, I need to go

[**MELANIE** TRIES TO WALK OFF, BUT **CAMILLA** PULLS HER ARM TO STOP HER]

**Camilla:** Hey! I didn't say you could leave! Stay in your lane, you have absolutely no chance of winning at all. You piece of shit

[**SALLY** WALKS PAST AND STOPS TO OBSERVE THE SCENE]

[**CAMILLA** PULLS **MELANIE**'S ARM AND SHE FALLS TO THE GROUND, SHE WALKS AWAY AND STANDS WITH **LACEY** AND **STACEY** IN THE BACKGROUND]

[**SALLY** RUSHES OVER TO HELP MELANIE GET UP]

**Sally:** Hey are you okay?

**Melanie:** Yeah, I'm fine, thanks

[**MELANIE** QUICKLY STEPS BACK FROM **SALLY** TO BREAK PHYSICAL CONTACT]

**Sally:** No, you're not, Camilla just hurt you

**Melanie:** Honestly Sally, I'm fine, she only does it because she probably has her own issues

**Sally:** That's no excuse to-

**Melanie:** Really... it's not that big of a deal, if I just ignore her she'll go away eventually



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