

BRIEF LIES
By Danae Brook

CAST 'BRIEF LIES'

STAGE PLAY

CAST LIST: WOMEN

Daisy Green, 28.....Feisty new journalist, online skills, passion to write
Sharon, 35.....Tabloid hack, shows Daisy the ropes and becomes an ally
Isabelle, 28.....Celebrity 'It' girl crack addict, Daisy's schoolfriend
Catherine, 36.....Diary Editor, and Daisy's (two-faced) boss

CAST LIST: MEN

Jack Harwich, 59.....Editor of the Eye, old fashioned print
newspaperman, worked his way up the Fleet Street ladder, knows everyone
Greg, 45.....Associate Editor, Features (the Eye); suave
womaniser with an eye on the top job – interested in the internet
Ned, 32.....Picture Editor of The Eye
Works closely with paparazzi
Jim, 45..... Night Editor
Old fashioned Feet Street journalist worked with Greg on local papers
Leo, 35.....Online Editor of The Eye
Young, sharp, IT savvy former picture editor moving into online world
Lord Max Broughton, 65.....Isabelle's father, MP
Tory politician, charming control freak with very dark side
Frank, 30..... Crime reporter (The Eye)
News reporter with police in his pocket and physique to see off competition
Detective at West End police station/Waiter in Gentleman's Club

‘STORY’

This story is set inside the world of a national newspaper in the 21st century. It shines a torch on the working life of a print newspaper, as the Internet threatens to upturn centuries’ old mechanisms which have driven national papers since they began. The printed word comes under threat as never before, with digitisation of the media, and the Brief Lies drama unfolds against a backdrop of the different ‘desks’, from News to Crime to the Editor’s executive suite.

The story follows a young journalist’s first assignment. Daisy Green, niece of the proprietor of Sharp newspapers, starts an internship in the online office and moves to Features on the newspaper to follow a particular storyline. In the background is the advance of the Internet operations and high tech, unregulated global news, a cyberspace world which is already changing the way newspapers are put together. There is behind-the-scene power-broking between executives and politicians, the potent threat of blackmail, and we see how frequently encounters with the force of the media ends in tears.

The ambitious young journalist’s loyalties are torn when she is asked to sensationalise the tragedies which engulf the family of one her dearest friends. But it is only one story in the hundreds which run every day of every week in the life of a national newspaper.

The relationships between Daisy, her family, her colleagues and her school friend are played out against daily life in a national newspaper a year before the Leveson Inquiry highlights the questionable practices embedded in journalism, tabloid and broadsheet.

The key issues dealt with in this play are: power breeds corruption; the Editor’s decision is final; think twice before interviewing friends; don’t always trust your colleagues, and never take your eye off the ball.

BRIEF LIES, A PLAY IN THREE ACTS

ACT I

SCENE ONE: Tabloid Girl

SCENE TWO: Conference

SCENE THREE: Neon Nights

SCENE FOUR: The Digital Game

SCENE FIVE: The Gentleman's Club

ACT II

SCENE ONE: One in The Eye

SCENE TWO: The Buy-Up

SCENE THREE: A Cell for A Cell

SCENE FOUR: Bad Habits

SCENE FIVE: Assassination

ACT III

SCENE ONE: Risk Factor

SCENE TWO: Hotel Anon

SCENE THREE: The Interview

SCENE FOUR: The Process

SCENE FIVE: The Splash

SCENE SIX: The Girl Done Good

SCENE SEVEN: Confrontations

SCENE EIGHT: Secrets