

THE BOY FRIEND – PLOT

ACT I

A French Finishing school on the Riviera. It is Spring 1926 (March). The action of the play is across 12 hours – midday to midnight. The school is excited as they are preparing for the evening's pre-lent carnival – final ball. (Easter 4th April 1926) Polly Browne is a pupil of the school along with Maisie, Dulcie, Fay & Nancy. They all have boyfriends apart from Polly. The most significant of whom is Bobby Van Husen a rich young American. Polly has been forgotten as the other girls have rushed off to pick up their costumes for the Carnival. As the girls are enthusing over the forthcoming events with Hortense, the schools maid, Polly enters carrying a letter. The girls are extremely interested & want to know whom it is from. It is from her boyfriend whom she says will be coming to the ball. Mme Dubonnet, the head of the school enters. She sends the girls off to their next lesson and calls Polly back. It is soon revealed that the letter is a fake & that Polly has written it to herself. Mme Dubonnet also tells Polly that her father – Percival Browne - is coming to see her that day too.

Meanwhile Bobby has sneaked into the school to see his girlfriend Maisie, and persuade her to dance all evening with him at the ball. She teases him & won't commit.

Percival Browne (uptight & correct man – multi millionaire) arrives & is shown round the school by Mme Dubonnet, who quickly reveals herself as a former 'lover' back at the end of World War I!!!! He is terribly put out & refuses to acknowledge the event. Meanwhile Polly is alone again waiting for her father to arrive when a messenger boy arrives with her costume. He is Tony (a young English man who has run away from Oxford & is trying to make his way in the world.) The pair are instantly attracted and plan to meet later that afternoon. Tony leaves as Polly's father arrives with Mme Dubonnet and everyone is happy!

ACT II

All the boys and girls are on the beach having a lovely time. There is the arrival of Lord & Lady Brockhurst she is a tight-lipped Edwardian lady, he is the archetypal suffering husband who is lusting after the young ladies. They are looking for their lost son – Tony.

Polly & Tony meet and plan the rest of their lives together, although both are lying to the other about who they really are. They arrange to meet at the ball. Hortense catches them together & is furious with Polly for fraternising with a messenger boy. Polly persuades Hortense not to say anything. The boys & girls meanwhile catch the end of this action & try to get Hortense to tell them about Tony. She is loyal to Polly & refuses.

Mme Dubonnet & Percival Browne enter. She is still trying get the old Percy to rise to the surface & he is still refusing. She leaves to fetch a swimsuit for him to borrow. Lord Brockhurst approaches Percival Browne and we see his true colours as he thinks Mme Dubonnet is Percival's 'bit on the side' – no surprises that his wife drags him off furious!

Bobby is still trying to persuade Maisie to only dance with him & she teases him along with all the

boys!

Polly & Tony meet again & just as he is about to kiss her, he spots his parents (Lord & Lady Brockhurst) and runs off. Polly assumes he is a thief and is devastated. The Act ends with nobody happy.

ACT III

Bobby proposes to Maisie and she teases him saying she will let him know at midnight. The other girls have also been proposed to & all of them plan to tell the boys their answer at midnight. Mme Dubonnet is still trying to 'thaw out' Percival. The girls & boys hatch a plot to lead Lord Brockhurst on. Dulcie is chosen to do the 'the deed'. Again Lord B is called to order by his furious wife.

Polly arrives clearly upset & Mme D. tries to comfort her along with the other girls. Eventually Hortense gets involved & disappears to find Tony, meanwhile Mme D. gives Polly some advice on how to cope.

Tony arrives, Polly is delighted. His parents want to know who she is. Percival wants to know who Tony is. So all is revealed and old money marries new money. Percival announces his engagement to Mme D. The girls all say 'yes' to the boys proposal of marriage. The only person alone is Hortense. Everybody is happy.