

**Excerpt from *If Only The Lonely Were Home*, written by Finegan Kruckemeyer.
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Scene Two: Penny

LONELY: Penny Ericson lives with her mother...

MOTHER: Hello.

LONELY: In one of the houses that was once a boat. Penny's mother is a cartographer.

MOTHER: That means I make maps. Maps are good because they can show us where we are now...

We see a map created. Penny's house on the map is identified.

LONELY: ...And where we'll end up.

Penny's mum's favourite thing is sitting up close to the telly when roller coasters are on.

MOTHER: It feels like I'm on one!

LONELY: A poem Penny's mum has to say every night to make her go to sleep is:

MOTHER: *'in bed you lie, warm under cover.
now close one eye, and now the other'.*

LONELY: Penny has no brothers. But she has a 'used to be a brother'.

A phone rings. Penny ignores it.

PENNY: That's when you have a brother, but he gets married and goes to live in a lighthouse, and whenever he calls you...

Annoyed, she picks it up and listens.

BRO: *[Heard on phone]* Hi little sister. How are you?

PENNY: *[Covers the mouthpiece]* ... You stand by the phone with a grumpy face...

BRO: *[Heard on phone]* Pen? Can you hear me? You alright Pen?

PENNY: ...Because he was your best friend – but now he's gone.

Silence.

BRO: *[On phone]* It's okay... My favourite thing is just knowing you're there.

She hangs up.

LONELY: Penny puts on his old rugby jumper every day when she gets home.

PENNY: Empty clothes feel like people are invisible, even if they're only far away.

LONELY: Penny's hair is long.

PENNY: Long enough for plaits, for a pigtail and for making a mohawk in the bath!

LONELY: She walks to school with Patrick Shelacki.

PATRICK: Hello.

LONELY: Patrick's favourite thing is making the noises of animals that don't exist yet.

PATRICK: Not existing yet is another kind of invisible: an exciting one! This is a dognocerous...

It is demonstrated.

LONELY: Penny's best friends are Nicoli...

NICOLI: Hello.

LONELY: ...And Eugene.

EUGENE: Hello. We're twins.

NICOLI: But not identicals.

EUGENE: Because we're a boy one.

NICOLI: And a girl one.

LONELY: But Eugene's favourite thing is wearing his sister's summer dresses, and Nicoli's is drawing moustaches on her face.

In some manner, their outfits are exchanged.

EUGENE: I'm a smelly girl!

NICOLI: I'm a stupid boy!

LONELY: Penny's favourite day is the one when everyone in her town celebrates the famous pirate.

The sound of a raucous crowd and lots of Arrrrr's.

LONELY: There is a parade where they all wear eye-patches and the adults do their best dives off a special plank. Penny's dad won it one year.