

Earbuds

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INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR

A bell rings. Sam is trailing through the corridors, the muffles of laughter can be heard behind him. He is surrounded by three girls. He wears a smile as an arm punches his in jeer.

FRIEND 1
Isn't that right Sam?

The other two girls laugh, the joke was apparently hilarious, unbeknown to Sam. She nods her head in agreement hands firmly grasping her backpack. The two continue their conversation over Sam, slowly pushing her from the middle to the side.

FRIEND 2
Yeah anyway, and he was staring right at me right?

FRIEND 1
So what did you do?

FRIEND 2
Well what was I supposed to do?

The conversation becomes more muffled as Sam gets pushed out.

FRIEND 1
Alright then mate see you later yeah?

The two disperse leaving Sam alone to breathe a sigh of relief.

CUT TO:

Sam is walking alone in the corridor all the other students have gone outside. The sun from the windows created fitting bars on the grey halls of the corridor.

She turns the corner hoping to reach the next floor. There is an A4 sheet of paper on the door to the stairs telling her to do explicitly the opposite.

Students are prohibited from going upstairs areas at break and lunchtimes

Sam looks left to right before pushing the door open and walking to the stairwell.

SAM
(V.O)

I can guarantee that ridiculous story was fake.. I doubt they even know any girls well enough for that.

Scoffs at her own remark.

SAM

I suppose my own company *is* the best to keep.

As Sam walks alone, she places two earbuds into her ears.

Sam sits down propped up by the wall behind her and takes out her sandwich.

INT. DINING ROOM

Sam is sitting centre screen, a plate of dinner in front of her and a fork in hand. Her eyes are fixed on the plate.

SAM'S MOTHER

(o.s)

So, honey how was school today? Didn't you have a test? I swear you had a test!

SAM

Yeah... it was fine thanks.

Sam puts no effort into the smile that follows. She proceeds to eat.

SAM'S FATHER

(o.s)

Did you sign up for the team this year? I'm telling ya you've got talents!

SAM'S MOTHER

(o.s)

David.. She doesn't like football do you babes?

As Sam plays with her food her subconscious walks into the frame.

SAM'S SUBCONSCIOUS

Take it or leave it.

SAM'S FATHER

(o.s)

Sure he does! He used to watch the games with me when he was little! D'ya remember girl?

Sam is still sitting quietly Sam's subconscious picks up a wine bottle.

SAM'S SUBCONSCIOUS

Ah yes... the good ole days when I didn't understand a word you were saying.

SAM'S MOTHER

(o.s)

He was too young for that! Anyway.. did you end up having that test sweetpea?

Sam takes a breath in to respond. Sam's double walks behind them to sit on the couch and observe. She puts the wine bottle down and crosses her arms.

SAM'S FATHER

(o.s)

Your mother just loves to cut me off eh?

Sam places her knife and fork down leaving half a plate of food.

SAM'S SUBCONSCIOUS

Well, that was lovely. I'm off to bed then, night.

Sam's subconscious leaves the frame, Sam stands up and follows.

SAM

(V.O)

Night.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR

Sam's r

ustling through her backpack, still sat on floor.

As shes walking back into the corridors he stops and sees her

three friends loitering next to the classroom door.

FRIEND 1

Ah mate, she's so creepy.

FRIEND 2

I know, she follows *you* around, not us.

The two of them laugh together.

FRIEND 2

Ey, who am I?

She hunches over and puts headphones in her ears exaggerating a slumped walk. Her hood is hung over her face.

All of them laugh, Sam stops in her tracks and look in disappointment. They look over and notice her

FRIEND 1

Sam gal! Y'alright?

CUT TO:

INT. SAMS BEDROOM

Sam's lying in bed, the clock next to her ticking rhythmically

SAM'S MOTHER

(o.s)

Goodnight then m'love!

The light switch sounds, Sam lies while the ticking continues on next to her. She takes a deep breath and closes her eyes.

FADE TO BLACK:

SAM'S FATHER

(muffled, o.s, violent)

I fuckin' told ya! Interrupt me again woman!

Sams eyes fly open wide and the light switches on as she listen intently to the conversation below her. The ticking becoming progressively louder.

SAM'S MOTHER

(Slurring, o.s)

Yeah? Yeah! And what are you gunna do about it?

The shouting and sounds become unrecognisable, a glass smashes against a wall, a fist bangs on the table. The ticking is overtaking the sounds, its pacing becomes fast.

Sam reaches for her headphones and places them in her ears. Sam's subconscious walks into frame as Sam closes her eyes. She addresses the audiences.

SAM'S SUBCONSCIOUS

(v.o, theatrical)

Did you know? Marconi Union is an English ambient music band that worked with sound therapists to create what is known as the most relaxing song in the world.

Sam subconscious walks to sit on the bedframe.

Alessia Cara has more Grammy wins than Nas, Bjork, Tupac, and Snoop Dogg.

She walks around and sits on the floor next to the bed staring at Sam in amusement. Ticking still in background

And in 2015, Adele kept her album off streaming services and sold 5 million CDs in a month.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR

Sam turns away from the two, as a bell rings. She starts walking away from the classroom. Sam addresses the audience

SAM

(deadpan)

Vinyl sales are on the up and up, there sales have been increasing for the last 11 years.

Drake's "Nice For What" was streamed more than 10 million times in 24 hours on Apple Music.

Sam walks towards a bright green shining exit sign, she starts running. The ticking can still be heard

SAM
(v.o)
Pearl Jam... Metallica... Jimi
Hendrix, the who.

Sam walks out of the door away from school.

CUT TO WHITE:

EXT. ABERGWILI MUSEUM.

The ticking stops. Sam walks towards a large gate at the opening of the museum. She paces slowly through the gardens, contemplative and slowly.

SAM
(v.o, calmer)
Nirvana.. The Beatles.. Breaking
Benjamin..

She continues on.

SAM
(v.o)
I wonder how many hours I've spent
listening?

She stops as she sees a picnic bench in front of her.

Sam approaches it and sits in the middle on the table, her feet on the bench. Sam sighs.

SAM
(V.O, pronounced, more enthused)
Beastie boys.. the animals.. Alt-J..
Florence and the -

Sam's train of thought is interrupted.

THE GUY
(v.o)
Budge!

A hand pulls a headphone from her left ear. A guy climbs onto the picnic bench next to her. She shuffles up. They sit in silence for a while.
Sam looks at her and then resigns to his company

SAM
(v.o)

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

Sam takes her phone out of her pocket and changes the song.
The guy looks at her impressed.

THE GUY

(v.o)

Ah, suspicious minds classic.

They both laugh together.