

Hannah's back on a video call with Earl.

HANNAH

Hi, Dad.

EARL

My therapist told me/ to come back

HANNAH

/How are you?

EARL

I told him I didn't/ want to

HANNAH

/I just read this great book/

EARL

But then he said I should really give it a second/

HANNAH

It was about/

EARL

Hey, I'm trying to talk to you.

HANNAH

Sorry, Dad, you go ahead.

EARL

Don't— you don't have to do that.

HANNAH

Do what?

EARL

Call me *Dad*.

HANNAH

What else should I call you?

EARL

Earl.

HANNAH

Ok.

EARL

My therapist told me that I don't have to pretend she's not dead when I talk to you.

HANNAH

...

Yes, we can do that.

EARL

He said I should try to say everything I'd want to say to her.

He told me to treat it like a prayer.

But I'm not religious.

And I don't know what I'd say.

HANNAH

...

EARL

If I'm being honest, my main issue is that I can tell it's not her.

He squints.

EARL

It's close— really close— but I can tell.

She parted her hair a little bit differently.

She had a slight tremor in her voice that you don't have.

When she smiled, she never showed her teeth.

And you, just now, when you smiled—

I saw your teeth.

HANNAH

...

We can make adjustments to the deep fake/

EARL

No, that won't work, because I'll still know it's a computer program.

HANNAH

We can try to/

EARL

Just thousands of pictures and recordings.

Her data. Not her.

But Dr. Sokoll said it would help to just see her— or at least a version of her— happy.

So that gave me an idea.

Why don't we just talk?

You don't have to pretend to be her.

No ghosts, no acting, just a conversation.

Long beat.

HANNAH

I don't know if I'm supposed to/

EARL

I won't tell. I've already paid, can't we just treat it like a normal session?

HANNAH

...

EARL

You don't have to do anything, really. We can just talk about the weather.

HANNAH

I would have to keep the deep fake on.

EARL

I know.

HANNAH

Ok.

EARL

Thank you.

I'm not going to call you Sara, though.

HANNAH

Ok.

EARL

What can I call you?

HANNAH

...

EARL

How about/

HANNAH

Hannah. My name is Hannah.

EARL

Hi, Hannah.

How are you?

HANNAH

I'm ok.

EARL

So this is an interesting job, how'd you find it?

HANNAH

I was— I'm an actor.

My agent recommended it as a side gig, a way to make money doing something acting-ish.

Now I do it almost full time.

EARL

I see. An actor!

Been in anything I'd know?

HANNAH

No.

I'm a theater actor.

EARL

Musicals?

HANNAH

Plays mostly.

EARL

Comedies?

HANNAH

Sometimes.

EARL

Sara used to be an actress too. Lead in all the high school plays.

HANNAH

Yes, I know, I read that in her file/

EARL

I never cared much for theater, but I loved to watch her.
She lit up the stage— a firecracker. You could tell, it gave her so much joy.

HANNAH

There's nothing like it.

EARL

This seems like a good gig though. Next best thing, huh?

HANNAH

Yeah. It's temporary.
I'm going to go back.

EARL

That's great.
Good for you.

HANNAH

...

EARL

It must be a little weird, no? Working here?

HANNAH

You get used to it.

EARL

I don't know if I ever would.

HANNAH

Everyone always says that.

EARL

It seems weird.

HANNAH

Is it that much weirder than just acting in a play?
It's making things up to help us feel better.

EARL

I suppose. Can I ask you something?

HANNAH

Sure.

EARL

The last time we met, you said something about me always telling Sara not to curse... how did you know that?

HANNAH

The computer feeds me lines.

It's all based on her data. Text conversations, social media.

I read a file with background information, start the conversations, and the computer fills in the gaps.

EARL

It has her texts?

HANNAH

Anything digital.

EARL

Do you see yourself- what you look like to me- when you're in the call?

HANNAH

No.

EARL

So you could look nothing like her?

HANNAH

They match us up with the ghost we're the closest to, so I'm almost always an 18-30 year old/

EARL

Ghost?

HANNAH

Sorry, that's what we call them. The company doesn't like it. They want them to feel alive, I guess.

EARL

It does sound creepy.

HANNAH

A lot of tech does at first.

And then it becomes normal.

EARL

Isn't it sad? Just... surrounded by death, all the time.

HANNAH

We're all surrounded by death.

I help people.

I like that I'm helping people.

EARL

Do they seem better when you're done?

HANNAH

...

It's hard to tell.

I hope so.

EARL

What kind of things do people say?

HANNAH

I'm not supposed to/

EARL

Just in general.

HANNAH

They apologize a lot.

They say I love you.

They look for answers, sometimes, why someone did something.

But mostly I think they just want to see their person happy.

That's what the company tells us, at least.

EARL

Are you?

HANNAH

Am I what?

EARL

Happy?

HANNAH

Yeah, happy enough.

EARL

That's not very convincing.

HANNAH

Well, shit's complicated in my life right now.

But it'll be ok.

EARL

Complicated how?

HANNAH

I really don't think it's appropriate for me to/

Earl mimes zipping his lips and throwing it away to say "I won't tell."

HANNAH

My mom died. Pretty recently.

EARL

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

HANNAH

It's ok.

EARL

You gonna talk to her ghost then? Use an employee discount?

HANNAH

God no.

EARL

Why not?

HANNAH

We weren't exactly... close.

EARL

Well, maybe talking to her ghost will make you feel closer.

HANNAH

No. It wouldn't.

EARL

See what I mean? It's not real.

HANNAH

Listen man, I'm not like a spokesperson for the company, it's just a job.

EARL

I'm just pulling your leg.

HANNAH

It's not even my mom dying that's making me unhappy. I actually didn't really care.

EARL

Oh, come on.

HANNAH

What?

EARL

That's bullshit. Even if your mom was the worst person in the world, you would still care when she died.

HANNAH

Yeah, well, I didn't.

EARL

What is making you unhappy then? Your career?

HANNAH

Hey, fuck you, my career is doing just fine.

EARL

Right, right, this is just temporary.