

Forget-Me-Not

written by

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INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

PAIGE WINTERS, a young socially inept girl, stands alone in a dark hallway. The only light we see comes from the crack of an ajar door at the end of the hallway. Laughter can be heard from inside the room. Paige hesitantly approaches the door.

Light from the ajar door shines on her face as she nervously shifts in place. She takes a deep breath and reaches towards the doorknob. Pausing for a moment she lets go and slowly backs away from the door.

JOHN (V.O.)
So, when did it start?

INT. JOHN'S THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

JOHN GALLAGHER, a kind man in his late 40s, sits on an armchair. He pushes his glasses up as he set his pen down on a notepad that rests in his lap. He seems relaxed as he stares at Paige.

PAIGE
A little after I started being
homeschooled.

Paige adjusts herself on one of the Barcelona chairs in John's office. Her fingers fidget in her lap as she glances around the room. She shifts again.

JOHN
...Okay. A little after... Do you
remember when exactly? Was it
immediately after or-

PAIGE
No.

BEAT.

JOHN
No?

Paige glances around the room, never making eye contact with John. She shifts in her chair again. She picks at the skin on her hands as her shoulders slump.

PAIGE
I just... I mean- I don't know.

JOHN
That's okay. Take your time. We're
in no rush.

PAIGE

I just... I just remember no one ever really liking me? Um... There was this one time, a year into being homeschooled.

EXT. LOCAL PARK - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

A younger version of Paige (7) is walking with a group of friends. They are all laughing and shoving each other around playfully. They are walking together on the sidewalk in front of a small old building. Paige is in the back walking a few steps behind the group.

PAIGE (V.O.)

I used to hang around some older kids, no else really liked having me around. I guess... Um... I remember walking behind them. They were all so close. They met each other before I was around, you know?

Older Paige, laughs nervously. The group of kids walk further. Birds are chirping; it's spring. Everything is lively and bright, even the trees and grass around them are vibrant.

PAIGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I don't know why I did it. I just... Stopped walking...

Younger Paige stops walking as she stares at the back of the older kids heads. They all laugh and get farther away, never noticing her absence. The chirping of birds muffles and a distant high pitched ringing can be heard.

Older Paige is now in the same place younger Paige was before. She stares at the group and frowns.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. JOHN'S THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

PAIGE

I wasn't expecting them to stop. I don't know why I was so...

Paige flails her hands around, trying to find the words. She looks at John and looks away quickly.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Never mind.

EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Paige walks quickly down an empty sidewalk. The sun has started to peak between the tall buildings around her. She crosses her arms and hold her winter jacket tighter.

She lets out a shaky breath as she crosses an intersection with hurried steps.

She walks past a glass door with "SNAPDRAGON THERAPY" written on it. She slowly stalks backwards until she's in front of the door. She hesitates before pushing the door open.

INT. JOHN'S THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Paige shifts in the Barcelona chair as John glances up. Moments go by without either saying anything. John nods and lets out a sigh.

JOHN
Okay-
PAIGE
Yesterday was my friends birthday.

Paige grimaces as she folds her arms around herself.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Sorry.

JOHN
It's alright. Your friends birthday was yesterday? How did that go?

Paige looks away from John as he leans forward in his chair. He nods and writes something down on his notepad.

PAIGE
Bad- Good? Both.

JOHN
Both?

Paige nods as she crosses her legs and uncrosses them. She picks at her hands as she keeps her eyes on her lap.

PAIGE
Both. It was good for her. But I just- It's complicated.

JOHN

That's okay. Complicated is normal.
Do you want to elaborate?

PAIGE

We were at a diner, her favorite
one. I brought a gift and
everything.

INT. DINER - DAY - FLASHBACK

Paige pushes open the front door as she glances around the
room. Her hands fidget around a gift as she holds it closer
to her chest.

A hostess smiles at her. Paige glances down at the nametag
that read, "Rebecca". She approaches the hostess' stand.

REBECCA

Hi! Table for one?

PAIGE

No. Um... I think my friends are
here already? 4 girls, it's one of
their birthdays? I don't know if
that helps.

REBECCA

Yeah! I remember them. They're
sitting down at a table in the
back.

The hostess walks around her booth and points Paige in the
right direction. Paige nods and walks over to the group of
laughing girls.

PAIGE (V.O.)

I walked over and there wasn't room
for me to sit with them. We had to
pull a chair out from an empty
table.

JESSICA, the birthday girl in bright colors with a permanent
sweet smile, looks up at Paige. The girls quiet down their
giggling.

JESSICA

Paige it's so good to see you!

All 4 girls are sitting comfortably on a soft booth. There
wasn't any space for Paige to sit. She shifts uncomfortably
as TERRISA, a short girl with wild hair, reaches over and
pulls a chair from an empty table.

TERRISA

Sit! Sit! Whatcha got there girl?

Paige lifts the gift and hesitantly places it on the table. She sits down.

PAIGE

It's nothing special. Just a small gift for Jessica.

MARIE, a tall slender girl with lots of jewelry covering most of her body, giggles and nudges the girl to her right.

KAILEY, a quiet girl wearing pastel colors, softly hits Marie on the shoulder and whispers something.

JESSICA

Oh. Paige that's so sweet!

Jessica grabs the bag and opens it. Her smile quivers as she pulls out a small handmade notebook. She moves it in her hands as Terrisa leans closer to get a better look. Marie and Kailey whisper to each other occasionally glancing at Paige.

PAIGE

I made it myself. I know you like bold colors so I tried to find some colors that matched that.

Jessica glances at Terrisa and for a brief second Paige feels like they're all aware of something she isn't.

JESSICA

That's very sweet, Paige. I... I love it!

Paige nods as she looks to the other girls at the table. No one's looking at her anymore. Marie reaches in front of her and taps Jessica on the arm.

MARIE

Keep going with you story about that guy last night! I **need** to know what happened next.

Paige glances at the girls as they talk to each other easily.

PAIGE (V.O.)

I tried to say something here and there, but it's like I wasn't even there.

Paige opens her mouth to say something, but gets interjected by Jessica. Paige doesn't catch the glimpse Jessica sends her way before asking Marie something.

JOHN (V.O.)

Oh. Okay-

PAIGE (V.O.)

I remember the waitress walked over with these fun drinks. And they just...

A waitress walks over and Paige stands up quickly and moves her chair out of the way. Terrisa nudges Jessica and nods her head towards Paige who was glancing around the diner.

JESSICA

Sorry girl! We totally would've ordered something for you but... Well...

MARIE

We didn't think you'd come.

Terrisa kicks Marie under the table as Jessica winces at the words.

TERRISA

Marie!

MARIE

What? It's true! She's like a total recluse!

Paige stares at them with wide eyes as she shifts back.

PAIGE

Oh.

JESSICA

Don't listen to her Paige-

PAIGE

It's okay. I, um... I have a train to catch anyways!

Paige lowers her head and strides towards the door quickly. A high pitched ringing can be heard as she stumbles out of the diner door. Barely holding back tears she tugs at the sleeves of her shirt.

END FLASHBACK.