

Amelia

SELLITTO  
Even with the bleach?

KATE  
Give me two hours in my *real lab* and  
I'll restore this thing like the  
Sistine Chapel.

LINCOLN  
What about the evidence in the box?

Kate displays each item as she talks: THE VIAL, SPLINTER, and  
SMALL LEAF FRAGMENT.

KATE  
First impressions? Under-concentrated  
saltwater. A splinter of deciduous  
timber. Very old, very weathered. The  
leaf fragment is damaged, hard to tell  
right now. But again - a deep dive in  
my lab and Oz turns into color.

Off Lincoln, happy he insisted on Kate.

INT. LINCOLN'S BROWNSTONE - DAY - LATER

Lincoln and Amelia alone on this side of the room.

LINCOLN  
Locard's exchange principle. No one  
can come into contact with another  
person without leaving something  
behind or taking something with them.  
There's always an exchange. No matter  
how smart this guy is, eventually...

AMELIA  
He'll get caught by a hair?

LINCOLN  
That's the beauty. Evidence can be  
misinterpreted, but it never lies.  
Order in a world of complicated chaos.

AMELIA  
...Find yourself someone who loves you  
like Lincoln Rhyme loves forensics.

LINCOLN  
So... What leads a bright young mind  
to choose criminal psychology?

Scenes by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

AMELIA

I guess you could say it chose me.  
Against my will. And I just tried to  
do some good with it.

(then)

But it doesn't matter anymore. The FBI  
rejected me. I found out this morning.

LINCOLN

Two masters degrees don't cut it any  
more?

AMELIA

I lied on my application. A bit.

LINCOLN

What's "a bit?"

AMELIA

Concealing a series of debilitating  
mental conditions.

LINCOLN

That'll do it.

AMELIA

A lovely blend of PTSD, various  
anxiety disorders. Don't worry, I'm  
properly medicated, and most of the  
time I'm fine. Better than fine. And  
by the way, mental disability does NOT  
disqualify you from the FBI.

LINCOLN

So why lie?

AMELIA

I don't care what the law says about  
discriminating against mental illness -  
- they compare my application to one  
from someone with fully-functioning,  
trauma-free neural pathways... Which  
one would you choose?

LINCOLN

The broken one.

A beat. Amelia can't quite figure this guy out yet.

AMELIA

Why didn't you do this before today?  
Partner with someone, I mean.

(MORE)

AMELIA (CONT'D)

I've known you for five hours and I can already see how much you love this stuff. How could you just turn off that part of your brain?

LINCOLN

Not *part* of my brain, it was the whole thing. And it cost me everything. It's a hard horse to climb back on.

Amelia's phone buzzes and she glances at it. A TEXT FROM RAE: "Dinner?" accompanied by that GIF of Jennifer Lawrence saying "I'm Starving" on the Oscars red carpet.

LINCOLN (CONT'D)

Kate's going to be a while at the lab, if you need to make a call...

AMELIA

It's just my sister. She's 16. I take care of her. Or maybe she takes care of me, I'm not sure... You have family? Wife? Kids?

LINCOLN

Me? No. Nothing like that.  
(slight tinge of regret)  
Just me... And Claire.

AMELIA

She's your only nurse? What about when she's not here?

LINCOLN

Claire's always here. She's agoraphobic.

A look from Amelia: is this just more sarcasm, or...?

LINCOLN (CONT'D)

She takes one step outside -- even the patio or the rooftop -- she could have a panic attack. It's perfect, really. I can't leave the house and she doesn't want to.

(then)

I fired six nurses before I found her. Turns out the broken are better at caring for the broken.

AMELIA

Agoraphobia's usually caused by a traumatic event...

It's a question, but --

LINCOLN

Well, that's Claire's story to tell.

Sellitto comes running over.

SELLITTO

Tasha Johnson, the girl from the park--  
She's awake! We gotta get over there.

END

INT. SELLITTO'S CRUISER - DRIVING - DAY

Sellitto driving, Eric in the passenger seat, and Amelia in the back, SANS BODYCAM RIG, which sits next to her. SIRENS BLARING and Amelia rocking from the turns -- they're in a rush -- but Amelia still manages to steal a moment to call Rae. She dials.

AMELIA

Hey. I'm gonna be late tonight. Just want to make sure you're okay alone.

INT. AMELIA'S APARTMENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

RAE

I *might* be able to manage on my own for a few hours, even at the tender young age of basically a legal adult.

(Amelia rolls her eyes)

Oh, and I used your Postmates to order Thai food. Love you!

INT. SELLITTO'S CRUISER - DRIVING - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Amelia smiles and hangs up. Notices Eric looking at her.

AMELIA

Is "helicopter *sister*" a thing?

ERIC

I raised my siblings, too. I get it.

AMELIA

What's your story anyway? Are you exactly what you seem? Quiet, polite, boy scout type?

ERIC

Boring, you mean?