

## **“THE NUMBERS” by Alexander Lee-Rekers**

*Olympic athlete JORDAN stumbled and fell during their practice for the 100m sprint. Despite being cleared of any injury, their coach, TIGHE, suspects there is more to the accident. They confront JORDAN that night after practice.*

**TIGHE:** ~~What happened? It's just me asking.~~

**JORDAN:** I got stuck on the numbers. Stuck thinking about them, you know? Seven years of training. Fifteen hours a week. All the experts, the team, the sponsors. I thought about the fact that we've spent over two hundred thousand dollars to get me here. Not even to win, just to compete. Two hundred thousand- that's over thirty thousand dollars a year. To shave off seconds - *half*-seconds - from a seconds-long race.

I thought about all the doctors and specialists, the endless number of appointments and injuries. I thought about the number of times I fell and was warned this could be the end if I didn't come back strong. I thought about my age. How, win or lose, I won't be back here again.

I can do this, Tighe. I know I can. But I can't stop thinking about the numbers.

### **Performance Notes:**

- *How long have these fears been brewing? How long has Jordan been holding onto these worries?*
- *What does Tighe suspect? Did Jordan fall on purpose, or are they simply not in the right headspace for competition at this time? Whatever your choice (and it is your choice to make), it's important to think about whether or not Tighe is going to believe Jordan in this moment.*
- *What is their objective? Do they want help? Do they want support? Or, perhaps subconsciously, do they hope Tighe might agree with them and let them out of their obligation?*