

ROBBY
Then why are you leaving me with
Jenna?

Silence.

ROBBY (CONT'D)
You look sad all the time now.

LEAH
Yeah. I am sad. And that's okay.
I'm also numb. Do you know what
'numb' means?

ROBBY
Cold?

LEAH
It's when you can't feel anything.
Or you know there's a big raging
hurricane of emotion that'll
destroy everything in its path
including you, if you let it. And
so you build a wall. You build a
wall so thick, you forget about the
hurricane and the hurricane starts
to eat your insides.
(beat)
I'm sorry. It's just... I love you
a lot. And I want to make sure you
know your emotions-- whatever they
are-- are valid. Mom is gone.
Whatever you want to feel-- or not
feel-- is okay.

INT. JENNA'S APARTMENT - DAY (SCENE 2)

KARL, late 30's, paces behind the front door.

LEAH (O.S.)
Jenna? I need you!! Please! Open
the door! Is anybody there??

Karl opens the door slowly.

KARL
Hello... ?

Leah busts through the door in a frenzy.

LEAH

Where's Jenna? I have to get to the police! My phone isn't working and my brother's been kidnapped--

KARL

Take it easy, Jenna's at work.

LEAH

My car, it's-- it wouldn't start--

KARL

Jenna took the car.

Leah looks at Karl suspiciously.

LEAH

... Who are you? Are you her boyfriend?

KARL

... You can see me?

LEAH

Of course I can see you, you're standing right in front of me.

KARL

No, sorry, it's early. Bad dream.

LEAH

I think they wrecked my car. The kidnapers. I turned the radio on, and it was talking about-- they-- my younger brother, he's 12, they kidnapped him.

KARL

I'll get you to the police.

LEAH

Wait, you're the boyfriend. You're James.

KARL

Yeah, I'm James. Hang on, I'll get some money for a cab.

He turns to grab some cash off the desk.

LEAH

Karl.

He stops.

LEAH (CONT'D)
 I've heard so much about you!
 Jenna's imaginary friend! You came
 to life after all these years!

KARL
 ... Hi?

Leah puts him in a chokehold.

LEAH
 Are you working with them? The
 Nightmares?!

KARL
 No! Ow! Of course not! It's just
 that... some of us can come to life
 now.

LEAH
 Some? Which 'some?'

KARL
 Imaginary friends. Helpful spirits.
 Along with the Nightmares. I have
 done nothing but help Jenna!

Leah notices the DEAD BODY on the ground by the wall.

LEAH
 The fuck?! The fuck did you do?!

KARL
 Oh, that's Will. I know this looks
 bad. You know, Will? Jenna's
 violent drug-dealing roommate?

LEAH
 What did you do to him?

KARL
 He threatened Jenna. Steps had to
 be taken.

LEAH
 Oh my God.

She looks at the body, freaked out. Then at Karl. Resolved.

LEAH (CONT'D)
 I do not have time for this. Get me
 to the cops, Karl.