

There is a tone.

He begins reading Christopher's book.

SIOBHAN. Did it make you sad to find this out?

CHRISTOPHER. Find what out?

SIOBHAN. Did it make you sad to find out that your mother and Mr. Shears had an affair?

CHRISTOPHER. No.

SIOBHAN. Are you telling the truth?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes, I always tell the truth. It didn't make me feel sad because Mother is dead. So I would be feeling sad about something that isn't real and doesn't exist and that would be stupid.

SIOBHAN. What was your mother like?

Do you remember much about her?

CHRISTOPHER. I remember the 20th of July 2008. I was 9 years old. It was a Sunday. We were on holiday in Cornwall. We were on the beach in a place called Polperro. Mother was wearing a pair of shorts made out of denim and a stripy blue swimming costume, and she was smoking menthol cigarettes, which were mint flavour. And she wasn't swimming. She was sunbathing on a towel, which had red and purple stripes, and she was reading a book by Georgette Heyer called *The Masqueraders*. And then she finished sunbathing and went into the water and she said:

JUDY. Bloody Nora it's cold.

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CHRISTOPHER. "Bloody Nora it's cold." And she said I should come and swim too, but I didn't like swimming because I don't like taking my clothes off. And she said I should just roll my trousers up and walk into the water a little way. So I did. And Mother said:

JUDY. Christopher! Look, it's lovely.

CHRISTOPHER. And she jumped backwards and disappeared under the water and I thought a shark had eaten her and I screamed. And she stood up out of the water and came over to where I was standing and held up her right hand and spread out her fingers like a fan.