

QUIET SHOUTING

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**INT. SMALL GREEN ROOM- NIGHT**

Ollie sits on a ripped old couch clearly having some sort of panic attack. He's breathing heavily, shaking his hands and opening and closing his hands in order to get sensation back to them. His face has a thin coat of sweat covering it and giving it a shine in the light. You can hear the buzzing of the florescent light filling the room. An old fan creaks above him as it spins. A stage hand opens the door abruptly.

STAGE HAND

Mr Robins? They want you to make your way to the stage now.

Ollie tries to get words up but they get caught in his throat so he just pathetically nods.

He stands up and walks down onto the wings of the stage. His posture and body language changes completely into a confident and composed exterior. He waits in the wings as the announcer preambles.

ANNOUNCER

Now I know you all haven't paid to see me so lets get to one of our acts for this night. He may have only been on this scene for a few years but I am sure you will be hearing more from him. Ladies and gentleman Ollie Robins!

The audience applauds and Ollie walks on stage and takes the microphone. He sees a woman in the audience. They recognise each other. Ollie winces but begins with his set.

**INT. AT THE BAR-NIGHT**

Ollie is sitting alone at a table sipping a drink and writing on a napkin. Muttering to himself, going over timings of his jokes.

OLLIE

(Muttering to himself)

Okay you guys are gonna need to keep it down. I appreciate it but my mum said I couldn't stay up this late....not That. It's passed my bedtime but guess who isn't here right now.... Is this even funny? Maybe if I do a funny voice it could dampen it

An arrogant patron approaches Ollie and cheerfully slaps him on the back making Ollie nearly spill his drink

ARROGANT PATRON

Dude!

OLLIE

Dude?

ARROGANT PATRON

That was so good. You crushed it. That bit where you talked about your cousin's wedding had me dying bro.

OLLIE

Yeah well... it certainly made for an awkward Christmas the next year.

ARROGANT PATRON

How did you learn to do all those voices?

OLLIE

Oh I just spent time in the shower doing them as a teen. Which I'm sure was very confusing for my parents. I spent 10 minutes in the shower and under all the sounds of water is me doing a valley girl voice. I'm half expecting my dad to tell me its okay to come out as schizophrenic if I want to.

The arrogant patron laughs and again slaps Ollies back making him spill more of his drink

ARROGANT PATRON

Dude, you should totally put that in your act. Talk about jerking off and talking to yourself

Ollie gives a polite smile

OLLIE

Can I get you a drink? I've finished mine

ARROGANT PATRON

Nah, I don't drink. It's unhealthy

The arrogant patron pulls out a vape and blows a thick grape scented cloud into the air

Ollie places his glass at the bar, thanks the bartender and leaves the bar walking into the rainy street. He puts his jacket over his head and makes the walk back home.

**INT. OLLIE'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

Ollie makes his way into his small quiet apartment and collapses onto his bed. He takes out his phone and starts reading an article on how to get over stage fright. He reads through unhelpful advice like "Act natural" and "Don't worry, your classmates won't be paying too much attention". He gives up and rolls himself in his blanket.

**INT. OLLIE'S APARTMENT- DAY**

Ollie's phone lightly vibrates and his ringtone loudly blares out taking Ollie up. He reaches his hand out from his blanket cocoon. He bats around the bed to find his phone before answering it. The contact says it's from "Stephanie (Manager)"

STEPHANIE

Where are you?

OLLIE

(only half awake)  
What?

STEPHANIE

Where. Are. you? He specifically asked you to come to this and I'm running out of excuses

Ollie darts up and frantically starts getting dressed

OLLIE

I'm on my way now just got stuck in traffic

STEPHANIE

Don't lie, you just got up

OLLIE

Yeah I just got up but I am on my way

**INT. KIDS PARTY SUBURBAN HOUSE- DAY**

There's streamers and balloons everywhere. The outside has really badly made dinosaur decorations.

A little boy opens the door with a big dumb grin on his face

LUCAS  
UNCLE OLLIE!

OLLIE  
Hey little guy. Happy 5th birthday.

Lucas hugs Ollie but is only tall enough to reach his thigh.  
Stephanie looms over them

STEPHANIE  
Go show Ollie what you got.

Lucas detaches from Ollie and rushes off to gather a  
collection of presents to show Ollie.

OLLIE  
Aw man I missed presents?

STEPHANIE  
Yeah Oliver, you were an hour late.

OLLIE  
Good to see you're still punctual  
as ever. I bet you were the first  
one to this

STEPHANIE  
And you were the first one to be  
invited but the last one to arrive

OLLIE  
Sometimes my friends ask after my  
little sister and I have to respond  
"Oh steph? She still bosses me  
around but now she just gets paid  
to do it"

STEPHANIE  
Haha, we're both lucky you have a  
sense of humour like that. Speaking  
of humour-

OLLIE  
(interrupting)  
Perfect transition, you're doing so  
great

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Last night was good but I still think you can wait for those second wind laughs. Let jokes lie for a little bit and try to milk it a little more. And why did you cut that one joke out?

OLLIE

Because Emma was in the audience

STEPHANIE

Don't be silly, it's still funny...what?

OLLIE

Funny as it may be thought it would be in bad taste to air that out in front of her

STEPHANIE

That's awful, I am so sorry. Are you okay?

OLLIE

Yeah I'm good just threw me for a minute. Made me a little on edge? Could you tell I was a little on edge?

STEPHANIE

Not as much as any other gig. You should probably talk to her though. Like actually talk to her. You left her a note saying the reason you broke it off was because you were scared of commitment and talking to her on stage. No girl wants the reason for a relationship to end is because you're scared of talking about her.

OLLIE

Yeah but she didn't need to show up to my workplace. If I did that it would be called stalking and considered a bad move

STEPHANIE

Ollie, your name was literally written at the door. It would have been hard to miss

Lucas interrupts them by showing off his new dinosaur toy to Ollie

LUCAS  
Look Ollie, it's a Spinosaurus

STEPHANIE  
That's great honey, why don't you  
show Ollie more of your toys while  
I help sort some stuff out

Lucas takes Ollie by the hand and they walk into the party more

LUCAS  
Can you cut me a slice of cake

OLLIE  
Yeah sure

EXT. BACKYARD-DAY

Ollie cuts them both a slice of a green dinosaur cake they sit down and eat it together.

LUCAS  
What's your favourite dinosaur

OLLIE  
Velociraptor. You?

LUCAS  
Triceratops. Why is that your  
favourite?

OLLIE  
I don't know. They're kinda scrappy  
and not one of the big ones. Why do  
you like the triceratops

LUCAS  
Three horns

The two boys eat their cake quietly together

LUCAS (CONT'D)  
Could beat up yours though

OLLIE  
Nuh uh! Mine has like dexterity and  
could jump on it's back and bite at  
it. The head shield thingy would  
get in the way

Lucas giggles as Ollie goes on with this rebuttal

LUCAS  
When I get big, I wanna be like you

OLLIE  
Oh yeah? You wanna make people  
laugh?

LUCAS  
Yeah

OLLIE  
Wow that's...great Kiddo. Man your  
mum is just gonna love that

LUCAS  
You think so?

OLLIE  
Oh yeah, she's having an absolute  
blast managing me and so me turning  
you to the dark side will go over  
well

STEPHANIE  
(from in the distance)  
Okay everybody, whose ready for  
cake time?

OLLIE  
Run

The two bolt away and try and hide. Lucas runs into his  
bedroom and Ollie runs over to the side fence where some kids  
father is getting a drink from an esky.

CHILD'S FATHER  
Oh hey aren't you that comedian?

OLLIE  
Yeah, I am. Excuse me

Without stopping to linger on this Ollie tries to jump the  
fence. His foot gets caught on the edge and he stumbles over  
it



**INT. SMALL GREEN ROOM-NIGHT**

Ollie is sitting on a couch experiencing the same stress and anxiety that he did last night but trying to distract himself with new work.

A younger girl walks into the greenroom sheepishly. Flicking through palm cards and reading through them. She's early 20s and muttering to herself, almost mirroring Ollie.

OLLIE

Ummm are you alright? Can I help you

SARAH

Sorry, it's one of my first gigs. Am I not meant to be here? Am I in the wrong spot?

OLLIE

No you're right. It's for all the acts. The others are most likely just out getting a little buzzed before the show or waiting for their set.

SARAH

Awesome. I guess I'll just wait here until I go on.

They sit in silence, all you can hear is muffled laughter coming from the bar as the audience laughs to the performer on stage

OLLIE

What's your name? I'm Ollie Robins. I go on forth tonight

SARAH

Sarah Rivers, It's my second show but I'm going on 3rd. Guess I'm warming them up for you

They chuckle

SARAH (CONT'D)

Hey, can I ask you something, it's okay to say no

OLLIE

Yeah okay

SARAH

Where they mean to you when you started? I feel like I get heckled more than the others and I'm not as funny. I feel like I don't really belong but I keep getting booked for some reason.

OLLIE

Yeah, they were mean to me when I started and I thought I sucked but it goes away. It hurts when they're accurate about what they say but mostly it's just some drunk guy trying to impress a chick.

SARAH

Or they want to be funnier than a girl.

OLLIE

Oh well I don't think- actually yeah. That would go into it as well.

A stage hand opens the door and points to Sarah

STAGE HAND

They want you to make your way to the stage now mam.

Sarah stands up and walks out of the green room. She looks back to Ollie and smiles.

Ollie sits in the room alone now.