

The Missing Piece

The story is not linear, but takes place over the space of 13 years. At the end of this play is a timeline of events.

Kyle #1	16 - 18, amputee, energetic and ambitious.
Kyle #2	21 - 28, amputee, content and proud.
Stacey	17 - 28, charming and loyal.
Lloyd	48 – 60, Kyle's father, optimistic and emotional.
Vicar	62, respectful.
Waiter	34, Chinese.
Naomi	21/26, Kyle's housemate and friend.
Hayden	21/26, Kyle's house mate and friend.
Mother	52/57, Stacey's mother.
Father	52/57, Stacey's father.
Brother	17/22, Stacey's brother.
David	25/35, a cyclist.
Friends	22/26, Stacey's friends.
Two paramedics	Any age, they are quick to act.

The play is set in two locations, Brighton and Leicester.

The stage is a black box. Nothing sets the scene, the lighting is simple. Kyle #1 referred to as 'Kyle' enters SL, he's exhausted, half naked (just in boxers) and has a prosthetic right leg.

Kyle *(Shouting with joy)* Yes! Woo! Oh my days, what the...hah! Woo! God!

Stacey enters SL she's half naked (bra and pants).

Stacey	Kyle are you all right?
Kyle	Yeah I'm fucking brilliant, oh shit, sorry I know it seems weird I just left, I needed some fresh air.
Stacey	That's all right, do you, want me to go?
Kyle	What? Leave? God no, get back upstairs, I'll be there in a minute.
Stacey	Ooh! Alright!

Stacey excitably exits. Kyle takes a large breath in and smiles when exhaling. He is full of euphoria.

Kyle *(Realising)* I'm a man now. *(Suddenly noticing the audience)* Jesus! God what the hell are you guys doing here? I thought I told the ushers...right fuck, umm, hold on, give me a second.

Kyle rushes inside. A moment, he reappears with a dressing gown.

	<i>(Whilst entering)</i> Stace, cover up, they're early. Right, umm, you guys have come a bit early. You're here to see 'The Missing Piece' right? Good, I err, sorry you caught me off guard. Stace it's all right you can come out!
Stacey	I thought you said they wouldn't come until later.
Kyle	Don't blame me, blame them <i>(Points to the ushers)</i> .
Stacey	Do you think they heard...?
Kyle	Umm, no, I don't think so.
Stacey	Okay good – <i>(To audience)</i> umm, hey!
Kyle	Right, shit I thought I had more time for this, I had a whole speech planned, it was going to be great, really great. I only got half way. Umm, right, let me start with Stacey.

Stacey waves

Kyle Stacey is...my friend! My good friend, we've known each other since we were kids and now we're...
 Stacey Even better friends.
 Kyle Yep. For the first time. In case you haven't realised, we've been up to some sex stuff.
 Stacey It's just called sex.
 Kyle Oh yeah, yeah. Course. Sex, we had sex, and it was both our first times.
 Stacey (*Not hers*) Yes.
 Kyle And it wasn't awkward, not one bit.

A bed is thrown into the set and Stacey and Kyle go straight into the scene.

Stacey Fuck me now.
 Kyle Yeah, yeah all right let's do this.

They move into position with ease; there is nothing awkward about this first time. They kiss and embrace, Kyle opens a condom just as Lloyd – Kyle's father enters the stage with a large sheet with the words 'CENSORED' on it.

Lloyd I'm downstairs, and I can hear this whole thing. I'm trying to watch Sky Sports News, but that girl is too bloody loud. So I turn up the volume. They go for quite a while which is a bit surprisingly actually, Kyle's ambitious, always has been, but this takes the fucking biscuit. I mean I'm downstairs, I don't think they even realise. Anyway, you were early; you were supposed to speak to me first. You weren't supposed to see this, but do you know what? I'm glad you did. This is the happiest I've ever seen him, since the accident.

Lloyd exits SR with the censored sign, Kyle is already fully clothed and Stacey and the bed have disappeared. Kyle walks forward, and a cyclist rushes by from SR, Kyle dodges him and steps upstage, at the moment a large car rushes in from SL, and takes Kyle up and over it. The car carries on and doesn't stop. Kyle lies there, twitching often, his leg is twisted. The cyclist rushes in, this scene should be improvised in the moment, the cyclist, David, calls the paramedics. The paramedics arrive almost automatically, there is no comical comment on their arrival time. They follow through with procedure and begin to take Kyle off in a stretcher, whilst almost off Kyle speaks.

Kyle Just here is fine lads.

Kyle sits up and jumps off; he rolls up his trouser leg and walks to centre stage. The paramedics and David exit the scene. Spotlight.

Twenty days after that accident I had surgery. I don't remember much of my time in the hospital; I was high most of the time off of the drugs, so those twenty days didn't really feel like a lot to me. For my dad they were obviously brutal, I don't talk to him about it much, I know it was painful for him to see me that way. He's already been through it once with mum and I don't know what he would have done if he lost me. But he didn't, I fought through it. The doctors on the other hand, god knows what happened. Twenty days after the accident I had surgery, and there was some 'complication', I mean fair enough misplace your gloves or mask, but don't make me lose my fucking leg! There was a severely ruptured...err, something, and they fucked up basically. I had a few broken bones here and there but my leg was the main thing, I was just going to work and bam, hit by a car and landed on my leg wrong. It was a mess. The cyclist David, I think you met him briefly, he was a hero, he'd suffered a similar incident a few weeks before funnily enough and he calmed me down. I had come around shortly after he rang for the ambulance. He told me to think of the thing that made me most happy, and that at the time, it was that Chelsea were top of the league, and their next match was against Norwich. It was a guaranteed win. If you were to ask me the same thing now, I think I would say Stacey, or my dad. Yeah, no my dad. Or the sex. It's a hard one. Anyway, I've lost track. I spent two months in a trauma centre and two in rehab. My nurse was called Felicity and she was from Northern Ireland, she was stunning, and even though I was supposed to be working out how to walk again, I think most of the blood was

going somewhere else. (*Mouths the words*) My penis. Boner's were constant. She would try to encourage me to support myself by only using the prosthetic, but sometimes if I stood up my dick would just show up straight away. They gave you these stupid little shorts, I mean really short, like what I used to wear for P.E. Anyway, after rehab I went back to school, got back on with my life and spent a lot more time with my Dad. He suffocated me a bit at first, but that's understandable. Now I'm fully mobile, and honestly - my life has improved in some weird way, I can't explain it really but, now I always go with my gut. Shit happens. I got hit by a car, I have a fake leg, I could've died so many times but I didn't. I think that's why Stacey said yes when I asked her out, I had a new confidence. Our first date was great, but not great like the sex. I mean without my right leg I could get into all sorts of positions!

Two waiters enter and set up a dinner table, Stacey enters SR and sits down. On the table are two glasses of coke.

We went to Cherry Temple; it's this nice Chinese down the road. Dad and I ordered from there a lot when I was at home. I told Stacey to meet me there at 7pm – because apparently that is a fixed date time, you can't say half 7 or even 8 that's weird. She got there at 7pm and I was late.

Kyle enters the scene

Kyle	I'm so sorry I'm late.
Stacey	That's okay, I ordered for you.
Kyle	Wait what? What did you get?
Stacey	I got myself sweet and sour pork with rice and spring rolls and a coke. I got you monkey brains with noodles and a coke.
Kyle	Har har very funny.
Stacey	You look nice.
Kyle	Thanks, erm, so do you. I mean, you know fit, erm, really really nice.
Stacey	Thank you.

Kyle sits down. Long pause.

Kyle	I was late because of my dad.
Stacey	He loves you a lot.
Kyle	Oh yeah - too much sometimes - he dropped me off but wouldn't let me leave the car without his 'lessons in love'.
Stacey	That's really cheesy.
Kyle	Yeah. Thanks for coming out with me.
Stacey	That's okay, I wanted to.
Kyle	That's good.

Long pause.

	Did you actually order food?
Stacey	Oh no.

Long pause. They both look at the menu. They mumble what they're reading.

Kyle	Lets get/ a waiter over.
Stacey	/a waiter yeah.
Kyle	Excuse me?

A waiter enters.

Waiter	Good evening sir, are you ready to order?
Kyle	Yes please, can we order our food please?

Water Of course! Madam what may I get for you?
Stacey I'd like spring rolls, and sweet and sour pork with rice please.
Waiter Would you like the spring rolls to start or have with the main meal?
Stacey With the meal please.
Waiter Very good. And for you sir?
Kyle Umm...

Pause.

 I'll have the same please but with chicken.
Waiter So the sweet and sour chicken with rice?
Kyle Yeah.
Waiter Okay so that is one sweet and sour chicken with rice and spring rolls and one sweet and sour pork with rice and spring rolls. Will that be all?
Stacey Yes please.
Waiter Okay, thank you!

The waiter takes the menus.

Kyle Oh wait, umm-
Waiter Yes sir?
Kyle (To Stacey) Prawn crackers, do you, want some?
Stacey Oh yeah I love them.
Kyle Yes those please.
Waiter Of course, would you like them now for a starter or with the main.
Kyle/Stacey Now please.

The waiter nods and then leaves to SR. Long pause. Kyle then leaves the scene and approaches centre stage.

Kyle A pretty good first date I thought. As first dates go - I mean it wasn't that bad. From what I've seen on TV people can be really awkward with one another. After that, we said goodbye and hugged. We had another few dates to follow week after week; we took it in turns to suggest things to do. I suggested another dinner, board games with my dad, and then a day out on the pier. Stacey suggested computer games, Netflix and ice skating – I don't think she was thinking with the last one. But I mean, come on, she's a keeper right?!

Suddenly an older version of Kyle appears from SL, he's wearing a tux and he walks up to him.

Kyle #2 And I don't think anyone has ever made me happier, the joy that this woman has given me over the years, was, surprising. I thought, when I lost my leg that was it, my life was over. No girl would want to be with me, no one would employ me, and no one would have a place for me in this world. But that's not the way things worked out at all. (To Kyle #1) You've got a good path ahead of you mate, enjoy every step of the way.
Kyle I'll give it a shot!

And with that the younger Kyle exits SR, Kyle #2 now becomes 'Kyle'.

Kyle I had such optimism as a kid, mostly from my dad. Even though his life didn't always go his way, he always found a way to smile. He would never joke, not even once, that wasn't his humour. He just liked to comment on things, share an opinion and every so often they would be hilarious. But he never liked to comment on anything that wasn't real. He never lied, never backed a rumour and he was always honest with me.

Lloyd enters SR, brings on an armchair and sits in it.

Lloyd (To Kyle) Who has time for any of that stuff? You're just wasting your breath I reckon.
Kyle He said to me once, which was shortly before I left for university.

Kyle remains in his place and Kyle #1 renters without his prosthetic leg.

Kyle #1 I'm pretty sure I've got everything, all packed.
Lloyd Are you sure you don't want to double check?
Kyle #1 Dad, I've already double-checked I've got everything.
Lloyd Are you sure?
Kyle #1 Yes!
Lloyd How in the hell do you intend to drive there then?

(Kyle #1 shows him his keys)

Kyle I'm pretty smart, I got into DeMontford, Leicester to do Sports Science, but I've pretty much always lacked common sense.
Lloyd That's good mate use them to turn on the car. What would you do next in said car?
Kyle #1 I put it into gear?
Lloyd Yeah after that.
Kyle #1 Handbrake
Lloyd After.
Kyle #1 Erm...Check my mirrors?
Lloyd No, come on what do you need to do to a car?
Kyle #1 Accelerat- oh shit my leg.
Lloyd There we go, he's got it.

Kyle #1 goes offstage.

Lloyd *(To Kyle)* How the hell you got into university I'll never know.

Stacey enters SR. Lloyd gets out of his chair.

Stacey Hey Lloyd, is he ready?
Lloyd Hello missus, yeah he almost forgot his bloody leg, but he's all packed.
Stacey Again?
Lloyd You'd think he'd have learnt after Egypt?
Stacey To be fair, I think we all should've realised.
Lloyd I think you're right there.

Pause

 I bet you're excited to get going.
Stacey Of course, Kyle and me are pretty much opposite each other in halls.
Lloyd Yes he told me, that's worked out perfectly.
Stacey As if it were fate!

Pause

Lloyd Stacey.
Stacey I know.
Lloyd Let me say it, just, please. Look after each other. I couldn't bear to loose either of you.
Stacey I love him Lloyd, he's in safe hands.
Kyle Not always, she never told my dad this, but in fresher's week, whilst we were at a party Stacey got really drunk and got on a table. She was singing something from Disney and just went for it. It was pretty impressive, until she tripped and crashed into me. That was the first time people saw my leg come off. It was a, unique first impression.

Kyle #1 renters with his bag.

Kyle #1 Hey Stacey, you ready?
Stacey All set.
Kyle #1 Right, I've got everything.

Kyle #1 turns to his dad, they stare at each other. Both upset but too proud to show it.

Lloyd You be good.
Kyle #1 I will.
Lloyd Work hard.
Kyle #1 I will.
Lloyd Don't get drunk.
Kyle #1 Dad.
Lloyd Yeah that was a long shot.
Kyle #1 Thank you.
Lloyd Don't start that come on, get out of here, I'm sure you're itching to go.
Kyle #1 I'll see you in a week though right?
Lloyd Yes we'll see, I don't want to cramp your style.
Kyle #1 Are you kidding me?
Lloyd Come on, get going.

They hug.

 I love you son.
Kyle #1 Love you too. See you soon.
Lloyd Yeah mate, see you soon, now get out of here.
Kyle #1 Right then, bye Dad.
Stacey Bye Lloyd.
Lloyd Bye love.
Kyle #1 And you'll be all right, yeah?
Lloyd Yes I'll be fine.

Kyle #1 and Stacey leave SR. Pause.

Kyle That was the first time he had lied to me.
Lloyd Right then.

Lloyd sits back down and turns on the 'tv'. He is overwhelmed by his son's departure. He thinks for a moment, looks out the 'window'. He gets up quickly to catch his son before he leaves once more, Lloyd exits SR. Kyle#1 enters the stage from SR, swiftly followed by Lloyd. He hugs him. It's a lovely moment. Kyle #1 continues to go off SL. Lloyd remains onstage.

Kyle He managed to catch me, just. It was the longest hug he's ever given me. I love my dad.
Lloyd I bloody cried. Again. The last time I cried was when Chelsea won the league, I mean I wasn't surprised they won; it was because I put a pretty hefty bet on.
Kyle That paid for most of my uni fees. Didn't take my dad for the gambling type!
Lloyd But this moment, this was different. I saw my son as a man for the first time. (To Kyle) I heard him earlier on, not you Kyle, the younger one, when he said he was finally a man because he'd popped the cherry! Haha!
Kyle It was a pretty big moment, come on.
Lloyd Nah. (Back to audience) No, this moment, here, this was when it happened. I stayed on the pavement, and watched the car go away. I couldn't help think, break down. Break down. Run out of petrol, burst a tire. Hell, forget your leg again! I wanted him back, and I wanted him to stay a little longer. But everything was fine and he kept on going. I was never going to be okay with it. Him leaving. He's all I have left of his mother; he's all I have left of him. I was alone, for the first time in my life, and it was terrifying. I went back inside and tried to watch the television, but all I could feel was this eerie presence in the house, this eerie, nothingness. I turned off the tv and went to the supermarket, I walked around it for about an

hour and a half, not really looking at anything. I think I bought a bottle of water, some cigarettes and a lighter. I haven't smoked in over twenty years. I walked down to the seafront and lit one. I sat down on my favourite bench, where I used to take Annabelle, my wife. And I stared at the horizon, that beautiful horizon. I remember all of the sounds, the traffic, the kids screaming, the seagulls fucking screaming – all of that noise, just suddenly went. And then there was that eerie silence, lurking. That nothingness, again. And it was crippling, but I never told Kyle. I never mentioned any of it to him. I did that most days, take a walk, it cleared my head a lot of the time. But I realised, after visiting Lloyd in Leicester that I couldn't keep on doing that. I, guess I needed something else to keep my mind ticking. And so, on Sundays I joined a 5-a-side team with some of the lads from the street, the 'The Hairy Gits' we call ourselves. I still play, even now.

Lloyd exits SR.

Kyle I go to watch his matches sometimes, he's bloody shite. The whole team is, god knows how they're 5th. Anyway, as I drove away, for uni, I remember seeing my dad's face. I remember seeing him crying. And when I eventually proposed to Stacey, dad cried then too. He was in person, it's not like I told him over Skype and he burst out on screen. I promised to invite him when I did it. So, this was in our third year and by this point everyone was already ripping their hair out with thought of dissertations. But not Stacey, she kept a cool head throughout it all and I loved her for that. She always knew how to calm me down as well. Anyway, it was proper romantic. I got my mates Naomi and Hayden to help decorate the house with my dad. Banners, rose petals and the sooth sounding voice of Ed Sheeran filled every room. I was upstairs on what we called the 'roof garden'. It was only accessible through a tiny door that my dad only barely got through. It wasn't really a garden, it just had two patio chairs and a table – we'd go out there usually to smoke some weed or whatever. But that night, that night was clear, you could see the stars, all of them, literally all of them. So it was perfect. I actually managed to squeeze a few of her friends and her parents on the roof too. There wasn't enough room for her brother so he was standing on a ladder from the actual garden below. I promised Stacey I wouldn't actually show you guys this bit, but, why the fuck not?

The roof terrace slides on with all the guests. Stacey's parents sit on the patio chairs in the centre with Lloyd standing behind them, he's already welling up. Stacey's friends stand SL in a group, and Stacey's brother has emerged through a trap door on a ladder, he is SR of the platform. Hayden and Naomi come through the audience with Stacey who is in a huge coat, she looks confused. Kyle steps onto the platform.

Kyle (To audience) This might get a bit soppy.
Stacey Hayden I swear to god if I find another wild animal upstairs I'm going to slap you.
Hayden Nah it's not like that this time.
Naomi This one's tame.
Stacey You two are idiots. Where's Ky?
Naomi Not sure actually, Hayden have you seen him?
Hayden Nah not recently, do you know what though?

They stop.

Stacey What oh my god what?
Hayden I think the badger in your bedroom ate him.
Stacey That's not funny.
Hayden It's pretty funny.
Stacey No I fucking hate badgers.
Lloyd God I've forgotten how loud she is.
Father Lloyd you've got no bloody idea.
Brother She's your problem now Kyle.
Mother Oh don't worry, he's ready for it.

Stacey has reached the steps. A very very small door emerges out of the stage to greet them at the top of the steps.

Naomi Through there.
Stacey Here?
Naomi Ya.
Stacey Aww, we're having joints, that is exactly what I need after the day I've had.

From the roof garden you can see the shocked face of her mother, brother and father. Lloyd and Kyle silently laugh.

Hayden Umm..

Naomi hits him.

Hayden Yes that's right.
Stacey Let's do this!

Stacey opens up the tiny door and begins to step through, half way in she looks ahead and sees everyone. She steps back and shuts the door.

Stacey OH MY GOD!

Everyone laughs except Stacey's mother; I think she might still be furious. All the others speak over one another.

Mother Stacey come on! Come back out!
Friends Stacey come back! Come on out! It's only us.
Father Come on love!

These lines are heard.

Lloyd I think she's a bit overwhelmed.
Kyle Not the best start is it?
Brother I can't stay on this all night.
Hayden Go on Stace.
Naomi Kyle's waiting.
Stacey Oh my god.

Stacey makes her way through the door, as she steps through Hayden and Naomi grab her coat, as the coat pulls off it reveals a wedding dress. Everyone except Kyle arranges themselves to stand on either side of them. The vicar comes out of the trap door ladder, and Stacey's brother closes it. The little door slides away. To leave Kyle and Stacey in the centre with their friends and family all around them. On Stacey's side, her friends and family. On Kyle's, Lloyd, Naomi, Hayden and David stand.

Vicar That's one of the most unorthodox entrances I've ever made.
Kyle Thanks father for letting us do it here.
Vicar Not at all, I never realised this used to be an old chapel.
Naomi (To Hayden) Getting married in your own home, how lovely.
Kyle (To audience) Oh we moved out by the way, I'm sorry my bad - we skipped ahead, I just wanted to skip the proposal. I know it's lovely, but it really didn't go well, I mean she said yes which was great! But her mother was not happy about the weed, Stacey's uncle, her mum's brother died of an overdose so, she's got a whole thing about drugs, which is fair enough. Anyway, we live in this old chapel in Brighton, we didn't like Leicester much, we stayed for about two years after uni and then moved back. The thing was, I kind of missed dad, so it's

good to be back. Oh and by the way there were more people at the wedding than this. So, I mean, in case you were thinking-

Vicar Sorry - Kyle?

Kyle Yes?

Vicar Are you ready to start?

Kyle Yes I am, (*To Stacey*) are you?

Stacey Yeah I'm pretty ready.

Kyle Sweet, father, hit it.

Vicar Dearly beloved we are gathered here today to celebrate the union of two happy souls, Stacey Simone Cocklesworth-

Kyle She told me one of the reason's she wanted to marry me so quickly was to change her last name.

Stacey and Kyle Alexander Muttins.

Kyle I mean, mines no better.

Stacey It's better than Cocklesworth.

Kyle True.

Vicar Their decision to marry was one of confidence, which reflected the strength of their devotion to one another. The essence of this commitment is the acceptance of each other in entirety, as lover, companion-

Stacey -and cripple.

Kyle is shocked and laughs. The others, including the vicar do not hear.

Vicar And friend. A good and balanced relationship is one in which neither person is overpowered nor absorbed by the other, one in which neither person is possessive of the other, one in which both give their love freely-

Kyle He's right, you could afford to go on top more often.

Stacey is shocked and laughs. Yet again, the others do not hear this.

Vicar And without jealousy. Ideally, marriage is a sharing of responsibilities, hopes and dreams. It takes a special effort to grow together, survive hard times-

Stacey -and ice skate.

Kyle Stop it.

Vicar -and to be loving and unselfish. Now Stacey, do you take this man to be your husband?

Stacey I do.

Vicar And Kyle, do you take this woman to be your wife?

Kyle I do.

Vicar Very good, the rings?

Lloyd brings over the rings, his hands are shaking. And he's almost in tears.

Vicar May these rings be blessed as a symbol of your union. As often as either of you look upon these rings, may you not only be reminded of this moment, but also of the vows you have made and the strength of your commitment to each other.

They both put on the rings.

Kyle (*To audience*) Once those rings were on and we said our vows, I, felt incredible. Somehow, all this happiness I've had in my life, ever since that accident, was nothing. I was washed by a whole new wave of euphoria and it felt incredible. To see my dad so happy, to have my friends all around me, and to have the most beautiful woman in the world opposite me, couldn't be beat. It was a perfect moment. I had finally married the girl of my dreams, and it was weird. It felt like, I had a whole new limb! I can't explain the feeling, but I felt whole again. Like every part of her was me, and me, hers - even my missing leg. - the bones, the muscles the skin from it – which is probably on someone's face now. I don't really know how

it all works with skin transplants. I should, but I did really badly at Sport Science, like really badly.

Stacey *(Taking over)* After the wedding, and the ceremony, everyone left. And then it was just us, in our house, waving the guests goodnight. And it was us, for the first time us.

Kyle Hey, what are you, doing? This is my/ story.

Stacey /You started talking about skin transplants.

Kyle It was a metaphor babe!

Stacey It stunk.

Kyle Mm.. I did go off on a tangent, didn't I?

Stacey Yea just a bit. Go on then.

Kyle *(Back to the audience, but Stacey did a better job of it)* And so, after they all left, in the chapel, we were there. Us for the first time, it was us. It was. Sorry you said it better. Go on you finish.

Stacey What was the ending?

Kyle The kids and stuff.

Stacey Oh god yeah.

Kyle How'd you forget that?

Stacey Don't know, bit worrying isn't it?

Kyle Yeah.

Stacey Anyway, we had kids.

Long pause.

Kyle Stacey.

Stacey What?

Kyle Sell it.

Stacey Oh...Umm, after the wedding, it was us, for the first time it was us. And then it wasn't because we had kids.

Kyle Jesus Christ.

Stacey What?

Kyle We had three kids, baby Max, baby Leah and-

Stacey -and baby Annabelle, after his mum. And she's beautiful, they all are. They're our angels.

Kyle They're not fucking angels, they call me wonky.

-End-

Timeline of events.

Kyle Aged 16	Kyle has his accident
Kyle Aged 17	Kyle and Stacey start dating
Kyle Aged 18	Kyle leaves for university
Kyle Aged 19	University
Kyle Aged 20	University
Kyle Aged 21	Kyle and Stacey get engaged
Kyle Aged 22	Unspecified
Kyle Aged 23	Unspecified
Kyle Aged 24	Kyle and Stacey move to Brighton
Kyle Aged 25	Unspecified
Kyle Aged 26	Kyle and Stacey marry
Kyle Aged 27	Twins Max and Leah are born
Kyle Aged 28	Annabelle is born