

FOREVER HERE

“I can do this,” Lena repeated the words over and over. She wasn’t scared. She would show everyone. She gazed at the building. The peeling white paint and cobwebs weren’t exactly inviting, but she took a deep breath and went in. *This is it?* Lena looked around the pristine white egg-shaped room. It was slightly underwhelming for an ex-asylum. She sighed and pulled out her phone, but she stopped suddenly. There was a tapping on the walls. Lena knocked on the wall. “Hello! Is someone there?” she called. There was no response. She looked around hurriedly and considered leaving when she heard it again. *Tap. tap. tap.* She walked towards the wall and examined it again.

Nothing was there. She turned around, and that’s when she saw her—a pale girl with blonde hair and a mostly white dress on. It took Lena a moment to realise why it was just *mostly* white. A knife stuck out of the girl’s chest, her blood the colour of her lips as they curled into a smile. Lena screamed and backed against the wall. The girl stared at her. “Everyone always leaves me. But you won’t. Ever.” The wall suddenly wasn’t there. Lena fell back into the open space and saw a machine with wires and a chair with her name on it. Something clamped around her head, and everything went hazy. Lena tried to scream, but no sound came out. Suddenly, she shot up. *The grass swayed around her feet. Everything was so pretty. She smiled and lay down. It was peaceful here—a sharp pain cut through her head. A bird flew through the sky, and she touched it. Wait- who was she? Did it matter? She never wanted to leave.* Lena’s eyes shot open, and she darted up. “Where am I?” she mumbled.

“Home,” said a voice. Lena saw no one. Suddenly, the girl appeared. The sharp pain cut through Lena’s head again. She woke up again. Maybe she would stay here. It was quiet here. She picked up the knife and touched it to her throat. Slowly, carefully, she sliced through. It felt good. But *where was she? And who was she?* Lena’s body fell to the ground with a thunk. A scream echoed. “Now you’re mine...” the girl whispered.