

BOYS

Ella Hickson

SOPHIE:

The first night I knew - um - the first - he - Mack - came to my flat - we spent nearly nine hours straight just talking. I'd never done that, with anyone - before. We sat on my roof, we had two big bottles of beer and two cigarettes and we shared them both. It was really warm - and we laughed, so much. You know the kind where tears and snot and everything is coming out of your face and your stomach and your cheeks hurt from it - and you barely breathe. We sat and watched the birds in the sky all night - it never got dark - the sky stayed the most amazing colour... completely clear and this purple blue, like a really light bruise - and the birds were so black against it and squawking and he does a great seagull impression. At about three - we walked through the meadows, just the two of us - the city was so quiet, like all the shadows were left from the night but the light was already there for morning, like the two shouldn't meet but they had and it created this other world, this amazing other place - which you can only see if you keep your eyes open for that long - a gap in the net - a slice of time that isn't day or night but some other... and he looked at me and I felt like it might eat me whole, and I knew - I knew right then, somehow I knew - that everything in the world would seem smaller from then on.

And then we started singing - (*Sings a line of 'Ain't got No/I Got Life' by Nina Simone.*) you know?'

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We sang that and ran about until all the purple had bled out of the sky and there were postmen - and then he had to go. I went to kiss him and he said no - I had to make my choice first.

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That night was the happiest I've ever been.