

KAY SIDE 1

JILL. ...Sixteen weeks.

KAY. Boy or girl?

JILL. Boy.

KAY. Have you thought of a name yet?

JILL. Benjamin.

KAY. Please don't be scared of me.

JILL. I...I'm not.

KAY. Can I have something to drink please?

JILL. Oh... Yes, of course. Juice?

KAY. Why not.

JILL. Pomegranate?

KAY. I've never had that.

Jill goes to get juice.

Is this you in the white dress?

JILL. What's that?

KAY. The photo on the wall.

JILL. Oh. Yes. My confirmation.

KAY. Confirma—? Oh. Religion.

Jill returns with drink.

JILL. After Dad died...my mum...well, she—

KAY. Faith can be a great comfort.

JILL. ...It can be.

Jill gives Kay drink.

KAY. Thank you.

Drinks.

Oh...it's very nice. Very refreshing and...clean...

Kay starts to cry.

JILL. Oh, don't.

KAY. I'm sorry.

JILL. Please. Here—sit down.

KAY. I'll make your sofa dirty.

KAY
START

JILL. It doesn't matter.

KAY. It does. I'll sit on the floor.

JILL. Oh, you can't—

KAY. *Please, Jill. I'd prefer it.*

Kay sits on floor.

Slight pause.

JILL. What's your name?

KAY. Kay.

JILL. Where's your family, Kay?

KAY. Miles away.

JILL. Did you...? I mean, how long have you—?

KAY. I ran away when I was fifteen.

JILL. Can I ask...? No, it's none of my business.

KAY. I've got a brother. His name's Barney. He's five years younger than me. He could spin a football on the tip of his finger. When he was nine he got ill. Acute lymphatic leukaemia. Sometimes...oh, Barney—he was a bossy little bastard. Me and Barney were alone in the house one day. I was in the kitchen trying to do some revision. I could hear Barney in the living room playing a computer game. Then the game stopped. It all goes quiet. I call out, "You okay?" He calls back, "Yeah." That's what it's like. When you're looking after someone. There's no relaxing. Not for a second. You have a knot in your belly. It never goes away. You won't understand.

JILL. I do a bit. My mum had arthritis.

KAY. Did it turn *her* into a bossy bastard too?

JILL. Sometimes.

KAY. Did you feel like hitting her?

JILL. Well...I don't think I—

KAY. I hit Barney. The day he dropped his mobile phone. He called out for me to pick it up. I pick it up. I go back to revising. "I need to go to the toilet." I'm helping him walk to the toilet. "Ahhh! That hurts! You know it hurts if you hold me like that! You're useless!" And suddenly I'm hitting him. He falls over. I get on top of him. "Why don't you just die! Die!"

Slight pause.

I'm in my bedroom when Mum and Dad get back. I hear Barney telling them what's happened. I wait for Dad's footsteps up the stairs. But...no one came. An hour goes by. Two. Then a gentle rap on the door. It's Mum. She's brought me a cup of tea. She's all smiles. It's as if nothing has happened.

JILL. She's forgiven you.

KAY. I don't *want* to be forgiven. I want to be kicked from one side of the room to the other.

Slight pause.

The next day I get up and have breakfast. I put my school books in my satchel. I kiss Mum goodbye and walk out of the house. I walk down the main road, past the school, down to the next main road, round the roundabout, down the motorway, I just keep walking and walking.

Jill holds Kay's hand.

JILL. You must be hungry.

KAY. I am.

JILL. How does a salmon and cranberry baguette sound?

KAY. Like something from a restaurant.

JILL. Why don't you watch television—Here!

Turns the telly on.

KAY. The screen's huge!

JILL. What d'you want to watch?

KAY. Something silly.

JILL. Cartoons?

KAY. Yes!

JILL. ...There we go! Now, let's get you that sandwich.

END

Jill leaves. Kay settles to watch television.