

INT. OFFICE

Ripley is washing black grime from Newt's hands with a cloth.

RIPLEY

I don't know how you managed.
You're very brave, Beck.

Newt's voice is barely audible.

NEWT

N-newt.

Ripley leans closer. The single syllable was incomprehensible.

RIPLEY

What did you say?

NEWT

Newt. My n-name's Newt. Nobody
calls me Beck. Except my brother.

Ripley grins. Ripley speaks quietly, not wanting to break the spell.

RIPLEY

All right, Newt. I'm Ripley.
Pleased to meet you. And who is
this?

Newt glances down at a rudimentary drawing of a face, clutched in one hand.

NEWT

Casey.

RIPLEY

Hello Casey. Is this your brother?

Newt shakes head "no".

RIPLEY (CONT'D)

And what about your brother, what's
his name?

NEWT

Timmy.

RIPLEY

Is he around here too? Maybe hiding
like you were?

Net seems to close up, staring at their knees as if Ripley was not there.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)
Who else is there in your family,
Newt? Sisters?

Newt shakes their head "no", barely moving.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)
Mom and Dad?

The kid nods, almost imperceptibly.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)
Newt... look at me, Newt. Where are
they?

NEWT
Dead! They're dead. All right? Can
I go now?

RIPLEY
Don't you think you'd be safer here
with us?

Newt shakes their head "no" with chilling certainty.

RIPLEY (CONT'D)
Newt, these people are here to
protect you. They're soldiers.

NEWT
(distantly)
It won't make any difference.