



A-Typical Rainbow
JJ Green

Boy, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is at school. In class, he observes his teacher's mannerisms and presentation. Boy realises that his teacher is struggling and asks if she is okay.

BOY: She said she was fine but everything around her added up to something else. I may not be able to do long division without getting distracted but surely everyone can see that?

Can't they?

Ten a.m she enters the classroom and slightly trips on the rug. That rug has always been there. It's *her* rug.

Ten-oh-four she missed Georgia off the register.

Ten thirty-two she started the class two minutes, exactly a hundred and twenty seconds late. She was never late. Ten forty-one spelled 'Morning' M-O-U-R-N-I-N-G on the whiteboard. Ten fifty-seven checks her phone under the desk, you can tell because the light slightly illuminated her glasses enough to see a brief moment of reflection as the Nokia screen danced across her lenses. Eleven twenty-eight a.m. dismisses us exactly a hundred and twenty seconds early for breaktime, remains behind in the classroom despite it being chocolate biscuit day. Those are her favourite. She said those were her favourite. You remember people's favourite things. That and carrot cake which is gross. She has no taste. We return from playtime. Murder scene. Exhibit A: coffee cup still on desk exactly where she left it approximately seventy degrees from her untouched pile of paper. Coffee mug empty, kettle remains by the sin untouched. Exhibit B: whiteboard hasn't been rubbed down from last lesson. It's always rubbed down from the last lesson to hide her spelling mistakes. Exhibit C: new addition to attire: small scrunched-up tissue being held to wrist by watch strap. Watch is on time. D: Slightly messy hair on the right side of her head indicating a phone has been held. E: phone charger attached to rear desk plug. F: nail on left-hand index finger where immaculate polish once stood is now chipped, bitten. G: ever so slight red mark on the right side of face, she's been learning on it. H: pigeon hole remains empty no papers collected from staff room.

Clearly this is a woman who's falling apart at the seams.

Miss, are you okay?

Scene 5 'Parent's evening/Murder in a classroom'