
Call Girls

A Comedy by

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Synopsis

Call Girls is set in a call centre providing IT assistance to an unspecified company. Three of the women get on well together and 'have a laugh' but for the last six months their happy little group has been spoiled by the presence of Laura, an arrogant and aloof troublemaker whose predilection for short skirts and low cut tops probably has more to do with her getting the job than any particular work skills. Thankfully this is Laura's last week and the others decide not to let her go without letting her know exactly what they think of her. Surprisingly it is Mary, normally the quietist member of the group, who really lets rip but this uncharacteristic outburst could be the biggest mistake of her life.

Characters

Mary is a quiet and nervous woman in her thirties or forties. She is the sort of woman who would remain silent in the company of strangers but is happy enough to contribute to the conversation when amongst friends.

Jo is a straightforward sensible woman in her twenties or thirties and is Mary's best friend.

Tracy is similar to Jo but a bit more 'no nonsense'. She is confident and self assured and regards Jo and Mary as friends. She is in her twenties or thirties.

Laura is 'in your face' and arrogant. She dresses very seductively but without style. She is aloof from the rest of the group and really doesn't seem to care what anyone thinks of her. She is in her twenties or thirties.

Gary is disinterested in the day to day events in the office. He is aged between mid twenties and mid forties.

Call Girls

The four women are sat at desks with computers in front of them wearing telephone headsets. When a call comes though there is no audible ring and the mechanics of accepting and ending the call are controlled through the computer. This needs to be put over to the audience through exaggerated gestures. The action is continuous and takes place on a midweek morning

Mary *(Accepts a call)*. Hello helpdesk. *(Pause)* Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. *(Long pause)*. Yes. Yes. *(Pause. Quickly)*. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. *(Pause)*. Yes. Goodbye. Thanks for calling.

Jo ‘that Sally?’

Mary Yes

Jo Did she forget her password again?

Mary Yes

Jo Then she remembered it?

Mary Yes

Jo Silly cow

Tracy *(Accepts a call)* Hello Helpdesk. *(Pause)*. And what were you doing when it happened. What do you mean you can’t tell me? No, what were you doing on your computer? Have you rebooted? Switched it off and back on. Because it’s called ‘rebooting’ I didn’t think I was spouting jargon at you. Well, OK. Try that and if it doesn’t work call back. Thank you.

Jo Do you think Sally is lonely?

Tracy Sally who?

Jo The Sally who rings up everyday to say she’s forgotten her password, then says, ‘Oh I just remembered it is broccoli’

Mary Cabbage

Jo What

Mary She said her password was ‘cabbage’

Jo I’m saying nothing

Tracy It’s hardly the answer to loneliness is it? Ringing up a helpdesk and saying you’ve forgotten her password.

Up to this point Laura has been ignoring the others, engrossed in her magazine until she is now alerted to a phone call

Laura (*Accepts a call*) Yeah. Yeah the server was down. Try again in 10 mins.

Jo and Mary exchange exasperated glances.

Tracy Anyway, She probably likes being lonely. Veggies are like that.

Jo What?

Tracy You know. Veggies. Hang around in libraries, watch black and white movies. Burn candles whilst having a bath. Being lonely is part of the lifestyle.

Jo Not that you’re generalising at all Tracy.

Mary How do you know she is a veggie?

Tracy Stands to reason. Her passwords are always vegetables

Mary A tomato isn’t a vegetable

Tracy What?

Mary Her password was ‘tomato’ last week. A tomato is a fruit.

Tracy Thank you Alan Titchmarsh.

(The three of them laugh)

Jo Perhaps being a veggie makes you forgetful.

Laura *(Annoyed that the others have left her to pick up a call)* For God's sake
(Accepts a call) Y'ello. Yeah the server was down. Try again in 10.

Mary Do veggies eat fish?

Tracy Why?

Mary Cos its brain food isn't it?

Tracy And

Mary So if she ate fish she wouldn't be so forgetful.

Tracy Good point Mary. I shall mention it to her next time she calls.

Laura Going for my break *(Laura exits)*

Jo How long has *she* got left

Tracy She goes on Friday

Jo Do you think she intends to tell everyone that the server has been down
until then?

Tracy Wouldn't surprise me. It's about all she's done for the last six months.

Mary Phil is a veggie and he is a plasterer

Tracy Oh Christ, Mary is off to planet Zog.

Jo What does being a plasterer have to do with anything?

Mary Well he doesn't hang around in libraries and burn candles when he's in
the bath.

Jo How do you know?

Mary He's not the type

Jo Come on Mary, lets hear it, when did you last share a bath with Phil?

Tracy Would somebody care to tell me, who the bloody hell is Phil?

Jo Mary's brother-in-law.

Tracy I see. So my argument crumbles. Well done Mary. I am a broken woman

Jo Did he ask you to soap his back?

Mary Oh go and (*Accepts a call*) Hello helpdesk. Er yes (*looks at the others*). We did have a problem on the server but its fine now. Ok can I take your name then (*The conversation continues inaudibly*)

Tracy It'll be a relief when that Laura has gone the lazy cow. She just makes more work for the rest of us.

Jo It amazes me she's lasted so long

Tracy She knows her stuff you know. Bet she thinks this job is beneath her.

Jo But Gary must of noticed that she doesn't do any work

Tracy All Gary's noticed is her tits

Jo Probably

Mary (*on the call*) Ok thanks. An engineer will call you back. (*to the others*) They deserve it some of them. His CD drive is not working and he believed her when she said it was a server problem.

Tracy She's taking the proverbial though. I'm going to tell her when she comes back.

Mary Oh no. Don't cause a fuss, It's only a few more days.

Tracy All the more reason. Don't care if I upset her now cos I won't have to put up with her after this week.

Jo Yay. Go Tracy.

Mary Tracy.

Tracy Oh come on Mary. Don't be a mouse all your life.

Mary I am not a mouse.

Tracy Really?

Mary I'm not.

Tracy So how come you dream about Rick all day but you to scared to 'squeak' to him.

Mary That's got nothing to do with what we are talking about.

Tracy Yes it does. We are talking about you being a mouse.

Jo You have to admit Mary, it's about time something happened there. How long have you been on about him? Why don't you just ask him out?

Mary It's not up to me to make the first move. The man should do that.

Jo How quaint. Oh, you are old fashioned.

Mary What's wrong with being old fashioned.

Tracy Oh my God! I've just had this vision of Rick walking in here in his caveman suit and bumping you over the head with his club before dragging you off by your hair.

Jo *(to Tracy)* So long as it's his club *(they laugh)*

Mary When you have finished laughing at my expense!

Tracy Oh, lighten up Mary.

Mary Well. Rick's got nothing to do with what we are talking about and anyway, I don't dream about him all day, I merely mentioned, once, that I liked him and that was because you insisted on questioning me about my likes and dislikes so can we just leave it?

Tracy Ooooh!

Mary I mean it.

Jo Girls. Girls. Let's not fall out. We were talking about Laura.

Mary Yes. Yes we were. She is the cause of all this. But I just want to make the point. I am not a mouse!

Tracy Ok Mary, agreed. So are you going to hold her whilst I thump her then?

Mary She won't be here next week Tracy. Just bide your time.

Tracy And let her go thinking she's better than us? No, I'm going to wipe that smug grin off her face.

Jo So what are you going to say.

Tracy I just want to remind her that she is supposed to be part of a team here.

Mary Ok then. But don't get into trouble.

Tracy You know me. My middle name is tact. Anyway, it's Ok. If I get done, I'll say you put me up to it.

Mary shudders but she knows Tracy is joking.

Jo She's coming.

Laura enters.

Tracy Had a good break

Laura What?

Tracy I said, have you had a good break.

Laura It was ok. If you can call sitting in crap caff with a bunch of morons ok.

Tracy So you'll be refreshed and ready to go now then?

Laura What the hell are you on about

Tracy I mean, you are ready to do your share

Laura I take more calls then you do Tracy Jones. More than the rest of you put together. You lot should hear yourselves sometimes. Your so busy talking crap you don't even notice the calls coming in.

Tracy I do my share. We all do. And at least I try to help the customers. I don't just give them the brush off.

Laura What's that supposed to mean

Tracy (*mimicking*) 'The server's been down'. Do you think we don't hear you?

Laura Well for your information the server was down this morning. You didn't know that did you? If you read the reports instead treating this place like some sort of kindergarten you might be able to do a half decent job.

Tracy How dare you. I've never seen you paying any attention to reports. I bet Gary told you the server had been down when you took him a cuppa this morning. I notice you never think to ask us if we would like a cup of tea bringing.

Laura And just what the hell has it got to do with you anyway. Just who do you think you are? You've been here since the year dot. And where's it got you? Nowhere. Don't you tell me how to do my job. I could eat you and spit you out.

Jo (*Accepts a call*) Hello helpdesk.

Tracy Oh come on. You're only here because you flaunt you body to Gary. If you dressed decently you would have been out months ago.

Laura (*with mock shock*) Hah. You ugly bitch

Tracy Oh, grow up. Why not change the habit of a lifetime and do a bit of work for your last few days.

Laura So say's Miss Productivity

Tracy I do my share

Laura Yeah, right. None of you are ever likely to break into a sweat are you? Even when you can be bothered to put in a full day. (*Laura gives Mary a scornful look*)

Mary (*pretending to accept a call*) er, hello helpdesk (*nervously, in a squeaky voice*) yes, can I help you

Tracy Bitch

Laura Cow

Tracy Tart

Mary *(still pretending to be on a call)* um, I'm er sorry to hear that. Er

Jo *(on the call)* No problem. Goodbye. *(to Laura)* Look. Keep your voice down, they can hear you down the phone.

Laura It's ok. I think Big Mouth has run out of steam. *(she sits down and picks up her magazine)*

Mary *(still pretending to be on a call)* and when did it start to do that?

Jo Mary

Mary uh? *(Jo pulls a face)* I'm on a call *(down the phone)* Yes, I'm still here

Gary enters

Gary Incredible Mary. According to the system we don't have any incoming calls but here you are jabbering away. Do you have a telepathic link?

Mary looks sheepish and is about to try to think up some excuse but Gary turns his back to her and faces Laura.

Gary Laura. Could you come to my office for a moment?

Gary and Laura exit. The remaining three look at each other and eventually Jo speaks.

Jo What do you think?

Tracy Well he must have heard us.

Jo So, why didn't he take both of you?

Tracy Well, perhaps we've underestimated the man. Maybe he *can* see past her tits after all.

Jo I hope so. I bet she's in there calling you every name under the sun.

Tracy Let her. What can he do to me anyway?

Jo She'll say you started it

Tracy And I'll say she's a lazy old tart.

Jo and Tracy look at each other for a moment then burst out laughing.

Mary I don't know why you're laughing. You could be in trouble.

Tracy Your call finished has it Mary?

Jo and Tracy laugh.

Mary I. Well I.

Tracy Yes?

Mary Oh shut up.

All three laugh.

Jo Your face when she called you an ugly bitch. I really thought you were going to hit her

Tracy What do you mean? (*smiling*) I was totally in control

Mary So. Do you think she is, you know, getting the boot?

Tracy I expect so. Should have been months ago but at least we will be spared her last few days.

Jo Where is she going anyway? Did she say?

Tracy I never bothered to ask her. To be honest I don't think Gary would have said anything if I hadn't seen her job advertised. When he said 'Laura will be moving on' I was just grateful.

Mary Do you think they'll still take her? You know, if she gets sacked from here.

Tracy Don't know, don't care.

Mary I hope she is alright

Jo Oh Mary!

Mary Well, I know she is lazy and she's never tried to fit in but, like you say, she knows her stuff so she must have been frustrated in a lowly job like this. I didn't like her but I don't wish her any harm.

Tracy That's very noble of you.

Mary Well. She's never done me any harm.

Tracy Oh. Really.

Jo Tracy

Mary What?

Jo Nothing

Mary What?

Jo Forget it.

Mary Tell me

Tracy She told Gary about you leaving early.

Mary I don't leave early

Tracy I know. But the rules say you have to take breaks at the allotted time. You can't take your break 15 minutes before the end of your shift and go home.

Mary But the bus...

Tracy Yes dear. I know, I know and we don't mind but Gary came in here late one afternoon the other day and asked where you were. Jo said you had to go and it was a one off but you could tell he didn't believe it and then he looked at Laura and she smiled that smug smile of hers and we realised she had dropped you in it.

Mary So, why didn't you tell me?

Tracy We thought, if he didn't say anything to you the next day then it meant he would turn a blind eye. And I think he has.

Mary Has he?

Tracy Well he hasn't said anything to you has he?

Mary Oh God.

Jo Don't worry Mary dear. He knows you are a good worker. I bet he has thought it over and decided not to worry about it. Turn a blind eye, like Tracy says.

Mary I know what he thinks. He thinks I'm a mouse. That's what he thinks. Just like you said. I'm a mouse. He thinks he'll store that one up and use it against me when he feels like it. Well, I'm not a mouse. I'm going to tell him that I have to finish ten minutes early and if he doesn't like it he can stick his job.

Jo Mary!

Mary You think I don't have it in me don't you?

Jo It's not that it's..

Mary I'm not a mouse Jo. I'm not being trampled on anymore. *(Accepts a call)*Yes. Yes the server was down. Try again in ten minutes.

Jo

(together) Mary!

Tracy

Mary I am not a mouse!

(The three sit in silence for a while then Tracy tries to break the ice)

Tracy It is quiet this morning

Jo Oh don't use the Q word. You'll tempt fate.

Tracy Still, it can get boring though. Mind you, we have a laugh don't we?

Jo Yeah, we have a laugh.

Tracy Don't you agree Mary? We have a laugh. *(Mary does not answer)*
Wonder what the new girl will be like. Laura's replacement.

Jo Might be a bloke

Tracy Now you're talking. A handsome young grad. Trying to break into IT

Jo Bit shy. Not nerdy but not bit nervous of being surrounded by women.

Tracy But he secretly has a crush one of them

Jo Or two of them

Tracy Or three of them. *(They look at Mary who is staring out front ignoring them)* Then comes the Christmas party.

Jo He gets a bit tipsy. Makes a pass.

Tracy Ends up doing something he shouldn't

Jo And feels terrible about it after

Tracy Not realising that that he has been manoeuvred into it by a couple of old tarts.

Jo and Tracy laugh

Tracy Bet it'll be some old hag. Handsome young Grads don't go into IT these days. It isn't sexy to work in IT anymore.

Jo You're right. It's all geeks and saddos these days.

Tracy Ahem

Jo Present company accepted

Tracy Thank you

Gary and Laura enter. Laura goes to her desk and starts to collect her things. After a while Mary stands up and crosses to her.

Mary So. You finally got your comeuppance did you? Well good riddance. It takes a lot to get me riled but I don't like sneaks and I don't like two faced cows. We were happy here. A good team, we all got along fine, then you come along with your short skirts and your tits in everyone's face and you try to rock the boat. Well it hasn't worked out for you has it? You've been found out. You're lazy, you're rude and you're rubbish at your job. I just hope that your new employers see through you a bit quicker that's all. *(With a final burst, almost shrieking)* Now get out of my sight you cow!

Laura smiles slightly and sits down at the desk. Gary steps forward.

Gary I was going to announce this on Friday afternoon but due to this morning's events I thought it wise to bring it forward. I am leaving the company. Laura takes over from me from Monday.

Jo and Tracy look at each other disbelievingly whilst Mary staggers slowly back to her chair as the curtain falls.