

“JUST STUFF” by Alexander Lee-Rekers

Three days after her mother’s funeral, BELLA is clearing out her old bedroom in the family home. Her best friend Greta has come to be with her during this difficult time.

BELLA: This room used to mean something to me. Used to be mine, my place. You know? I had a lock on the door, mum hated it. But she respected it. I do remember that. I thought this would be harder. I thought I’d pick up the first thing I saw when I walked in the house, like that coin dish in the hall, and all these feelings would overwhelm me. But they didn’t. I cleared the hall. And the living room. And the kitchen, and mum’s room ... all her clothes. But the feelings never came. I remember things but I feel *nothing*. It’s all just stuff.

Performance Notes:

- *Bella’s dealing with a lot of baggage in this piece. She’s feeling pain and grief, but mostly guilt that her upset hasn’t manifested in the way she thought it might ... or should. And while she says she feels nothing, the anguish of her guilt is probably the feeling she’s looking for.*
- *Who is Greta? Think about this character as somebody who makes you feel safe, who you can be honest and open with.*
- *As an exercise, try mapping out Bella’s relationship with her mother. When the words aren’t explicit on the page, it’s up to you to find a believable history these two can share.*