

Mountain High

**A drama in 1 act
for teenagers**

by Dave Buchanan

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Mountain High

CAST (in order of appearance)

Kevin, 15

Scotty, 15

Allan, 15

Malky, 13

Martin, Youth Leader

Jessica, 15

Maggie, 15

Carla, 14

Marlene, 15

Sue, Youth Leader

Seaman

Setting - a composite set, representing:- the youth club, the mini-bus, the ferry, the youth hostel, Goat Fell foothills, and Goat Fell summit.

Time - the present

A composite set. At the back is the summit of Goat Fell with rostra in the shape of rocks and a cairn, elevated to some height for effect; a cyclorama showing a peak would be effective in the later scenes. Downstage is a large area which can be used for all the other locations, with different lights accordingly. DR is the youth club area with a notice board. DC is a railing with a life-belt to represent the ferry. The mini-bus is Centre, represented by five rows of chairs (see Scene 2). The downstage area is also the YH games room. Elsewhere a bed represents the YH dormitory. Ground-flats DC represent the foothills

Scene 1

The Youth Club. A notice board DR. The boys come on DL. (N.B. all the actors wear casual clothes throughout: jeans, trainers, teeshirts, and denim or other jackets. One or other of the boys may wear baseball caps, Allan perhaps wearing it back to front.) Scotty and Allan are brawling, egged on by the other two. Scotty and Allan are the two dominant boys in the group, full of boyish bravado. Of the two Scotty is more of a natural leader. Kevin is of a more serious and studious nature, anxious to do well at school. He wears glasses, as does Malky, who bears a passing resemblance to Harry Potter. Malky is small, and non-academic, a fact of which he is painfully aware; he gets ribbed for it by the others. Martin arrives to post a notice, spots the boys and goes over to pull them apart. Martin is a breezy and enthusiastic youth club leader, the organising type

Martin Come on, you two. Break it up.

Eventually they do

What is the matter with you two? That's the second time this week.

Allan He called me a psycho!

Scotty Well he is a bleeding psycho. A total fruitcake.

Martin Haven't you got anything better to do than fight?

Kevin Like ping-pong? Boring, man, boring.

Martin I've got the very thing for you hotshots. Over here.

He indicates the notice board. They go over

Scotty Go on, Malky. You can read.

They laugh

Allan Yeh, it's all they do in the Special Class. Reading and sums.

Scotty Yeh, the two times table!

Laughs

Malky Look, I'm leaving the Special Class at Easter.

Scotty What, is it too hard for you, Malky?

Laughs

Martin That's enough. Come on, Malky. You can do it.

Scotty and Allan chant, "Come on Malky, come on Malky!"

Malky Aw come on you guys.

Kevin Let him read it.

Malky *(reading)* "Easter Weekend Trip to Arran".

Allan Never heard of it.

Malky *(reading)* "Goat Fell". What's a goat fell? Are we going to the zoo?

Laughs

Martin (to *Scotty*) Come on, smartass. Tell us what *you* think it is.

Scotty Well, it's where you have goats. A goat park, like.

Martin Wrong!

Laughs

Martin Any more theories? Allan?

Allan Pass!

Martin Kevin?

Kevin I'll have a guess. A hill? A mountain?

Martin Correct!

Scotty Crawler!

Allan (a la *Bart Simpson*, half taking down his trousers) Eat my shorts!

Kevin Piss off, you two!

Malky Are we going mountain-climbing?

Martin You got it in one, boy wonder.

Malky I've never climbed a mountain before, Martin.

Martin Ach, it's just a leisurely walk. A doddle. Come on, get your names up quick. It'll be first come, first served. See you! (*He exits R*)

Scotty You goin'?

Allan Dunno. You goin'?

Scotty Dunno. Kevin?

Kevin Sounds okay. (*He looks at notice*) Oh. We're staying at a youth hostel.

Malky Cool!

Kevin It's mixed.

Scotty What?

Kevin The lassies are goin' too.

Allan Way-hey. (*He makes a rude gesture*)

Scotty I think we're all goin'!

Lights switch to DL

The four girls, Maggie (Mags), Marlene, Jessica and Carla are having an animated discussion

Maggie and Marlene are the dominant force in the group, Maggie in particular, who is streetwise and combative. Marlene is curvaceous and sassy, but moody. Jessica on the other hand is middle class, very sensitive of that fact and defensive. Carla is of Italian ancestry, small and dark, and likes to get along with everybody

Maggie . . . so she goes, "Why have you not got your PE kit, madam?" And I goes, "I lost it, Miss." - well, that's not really true, I burnt it!

The other girls laugh

I mean, who wants to be seen in school PE shorts? It's like a mega embarrassment!

Marlene I know. And that shitty brown colour!

Jessica So what did Miss Lamont say to that, Mags?

Maggie She said, (*mimicking*) "What is it with you, Margaret?"

Carla Margaret, fancy!

Maggie I mean, she's like the only one on the planet who calls me Margaret. No I tell a lie. My granny Campbell does. But she's on a different planet anyway! (*She laughs*)

Marlene So what did you say to that, Mags?

They huddle closer

Maggie I goes, "Do you really want to know, Miss? - I hate effing PE!" *(She laughs)*

Carla What did you get, a yellow card?

Maggie Red. My second yellow. I'm on the carpet before Buggsy tomorrow.

The girls go, "Oooh!"

Jessica Do you think he'll suspend you?

Maggie Wish he would! It's a fortnight's holiday, suspension.

Girls Yeh, great *etc.*

Marlene No, it's the Sin Bin for you, lassie.

Jessica The Behavioural Support Unit.

Maggie Whatever. I've been there, done that, got the tee shirt. It's cool.

Scotty and Allan come up

Scotty Hi babes! Your prayers are answered - I'm here!

Marlene Dream on, deadbeat.

Maggie Hey Scotty, is that some hair on your cheek at last?

Marlene *(peering at him)* Don't see any. He's got more plooks than hairs!

The girls laugh

Carla Spotty Scotty! *(She laughs)*

Scotty Sod off, you lot.

Allan Have you seen the lists?

Carla What lists?

Allan The trip. You lot are on the same list as us.

Girls Oh no!

Scotty This *is* your lucky day.

Marlene Are you two the only boys?

Allan No, Kevin and Malky are goin' too.

Maggie What, specky four-eyes and Harry Potter?

Carla The Proclaimers!

They all do a "Proclaimers" impression

Marlene See that Kevin? He's weird.

Jessica No he's not. He's okay.

The girls go "Oooh!"

Maggie Jessica fancies the geek.

Jessica I didn't say I fancied him. Anyway, he's not a geek.

The girls go "Oooh!"

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Plot Summary

A group of teenagers from a youth club go on a hostelling trip to Arran, to walk the Goat - Goat Fell. Conflicts emerge before and during the trip as the kids confront their main objective. With an entertaining and fast-moving plot and sharp dialogue, the play has much appeal to youth groups. The cast is four boys and four girls, with three adult parts.

Duration: approx. 45 minutes

Age range: 13-15 years