**INK – Audition excerpt from ‘After the Race’**

***Characters***

*ATHLETE*

Athletic, passionate, reflective – comes straight from a race to confront her coach on his training advice and eventually “sacks” him. Should be able to use the formatted text structure to find emphasis but also be able to let it go in favour of intention.

***Play Synopsis***

*Following defeat in an 800 metre race, a promising female athlete confronts her coach at the side of the athletics track.  Reliving the event and the advice she had been given, she finally realises that she must now split from him, if she is ever to become a top flight runner.*

***Extract Context***

*This extract starts mid-way through the monologue and the thoughts are flowing out now, her bravery growing as she realises in real time what the inevitable outcome must be, but this isn’t easy for her to say.*

It didn’t shake out like that, coach,

like you said it would

I did everything

you said I should

I took the race out - you saw -

right from the front

went so bloody hard

over the first four hundred

watched the clock

opened up a small gap

kept pushing on to break them

expecting that they’d sit back, sit back

but it didn’t happen like that

my tiny lead

it went in a flash

I tried to hang on desperately

but they surged right back

engulfed me

started pushing me

quite literally

off the track

I fell – nearly hit my head on the deck -

but picked myself back up

and found myself stuck at the back

running the last lap

not from the front

no

trapped

hanging with the rest who

at best might make a season’s best

something to impress back home

I guess

but not for me.

I’m good, I *know* I am

I *can* make something of this

if I apply myself to it

make it count –

at county level

national level

hell – even internationally -

but not with you

making me run

not on hope - and the bright possibility

of what might come -

but on fear

and so I’m done with this

the you-telling-me-what-to-do

I’m completely through with this

totally spent

run out of track

this is over, coach -

I’m out of here.