

**1 INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY****1**

A hospital waiting room, quiet apart from hushed murmuring. Whilst the decor is vibrant, the colour appears to have drained from the face of a meek teenage girl (AILBHE, 17, a patient) sat across from an upright young man (OISIN, 22, her staunch older brother); focused intently on Ailbhe, as though everyone else has faded into the background.

OISIN

(Leaning forward, hands  
interlinked)

Do you remember that time we went to  
see Lilo & Stitch? I don't think  
I've ever seen you so... Transfixed.

Ailbhe looks up slowly, as if called back to reality.

AILBHE

I wanted to bring Stitch home. He  
was like a dog, only cooler.

Oisin half-smiles, slumping back into the chair.

OISIN

It wasn't Stitch that got you.  
Remember what they said?

Ailbhe looks at him with a vacant expression, crossing her  
arms.

AILBHE

If you're trying to make me look  
stupid, now is not the time. You  
know what my memory is like.

Oisin frowns, and for the first time we see the tiredness  
etched into his face, like features that have always been  
there. Raking a hand through his hair, he sighs shallowly.

OISIN

Would you rather talk about why  
we're here?

Ailbhe shifts, eyes flitting to look elsewhere.

AILBHE

Not at all.

OISIN

It's only making it harder by not  
acknowledging it. That's what drove

them away, made them lose trust in-

AILBHE

(Interjecting with a  
strained voice)

Don't. Not now. Not *here*.

Oisín never looks away from Ailbhe. He swallows, nodding his head slightly.

OISIN

How does the story end?

AILBHE

The what?

Oisín clears his throat.

OISIN

The one you were writing about the  
girl trapped in the mind of someone  
else?

AILBHE

It doesn't. I never finished it.

OISIN

Why start it then?

Ailbhe picks and chews at her nails, before sitting on her hand. She looks directly at Oisín.

AILBHE

Just needed an escape. Somewhere to  
pretend I was in control for a  
while.

OISIN

You're in control now. You're here  
now, with me.

Ailbhe opens her mouth, but is silenced by the soft-spoken voice of a stranger stood behind Oisín.

NURSE

Think these are for you love.  
Ailbhe? Can't be many of those.

AILBHE

(Making small gasping noises)

I, uh, I...

Oisín furrows his brow, as Ailbhe looks down at her lap. He swivels in his seat to take the document from the nurse.

OISIN  
 (Glancing at Ailbhe out of  
 the corner of his eye)  
 Thank you. Just nerves.

Silence hangs in the air like an invisible wall between the two siblings. Ailbhe seems to have shut down, retreating within herself to fight some unknown battle.

OISIN  
 Hey, come back to me. This is  
 important.

AILBHE  
 Oisín, I feel watched. They're  
 watching me, waiting for  
 confirmation I've lost it. It'll be  
 the final blow - then I'll have no  
 one.

Oisín breaks eye contact for the first time, looking around the waiting room suspiciously.

OISIN  
 Who's watching you Ailbhe...? Don't  
 do this again, *please*. You're not  
 yourself, I know that.

AILBHE  
 (Frantically)  
 Believe me, Oisín. You're the only  
 one that still does.

OISIN  
 We have to believe the psychiatric  
 review, we have to believe *reality*.

Ailbhe purses her lips, sitting up straight. She looks straight into Oisín's eyes, who looks taken aback by her change in mental state.

AILBHE  
 Alright. Okay.

Oisín goes to say something, pauses, looking at Ailbhe with frustration and grief. He stands up, rushing over to Ailbhe and enveloping her in a hug. She doesn't react.

OISIN  
 No matter what those results say,  
 you won't lose me. I'm not going

anywhere.

Ailbhe looks straight ahead, as if she's looking at something  
no one else can see.

OISIN

Do you remember now? No one left  
behind or forgotten - that's what I  
was trying to tell you.

AILBHE

Even if I see and hear things?

OISIN

Even then.