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Name of School : DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL
學校名稱 : 拔萃女書院
Name of Play 劇名 : The Frame
Script writer 劇作者 : Danielle Hung, Nicol Tsang (Student)

Synopsis 故事大綱 :

Seven girls. Four stories. One truth.

Beca, obsessed with fitting into conventional beauty standards, becomes absorbed with creating a different appearance for herself on social media by photoshopping her own pictures.

Bridget, who always seems to be behind the camera taking photos for Scarlett and Elizabeth, begins to question her role in their friendship. Her doubts begin to rise as Scarlett's Instagram posts increase.

Clarice, yearning for recognition, shows off her new purchases online to gain validation from her new classmates. As the shopping bills begin to pile up, Clarice struggles to maintain her reputation as the fashion-forward transfer student.

Sylvia, an extremely competitive blogger, stresses over losing followers when her updates begin to attract less and less attention. Desperate to make a name for herself on social media, Sylvia decides to do whatever it takes to climb her way to the top of the social media hierarchy.

3.2 billion images are shared on social media each day, and behind each frame lies our hidden wants and desires.

So before we begin, let us ask you a question: what have you posted online today?



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Scene 1

Backstage frame on both sides

Desire stands in stage centre gains power as 'posts' from social media start appearing all over the stage one by one as lights turn on and off.

Beca I want to look like her...

Scarlett I want to be the centre of attention...

Elizabeth I just want my friends to be happy...

Bridget I want to be part of them...

Clarice I don't want to be bullied again...

Sylvia I want to be remembered...

Desire Well well well...look at them! (moves towards stage right) Every post, every sentence, every single word... you expose the darkness that lies deep in your heart, reveal to the world your twisted, selfish desires. Find that hard to believe? It happens without you even realising... (snaps finger) just like

This :

(Inside the frame Beca is wearing a flower crown and holding a bundle of fairy lights.)

Beca Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.

Desire ... Where is the beauty in this? That is up to you to decide.

(Desire snaps fingers. Desire leaves stage.)



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Scene 2

Beca holds up her phone and keep posing, looking for the best camera angle.

Beca finds the best camera angle.

Beca Gather around, girls! (Beckons for friends to join)

(Scarlett, Elizabeth walk towards Beca from stage right)

Elizabeth We have taken too many photos today!

Beca Come on, there's no such things as enough photos.

Beca (Talking to herself) Not bad... Gotta need some editing though.

(Clarice runs towards Beca from stage left, holding two ice cream cones)

Clarice Guys I bought the last two!

Beca (squeal, taking the cone Clarice hands her) Aw These look adorable we HAVE to take a photo!

(They pose in front of the camera. Beca changes a few poses before the shot is taken. A camera snap is then heard and they are about to start eating)

Beca Wait a minute! I think I just blinked...

Clarice Gosh, Beca! The ice cream's dripping all over my hand!

Beca Give me a sec... (Clarice annoyed) Fine!Photoshop's a more supportive friend than you!

(Bridget enters)

Bridget Guys, I have the class photos!

Beca Really? Show me!

(Sylvia hands Beca her phone. Beca "cannot see" herself in the picture)

Beca (disbelief) Whaaaat? Hey, was I at school the day we took this?

Scarlett (calling out from the back) Uh, yeah, the whole class had to wait for you because you were in the toilet for ages.

Elizabeth (good natured teasing) but we ALL know you were putting on makeup....

Beca Are you sure? (Shoves phone around) Help me take a look... I can't see myself....

Clarice Are you serious. (rolls eyes and takes phone)

Clarice Hmm.....ok got it. Third row, second from the left. (snickers) Beca, you might wanna change your glasses or something.

Beca Are YOU serious? I thought we were friends! You don't even recognise me! That isn't me... that's uh.... That's....

(Beca is lost. She can't figure out who it is that she's looking at.)

Bridget Beca, isn't that you?



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BecaNo, it can't be. (confused) Look (opens Instagram) how is this...(jabs at school photo) the same person as.... (jabs at selfie) this.

Clarice (Rolls eyes) Yeah, because every time you take a photo you magically sprout flower crowns and puppy ears.

Scarlett (yelling from back) News flash, your face doesn't naturally give off sparkles.

Beca I -I -

Clarice You see your face in the mirror everyday and you still can't recognise yourself.
Beca, THAT'S YOU

Beca No...that's me?

(Beca in stage centre, Desire in stage left)

Desire "Everything has beauty, but not everyone can see it." (pause, laugh) Oh, Beca, (puts mask on Beca) mocking those that judge you by your appearance. I wonder, who is it that possesses the most superficial judgement. (slight pause) Vanity plays lurid tricks with our common sense, does it not?
(smells something)

(Elizabeth and Scarlett are near the end of the performance.)

(Friends...relationship...how artificial. A social media post has the ability to warp their actions and beliefs. How weak....)

Follow spot out

Stage centre spotlight out

Stage left lights fade in



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Scene 3

Scarlett and Elizabeth are performing the end scene of their drama. There is applause. Bridget rushes towards them after curtain call.

Bridget Guys! You two were amazing!

Scarlett Thanks for coming to see us! But you know what? (smirks) I'm the only one deserving of your praise.

Elizabeth SCARLETT!

Scarlett I mean, after all, Elizabeth made a fatal mistake. There's no way you didn't notice— she literally started spewing dialogue from a completely diff--

Elizabeth (Manages to cover Scarlett's mouth, Scarlett quiets down) Hey, ice cream in exchange of having your mouth shut. Deal?

(Scarlett fakes contemplation and then nods vigorously and Elizabeth removes her hand)

Scarlett (zipping lips motion) A deal is a deal~

Bridget (shakes head and laughs) You two, honestly....

Scarlett Alright then! Let's get going!

(Scarlett begins to head off, dragging Elizabeth and Bridget with her)

Scarlett (stops) hold on! We should take a picture before we leave! I mean it's not every day you get to perform in the biggest auditorium in town right?

Elizabeth sure!

(Shuffles to join Scarlett, who is holding out her phone testing angles. Bridget hesitantly stands aside)

Elizabeth Bridget, come and join us!

Bridget Sure--

Scarlett uGH! I can't do this. Why was I cursed with short arms?!

Bridget Oh! L-let me take it for you!

Scarlett But we can't just— (let you take it for us)

Bridget (Interrupts) It's ok, Scarlett. (Shrugs) It was your performance. Besides, I'm not a photo person to be honest.

Bridget takes Elizabeth's phone from her hands and takes a picture for them

Bridget Say cheese!

Elizabeth, Cheese—

Scarlett

Camera snap. Scarlett runs up to Bridget to see the photo while Elizabeth walks towards stage right.



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Scarlett Let me see! Did you get my good side?
Scarlett (scrolling through phone)(turns to Bridget) Bridget, you are a wizard at taking photos. (turns to Elizabeth) We look adorable in this, don't we?
Elizabeth Yea! Thanks Bridget!
Bridget (awkward laugh) It's nothing... by the way, today--
Elizabeth (sees poster on the wall) Hey! Let's go to the carnival tonight!
Bridget (hopeful) Sure! We can go on the ferris wheel together.
Elizabeth Yeah, there's a new ride and I can't wait to try it out!
Scarlett And we can ask Bridget to take more pictures for us...
Bridget Sure...but today...
(Scarlett and Bridget keep on chatting, leave from stage left)
Bridget Today is my birthday...wait for me guys!
(stage centre lights fade out) Bridget wakes behind them (stage right lights fade in)
Scarlett Did you get the...
Elizabeth Have you bought the....
Bridget Guys, do you still want any pictures?
Scarlett Of course! That merry-go-round is SO pretty, we have to get a photo!
They turn to look at Bridget, who nods and shrugs. Elizabeth and Scarlett hug each other tight! Camera snap and notification sound are heard, Elizabeth and Scarlett check the photo. Bridget stares at them intensely
Bridget Guys...today is...
Elizabeth Hey it's getting late, I think we should go now.
Scarlett Yea, or else my mom would seriously kill me! See you tomorrow!
Elizabeth and Scarlett leave
Bridget Today is my birthday! Today is my birthday...Of course they wouldn't remember...
A post from Scarlett's instagram account is shown
Bridget Credits to me...
Dim sidelights are eventually on, Scarlett and Elizabeth rushes from 2 sides of the stage to Bridget.
Scarlett & (sing) Happy birthday to you!
Elizabeth
(All lights on)
Scarlett (pokes Bridget's cheeks and places party hat on her) Aww...why do you look so sad? Lighten up ! It's your birthday! (peers at Bridget) Come on.. Tell me! Who upset you!
Elizabeth (clears throat and puts a pretty cake on Bridget's table) Er...you?!
Scarlett (Chuckles, patting Bridget's shoulder) Bridget, we're your best friends! Did you



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really think we'd forget?

Elizabeth For once Scarlett has a point.

Scarlett (fake offense) HEY!

Elizabeth (Throws arms around Bridget) Have some faith in us, yeah? We wouldn't miss your birthday for the world!

Bridget (Smiles, starts sniffing) Thank you, guys. I don't know what to say... this is

Scarlett (clasps hands excitedly) OKAY! This is the cutest thing ever and we need a photo with these adorable party hats!

Bridget Sure! (reaches out to motion for Scarlett to pass her the phone)

Elizabeth No! It's your big day and you're still trying to take photos for us?

Bridget I-- (am just too used to take photo for you guys)

Scarlett Bridget! We need to take group photos from now on, ok? I've figured out the perfect angle-- works for every selfie!

Elizabeth jeez! Get on with it Scarlett! We have a cake to eat!

(Bridget and Scarlett laugh)

Scarlett O-KAY! 3 2 1

(Takes out her phone and holds it in the air)

Bridget Cheese—

Scarlett, Happy birthday Bridget!!

Elizabeth

(Camera snap)

(Lights off. Desire in stage center.)

Desire Stop! I hate happy endings...I can't breathe (dies)...Just joking! But I do hate happy endings. (puts mask on Bridget) And so we come to an end. (a pause) Well, at least they (walks around Scarlett and Elizabeth) managed to realise their mistakes before it was too late... How wonderful. They managed to learn to treasure each other (gags) they managed to get their "happy ending".

But not everyone is that lucky...not everyone can get their happy ending.



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Scene 4

Clarice New school, new supplies! I think I finally understand what all the craze was about!

(laughs)

(Beca, Sylvia, Elizabeth, Bridget, Scarlett all start to crowd around Clarice's frame. Ok)

Elizabeth I've been seeing that bag everywhere, I'm jealous (laughs) Like.

Scarlett Hey.. it's the limited edition! Like.

Bridget: Wow, she must've spent a lot money to get this. Like.

Sylvia Woah! I really want this. Like

Beca I've wanted that bag for so long! It looks amazing! Like.

Likey plays. People start leaving till music stops

Clarice Hey! Don't go!

(Clarice sits back on table)

Clarice scrolls her phone, trying to find something new to post.

Clarice I need to find something better

Clarice No this won't do....Hmm this will definitely do

Clarice This is the cutest pencil case I've ever had. Look, it's so fluffy!

Likey plays

Beca rushes out in the middle of the dance.

Beca Wait! You still owe me money!

Everyone else gasps .

Projects cat emoji.

Lights fade out.

Clarice counts her dollar bills

Clarice Money, money I don't have any money

Beca rushes out from stage right

Beca (slams table) Where is my money?

(Scarlett rushes out from stage left)

Scarlett (slams table) I want my money back!

As Beca and Scarlett get louder, Clarice stands up and pushes them away.

Clarice Stop!

(Lights fade out.) Bridget approaches her.

Bridget I'm going to go find Scarlett and Elizabeth. Could you watch my bag for me?

Clarice Yeah, sure. Why not?

(Clarice watches Bridget leave. As Bridget exits, Clarice looks furtively at Bridget's bag. She looks around a bit more and shuffles close to Bridget's bag. After she looks around again, she



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peers into the bag and gingerly fishes out Bridget's wallet.)

(Clarice takes out a couple of bills and calls Beca.)

Clarice Hey Beca, remember the money I owe you? I think i can pay you back tomorrow
 (notification bell rings and the picture of expensive purse is projected)

Clarice turns and faces the projection, then turns back snaps and Stage right backstage
marches in while holding expensive purse

(Imperial March plays) Backstage holds an expensive purse. Clarice pays for the purse.

Clarice freezes.

Clarice (torn) What have I done?

(Desire appears)

Desire Bravo, bravo! I've never seen anything as great at this!

Desire She wanted their eyes on her, didn't she? She got them
 She was willing to the break the law to fulfill her desires. So what about you?
 What are you willing to sacrifice ?

The lights go out.



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Scene 5

Stage lights fade in. Sylvia holds a plate of cheesecake in the frame.

Appointed stage right person help Peko

Sylvia See? Newest cheesecake from Maxim's! Smells so good!

Clarice Chocolate mousse cake from Japan! So silky and rich!

Sylvia How can that cake compete with mine? (Turns and sees the decreasing likes) impossible... why are my likes decreasing? i can't let her overshadow me. I have to find something better.

(Sylvia snaps fingers.)

Sylvia I'm gonna win this time.

Sylvia (holds a cup) On an autumn day, what's better than a cup of matcha latte? (Drinks)

Beca Look! A cup of personalised coffee with my face printed!

Sylvia No, no... my followers, my likes! I can't go on this way. Someday, I'll lose them all. I have to find something even better...

(Sylvia snaps fingers.)

Sylvia Bet you have never seen anything like this before— ice cream covered in gold! Luxurious but totally worth a try~

Clarice What's good about tasteless metal?

Beca Such a waste of money. So many people are starving while you are eating gold!

(Number of likes decrease significantly. Sylvia snaps fingers. Backstage comes out to get the ice cream.)

Sylvia I tried my very best to impress you, why am I losing likes and followers? Am I meant to be invisible?

No, this can't happen. Something must have gone wrong. Maybe I haven't tried hard enough. I have to find something...

(Stage light fades out.)

(Stage light on)

Sylvia I have to find something... something astonishing... exhilarating... overwhelming...

(Car crash sound is heard.)

(Sylvia squeezes herself out of the crowd, pushing the others behind and rushes to the front for a picture)

Sylvia Get out of my way!

Sylvia post the picture taken. Sound of likes is played.



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VO A
Clarice) Oh my god...what happened?!

VO B
(Elizabeth) This is horrible...

VO C
(Bridget) seven cars crashed together... Look...look at all the blood...

VO D
(Beca) You can't even see these photos in the news...

Sylvia Why? Why are you leaving me? You want accidents, I give you accidents. What more can I do?!

(Desire enters)

(Desire hands Sylvia a knife)

Sylvia If this is the only way to be remembered, why not...?



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Scene 6

Four frames appear, two from left and two from right . First with Beca wearing flower crown and holding a bundle of fairy lights. Second with Elizabeth, Scarlett and Bridget wearing party hats.

Third with Clarice behind a prison frame. Fourth with Sylvia holding a knife. Beca, Bridget, Clarice and Sylvia are frowning in the frames.

Desire (mocking) Foolery, sir, does walk about the orb like the sun. It shines everywhere.
Take a look (gestures to the frames behind) Young, misguided souls, yearning for validation, for recognition, succumbing to the temptation of superficial adoration, selling themselves out as slaves to “social media”.

(Desire returns to stage)

Desire (Towards the audience) What about you? What are your desires?

(Blackout.)

(END)