

Waking Beauty

By Alex Clarke

1 x 45' Drama for BBC Radio 4

CHARACTERS

ORLA.....Sade Malone
GEMMA.....Sacha Parkinson
MARY.....Michelle Fairley
SIOBHAN.....Lucy Gaskell
FATHER ROBIN.....Joseph Alessi

Producer:	Nadia Molinari
Production Coordinator:	Vicky Moseley
Production Contact:	
Technical Team:	Steve Brooke and Mike Smith
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Audio Drama North, BBC Production

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WAKING BEAUTY
Written by Alex Clarke
(for the flagless)

1 **SCENE 1**

2 **1 EXT. WOODS - PROTEST CAMP - DAY OF THE FALL -**

3 **ONE MONTH LATER.**

4 FX: GEESE FLY TOWARDS THE CHAOS OF CAMP –

5 ARRESTS AND POLICE RADIOS. ORLA SOBS ROCKING VANILLA

6 IN HER LAP. A

7 PARAMEDIC RUNS OVER TO KNEEL BY ORLA. THE GEESE

8 CONTINUE ON.

9 ORLA: (S/Irish) Get off her!

10 PARAMEDIC: (Stern) Look at us. (Kind) We're the paramedics

11 ORLA: Don't let the police near her, please...

12 **SCENE 2:**

13 **2 INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - BY THE SHRINE - SAME**

14 **TIME.**

15 MARY (65) kneels on the floor beneath a mantel piece shrine.

16 FX: ROSEMARY BEADS SLIP THROUGH MARY'S (65) FINGERS.

17 MARY (Derry accent/whispering) ...now, and at the hour of our death.

18 Amen (Clears her throat) Hail Mary...

19 **SCENE 3:**

20 **3 INT. DEMENTIA CARE HOME - HARRY'S ROOM - SAME TIME.**

21 FX: SIOBHAN (40'S) PUTS A RECORD ONTO PLAY.

22 THE NEEDLE HITS VINYL.

23 MUSIC: (SOMETHING LIKE SAM COOKE).

24 SIOBHAN (Mancunian accent/whispering)

25 Whoops, bit loud eh, we'll wake all the residents

26 FX: SIOBHAN LOWERS THE MUSIC AND APPROACHES HARRY IN

27 BED.

28 SIOBHAN I'm just going to dampen your lips, Harry, ok?

29 FX: SIOBHAN DABS HARRY'S LIPS WITH A SMALL WATERED

30 SPONGE.

31 SIOBHAN: Your sons will be here soon, everyone loves you very much.

32 FX: WILD GEESE FLY OVER HEAD. SIOBHAN STANDS UP.

33 SIOBHAN Oh, listen, The Geese.

34 FX: SIOBHAN OPENS THE WINDOW. SIOBHAN

35 Our Vanilla loves them, hope she's awake to hear.

1 **SCENE 4:**
2 **4 EXT. WOODS - THREE CAMP - SAME TIME.**
3 FX: CONTINUED CHAOS OF THE POLICE DISMANTLING THE CAMP.
4 PARMAEDIC: What's your name?
5 ORLA: Vanilla, I call her Princess
6 PARMAEDIC: Not her, you, what's your name?
7 ORLA: Orla
8 PARMAEDIC: Ok Orla, let her go so we can see her injuries
9 ORLA: It's bad, it's her head
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11 **SCENE 5:**
12 **5 INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SHRINE - SAME TIME.**
13 Mary, still kneeling
14 MARY: And as always, look after my Seamus and protect my girls from
15 harm. Amen.
16 FX: WILD GEESE FLY OVER THE BYRNE'S HOUSE.
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18 **SCENE 6:**
19 **6 INT. HOSPITAL - FAMILY ROOM - LATER ON THE MORNING OF THE**
20 **FALL.**
21 FX: ORLA FLOPS INTO A CHAIR HEAD IN HANDS.
22 ORLA: (Disbelief) A coma?
23 NURSE: Do you know how we can reach her family?
24 ORLA: She only mentioned them once, on her YouTube
25 FX: ORLA LOOKS IN HER WATERPROOF'S POCKET
26 ORLA: (CONT'D) I'd look it up, but she got banned.
27 NURSE: Do you know their surname?
28 ORLA: (CONT'D) (anxious) Not for anything awful.
29 (CONT'D) What did you say?
30 NURSE: Their surname.
31 ORLA: Byrne, it's Byrne.
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1 **SCENE 7:**

2 **7 INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME MORNING.**

3 FX: KETTLE MID-BOIL. SIOBHAN OPENS THE DOOR.

4 THE KETTLE SWITCHES OFF.

5 MARY SLAMS AN EXTRA CUP ONTO THE TABLE.

6 SIOBHAN: Still fasting?

7 MARY: Is it lent?

8 FX: SIOBHAN SWITCHES THE KETTLE ON. MARY SNAPS IT OFF.

9 MARY: (CONT'D) You just witnessed it boil.

10 SIOBHAN: Have you seen -- ?

11 MARY: No wonder there's no polar bears.

12 FX: SIOBHAN PULLS OUT A WOODEN CHAIR TO SIT AT THE TABLE.

13 MARY: (CONT'D) Why don't you just shoot them yerself?

14 SIOBHAN: After some toast.

15 FX: SIOBHAN OPEN'S A LOAF OF BREAD.

16 MARY: Get your hands off that bread...

17 FX: MARY SNATCHES THE LOAF.

18 MARY: (CONT'D) That's Father Robin's breakfast --

19 SIOBHAN: There's nothing else --

20 MARY: The girl's housekeeping isn't in the kitty.

21 SIOBHAN: Oh, this is about Vanilla.

22 MARY: (Mumbling) Naming a decent person after body-spray.

23 FX: MARY OPENS THE WASHING MACHINE AND DRAGS CLOTHES

24 OUT

25 SIOBHAN: Have you seen her Christening bracelet? It's not --

26 FX: MARY SLOPS WET CLOTHES ONTO THE TABLE.

27 MARY: I've seen her washing, or rather smelled it, get up that chair's for

28 the cat. Up!

29 SIOBHAN: Okay I see, I'll [speak to her] --

30 FX: SIOBHAN STANDS UP.

31 MARY: You see nothing, you've got your dad's eyes for seeing.

32 Put these on the clothes horse.

1 FX: SIOBHAN PUTS THE WET CLOTHES ONTO THE CLOTHES
2 HORSE.

3 SIOBHAN: She's seventeen mum.

4 MARY: Weren't we all once upon a time.

5 SIOBHAN: And saving for her salon --

6 MARY: I'm saving for it.

7 SIOBHAN: (Exhausted) She's trying --

8 MARY: I'm trying --

9 SIOBHAN: (Under her breath) Yep you are.

10 MARY: If she's not putting in for rent, I'm conjuring the down payment
11 aren't I?

12 FX: MARY BANGS CUPS INTO THE SINK.

13 MARY: Like some supernatural witch made of gold.

14 SIOBHAN: Oh mum I'm tired, we lost Harry this morn --

15 MARY: You're not listening --

16 SIOBHAN: Got dad's ears for hearing have I?

17 MARY: That man was a saint with his ears.

18 SIOBHAN: Oh mum, I've been on me feet all night, twelve hours, back out in
19 three.

20 FX: MARY SLAPS MORE CLOTHES DOWN.

21 MARY: You're not special cos you work you know.

22 SIOBHAN: (Pleading) I just need five minutes on the bed- settee and then I'll
23 talk to her

24 FX: MARY OPENS THE KITCHEN DOOR.

25 MARY: Oh do what you like.

26 FX: MARY LEAVES THE ROOM AND SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HER
27 MARY: (CONT'D) And don't go getting milk, I'm getting some after
28 cleaning church, I don't want duplicates.

29 FX: JANGLES OF MARY'S KEYS AS SHE UNLOCKS THE FRONT
30 DOOR.

31 SIOBHAN: (Tuts to herself) Duplicate milk.

32 FX: MARY SLAMS THE FRONT DOOR. THE CAT MEOWS.

33 SIOBHAN: (CONT'D) Shut up, smug.

34

1 **SCENE 8:**

2 **8 INT. CLERGY HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME MORNING.**

3 FX: MARY FRIES AN ENGLISH BREAKFAST.

4 FATHER ROBIN (65) sits reading the paper at the breakfast table.

5 Mary by the cooker - always at the cooker.

6 MARY: They're pushing me through the gates of hell all by themselves so

7 they are Father, no devils needed --

8 FATHER ROBIN: (English/Northern) Was it Mother Teresa who said...

9 FX: FATHER POURS TEA FROM A POT.

10 MARY TAKES OVER.

11 MARY: Don't be doing the tea. What else am I for?

12 FATHER ROBIN: "Heal the world through the family first"...

13 FX: MARY FINISHES POURING TEA AND PLATES UP FOOD.

14 MARY: That's why I am here every day. Am I not doing enough?

15 FX: MARY PLONKS A PLATE OF FRIED FOOD IN FRONT OF FATHER.

16 FATHER ROBIN: (Confused) I didn't, what do you --?

17 MARY: (Sudden contrition)

18 I know. I'm a terrible mother (waits for him to contradict).

19 FX: FATHER ROBIN EATS TOAST.

20 MARY: Enough butter on your toast there Father?

21 FATHER ROBIN: (Mouthful) Your fasting is an inspiration.

22 MARY: (Muttering) Everyone's at the bread and butter this morning

23 (Sighs) Okay I admit it.

24 FX: MARY PULLS OUT A CHAIR AND SITS DOWN AT THE TABLE.

25 MARY: I just can't forgive her for coming back.

26 FATHER ROBIN: (Hiding surprise) Coming back?

27 MARY: Siobhan, after her divorce.

28 FATHER ROBIN: (Shifts in his seat) Are you sure?

29 MARY: May god forgive me it's the truth.

30 FX: MARY WRAPS HER ROSARY BEADS AROUND HER WRIST.

31 FATHER ROBIN: If I remember rightly (cautious) and I could be wrong,

32 but I seem to remember...

33 MARY: (Impatient) Aye yeah

1 FATHER ROBIN: That you said it was unforgivable that she left.
2 MARY: (Murmurs angry agreement)
3 FX: FATHER ROBIN SHIFTS AS IF FREEING HIS VOICE.
4 FATHER ROBIN: More painful than Seamus --
5 MARY: -- aye well he didn't choose to be shot in the head.
6 FATHER ROBIN: (CONT'D) (Moan of regret)
7 MARY: (Mumbles) It's not complicated.
8 FATHER ROBIN: His anniversary is --
9 MARY: Last week, forty-five years.
10 FATHER ROBIN: Oh why didn't you say? We could've added his name --
11 FX: MARY PUSHES HER CHAIR OUT AS SHE STANDS UP.
12 MARY: I'm needed at The Arms before opening.
13 FATHER ROBIN: Should have remembered --
14 FX : MARY'S ALREADY HEADING OUT THE DOOR.
15 FATHER ROBIN: (CONT'D) I'm sorry.
16 MARY: (Shouting back) Pay it no mind.
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1 **SCENE 9: INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SOFA BED - DAY OF THE FALL.**

2 FX: GEMMA BANGS ON THE BYRNE'S FRONT DOOR.

3 GEMMA: Siobhan!?

4 FX: SIOBHAN PULLS THE QUILT DOWN.

5 GEMMA HAMMERS ON THE WINDOW.

6 GEMMA: (CONT'D) (Singing) Sheee-boon! Op-ee-on

7 FX: SIOBHAN GETS OFF THE SOFA

8 SIOBHAN: Gemma Taylor you...

9 FX: SIOBHAN OPENS THE WINDOW

10 SIOBHAN: ... noisy little --

11 GEMMA: Get us me bag.

12 SIOBHAN: (Looks behind her) What's it look like?

13 GEMMA: Dunno.

14 SIOBHAN: You don't know what your own bag looks like?

15 GEMMA: Gift bag innit, let us in --

16 SIOBHAN: Why's Vee not pickin' this up for you, yer eight month pregnant
17 for goodness sake.

18 GEMMA: (Laughs) Does it matter? Pass it out --

19 SIOBHAN: Yes it matters, she's meant to be helping you--

20 GEMMA: Do I look like an acorn?

21 SIOBHAN: Eh?

22 GEMMA: What?

23 SIOBHAN: I'm too tired fer this.

24 GEMMA: (Amused) You still burgers by day, biddies by night?

25 SIOBHAN: (Hiding irritation/needin' rid) Is it a baby bag?

26 GEMMA: (As if to an idiot) A gift baaag. Butterfly on it.

27 SIOBHAN: (Turning away from Gemma) Oh, I think I see it.

28 FX: POLICE CAR PULLS UP.

29 SIOBHAN: (CONT'D) (Laughing) Cops for you?

30 FX: THE POLICE OPEN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAR DOORS.

31 GEMMA: (Anxiety) I'll come back yeah.

32 FX: GEMMA LEAVES. HEAVY FOOTFALLS APPROACH THE HOUSE.

33 POLICE OFFICER: Are you Siobhan Byrne?

1 **SCENE 10:**
2 **10 INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - LATER THE SAME DAY.**
3 FX: BUSY HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. SIOBHAN AND MARY ALMOST
4 JOG AFTER A NURSE WHO LEADS THEM TOWARDS THE
5 FAMILY ROOM.
6 NURSE: (Over her shoulder) Family room's just down here --
7 MARY: (To the nurse) We want to see the doctor.
8 VANILLA'S VOICE-MAIL: Yeah it's Vee, text me loser, who rings?
9 MARY: For heaven's sake, hang up
10 FX: VANILLA'S VOICE-MAIL BEEPS
11 SIOBHAN: (Into her mobile) I'm actually at the hospital now, if I have to see
12 some poor girl in a coma--
13 FX: THE NURSE OPENS THE FAMILY ROOM DOOR.
14 NURSE: Through there.
15 MARY: We want the doctor.
16 NURSE: I'll find one.
17 MARY: Not one, the one.
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1 **SCENE 11:**

2 **11 INT. HOSPITAL - FAMILY ROOM - DAY OF THE FALL - CONTINUOUS.**

3 FX: MARY WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR FOLLOWED BY SIOBHAN.

4 ORLA STANDS UP FROM HER CHAIR.

5 MARY (To Orla) Who are you?

6 FX: NURSE CLOSSES THE DOOR ELIMINATING CORRIDOR NOISE.

7 SIOBHAN I'm so sorry --

8 MARY Don't apologise for me.

9 SIOBHAN (To Mary) It's not her fault we're sharing a room.

10 ORLA I'm Orla (deep breath) I was with her when she fell from the tree.

11 *MOMENT LATER - CHAOS - EVERYONE SPEAKING OVER EACH*

12 *OTHER*

13 MARY What tree? Where? Which tree? (To Siobhan) Why's she in a tree?

14 ORLA (CONT'D) (Trying not to cry)

15 It was an accident, it'd been raining and the branch was mossy --

16 SIOBHAN (To Mary) Stop saying tree.

17 FX: SIOBHAN SITS DOWN.

18 MARY (To Orla) She's the nails of a hooker, what did she do?

19 Climb the bark like a cougar?

20 SIOBHAN (To Orla) You have the wrong Vanilla.

21 MARY (To Siobhan) Oh because it's such a common name.

22 SIOBHAN (To Mary) You just said (gives up)

23 (to Orla) I have a lot of respect for what you do.

24 MARY (Astounded) Falling from trees like drunken chimps?

25 SIOBHAN Weren't you just fussin' about polar bears?

26 MARY She's not been up a tree since she was seven --

27 ORLA It was like a dream, like she hovered to the ground, a rainbow trail

28 of light behind her --

29 MARY (Tuts)

30 ORLA And I thought, "I can reach her, catch her" but by the time I got

31 there, she was... (sobs)

32 SIOBHAN Can I give you a hug?

33 ORLA Um hum

34 MARY Give me strength

1 FX: _____ SIOBHAN HUGS ORLA.

2 ORLA (Starts crying)

3 SIOBHAN Mum? Do you have a tissue?

4 MARY I'm not made of tissues. She can bare-face cry like the rest of us.

5 ORLA And when I looked down the rainbow turned out to simply be the

6 fairy ribbons we'd hung in the branches.

7 SIOBHAN Fairy ribbons?

8 MARY Don't panic, love

9 ORLA She brought everyone's wishes down with her.

10 SIOBHAN Oh mum, fairy ribbons.

11 FX: _____ NURSE OPENS THE DOOR.

12 NURSE You can come through to see her now.

13 SIOBHAN I can't mum, I can't.

14 MARY You can, come on, lean on me.

15 SIOBHAN (Irritable) No mum please, I'm not a child.

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1 **SCENE 12:**

2 **12 INT. HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - DAY OF THE FALL - MOMENTS**

3 **LATER**

4 FX: THE STEADY BEEP OF VANILLA'S HOSPITAL MONITORS.

5 NURSE: She might be able to hear you, so feel free to talk, play music --

6 FX: MARY WALKS UP TO VANILLA'S BED.

7 MARY Hey there Sweetheart, it's yer gran here.

8 NURSE I'll give you some space.

9 FX: NURSE LEAVES AND SHUTS THE DOOR.

10 MARY Come on Siobhan, come over and see her.

11 SIOBHAN I can't, mum. It looks like her.

12 FX: MARY APPROACHES SIOBHAN.

13 MARY (Certain and calm) She's just napping is all.

14 Come and tuck her in, like when she was wee.

15 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) I can't feel my legs though

16 MARY Link me.

17 FX: SIOBHAN LINKS MARY AND THEY WALK OVER TO VANILLA.

18 SIOBHAN (Breathless) Why's her face purple?

19 MARY She hit her head, love.

20 FX: SIOBHAN NESTLES HER HEAD INTO MARY'S COAT LIKE A

21 CHILD

22 SIOBHAN I can't look, it looks too painful.

23 MARY (Whispering to Siobhan) She's not in pain.

24 (To Vanilla) Hey Vanilla, love, we're all here now.

25 Your ma, me, (noticing Orla by the door) the stranger.

26 ORLA (Loud for Vanilla) I'm here Princess!

27 SIOBHAN (To Orla) Was she in pain?

28 ORLA (Hesitates)

29 MARY (Warning Orla) No. She wasn't.

30 ORLA Out like a light.

31 FX: ORLA CLICKS HER FINGERS.

32 SIOBHAN Oh thank goodness (small sob) she just fell and went sleep yeah?

33 (Realizing) Why's she so thin?

1 ORLA She'd been in the woods for a while.

2 MARY What do you mean "a while?"

3 ORLA You mean to say you didn't notice she was gone?

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5 **SCENE 13:**

6 **13 INT. CHURCH - CONFESSIONAL - ONE DAY AFTER VANILLA'S FALL**

7 FX: MARY SHIFTS IN THE SMALL WOODEN SPACE, IRRITABLE.

8 MARY Bless me Father, for I have sinned, it's been three days since my
9 last confession. These are my sins. (Deep breath)

10 I've been asleep since Seamus.

11 It's the only explanation for misplacing Vanilla.

12 Two weeks, or so we think. She could have been... [dead].

13 I've been wrapped in his shroud and now it's been whipped off, I
14 feel raw.

15 I'm frightened of this feeling, these feelings.

16 I pray and no peace comes... is faith alone enough [to be saved]?

17 After Seamus, I needed... [to believe] even made the shrine on the
18 mantelpiece with his photograph, his wedding ring, my rosary...
19 but the symbols of faith are not faith are they?

20 I pray (cautious) yet the love, the passion [is lost]

21 FATHER ROBIN We pray for Vanilla too.

22 MARY I think it's... [pointless] (sighs) even now when I cross the street,
23 any street, and my foot hits the road, I'm taken back to that street,
24 on that road, outside that church, in that gutter.

25 With the smell of thick copper mixing with oil. Praying.

26 FATHER ROBIN (Not wanting to witness) Sometimes --

27 MARY I'm always praying.

28 Even then, in the rain, so cold yet heat rose from under him, a
29 warm cloud smelling of ivory as I lifted his head.

30 Reminded me of the wee ornamental elephants on the history
31 shelf at school.

32 And then I saw his teeth across the road and realised it was him I
33 smelled.

34 The bones of him. Reality was just taking a breath before revealing
35 herself.

36 FATHER ROBIN This whole affair is bound to bring up feelings of -

1 MARY I think the hippy told her to be silent.

2 Why would Vanilla be so quiet about something she cared so
3 much about? (Waits. Nothing)

4 I'm sick of silence. God's silence is driving me away --

5 FATHER ROBIN (Out of his depth) He is always there --

6 MARY Amongst the bones.

7 FATHER ROBIN Have you thought about reaching out to your family?

8 MARY (Hurt) The Church is my family.

9 FATHER ROBIN An opportunity to make amends, perhaps?

10 MARY How can you say this?

11 FATHER ROBIN Do they know what's happened?

12 MARY They disowned me, not the other way round.

13 All I did was find a safe place to raise a child. Was that so wrong?

14 FATHER ROBIN Even Our Lord -- [suffered]

15 MARY Is absent. They're all absent.

16 FATHER ROBIN Try to forgive, he didn't mean to die.

17 MARY Seamus doesn't need forgiveness. (Realization)

18 You don't listen. (Heart-broken)

19 You've never heard me. (Anger) I am never heard.

20 FX: _____ MARY LEAVES THE CONFESSIONAL AS FAST AS SHE CAN.

21 FATHER ROBIN (Coaxing) Mary.

22 FX: _____ MARY SUDDENLY OPENS FATHER ROBIN'S DOOR.

23 FATHER ROBIN (CONT'D) (Embarrassed whisper) Remember where you are!

24 MARY I don't need reminding.

25 FX: _____ MARY'S FOOTSTEPS ON BARE WOOD LEAVE THE CHURCH.

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1 **SCENE 14:**

2 **14 INT** **HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - LATER SAME DAY.**

3 SIOBHAN Goosey goosey gander where shall I wander --

4 ORLA (sighs)

5 SIOBHAN What?

6 ORLA She's a bit old for nursery rhymes.

7 SIOBHAN (No malice) You're not a mum.

8 ORLA No, but I am her girlfriend, the one who loves her.

9 SIOBHAN (Warns) Hey. We all love her.

10 You think I don't love her cos I didn't see she'd gone? Is that it?

11 ORLA That's not it at all --

12 SIOBHAN I work nights and days, I get three hours sleep, most days I'm

13 hovering.

14 ORLA It's not that, it's. I know you doubt me, I see it in your face.

15 SIOBHAN Oh Orla, think about it from our side.

16 ORLA I will prove it to you.

17 SIOBHAN She never even mentioned tree protecting (sigh)

18 FX ORLA GETS HER MOBILE OUT AND APPROACHES SIOBHAN.

19 ORLA Here look, photos. This is us building the camp.

20 FX: ORLA CLICKS THROUGH HER MOBILE.

21 ORLA We met through her YouTube, I build tree houses on mine and she

22 needed help so reached out.

23 (MORE)

24 ORLA (CONT'D) Before her I was just scraping by, knocking together

25 furniture, Princess gave me real passion to change my life.

26 SIOBHAN Are those ones videos?

27 ORLA Some are.

28 FX: ORLA STARTS A VIDEO: VANILLA LAUGHING, DRUMMING

29 ORLA (CONT'D) I downloaded most of Vanilla's before they closed her

30 account, trolls reported it.

31 SIOBHAN She's so grown up. (Realizes) Hang on, you mean the camp was her

32 idea? I thought, we thought it was yours.

33 FX: ORLA STOPS THE VIDEO. SIOBHAN STANDS UP AND PACES.

34

1 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) I thought she kept it secret because you told her to. (Sad)

2 She just didn't want me to know.

3 ORLA I'm sure it wasn't that --

4 SIOBHAN (Panic) Oh my [god] don't tell my mum.

5 Orla, you have to promise --

6 ORLA Why? You should be proud.

7 SIOBHAN Mum will lose her mind if she finds out this was Vanilla not you.

8 She'll disown her.

9 FX: ORLA UNZIPS SIOBHAN'S BAG AND GRABS HER KEYS.

10 ORLA Siobhan, this is [crazy]--

11 SIOBHAN My keys. Go to the house and clear her bedroom.

12 FX: SIOBHAN THROWS HER KEYS TO ORLA WHO CATCHES THEM

13 SIOBHAN Get rid of anything related to her planning anything, ok?

14 Be quick, Mum might already be going through it

15 ORLA What if she finds me?

16 SIOBHAN Say you're picking up Vanilla's nail kit or...

17 ORLA Okay okay. I'm on it.

18 FX: ORLA LEAVES AND CLOSES THE DOOR.

19 SIOBHAN (CLOSE to Vanilla) Oh Vanilla, what have you done?

20 FX: WILD GEESE FLY OVER. SIOBHAN SITS IN HER CHAIR.

21 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) Geese sound so ominous now, like crows or vultures circling.

22 Not like when you were little.

23 You're so different now, I wonder if I even know you.

24 Oh my sweet silly goose, what unearth were you thinking?

25 FX: MARY OPENS THE DOOR AND ENTERS SUPPRESSING ANGER.

26 MARY Where's the hippy?

27 SIOBHAN Just missed her. She's collecting Vee's nail kit.

28 FX: MARY'S PACING, FAST AND JITTERY.

29 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) What's happened?

30 MARY You should go home, rest, take a shower, you'll have fungus

31 growing on yer before long.

32 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) It's only been one day.

33 MARY You're like a giant walking around in her hoodie.

1 SIOBHAN Her clothes smell of her --

2 MARY (CONT'D) She right there.

3 SIOBHAN What's up with you?

4 MARY You gave the hippy a key?

5 SIOBHAN No I thought she could burrow under the door like a badger.

6 MARY Why Vanilla?

7 SIOBHAN Accidents happen mum.

8 MARY That's not what I mean, why zero in on Vanilla?

9 All the way across the Irish sea for a tree --

10 SIOBHAN When did you last eat, mum?

11 MARY Probably the last time Vanilla ate!

12 SIOBHAN Stop shouting.

13 MARY Oh I'm wrong? (Muttering) I'm always wrong.

14 (To Siobhan) How can I be wrong?

15 SIOBHAN No-one's saying you're --

16 MARY Only they are --

17 SIOBHAN Who?

18 MARY Why didn't she tell us Siobhan?

19 SIOBHAN What? About being a drunken chimp?

20 MARY This is my fault now?

21 SIOBHAN I can't do this mum.

22 All I want to do is paint her nails and talk to her about happier

23 times.

24 MARY (Goes to speak)

25 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) Positivity, please.

26 MARY I was thinking, maybe I could sit with her tonight.

27 SIOBHAN You want me back at work?

28 MARY I don't want anything. There's a difference between want and need.

29 SIOBHAN We can managed for a bit.

30 MARY Only we can't.

31 SIOBHAN Ask Father for a sub till the end of the month.

32 MARY (Mumbling to herself) Sure, God provides.

33

1 SIOBHAN Mum? Ask Father.

2 The amount of free work you do, it's the least he can do.

3 MARY I will. I shall. Don't you worry. I'll sort it out.

4 SIOBHAN Oh, so that's how you're gonna do it?

5 MARY Do what? (Waits) Go on, say what you mean? Say it!

6 SIOBHAN (Loud whisper) Oh ok! This is how you'll make it about you.

7 This is not happening to you, Mum.

8 This is happening to Vanilla.

9 If you're gonna make it about you, go outside.

10 MARY You're throwing me out? Is this throw Mary out day?

11 SIOBHAN Oh mum, you're [exhausting]

12 MARY I'm concerned is all.

13 Concerned there's a stranger in my house rummaging in my child's

14 things.

15 SIOBHAN My child.

16 MARY Ours.

17 FX: SIOBHAN PUSHES HER CHAIR OUT AS SHE STANDS.

18 SIOBHAN (Losing control) I bet you wish it was me in that bed, don't you?

19 Then everyone at church could light candles for poor old Mary

20 Byrne great martyr to motherhood --

21 FX: MARY SLAPS SIOBHAN ACROSS THE FACE.

22 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) (Sharp intake of breath)

23 MARY (Immediate regret) Oh Siobhan I'm sorry.

24 FX: SIOBHAN SITS BACK DOWN IN THE CHAIR BY VANILLA.

25 MARY (CONT'D) I don't know what came over me I'm so sorry.

26 FX: SIOBHAN'S MOBILE RINGS.

27 NEITHER OF THEM MOVE TO ANSWER.

28 SIOBHAN (Confused) It's ok, I think it's ok.

29 MARY Please forgive me --

30 SIOBHAN Is my face red?

31 MARY A bit, I'm sorry. Look at me, please.

32 FX: SIOBHAN'S MOBILE STOPS RINGING.

33 MARY (CONT'D) I don't know what's happening to me.

1 SIOBHAN It'll be ok. You're probably hungry Mum.

2 FX: SIOBHAN'S MOBILE RINGS AGAIN.

3 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) I better get this [her phone]

4 FX: SIOBHAN STANDS TO ANSWER HER PHONE.

5 SIOBHAN (Fake exuberance) Gemma! I've been ringing you about Vanilla,
6 (holds back tears) I thought maybe you'd had the baby?

7 MARY Let me make it up to you.

8 SIOBHAN (To Mary) Shush!

9 (To Gemma) No, we're not at home we're at the hospital, come
10 and see her (starts crying) you're her best friend.

11 Hang on. (Holds phone to her chest) Mum, where are you going?

12 FX: MARY LEAVES AND CLOSES THE DOOR.

13 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) I'm sorry Gem what were you [saying]--

14 FX: DIALING TONE. GEMMA'S HUNG UP.

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1 **SCENE 15:**

2 **15 INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - SAME DAY.**

3 FX: ORLA SHOWERS. GEMMA BANGS AROUND DOWNSTAIRS.

4 ORLA TURNS THE SHOWER OFF TO LISTEN. MORE BANGING.

5 ORLA Mary?

6 FX: GEMMA RUNS UP THE STAIRS. ORLA DRESSES QUICKLY.

7 ORLA (CONT'D) (Shouting) Siobhan said I could shower!

8 FX: GEMMA RUNS BACK DOWN THE STAIRS.

9 ORLA PULLS A TOWEL AROUND HERSELF AND OPENS THE

10 BATHROOM DOOR.

11 ORLA (CONT'D) Who's there. I know jujitsu.

12 **SCENE 16:**

13 **16 INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - STAIRCASE - CONTINUIOUS.**

14 FX: ORLA CREEPS DOWN THE STAIRS.

15 ORLA Best leave while you can.

16 FX: MARY UNLOCKS AND OPENS THE FRONT DOOR AND ENTERS.

17 MARY Right, kitchen. You're gunny give me some truth.

18 ORLA Can I get dressed first?

19 FX: MARY STOMPS PAST ORLA AND INTO THE KITCHEN.

20 MARY The towel's not over your mouth.

21 ORLA Wait, I think there's someone in the kitchen.

22 MARY Don't mess me about. In here, now. Sit.

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1 **SCENE 17:**

2 **17 INT. HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - SAME TIME.**

3 SIOBHAN (CLOSE to Vanilla) My heart sank when Orla said fairy ribbons.

4 I knew it must be you then, I could see little you, ribbons in hand.

5 FX FLASHBACK SOUND: MEMORY OF CHILD VANILLA LAUGHING

6 SIOBHAN You're still that age to me, full of wishes and magic.

7 Was that the tree you were trying to save? Our fairy tree?

8 I think I understand (sighs) just not why didn't say, I would've

9 understood. I hope.

10 I wonder if this is how mum felt after dad, all the answers forever

11 stuck within him.

12 Wake up, little goose, wake up and tell me why you couldn't trust

13 me. I want to change.

14 **SCENE 18:**

15 **18 INT. BYRNE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME DAY.**

16 FX: MARY PACES AROUND ORLA WHO SITS AT THE TABLE.

17 MARY Siobhan named her after some kind of aromatherapy oil you know,

18 she believes in that kind of thing. Vanilla for protection.

19 She thought it would infuse her, surround her, keep her safe.

20 Vanilla's very name is one of love. She has love.

21 ORLA She does.

22 MARY How did you even know about some old tree being felled in the

23 North of England?

24 ORLA (Lying) We follow the construction.

25 Funny name for it when they're ripping up the countryside --

26 MARY Ha. You've destroyed my family, have you seen the state of

27 Siobhan? She has a big heart.

28 ORLA I think they call it co-dependent.

29 FX: MARY DRAGS A CHAIR OUT AND SITS DOWN.

30 ORLA (CONT'D) She'd jump off a bridge if you told her to (waits)

31 You're just going to stare at me?

32 MARY (Sniffs) Who are you? You feel known to me.

33 *(The exchange is fast until the pace change is indicated)*

34

1 MARY (CONT'D) What part of Ireland are you from?
2 ORLA West.
3 MARY School?
4 ORLA State.
5 MARY University?
6 ORLA Dull.
7 MARY Father?
8 ORLA Bland.
9 MARY Religion?
10 ORLA None.
11 MARY Rubbish.
12 ORLA Spiritual, I --
13 MARY Who pays you?
14 ORLA (Wavering) Donations On--[line]
15 MARY Politics?
16 ORLA None.
17 MARY Impossible.
18 ORLA Fairness, I'm interested in fairness.
19 MARY Interested?
20 (Slower)
21 ORLA Dedicated then.
22 Fairness is beyond politics.
23 MARY Elaborate.
24 ORLA I'm passionate about justice, reconciliation.
25 The earth deserves better custodians --
26 MARY You talk too much.
27 ORLA (Laughs nervous)
28 (Fast)
29 MARY Been Shankhill?
30 ORLA No--
31 MARY Falls Road?
32 ORLA No --
33 MARY Giant's Causeway?

1 ORLA (Flustered) Not had the pleasure.
2 MARY Seen a Peace Wall?
3 ORLA What do you want me to say?
4 I don't know what you want me to say?
5 MARY Just wondering what she saw in you.
6 ORLA Not much. I saw more in her.
7 MARY (Suspicious) Did you now? (Waits) How did you do it?
8 Rile her up, get her leaving her family?
9 ORLA She said home was hard, a tomb.
10 MARY (Laughing) No she didn't --
11 ORLA That neither of you had a friend between you.
12 MARY They shoved dog muck through the letter-box when we moved in,
13 called us tinkers --
14 ORLA (Trying not to listen) Life was all work and sleep.
15 MARY Explain the meaning of life then child, go on.
16 ORLA I need to get dressed, I'm cold.
17 FX: ORLA STANDS UP FROM HER CHAIR.
18 MARY Did the police touch her?
19 ORLA (Winded by the memory) She slipped.
20 MARY Do you know what happened to my husband?
21 ORLA (Snappy) It's the truth.
22 MARY You hesitated, in the hospital, when Siobhan asked if Vanilla was
23 in pain --
24 ORLA Because you said "no". Because why does it matter?
25 How does it help?
26 FX: ORLA SITS DOWN AGAIN.
27 ORLA (CONT'D) What happened to him? Was it the police?
28 MARY If I told you, would it change the version you're telling about
29 Vanilla?
30 ORLA (Sighs)
31
32
33

1 MARY You think I don't care they're killing everything worth anything.
2 I do. I see the extent too.
3 What they can't kill they corrupt and absorb: cultures, language,
4 ideas, everything.
5 You've no idea what you fight and yet you dragged my grandchild
6 into the heart of it.
7 You get to sit there and she's dead to the world.
8 Maybe I should've told her everything.
9 If I had known, I could have.
10 (Considers) I would've said "sweetheart don't, they'd kill you for
11 looking in the wrong direction, let alone --"
12 FX: GEMMA IN THE PANTRY - PEEING INTO A CUP.
13 ORLA (Sharp whisper) What's that?
14 MARY (Whispering) The pantry
15 ORLA (CONT'D) (Whispering) The cupboard.
16 FX: MARY STANDS QUIETLY.
17 ORLA STANDS BUT TRIPS ON HER CHAIR. MARY TUTS.
18 THEY SNEAK TO THE DOOR, SHUSHING EACH OTHER
19 MARY (Whispering) After three...
20 **SCENE 19:**
21 **19 INT. HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - SAME TIME.**
22 FX: FATHER ROBIN OPENS THE DOOR. SIOBHAN WAKES UP.
23 FATHER ROBIN Siobhan?
24 SIOBHAN (Surprise) Father Robin?
25 FX: FATHER ROBIN APPROACHES THE BED. SIOBHAN STANDS UP.
26 FATHER ROBIN Did I wake you? I'm sorry, thought I'd pop by and
27 FX: SIOBHAN INTERSECTS HIM BEFORE HE REACHES VANILLA.
28 SIOBHAN (Whispering) No, no Father, did mum send you?
29 She doesn't need Lasts Rites
30 FATHER ROBIN Oh no, I'm not here for that. I need your help Siobhan,
31 it is about Mary.
32
33
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1 **SCENE 20:**

2 **20 INT. BYRNE' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME.**

3 MARY (Whispers) One, two, (shouts) three!

4 FX: MARY SNAPS THE DOOR OPEN.

5 GEMMA (Sharp intake of breath, she's caught)

6 MARY Gemma Taylor? What unearth --

7 FX: ELASTIC FROM GEMMA'S JOGGERS SNAPS BACK AS SHE
8 BRINGS THE PEE CUP OUT OF HER PANTS.

9 ORLA Are you peeing in a cup?

10 GEMMA Was. Eight month gone aren't I, just go with it

11 MARY Get out of my pantry.

12 FX: GEMMA LEAVES THE PANTRY, CARRYING THE PEE MUG.

13 MARY (CONT'D) soiling everything with yer smell so you are.

14 ORLA What you hiding for?

15 GEMMA Avoiding the FBI-ing you just got.

16 MARY Have you smashed one of my windows?

17 GEMMA No

18 ORLA Is that why it's cold?

19 GEMMA Lifted it up.

20 ORLA Were you upstairs while I was in the shower?

21 GEMMA Keep yer towel on.

22 FX: GEMMA PUTS HER PEE CUP ON THE TABLE.

23 MARY Get that mug off my table.

24 GEMMA (CONT'D) (Sighs)

25 ORLA Siobhan's been ringing you.

26 MARY She just told you we weren't home --

27 ORLA You sly little --

28 GEMMA Me credit ran out, dint hear nowt.

29 MARY Do not try me today Taylor.

30 GEMMA How's Vee though?

31 MARY You don't get to know.

32 GEMMA (CONT'D) (Tuts)

33 MARY Sit down. Now. (Sudden temper) Now!

1 FX: GEMMA DRAGS A CHAIR OUT AND SITS DOWN.

2 GEMMA Giving yerself a stroke for?

3 MARY (Double checking) Are you really pregnant?

4 GEMMA Nah, it's wind.

5 ORLA I'd be quiet if I were you.

6 GEMMA Okay good cop. I'm here for me bag is all.

7 FX: GEMMA RUSTLES THE PAPER GIFT BAG.

8 MARY Give me that --

9 FX: MARY SNATCHES THE BAG AND RUSTLES THROUGH IT.

10 MARY (CONT'D) What's all this?

11 GEMMA Baby shower gift.

12 MARY Her cash card?

13 FX: GEMMA'S ON HER FEET TRYING TO GET THE BAG BACK

14 GEMMA It's the salon money.

15 ORLA Sit back down.

16 FX: GEMMA SLUMPS BACK INTO THE CHAIR

17 MARY And her christening bracelet? (Leaning into Gemma)

18 She wasn't giving you these.

19 GEMMA Back up, she was.

20 MARY Give me one good reason I shouldn't knock --

21 ORLA The baby, Mary --

22 GEMMA (Cocky) Yeah so --

23 MARY No-one cared about my baby.

24 GEMMA Life's pee in a cup, what can I say?

25 MARY (To herself) Nothing's sacred is it?

26 GEMMA I'm not robbin the jesus-bangle, she give it us

27 ORLA (Snapping) You've not even been to the hospital.

28 GEMMA Paying me bus-fare are yer? Moneybags. Givin' it loads, you know

29 nowt about it --

30 MARY Why? Why would she give you money?

31 GEMMA Compensation.

32 ORLA For what?

33 GEMMA Ruining me life.

1 ORLA How'd you reach that?

2 MARY (Realising) Oh, she wasn't doing the salon anymore, it's a guilt
3 offering --

4 GEMMA Too right, we'd planned that since school, then all of a sudden
5 she's Chris Packham.

6 ORLA (Doubtful) Not buying it, her entire bank account.

7 GEMMA Yeah, she wanted to live totally "off grid" like an actual tramp --

8 ORLA You're unbelievable --

9 GEMMA Why you pretending you don't know? You know this.

10 MARY She does, she just doesn't want the responsibility of ruining a
11 young girl's life on her conscience.

12 FX: MARY FINALLY SITS DOWN WITH A SIGH.

13 MARY (CONT'D) Spent my entire life trying to protect my girls.

14 ORLA (To Gemma, realising) It was you.

15 GEMMA Best do one before me bladder needs another.

16 FX: GEMMA STANDS UP AND GRABS THE BAG OFF THE TABLE.

17 ORLA Put that bag down.

18 MARY (To Gemma) Take it and go.

19 FX: GEMMA'S OUT OF THE KITCHEN LIKE A WHIPPET ON A RAT.

20 ORLA Mary! That's everything Vanilla ever worked for.

21 MARY This is on you. She was giving it away to join you.

22 ORLA Why did preppers break in for it then?

23 FX: GEMMA SLAMS THE FRONT DOOR.

24 ORLA (CONT'D) I'm getting it back.

25 FX: ORLA RUNS AFTER GEMMA

26 MARY Respect her decision Orla!

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1 **SCENE 21:**

2 **21 INT. HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - SAME TIME.**

3 FATHER ROBIN I care a great deal for your mother, I'm worried she's not coping
4 too well.

5 SIOBHAN Can we talk about this outside, Father?

6 FX: FATHER ROBIN SITS IN THE CHAIR BY VANILLA'S BED.

7 FATHER ROBIN We've shared decades, now she feels like a stranger

8 SIOBHAN If it's any consolation, mum always twists like an eel in a barrel
9 when she feels scared.

10 FX: SIOBHAN, SITS DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED.

11 SIOBHAN Being unpredictable gives her a sense of control.

12 FATHER ROBIN God's in control (laughs) Mary keeps me on track with that most
13 of the time.

14 SIOBHAN That doesn't stop her being afraid. You know, she lived under
15 watch towers and --

16 FATHER ROBIN That was a long time ago, she's a strong woman -

17 SIOBHAN She's fragile, Father. It left a mark. People over here just don't
18 understand.

19 FATHER ROBIN I thought I did. I... (considers)

20 SIOBHAN She doesn't feel safe, don't think she ever has.

21 FATHER ROBIN She is, I want her to know she is --

22 SIOBHAN How is she? For years, we've been one bad thing away from
23 homelessness and now it's happened.

24 FATHER ROBIN We can do a collection for you at church.

25 SIOBHAN Charity? Or a back payment for all her free work?

26 FATHER ROBIN (Considers) Back payment. (Waits for a thank you)

27 Listen, Siobhan, I don't want to be the reason she loses faith.

28 SIOBHAN Mum's faith is stronger than any man. Even you.

29 FATHER ROBIN I asked if she'd thought of reaching out to family.

30 SIOBHAN Oh that explains it [the slap].

31 FATHER ROBIN Maybe you could think about it? Tragedy offers --

32 SIOBHAN Please don't. Don't make this about my dad.

33 FATHER ROBIN Isn't it time to let bygones be bygones --

34

1 SIOBHAN All my life's been about mum and dad.
2 Family. "Home".
3 She misses them you know, I'm sure you know, after all you
4 replaced her real family.
5 FATHER ROBIN Come on, you're her real family --
6 SIOBHAN I don't feel it.
7 She's always with you, or mourning dad, or missing them.
8 Them who called her a traitor for leaving, who wouldn't return her
9 letters.
10 FATHER ROBIN Vanilla might be the pathway to heal that.
11 SIOBHAN Do you mind if I focus on Vanilla's healing?
12 She's spent her whole life being eclipsed by the past.
13 FATHER ROBIN Siobhan, you might need them.
14 SIOBHAN (Whispering) She's not dying.
15 FATHER ROBIN We all need our family.
16 SIOBHAN They don't see me as family.
17 Blood isn't thicker than the sea between us.
18 I'm the nowhere child, neither here, nor there.
19 (Realising) Oh, maybe I'm the one eclipsed.
20 FATHER ROBIN You need to learn to lean on people --
21 FX: SIOBHAN STANDS UP - NOW REFUSING TO BE ECLIPSED.
22 SIOBHAN You should leave.
23 FATHER ROBIN (Surprised) Excuse me?
24 SIOBHAN This is why she couldn't trust me. I stand nowhere.
25 Well, I'd like to stand alone with my Vanilla.
26 FATHER ROBIN (Laughs) This happened before with Mary, I --
27 SIOBHAN (Astonished) Mum kicked you out?
28 FATHER ROBIN She walked out.
29 SIOBHAN (Bursts out laughing) Did you hear that Vee?
30 FX: SIOBHAN WALKS TO THE DOOR.
31 FATHER ROBIN Please Siobhan, I'd like to understand.
32 FX: SIOBHAN OPENS THE DOOR.
33

1 SIOBHAN Why, Father? Who's Mum to you?
2 I mean really to you?
3 Should you be caring this much?
4 FX: FATHER ROBIN STANDS UP.
5 FATHER ROBIN (Flustered) You're right, of course, I'm intruding, I should go.
6 FX: FATHER ROBIN HEADS TOWARDS THE DOOR.
7 SIOBHAN (Back tracking/Feeling guilty) I don't know what she told you
8 about my dad.
9 But he was all for peace, he ran an interfaith football team for kids
10 across the estates.
11 FATHER ROBIN Did he? Your mum told you this?
12 SIOBHAN Yes, of course.
13 He was picking Mum up from mass when he was shot.
14 They still don't know who did it.
15 Mum thought everyone knew - her brothers, the police, her friends,
16 this side, that side.
17 I think that's why she left, she said it was to find work --
18 FATHER ROBIN She told me it was keep you safe.
19 SIOBHAN Mum said that?
20 FATHER ROBIN She did. Amongst other things.
21 SIOBHAN What things? (Waits then panics) You should go.
22 FATHER ROBIN I'll keep you in my prayers.
23 You're all welcome back in church, anytime.
24 FX: SIOBHAN CLOSSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM AND WALKS BACK
25 TO VANILLA.
26 SIOBHAN (Trying to be upbeat) Hear that love?
27 We're welcome back in church anytime.
28 I'd rather lap-dance for the devil.
29 VANILLA (Sleepy laugh)
30 SIOBHAN Vanilla? Can you hear me!?
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1 **SCENE 22:**

2 **22 EXT. STREET - BYRNE'S HOUSE - SIOBHAN RINGS ORLA -**

3 **CONTINUIOUS.**

4 FX: ORLA OPENS THE FRONT DOOR AND RUNS INTO THE STREET.

5 GEMMA TAKES A PHOTO ON HER MOBILE.

6 GEMMA Straight to insta. Hashtag towel tramp --

7 ORLA Give me her cash card, I'm not messin'.

8 GEMMA Tell me how she is for real?

9 ORLA I'm serious, give me her card or I'll -

10 GEMMA (Laughs) What? Tell the police?

11 ORLA Because of you my whole future is asleep with her in that bed --

12 GEMMA Your future?

13 FX: GEMMA TAKES ANOTHER PHOTO.

14 GEMMA (CONT'D) Hashtag boohoo don't give a --

15 FX: GEMMA TAKES ANOTHER PHOTO.

16 ORLA Stop it with the photos.

17 FX: ORLA'S MOBILE RINGS.

18 GEMMA (Serious) Is that the hospital?

19 ORLA I know you reported her YouTube.

20 GEMMA (Angry) Answer yer phone.

21 ORLA And told the police where camp was.

22 FX: ORLA'S MOBILE STOPS RINGING. GEMMA WALKS AWAY.

23 GEMMA Like they wouldn't see her anyway, she was up a tree

24 ORLA (Jogging after Gemma) How could you do that?

25 GEMMA (CONT'D) You don't even know her, stop pretending you do.

26 FX: GEMMA STOPS WALKING.

27 GEMMA (CONT'D) Look around yer. This was her life.

28 FX: GEMMA STARTS WALKING AGAIN.

29 GEMMA You're just some posh stalker droolin over her YouTube end of

30 FX: ORLA MOVES IN FRONT OF GEMMA.

31 THE YOUNG WOMEN WEAVE IN AND OUT OF OTHER LIKE

32 DANCERS ALONG THE PAVEMENT.

33

1 ORLA They knocked her from that branch you know --

2 GEMMA She should've been at home...

3 ORLA Being clipped on with ropes made it worse too.

4 GEMMA Getting ready to be god mum. Planning a nice future

5 ORLA She smashed into the tree more than once, hung upside down til

6 we could free her.

7 GEMMA (Holding back tears) None of it was our business.

8 Our business was "Waking Beauty - nails and waxing"

9 ORLA She was in so much pain.

10 GEMMA We were shop workers, nail techs --

11 ORLA You could've let her have both.

12 GEMMA (Accepting) She didn't want both.

13 ORLA So you did her over, what is wrong with you?

14 FX: MARY OPENS THE FRONT DOOR.

15 MARY Gemma Taylor!

16 GEMMA Later towel tramp.

17 FX: GEMMA LEGS IT.

18 MARY She's got his wedding ring --

19 FX: GEMMA RUNS AWAY AND MARY AND RUNS TOWARDS ORLA.

20 MARY (CONT'D) She's stolen everything from the shrine.

21 FX: ORLA'S PHONE RINGS. MARY MOMENTARILY STOPS BY HER.

22 MARY (CONT'D) Lord help me Orla, I might actually kill her.

23 ORLA Wait, it's Siobhan's ringing.

24 FX: MARY RUNS AFTER GEMMA.

25 MARY (Calling back) I can't, I can't run away this time.

26 ORLA (Answers her phone) Siobhan?

27 (Listens) That's amazing! Hang on.

28 (Shouting) Mary! It's about Vanilla, she laughed!

29

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1 **SCENE 25:**

2 **25 INT. HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS SOUND: ORLA**

3 **STOPS RUNNING, HER VOICE DISTORTED BY THE MOBILE**

4 ORLA What am I doing? There's no way I'm running around after her and

5 miss Princess waking up --

6 SIOBHAN But Orla, you don't understand she's [traumatized]--

7 FX: ORLA WALKS BACK TO THE HOUSE.

8 ORLA Siobhan, your mum's old enough to look after herself. I'm coming

9 back to Princess.

10 **SCENE 26:**

11 **26 EXT GEMMA'S FLAT - DOORSTEP - EARLIER THE SAME DAY.**

12 FX: MARY BANGS ON GEMMA'S FRONT DOOR.

13 MARY Taylor you scruff-bag, open up or I swear I'll put your windows

14 through

15 FX: MARY POUNDS ON THE DOOR AGAIN.

16 MARY And it'll get pretty cold in there with no --

17 FX: GEMMA OPENS THE DOOR AND SHOVES THE ROSEMARIES AT

18 MARY

19 GEMMA Here take it all back, I'm sorry.

20 MARY Move back, I'm coming in.

21 FX: MARY FORCES THE DOOR INTO GEMMA AND STOMPS INSIDE.

22 **SCENE 27:**

23 **27 INT. HOSPITAL - VANILLA'S ROOM - NOT LONG AFTER.**

24 FX: ORLA OPENS THE DOOR AND RUSHES INTO THE ROOM.

25 SIOBHAN Hey Vanilla, Orla's here.

26 ORLA (Disappointed) Aw Siobhan take your coat off.

27 SIOBHAN (Ignoring) She's been running all over Manchester after your gran,

28 like a proper member of the family

29 ORLA Don't go.

30 SIOBHAN (To Orla) I don't want to --

31 ORLA Just don't then. Fight the compulsion --

32 SIOBHAN She needs me, it's the right thing to do.

33 ORLA Vanilla needs you too --

34

1 SIOBHAN Vanilla has you. (Taking Father's advice)

2 Orla, listen, I need to lean on you a while. Can I?

3 Will you stay with her?

4 ORLA (Disappointed) Always.

5 SIOBHAN If she wakes...

6 FX: SIOBHAN OPENS THE DOOR

7 SIOBHAN (CONT'D) ...Make her laugh.

8 FX: SIOBHAN LEAVES AND CLOSES THE DOOR.

9 ORLA Hey Princess, you were right, you are the moon.

10 FX: ORLA SITS DOWN IN THE CHAIR AND OPENS A PLASTIC BAG

11 ORLA I popped to yours and got your nail stuff and...

12 FX: ORLA BRINGS OUT A PALETTE OF EYE-SHADOW FROM THE

13 BAG.

14 ORLA (CONT'D) Eye shadow.

15 FX: ORLA OPENS A PALETTE OF EYE SHADOW.

16 ORLA Shall I paint your eyes silver, like the moon?

17 I don't want to.

18 You're warmer than that to me. I see you like the sun, like the

19 camp fire.

20 **SCENE 28:**

21 **28 EXT. WE HEAR ORLA AND VANILLA IN THE WOODS - BEFORE THE**

22 **FALL BEHIND ORLA'S WORDS IN THIS SCENE**

23 FX: CAMP FIRE. ORLA STANDS. ACTIVISTS SIT AROUND THE FIRE.

24 **ORLA Do you remember that night? Around the camp fire when I was**

25 **showing off doing my bad poetry.**

26 **I speak of you, to speak of me. Sovereignty my flame, of land, of**

27 **body --**

28 **And we both had to agree I was no poet. My brother Jim was**

29 **drumming.**

30 FX: JIM PLAYING THE BODHRÁN.

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1 ORLA (CONT'D) (Laughs) He didn't get arrested by the way, he ran like
2 a gazelle. (Sighs) I remember you.
3 Not looking at me through the fire, but seeing me through the
4 flames.
5 Your bright keen eyes, illuminated by amber light, magnificent
6 and vital (laughs) looking into me.
7 You burned me alive.
8 Turned me to ash, and brought me back again.
9 At some point, we were even dancing, I never dance.
10 The warmth of your body and breath, everything of the sun
11 about you.
12 Nothing of the moon.
13 FX: THE DRUMMING BECOMES DISTANT UNTIL LOST.
14 ORLA (CONT'D) Until later, when you perched in the ribboned
15 branches.
16 A glistening crown of stars above you, like a halo of frozen-birds.
17 I said you were my "Princess of The North Star" because I'm a
18 loser.
19 And you said, "I feel more like the moon".
20 I searched the sky and couldn't find her, she wasn't there.
21 Invisible. Maybe behind clouds.
22 It's almost as if you knew you were leaving. Did you know?
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1 **SCENE 29:**

2 **29 INT** **GEMMA'S FLAT - MAIN LIVING SPACE - SAME TIME.**

3 FX: MARY WALKS THROUGH THE EMPTY FLAT, IT ECHOES.

4 GEMMA Please Mary, don't, I didn't mean to take it, I don't know what's up
5 with me. Here take it.

6 MARY (Disbelief) Is this how you're living?
7 A sleeping bag and what's that? A camping stove?

8 GEMMA What you gunny do?

9 MARY Have you no family? No social worker?

10 GEMMA Don't tell the police will yer?

11 MARY You might get a meal if I did.

12 GEMMA (Pleading) You won't though will yer?

13 MARY When I came to England I had nothing.
14 GEMMA Me nan was the same. You did ok though.

15 MARY This is no place to raise a child.

16 GEMMA That's what Vee said.
17 (Blurts out) I miss her.
18 (Tries not to cry) Stupid, all of it's stupid.

19 MARY Don't go crying.

20 GEMMA (Angry-crying) Not even sad, I dunno what's wrong with me.
21 I even put the windows in, on the bakery.

22 MARY Why? When?

23 GEMMA When they chucked us, I blame the bakery

24 MARY She lost her job? She didn't even tell us that

25 GEMMA (Calmer) She thought she'd let everyone down.
26 MARY She hadn't.

27 GEMMA So? In yer head it gets all aghhhh doesn't it?
28 She was probably tryin' to protect you.

29 MARY We didn't need protecting, we needed the opportunity to tell her
30 it wasn't the end of the world.

31 GEMMA She thinks it is though.
32 I tried telling her "let's focus on ourselves" we nearly had enough
33 for the salon but we when we couldn't find anything else, not even
34 zero hours, she got proper weird about it.

1 MARY And then Orla stepped in --

2 GEMMA (Mocking) They fell in love online.

3 How can you love something you can't even see?

4 MARY You love your baby.

5 GEMMA Yeah even though it's the whole reason I couldn't [hold onto her]...

6 it added to it.

7 MARY Don't blame yourself.

8 She wanted that salon for her mum too.

9 Siobhan had given up a dream of aromatherapy after the divorce.

10 Vanilla wanted to give her that back, I knew it was a driver but said

11 nothing.

12 GEMMA I really wanted us to break out but --

13 MARY There is no breaking out.

14 GEMMA Tell me about it.

15 If I die of starvation in this room, I'd not even get a line in the

16 Metro.

17 MARY Don't say that. I shouldn't encourage you in thinking there's no

18 hope, there's always hope

19 GEMMA Vee said, "there's no hope, but there is beauty."

20 MARY Not sure what she means.

21 Listen, when your baby gets to school, work hard, and --

22 GEMMA You don't believe that.

23 MARY There's always...

24 GEMMA What, hope?

25 MARY I don't know.

26 *Gemma and Mary laugh.*

27 GEMMA Was this my fault? Is she in hospital cos of me?

28 MARY I keep asking myself that too. (Sighs)

29 Here. Take the stuff. Keep it.

30 Just promise me one thing, let yourself off the hook.

31 FX: MARY HANDS GEMMA THE ROSARY BEADS AND RING.

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1 **SCENE 30:**

2 **30 EXT. STREET - GUTTER OUTSIDE GEMMA'S FLAT -**

3 **LATER THE SAME DAY.**

4 FX: GEESE FLY ABOVE UNTIL MERGED INTO OCCASIONAL TRAFFIC.

5 SIOBHAN WALKS UP TO MARY WHO SITS IN THE GUTTER.

6 SIOBHAN There you are. I've been looking all over the estate for you.

7 What're you doing?

8 MARY Sitting in the gutter, again.

9 SIOBHAN Please tell me you didn't do anything stupid.

10 MARY I always end up here.

11 FX: SIOBHAN SITS NEXT TO MARY.

12 MARY (CONT'D) Why am I always forgiving people for doing me harm.

13 SIOBHAN No one's asking you to forgive anyone.

14 MARY Father did, he does --

15 SIOBHAN Look at me and say you didn't do anything.

16

17 MARY I've done so much I'm ashamed of. I left my family, I should've

18 stayed.

19 SIOBHAN Mum, let it go, please. I love you but this is --

20 MARY (Tries not to cry) Don't love me Siobhan, one day I'll die and it'll

21 break your heart --

22 SIOBHAN Stop being morbid you daft arse.

23 MARY It's true. Then where will you be?

24 SIOBHAN Probably right here, scattering your ashes in your favourite gutter.

25 MARY I went to Gemma's flat.

26 SIOBHAN Oh mum, no --

27 MARY All I did was look through the window!

28 The poor girl has nothing.

29 No carpet, no furniture, just a sleeping bag on the floor.

30 She was on it, crying.

31 She had his wedding ring on her finger, my rosaries round her

32 wrist, and for a moment, I don't know, I felt like she was me...

33 SIOBHAN You didn't do anything.

34 MARY I came here.

1 SIOBHAN Oh thank goodness, come on let's go see Vanilla
2 MARY You raised a very kind girl, Siobhan.
3 She gets it from you.
4 SIOBHAN I got it from you.
5 MARY Only you didn't. You became it for me.
6 Siobhan, don't be upset, but I think Vanilla was behind building
7 that tree camp --
8 SIOBHAN Don't be daft.
9 MARY Well it wasn't the hippy was it? She's a follower.
10 Whereas Vanilla, she was like your dad.
11 Maybe I should have told her the truth about him, and you too --
12 SIOBHAN Seriously, mum. Stop. I don't want to know. I want the loving lie.
13 MARY I'll never forgive myself.
14 SIOBHAN Well I wish you would, cos whatever he did or did not do is not
15 your burden.
16 You know, I thought I wanted to know, but after running around
17 trying to find you, I realise I don't want to be stuck on this wild
18 goose chase for the rest of my life.
19 We are walking in circles, stuck on a loop.
20 I just want to look after you and Vanilla, that's it. I don't want to
21 know.
22 FX: MARY HUGS SIOBHAN.
23 MARY You know I love you, don't you?
24 SIOBHAN Yes, I know. Come on...
25 FX: SIOBHAN STANDS UP AND PUTS HER HAND OUT TO HER MUM.
26 SIOBHAN Let's not sit here anymore. Let's get up.
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1 **SCENE 31:**

2 **31 INT. INTERCUT/HOSPITAL/BYRNE'S HOUSE/CHURCH- OVER-TIME.**

3 FX: VANILLA'S MACHINES BEEP IN THEIR FAMILIAR WAY.

4 ORLA How much longer will you sleep?

5 I'm not rushing you, I promise.

6 I'll live around you forever, I swear.

7 I feel I've been by your side for years anyway, it makes no

8 difference to me.

9 FX: (FAINT/BACKGROUND) SIOBHAN SETS THE TABLE FOR MARY -

10 THEY HAVE AN EVERYDAY CONVERSATION ABOUT FOOD,

11 MAYBE WEATHER.

12 ORLA It's weird, somehow your personality still grows around me - sharp

13 and clear, influencing me.

14 We are becoming a strange garden sprouting up between two

15 worlds, like trees bending their leaves, almost touching but not

16 quite.

17 FX: (FAINT/BACKGROUND) FATHER ROBIN OFFERS PRAYERS TO

18 THE BYRNE FAMILY.

19 ORLA (Sighs) That's all I have today, Princess.

20 A lump of missing you stuck in my throat, a whole load of

21 wondering how long will it take for you to wake up and remember

22 our love.

23

24 FX: WILD GEESE FLY OVER HEAD TOWARDS THE WOODS, AWAY.

25 **END**

26