

## AWAKE

### Leisure room – Day time:

Dead leaves filled the asylum's deserted garden as a lonesome Lucy enjoyed the view from a distance. Seated at her usual spot prior to the morning meal, she wondered if she should open up a little bit more to her fellow inmates.

Aside from Jungkook, none of the other residents tried to approach her. Still, she could always feel a pair of hawking eyes glaring at her distantly. Trying to chase the disturbing feeling away, she looked around the room and decided to talk to the first resident that came across her sight. In that moment, and to her pleasant surprise, Jin accessed the leisure area with his breakfast tray.

"Good morning Jin! Mind if I join you?" she greeted him ecstatically.

Staggered by her sudden approach, he stammered, "S-sure ... Although you might want to get your own breakfast, I am kind of put on a special diet."

Observing his tray, Lucy noticed that Jin's menu was somewhat modest in comparison to the other residents' meals. After fetching her own food, she sat next to him in one of the four-seated dining rooms set in the middle of the leisure area.

"Bon appétit!" she helplessly tried to lighten the mood.

"I don't know about you, but this is anything but appetizing to me." he whined, "I miss real food."

His saddened state did not go unnoticed by Lucy, "What's stopping you from getting it then?"

Analyzing her question with intrigue, he cynically replied, "I'll have to admit that I have a problem, which I don't."

"Denial," she thought to herself. "If you don't have a problem, why are you here?"

"Well ..." he almost stopped himself, "Being a well-known Chef, I got caught up in the middle of an incident. One tiny mistake and suddenly I need help."

She eyed him with confusion, "By incident, you mean scandal?"

"You're twisting my words, lady. Bottom of line is, I am only bearing with this for the assessment results. Once I clear my name, I can get my old life back." he put an end to the conversation.

“Jin,” she let out a smirk, “For your own sake, I hope that you pass your assessment regarding the problem you clearly do not have.”

With her unwelcome intervention getting on his nerves, Jin counter-attacked, “What are you here for anyways ? You don’t look sick to me.”

“That’s a discussion to leave for the healing session,” she evaded the subject. “See you then, roomie.”

### **Healing room – Day time:**

The members nostalgically frowned at the empty seat in the room. Deep down, each and every one of them wanted to leave next, but to make that happen, they have yet to overcome their fears.

Coincidentally, fear was today’s main subject. The residents were called upon to speak up about their own doubts and worries.

“I’m afraid that one day, I won’t be able to recognize myself,” Yoongi initiated.

“I can’t stand the idea of hurting my mother if I was ever caught in lunacy again,” Hoseok confessed.

“I fear that my obsession will eventually destroy everything I have worked so thoroughly for,” Jimin shared.

“I wouldn’t think of it as worrisome, but I don’t want to lose my passion to my disease,” Taehyung added.

With four revelations, Lucy decided to speak up next, “I’m dreading the moment I’ll see myself becoming an utter failure.”

Her words locked her inmates’ eyebrows as she spoke in code. The awkward silence following her statement was soon broken by RM’s own revelation, “I’m anxious to find out why I was put here in the first place.”

Seemingly, the resident evil created more confusion than he tried to subdue. Meanwhile, a silent Jin was fixating the floor, hoping that no one would perceive that he hasn’t spoken yet.

“Jin?” Lucy snapped him out of his mischief, “Penny for your thoughts?”

Triggered but not dissatisfied, he gazed at every patient present in the room before taking a deep breath, “I’m terrified that I will never recover from it.”

While everybody understood Jin's declaration, it still came out as a shock since he never openly admitted his problem, at least not genuinely anyways.

The day ended with some profound disclosures, which made Lucy's curiosity peak as she was thinking about what was going on inside RM's head. Alas, this session's main rule was to respect each other's privacy. Come to think of it, this rule was also the main reason Lucy's problem was yet to be brought up in the Healing room.

**Doctor X's office – Night time:**

Jin has been missing his individual assessment appointments for the past three months. He was determined that nothing was wrong with him and found these sessions to be a complete waste of time. As long as he stayed dedicated to his diet and medication, he believed that he will get better in the staff's eyes and gain back his freedom in due time.

---

*This is the individual assessment of Patient Seokjin K., Registration Number B0412, October log.*

*Please be seated and face the one-way mirror, your assessment will begin shortly.*

*You will be put under hypnosis to allow the evaluation to go smoothly.*

*Feel free to talk about your feelings and condition according to your current situation.*

*You may remain silent if you do not wish to share.*

---

"It's been a while.

"Frankly, I wasn't going to attend this session either ... but I miss it. The smell, the feeling, the delight: I terribly miss it. Most importantly, I want to go back to where I was before the scandal. I know that I refused to admit it back then, but I have a problem and I need help.

"It's funny how I worked so hard to make everyone think that I was fine, but I couldn't even fool myself. I know that it takes more than a scheduled diet and appointed medication: the yearning I have for my past life is worth more than a trick and treat game with my entourage.

"I am willing to be properly treated for it, mentally. I want to feel the joy I used to give other people back in the day. I want my life to have purpose again.

"I think I am ready."

**Leisure room – Day time:**

Day after day, the ward started gaining a little bit of color. Walking in his roommate's footsteps, Jin hosted in turn a celebratory buffet to show his gratitude to the staff that has been diligently watching over him for the past year or so, and he didn't forget to make his fellow residents part of the happy event.

The buffet contained every special dish that was personally prepared by Jin during his Chef days, a series of baked goods, BBQ servings, desserts of all kinds ... It truly was a festive day in the asylum, and Jin was the star of the day.

"Hello, my name is Jin and I have Bulimia. However, today I stand here before you with a promise to help cure my illness and free myself in the process. I've had a thing for knives and ladles my whole life, and the smell of food beats every other perfume that exists on earth for me. Unfortunately, as I dwelled in the culinary world, I allowed myself to develop a rather filthy habit. I tried to convince myself that everything was under control only to see myself fall deeper. I tried to overcome it, but I failed miserably. The time I spent here amongst you made me realize that we are the only people responsible for what we feel and fear. I hereby vow to not defy my illness, but rather accept it and slowly build myself around it: better, stronger, healthier, until I bid it farewell. I promise to be on my best behavior. Thank you for your constant love and support."

**Ward B – Night time:**

On her way to the bathroom before curfew, Lucy stumbled into Jin sitting in the dark.

"Jin, what are you doing here?" she addressed him, "Isn't it past your bed time princess?"

"Does your sass have a curfew?" he sighed, "Ah, what am I doing ... I originally came here because I wanted to talk to you."

His intention caught Lucy off guard, "Is everything okay? Are you hurting?"

"I'm fine. For the first time in a while, I'm actually fine," he assured her. "But this isn't why I wanted to talk to you. I actually wanted to apologize for coming off too strong during the period we've known each other."

His cute apology put an instant smile on her face, "Don't sweat it, I got used to being attacked every now and then. I am almost immune now."

“But I’m not, I am not the type to harass other people,” Jin stated. “At first, I wanted to play your denial game but I couldn’t keep up. I know what’s wrong with me and I am not doing anybody any favors by holding on to a false statement. Now, I don’t know about you but whatever you’re going through, I hope that you find the strength within you to fight it.”

Dumbfounded by her roommate’s abrupt intervention, Lucy chose to remain silent.

To avoid any further awkwardness, Jin swiftly picked up the conversation, “Here, I have something for you.”

“For me?” she raised an eyebrow, “What’s that?”

“It’s a secret recipe that I have inherited from my grandma,” he proudly unveiled. “I believe that it would come handy for you in the future.”

Lucy took the note from Jin’s hands and read it, “A chili beef soup recipe? Jin, you know I don’t like spicy food.”

“Well,” he grinned in amusement, “You’re a whack job. So, whenever you have a beef with someone, just remember to chilli a bit, alright?”

“Jin,” Lucy calmly called her roommate’s name, “You’d better go to bed before I whack you with a spoon.”

“A spoonful of sass, I presume!” Jin hastily shouted on his way back to his room.