

THE QUIET FORT

Written by

Orla Doherty

Órla Doherty · Sample Script

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

1 **INT. REAL WORLD: LIVING ROOM DURING THE DAY** 1

GABRIEL is sitting on the sofa with his mum, freshly washed, and in his pyjamas. He's cuddling a soft plush dinosaur.

1 MUM 1
Are you excited about tomorrow
Gabriel? Your auntie Una, uncle
Derek and cousin Tom are coming
over.

2 GABRIEL 2
(uncertain)
Em, yeah. But I like it better when
it's just you, me and daddy.

3 MUM 3
Ah me too bubba. But *sometimes* it's
nice to see family as well.

4 GABRIEL 4
Ye-eah but...

He squeezes his dino tight.

5 GABRIEL (CONT'D) 5
... sometimes Tom takes my toys
without asking and doesn't put them
back properly.

His mum gives him a little hug.

6 MUM 6
If we find a safe place to put your
toys, would you feel better about
everyone coming over?

Gabriel brightens a bit and nods.

7 MUM (CONT'D) 7
Don't worry bubba. You don't have
to do anything you don't want to.

2 **EXT - DREAMLAND - MAGIC FOREST CLEARING- THAT MOMENT** 2

Rusty is standing at her favourite tree. It has the most moon-nuts. She shakes a branch and a nut tumbles into her hand.

8 RUSTY 8
Mmmm, crunch, crunch, moon-nut
munch!

Emer comes upon her friend.

9 EMER
Rusty! You really love moon-nuts! 9

10 RUSTY
I do. And I really love this tree. 10
(gasp) Emer. I've just had a great
idea. Why don't we throw a tree
party?

Emer flares up and down in a spectrum of colour.

11 EMER
Well usually I'm the party animal 11
Rusty, but I think that's a great
idea. Who will you invite?

12 RUSTY
All my favourite people! 12

Emer prances up and down, as if to say 'pick me'.

13 EMER
So me, obviously? 13

14 RUSTY
For sure. And Luna, Buzz, Tag, 14
Seamus, and uh...

15 EMER
Don't forget Snag! 15

16 RUSTY
Of course Snag! He's my best 16
friend.

Snag appears in the foliage above at the mention of his name.

17 SNAG
Hello? 17

Rusty bounds up the tree to the branch that Snag is perched
on. She is not great on boundaries so she gets a little bit
too close to him.

18 RUSTY
Snag, (pause) we're going to have a 18
tree party!

19 SNAG
Which tree? 19

20 RUSTY
 (oblivious)
 THIS tree. It's the bestest, 20
 nuttiest tree there is.

21 SNAG
 (startled)
 The tree we live in? 21

22 RUSTY
 Exactly! So you get to help me plan 22
 the party!

Snag's feathers ruffle up and his little head disappears into his feathers.

23 RUSTY (CONT'D)
 Hey. Where'd you go? 23

24 SNAG
 (muffled)
 Just need a moment Rusty. 24

25 EMER
 (from below)
 Rusty, we'll need a tree-pot and 25
 tree-cups for our tree-party!

Rusty squeals. She and Emer bound off in excitement.

Snag stays perched on the tree, hiding in his feathers. A second later Buzz flies past and does a double-take. He settles on the branch right beside him, leaning in quizzically.

26 BUZZ
 BUZZ BUZZ? 26

Luna is not far behind. Snag and Buzz are at her head height.

27 LUNA
 Snag? Is that you little friend? 27

28 SNAG
 (muffled)
 Ye-ah. 28

29 LUNA
 Are you ok? 29

Snag's head pops up and startles Buzz.

30 SNAG Rusty is planning a tree party. In MY tree. And it's all a bit... bouncy and loud. 30

31 LUNA Oh dear. She can get a bit carried away. 31

Snag nods. Just then LUNA's heart star flashes 3 TIMES.

32 LUNA (CONT'D) Oh! A mission! Why don't you come with us little friend? It could get you out of party planning? 32

33 SNAG (sighs)) I guess so. 33

3 **EXT - DREAMLAND - THE WATERFALL OF WONDERS** 3

Snag, Luna and Buzz arrive at Ash the dream tree.

34 LUNA Ash, who are we helping today? 34

35 ASH Hi gang. Gabriel. He's worried about a big family gathering. It feels 'too much' for him. 35

LUNA, SNAG and BUZZ all turn to look at the WATERFALL OF WONDERS, where we see Gabriel lying in bed tossing about restlessly. Magical red particles swirling round his head.

ZOOM in and we see a HINT of the dream. Gabriel is in a living room (borrower like) with oversized items, clutching a plush dino. Snag covers his face with his wings.

36 SNAG Oohhhh poor Gabriel. 36

37 LUNA Let's go help him. Ready, Dream Team? 37

Luna nods to Buzz, who salutes. She looks to Snag who's takes a breath and puffs out his chest - trying to be brave.

38 SNAG I think so.(nods) 38

The image dissolves. Luna cups her hands around her mouth, and <KRRRKS> like a heron bird. ERÚ, a giant, graceful heron swoops down from the sky. They clamber aboard. ERÚ flaps her wings and they take off into the sky.

39 LUNA 39
LUNA ZOOM!

4 **EXT. - OVERSIZED LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER(DREAM)** 4

ERÚ sets the team down in a giant, abstract version of someone's living room. There are shapes that look like bits of larger-than-life furniture. A big squishy armchair on one side, and what looks like a massive sofa but deconstructed. There are lots of coats piled up high over the sofas, giving no room to sit. There is a low level hum of conversation in the background.

Gabriel looks tiny standing in the middle of the room - clutching his plushie dino. LUNA looks down at her HEART STAR. It turns RED.

40 LUNA 40
Oh no. Code red team...

5 **EXT - KID'S DREAM - OVERSIZED LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 5

Luna races over with Buzz. There's no sign of Snag.

41 LUNA 41
Gabriel! I'm Luna, this is Buzz
and... Snag?

Luna giggles as if being tickled. Then, at the mention of his name, Snag pops out of Luna's hair.

42 LUNA (CONT'D) 42
(to Snag) Oh there you are.
Gabriel, we're here to help.

Gabriel is shy. He holds his dino toy in front of his face.

43 GABRIEL 43
Hi.

Snag is still perched in Luna's hair.

44 SNAG 44
Everything is so..BIG.

45 GABRIEL 45
Yeah. It feels TOO MUCH.

SNAG

46 And there's nowhere for you to sit.. 46

GABRIEL

47 No. Or put my toys. 47

Luna thinks for a moment.

LUNA

48 Mmmm, what if we build somewhere for you and your toys? 48

Gabriel looks at her with curiosity.

LUNA (CONT'D)

49 A smaller space? Just for you. 49

GABRIEL

50 Like, a fort? 50

Luna grins and claps her hands.

LUNA

51 Exactly. A cosy, comfy, (whispers) quiet fort. 51

Gabriel looks around, bewildered.

GABRIEL

52 But... with what? 52

Snag flies out of Luna's hair and high up to survey the oversized living room.

LUNA

53 (cups her hands)
SNAG! You're an expert nest builder. 53

SNAG

54 I am? (more confident) I AM. Well, um, we could just use what's around here. (flies down) Like this... 54

He pulls on a long pink fluffy scarf(that looks like a worm).

SNAG (CONT'D)

55 Nice soft things will make it snuggly. 55

Snag wrestles the worm/scarf. Despite being small, he wrestles with it and finally falls back - triumphant.

Buzz goes investigating in the coats. He disappears inside a sleeve, only to emerge from the other sleeve - bum first. Luna and Gabriel giggle.

Gabriel holds up a massive furry parka.

GABRIEL
56 This could be a...door? 56

SNAG

57 You got it! 57

Luna and Buzz push two big sofa cushions together to make a V structure. Luna is taller than Buzz, so when one cushion stands up, the other one falls and gently "squishes" Buzz. He pops out from under the foam, with his deely-boppers a bit crooked, before they 'pop' back to normal shape with a boing sound.

Finally they are finished.

6 EXT - KID'S DREAM - OVERSIZED LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 6

58 SNAG It's ready. 58

Luna and the team stand back as Gabriel crouches down and pops his toys in. We see the dino and other plushies inside.

GABRIEL

59 Oh, they look really comfy in 59
there.

LUNA

60 Hey why don't we go in too? 60

They all clamber into the fort.

7 INT - KID'S DREAM - INSIDE THE FORT - CONTINUOUS 7

	LUNA	
61	Now there's just one thing left to do...	61

Gabriel looks at her a bit confused.

LUNA (CONT'D)

62 ...we need to close the door. 62

Gabriel nods and leans across to 'ZIP' down the giant zipper on the parka-door. Luna holds her chin in a quizzical gesture.

63 LUNA (CONT'D) 63
Mmm something is missing..

Gabriel and Snag are surprised.

64 LUNA (CONT'D) 64
This fort needs a ...glow-up.

Luna nods to Buzz. He makes a funny little concentrating face - BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ. His cheeks go red and he lights up, illuminating the fort.

65 EVERYONE 65
Whooooooooo.

Snag fluffs up his feathers with pleasure.

66 SNAG 66
This is a cosy quiet place. (pause)
67 I don't normally share my quiet 67
places with people. It's.. nice.

Luna leans in to Snag and they touch heads in a little 'huggy' nudge - not quite a hug, more of head-touch.

Gabriel squeezes his dino plushie.

68 GABRIEL 68
I could do this when my cousin is
around tomorrow - build a fort for
my toys.

69 LUNA 69
That's a brilliant idea Gabriel.
And if you have that 'too much'
feeling, you can just climb in and
play...

70 SNAG 70
(softly)
...until you're ready to come out
again.

Gabriel leans into the team. No hug this time but he does the 'head touch' that Luna gave Snag.

71 GABRIEL 71
Thank you Luna. Thank you Snag and
Buzz.

LUNA'S HEART STAR now glows a beautiful green. She SMILES.

72 LUNA 72
Teamwork makes the Dream Work.

A magical <SFX> and we see:

8 **INT - KID'S BEDROOM - THAT MOMENT (RESOLUTION OF STORY A)** 8

Gabriel is in bed with dino. He has a smile on his face.

9 **EXT - DREAMLAND, THE MAGIC FOREST, A MOMENT LATER.** 9

Luna, Snag and Buzz are back in Dreamland, at the foot of Rusty and Snag's tree. We can hear distant music. Rusty is waiting at the base of the tree with party blowers.

73 RUSTY 73
Luna! Snag. At last! The 'tree-party' is starting now!

Luna claps her hands.

74 LUNA 74
Oh this is going to be fun!

Buzz does a little disco spin, and his deely-boppers light up like coloured disco lights. He joins Rusty at the party.

Snag hangs back. He takes a deep breath. Luna notices her friend's hesitancy.

75 LUNA (CONT'D) 75
Snag? You ok?

76 SNAG 76
It's that 'too much' feeling - when there are a lot of people around.

Luna nods and smiles softly.

77 LUNA 77
But you know what to do now, right?

78 SNAG 78
(nodding)
I need a cosy fort.

Snag points out a spot in the tree to Luna.

79 SNAG (CONT'D) 79
And I know just the branch.

80 LUNA 80
We'll be waiting for you - when you're ready to join us.

Luna leans into Snag with a light head-touch. We hear the party kick off above their heads.

THE END.

Órla Doherty · Sample Script