

**"Catch My Eye"**

Maria has spent nearly an hour sitting with her mum who is in a single room in hospital. Her mum is now sleeping. Maria leaves her to go into the corridor in the hope of finding a member of staff to talk to.

**Maria** (standing, talking to self)

She'll be fine  
She'll be fine  
She'll be fine  
She'll be fine  
She'll be fine

(gathers herself)

Where is everyone?

If there was just someone to ask

I'll go back in, in just a minute

That's been nearly an hour, me sitting there  
Why did no-one come in?

They're busy  
Of course they're busy

Stop fussing  
You read something into everything you do  
They just keep out of the way because it's visiting time

God I'm getting more like her

What if she's left alone?

For how long?

Alone

Stop it

I'll phone Brian in a minute  
I just need to ask  
Find out what's going on  
How she is  
When she can come home

## Little Things Make a Big Difference: "Catch My Eye"

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There's someone!  
I spoke to her yesterday, what's her name? Julie, June, J something  
She's nice  
(looks and smiles, trying to catch attention)  
H-hello (smiling)

(FREEZE)

### **NURSE**

(Head down, walking, talking to self)  
What gives him the right  
Bloody cheek

Never mind  
Stop thinking about it  
Concentrate  
Calm calm calm

Bastard  
Stop  
Calm calm calm  
This won't do you any good  
No good at all  
You dwell on things too much  
Take things personally  
It doesn't help

(stops) It should slip off my skin like water off a duck's back  
(walks) You ought not to let it bother you

Right, Mr McRobert, Mary, that man at the end  
I've got 15 minutes (checks watch)  
God I'm thirsty  
When did I last drink something?  
It must've been about 10

Oh! Mrs McColl's daughter  
Can't talk right now  
Don't look  
Speed up  
Soon past

(FREEZE)

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### **Maria**

Oh

She didn't notice me

(watches nurse walk off down corridor)

(FREEZE)

### **NURSE**

Made It!

Sorry, but I can't right now  
Someone else will come by in a mo'  
I can't face that right now  
I'm sorry  
Poor thing

I can't do everything  
I haven't even had a drink!

Anyway, it'll take too long, shift ends in 20 minutes  
There isn't time  
You can't start a conversation like that when you don't have time to finish it properly  
That wouldn't be right

Right Mr McRobert, are you ready?  
Robert McRobert  
Some parents are cruel  
No imagination  
Bob McBob  
Bobbity Bob  
Hobbity bobbity  
Looks a bit like a hobbit (laughs)  
Right, let's take a look at your hairy feet

(FREEZE)

### **Maria**

Ohhhhhh  
Stop it!  
I can't help it  
She's not ok  
She won't be fine

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Yes she will!  
No she won't!

There she is again  
Right be more assertive  
For fuck's sake!

Make sure she sees you this time

(FREEZE)

### **NURSE**

That didn't take long  
Good  
Right I could just do Mary  
Then that thing Helen asked me to do  
Would I have time for that?  
Why did she ask me?

It's always me  
Me  
Me  
I'm too soft, too kind  
Charlie will say "I told you so!"  
I told you

You should stand up for yourself

(stops and catches breath)

SHIT!!!!

OH GOD

I FORGOT!

OH

(Looks at watch)

Can I still do it?  
Do I have time?  
She'll KILL ME!  
I have to

(FREEZE)

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### Maria

She avoided me!  
Why?  
Why?  
I can't believe that just happened!  
She wouldn't even look at me!

But yesterday she was lovely  
So kind to mum  
I don't understand

Did I do something?  
I must have done something  
Offended her

What did I do?  
Nothing  
I can't think of anything

Why else would she avoid me?  
Why else would she avoid me?

Oh god  
What should I do?  
Should I go back in?  
Phone Brian?

What do I do?  
What's for the best?

I don't want to be on my own

Poor mum

Another two minutes I'll go back in

Didn't I make it clear enough?  
That's twice  
I tried to catch her eye  
I failed

Are they trained not to look?

(FREEZE)

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### **NURSE**

Thank god for Genie  
I love Genie  
Thank you Genie

All's well in the world  
Only 5 minutes to home time

I need to get a grip  
Panic like that will give me a heart attack  
High blood pressure  
I need to make that appointment  
Stop putting it off

Fat fat fat fat fat  
I'm getting fat  
Why?  
It isn't fair  
I eat nothing all day!  
I eat nothing all day!

Yes but what about when you get home?  
Oh I eat  
And eat  
And eat  
All the wrong things

Graze and graze  
Sit on my arse  
Watch telly  
Well I'm bloody exhausted!  
We both are!  
No wonder we're not at it  
Too fat and tired

Right when I get home tonight I'll be good  
I'll be good  
Cook something nice and healthy

### **Maria**

EXCUSE ME!!

### **NURSE**

Oh!

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(Stops)

Shit

**Maria**

I just wondered if I could ask you something?

It's about my mum?

Mrs McColl?

**NURSE**

(turns)

(smiles)

Mrs Laing

Hello

I'm sorry, I was lost in my thoughts

It's the end of my shift

I was thinking about home (said very quickly)

**Maria**

Sorry, I know you're busy

I just wanted to know how my mum was

It's just I haven't seen anyone

I'm a bit worried

**NURSE**

Of course

Don't worry

I'll get someone to come and see you

In your mum's room

They'll be along in a minute

(turns to go)

**Maria**

But she'll be alright?

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### **NURSE**

(smiles)

I'll get someone along

(turns and walks away, leaving Maria)

### **Maria**

Thank you

### **THE END**