



Two Sides of the Same Coin

Characters: Miss Ho, Miss Perkins Li Bin, Alysha, Emily Daisy, Ms, Anita, Big Dollar Hammer, Little Girl, Her big brother, Ted, Ricky

Synopsis: There is a big contrast between the three good girls: Li Bin, Emily & Alysha and the three bad girls: Daisy, Iris and Anita. Daisy and Iris have been out all night with Big Dollar and Hammer. Daisy falls asleep in Miss Ho's history class. The three bad girls get all the answers wrong. The three good girls get all the answers right. During the lunch break the three good girls read extracts from the 'Diary of Anne Frank' to each other, particularly the romantic scenes between Peter and Anne. This is contrasted with Daisy and Ms getting money from Big D and Hammer.

Scene 1

(SFX: classroom, chattering, shouting etc in a mix of English and Cantonese. Over the sound of this general chattering Daisy and friends can be heard gossiping)

Anita: You look so tired Daisy- so do you Iris.

Daisy: We went out last night.

Iris: With Big Dollar and Hammer.

Daisy: On a date.

Anita: (An emphatic upward tone of disappointment) Oh... it's not fair!... every time you two go out on a date with Big Dollar and Hammer I have to stay at home.

Daisy: At least you got an early night Anita.

Iris: At least your eyes are open and you can concentrate on the lesson Anita.

Anita: Huh! Who wants to concentrate on the lesson?! Huh! History with Miss Ho... boring!

Daisy: It's better than English with Miss Perkins... I really would have to fall asleep in her lesson.

Anita: Daisy, Iris... where did Big Dollar and Hammer take you?
Daisy: We went to Tsim Sha Tsui East.
Iris: To a disco.
Anita: A disco?! Which one?
Daisy: Disco 2000.
Anita: Wa! Disco 2000... Was it good?
Ms: Very noisy.
Daisy: My ears are still buzzing.
Iris: But it was fun wasn't it Daisy.
Daisy: Some people in the disco had been dancing there ever since the new year.
Iris: (Giggling) They've been dancing for TWO centuries.
Daisy: They started dancing in 1999... in the twentieth century...
Iris: ... and they're still dancing now in the twenty first century!!
Anita: It's not fair! I was sitting at home watching some boring television programme with my mum and dad... and you two were out dancing!
Iris: And after the disco we had late supper.
Daisy: And then we went for a walk along the Tsim Sha Tsui East waterfront,
Iris: We watched the sun come up.
Anita: (Amazed) You were awake at sunrise?!
D & I: Yes Anita, (both yawn noisily together)
Anita: What was it like?
Iris: Pretty... you could see all the buildings appearing through the mist... .
Daisy: Like ghosts.
Iris: The Bank of China...
Daisy: The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank... .
Iris: The Convention Centre... .
Daisy: Central Plaza...
D & I: Appearing through the mist like ghosts, (they both yawn noisily together)
Anita: Not fair! I wish I had a boy friend... Daisy... can't you ask Big Dollar to find ME a boyfriend too?
Daisy: Maybe.
Anita: Oh no... Daisy... Iris!
D & I: What?!
Anita: I've just realized... you've both still got all your make up on... and Daisy... your mascara is all smudged... your eyes look all black... you look like a panda!

Daisy: Really?!

Anita: And Ms... your lipstick is all smudged... you've even got lipstick on your chin!

Iris: Really?!

Daisy: We didn' t have time to go home and wash it off.

Ms: We came straight from Tsim Sha Tsui East to school.

Anita: Here's a tissue... try and wipe it off... If the Headmistress sees you with all that make up on... she'll go crazy!... you know she hates make up.

Head: (SFX: echo effect) Make up... ANY form of make-up... is strictly forbidden in this school... if I catch any girl with even a trace of make up on... be it face powder, mascara, lipstick, eye shadow or whatever else... that girl will be in serious trouble... very serious trouble (echo effect ends)

Daisy: Who cares what the headmistress said... the Headmistress is stupid... now stop chattering Anita... I want to go to sleep.

(Pause filled with the sound of the chattering class waiting for the teacher to come)

Emily: Alysha... what did you do this week end?

Alysha: Well Emily... on Friday night I went to visit my Aunt... she's sick in hospital... I went with my Mum and Dad.

Li Bin: Poor thing... how is she?

Alysha: My Aunt... oh she's okay now, thanks Li Bin...she had an operation but it was successful.

Emily: That's good.

Alysha: On Saturday I went to the new History Museum... you know, in Tsim Sha Tsui East.

Emily: Oh yes, I want to go there... what's it like?

Alysha: Great... you can learn all about the history of Hong Kong... see photos and artifacts... I loved it.

Li Bin: Did you do anything in the evening?

Alysha: I went out to dinner with my parents and then I came home and finished that assignment for Doctor Lee.

Emily: Well done... how about Sunday?

Alysha: Stayed in bed really late... till ten o'clock.

Li Bin: So late!

Alysha: Yes I know... and then I read... I'm reading this great book... The Diary Of Ann Frank have you ever read it?

Emily: I'm reading that too!
Alysha: Really Emily?!
Li Bin: Me too!
Alysha: You too Li Bin... amazing... we' re all reading the diary of Anne Frank.
Li Bin: I love it.
Emily: It's so funny... yet so sad.
Alysha: I know... why don't we get our books and read our favourite bits to each other... at lunch break in the playground.
E & L: Good idea!

(Pause, classroom chattering)

D & I: (Both yawn noisily)
Anita: Daisy... Iris... how are you going to stay awake?
Daisy: (Sleepy voice) Anita... if Miss Ho asks me a question whisper me the answer okay ... that way I won't have to think.
Anita: I'll try Daisy.
Iris: (Sleepy voice) Do the same for me Anita.
Anita: I'll try.
Daisy: Oh no... here she comes... (groans) History... how boring... I'm going to have a sleep.

(Slight pause)

Alysha: Oh good! Miss Ho's arrived! History-1 love history lessons with Miss Ho.

(Slight pause)

Anita: But Daisy... Iris... you know if Miss Ho asks a question... I won't be able to answer it... I don't know ANYTHING about history.
Daisy: (Yawning) Do your best Anita... and Anita...
Anita: Yes Daisy?
Daisy: Don't disturb me... I'm going to have a little sleep.
Iris: (Yawning) Me too.

(Slight pause)

Miss Ho: Good morning everyone.
All: Good morning Miss Ho.
Miss Ho: Welcome back to school... I hope you all had a nice Christmas and New Year holiday. Did you do anything special for the millennium?
Alysha: (Holding up hand) Miss! Miss!
Miss Ho: Yes Alysha?
Alysha: I watched the fireworks from the roof of my building.
Miss Ho: That's nice Alysha... do you have a good view?
Alysha: Yes Miss Ho... I live in Tsim Sha Tsoi... near the Cultural Centre and there is a great view of the harbour from our roof.
Emily: (Hand up) Miss! Miss!
Miss Ho: Yes Emily.
Emily: I went to church Miss.
Miss Ho: On Christmas Eve?
Emily: Yes Miss and on New Year's Eve... we prayed for the new millennium... we prayed for peace on earth.
Miss Ho: Well Emily, I sincerely hope all your prayers come true.
Li Bin: Miss! Miss!
Miss Ho: Li Bin... what did you do?
Li Bin: I went to the waterfront with my parents and we watched the fireworks.
Miss Ho: Did you like them?
Li Bin: Yes Miss Ho... they made me feel happy and sad.
Miss Ho: Sad too?... That's interesting... fireworks are supposed to make you feel happy...why sad too?
Li Bin: Because each firework lasted for such a short time Miss Ho... bang... the rocket burst in the sky and there was a beautiful flower above our heads... and then... it started to fall and soon it had gone.
Miss Ho: Like life Li Bin... it burns brightly and then quickly fades away.
Alysha: Like my Aunt Miss Ho... she's in hospital... she's eight two and she told me her life had gone by very quickly.
Miss Ho: I hope she had a happy life Alysha.
Alysha: I think she did Miss... she's traveled all over India... to all the Holy places... the holy temples... giving offerings and praying and meditating... and now she says she feels content.
Miss Ho: How wonderful... Okay, well for to-day's lesson we are going to be looking BACK at the twentieth century... to some of the people who

made it a great century... so get paper and a pen... we're going to have a quiz.

All: A test! Oh no! We're going to have a test!!

Miss Ho: (Little laugh) Don't worry class... this is NOT a test... it's a friendly little quiz... and you don't even have to tell me the results. Now the first question... ready? Who was the famous twentieth century scientist who discovered the theory of relativity?

Alysha: (To herself but loud enough for all to hear) I know, I know.

Miss Ho: That was quick Alysha... for those who don't know the answer yet, here's a clue... this scientist had lots and lots of white hair.

Emily: Oh I know too

Miss Ho: Now Emily's got it... Okay... another clue... he was German but he went to live in America in the 1940's because he was Jewish.

Li Bin: Oh yes, I know who it is.

Miss Ho: Li Bin's got it too... One more clue... the theory of relativity is about the relationship between space and time... Yes Anita?

Anita: What does his name begin with Miss?

Miss Ho: The scientist's name begins with an 'E' Anita.

Anita: What does it end with Miss?

Miss Ho: 'N'

Anita: I know!

Miss Ho: Good.

Iris: (Whispering) What's the answer Anita?

Anita: Evan.

Iris: Evan? Never heard of him... Evan was a great scientist? Are you sure Anita?

Anita: You heard her... she said his name began with E and ended with N... what else can it be?

Iris: I don't know... Erin... or Estaban.

Miss Ho: Okay class... time for the answer... who was the famous twentieth century scientist who discovered the theory of relativity?

(Daisy can be heard softly snoring as she sleeps)

Miss Ho: Daisy... what did you write down?

(Daisy can be heard softly snoring as she sleeps)

Anita: Um... Miss... she wrote.. Estaban.
A & E & L: (All titter gleefully at the silly answer)
Alysha: (With a laughing voice) Estaban! Did you hear that Li Bin? Did you hear Emily? Estaban... (giggles)
Li Bin: (Giggling) And look... Daisy's fast asleep.
Emily: (Giggling) Her head on the hard wooden desk as if it were a soft pillow.
A & E & L: (Giggle infectiously)
Miss Ho: No Anita... not Estaban... but... anyone?
A & E & L: Einstein.
Miss Ho: Well done Alysha... Emily and Li Bin. And how do you say Einstein in Cantonese?
A & E & L: (In Cantonese) Oiyansitan.
Miss Ho: Good. Next question... Ready?
A & E & L: Yes Miss Ho.
Miss Ho: Ready Daisy?
Daisy: (Big snore)
Miss Ho: Who was the famous American composer... who wrote the great musical... 'West Side Story?'
Emily: I know!
Miss Ho: Emily knows... A clue... West Side Story is a modern version of Romeo and Juliet.
Li Bin: I know!
Miss Ho: Li Bin knows... and another clue... here are the names of some of the famous songs in it... 'America'... 'Maria'... 'Somewhere'
Alysha: Oh I know.
Miss Ho: And Alysha's go tit now... Yes Anita?
Anita: What does it begin with Miss?
Miss Ho: B and it ends with a 'stein' the same as Einstein... it's 'B' something... stein.
Iris: (Under her breath) What's the answer Anita?
Anita: Bogstein.
Iris: Are you sure?
Anita: Yes... write it down.
Daisy: (Snoring)
Anita: Quick... wake Daisy up.
Iris: Daisy... wake up
Daisy: (Very sleepy voice) What?... What's happening?

Miss Ho: Daisy... tells us... who was the famous twentieth century composer who wrote the great musical West Side Story?

Anita: (Urgent whispering) Bogstein... say Bogstein.

Daisy: (Sleepy) What? Who?

Miss Ho: Well Daisy?

Daisy: Um.... 'Puffy.'

Emily: (Giggling uncontrollably) I don't believe it... Daisy said Puffy.

Alysha: (Giggling) She's so dumb.

Li Bin: (Giggling) Who's 'Puffy?'

Miss Ho: Okay Daisy... perhaps you'd better go back to sleep... sorry to have disturbed you... Emily, tell us... who was the great twentieth century composer who wrote the music for 'West Side Story?'

Emily: Bernstein Miss Ho.

Miss Ho: Correct. Bernstein... do you know his first name Emily?

Emily: Leonard Miss... Leonard Bernstein.

Miss Ho: Very good Emily. Next question... who was the great South African politician who became the first President of a united South Africa?... His first name is Nelson... Daisy?

Daisy: (snoring)

Miss Ho: Daisy?

Daisy: (Very sleepy) Um.... 'Puffy'

Miss Ho: Alysha?

Alysha: Nelson Mandela Miss Ho.

Miss Ho: Yes... Nelson Mandela... Next... who was the famous Spanish painter whose name begins with 'P'... Daisy?

Daisy: (Sleepy voice) Puffy.

Miss Ho: (Ironic little laugh) Well Puffy begins with a P but that's about it... Li Bin?

Li Bin: Picasso Miss Ho.

Miss Ho: Correct Li Bin. And next... who was the famous pop group beginning with 'B' who sang songs such as... 'Yesterday'

Emily: I know!

Miss Ho: 'All You need Is Love'

Li Bin: Oh I know!

Miss Ho: 'With A Little Help From My Friends' ... there were four of them... four men, and one of them was later assassinated in New York

Alysha: Oh I know too.

Miss Ho: Okay... Daisy?

Daisy: (Very sleepy) Um... 'Anita Mui?'
A & E & L: (Giggling at Daisy)
Emily: Daisy said 'Anita Mui!'
A & E & L: (Giggling)
Alysha: Daisy's so dumb.
Miss Ho: Emily... tell us the answer.
Emily: The Beatles.
Miss Ho: Yes, that's right Emily... The Beatles.

Break

Scene 2 Playground/Lunchtime

Alysha: I can't believe that history lesson this morning.
Emily: Daisy was so dumb!
Li Bin: Sleeping through the lesson.
Alysha: With all that make-up on.
Emily: She looked like a panda!
All: (Giggle)
Alysha: Isn't it amazing that we're all reading The Diary of Anne Frank?
Li Bin: I know... it's so good.
Alysha: She was only fourteen.
Emily: And it's all true.
Alysha: That poor girl... locked away in the secret annexe... hiding from the German soldiers.
Emily: Hiding in secret for years and years.
Alysha: Just because she was Jewish.
Li Bin: Why did the Nazi Germans hate the Jews so much?
Alysha: Because they were evil.
Emily: Hitler was evil.
Alysha: Hating people because of their race, colour or religion is evil.
Li Bin: And poor Anne Frank had to hide at the back of a house... for years and years.
Alysha: With her Mum and Dad and some other friends.
Emily: I love the way Emily talks to her Diary.
Li Bin: She calls it 'Kitty' as if it were alive.
Emily: As if it were a friend.
Alysha: Do you keep a diary.

Li Bin: I do.

Alysha: Do you Li Bin?

Li Bin: Every night I write down what's happened to me.

Emily: I do sometimes... but I keep forgetting.

Alysha: Same here.

Emily: What's your favourite bit in the Anne Frank Diaries?

Li Bin: The bits about Anne and Peter.

A & E: The love bits.

Emily: Yes.

Alysha: Read us a bit Emily.

Emily: Okay... well... like at the beginning... when Anne isn't sure if Peter loves her... look here... (reading) "Peter has such warmth in his eyes... I believe I am pretty close to being in love with him... I wish we dared to tell each other what we were really thinking... but who knows, maybe the time will come when we can."

Alysha: Imagine being locked up in a tiny place with your parents and sister... and some friends and this boy who you really like.

Li Bin: And the sister liked Peter too.

Emily: But Anne got him.

Li Bin: Anne described Peter as... listen to what she wrote... (reading) "He is such a nice, good looking boy."

Alysha: Locked away with a good looking boy.

Emily: And her parents and sister.

Li Bin: And if the German soldiers found them they would all be taken away and killed.

Alysha: Just because they were Jewish.

Emily: Anne didn't have such a good relationship with her Mother did she.

Li Bin: No, she got on much better with her Father. Listen.... Mummy is against me and I am against her... Mummy is sad because she doesn't really love me... but Daddy understands me and that is enough.

Emily: Poor Anne... cooped up with a mother who doesn't really love her.

Alysha: And all the time Anne is dreaming about Peter... listen... (reads) "Will I ever feel Peter's cheek against mine as I did in my dream?"

Li Bin: And then it happens

Emily: Anne and Peter get together...

Alysha: Read that bit Li Bin... read it for us.

Li bin: Okay... (reading) Saturday the 22nd April 1944... Yesterday evening Peter and I sat together on the sofa... soon his arm went around my

shoulders and he held me firmly against him... my left shoulder against his chest... my heart began to beat faster... it was so lovely I couldn't even talk... he stroked my cheek and began to play with my curls... I was too happy for words... and before we went downstairs... he kissed me through my hair... half on my left cheek... half on my ear...

- Emily: That's so lovely.
- Alysha: Their first kiss.
- Emily: And he kissed her on the ear!
- Li Bin: A shy kiss.
- Alysha: Through her hair.
- Emily: And then things really start hotting up... . listen (reading) " Friday 28th April 1944... Peter came towards me... I flung my arms around him and gave him a kiss on his left cheek... and was about to kiss the other cheek when my lips met his and we pressed them together... . Now we have found each other."
- Li Bin: It's so romantic.
- Alysha: They really loved each other.
- Li Bin: Both fourteen.
- Emily: And they were both in so much danger from the German soldiers.
- Li Bin: It's so sad the way Anne Frank's Diary ends on the 1st of August 1944.
- Alysha: I know... the German soldiers finally found them.
- Emily: And dragged them all away.
- Alysha: Separated them and took them to concentration camps.
- Li Bin: Where they were killed.
- Alysha: Just for being Jewish... a different race a different religion.
- Emily: It's a great book.
- Alysha: I must start keeping my diary more regularly.
- Emily: Um, Li Bin... in your diary... do you write anything about... Ricky?
- Li Bin: (Shy) Yes... sometimes.
- Emily: You like him don't you.
- Li Bin: He helped me... when I first came to the school and Daisy and the others were teasing me and playing tricks on me just because I came from the mainland... Ricky helped me.
- Alysha: Is Ricky your Peter Li Bin?
- Li Bin: I don't know Alysha... maybe.
- Emily: Maybe? Really?
- Li Bin: Look... he bought me this hairpin for Christmas.
- Alysha: Really? Oh it's lovely.

Li Bin: A 'Skippy' hairpin.
Emily: He must care about you.
Alysha: Ricky and Li Bin... you could become like Anne Frank and Peter.
Li Bin: Don't say that Alysha... Anne Frank and Peter were taken away by the Germans and killed.
Alysha: No I mean before that.
Emily: Anyway Li Bin... write it all in your diary in case you become famous.
Alysha: Like Anne Frank.
Li Bin: Okay... I will.

Scene 3 Playground/lunchtime

Miss P: Oh hello Daisy... hello Iris... enjoying the sunshine?
Both: (Sweet) Yes Miss Perkins.
Daisy: (Very sweet) Have you had your lunch yet Miss Perkins?
Miss P: Not yet... I'm on my way to the shops now... to buy myself a bun.
Daisy: (Very sweet) Have a nice lunch Miss Perkins.
Iris: (Very sweet) Yes, enjoy your lunch Miss Perkins.
Miss P: Thank you girls... (to herself) Such nice girls... always so polite.

(Brief pause)

Daisy: (Rude and aggressive) Hey, Big Dollar... give me some money.
Big Dollar: (Surprised) Daisy! I didn't see you.
Daisy: Money... now.
Big Dollar: What do you want money for Daisy.
Daisy: Because I haven't got any... and I want to buy some cigarettes.
Big Dollar: Have one of mine.
Daisy: No, I don't like those... I want my own brand.
Big Dollar: How much do you want?
Daisy: Two hundred will do.
Big Dollar: Two hundred dollars for a packet of cigarettes?!
Daisy: I need to get some other things... some more make up.
Big Dollar: Wa... you want so much money... You know how much I spent last night... at the disco and for the late supper?
Daisy: No idea.
Big Dollar: Two thousand dollars.
Daisy: Huh! Is that all? Cheap!

Iris: Hey Hammer.
Hammer: Yes Iris.
Iris: Lend me some money.
Hammer: How much Iris?
Iris: Um... five hundred dollars.
Hammer: Five hundred dollars?! Wa! I haven't got five hundred,
Iris: How much have you got?
Hammer: Um, let's see... only one hundred and fifty five.
Iris: Okay... I'll take that.
Hammer: But Iris... if you take that I won't have any money at all.
Iris: Okay Hammer... I won't take it all... Look... I'll take only one hundred and fifty and you can keep that five dollar coin.
Hammer: Thanks Iris.
Iris: You're welcome Hammer.
Big Dollar: Hammer you big idiot... why did you give her all your money... men have got to be tough... men should be the masters... if a girl asks for money you just say...
Daisy: (Aggressive) Hey Big Dollar.
Big Dollar: (Submissive) Yes Daisy.
Daisy: (Aggressive) Two hundred dollars... now!
Big Dollar: (Submissive) Yes Daisy. Here you are Daisy.
Daisy: (Aggressive) Hmmm... and next time give it to me faster... this time you were too slow.
Big Dollar: Yes Daisy. Sorry Daisy.
Hammer: Oh I see Boss... so THAT'S how you should talk to your girlfriend.
Big Dollar: Hey Hammer... lend me some money.
Hammer: I haven't got any Boss.
Big Dollar: (Aggressive) I said lend me some money... NOW!
Hammer: But I gave it all to.... (SFX: A big slap across the face) Ouch!!! (SFX: Another slap) Ouch! Sorry Big Dollar... I'll... I'll... go and get some money... I'll go and get some now.... (To a little girl) Hey You....
Little Girl: Yes?
Hammer: Give me all your money... Now!
Little Girl: (Starts crying)
Hammer: Stop crying and give me your money... now!
Big Brother: Hey, what's going on here?
Little Girl: (Through tears) He tried to take my money.
Big Brother: Really? A big guy like you asking my little sister for her money... Take

that.

(SFX: Big Slap)

Hammer: Ouch!

Big Brother: And that.

(SFX: Big Slap)

Hammer: Ouch... Boss... Boss... help me... help me...

(Brief pause)

Head: (Stern) Daisy • Iris.

D & I: Oh no!... it's the Headmistress... quick... hide

Head: (Furious) Daisy Chiu... Iris... come here immediately.

D & I (Sweet) Yes Headmistress.

Head: Were you girls trying to hide from me just then?

Both: No Headmistress.

Head: Hmmm. Now heads up... I want to inspect your faces. I said HEADS UP. Daisy Chiu will you stop gazing at your feet... you too Iris... chin up and look me in the eyes, (sees their faces) I thought so. Make-up!! Face powder, eye liner, lipstick! I have expressly forbidden the use of make up at this school... were you aware of that?

Both: Nnnnn.....

Head: And don't make matters worse by lying to me.

Both: Yes Headmistress.

Head: Now go to the girls toilets and scrub off all that muck you've got on your faces... and then... go straight to my office.

Both: (Subdued) Yes Headmistress.

Scene 4

Ted: Hey Ricky... why don't you ask Li Bin for a date.

Ricky: Li Bin? A date? No... no... forget it.

Ted: But you like her don't you?

Ricky: Yes... she's a nice girl.

Ted: And you bought her a Christmas present.

Ricky: Yes, yes I did.
Ted: And when she phoned you up on Christmas Day you fainted.
Ricky: Faint? Did I? No.
Ted: And she calls you a gentleman.
Ricky: Really?
Ted: You know she does.
Ricky: Hmmmm.
Ted: So why don't you ask her out on a date... take her for a candle lit dinner.
Ricky: A candle lit dinner?! Me?! Wa! No... candle lit dinner (laughs)
Impossible... I can't....

(Pause)

Emily: (reading) " Friday 28th April 1944... Peter came towards me... I flung my arms around him and gave him a kiss on his left cheek... and was about to kiss the other cheek when my lips met his and we pressed them together... Now we have found each other."

A & L: (Together a Big sigh) Anne Frank's diaries are so romantic.

Emily: Maybe that will happen to you Li Bin... with Ricky.

Li Bin: (Sighs) Do you think so Emily?

Alysha: Well he bought you that hairpin.

Emily: Now we have found each other.'

Alysha: I'd love to find someone.

Emily: Me too.

Alysha: But none of the boys here... they're all too boring.

Emily: Except one...

Alysha: Oh yes.. I wasn't talking about Ricky... he's different.

Li Bin: "Now... we have found each other.'

All: (Sigh)

Li Bin: If only that could come true.

Music

The End