

They couldn't stop laughing as they tumbled off the bus. The streaming sunlight lit up their faces, making their skin glow. Their next destination was a mere five minute walk from where they were swaying. Beyond the bridge, turn left, first door on the right. They stopped for a moment to compose themselves. Arm in arm, they headed in the right direction.

The youngest ran ahead and leant against the bridge. She looked up, as if she could see the endless stream of cars craning overhead. She bit her lip when the elder girls approached.

"Give me your jacket" said the tallest of the girls. She didn't hesitate. The two eldest exchanged glances and burst into hysterics; the youngest did nothing.

"I'm not going in." she said. The others just watched her hesitate and shrink towards the wall, knowing she was the one who had spent days convincing them to come along. She just shook her head, walked backwards, eyes watering and stammered "it's gone too far. They might recognise me." The girls just stared at her in disbelief. The girl hesitated. "I'll wait around the corner." She disappeared from sight. The elder girls just walked away around the corner; they could still hear her panting.

They zipped up their jacket to hide their blue coats in arms. The door sang as it swung open, inviting them in. The unfamiliar environment was filled with colours, new smells and shelves everywhere. The old wooden door with peeling letters at the back of the room was waiting, open, for them. It was silent with only an unearthly hum. The shorter girl looked to the top corner, noticing the TV screen, recording and watching their every move, almost daring them to turn back. They glanced at the tall silent character watching them from behind the counter. He beamed as he gestured towards the door. His smile was warm but peered at them with cold eyes. As the tallest moved forward, the other pulled back, grasping her hand. The tallest just grinned at her and nodded. Innocently, the girls slowly inched towards the door.

They abruptly came to a halt when they entered the room, hearing the door gently closing behind them. It was dark.

Melissa and Tammy

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