

SPEECHLESS

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INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (LATER)

3

Mia and Summer's mother are chatting. Summer looks at the ground, standing beside her mother. Mia looks at Summer. She can see Summer is unhappy.

MIA

(to Summer)

Summer I'll see you tomorrow, ok.

Summer looks at the Mia. Unsure what to say. A beat. She runs out of the classroom.

SUMMER'S MOTHER

Sorry teacher.

Mia watches Summer's mother going after Summer. A concern look on Mia's face.

4

EXT. BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

4

Cloudless sky. We see trees and an empty bus stop.

Summer is tailing behind her mother as they're heading toward the bus stop. She stops when Summer's mother suddenly turns to speak.

SUMMER'S MOTHER

(in Chinese) I know it's hard. But you'll go to an Irish school next year, so you must learn English.

Summer shakes her head "no". Mother looks at Summer. A beat.

SUMMER'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

(in Chinese) I'm only trying to do what's best for you. Someday you'll understand.

Summer nods "yes".

Summer's mother hugs Summer tight. Summer hugs her back, her eyes welling with tears. A way of showing they love each other.

An Irish boy, SEAN (10) wearing a back pack and a navy blue jumper and A MAN (40s) walk past Summer and her mother.

Sean sits on the bench, can't help but look at Summer. A curious look on Sean's face.

BOY#2 (CONT'D)
(to Girl#1)
We play.

Summer says nothing. She is left watching as they play without her.

She looks down, counting her fingers in silence. Bell rings. Class ends.

7 EXT. ROAD - BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

7

A balloon. The balloon floats away. Below there's traffic and noise. Summer and Sean sit on each end of the bench. The man stands next to Sean as usual.

Summer looks to the sky. The balloon floats away forever.

Summer looks down, and moves her bag around to play with, visibly unhappy. She looks up. Her mother is on the phone.

Summer takes her eyes off her mother just long enough to catch Sean watching her.

Sean looks away. Summer looks down. She looks up again and catches Sean looking at her again. A bus pulls in.

The man taps Sean's shoulder gently, indicating they need to go. Sean stands up and they hurry to the bus. Sean turns quickly to offer a soft smile to Summer.

Summer smiles back.

8 INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

8

Another day in the class. "Wednesday" on the board. Girl#2 returns to her desk after writing "Wednesday" on the board. Mia sees Summer's book stays closed on the desk.

MIA
Okay (voice fading) let's...

Summer looks longingly at the field outside, in her own thoughts. Then Summer hears something, looks over and sees...

Everyone is moving the tables together. Summer stands, but gets pushed aside, unsure where to go.

Mia comes to Summer's aid. She moves her chair to the table where Boy#2 and Girl#1 sit. Summer sits down.

Again Summer is left watching as Boy#2 and Girl#1 are playing the game without her. Mia notices.

Summer's mother sees the bus, grabs Summer's hand and hurries to the bus. In a panic Summer drops her marker.

Before getting on the bus Summer looks back and sees Sean picking up the marker from the ground. He smiles. Summer waves goodbye. Sean waves back.

11 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

11

"Thursday". Students open their books. Suddenly Mia's expression changes. She can't believe it. Summer finally opens her book. She looks up. Mia gives her a subtle smile.

MIA

Okay. Read after me. "The boy and the girl...(voice fading) walks to the window."

Summer looks at the page, listening hard. Her figure moves along the words on the page, eager to read even she doesn't know the words. Bell rings. Class ends.

12 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (LATER)

12

Summer watches Mia and her mother talking. She turns her head watching her classmates leaving one by one.

MIA

It's a good start now that she wants to learn.

Summer pulls her mother's hand. Mother doesn't move. Mia notices Summer's focus is on the door.

SUMMER'S MOTHER

But we're here on holiday for one month only.

MIA

I'll do my best to help her.

Summer Can't wait. She pulls her mother along heading toward the door. Her mother turns to the Mia.

SUMMER'S MOTHER

(smiles)

Thank you.

13 EXT. STREET - BUS STOP - DAY

13

Summer's mother is tailing behind Summer who walks quickly to the bus stop with a smile on her face. Until she arrives to see...

15

EXT. STREET - BUS STOP - DAY

15

Summer sees Sean and the man sit in the middle of the bench. She goes to sit on one end of the bench deliberately and looks away. Summer's mother sits down beside the man. She's on the phone again.

Sean gets up and walks to Summer with a brand new art book. But Summer ignores him by walking away.

Sean stands. Disappointed. Then he walks back to the man.

Summer's mother sees the whole thing. She ends the phone conversations, walks to Summer.

SUMMER'S MOTHER

(in Chinese) Xiao Lin, you should go to say "Hello" to the boy.

Summer shakes her head.

SUMMER

(in Chinese) No. I said hello before...

(turns to look back at Sean)

But he...

Summer sees that now Sean is talking to the man using sign language. Sean looks over at Summer and smiles again.

Summer gives Sean an awkward smile, and then walks up to him. An apologetic look on her face. She uses hand sign that indicates...

"You can't speak. You can't hear"

Sean shakes his head and smiles. He replies in sign language:

"I am deaf and dumb".

Summer doesn't know what he said. But she senses what he meant, quickly takes out a marker from her bag, and then points to Sean's bag. He takes out the art book. She takes it. They sit down together.

16

EXT. BUS STOP - BENCH - DAY

16

Sean watches first. Summer is connecting the dots on the page. Sean helps her connecting the line.

On the page we now see a picture of a bird. Summer looks to Sean and smiles. Instantly she leaps to her feet imitating like a bird flying. Summer becomes chatty.