

I SAW MYSELF SO SORRY

by

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Cast of Characters

Rose: A recent stroke survivor, mid 20s.

Ryan: Her boyfriend.

Nurse: A carer at the hospital.

SCENE 1

A HOSPITAL ROOM, PRESENT DAY.
ROSE SITS IN HER BED, DRINKING
TEA WITH HER LEFT HAND. ANOTHER
CUP SITS ON THE TABLE BESIDE
HER. HER NURSE RUBS OIL ONTO
ROSE'S RIGHT HAND.

NURSE: How's that feel today, Rose?

ROSE: Ticklish.

NURSE: Good. Feeling anything is a good thing. Right, that's enough of that. I've got to do a few questions now, is that alright?

ROSE: Yes.

NURSE: Can you tell me your date of birth?

ROSE: Twenty-tenth-eighty-seven.

NURSE: And today's date?

ROSE: Two-thousand-thirteen.

NURSE: The day?

ROSE: Thursday. August. (BEAT.) I don't know what.

NURSE: That's okay. Look at that, not long till your next birthday, then. Twenty-six. Wish I was just turning twenty-six. (SHE NOTICES ROSE'S EYES DARTING TOWARDS THE CLOCK.) What are you waiting for?

ROSE: Ryan.

NURSE: Is that your young man?

ROSE: Yes.

NURSE: Today's the day, eh? You must be excited.

ROSE: Yeah.

NURSE: How far does he have to come?

ROSE: From Brighton.

NURSE: Wow, that's a biggie. He must love you.

RYAN ENTERS THE ROOM. ROSE
LIGHTS UP.

RYAN: Hello!

NURSE: Speak of the devil. I'll leave you to catch up and we can finish these later.

ROSE: Thank you.

THE NURSE EXITS.

RYAN: I made it, finally.

ROSE GESTURES TOWARDS THE SECOND
TEA CUP.

(HE DRINKS) That's exactly what I need! It's such a long journey getting here. I had no idea. I thought this was a lot closer to London than it is.

ROSE: London? It's not near London.

RYAN: Well I know that now!

ROSE: I missed you.

RYAN: I've missed you too. It's been weird going a whole two weeks not being able to visit you.

ROSE: I know. I want to go.

RYAN: We will, just keep working hard. How's it been, being back in your old town?

ROSE: I think we should stay here.

RYAN: You mean after you get better?

ROSE NODS.

Okay.

ROSE: Really?

RYAN: Sure. If that's what you want. I'll get used to being here. I don't really care where we are.

ROSE: How's work?

RYAN: I basically blanked my way through it. I was just thinking about the move the whole time and whether I'd still have the job once I got here.

ROSE: Do you?

RYAN: I don't know yet. Today and tomorrow are officially days off, but tomorrow I have to the branch on St. Andrew's to see if they want to

take me on there. If they do, I transfer. If not, head office agreed to count the last two weeks as my notice period and I'll have to start looking elsewhere!

ROSE: Don't worry. They'll love you.

RYAN: Enough about that. Let me see the foot!
I want to see you do it in person.

ROSE PULLS THE COVERS OFF OF HER
RIGHT FOOT AND CONCERNTRATES
HARD ON WRIGGLING HER BIG TOE.

That's so cool. When your sister sent me the video, I swear I'd never been so happy to watch a foot before. Well done. When did you manage it?

ROSE: In the ambulance.

RYAN: I barely missed it then. I guess faster recoveries are the one advantage of having a stroke so young.

ROSE: Do you think I'll get it back?

RYAN: I don't know. Probably. I just know that if it was always going to happen anyway, best that it happened now.

ROSE: Are you proud?

RYAN: Of the toe? Of course I am. Every twitch is a milestone.

RYAN NOTICES THE TIME.

RYAN: Visiting hours will be over soon. Sorry I got here so late for our first day back together.

ROSE: It's okay. Tomorrow?

RYAN: I'll come back first thing.

SCENE 2

RYAN ENTERS THE HOSPITAL ROOM.
ROSE IS SAT UP IN HER BED. RYAN
KISSES HER HELLO.

ROSE: You wore that yesterday.

RYAN: I know! I haven't bothered unpacking yet. I did
pull fresh pants out of my suitcase though -
don't worry. What have you been up to today?

ROSE PICKS UP A SHEET OF PAPER
AND READS OFF OF IT.

ROSE: Bah bah bah! Boo boo boo! Bee bee bee!

RYAN: What is that?

ROSE: Speak therapy. Speech therapy.

RYAN: That sounds fun. Let's hear some more.

ROSE MAKES SOME MORE NOISES BUT
MAKES HERSELF LAUGH TOO HARD TO
COMPLETE THE EXERCISE SHEET.

ROSE: It's so silly.

RYAN: Your voice has come along such a long way. I
remember when you couldn't even make a noise.

ROSE: Exciting.

ROSE GRABS HER SKETCHPAD.

ROSE: I had a dream. (SHE SHOWS HIM
CORRESPONDING DRAWINGS AS SHE EXPLAINS.)
I saw myself, and women in the sea.

THE GAPS IN HER STORY ARE
LARGELY FILLED IN BY HER MIMES,
WHICH RYAN VERBALISES.

RYAN: There was a big wave? Were they making it?

ROSE: They made all the waves. And they saw the
sun.

RYAN: They picked at it? The rays?

ROSE: Picked. Plucked. And music!

RYAN: Nice?

ROSE: Nice! Beautiful! Oh, it was so good.

RYAN: They made it with the sunrays?

ROSE: Yes!

RYAN: That's quite a dream. I wonder what that means.

ROSE SHRUGS.

Are you okay? Why are you sad?

ROSE: It makes me think of Brighton. I could swim.

RYAN: I know. It's weird having to leave. But this was your home before Brighton was. You'll slip right back into it.

ROSE: I hope so.

RYAN: And you said you liked being back here! Don't you still want to stay?

ROSE: I want to be home.

RYAN: I know it's weird, I do. I wouldn't have chosen to come here if we didn't have to, but that's just our lot. Don't think of it as being away from home. This is our home now. We'll make a new home.

SCENE 3

RYAN ENTERS, WEARING SMARTER CLOTHES THAN USUAL. ROSE IS SAT ON THE CHAIR NEXT TO HER BED.

RYAN: Hello!

ROSE: Hello! You look nice.

RYAN: Thank you. I just had the interview, thought I'd wear something work-appropriate.

ROSE: How was it?

RYAN: It went really well. I think. She couldn't tell me yet if I can come on board because she needs to talk to the area manager, but I think she liked me. Yeah.

ROSE: Are they nice there?

RYAN: I didn't get to meet the rest of the team properly, but the manager was very nice. And she wasn't posh! I was expecting her to be, but she sounds just like tons of people I grew up with. Which was a good surprise. She could easily be a Crawley girl. You'd never know.

ROSE: Not everyone's posh here. I'm not.

RYAN: Well... Not now, but you changed your accent. That's cheating.

ROSE: It was the stroke.

RYAN: Sure. (BEAT) I found something interesting on the bus ride into town. (HE PULLS OUT HIS PHONE AND PLAYS HER A RECORDING OF A STRANGE, DRONING SOUND.) Cool, right?

ROSE: What is it?

RYAN: These astronomers at Stanford did a study where they interpreted vibrations being caused by the sun and then they turned them into sound waves. This is the music the sun makes.

ROSE: Wow! It's not as nice as it made in my dream.

RYAN: It's the first time it's had an audience, it's probably still workshopping.

RYAN'S PHONE RINGS.

RYAN: (CONT.) Hold on, this is work. (HE STEPS OUTSIDE TO TALK.)

ROSE DRAWS IN HER SKETCHPAD.
RYAN RETURNS.

I got the transfer! I start back tomorrow.

ROSE: That's so good. I knew it.

RYAN: That's a huge weight off. One less thing to worry about being here. It's nice not to have to change that as well, maybe it won't feel like such a big difference.

ROSE: Were you worried?

RYAN: A little bit. We've had such a huge shift in everything this last month, having to job hunt and then maybe have to learn something totally new would have just been too much. But I don't have to worry at all now. I can just focus on you.

ROSE PUT HER SKETCHPAD DOWN.
RYAN PICKS IT UP.

What were you working on?

ROSE: It's one of the nurses. I want to start drawing again.

RYAN: Thank god you're left-handed. I bet you never thought that would come in so handy.

ROSE: It's not very good.

RYAN: It is very good. You haven't lost anything. Carry on if you like.

ROSE: How is my dad's?

RYAN: It's good, actually. I haven't spent much time with them so far, being here all the time, but I'm getting on okay.

ROSE: When they let me go, we'll live together.

RYAN: Exactly, it won't be for long. And I really appreciate him taking me in for the time being. I hope he knows that.

ROSE: I'm sure. (SHE MOTIONS TOWARDS THE SKETCHPAD.)
Go to the page before. I had another dream.

RYAN: Last night?

ROSE: I saw myself and two glasses.