

Loss for Words

A Short Play

by
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CHARACTER NAME

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

AGE

GENDER

JAY sits on her bed, still in her pajamas. She wears a cross necklace. She's surrounded by a messy room. She's wearing headphones, which can be assumed to be blasting some heavy rock music. She hums, or screams, along.

ROBIN walks down the hall to her sister's room. She's dressed for the day in a hyper-feminine style, also donning a cross necklace. She takes a breath before knocking.

A knock.

No answer. Jay does not hear.

A knock, a little louder.

No answer. Jay adjusts her headphones.

A knock.

ROBIN

HEY! JUST LETTING YOU KNOW THAT MOM SAYS TO BE READY IN TEN OR WE'RE LEAVING WITHOUT YOU.

Jay hears. She does not answer. Robin begins to walk back down the hall.

ROBIN

OKAY WE PROBABLY WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT YOU BUT SHE'LL GET ALL PISSY ANYWAYS.

Robin thinks for a moment. She then begins to knock rapidly and incessantly.

ROBIN

WAKE UP WAKE UP WAKE-

Jay opens the door. Robin smiles.

ROBIN

Hey girly pop.

Robin welcomes herself in and sits on Jay's bed. She picks up a book and begins to read.

ROBIN

Hey, so, this is extremely depressing.

JAY

It's the Bell Jar.

A beat.

ROBIN

Yeah, so in case you misheard me-

JAY

Relax, it's for class.

ROBIN

Okay. Just making sure we don't have a "situation."

JAY

No suicide watch needed.

The next line is accompanied by finger guns.

ROBIN

Kk.

Jay takes the book back from her and sets it back on whatever shelf it belongs on.

ROBIN

So..sorry to push, but like, Mom is really stressed that we're not gonna make it to church on time, so like- maybe, if you can, like, kick it into high gear-

Jay is organizing her books.

ROBIN

Again not trying to step on your toes, but I just don't want a repeat of Easter Sunday service so if we could get this show on the road-

JAY

I'm actually not feeling very well. I need to stay home.

ROBIN

Do you still have mono? I thought that your fever broke before Steph's party the other day-

JAY

Oh, yeah. It did, sorry-

ROBIN

Did you ever think it's weird that you got mono?//

JAY

Uh, no, not really-//

ROBIN

Like it usually only gets little kids, like Nina's little brother got it a month ago and he's like, six-

JAY

Yeah, well-

ROBIN

And it's called the kissing disease so like, ahahahahaha-

JAY

That's kind of been debunked, so-

ROBIN

Wouldn't it be crazy if you were kissing someone and weren't telling me? That'd be like super crazy because I'm your big sister and little sisters are supposed to tell their big sisters everything and if they don't it's because they hate them or think that they'll hate them if they tell them something and that's just crazy because like that would never happen ahahahahaha.

A beat.

ROBIN

Like ever.

Jay is confused. Like, really fucking confused.

JAY

Yep..haha?

ROBIN

HAHAHAHAHA.

One more beat.

ROBIN

Okay, sorry. I need to just come right out and say it.

JAY

Okay?

ROBIN

You'll need to sit down.

JAY

Hey, you're kind of freaking me out here, man.

ROBIN

How have you been since Brock, like, you know.

JAY

Cheated on me?

ROBIN

Yeah. Sorry.

JAY

It's fine..? It's not a bad word.

ROBIN

Okay. Sorry.

JAY

Oh my God, Robin. What's going on.

ROBIN

Just answer.

JAY

I've been, like, sad? I don't know? I've been processing..? Like what answer do you want from -

ROBIN

Like has anything changed? Besides like, you know-

JAY

Besides my instagram bio? Um, no, not really-//

ROBIN

Like, no new feelings or old ones? For like, someone?

JAY

OH MY GOD. Are you talking about Jamie? Bro. Ew.

ROBIN

No, no, not him- like. Has your type changed at all?

JAY

Maybe a new aversion to "short kings."

ROBIN

As in the short part or the king part?

JAY

Wait, what's up?

ROBIN

Like if you had something to tell me, I'd be totally down to talk about it. And I wouldn't judge you. Because only God can judge, you know? And like, he wouldn't judge you based on- like, that. So. You know, just letting you know that I'm here for you, no matter what.

Jay gives her a thumbs up. Robin gives her a thumbs up back. This is awkward.

ROBIN

Okay, so like your turn now. Talk.

JAY

I'd absolutely love to know what you're talking about, Robin, but I really have no clue, so.. if you can do the whole "coming right out and saying it" part now, that would be greatly appreciated.

Kk. ROBIN

Silence. JAY

Like, now. ROBIN

Got it. I'm hyping myself up. JAY

Oh, okay. Take your time, man. ROBIN

Okay. Robin is ready. JAY

Okay. ROBIN

Are you- She has Jay's full attention. ROBIN

You know? Jay is defeated. JAY

Alright. She starts to clear off her bed. JAY

If you're not going to buck up and say what you-// ROBIN

Wait, no, you can't just-// JAY

I have things to do, Robin//

ROBIN

I do, too, but I thought we needed to//

JAY

Needed to what, Ro-//

ROBIN

ARE YOU A SECRET LESBIAN?

JAY

..uh. What?

ROBIN

It's okay. I've known for awhile. I just didn't know how to ask if it was-

JAY

I'm not.

ROBIN

I know it's scary to come out. Trust me. I get it.//

JAY

Robin, no-//

ROBIN

Especially in our family? I mean what were you supposed to think?//

JAY

I didn't think anything. Wait, who said that I was-//

ROBIN

Maybe I shouldn't have brought it up today but like, what better a time to come out than when the whole family is here? Like, one and done, you know? Happy Holidays!

JAY

I'm not coming out, Robin.

ROBIN

Why not? Aunt Riley and Uncle Pete are liberals. That's what Dad said. Uncle Pete didn't talk to him for weeks after the election. He even had a Coach Walz shirt.

JAY

I know. And it's fucking disgusting.

ROBIN

What?

JAY

Is this because of the post from Steph's party? It was part of our COSTUME. We were the Challengers trio. They kiss in the movie, I didn't want to fucking- oh my god. It was supposed to be funny.

ROBIN

Why would that be funny?

JAY

BECAUSE WE'RE GIRLS, ROBIN. WE'RE BOTH FUCKING GIRLS.

ROBIN

So, you are fu- like, sleeping with women?

JAY

No, not fucking girls, we're fu- UGH. I'M NOT A DYKE- I'M NOT A FUCKING DYKE. WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH THIS SHIT? Is that why you thought I've been upset? The sleeping in, the books, the- My boyfriend cheated on me, Robin. MY BOYFRIEND. B-O-Y FRIEND.

ROBIN

You tried to off yourself.

JAY

Because I went through a break-up. Not because I'm a dyke. GOD, ROBIN-

ROBIN

Don't say that word.

JAY

Oh my God, college has turned you into such a snowflake.

ROBIN

Do you even know what that means-

JAY

You're the one going around telling people I'm some girl-fag-

ROBIN

STOP FUCKING SAYING THAT.

She covers her ears.

JAY

IT DOESN'T MEAN ANY-//

ROBIN

IT DOES. IT MEANS ME.

Jay takes a step back as Robin spirals in front of her. Maybe she throws books. Maybe she's quiet. Whatever she is, she is not okay. At all. Nothing is fine.

ROBIN

ME. IT MEANS ME. I THOUGHT- I

She can't catch her breath.

ROBIN

I was so sure. And I thought we could come out together, and be like, and you know? I wanted you to- I wanted to be there for you because no one- and you know? I thought you weren't like them- and that it was all a show because you have to put on a show and you can't- and- you- you- you know?

Robin sits on Jay's bed. Jay sits next to her.
Robin has fallen into a panic attack.

JAY

I'm sorry- I didn't know. I didn't know you needed-

ROBIN

I'm sorry. I thought you were like me. I thought it was hereditary.

JAY

It's not.

Robin wipes her tears.

ROBIN

It's fine. This is fine. Just, like. Hahaha. Like ha-like just forget it, it's fine. Like, you won't tell Mom and-

JAY

Whoa. This is not-

ROBIN

Like, you can't tell them. Like they pay for school, Jay-//

JAY

Robin, you need help. You have to get this out of you.

ROBIN

Hahahahahahaha-

JAY

There's these, like, camps, in like, Arizona or something? Somewhere sunny. They can fix you, and it's not even that long of a process.

ROBIN

You're kidding. This is a joke. Haha. This is funny. This is funny.

A beat.

ROBIN

You sound like Dad. Good impression.

JAY

Okay. I'm going to get Mom, and we're going to take you somewhere to get you, like, better.

Robin clasps onto Jay.

ROBIN

No, no I can't go. I can't.//

JAY

Robin.//

ROBIN

You can't- I'M YOUR SISTER, JAY. I'M YOUR BIG SISTER-

JAY

LET GO, ROBIN-

MOM

Girls? Time to go!

Jay opens her door and leaves, she shuts it behind her. Robin waits.

A knock. Robin might hear, she might not. But there is a knock.

