

= Katie and Emily =

" Katie and Emily " is the ninth and penultimate episode of the third series of the British teen drama *Skins* , which first aired on 19 March 2009 on E4 in both Ireland and the United Kingdom . The episode was written by Malcolm Campbell and Bryan Elsley , and was directed by Charles Martin . The episode focuses on the characters of twins Katie and Emily Fitch ( Megan and Kathryn Prescott , respectively ) as they prepare for their college 's annual ball . Katie refuses to leave home , recovering from being hit in the head with a rock , and faces her weakening control over her sister . Emily , meanwhile , is heartbroken when her girlfriend , Naomi Campbell ( Lily Loveless ) , turns down Emily 's invitation to the ball , and comes out to her family about her sexuality .

" Katie and Emily " featured numerous cameo appearances by the series ' crew members and the winners of various *Skins* @-@ related competitions . While filming one of the episode 's fight scenes , according to Kathryn Prescott , the actors " did it a bit too properly " , with injuries sustained to both Megan Prescott and Giles Thomas . The episode drew just under one million viewers on its first broadcast and was E4 's highest @-@ rated programme of the week . It was received generally well by critics .

= = Plot = =

Emily , disguised as her twin sister Katie , arrives at college to take Katie 's history exam . In reality , Katie is at home , with nine stitches to the head after being hit with a rock by their friend Effy Stonem , who has disappeared . Katie is embarrassed about how her injuries look , and miserable over the loss of her boyfriend Freddie Mclair ( Luke Pasqualino ) , who only dated her to spite Effy , his real love interest . She begins to take notice of all the hints in front of her , and realises that she can no longer hide from herself the fact that Emily is homosexual . At college , Naomi uncovers Emily 's disguise ( which had not fooled JJ or Freddie either ) and tells her that she plans to spend the summer alone in Cyprus . When Emily tells Naomi that she will miss her , they kiss in an empty corridor and later find themselves at Naomi 's house where they have sex . Afterward , Emily asks Naomi to the college ball , but Naomi , still crippled by insecurity over her sexuality , refuses , leaving Emily heartbroken . Emily leaves and at the bus stop meets Thomas Tomone ( Merveille Lukeba ) , who offers her his shoes and jacket and is unconcerned when she tells him that she is gay . He tries to comfort her but admits that he believes it impossible to stop loving somebody , referring to his ex @-@ girlfriend Pandora Moon ( Lisa Backwell ) . Emily returns home and comes out to her family , telling them that she has been having sex with a girl named Naomi . Her father , Rob ( John Bishop ) , dismisses it as a joke and her mother , Jenna ( Ronni Ancona ) , is speechless , while Katie tries to deny it . She and Emily have a heated argument , leaving Katie crying .

The following morning , Naomi visits the Fitches ' house , but Jenna answers the door . She confronts Naomi , convincing her that Emily is not gay and warning Naomi to stay away from her . Naomi too denies her own sexual orientation and leaves hastily . After waking up , Katie and Emily reconcile in their own secret language , and Emily reluctantly agrees to go to the ball with Katie . While shopping for ball gowns , they meet Pandora , who is returning a dress since Thomas has not forgiven her for her infidelity with their friend James Cook . The twins run into Freddie and JJ Jones ( Ollie Barbieri ) while trying on dresses . JJ reveals to Emily that he told Freddie that he had sex with her , and Freddie inadvertently tells Katie , who was unaware of this . She guilties Freddie into accompanying her to the ball and volunteers Emily to go with JJ . Later , she is furious with Emily for having sex with JJ without her permission , still insisting that Emily is " not gay , [ just ] stupid " . Katie intercepts one of Naomi 's phone calls to Emily and tricks Naomi into meeting with her , where she reveals Emily 's affair with JJ and warns Naomi not to come to the ball .

As Katie , Emily , Freddie and JJ prepare to enter the ball , Naomi arrives , announcing that she knows about Emily and JJ 's fling before she walks in . An upset Emily leaves . Katie starts a fight with Naomi . Unaware of Emily 's presence , she admits her deceit and claims that Emily " deserved it . " Infuriated , Emily attacks Katie , wreaking havoc through the entire ball . Emily finally overpowers her sister and raises a fist to punch her , but , after a moment 's hesitation , reconsiders

and instead helps Katie to stand up , declaring that she is " not her . " In front of everybody , Emily tells Katie that she is her own person and that she is in love with Naomi . Katie accepts Emily 's individuality and sexuality , and Naomi , no longer ashamed of their relationship , extends her hand to Emily . The couple leaves the ball hand @-@ in @-@ hand and Naomi tells Emily that she loves her too . Meanwhile , Pandora apologises again to Thomas and he forgives her , re @-@ introducing himself .

= = Production = =

" Katie and Emily " featured a number of cameo appearances . Phil Goldie , who won the " Skins Needs You " competition for young directors , appears as a man in the café where Naomi meets Katie . Clara Nicholls and Antonio Aakeel , the winners of a competition to win a speaking role in Skins , played the shop assistant and security guard respectively at the boutique where Katie and Emily shop for ball gowns , while another finalist from the competition , Allana Taylor , starred as a girl dancing with the students ' Head of Form , Doug ( Giles Thomas ) , at the ball . One of the series ' runners , Laurence Wigfield , played a bystander at the ball and the crew 's " jack of all trades " , Tyrone Hyman , appeared on a poster in Katie and Emily 's bedroom .

Lisa Backwell described the filming of the ball as her " most favourite , most mental day of filming " . At the end of the final take of Pandora 's dancing with Doug , the students ' head of year , the entire crew danced into shot . Director Charles Martin was initially dubious of whether Megan and Kathryn Prescott would be able to film Katie and Emily 's fight well enough , but Kathryn said that on their first rehearsal they " did it a bit too properly " , ripping out parts of Megan 's hair extensions . Emily 's accidental punching of Doug during the fight was choreographed so that when Kathryn Prescott punched the air in front of Giles Thomas 's face , the camera angle would make it appear that she was actually hitting him . While they were filming , however , Prescott genuinely punched Thomas by accident , causing him to stumble back and step on Megan Prescott 's bare foot , which she injured .

= = Reception = =

" Katie and Emily " brought in 957 @,@ 000 viewers and was E4 's highest @-@ rated programme of the week with an audience share of 4 @.@ 4 percent . Another 320 @,@ 000 viewers watched the episode an hour after its initial broadcast on E4 's timeshift channel , E4 + 1 .

Sarah Warn , editor @-@ in @-@ chief of lesbian @-@ based website AfterEllen.com , thought that the portrayal of Emily and Naomi 's relationship in the episode was " a good example of a well @-@ plotted , well @-@ executed , and well @-@ acted storyline coming to a satisfying conclusion " , which she regarded as " a noteworthy event given how few TV shows you can say that about " . She felt that Emily 's changing relationship with Katie as a significant part of her character development made her " sympathetic and relatable to those who might have otherwise have difficulty relating to a lesbian character " . One critic for PopSugar.com wrote that in this episode the " drama was still in full flow " despite the absence of principal characters Effy and Cook , and was impressed with the episode 's " uplifting ending " . They believed that Ronni Ancona was " fab " as the twins ' mother , and regarded Pandora and Doug 's dance at the ball as a " fantastic comic moment " . Ellie Newton @-@ Syms of InJournalism Magazine was " thrilled " with the conclusion of Katie and Emily 's storyline . The entertainment editor for eurOut.org , a website for European lesbians , wrote that she " almost [ felt ] like joining in " when Emily cried after breaking up with Naomi , and thought that the twins ' secret language was " very cute and adorable " . Dan French , in a review for Digital Spy , highlighted the episode 's " dramas aplenty " and believed Katie and Emily 's parents to be " slightly creepy " . The Sun 's Keeley Bolger described Katie and Emily 's falling out as " spectacular " .