

FRANKIE walks back to the supervisor's room.

Frankie: (Voiceover) Poor Lauren. No one told us this was going to be so difficult. Why do they keep giving us clients who don't speak English?

Arrives at Consultation Room 2.

Here goes – off for another humiliation session. Why can't I just learn? What is the magic formula for working with these clients? What is Christine doing that I can't do ...?

She gets under the skin of the client. That's what Christine does. That's her magic. Even though Valerie is so different from her. (Opens door. Goes in and sits on Observer's chair.)

VALERIE: It was my mother's funeral. My mother died three months ago. I went to her funeral with my partner and I felt nothing. You see what I mean. That is not normal.

I talked to no one. No one talked to me and then I left. I couldn't speak to them if they wanted (which they didn't). I have nothing to say to them. My partner thinks this is a big part of "my problem". That is what has brought me here.

CHRISTINE: So, you have no words for the past. What is that like?

VALERIE: Look I brought a picture. I thought that might help. (Takes crumpled photo out from her pocket and shows it to Christine.) She looked so young and happy there. She is sitting on a chair and she is wearing a necklace with a heart shaped locket. I never knew what was inside that heart.

And that's my brother on her lap. She is smiling. He was a horrible baby. I don't know why she is smiling.

CHRISTINE: What was her name?

VALERIE: Shuqing.

CHRISTINE: Would you indulge me in an idea I have?

VALERIE: Maybe?

CHRISTINE: Would you let me say a few words to your mother in English and ask you to translate for me?

VALERIE: I just told you that I don't remember any of the Old Language anymore. I don't want to remember. It is too painful. Anyway, where do you expect me to speak it? On the bus? Apparently, it makes some people on buses very nervous to hear other people speaking a language that isn't English. So, you see. I am doing them a favour.

Fade in and out to indicate time has passed and session ends. Valerie says goodbye and leaves the room. Christine and Frankie remain in the room