

2. THE NIGHTMARE

(Sunday night. CONOR's bedroom.)

(CONOR falls asleep and has a nightmare. The ENSEMBLE create the nightmare – a collage of abstract aural and physical elements from the full nightmare. The full nightmare occurs during Scene 29, The Fourth Tale.)

CONOR Go away!

(CONOR wakes up.)

Go away...

(Pause)

MUM *(From off)* Conor?! Is that you? Is everything all right?

CONOR Sorry, Mum, I didn't mean to wake you. I was just ... dreaming.

MUM *(From off)* Are you OK?

CONOR Fine, Mum – see you in the morning.

MUM *(From off)* Night then.

(CONOR looks at his alarm clock. It is 12.07 a.m.)

ENSEMBLE 12.07.

(CONOR goes to his bedroom window and opens it. He breathes in some fresh air, but then hears the sound of the wind blowing through the leaves of the yew tree outside. The sound unnerves him. The ENSEMBLE turn to look out of the window.)

MONSTER *(From off, whispered)* Conor...

(Pause)

Conor...

(Pause)

I'm coming to get you, Conor O'Malley.

(CONOR slams the window shut.)

3. BREAKFAST

(Monday morning. CONOR's bedroom.)

(The sound of an alarm clock.)

(CONOR prepares for school, putting on trousers, shirt, tie, socks, shoes and blazer, packing his rucksack with pencil-case and workbooks.)

(CONOR goes into the kitchen, switches on the kettle and the radio, and looks out of the window.)

(CONOR takes a carton of juice from the fridge and drinks it. He takes a bowl from one cupboard, a box of Shreddies from another, and milk from the fridge, and prepares his breakfast.)

(CONOR sits on a chair, picks up a spoon and eats his breakfast.)

(CONOR finishes his breakfast, puts the bowl and spoon away, and gets ready to leave for school.)

(MUM enters and goes to the kettle.)

MUM Morning, Con.

CONOR Hi, Mum.

MUM Do you want a cup of tea?

CONOR No, I've got to go – but I boiled the kettle.

MUM Thanks, love.

(MUM pours herself a cup of tea.)

You've had breakfast?

CONOR Yes, Mum.

MUM You're sure?

CONOR Yes, Mum – Shreddies and juice. I put the dishes in the dishwasher.

MUM And put the washing on. Sorry I wasn't up.

CONOR It's OK.

MUM It's just this new round of—

CONOR It's OK.

(CONOR picks up his rucksack and goes to exit.)

MUM Were you all right last night?

CONOR Err, fine. Probably just ... talking in my sleep or something.

(Beat)

MUM I forgot to tell you, your grandma's coming by tomorrow.

CONOR *(Throwing rucksack to floor)* Aw, Mum!

MUM I know. But you're thirteen – you can't be expected to do the housework every morning.

CONOR Every morning?! How long is she going to be here?

MUM Conor...

CONOR We don't need her here.

MUM You know how I get at this point in my—

CONOR We've been OK so far.

MUM I know you don't like giving up your room and I'm sorry—

CONOR It's not just giving up my room – she treats me like I'm her employee or something.

MUM I wouldn't have asked her if I didn't need her to come. All right? *(Beat)* It's only for a couple of days.

(CONOR picks up his rucksack.)

She's going to bring me some of her old wigs. Can you imagine? I could go blonde, Con. Or curly, or redhead. What do you think?

CONOR I'm going to be late, Mum.

MUM All right, sweetheart. See you later.

(CONOR goes to exit, then turns to look at MUM.)

(Elsewhere) There's that old yew tree.

(MUM exits.)

4. SCHOOL

(Monday lunchtime. School playground.)

(HARRY, SULLY and ANTON enter.)

HARRY Conor O'Malley! Where did you creep in from?
(Beat) You see there's something that's been bugging me for a long while now and I've really just gotta get it off my chest. You see the thing I've been wondering is ... where did you get them shoes?

SULLY *(Laughing)* "Where did you get them shoes?"!
(HARRY and SULLY laugh. ANTON stands quietly.)

HARRY 'Cos I'm hoping you didn't pick them yourself. I mean, them shoes are so ugly Sully's dad wouldn't even wear them. And he wears Crocs!

(SULLY laughs. HARRY turns on ANTON.)

Did you not find that funny, Anton?

ANTON Yeah.

HARRY So why aren't you laughing then? Because when somebody thinks something's funny they—

(CONOR goes to leave.)