

I Wish You Knew

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. TABLE - LRC - DAY

The usual bustle of the university has begun to die down. Those still around are dispersed through out the building. It is quiet. Two figures sit at a table.

DAN, 21, wearing a simple shirt and sensible jeans. He is slowly eating a sandwich. JENNY, 21, beside Dan at the table. She's wearing a large woolly jumper that is too big for her. She is reading a book. They are waiting for a lecture. Dan glances over at her before his eyes quickly dart away again.

DAN

I know I should tell her. But I can't.

Jenny's eyes drift away from her book and towards Dan.

JENNY

He's beautiful. I should tell him more often, I don't know why I don't.

DAN

I feel so stupid. So silly. I don't want to burden her, my problems aren't hers. I'm not her responsibility.

JENNY

He thinks I don't notice. He thinks A Level drama made him a master illusionist.

DAN

What if I scared her away?

JENNY

I don't want him to think I'm just going to cut and run at the first sight of trouble. He smiled at me. Just smiled at me once. A small awkward smile from the other side of the bus. I knew at that moment that I was sticking around.

DAN

It's like I'm broken. Just a small little piece of me ain't working like it should. Inch by inch it's cutting through me. Attacking everything else inside me. I just feel so empty.

DAN (CONT'D)

So useless. So wretched and pointless.
She needs me to be above that. To be
unbreakable. The one that keeps it all
together.

JENNY

He doesn't need to try and be perfect
for me all the time. He already is.

DAN

I've tried so hard to tell her.

JENNY

He could tell me anything. I just need
him to tell me.

DAN

It's like the words are in my stomach.
I know they are there.

JENNY

And him to know that he can. To
understand that he can. But whenever I
try to find the words

DAN

Sometimes it rises through me. Sitting
in my chest like they're desperate to
escape.

JENNY

They muddle in my mouth. Twist into
something pointless and vapid. Empty
of concern and the eagerness to help.

DAN

But they always become stuck. Lodged
in my throat and all that I can rasp
out is that I'm fine. That I am fine.
But I'm not. And I don't know what to
do.

JENNY

I want to tell him it's all going to
be okay.

DAN

I just want to tell her that I'm not
okay.

JENNY

But I can't.

DAN

But I can't.

Dan slowly takes another bite from his sandwich. Jenny lowers her book.

JENNY

(To Dan)

How's the sandwich?

DAN

Yeah it's alright, thanks.

Dan looks away again. Jenny watches him. She notices his left hand holding onto the table. She reaches out with her own. They entwine. She gives his hand a squeeze.

Dan turns back to look her.

His nose twitches. He tries to hold it back. His lip trembles. He tries to hold it back. But he can't. His head falls onto Jenny's shoulder and he begins to weep. She wraps her arms around him.

JENNY

It's okay. It's okay.

DAN

I'm sorry.

JENNY

I know. It's okay.

He continues to cry and she continues to hold him. He wraps his arms around her and holds her tight.

FADE OUT.

THE END.