

PELICAN RADIO PROJECT

EPISODE 3: 'Be Bright Be Seen'

We are upstairs in the family home. Amber is holding up a variety of clothes.

AMBER So the options are ... Black jeans white top. Black top white jeans. Black skirt white top. Black jeans black top. Or black jeans white top - did I already say that one?

MUM I don't know, darling. Look, try not to worry about it. No one will be looking at what you're wearing, everyone will just be enjoying the party!

AMBER Of course they'll be looking at what I'm wearing, Mum!

MUM *(Sighs)* In that case, I like the white top.

ANDY Mum, do you prefer the bow tie with stripes ... or with ducks?

AMBER You are **not** wearing that! That's so embarrassing! Mum, tell him.

MUM Andy can wear whatever he likes, just like you can wear whatever you like. I think you look very trendy, Andy. Go with the ducks.

AMBER Trendy? Who says that!?

MUM Eh, cheeky. Your old-fashioned mum, that's who.

A phone rings from downstairs.

MUM Oh, gosh - that's probably work! Right, I've got to get that. Amber, be nice. Come down when you're all ready!

AMBER I'm always nice!

The door closes, Mum leaves. The phone stops ringing.

AMBER Andy, keep looking. You're not wearing that.

ANDY But -

AMBER No ducks!

ANDY (Sad) Fine!

Some time passes. The siblings have chosen their outfits and are ready to leave for the party. They all walk down the stairs, where Mum is still on the phone.

AMBER (Loud) Mum! We're leaving!

MUM (On the phone) Sorry, can I call you back? Okay, great, bye.

Mum hangs up the phone.

MUM Wait, wait, let me see you. (Pause) Oh, you guys look so cute! Can I take a photo, let me get my phone.

ANDY Cheeeese!

AMBER Absolutely not.

MUM Honestly, Amber, what are you like? Have you all got your Oyster cards?

ANDY Yep!

AMBER Yes. We'll see you later. Love you -

MUM Wait, where do you think you're going like that?

AMBER ... Jasmine's birthday party?

MUM No, I meant ... look at you all, in your dark clothes! No reflective coats or hats or anything.

AMBER What?

MUM Hang on, let me get them.

AMBER What? No, Mum, please! I spent so long picking this outfit. And it's light outside, everyone will be able to see us just fine.

MUM It doesn't matter if it's during the daytime or the nighttime, it's important that you're as visible as possible to drivers. You wear your bright coat when you're walking to school, so what's the difference, eh?

AMBER I suppose so.

MUM It's always best to wear bright clothing or bags or armbands when you're walking near busy roads. And, if you're wearing dark clothes, which you are, then it's even more important. Here, put your coat on.

ANDY I'll wear mine, Mum. Do you think a coat's enough? Maybe I should wear a high vis too. And my bright hat. And should I take these off and put on my light up trainers instead?

Amber scoffs.

MUM (*Laughing*) I think just the coat will be fine, Andy. You'll be sweltering wearing all that! (*Beat*) Now if only my other two children listened to me, eh? You know, I only want you to be safe. And taking the right precautions means that you can be.

AMBER Okay, Mum. We'll wear them. If that means you'll let us leave, I don't want to be late for the party.

MUM Great. Now, are you sure you'll be okay on the bus? I can come with you if you're worried.

AMBER Yes Mum, we'll be fine, won't we?

ANDY I - I don't know. Maybe Mum *should* come. It's quite scary when -

AMBER Mum has work to finish. And we'll be absolutely fine. Won't we?

ANDY Yeah. I suppose so.

MUM Great! Well, be sensible. And remember to stand back while you wait for the bus. And keep those bright coats on until you get there, okay? And remember to thank Jasmine's mum for having you.

AMBER Yeah, yeah. Bye Mum!

ANDY Bye!

The front door closes. The siblings are outside. There are birds singing, cars driving past and the wind is blowing.

AMBER She's so annoying!

ANDY Ha. Yeah. So, uh, annoying. Except ... she's *definitely* right. Bright reflective clothes do keep you safe and it can be really scary doing a new journey for the first time and there are so many things that could ...

AMBER Whatever.

ANDY What are you doing?

AMBER Taking this off.

ANDY What!? Amber, no!

AMBER Please don't tell me you're keeping that huge, neon coat on! You can't even see your outfit! Actually, maybe you *should* keep it on.

ANDY *Of course* I'm keeping it on. Mum said -

AMBER I know what Mum said. But it's broad daylight! We'll be fine. (*Scoffs*) I knew you two would embarrass me today and we're not even at the party yet.

ANDY (*To you, nervously*) What do you think? Are you going to keep yours on?

YOU SHOULD NOW BEGIN THE 'BE BRIGHT BE SEEN' GAME.