

TRUE COLOURS

Written By Jenny Davis

Two families live across the road from each other. Leon (13) and his big sister Bobina (17) are Black Evangelicals. Their White neighbours are Lucia (15) who lives with her older siblings, Josh (17) and Patricia (19).

1. Ext. School Playground - Day

Playground noises. It's break time. We hear someone's Heart beating fast. It's Lucia, she's hiding. A football is kicked in her direction. She groans under her breath.

Lucia
Nooo.

Leon
(Shouts)
Hey can you Kick it back?

Lucia
Go away. Please.

Leon
Hey you live in my street? What you doing in the bike shed?
You hiding?

Lucia
No!

Leon
Okay. Ball?

Sound of Ball being kicked.

Leon
Good kick.

Lucia
Please go away. (Beat) Ah no.

Bully 1
(shouts to others)
Found the weirdo!

Sound of other bullies laughing.

Bully 2
Smelt you across the playground.

Lucia
Leave me alone.

Leon
Hey!

Bully 2
Butt out Leon.

Leon
Don't push her.

Bully 1
(mimic) 'Don't push her'...

Leon
Stop it.

Bully 1
Ooo I'm scared.

Leon
You're already on detention. Wanna be in more trouble for picking on the new girl?

A beat.

Bully 1
Okay. Church boy.

Leon
Sorry. It's cause you're new, you'll get used to them.

Lucia
I don't want to. I didn't ask to come to this dump of a school.

Leon
Some days it's hard here, but when I pray, it makes me feel better.

Lucia
This is why they call you Church boy, right?

2. Ext. Neighbourhood/Street - Day

Street sounds melt into Soundtrack Black Gospel Song: *You are Good*. Lyrics: *we worship you, Halleujuah, Halleujah for all the Time, All the Time are heard through ear phones*. Bobina is singing along to them, as she jogs.

Bobina
(Narrates)
Home straight... Just gotta pass that house.. C'mon Bina...no big deal. She looks like a wanna be Kim Kardashian, on a bad day. Oh sinful thought, sorry God, forgive me, help me to live in a way that gives glory to you. But. They don't seem nice. Oh no, their front door is open. Dear Jesus.

Sound of vicious dog barking, snarling at her. Bobina can't help it, lets out a squeal.
Sound of laughter.

Bobina
Put your dog on a leash!

Josh
Free country.

Patricia
Not our fault, you lot are scared of dogs.

Bobina
You let your dog go round biting people, the Police will put it
down. (under her breath) That wiped the grin off your face.

Bobina
Oh no...what's...urrghh...disgusting

Patricia
You need to train your dog not to mess on your own doorstep!

Josh
They ain't got a dog have they?

Bobina
Just leave us alone!

3. Ext. Park - Day

Park sounds, Leon is playing football with his friend.

Leon
Look at that ball control, Leon flies past midfield, aims, kicks,
and he's...Hey Watch it!

Sound of skateboard whizzing past.

Football mate
...Rubbish. Call that a strike?

Leon
It's you!

Lucia
Church Boy!

Leon
Didn't know you skateboarded...

Lucia
Didn't know you couldn't score a goal.

LEON
Ha funny. Like to see you try.

Lucia
Okay. Move over for the next Renaldo.

Lucia takes deep breath, then kicks. Leon's mate groans, as he misses.

Leon
Scored! Where'd you learn to play?

Lucia
My old school club.

Leon
You should come to Church football, on Sundays.

Lucia
You do football? At church?

Leon
We do loads of things, youth groups, bible camps, table tennis, it's like having a big family. (Beat) Come if you like?

4. Int. Bobina and Leon's Home - Day

Sound of traditional gospel song; Oh Happy day. Bobina tries to sing along. Falters.

Bobina
Leon, Do we have to have Gran's church songs? I wanna practice mine.

Leon
Bina, mum says granny will be here soon, need to wipe your make up off.

Bobina
Honestly! It's not like we go to her church anymore.

Leon
(Giggling) Well Granny says the Holy Spirit's everywhere.
(beat) You're gonna rub your face off at that rate. What's up sis?

Bobina
Feel bad. Wanted a bomb to drop on the neighbours' house...not With them in it! Just so they'd move! Okay maybe flatten the dog!

Leon laughs.

Leon
They ain't so bad. I invited the sister to church. She's been really interested in scripture.

Bobina
How can you do that? They left dog mess on our door step! Don't you remember gran's stories, about how the white churches didn't want Black people when she first came, that's why we started our churches. And now you're going to invite one of those racists to ours?

Leon
Yeah and do you remember Gran also says, our faith is there to deal with hardships? Lucia doesn't seem like her brother Josh or her sister Patricia?

Bobina
So what is She coming?

5. Int. Lucia's House - Day

It's Sunday, B.G Noise: Dog Barking, Josh's heavy metal booming, Patricia having a meltdown, shouting...

Lucia reads scripture in her bedroom

'But you, O Lord, know me; you see me, and test my heart toward you.'

Patricia
TURN IT OFF! JOSH!

Lucia
Lord, I wish my family could be like theirs....

Lucia joins arguing siblings on the landing.

Patricia
There's not enough on the electric key, so turn your speakers off!

Josh
You turn your straighteners off then! Looks Ain't improved.

Patricia
Shut up! (Beat) Lucia, Macky D breakfast. In the kitchen. Why've you got your school shirt on?

Josh
(sniggers)
School's tomorrow, dingbat!

Lucia
I'm going to church with Leon.

Josh
(Laughs)
What? You wanna be a christian now? On top of everything else?!

Patricia
We're not religious. Dad didn't bring us up to be like that.

Lucia
Dad?! Josh got arrested, you flunked college, he didn't care.

Patricia
He does! And he wouldn't want you...hanging out with that lot.

Lucia
Leon's the only one whose been nice to me, since we got here.

Patricia
Haven't you put dad through enough? (Beat) Lucia..Come Back!

Sound of Lucia slamming out the door.

6. Int/Ext. Church - Day

Sounds of church. Worship, music, prayers.

Leon's church mate
You're the skateboarder. Leon says you're wicked at football too.

Church mate 2
Are you coming to Youth Group?

Leon
We're going to my gran's for lunch. Mum says you can come, if you like?

Lucia
Yeah, thanks. (Beat) How come the Priest is in T shirt and jeans?

Leon
He's a Pastor. We don't wear Sunday best. They do at my Gran's church. It's hard core there.

Lucia
How?

Leon
They get the Holy Spirit.. alot. Like speaking in tongues, rolling on the floor. Bina gets freaked!

Sound of singing *YOU ARE GOOD* in the b.g.

Lucia
Is that Bobina onstage? Whoa.
(Beat) Leon, why have those people got their hands in the air?

Leon
So they can feel the presence of God, and the Holy Spirit.
Close your eyes. Stop talking, just let go.

Bobina's song *YOU ARE GOOD* swells, as Lucia gives herself over to it.

Lucia
I wanna come back.

7. Int. Church Foodbank. Day

Bobina's counting out tins for a food parcel.

Bobina
Beans, tomatoes, loaf of bread.

Volunteer
Can we get another parcel for..

Bobina
Oh What?!

Volunteer
Bobina? Where you going?

Bobina
(to Josh) What you doing here?

Josh
What *you* doing?

Bobina
It's My church!

Josh
Oh.

Volunteer
Here's your parcel. Sorry for the wait.

BOBINA
Oh...you're..?

Josh
Broke! So yeah laugh, You can stick it!

Sound of crashing, over turned chairs, as Josh storms out.

Bobina
Sorry, don't go (beat) what is it?

Josh
(Panic) My ring! It's gone!

Bobina
When I'm desperate, I Pray for help?

Josh
Get lost! You don't get it..

8. Int. Lucia's Bedroom -Day

Sound track of GOSPEL song Waymaker , LUCIA is listening to it. The lyrics are starting to reach her- *'I worship you, you are here. Lucia starts to repeat, her faith stirring.*

9. Int. Lucia's House - Night

Josh has told Patricia about his lost ring. She's furious.

Patricia
Dad gave you that ring to look after! An you lose it! Idiot!

Josh
Patty, I'm sorry!

Patty slams out the door.

Josh
(Beat) God, dunno if you're there? But please help me find it.

10. Int. Church -Day

Leon and Bobina are getting chairs out for the youth group.

Leon

Bina, put a chair out for Lucia, She's coming to youth group too.

Church pastor

You've done a great job, sharing your faith with her.

Leon

Thanks Pastor, but I think she was already looking for Jesus. She's kinda lost.

Bobina

Like her crazy brother. He's such a bully...Oh!

Church Pastor

Bobina, What've you found?

Bobina

His ring?! What shall I do? Give it back, or leave it here?

Leon

He's probably feeling awful.

Bobina

Did he feel awful when he was bullying me?

Church Pastor

Your brother's right, Bobina. He must be feeling bad, to behave the way he does. So you need to work out what you want to do. What do you hold sacred?

Bobina

(thinking aloud)

Being truthful to God, honouring people?

Pastor

See? You will find your answers, from scripture and prayer. Trust God.

11. Ext. Lucia's House - Day

Knock on front door. Dog barks. Bobina's nervous breathing.

Bobina

Remember the Good Samaritan. Just say I found the ring you lost, here you are and walk away.

Door opens.

Josh

What'd you want?

Bobina

(blunt)

Your ring. You dropped it under the chairs.

Josh

(Beat) Ta.

Patricia

Bet she thought about keeping it.

Josh

Patty! Say you're sorry!

Bobina

(under her breath)

Thanks God, answered my prayers.

12 Int. Lucia's Bedroom -Day

Lucia's faith is growing. Soundtrack Waymaker gospel song, builds, as Lucia, now recites the words, full of faith, and love.

Lucia

My god, miracle worker.. light in the darkness, my God that is who you are. (Beat) even when I feel you're not working, you never stop working.

13. Int. Church -Day

Church Soundscape. Leon and Lucia are with the Pastor.

Church pastor

Are you sure Lucia?

Lucia

Yes Pastor. Been coming with Leon for weeks. I've learnt so much from Jesus.

Leon

We wanna get baptized, together.

CHURCH PASTOR

That's wonderful. But Lucia, what does your family think?

14. Int. Lucia's House - Night

The family are in the middle of a row about Lucia's baptism.

Patricia

Are you mad? You sound brainwashed.

Lucia

I wanna dedicate my life to Jesus.

Patricia

This is what happens, hanging out with them Black people. Anyway, Christianity is a white religion.

Josh
Don't take no notice. When's the baptism?

Lucia
This Sunday. All Leon's family are gonna be there. Even a
cousin from Jamaica.

Josh
Then you've got me.

Lucia
Thank you God!

Patricia
What if they find out your secret...Lukey Lou? Realize you're a
liar?

Lucia
Shut up, don't you dare?!

Lucia bursts into tears, runs upstairs.

Josh
Don't Patty! It's the first time, Lucia has been happy.

15. Int. Church - Day

Leon and Lucia are about to be baptized.

Lucia
We're at the front of the church. The congregation watches.

Patricia
I speed through the streets, run a red light. I don't care.

Leon
The Pastor asks us if we are ready to testify.

Lucia
Ready to leave behind the old life, the sins, and be washed
new.

Patricia
I'm outside the church. I head for the entrance.

Lucia
I see the pool of water. They hold Leon's hands to his
chest..he's dipped under and up again. Jesus has washed his
sins away.

Patricia
And suddenly everyone's clapping. I head down the aisle.

Lucia
And it's my turn.

Leon
I saw her. As Lucia is about to go under...her sister shouts...

Patricia
She's not a girl. She's my kid brother! She's Trans!?

Lucia
Everything stops. My baptism, my friends' smiles...my heart.

The noise of people reacting, murmurs; What? Is it true? What's Happening? No! Lucia wait! Are you ok? Chairs scraped back.

16. Ext. Church - Day

Leon, Bobina, everyone is upset by Lucia's secret.

Bobina
Where is she?

Leon
She ran off. (beat) She lied.

ChurCH MATE 1
Can't believe it. Would never have guessed she was a he.

Leon
Does that matter?

Bobina
Leon, course it does. It's against our belief. Think of Adam and Eve. God created humans male and female. And you know what alot of people in the Black community are like with LGBT. Like Gran, they have strong views..

Leon
But maybe Lucia...'Luke' couldn't help how she..he felt.

Bobina
Having feelings isn't wrong, acting on them, is.

Leon
Isn't it wrong to judge Lucia? Didn't we learn God sees many different colours in his children?

Bobina
That doesn't apply to gender and sexuality. Nope sorry Leon, but it's what the Bible says.

Leon
That's not very Christian Bina!

BobINA
Those are our beliefs. And you know, we can't take him back to Gran's, anymore. She'll think Lucia's got the devil. Didn't help when she tucked into her Sunday dinner before we said grace, this'll just confirm it!

17. Ext. Bobina's House -Day

Angry Banging on the front door. Bobina answers.

Josh
How could you do that to my little sister? Call Yourself
Christians?!

Bobina
Can you go please.

Josh
She found something that made her happy.

Patricia
Josh! Come away! Leave them alone.

Josh
You Patty?! Shoulda kept your big jealous mouth shut! Make
me sick, all of you!!

He storms off. Sound of Patricia's quiet weeping.

Bobina
Are you...okay?

Patricia
I'm trying to keep us together. I promised dad when he went
to prison.

Bobina
What about your mum?'

Patricia
Died when Luke was six. Do ya think Maybe that's why he's
the way he is?

Bobina
Dunno. I'll pray for you, if you like? (Beat) Dear God, please
help this family who are suffering in pain, and need your
comfort. Please show them your love.

18. Ext Skateboard Park -Day

Park sounds, skateboarding...

Lucia
Up the slope...jump, turn, land. And..oh.. (beat) hi.

Leon
Haven't seen you much.

Lucia
Just been busy.

Leon

Sorry about Bina. I hope you still come back to church. I miss you Lucia. Not everyone there thinks the same way. I don't. And The Pastor says the door is open to you, whenever you want. God and Jesus know you and love you.

Lucia

Thanks. That's what I told Patty, said she should be ashamed. But I'm going to an LGBTQ church now. Met some really cool people, even got a girlfriend. Still, all thanks to you though.

Leon

What is?

Lucia

That I found Jesus. I don't feel alone anymore.

Leon

Can we still skateboard, play football?

Lucia

If you want to keep getting thrashed!

Leon

Bring it on!